

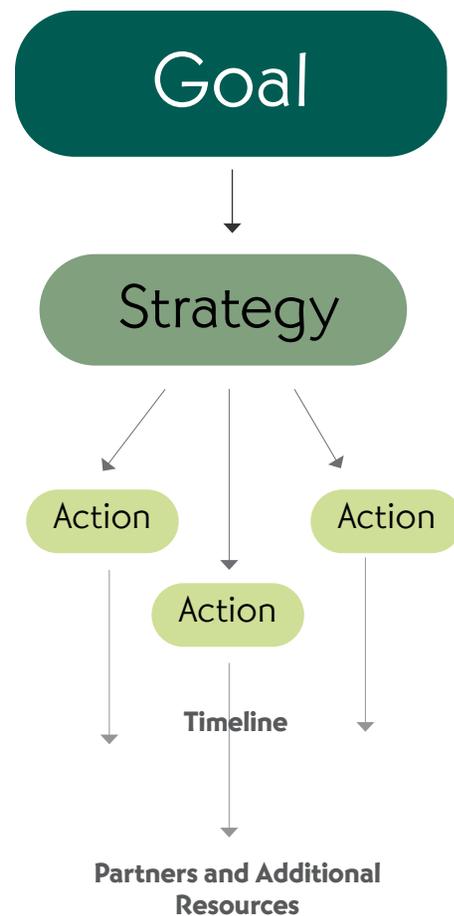


Action Plan

Throughout the remaining years of the project, a significant investment is being made to enhance Lordsburg's community forest through the Southwest New Mexico Community Forest Network (CFN) project. This *Action Plan* outlines the foundational steps necessary to guide, support, and sustain this effort.

The *Action Plan* sets three primary goals that establish a vision of a healthy and resilient community forest in Lordsburg. Each goal is supported by targeted, actionable strategies that work together to help Lordsburg make progress towards this vision. The strategies are further broken down into a series of specific actions with defined timelines for completion, which are outlined in the tables below. Additionally, each strategy is presented with a list of potential partner organizations and available supporting resources.

The goals, strategies and actions were informed through engagement with Lordsburg leadership, staff, and community members, Hidalgo County staff leadership, and local experts. The project team also carefully reviewed Lordsburg's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update and other available planning resources like the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). The results of this engagement and the analyses that informed the *Action Plan* are discussed in the previous section, *The Basis for the Plan*.



Goals are the foundation for any Strategic Plan. They are a collective vision for the city to aspire to. They organize strategies and actions to help fully realize the plan.

Strategies are measurable approaches of "how" to achieve a given goal.

Actions are individual steps or sets of steps to be taken to support a strategic approach to achieving the goal.

Timeline proposes a time frame for an action. This plan proposes Short Term actions (1-2 years), Mid Term (2-5 years), and Long Term (5+ years).

Partners and Additional Resources are vital to completing the *Action Plan*. Partners can support municipal staff with ongoing training, implementation of actions, and the creation of additional resources. Additional Resources can provide the specific guidance to help residents and municipal staff carry out the actions identified in the plan.

Action Plan

Goal I

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

Strategy 1A

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

Actions	Timeline
<p>IA.1 Rehabilitate Veterans Park. Priority activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install automatic irrigation and add organic mulch to improve tree health. » Perform regular maintenance, including thinning and removal of dead trees. » Re-landscape park entrance to replace struggling trees with desert shrubs. » Integrate shade trees, shrubs, grasses, cacti and GSI features along the new walking path adjacent to NM-494. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
<p>IA.2 Increase tree canopy in targeted areas within Short Park. Priority activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plant clusters of trees, shrubs, grasses, cacti and groundcover to create more intimate, sheltered spaces within the large park area. » Install automatic irrigation and add organic mulch to improve tree health. » Remove and replace dead trees with a variety of drought-tolerant native species. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
<p>IA.3 Rehabilitate North Park. Priority activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plant clusters of trees, shrubs, grasses, cacti and groundcover near playground and picnic area. » Expand the automatic irrigation system, add organic mulch to improve tree health. » Remove and replace dead trees with a variety of drought-tolerant native species. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
<p>IA.4 Rehabilitate Lordsburg Cemetery, and collaborate with Hidalgo County to rehabilitate Shakespeare Cemetery. Inventory existing trees to prioritize tree maintenance and removal. Explore options for irrigation infrastructure improvements.</p>	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
<p>IA.5 Collaborate with the school district to develop and maintain landscaping with shade trees, flowering shrubs, organic mulch and living ground cover in high use areas of school campuses (school drop-offs, near sporting fields, play areas, and walkways.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Collaborate with schools to investigate opportunities for developing new outdoor learning spaces with shade trees and play areas on adjacent landscapes. 	5+ Years (Long Term)

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » New Mexico Public Schools Facility Authority (NMPSFA)
- » NM Public Schools Facilities Authority

Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Lordsburg
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Irrigation Guide



Action Plan

Goal I

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

Strategy 1B

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

Actions	Timeline
IB.1 Publish a regionally appropriate tree list and plant palette focused on native, drought-tolerant plants to promote cohesive landscaping that enhances community character. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Promote increased species diversity in tree planting projects city-wide. 	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
IB.2 Practice succession planting by phasing new trees and plants into Lordsburg’s public landscapes over time to avoid having a single generation urban forest and secure the community benefits of trees for generations to come..	Ongoing
IB.3 Proactively identify opportunities to co-locate GSI and tree plantings to supplement irrigation with stormwater to conserve drinking water, mitigate ponding, and support watershed health.	Ongoing
IB.4 Prioritize the planting and irrigation of higher water use deciduous trees in high-use areas, such as parks and community gathering spaces, to increase tree canopy while supporting water conservation goals.	Ongoing
IB.5 Prioritize use of understory plantings (like grasses and shrubs), ground cover and organic mulch over use of rock mulch in streetscapes to mitigate heat and dust, and improve both pedestrian comfort and tree health.	Ongoing
IB.6 Regularly monitor tree heath and irrigation infrastructure to ensure trees are adequately watered, allowing them to grow into healthy, mature trees and provide maximum community benefit.	Ongoing

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » Lordsburg Economic Advancement Project
- » Hidalgo County
- » Business and property owners

Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Lordsburg
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Irrigation Guide



Action Plan

Goal I

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

Strategy IC

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

Actions	Timeline
IC.1 Maintain clear, consistent, and positive public messaging about urban forestry efforts in Lordsburg to build community support and engagement.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
IC.2 Increase tree canopy in neighborhoods by promoting tree planting and rainwater harvesting in residential areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide residents with educational resources » Educate residents on their tree and landscaping responsibilities adjacent to ROWs. 	Ongoing
IC.3 Educate and encourage residents to select a range of diverse plant species for their property that are regionally appropriate, drought-tolerant, and support pollinator and native wildlife habitat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide watering guidelines to ensure adequate and efficient irrigation of residential trees. 	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
IC.4 Partner with organizations that support residential tree planting programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Focus first of residential tree planting near schools, walking corridors, and other high-use public areas and facilities to promote walkability. 	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
IC.5 Support and encourage tree planting and residential rainwater harvesting implementation at residences within the Western Regional Housing Authority and other affordable housing developments in Lordsburg.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
IC.6 Explore opportunities to engage residents in volunteer efforts to support tree planting and care on public property.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » Tree New Mexico Neighborwoods Program
- » NM Tree Alliance
- » NMSU Cooperative Extension
- » Western Regional Housing Authority
- » Affordable housing complex managers

Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Lordsburg
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Bernalillo County Passive Rainwater Harvesting Guide



Action Plan

Goal 2

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

Strategy 2A

Collaborate with NM DOT to develop cohesive streetscaping on Main Street and Motel Drive to improve community safety, livability, and aesthetics.

Actions	Timeline
2A.1 Collaborate with NM DOT to design, engineer, and install comprehensive streetscaping with automatic irrigation along Main Street to create an attractive business district and promote traffic calming, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, beautification, tourism and economic development.	5+ Years (Long Term)
2A.2 Collaborate with NM DOT to design, engineer, and install comprehensive streetscaping with automatic irrigation along Motel Drive.	5+ Years (Long Term)
2A.3 Build momentum by focusing first on completing small streetscaping projects along Main Street and Motel Drive, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Tree maintenance and additional plantings on embankments of Exit 22 on I-10 (coordination with NM DOT) » Low-growing drought hardy plants and GSI on four corners of the I-10 Exit 22 on and off ramps (coordination with NM DOT) » Landscaping on either side of the intersection of Main Street and Motel Drive (coordination with property owners) » Explore adding curb cuts and drought-tolerant living groundcover in median strips on Main Street (coordination with NM DOT) » Hardy desert plants and GSI features along Motel Drive such as at the train stop, the Lordsburg Historic Marker, and the turn to Short Park. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2A.4 Collaborate with NM DOT to revitalize DOT Park on Motel Drive through improved maintenance and irrigation.	1-2 Years (Short Term) Ongoing
2A.5 Collaborate with property owners and businesses to incentivize and promote cohesive landscaping of some kind at every business location along Main Street and Motel Drive.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » New Mexico Department of Transportation
- » Property and Business Owners
- » Lordsburg Economic Advancement Project (LEAP)

Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Lordsburg
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- » NM DOT Design Manual



Action Plan

Goal 2

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

Strategy 2B

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

Actions	Timeline
<p>2B.1 Collaborate with government agencies, businesses, property owners and LEAP to implement cohesive, drought-tolerant landscaping projects with irrigation infrastructure and/or GSI in the MRA. Focus on developing a walking corridor along 4th Street to connect community services, particularly at the intersection of Pyramid Street. Priority sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Post Office and Post Office Park. » Lordsburg Hidalgo County Library. » Hidalgo County Manager's Office and County Courthouse. » Lordsburg Civic Center. » Lordsburg Hidalgo Senior Center. » 4th Street buffer strips. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
<p>2B.2 Collaborate with government agencies, businesses and property owners to implement streetside landscaping to promote walkability along other West Wabash Street.</p>	1-2 Years (Short Term)
<p>2B.3 Develop an incentive program to support and recognize local businesses that invest in landscaping contributes to walkability and the development of the business district.</p>	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
<p>2B.4 Integrate the community forest into broader multi-modal transportation and recreation projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Evaluate and rehabilitate established pedestrian pathways along streets of the core community street networks. » Improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities during street improvement projects. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » Hidalgo County
- » Lordsburg Economic Advancement Project (LEAP)
- » Business and Property Owners

Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Lordsburg
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- » Irrigation Guide



Action Plan

Goal 2

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

Strategy 2C

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

Actions	Timeline
2C.1 Focus on implementing simple but effective public landscape projects to build community support and engagement for community forestry initiatives.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2C.2 Improve landscaping at Hidalgo County Museum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve existing irrigation; maintenance of existing trees; tree replacement. » Additional landscaping in front of building; option to add educational plaques to identify native species and create an arboretum as another attraction. » Explore the addition of a picnic area, shade structure, and a few shade trees. 	5+ Years (Long Term)
2C.3 Integrate native trees and plants with planned Continental Divide Trail tourism infrastructure improvements at Veteran's Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Planting near kiosks and signage » Trees and plants to beautify the trail's path down Main Street. 	5+ Years (Long Term)
2C.4 Integrate public art projects with community forestry and revitalization initiatives to add color and visual interest to the city, building community character. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mural project along Main Street. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2C.5 Collaborate with LEAP, Hidalgo County and other community groups to integrate community forestry goals into future revitalization and development projects in Lordsburg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Development of new Industrial Park. » Lordsburg Special Events Center improvements. » Street and drainage improvements. » Hidalgo County Fairgrounds improvements. » Development of a new recreational pond with walking paths. 	5+Years (Long Term)

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » Lordsburg Economic Advancement Project (LEAP)
- » Hidalgo County
- » New Mexico Tourism Department

Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Lordsburg
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- » Irrigation Guide



Action Plan

Goal 3

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

Strategy 3A

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

Actions	Timeline
3A.1 Support Lordsburg staff to actively participate in the SWNM Community Forestry Network (CFN), where they can connect to educational resources and events to further their skills in urban forestry and GSI implementation and maintenance.	Immediate and Ongoing
3A.2 Invest in staff training for tree care, tree risk assessment, irrigation standard installation guidelines and maintenance, integrated pest management, and GSI maintenance. » Include Lordsburg school maintenance staff in CFN tree care training events.	1-2 Years (Short Term) Ongoing
3A.3 Create a mechanism for Lordsburg staff and leadership to access tree expertise: » Establish contracts with certified arborists. » Support the development of a CFN regional urban forester position. » Explore the formation a Tree Board.	1-2 Years (Short Term)

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » NM Tree Alliance
- » New Mexico Urban & Community Forestry Program

Resources include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network Website and Printed Materials
- » Arborist Contract Template



Action Plan

Goal 3

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

Strategy 3B

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

Actions	Timeline
3B.1 Complete the existing Lordsburg tree inventory in Tree Plotter and periodically update the data set to inform priorities for maintenance and high risk trees.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3B.2 Establish and adhere to a tree maintenance schedule, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Tree pruning/removal. » Irrigation checks. » Mulch and understory planting maintenance. » Insect and disease checks. 	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3B.3 Develop an integrated weed management program.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3B.4 Explore the acquisition of a water truck to support irrigation of trees, and investigate the potential to reuse effluent water.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3B.5 Improve and expand irrigation infrastructure at parks and existing landscapes to ensure trees are sufficiently and consistently watered. Adopt an irrigation standard to simplify installation and maintenance of system.	1-2 Years (Short Term)

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » NM Tree Alliance
- » New Mexico Urban & Community Forestry Program

Resources include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network Website and Printed Materials
- » Example Maintenance Schedule
- » Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- » Irrigation Resource



Action Plan

Goal 3

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

Strategy 3C

Establish municipal policies that support Lordsburg's community forest goals.

Actions	Timeline
3C.1 Establish a vegetation ordinance that formalizes the authority of city staff and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Protection and preservation of healthy mature trees. » Irrigation and water conservation policy. » Designated responsibilities in ROWs and buffer strips - municipal, private, and public. » New development landscaping requirements. 	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3C.2 Establish and update an annual budget for landscaping projects, including irrigation and maintenance.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3C.3 Establish a cemetery tree planting and irrigation policy.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3C.4 Enact policies that establish baseline landscaping requirements for new large-scale developments and national retailers.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3C.5 Update the Lordsburg Community Forest Management Plan.	2029

Partners include:

- » Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)
- » NM Tree Alliance
- » New Mexico Urban & Community Forestry Program

Resources include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network Website and Printed Materials
- » Example Maintenance Schedule
- » Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- » Irrigation Resource

