Bayard, New Mexico

Priority Project Locations for Bayard's Community Forest

1. Central Ave. Streetscaping
2. Bayard Community Garden Initiative
3. US-180 Streetscaping & Hurley Ave. Streetscaping
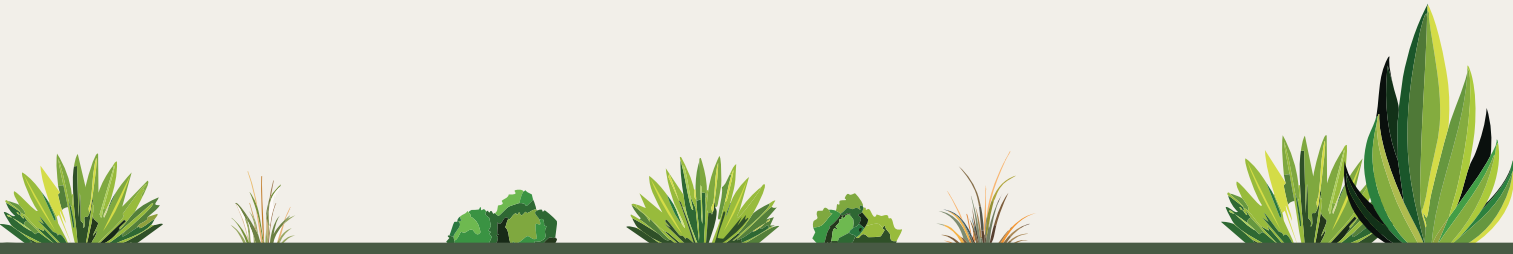4. Bayard Community Park & Community Center
5. Old Fire Station Park
6. East Street Park
7. Cobre Golf Park
8. School Campuses
9. Bayard Public Library

Rendering of Central Ave, imagining the area with a food hub, community garden, and healthy street trees. Created by Anthropopulus Design and Planning.

Executive Summary

Bayard's Community Forest Management Plan is ready to get growing! The plan contains helpful information about Bayard'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 Bayard'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 Bayard 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 Systems (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.

Southwest New Mexico COMMUNITY FORESTRY NETWORK

swnmforestry.org

How to Use The Plan

Bayard'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 Bayard'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.

Bayard'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 Bayard's community forest, and processes for identifying key priorities and strategies. This section can also help grant writers and project planners to provide justification for proposed projects and budgets.

Action Plan

This section identifies three broad goals for Bayard's community forest, numerous strategies within each goal, 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. Bayard's Action Plan is meant to be a working "to do" list.

Additional Resources

This section (as well as the Network website at swnmforestry.org) provides guidance and templates to support the implementation of activities identified within the Action Plan. It serves as an educational resource for anyone actively involved in Bayard's community forest. The project team will continue to develop additional resources over the grant period.

Recommended Goals and Strategies

The *Action Plan* section outlines Goals and Strategies to support the care and development of Bayard'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 Bayard'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 Bayard's Comprehensive Plan and the County Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans, and (4) Analysis of spatial data including canopy cover, tree inventories, land surface temperature, and more.

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

1 Bayard's community forest fosters economic development, community character, and environmental health.

1A. Develop landscaping along Hwy 180 to beautify the entrance to Bayard, promote businesses and attract visitors.

1B. Use streetscaping to formalize a "Main Street" along Central Ave. and Hurley Ave., enhancing walkability and connectivity.

1C. Manage a healthy community forest to conserve water resources, mitigate risk, and enhance environmental health.

2 Bayard's community forest enhances public health, recreation opportunities and quality of life for residents.

2A. Focus resources on improving and expanding the urban forest in community gathering spaces and recreation areas.

2B. Enhance landscaping at Bayard's school campuses and facilities to contribute to a healthy and vibrant community.

2C. Engage residents in the care and development of the community forest.

3 Bayard cultivates a well-managed community forest through staff support, collaboration and comprehensive planning.

3A. Invest in building staff expertise to further strengthen Bayard's community forest management.

3B. Develop and streamline a strategic landscape maintenance program.

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