



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: Farming on City Open Space
City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division

Release Date: October 10th 2022

Issued by: The City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division.

Response Deadline:

I. PURPOSE

The Open Space Division (OSD) manages several agriculture-based Open Space properties including Los Poblanos Fields (LPF), Alamo Farm, the and Open Space Visitor Center wildlife farms. The purpose of this Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) is to identify qualified entities interested in entering into contracts with the City to provide farming services for these properties. A major emphasis of these Open Space properties is to preserve agriculture land while supporting wildlife. The properties are managed differently, but all include a mixed- used space supporting wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation while LPF and the OSVC also offers complementary activities including community gardens, education programs and special events.

The City OSD is seeking contractors to meet the goals and objectives listed below, including that a minimum of 25% of total acreage of farm, is designated in “Wildlife Cropping and/or habitat” production. This requirement can be rotated according to a cropping plan.

II. FARMING CONTRACT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Regenerative Agriculture and Farming Practices:

The Open Space Division is interested in transitioning to regenerative farming practices. At its core, regenerative agriculture is a holistic approach designed to sustain and improve soil health through minimizing soil disturbance. Other benefits of regenerative agriculture include improving air quality, enhancing ecosystem biodiversity, producing organic food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, and increasing crop resilience, quality and yield. These methods include reduced or no-till, cover cropping, composting, increasing plant diversity and organic annual cropping. Overall, this type of farming is designed to work in harmony with nature, while also maintaining and improving economic viability.

Soil Health and Restoration:

Soil health begins with integrating regenerative practices that encourage abundance and diversity of soil microbes. Soil restoration is the process of improving the structure, microbial life, nutrient density and the overall carbon levels of soil. Cover cropping aids in the stabilization of roots in the soil so that the nutrients do not diminish. Soil restoration is another pillar of regenerative farming that the OSD intends to achieve.

Drought tolerant and wildlife crops:

Farmers throughout New Mexico have experienced the effects of severe drought on their crops. The OSD is seeking contractors who will take proactive measures to identify and plant drought-resistant crops and find other innovative measures to use water more effectively and reduce consumption.

Pest management:

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a process that is used to solve pest problems in a way that minimizes risks to people and the environment. The OSD is focused on integrating long-term prevention of pests through a combination of biological control, minimizing or limiting chemical control, habitat manipulation and modification of cultural practices. Identification of the pest and its environment will help to determine the best pest management practice.

Programming:

An important goal of the OSD is to use our agricultural lands to share, teach and grow our community. Programming, education, outreach, and farmer mentorship are all essential tools to meet this goal. The OSD is seeking contractors that will support those efforts.

III. OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE FOR FARMING

The properties and acreage for which the OSD is contemplating entering into new contracts for farming are listed below and are further designated and depicted in **Attachment A**, attached hereto:

1. Alamo Farm: 20 acres
2. Los Poblanos Fields Open Space: Twelve (12) fields:
 - Field 1: 24 acres
 - Field 2: 16 acres
 - Field 3: 17 acres
 - Field 4: 16 acres
 - Field 5: 25 acres
 - Field 6: 11 acres
 - Field 7: 6 acres
 - Field 8: 5 acres

- Field 9: 4 acres
 - Field 10: 1.5 acres
 - Field 11: 4 acres
 - Field 12: 2 acres
 - Barn and Greenhouse: 0.5 acre
3. Open Space Visitor Center: Fields 2, 3, 4, 5, and equipment storage area, totaling approximately seventeen and a half (17.5) acres.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONSES

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) that are submitted should include the following information which should be provided via the fillable-pdf form attached hereto as **Attachment B**:

1. Identify which of the properties and fields identified above in Section III that your entity is interested in farming.
2. Describe your farming experience and methods. Be detailed and provide locations and dates.
3. List the maximum number of acres you have farmed at any given time (the OSD typically desires experience farming five acres or more).
4. Provide examples of how your farming practices will meet each of the following goals as they have been described above in Section II:
 - Regenerative agriculture and farming practices
 - Soil health and restoration
 - Optimizing wildlife habitat
 - Pest management
 - Drought tolerant crops
 - Programming
5. The OSD supports agriculture that is economically viable while supporting the goals and objectives outlined in this REOI. List the crops you have experience growing and the acreage of each of which you have maintained.
6. In order to sustain a standing wildlife crop throughout the year, the OSD requires a cutting schedule that prevents farmers from cutting/harvesting wildlife crops during certain times of the year. Please outline and describe how you would accommodate this requirement for cutting and maintaining wildlife crops?
7. Please identify and describe any experience you have working with the public or offering public programs that involved teaching about farming and gardening to pass down to future generations. Please provide examples of how you have educated, or would be

willing to educate, future farmers and other members of the public for this purpose.

8. Farmers with whom the City of Albuquerque contracts are required to work closely with Open Space staff and partners to achieve the City's goals and objectives. Describe how you have worked in the past with community groups and other agencies.
9. OSD farms are irrigated using flood irrigation and infrastructure provided by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District ("MRGCD"). Please cite your experience using this type of irrigation including working with an external agency to schedule flood irrigation and maintenance of ditches.
10. List the equipment and resources you currently own and have access to in order to farm a variety of crops. (i.e. tractors and attachments, bush hogs, hay rakes, equipment for weeding and maintaining irrigation ditches, etc.)
11. Farmers with whom the City of Albuquerque contracts are required to submit to the OSD a crop plan. Please describe your experience with and your ability to use a template provided by the OSD to illustrate your crop plan.
12. List your certifications for using herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. All farmers with whom the City contracts are required to maintain accurate records of any applications of the above products.
13. Describe your experience maintaining and repairing farm equipment and infrastructure and provide examples.
14. Describe your experience maintaining and repairing flood irrigation including ditches and gates and provide examples.
15. Identify and describe what human resources you would have available for the farming described in this REOI such as staff, contractors and/or volunteers.
16. Please confirm that you either already have or are willing and able to acquire the following types and amounts of insurance coverage and are willing and able to agree that as to all required coverages other than workers' compensation, the City shall be named an additional insured, and that all coverages afforded shall be primary with respect to operations provided.

(a) Commercial General Liability Insurance. A commercial general liability insurance policy with combined limits of liability for bodily injury or property damage as follows:

\$1,000,000	Per Occurrence
\$1,000,000	Policy Aggregate
\$1,000,000	Products Liability/Completed Operations
\$1,000,000	Personal and Advertising Injury
\$ 50,000	Fire - Legal
\$ 5,000	Medical Payments

Said policy of insurance must include coverage for all operations performed for the City by the Contractor.

(b) Automobile Liability Insurance. An automobile liability policy with liability limits in amounts not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit of liability for bodily injury, including death, and property damage in any one occurrence. Said policy of insurance must include coverage for the use of all owned, non-owned, hired automobiles, vehicles and other equipment both on and off work.

(c) Workers' Compensation Insurance. Workers' Compensation Insurance for its employees in accordance with the provisions of the Workers' Compensations Act of the State of New Mexico.

17. All EOIs submitted in response to this REOI shall be submitted to the contact person below by 5:00 pm on **November 7th, 2022**, in (i) hard copy, or (ii) in electronic form via a non-returnable "thumb drive." Responses to this REOI are voluntary. The submitted information will be reviewed by the City and may be made available to the public. Submitted information will not be considered confidential. Those who respond are advised that the City is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of or provide comments in response to your submission. No proprietary, classified, confidential and/or sensitive information should be included in your response. City makes no warranties or representations that City will enter into any farming contract for the purposes and properties identified herein, and City reserves the rights to (i) choose to not pursue such a farming contract at all, (ii) choose to postpone pursuing such a farming contract, and /or to (iii) determine, in its sole discretion, what if any contractor with whom it will pursue such a farming contract, whether or not that entity is a responder to this REOI.

Contact Person:

Please direct inquiries and responses to:

Adryana Vialpando

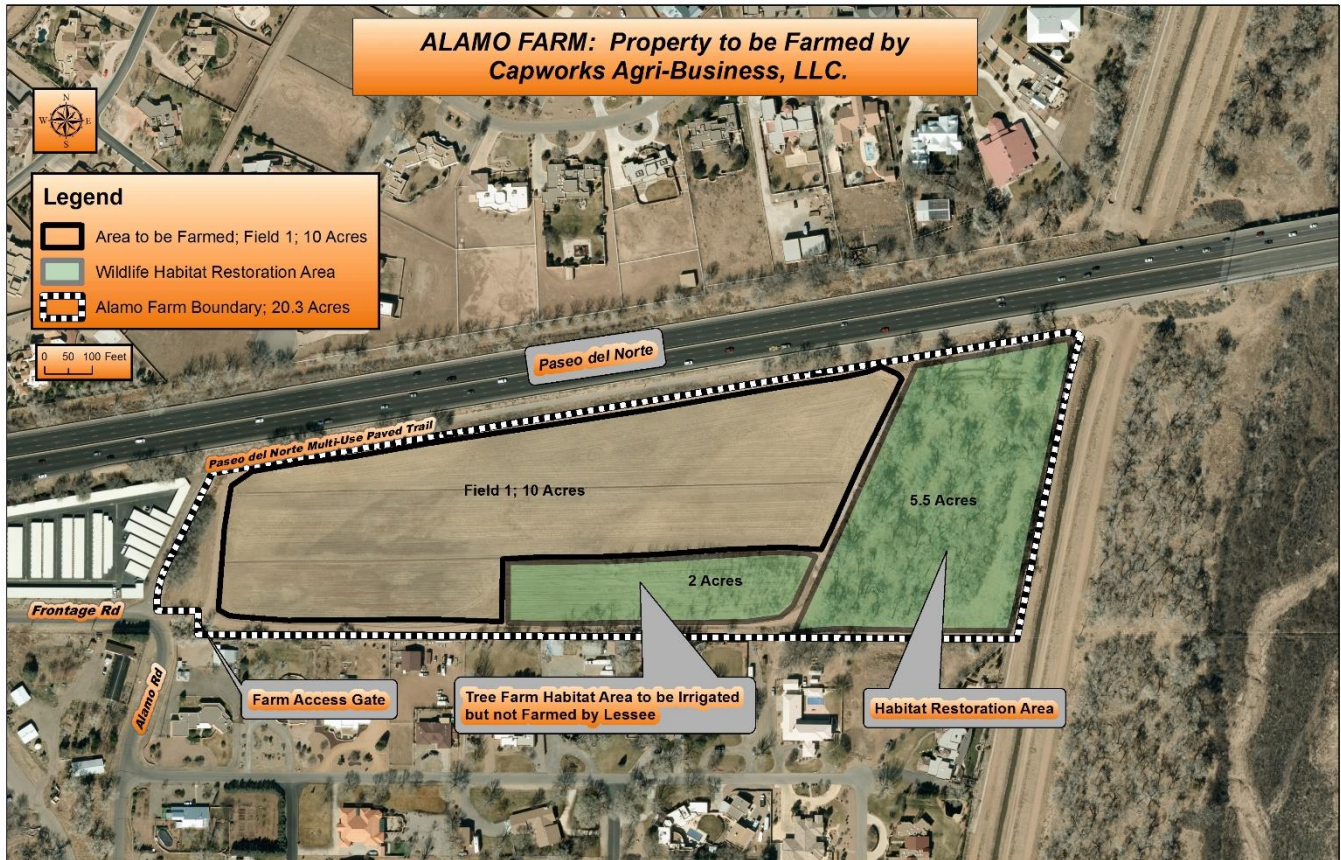
almontoya@cabq.gov

P.O Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103

505-768-4203

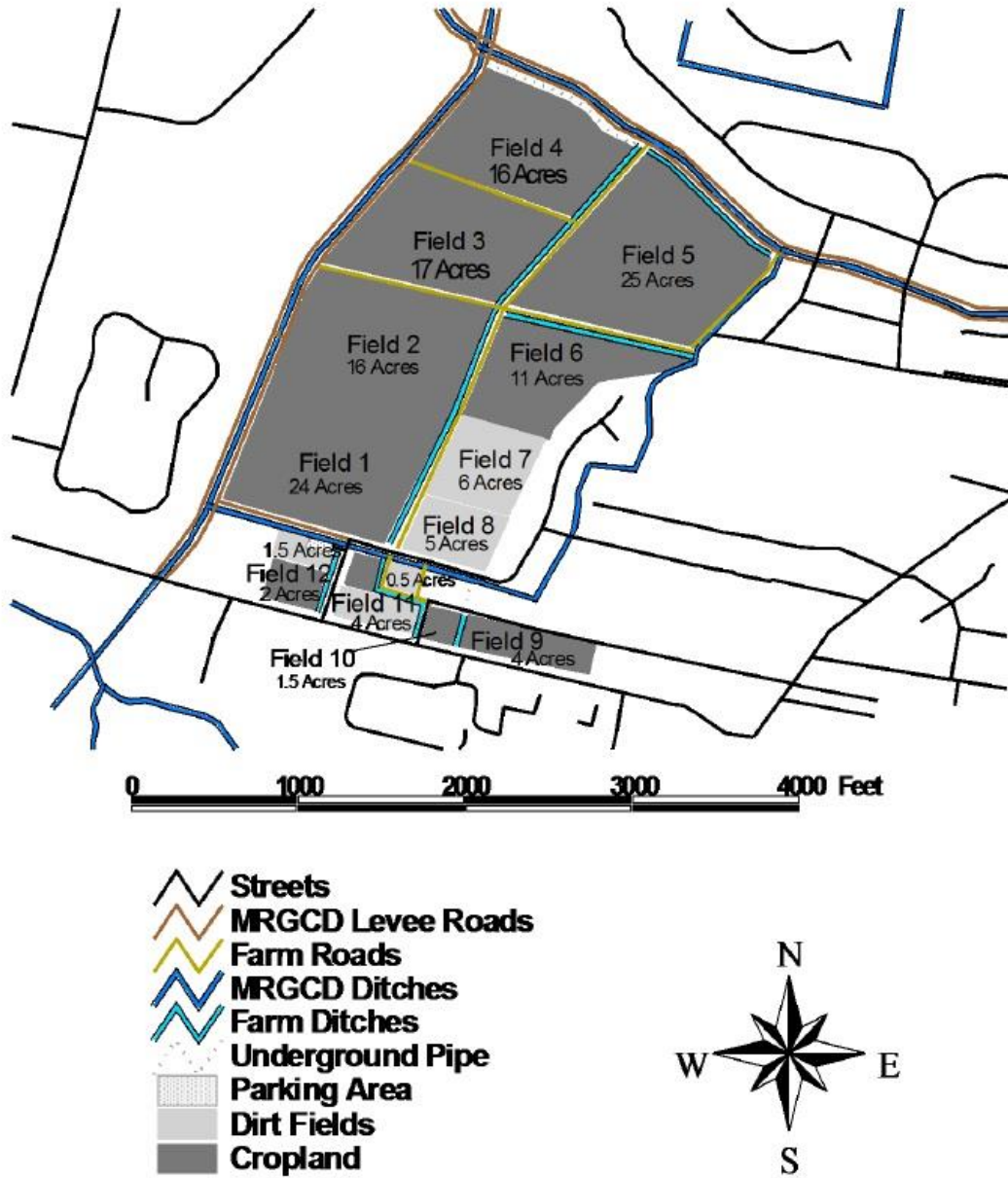
REOI ATTACHMENT A – POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE ACREAGE

Alamo Farm Fields:

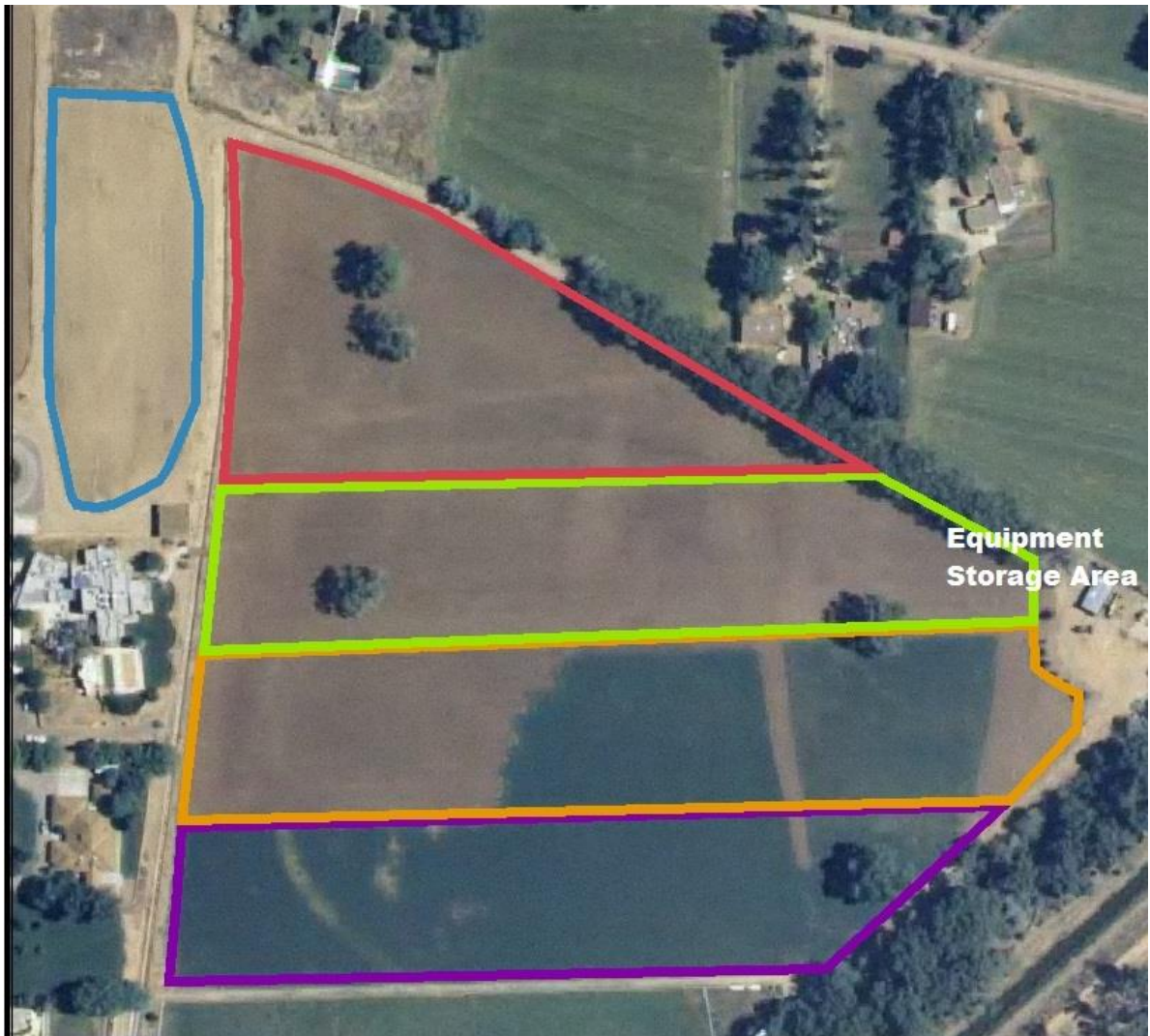


Los Poblanos Fields:

Figure 4. Field Acreages (Approximate).



Visitor Center Fields:



VC Fields

-  Field 1 is 1.76 Acres
-  Field 2 is 3.75 Acres
-  Field 3 is 3.85 Acres
-  Field 4 is 4.66 Acres
-  Field 5 is 3.70 Acres

