

Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Puppies, Pussycats, and Pollinators: Native Plants at the ASCMV

Begin answering in the shaded box right beside or below each question and it will expand to accommodate as you type. Use up to a total of two and a half pages for questions 1-8. More detailed presentations, a final report, articles or posters are welcome separately(See final instructions at the end of this form.)*

1. Organization name or Individual who received the grant:

Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley

2. Amount of Grant: \$1,000

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes No

Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." Some labor was provided by the ASCMV (in particular, our building maintenance staff member and an ASCMV volunteer assisting our designer with irrigation).

5. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?

The grant money was used for: native plants, irrigation tubing, garden design and planting supervision, and (yet to be purchased) wood to make the NPS acknowledgement sign (with assistance from a volunteer woodworker through Mesilla Valley Audubon Society). Remaining money has been encumbered at the ASCMV for replacement plants in case some of them don't make it through the first winter. If all of them make it (fingers crossed), we'll look at what's thriving and add that and more to the garden in February as the weather warms up (and provide an update to you and our local chapter then).

6. Write an abstract or summary of the activities performed and the progress that was made this year on your project. (Save any conclusions, lessons learned, and benefits achieved for the final sections, 7&8.)

The first thing ASCMV had to do was, unfortunately, find a new garden designer. Robledo Vista was unexpectedly conflicted out due to a co-owner's employment with the City of Las Cruces, which is the ASCMV fiscal agent. (His job is totally different, but that didn't seem to matter.) Joan Woodward graciously provided several names and we worked with Jackye Meinecke. She designed the garden, chose the plants from native plant vendors, and worked with the ASCMV maintenance engineer to set up the irrigation. Jackye worked with volunteers from the local chapter of NPS and Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (there is some crossover!) for the planting on October 8 and she was on-site to supervise. Twenty-two plants were planted in the first round and set up with irrigation according to Jackye's instructions. As noted in the application, we realize it takes a couple years for natives to establish; however, they are set up for irrigation and nature is hopefully taking hold.

7. How does your project further a Native Plant Society mission area, namely: *plant or ecological education; conservation/restoration of native plants and/or their habitats; adds to botanical research; promotes appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land and/or wildlife.*

Our project furthers the NPS mission in a couple of ways. First, restoration of native plants. Since the project inception, even more land across and along the highway where our facility is located has been cleared for commercial development. By providing a little native oasis in this (formerly) barren spot, we most importantly are trying to give the buggies a place to land and find sustenance. Secondly, we hope to provide inspiration for ASCMV employees and visitors to learn about and plant hardy natives that survive and hopefully thrive in a hot, exposed location. Hopefully it becomes a source of enjoyment and pride for hardworking ASCMV employees as the garden matures.

8. Any other conclusions, lessons learned, benefits to you, the community or the environment hopefully result from your work as assisted by this grant.

I am personally committed to this project because of my own interest in native plants as part of the ecosystem, particularly for birds (I am involved with Mesilla Valley Audubon). I'll be the one following through on the signage and springtime planting.

To my mind, one benefit of this garden is that it's a way to introduce some ideas about helping the environment to a group of people (ASCMV staff) that mostly don't seem to have had much exposure. Since the beginning of the year, I've also started a plastic recycling "program" (okay, it's a garbage can for bottles that I recycle, but it's a start), I go out a couple/few times a month and litter-pick trash (not sure what people think about that), I'm inviting ASCMV staff on a bird walk in January, and, thanks to the Carter grant, there is going to be a thriving garden full of native plants. I (and perhaps Jackye and/or an NPS-LC representative, depending on how much time I am given) will be talking about the project in the January staff meeting, giving a rundown of what's there, the work that was involved in putting it in, and how and why these plants are helpful in the environment, how ASCMV staff can be involved in maintaining the garden, and what they can look for in the garden.

The most important thing, though, is that this garden will be a highly visible and environmentally impactful spot in an area that desperately needs it. I can't wait until spring to see what flourishes, what insects visit, and what we can add!

Final Instructions

Please send your completed form in MS Word (not converted to pdf) as an email attachment to cartergrantapps@gmail.com by December 1.

** To remain in good standing for any future funding from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, we ask that you educate our membership more fully in some way. This could be an article (500-1000 words, illustrations welcome) for our newsletter, **or** a paper or electronic copy or link to a published article connected with the past year's work, **or** by making an educational and visual presentation to one of our chapters. Contact information for our 7 area chapters is found on our website at www.npsnm.org under the Chapters tab.*

What are your intentions in this regard? Jackye is working with Ken Steigmann, vice president of the Las Cruces chapter, to set a date for a presentation about our project to that chapter.

This year end report is submitted by (name) Elaine Stachera Simon

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Date November 29, 2022

Please contact us again at cartergrantapps@gmail.com if you have any questions or alternate suggestions.