

JUNE 2025 GRT ANNUAL REPORT

A 15 year plan to grow the ABQ BioPark

Piper, a Nigerian dwarf goat at the newly renovated and expanded Heritage Farm



Dear Albuquerque,

Thanks to your continued support of the 1/8-cent gross receipts tax, the ABQ BioPark is thriving—and so is our community.

Every visit to the BioPark is more than just a day of fun. It's a chance for families to connect, for children to learn, and for all of us to be reminded of the beauty and importance of the natural world. Whether it's watching little penguins waddle along the shore, exploring food and culture at the Heritage Farm, or experiencing a concert under the stars, the BioPark brings joy, education, and inspiration to thousands of Albuquerque families every year.

Your investment is doing more than building habitats—it's creating memories, sparking curiosity, and strengthening our city's commitment to conservation and education. Behind the scenes your support helps care for animals, protect endangered species, and equip our dedicated staff with the tools they need to keep the BioPark running smoothly.

It's been great to watch the progress we're making together. Our BioPark shows what we can achieve as a community—a place where learning comes to life, and where future generations will continue to be inspired, one visit at a time.

Sincerely,



Tim Keller
Mayor, City of Albuquerque



Dear Albuquerque,

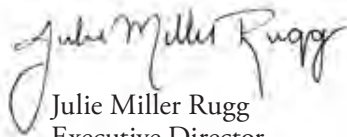
Thank you for your unwavering support in shaping the future of our cherished ABQ BioPark. Your support of the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), passed in 2016, has made a meaningful impact, driving the expansion and revitalization of the BioPark. Because of you, the Zoo, Aquarium, and Botanic Garden continue to thrive, offering enriching experiences for guests and improving the habitats of our animals and plants.

The New Mexico BioPark Society is committed to ensuring that every dollar—whether from the GRT, private donations, or legislative funding—directly supports ongoing improvements at the BioPark.

As we move forward, the cost of maintaining and improving the BioPark continues to rise, making ongoing support of the GRT essential. Your contributions will continue to support the BioPark long after the GRT expires in 2031. Should we propose another GRT in the future, we hope you will continue to support our efforts to ensure a sustainable future for the BioPark and the wildlife in our care.

Thank you for being a key part of this journey and helping us create a brighter future for nature and all who experience it.

Warm regards,



Julie Miller Rugg
Executive Director
New Mexico BioPark Society



Thank You!



JUNE 2025 SUMMARY

Thank you for joining the ABQ BioPark on its journey of transformation, made possible by the 1/8-cent gross receipts tax. Your support is connecting our community to nature like never before!

Completed projects this past year include Australian Shores & Lorikeets, two vibrant, immersive habitats where guests can connect with little penguins and colorful lorikeets up close. The Heritage Farm has been completely revitalized, blending agriculture, history, and hands-on discovery across 11 beautiful acres. The new Festival Green Stage sets the scene for unforgettable concerts, programs, and celebrations. We've also made behind-the-scenes improvements like new fume hoods for staff safety and transformed a former tiger space into an enriching Andean Bear Habitat.

And we're not slowing down. Exciting projects are underway like the Heritage Farm Train, a new Interactive Fountain, which will make a visit to the Aquarium and Botanic Garden even more fun. We're ramping up our conservation impact with new homes for several packs of Mexican gray wolves and rejuvenating favorite spaces like the Catwalk, Gorillas and the Children's Fantasy Garden.

Thanks to you, the ABQ BioPark is growing into a world-class destination that educates, inspires, and connects us all to the wonders of nature.

Jomosi, western lowland gorilla



JUNE 2025 PROJECTS COMPLETED

Australian Shores & Lorikeets \$14 million

Two immersive free-flight habitats allow guests to connect with Australian shorebirds, including little penguins—the world’s smallest penguin species—plus colorful lorikeets from Australia’s tropical forests.

Heritage Farm \$14 million

All 11 acres of the Heritage Farm at the Botanic Garden were renovated to showcase agriculture’s roots that connect food and culture. Guests can meet new animals in large pastures, stroll through the orchards, learn about seasonal crops, and more.

Festival Green Stage \$1.3 million

This versatile and contemporary structure is the hub for gatherings during summer concerts and private parties to camp programs and picnics, while preserving the views of the Botanic Garden pond and plants.

Fume Hoods \$323,000

Safety first for the BioPark’s staff who work behind the scenes doing everything from sign fabrication to meal preparation.

Andean Bear Habitat \$438,000

A former tiger habitat was modified into an enriching new home for an Andean bear. Watch this agile bear climb, dig, swim and explore his new, adaptive home.



Ben, Andean bear



*New guest path,
Heritage Farm*



JUNE 2025 PROJECTS UNDERWAY



*Lebanon & Beyond,
artist's concept, plan view*

Catwalk \$2.1 million

Modest renovations to the former Catwalk will create large “flex” habitats where cats can use their natural behaviors in new spaces each day. Of course, it wouldn't be complete without lots of cozy spots for the purr-fect cat naps too!

Mexican Gray Wolf Conservation Facility \$3.6 million

Nearly five acres behind the scenes at the Botanic Garden will give endangered Mexican gray wolves private space for breeding, raising pups and building pack bonds.

CT Scan \$1.3 million

A new state-of-the-art CT scan machine will allow BioPark veterinarians to take advanced images of animals as small as a lizard or as big as a tiger. The CT scanner is funded by NMBPS, and the building renovation is GRT-funded.

Lebanon & Beyond \$4 million

A celebration of Albuquerque and Lebanon's shared culture and similar landscapes, this collaborative project pairs Mediterranean plants with local flora and elegant outdoor living spaces. Construction is donor-funded and overseen by the BioPark's GRT project managers.

Heritage Farm Train \$2.4 million

Choo choo! A brand new electric train will take guests on a one-mile adventure through the new Heritage Farm, around the Cottonwood Gallery and the edges of the Japanese Garden.

Interactive Fountain \$1.6 million

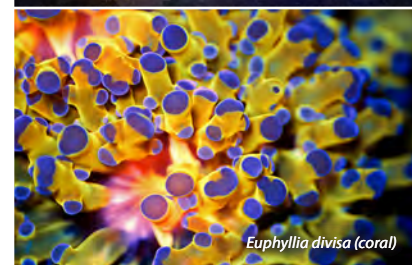
A new play area near the Shark Reef Cafe will allow kids to splash around and cool off in a river-themed fountain.

SHARC (Science, Health, and Aquatic Research Center) \$18.4 million

This new behind-the-scenes building at the Aquarium will support critical operations for aquatic animal care. Here, young fish will grow up, sick animals will be nursed back to health, rare corals will be raised, and more.



Mexican Gray Wolf Refuge



Euphyllia divisa (coral)



Catwalk Renovation



JUNE 2025 UPCOMING PROJECTS

Australia Expansion Construction begins this year: \$11 million

A new view of Australia's wonderful wildlife awaits. Tasmanian devils and wombats explore expansive new "flex" habitats while wallabies, kangaroos and emus cruise through the outback.

Aquarium Improvements Construction begins this year: \$500,000

Updates to the Mangrove Touchpool will improve animal care and guest experience, and the removal of the former jetty habitat will expand pathways and make room for better views of fish in Shallows & Shores.

Children's Fantasy Garden In design: \$5 million

For over 20 years, this unique garden has invited families to explore, play and create lasting memories. Now it will be thoughtfully reimaged to improve accessibility, update aging infrastructure and expand opportunities for creativity and learning.

Gorillas In design: \$22 million

Design is underway to renovate the three existing primate habitats into two large spaces with climbing opportunities, new views for guests and gorillas, and lots of creature comforts.

Butterfly Pavilion Renovation In design: \$600,000

A new, prominent entrance will welcome guests to a lush garden where beautiful butterflies float through the air. Additional improvements support biosecurity and animal care.



JUNE 2025 FINANCIALS

	Projects Completed	Repairs and Renovations	Total Expended
FY17	\$2,854,482.57	\$537,061.29	\$3,391,543.86
FY18	\$11,123,961.83	\$1,103,250.16	\$12,227,211.99
FY19	\$4,552,990.44	\$996,147.03	\$5,549,137.47
FY20	\$7,023,136.18	\$3,762,832.05	\$10,785,968.23
FY21	\$6,459,052.23	\$1,196,106.30	\$7,655,158.53
FY22	\$20,439,417.19	\$1,582,071.94	\$22,021,489.13
FY23	\$28,212,577.69	\$2,896,960.55	\$31,109,538.24
FY24	\$12,860,620.45	\$3,843,681.87	\$16,704,302.32
FY25	\$25,229,935.04	\$909,497.58	\$26,139,432.62
Total expenses	\$90,543,595.93	\$13,930,648.22	\$104,474,244.15

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