



Arbolera de Vida Plaza

Arbolera de Vida Plaza is an award-winning public space on an urban infill, brownfield site that is an integral part of a model affordable housing project in an old Albuquerque neighborhood. The Plaza is the result of a public-private partnership between the City of Albuquerque and the grass-roots Sawmill Community Land Trust, a neighborhood advocacy group turned developer, who is dedicated to bringing high quality affordable housing and economic activity to the Sawmill neighborhood.

The Plaza is unique for several reasons:

- It is a public space paid for with a combination of public and private funds, and maintained by a private non-profit entity.
- It provides a hierarchy of community performance, gathering and play spaces for new and existing neighborhood residents of all ages - with three plaza areas, lawn area, a fountain, bancos, walls, tables and benches.
- It serves as a storm water detention facility, accommodating the surface runoff and surge from the existing underground storm water system for a 100-year storm.
- The landscape design exploits the potential presence of additional water through passive water harvesting, appropriate plant material choices and meticulous grading.
- The site and landscape design reflect the cultural and regional landscapes of the residents.
- The site design minimizes negative visual impact and maintenance costs associated with storm water surge, through the use of land contouring, compartmentalization of spaces, highly detailed grading, and the use of high performance, long-lasting materials.
- It serves as a storm water detention facility, accommodating the surface runoff and surge from the existing underground storm water system for a 100-year storm.
- The landscape design exploits the potential presence of additional water through passive

Location: Albuquerque, NM

Cost: \$500,000 – public and private funds

Size: 1.2 acres

Completion: 2001

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