

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



Including Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, Atrisco Valley, Los Lunas & the East Mountains.

July

Downtown Skyline Views From **Parq Central**.

&

Where in the MetroABQ is **Hidden Park?**

&

Fabulous Hidden Park Area **Open House!**



Where do you go when you need a [MetroABQ Scenery fix](#), but no time for the Tram or a drive up to Sandia Peak? By chance, I found myself on the 4th floor rooftop balcony at Hotel Parq Central, watching folks taking in the amazing panoramic views of the city, from the Sandia Crest scene, to the Downtown & [West Mesa Volcano](#) skylines when you turn 180 degrees.

The Memorial Hospital complex--now the boutique hotel--began life in the 1920's as a railroad hospital, one of the largest in the state. It's an architecturally beautiful building, inside & out, starting with the ornate Italianate-style design on the front building, façade above. The Mediterranean-style building in back, formerly the nurses & physicians quarters, is also important. In the '70's the complex became a psychiatric hospital; then [health-related offices](#) for 25 years, until it was transformed into the four-story hotel starting in 2007; three of the historic buildings in the complex are now MetroABQ city landmarks.

The area is bounded by the interstate on the east, & [Huning Highlands](#) & EDo on all other sides. Prominently overlooking Central Avenue & adjacent to an I-25 on-ramp, Parq Central's back courtyard spaces are surprisingly quiet & private. The lush gardens & greenspaces fan out into shaded sitting areas & gathering spaces, surrounded by grass, flowering plants & trees. Ensconced there for any length of time, you might forget that you are in the center of a city with ~800,000 folks around you.





[Hidden Park](#) is not easy to find. It has no formal entrance & there is no parking for it. To enter, you follow discrete pathways between homes often marked by a low picket fence or block wall. You could walk around the outside perimeter of the park, set amid mostly [Mid-Century](#) ranch homes, & not even know the park is

there. Once inside the enclosed park, though, you are surrounded by lush 20'-60' tall, 70 year old trees that provide an almost unbroken three-acre shade canopy. A rather large [Little Free Library](#) greets you at the north entrance. Another Little Free Library lives just outside the park, on the west side of Hermosa St.

From Carlisle & Lomas Blvds, north on Carlisle & a quick right onto Mesa Verde Ave. McDuffie/Hidden Park--sits to your left, between Hermosa & Solano streets. There are three entrances on the east/west sides, & an entrance on the north end of the park between the block. Hidden Park, also known as McDuffie Park, is a cool place to seek shade & an important--albeit mostly hidden--urban greenspace.









The adjacent McDuffie & La Resolana neighborhoods have a prominent destination park in each--Hidden Park in McDuffie, & Del Sol--or Twin Parks--in the La Resolana neighborhood.

The Del Sol Parks are two block-long parks sitting in tandem, seen above, in the middle of La Resolana. Northern New Mexicans use [*la resolana*](#) to mean *where the sun shines*, or a *gathering place*, & the Del Sol parks, with their full acre of grasslands each, let the sun in. Being (almost) exactly the same size at 1.4 acres, folks call them the Twin Parks, seen below.

Further below are images taken around Twin Parks: the newly-built & very unique residence on the park, with uber-green dual-industrial cisterns in front, feels [Mid-Century Brutalist](#); the vitex, standing in the front yard of a another Mid-Century, frames the Twin Parks behind it; & the borderline between La Resolana & McDuffie neighborhoods.





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I continually seek out the hidden gems in all areas for my **Buyers**, & I am a tireless promoter for all of my **Sellers'** listings.
I love talking about real estate...

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