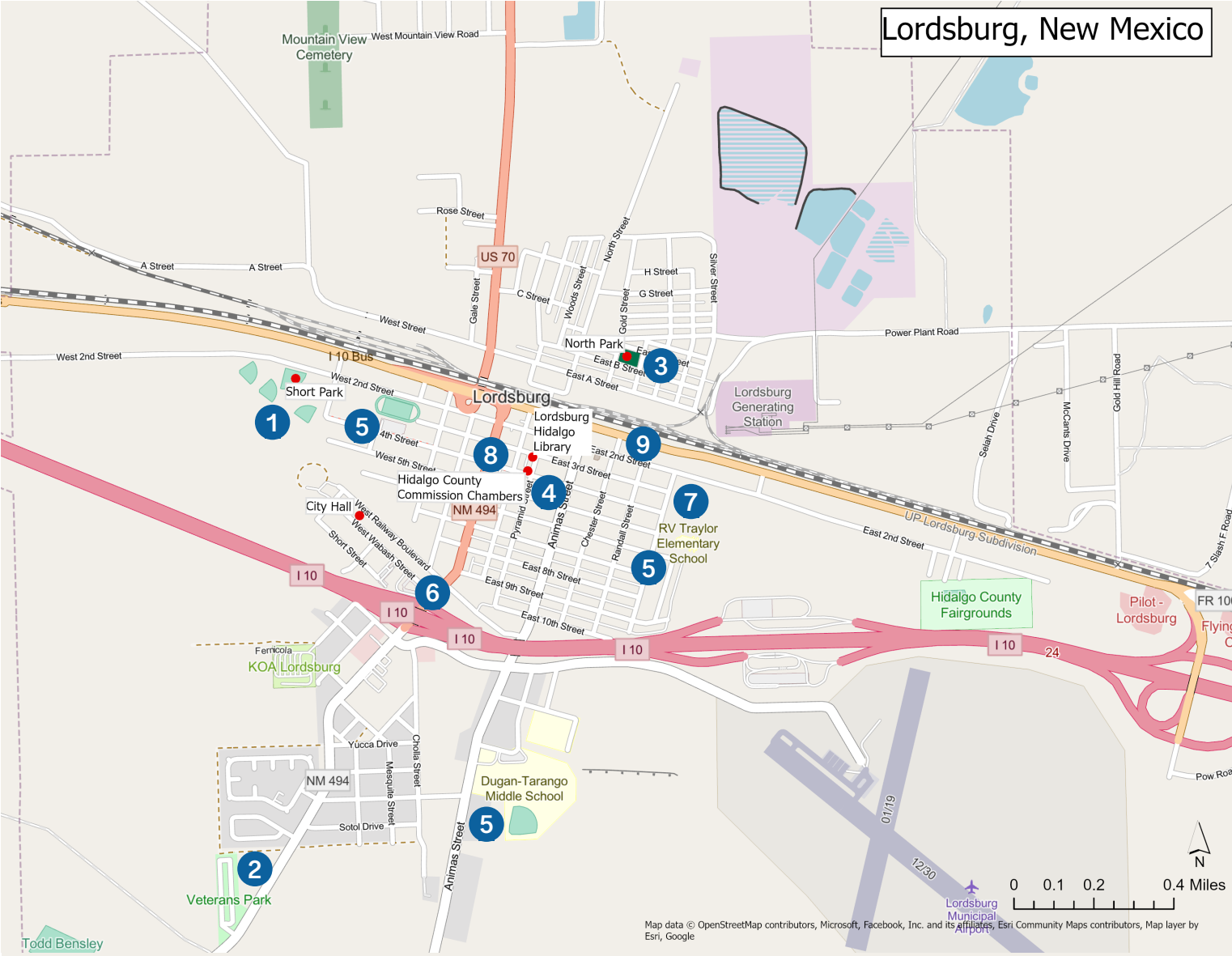




Priority Project Locations for Lordsburg's Community Forest

- 1

Short Park
- 2

Veterans Park
- 3

North Park
- 4

4th Street Walking Corridor (+ Pyramid Street)
- 5

School Campuses
- 6

West Wabash Street
- 7

Hidalgo County Museum
- 8

Main Street Streetscaping
- 9

Motel Drive Streetscaping + DOT Park



Rendering of E 4th Street and the Civic Center parking lot, imagining the streetscape transformed with healthy street trees, green stormwater infrastructure and a mural on the Hidalgo County Building. Created by Anthropopolus Design and Planning.

Executive Summary

Lordsburg’s Community Forest Management Plan is ready to get growing! The plan contains helpful information about Lordsburg's community forest, with specific recommendations for its growth and care. While the community forest includes all trees and vegetation within the city’s boundaries—across parks, streets, yards, and open spaces—much of the emphasis of the plan is on managing trees and plants in public spaces.

At first, it might seem as though a community forest management plan would only need one sentence: Plant more trees! A well-managed community forest can provide multiple benefits that support Lordsburg's goals for its development. However, just like any infrastructure, a community's trees and landscapes require an ongoing investment of both time and money to ensure they remain healthy and provide the benefits and services that the community values. Planting must also be balanced against tree water needs to use water wisely in New Mexico’s desert communities.

Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network

The new Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN) is here to help Lordsburg with the implementation of the plan. Western New Mexico University (WNMU) received a 5-year-grant from the USDA Forest Service to increase tree canopy in six communities: Bayard, Deming, Hurley, Lordsburg, Santa Clara, and Silver City. WNMU leads the project in collaboration with project partners Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) and Integrated Biological Solutions (IBIS).

The network will help maintain existing trees, plant trees across the communities, and provide support and technical assistance over the remaining years of the grant. The network website, swnmforestry.org, is designed to help coordinate efforts and share information between communities and project partners.



How to Use The Plan

Lordsburg's Community Forest Management Plan is intended as a practical guide for city leadership and staff, outlining specific implementation strategies for the planting, care, and management of the community forest. It reflects the community's stated values, plays to the city's strengths, identifies key challenges and opportunities, and charts a path toward achieving Lordsburg's goals for the development of both the urban forest and the city at large. **Designed with a five year life-span (2025–2030) in mind**, the plan is a dynamic document that encourages the application of adaptive management practices to respond to changing conditions and shifting priorities.

Lordsburg's Community Forest Management Plan contains the following sections:

Basis for the Plan

This section provides background information on how the plan was developed, including community context, analytical data regarding Lordsburg's community forest, and methodologies for identifying key priorities and strategies. This section can **help grant writers and project planners to provide justification for proposed projects and budgets** and may be of interest to those actively engaging in Lordsburg and its community Forest.

Action Plan

This section identifies three broad goals for Lordsburg's community forest, strategies within each of these goals, and specific actions to achieve these goals. It provides tailored recommendations for the physical care of trees, as well as recommendations on policy, funding, community planning, training, and agency and volunteer support. **Lordsburg's Action Plan is meant to be a working "to do" list.**

Additional Resources

This section is an appendix to the plan and provides guidance and templates to support the implementation of activities identified within the *Action Plan*. It is meant to serve as an **educational resource** for anyone actively involved in Lordsburg's community forest. Many of these resources are linked on the CFN website (swnmforestry.org) which will continue to be updated as more resources are created and collected by the CFN.

Recommended Goals and Strategies

The *Action Plan* section outlines Goals and Strategies to support the care and development of Lordsburg's community forest, including specific tasks, timelines, roles of partners, and available resources. These recommendations are rooted in science-based best management practices in the field of urban forestry, which were considered in the context of Lordsburg's vision, capacity, strengths and ongoing challenges. The recommendations in the *Action Plan* were also informed by: (1) Interviews with elected and city leaders, (2) Public surveys, (3) Existing planning resources including Lordsburg's Comprehensive Plan and the County Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, and (4) Analysis of spatial data including canopy cover, tree inventories, land surface temperature, and more.

Lordsburg's Community Forest Management Plan establishes the following Goals and Strategies:

1

Lordsburg's community forest enhances public health, community pride, and quality of life for residents.

1A. Focus resources on improving landscapes at existing parks and recreation areas, community gathering spaces and schools.

1B. Employ best management practices to foster a resilient community forest that improves air quality, mitigates heat, and conserves water resources.

1C. Engage residents in the development and care of the community forest.

2

Lordsburg's community forest contributes to city beautification and economic development.

2A. Collaborate with NMDOT to develop cohesive streetscaping on Main Street and Motel Drive to improve community safety, livability, and aesthetics.

2B. Promote landscaping at businesses and government buildings to enhance connectivity and walkability in the Metropolitan Redevelopment Area.

2C. Integrate the community forest into Lordsburg's broader tourism, revitalization, and development initiatives.

3

Lordsburg fosters a healthy community forest through proactive management, staff support, and collaboration.

3A. Invest in building staff expertise and support to strengthen Lordsburg's community forest management.

3B. Develop and streamline a strategic landscape irrigation and maintenance program that balances tree health with water conservation goals.

3C. Establish municipal policies and plans that support Lordsburg's community forest goals.

