

## Gardens de Atrisco

The Gardens de Atrisco is a project of the Town of Atrisco Grant. The Gardens de Atrisco are part of a community momentum to reclaim urban and semi-rural lands in Atrisco for healing, education, growing food and saving seed.

Jesse Anzures, who serves on the Town of Atrisco Board of Trustees and Victor Versace of Desert Forge Foundation share the garden with U.S Veterans for healing, building and focusing on community wealth through the growing of chili, corn, tomato, mint, garlic and basil.

Working with the land is the original way communities were able to create their own wealth and livelihood. The good news is that currently the Town of Atrisco is creating wealth and opportunity through the Gardens de Atrisco.

There is a beautiful quote on the Desert Forge Foundation website *“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks...neither shall they war anymore.”* –Isaiah 2:4

Jesse Anzures said; “We have been successful in building the soil and harvesting food and look forward to planning for next season.” There are many varieties of chili in the garden. Chili pods from Chimayo, Jemez and Atrisco are being harvested daily. New Mexico Big Jim and Barker’s are among the chili crops.

The Gardens de Atrisco are pesticide free and there is an emphases on educating young people about the value of New Mexico agriculture, our acequias and the creation of a more socially just, abundant and fertile Atrisco Valley.

*“La Agua es La Vida.”*

Students from local high schools, UNM and University of Miami (Alternative Spring Break) have volunteered at the Gardens de Atrisco since it started a few years ago.

A favorite quote of the garden comes from Mahatma Gandhi;

*“To forget how to dig the Earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves.”*

Town of Atrisco Board of Trustees President, Jerome Padilla, Secretary Theresa Gonzales and Trustee, Jaime Chavez also continue to give their energy towards the success of the Gardens de Atrisco as a way to build community wealth and of course to pass on the great tradition of growing New Mexico Chili.

