

The Nature Conservancy
US Geological Survey
Cottonwood Gulch
Valle de Oro NWR
Bernalillo County
BioPark
& Many More

Middle Rio Grande

Project Summary

- **Goals:** Create a network of organizations and agencies that collaborate on the development of projects that benefit the Middle Rio Grande's (MRG) waterways.
 - Functions as a “project incubator” or interdisciplinary think-tank
 - Help to successfully launch new projects
 - Help existing projects overcome challenges
 - Connects projects to the correct resources & people
 - Serves as a networking hub

Project Summary

- MRG Urban Waters Themes
 - Invest in Healthy Watersheds
 - Engage in Education and Outreach
 - Foster Active Collaboration and True Partnership
 - Facilitate Economic Revitalization and Prosperity
- Strategies
 - Ambassador position (AmeriCorps VISTA)
 - Quarterly e-Newsletters
 - Quarterly meetings
 - Success Story
 - Incubator Projects with facilitated breakout groups
 - Built in Net-working time
 - Announcements (Come see me if...)

Challenges and Solutions

Challenges, hurdles, issues:

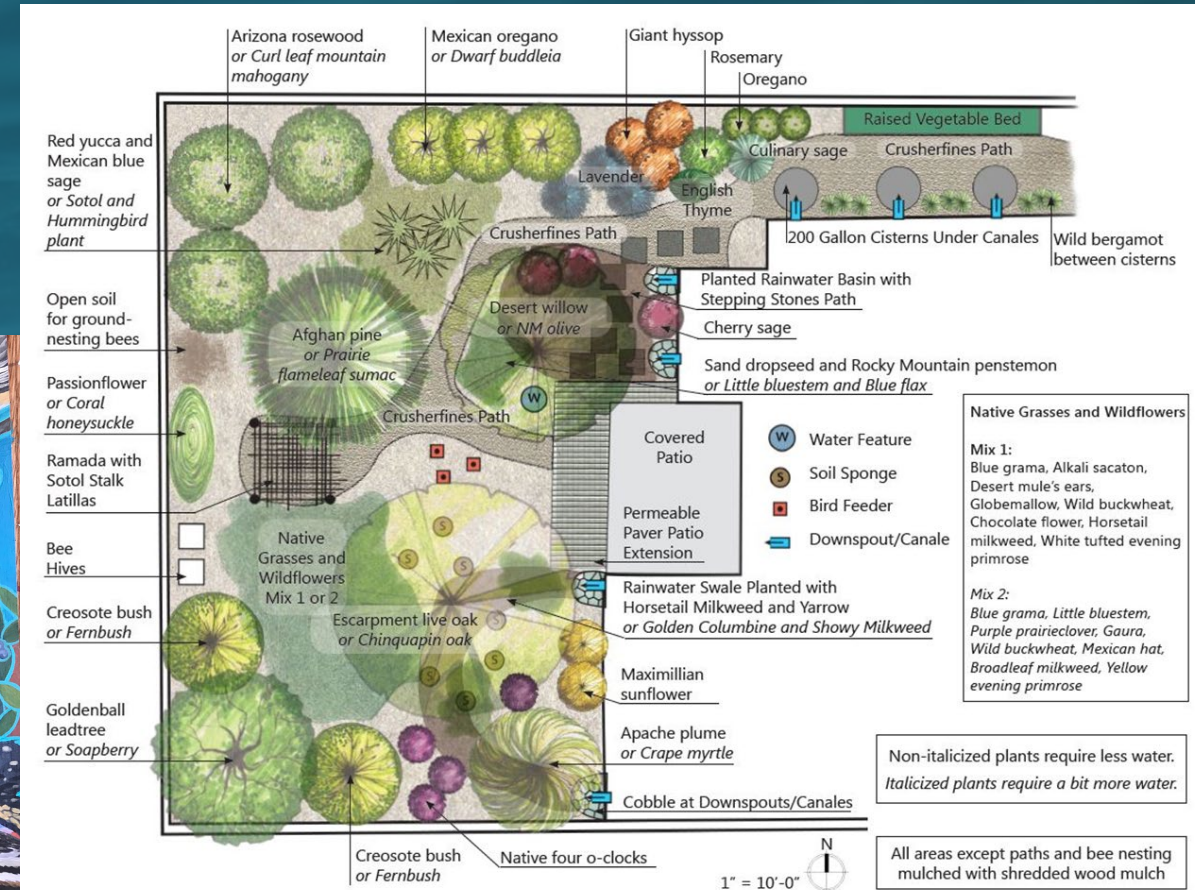
- Settling on a common or shared purpose – we have lots of different projects, not just one
- Monitoring to measure success – still working on this one
- Keeping people/organizations engaged
- Difficult to get people to send written project updates

What worked, what didn't?

- DO have a steering committee - helps distribute the workload across multiple orgs/people
- DO add value to partners to keep them engaged
- DO have working meetings – makes people feel like they contributed and have a role
- DON'T just do announcements and project updates at meetings

Results

- Completed 7 incubator project working sessions (*pre-covid*)
- Highlighted 3 success stories
- Increased membership
- Backyard Refuge Program Launched



2020-2022 Objectives

1. Continue to develop and improve the vision, goals and themes of the Partnership
2. Continue to develop and improve the format of Partnership meetings, and explore different ways of utilizing the break-out sessions.
3. Increase participation in the Partnership and actively invite stakeholders that are not yet involved to participate.
4. Explore methods for tracking collective outcomes to help direct future projects and to monitor progress towards the Partnership's goals.
5. Develop a standard format to catalog past, present and future Urban Waters projects.