



# ABQ Fresh Forum

ALBUQUERQUE | 2025

## LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS | PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) plays a significant role in the City of Albuquerque's sustainable and equitable local food and agriculture system. PRD manages nearly 300 neighborhood parks and 30,000 acres of open space.

The City's **Local Food and Agriculture Coordinator** position is also housed within PRD; this position focuses on important elements of **farming/gardens/agriculture** on City land and other properties, including:

- Supporting management of Open Space farmlands;
- Providing resources, technical support, and workshops for school and community gardens, including developing agreements for city-partnered community gardens;
- Promoting food systems collaborations and conferences;
- Defining the City's role in local agriculture throughout the metro and advancing policies that improve local agriculture/food systems that benefit the community.

Parks offer opportunities for **community gardens, food forests, composting sites, apiaries** and **native plant areas that support**. City parks currently host community gardens and/or food forest elements at several locations, including Loma Linda/Korean Veterans Park, Phil Chacon Park, and the Rey Garduno Community Garden. New PRD community garden/food forest projects are underway in Santa-Barbara Martineztown, at Geneivas Arroyo in the Clayton Heights neighborhood, and at the International District Library Park. PRD has developed 15 pollinator gardens, with many other sites planned. Over the years, City parks are or have been the location for several growers' markets, including the Downtown Growers Market.

Open Space land provides critical natural habitat for wildlife and pollinators while also supporting recreation, as well as local agriculture and food production in some places. Open Space acquisition has permanently protected irreplaceable agricultural lands in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, and the Open Space Division continues to strive to protect additional lands, especially those within the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Five Open Space areas are specifically agricultural sites, where OSD contracts with farmers to manage the lands for agricultural production and to support wildlife. These include Los Poblanos Fields Open Space, Hubbell Oxbow Farm, Alamo Farm, and Open Space Visitor Center Farm. The Candelaria Nature Preserve is the 5th site, which is transitioning from agricultural production to a wildlife preserve.

Learn more at <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/local-agriculture-in-albuquerque/local-agriculture-in-albuquerque>.