



Welcome to 2024 Rio Grande Community Farm, home on Los Poblanos Fields Open Space for 27 years.

At Rio Grande Community Farm (RGCF), we believe land should nourish not just soil, but also people, relationships, and the future. In 2024, we've stewarded 50 acres in the heart of Albuquerque's North Valley through regenerative agriculture—a method that heals the land while growing food, community, and resilience.

Founded in 1997, our nonprofit is built on values of inclusion, education, and ecological stewardship. We provide access to farmland, resources, and training for beginning farmers, veterans, neurodiverse growers, refugees, and community gardeners from all walks of life. Together, we are cultivating a more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant local food system.

Equitable Access to Shared Resources

RGCF offers access to vital agricultural infrastructure:

- **Land (originally Tiwa):** We manage 50 acres of fertile, irrigated farmland as a shared space for education, farming, and community gathering.
- **Water:** Fields are flood-irrigated every 14–21 days from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. A well supplements irrigation needs for micro-farmers and gardeners.
- **Barn and Equipment Yard:** Our barn houses a Farm Store, wash station, a walk-in cooler for post-harvest handling, and shelter for equipment used by farmers and staff.
- **Greenhouse:** The updated propagation greenhouse produces over 9,000 seedlings annually and serves as a launchpad for growers preparing for the season ahead.
- **Equipment Rental & Loan Library:** We offer walk-behind tractors (BCS), flail mowers, a 6' no-till drill seeder, and more—making regenerative tools accessible to all farmers on site and in the surrounding community.
- **Knowledge & Mentorship:** Our experienced team provides technical support and hands-on training in composting, gardening, regenerative farming, and farm sensor use.
- **Community Culture:** With hundreds of volunteers, donors, and community partners, RGCF is a place where people come together to grow food and friendships.



2024 Impact by the Numbers

Farming & Food Justice

- **43 Micro-Farmers**—including four veterans, six neurodiverse farmers, a seed saver, a natural dye plant grower, and four producers for the Downtown Growers Market—are growing crops that feed Albuquerque.
- **100+ Community Gardeners**—from Master Gardeners to a residential recovery program—grow on shared plots, many of them for the first time.
- **2 Farm Incubator Programs:**
 - *Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program* (Lutheran Family Services Tres Hermanas Farms)
 - *Neurodiverse Agriculture Program* (Mountain Dojo Celestial Farm)



Figure 1: Micro Farmer preparing field. Shown in border areas is an example of wildlife cropping.

Together, they ensure food security, entrepreneurship, and healing for underserved communities.



Figure 2: Tarping is used to prep the field to remove unwanted plant mass and avoid tilling the soil. This is a regenerative farming technique.



Figure 3: Prepared field, ready for planting.



Events & Engagement



Figure 2: Maize Maze Event

- **Four flagship events** welcomed ~11,000 visitors—Spring Festival & Plant Sale, Lavender Festival, Maize Maze, and Pick-Your-Own Basil—all for under \$15/person.
- **RGCF hosted:**
 - 466 children in summer farm camps
 - 128 compost workshop participants
 - 60 participants in Open Space-sponsored classes on water-wise gardening and microclimate design
 - 18 attendees of a Western SARE smart-farming workshop
 - 4 UNM mechanical engineering students for solar lab projects
- RGCF is developing a 4-acre education area for our programs and a sunflower maze for children.

Other programs held under our umbrella:

Saturday Garden Club, Welding Club, Master Gardeners, Tres Hermanas Refugee Network, Engineers Without Borders, UNM Sustainability Program, NMSU Extension, Wings (Survivors of Torture), Mandy's Farm, Cloud Dancer Therapeutic Riding, and Cool It Burque—our urban forestry initiative that teaches silviculture and tree harvesting in the city.



Conservation, Composting & Soil Health

- **12 acres of wildlife cropping**
- **5 acres of protected wildlife habitat**
- **2 pollinator gardens** supporting native bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects
- **Over 150 cubic yards of compost** made annually from community food scraps and farm waste
- **7,000+ gallons of food waste** diverted from landfills
- **Compost extract** sufficient to treat over 250 acres
- **Greenhouse gas reduction:** 0.48 tons of CO₂e prevented
- **Manure loop:** Closed-loop composting in partnership with Mandy's Farm (serving individuals with disabilities)

Production & Smart Farming

- **4,000+ bales of hay and alfalfa** harvested for internal and local use
- **2,044 bales purchased** by 8 area farmers for livestock
- **10 soil sensors** track moisture and temperature in real time via *BryNet*, our Smart Farm network—reducing fuel use and optimizing irrigation

Tree Planting & Long-Term Stewardship

- In partnership with the **Sikh Gurdwara** and **Interfaith Coalition**, we planted 152 fruit trees—116 of which have survived and are now contributing to the farm's long-term canopy.

Solar-Powered & Future-Focused

Our commitment to sustainability includes:

- **45 solar panels** powering:
 - The *Solar Club Car* electric farm cart
 - A mobile solar trailer
 - Soil and weather sensors



Hosting **Sandia National Laboratories & UNM's agrivoltaic research project**, combining solar power and agriculture in one system

Supporting Daily Operations with Sustainability in Mind



- **4 Farm Bikes** allow growers and staff to move efficiently around the 50-acre property, saving fuel and keeping things fun.
- **Protective Growing Structures:** Two hoop houses and multiple low tunnels help farmers extend their seasons and adapt to New Mexico's variable weather.

Figure 3: Club Car at RGCF

Our Valued Partners

We couldn't do this work without an incredible community of collaborators. RGCF works closely with:

1. City of Albuquerque Open Space Division
2. Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
3. Local farmers and agricultural co-ops
4. Public schools, universities, and STEM programs
5. Solar energy and clean tech partners
6. Nonprofits focused on food justice, health, and refugee support
7. Community garden networks
8. Environmental and climate advocacy groups
9. Philanthropic foundations and grantmakers
10. Local businesses committed to sustainability

Thank you to the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are growing something greater than crops—we're growing a resilient, connected, and thriving community rooted in the land.