

JULY 2026

GRT ANNUAL REPORT

A 15 year plan to grow the ABQ BioPark



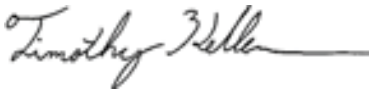
Dear Albuquerque,

Thanks to your support for the voter-approved gross receipts tax, passed in 2016, the ABQ BioPark continues to grow as a place where Albuquerque families can spend time together, make memories, and feel connected to the natural world. This past year brought new energy across the BioPark, with welcoming spaces, hands-on experiences, and meaningful improvements that make visits more fun, more comfortable, and more memorable for guests of all ages.

That same community investment is also strengthening the care behind the scenes. While many guests see the joy on the surface, these projects also help the BioPark care for animals, support conservation, and prepare for the future. It is work that reflects the best of Albuquerque: a city that values family, learning, and the places that bring people together.

Thank you for continuing to believe in the ABQ BioPark and in what it means to our community. With your support, the BioPark is growing as a public space that reflects Albuquerque at its best, welcoming residents and visitors alike to connect with nature, with one another, and with all that makes our city special.

Sincerely,



Tim Keller
Mayor, City of Albuquerque



Dear Albuquerque,

Each year, this report reflects what is possible when a community believes in its BioPark. Together, the voter-approved gross receipts tax and support from the New Mexico BioPark Society are helping the ABQ BioPark grow as a place where families can make memories, children can discover the natural world, and plants and animals receive the care they need to thrive.

This year's progress shows the power of that partnership. Guest-facing projects like Running Wild: Cheetahs and More and Lebanon and Beyond are creating new moments of joy, wonder, and connection across the BioPark. At the same time, behind-the-scenes investments such as the CT scanner and the Mexican Wolf Conservation Facility are strengthening animal care and conservation in ways many guests may never see, but that matter deeply to the BioPark's future.

At the New Mexico BioPark Society, we are proud to support this work alongside the City of Albuquerque and the dedicated BioPark team. Thank you for your partnership in helping the BioPark grow as a place where families can gather, children can explore, and care for nature can take root.

Warm regards,



Julie Miller Rugg
Executive Director
New Mexico BioPark Society



Thank You!



JULY 2026 SUMMARY

The voter-approved 1/8-cent gross receipts tax (GRT) continues to transform the ABQ BioPark for families and guests, while also strengthening the behind-the-scenes spaces that support animal care and conservation. Recent completed work spans all three major public areas, from Running Wild: Cheetahs and More at the Zoo and Lebanon and Beyond at the Botanic Garden to Tadpole Springs at the Aquarium. At the same time, the Mexican Wolf Conservation Facility and the BioPark's new on-site CT scanner are expanding the tools and spaces that support animal wellbeing.

This momentum continues in 2026. Work is already underway to expand aquatic animal care, modernize parts of the Aquarium, refresh longtime guest favorites such as the BUGarium, and move the BioPark deeper into the next phase of Australia. Looking ahead, the next round of GRT projects is centered on easier arrivals, more accessible family spaces, and habitat upgrades that give animals more choice, comfort, and opportunity to thrive.

Thanks to you, these investments are helping the BioPark grow as a vibrant place where families can play, learn, connect with nature, and make lasting memories.

Beaker the Emu



JULY 2026 PROJECTS COMPLETED

Running Wild: Cheetahs and More \$2 million

Running Wild transforms the former Catwalk into a refreshed Zoo experience focused on animal adaptations, resilience, and wellbeing. Anchored by a new 14,000-square-foot cheetah habitat, the area also includes updated flex habitats and refreshed spaces for a range of species, giving animals more variety and giving guests a stronger sense of how wildlife survive and thrive.

Tadpole Springs \$1.62 million

Tadpole Springs adds a playful, nature-inspired water feature outside the Shark Reef Cafe. Designed for families with young children, it includes separate play zones for different ages, clear sightlines for caregivers, and a closed-loop recirculating water system that supports safe, efficient operation.

Lebanon and Beyond \$400,000

GRT funding contributed \$400,000 to Lebanon and Beyond, with the majority of the remaining project funds, approximately \$3.6 million, raised by the New Mexico BioPark Society to support the garden's development and completion.

Lebanon and Beyond brings Mediterranean plantings and Lebanese-inspired architecture together with New Mexico flora, creating a Botanic Garden space that celebrates culture, landscape and community connection. The garden adds a distinct new experience for guests while honoring ties between New Mexico and the Mediterranean.

Mexican Wolf Conservation Facility \$3.75 million

The 4.5-acre Mexican Wolf Conservation Facility expands the BioPark's role in breeding, rehabilitation, and pre-release care for one of North America's most endangered mammals. The off-exhibit site is designed to minimize human contact, support pack bonds, and help prepare wolves and wolf pups for the next step in the recovery effort.

CT scanner and hospital renovation \$1.3 million

The BioPark's new on-site CT scanner gives veterinarians faster, more detailed images without the stress and logistics of transporting animals off site. One of only about a dozen zoo-based systems of its kind nationwide, the machine supports earlier diagnosis, more routine preventive care, and stronger long-term health records for animals in the BioPark's care.



Tadpole Springs

Alligator snapping turtle habitat \$1 million

Upgrades to the alligator snapping turtle habitat include a larger pool and a more immersive environment for both the turtle and guests. The refreshed space strengthens care for this longtime resident while improving the story the exhibit tells about a threatened species from southern waterways.

Aquarium improvements \$500,000

Aquarium improvements have been focused on circulation, access, and updated interpretation. Work in this area has centered on removing an older central habitat to reduce bottlenecks and improve guest flow, while refreshed graphics and signage throughout the building help better tell Albuquerque's connection to the ocean.



JULY 2026 PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Science, Health and Aquatic Research Center (SHARC) \$19 million

Construction on SHARC continued through 2025 and is scheduled for completion in late 2026. This behind-the-scenes Aquarium facility will expand saltwater quarantine, rehabilitation, and animal care capacity, supporting sharks, rays, sea turtles, coral, and young fish.

Australia expansion \$4 million

Construction began in January 2026 on the second phase of Australia, a roughly 1.5-acre expansion designed around the continent's freshwater and dryland environments. The new area will include wallabies, kangaroos, emus, Tasmanian devils, and wombats, along with flex habitat connections and continued interpretation of Australia's First Nations cultures.

Improved Guest Arrival Experience \$600,000

New Zoo signage is planned to improve arrival, orientation, and day-of discovery. The concept includes a landmark exterior sign and digital signage that can help guests find daily events, animal updates, and special experiences more easily.

BUGarium renovation \$900,000

The BUGarium has been thoughtfully refreshed after years of public use and nearly two decades of behind-the-scenes arthropod work. The renovation enhances the guest experience, expands selected habitats, improves animal care efficiency, and creates more flexible spaces for future species changes.

Butterfly Pavilion renovation \$600,000

The renovated butterfly care area supports the final stage of metamorphosis by giving caterpillars a dedicated space to emerge with new wings. Additional improvements support biosecurity, horticulture, and the guest experience, helping guests to connect with pollinators and the plants they depend on.



BUGarium



Sandbar shark



Red Kangaroo



Butterfly Pavilion



JULY 2026 UPCOMING PROJECTS

Zoo and Aquarium/Garden entrances \$20 million

Entrance renovations are intended to make arrival faster, easier, and more welcoming. Plans call for a more unified Aquarium and Botanic Garden entry sequence and updated Zoo ticket scanning areas, along with a large shade structure at the Zoo entrance.

Children's Fantasy Garden \$5.5 million

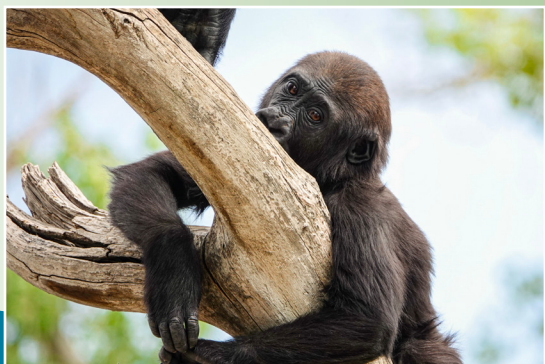
For more than 20 years, the Children's Fantasy Garden has invited kids and caregivers to explore, imagine, and play. It is now being reimagined for a new generation of families, renewing one of the Botanic Garden's most beloved spaces. Planned improvements will address aging infrastructure, improve accessibility, and create an even more welcoming place for children and caregivers to explore, play, and learn together.

Gorillas \$22 million

As part of the first phase of the Africa renovation, the existing ape area is being transformed into two larger gorilla habitats with expanded climbing opportunities, water features, enrichment, and improved views for both guests and apes. This project continues the BioPark's work to create more dynamic spaces that support gorilla wellbeing while deepening connections between animals and guests.

Elephant shade structure \$1.1 million

Planned shade improvements in the Asia elephant habitat will support comfort, enrichment, and daily care by creating a larger shaded gathering space for multiple elephants at once.



Western lowland gorilla



JULY 2026 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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