

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Native Plant Society Helps Friends of Leasburg Dam State Park and Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park Grow their Native Gardens

Las Cruces, NM - The Native Plant Society, Las Cruces Chapter has made a generous donation of \$250.00 to the Friends of Leasburg Dam State Park for plants for the native gardens situated throughout the Park.

The Native Plant Society also presented a \$250 check to the Friends of Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on February 16, 2017. The Friends will use the funds to purchase materials and seeds to grow native plants in the new park green house. The group will then transplant that native vegetation out in the park once they have reached maturity.

The Friends of Leasburg Dam are helping to build and maintain two native plant gardens to help the park with its mission to showcase the natural beauty of the land and to instruct its visitors about all that is offered at the Park. It is a great opportunity for anybody interested in the desert flora.

"It's awesome that we have these types of groups and organizations in our communities that support our state parks by giving of both their volunteer time and generous donations," said Alex Mares, Interim Manager, Leasburg Dam State Park.

The mission of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) strives to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; fostering plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; supporting botanical research; and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

Leasburg Dam State Park promotes healthy lifestyles by offering nature walks, bird walks and guided hikes throughout the trails in the Park that are adorned with wildflowers and native plants found in the Chihuahuan desert environment. Leasburg Dam State Park is unique because it encompasses both the northern Chihuahuan Desert and the riparian area of the middle Rio Grande.

Leasburg Dam State Park is in Radium Springs, NM. From Las Cruces take I-25 north to exit 19 and follow the signs to the park. Log on to www.nmparks.com for more information or call Leasburg Dam State Park at 575-524-4068 or Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park at 575-523-4398. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park is located on the Rio Grande near Las Cruces and 1.5 miles from historic Mesilla.



The Native Plant Society, Las Cruces Chapter presents a ceremonial check to the Friends of Leasburg Dam State Park for their native gardens

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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