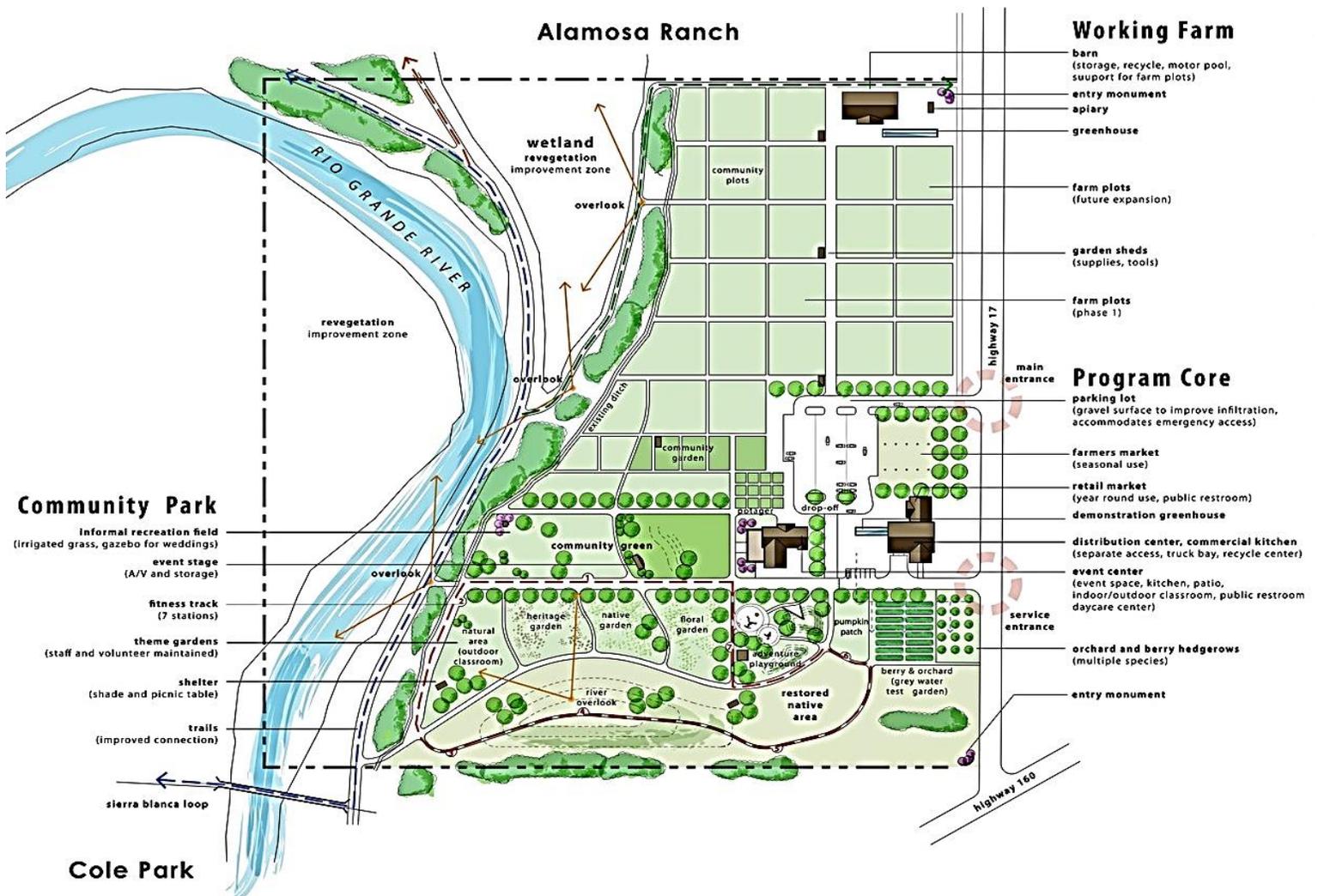


What is a Healthy Living Park?

- a working farm for education and research with opportunities for individuals, families and children to grow food for consumption as well as sale.
- a year-round local food market supplied by greenhouses which could also provide fresh food to area schools, restaurants, hospitals, etc.
- botanical gardens and a horticultural area,
- a commercial kitchen that will provide economic opportunities for local entrepreneurs
- live events (concerts, parties, weddings, gatherings).
- walking trails for exercise, wildlife viewing and connecting our communities on the east and west banks of the Rio Grande by way of a pedestrian bridge over the river, and
- an attractive entrance to Alamosa that celebrates our agricultural heritage.

In the future, this site may provide a food distribution center, a clam shell for live music, playground facilities, riverfront recreational activities and other amenities inspired by further community input.



RIO GRANDE HEALTHY LIVING PARK

Your legacy. Your vision.

The Rio Grande Healthy Living Park (RGHLP) holds at its core Preservation and Creation: the Preservation of the San Luis Valley (SLV) agricultural heritage, precious water resources, and open public spaces; and the creation of economic development, healthy living practices, and educational opportunities.

PRESERVATION

The RGHLP will support the ongoing work of the city to maintain a trails system accessible to all community members as well as the beauty of the land and views that make that trails system popular. It will also work to conserve water through wise use practices and allowing it to re-enter the water table.

CREATION

The RGHLP will have a tangible economic impact in the SLV through the development of business incubators and educational initiatives that underscore local food production and healthy living; making it a valuable contribution to our community and a unique agri - tourist destination.

- The RGHLP **working farm** seeks to develop a sustainable local food economy model as well as encouraging healthy living practices in the SLV. Our local farmers currently export nearly 90% of the food they grow. When we empower children and adults with the knowledge of growing, preserving, and distributing local food, and mentor potential farmers towards a career in sustainable food production, we are beginning the work of reversing this trend and creating a strong local food economy.
- Local farmers markets typically operate July to October. A **year-round local food market** will serve as an economic outlet for all local food producers, including those who utilize the RGHLP farms and greenhouses.
- The RGHLP **botanic gardens** will bring focus to indigenous, drought tolerant plants and traditional agricultural practices unique to the San Luis Valley.
- A **commercial kitchen** will provide a space for a wider range of foods to be produced and sold directly to consumers. The 2012 Colorado Cottage Foods Act limits the kinds of foods that can be sold out of home kitchens. In 2012, the Alamosa County unemployment rate was 10.6%. The RGHLP **commercial kitchen** will create an opportunity for small business incubation and micro-enterprise that would otherwise be too cost prohibitive for individuals on their own.
- A community the size of Alamosa calls for generous green-space for small and grander scale events that encourage family and community gathering. The RGHLP could be an accessible option for **live events** and other gatherings.
- Alamosa's **walking trails** are currently used by a world class running community, wildlife enthusiasts, cyclists, and many others that value the chance to safely explore the banks of the Rio Grande and its surrounding beauty. The current trail system must be preserved and expanded in order to honor the investment our city has already undertaken to create this amenity. The trail system depends on the Polston property to connect the East and West banks of the Rio Grande by way of a pedestrian bridge.
- **As an attractive entrance to Alamosa**, the RGHLP will feature all three agri-tourist attractions highlighted by Colorado State University's 2007 tourism study. Farm activities, culinary activities, and heritage activities such as visiting farms and ranches or museums that showcase agricultural history are all included in the rapidly expanding agri-tourism industry. Farm activities alone attracted 60% of the visits to south central Colorado.

Why is our community ready for a Healthy Living Park now?

The project has several phases, but the first is to raise \$900,000 by June 27, 2014 to purchase the Polston Property. Keeping this land in public ownership allows for public voice in how to develop it. Once the land is secured a series of community input sessions will shape the final concept of the RGHLP. The RGHLP is raising funds to purchase land as well as for future development through foundations and individuals, public and private, large and small donor partnerships. Once fully realized the park can be self-sustained through a combination of revenue generating ventures within the park and programmatic grants.

Consider an investment in the future of our community. Visit www.healthylivingpark.org for more information.