



Image: MRWM Landscape Architects

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE

This park is in Albuquerque's International District, a neighborhood that has limited parks and other public open spaces. In the early planning phases, the neighborhood strongly advocated for a park instead of developing the vacant site as a municipal bus facility. Three phases of the park have been constructed and include a large shaded play structure, group gathering areas, and a turf area with rolling hills and dense trees. Future phases will include a turf recreation field, nature-play spaces, and additional group activity areas. This park is a valued community space, providing a critical green space in a low-income neighborhood.

Officer Daniel Webster Children's Park

Albuquerque, New Mexico

MRWM Landscape Architects

ENGAGEMENT

The planning and design process included neighborhood engagement to advocate for the park, participate in the design, and promote events and programming. The design process also included members of a variety of disability advocacy agencies to incorporate a higher level of inclusivity.

OUTCOME

The community's advocacy efforts successfully kept the site as a public park. The variety of uses provides a full range of recreation and gathering spaces within walking distance. The central location in the City provides greater access for visitors with special needs.

RESOURCES

City of Albuquerque capital improvements and general obligation bonds, State of New Mexico capital improvements grants, and City Councilor set-aside funding were used. APD contributed funding for a memorial to Daniel Webster, a neighborhood police officer killed in the line of duty.

LESSONS LEARNED

The involvement of community members and students from the local elementary school was critical to early advocacy efforts. This engagement continues to be valuable for securing funding for future phases. Involvement in the design process ensured that the park provided a wide range of inclusive recreational opportunities.