



Public input and local knowledge are critical components to any community planning effort. Our team engaged with Lordsburg residents, the Mayor, the Town Council, municipal staff and community partners to gather input that is helping to shape the development of Lordsburg's Community Forest Management Program.

28 Lordsburg residents contributed valuable insights to the Southwest Community Forestry Project through participation in a public survey. Responses to the survey questions highlighted that Lordsburg residents deeply value their existing trees and strongly believe the town will benefit from having more. The survey revealed overwhelming support from the community for this initiative. Residents are most interested in prioritizing shade trees, native drought-tolerant plants, and trees that add color to the town.

The public survey was active for a 3 month period from September to November 2024, and was available in both English and Spanish.

Lordsburg residents who participated in the public survey told us what they love most about trees, and what benefits of trees they value most in their community. The most popular choice was “**Beautify the town**”. 82% of survey participants reported that they want more trees for their aesthetic value and the enhanced quality of life that comes from increasing green space. Residents also highly value trees for their ability to **mitigate pedestrian heat, promote community pride, and enhance mental health** for community members.

The chart below shows which tree benefits ranked highest among residents who participated in the survey.



Residents of Hurley, Santa Clara,
Bayard, Lordsburg, Silver City and
Deming participated in the surveys

216

Tree seedlings given out through community outreach events

22

Native wildflower seed packets
distributed to residents



Lordsburg residents shared personal stories about their connection with trees:

"I feel such an incredible adoration and love for trees. Being amongst them is special."

"Caring for a tree that will in turn care for you is a cleansing experience."

"Any time you see a town with trees, you see people gathered underneath for shade. You see a sense of pride and beautification."

"Trees help me to relax and feel good."

Lordsburg residents recommended priority sites for community forestry projects

No one knows Lordsburg like the people who call it home. Survey participants identified public areas around town for special consideration in community forestry projects such as tree planting, maintenance of existing trees, and green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). While trees on residential and private property also play a role, the Southwest Community Forestry Network Project is focused on improving the community forest in public spaces at this phase.

Tree Planting Sites

The following sites were suggested as potential locations for new trees:

- Main Street
- Parks, and the Cemetery
- Along Motel Dr.
- Near schools
- Entrances to Lordsburg

Tree Maintenance Sites

The following sites were identified as in need of tree maintenance:

- Parks around town
- Main Street/Downtown
- Cemetery
- Along railroad tracks
- Schools

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

The following are sites where GSI features could mitigate flooding:

- Off Hwy 70 in Glen Acres
- Roads east of Main St. (2nd - 5th)
- North of the railroad tracks
- South end of Main St.
- By the underpass



Thank you for participating in the survey!

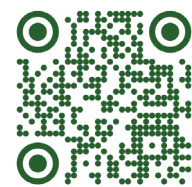
We used multiple strategies to spread the word about the public survey to maximize community participation, including:

- Posting materials in common public spaces
- Circulating the survey among community partners and networks
- Establishing "Info Hubs" at the Town Hall and County office
- Tabling at 9 community outreach events
- Promoting the project on 4 commercial radio stations
- Posting on Facebook and sending email blasts
- Including the survey link in resident's utility bills, if possible
- Advertising in the local paper and other media outlets

What is GSI?

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) mimics natural systems to manage stormwater where it falls. GSI features are designed to slow and sink rainwater into the soil to reduce flooding, provide water to plants and trees, improve water quality and many other benefits.

Follow the project at



swnmforestry.org



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