

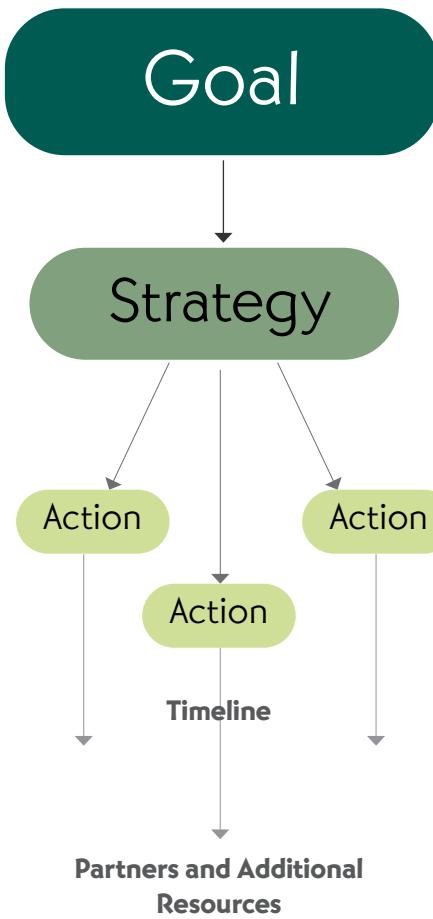


# Action Plan

A significant investment is being made to enhance Santa Clara'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 in Santa Clara throughout the remaining years of the project.

The *Action Plan* sets three primary Goals that establish a vision of a healthy and resilient community forest in Santa Clara. Each Goal is supported by targeted, actionable Strategies that work together to help Santa Clara 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 Santa Clara leadership, staff, and community members, Grant County staff leadership, and local experts. The project team also carefully reviewed Santa Clara's Comprehensive Plan 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 summarized and analyzed in the previous section, *The Basis for the Plan*.



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

**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 to carry out the actions identified in the plan.

# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 1

Santa Clara's community forest strengthens community pride and promotes economic development.

### Strategy 1A

Develop cohesive landscapes along Main Street (Fort Bayard Road) that highlight Santa Clara's existing community services.

Actions	Timeline
IA.1 Develop and maintain landscaping projects at key locations along Main Street to create a cohesive and beautiful downtown: » Install landscaping and GSI features in the buffer strip along Fort Bayard Road. » Plant trees along the east sidewalk along Main Street. » Install small plantings with GSI features at entrances to Viola Stone Park and Splash Park. » Maintain the new plantings at Mercado. » Maintain and develop an irrigation system for existing trees at Village Hall. » Maintain landscaping at the Fire Department, Animal Shelter, and Post Office. » Landscape the Main Street entrance to Cameron Creek.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
IA.2 Prioritize maintenance at Viola Stone Park. » Address irrigation issues for ash trees. » Conduct pruning and maintenance on the large cottonwood tree overhanging the gazebo. » Replace ash trees as needed with a more diverse tree palette.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » Santa Clara Action Committee
- » Youth Conservation Corps

#### Resources include:

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



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal I

Santa Clara's community forest strengthens community pride and promotes economic development.

### Strategy 1B

Integrate the community forest into broader community goals and emergent projects.

#### Actions

Actions	Timeline
IB.1 Utilize cohesive landscaping and develop irrigation and maintenance plans for new and upcoming Main Street Projects: » GSI installation and tree planting as part of the Bradley Hotel Renovation Five Points Initiative. » Landscaping at the future recreational amenity planned for the empty lot on Main Street next to the Mercado.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
IB.2 Work with the NM Department of Transportation (DOT) to landscape the three entry points into the Village off Highway 180 and highlight Village signage on Highway 180, prioritizing the south Fort Bayard Road entrance.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
IB.3 Explore GSI installation opportunities at northwest corner of Highway 180 and Fort Bayard Road to attract attention to entrance to Santa Clara and highlight businesses.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » Southwest New Mexico Arts, Culture, and Tourism (swnmACT)
- » NM Department of Transportation
- » Youth Conservation Corps

#### Resources include:

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



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 1

Santa Clara's community forest strengthens community pride and promotes economic development.

### Strategy 1C

Improve and expand the community forest in recreational areas that serve Grant County and attract visitors to Santa Clara.

Actions	Timeline
IC.1 Revitalize Grant County Bataan Memorial Park: » Prioritize mature tree maintenance and improve irrigation efficiency. » Plant shade trees in key gathering areas of the park to address heat issues.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
IC.2 Conduct pruning and other maintenance at the Shooting Range and the Disc Golf Course, and conduct replacement planting as needed.	Ongoing

#### Partners include:

» Grant County

» SWNM Community Forestry Network

#### Resources include:

» Recommended Tree and Plant List for Santa Clara

» Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forest Projects

» Irrigation Resource



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 2

Santa Clara's community forest contributes to the health and wellbeing of both people and nature.

### Strategy 2A

**Invest in community forest improvements surrounding Central Recreational Park and the Elementary School.**

Actions	Timeline
2A.1 Prioritize the maintenance and irrigation of existing trees at the Central Community Recreation Park area: » Review and improve irrigation at the orchard. » Develop an integrated pest management plan. » Perform routine maintenance and an irrigation assessment for mature trees at park and El Grito Learning Center.	1-2 Years (Short Term) On-going
2A.2 Expand the community forest near Central Community Recreation Park to gain additional health benefits: » Plant shade trees around the playground area and seating areas. » Plant windbreak trees, remove and replace dead trees, and phase out Siberian elms and Ailanthus between the complex and the Highway 180 walking path. » Install GSI features and streetscaping in front of the Senior Center, Health Clinic, and El Grito Learning Center. » Landscape the entrance to the Highway 180 pedestrian/bike trail to Bayard to draw attention to the amenity. » Install streetscaping and GSI features along East Street and Oak Way, including the location of the Grant County Regional Water Supply Project.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2A.3 Collaborate with Central Elementary School to bring shade trees and ground cover to school grounds.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

#### Partners include:

- » NM Public Schools Facilities Association
- » SWNM Community Forestry Network

#### Resources include:

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



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 2

Santa Clara's community forest contributes to the health and wellbeing of both people and nature.

### Strategy 2B

#### Utilize the community forest to promote the walkability of Santa Clara.

Actions	Timeline
2B.1 Utilize landscaping to create a link between Main Street and the Central Community Recreation Park across the Cameron Creek Bridge: » Landscape Cypress Street entrance to the bridge, including GSI. » Landscape the intersection of Cypress Street and East Street. » Work with residential properties along Cypress Street to encourage streetside trees and landscaping.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2B.2 Work with NM DOT to install drought tolerant native plants along Highway 180 pedestrian/bike trail, prioritizing intersections of Oak Way and Fellner Road.	5+ Years (Long Term)
2B.3 Implement strategic streetscaping at Village properties and encourage/support streetside residential landscaping to create walking loops around Santa Clara, with connections to the Highway 180 pedestrian/bike trail: » Short loop around Central Community Recreation Park using East Street. » Long loop from Fellner Road to Bellm to Main Street to Maple Street.	5+ Years (Long Term)
2B.4 Prioritize use of tree understory plantings and organic mulch in streetscapes to mitigate heat for both pedestrian comfort and tree health.	1-2 Years (Short Term)

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » New Mexico Department of Transportation (NM DOT)
- » New Mexico Neioghorwoods

#### Resources include:

- » Recommended Tree and Plant List for Santa Clara
- » Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- » Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- » NM DOT Statewide Aesthetics Plan (under development 2025)



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 2

Santa Clara's community forest contributes to the health and wellbeing of people and nature.

### Strategy 2C

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

Actions	Timeline
2C.1 Publish a tree list and plant palette appropriate for Santa Clara's climate and geography, focused on drought-tolerant plants native to the southwest U.S./northern Mexico.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
2C.2 Practice succession planting by phasing new trees and plants into landscapes over time to avoid having a single generation community forest.	On-going
2C.3 Proactively identify opportunities to co-locate GSI and tree plantings to supplement irrigation with stormwater, mitigate ponding, and support watershed health.	On-going
2C.4 Collaborate to develop a program to proactively manage Cameron Creek and prioritize work to minimize fire danger, flood risk, and invasive species migration. Perform maintenance to mitigate risk of falling limbs on footpaths.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2C.5 Maintain existing trees and do additional landscape plantings and GSI at the Santa Clara cemetery.	On-going

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division
- » Natural Resources Conservation Service
- » Water Agencies

#### Resources include:

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



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 3

Santa Clara fosters a thriving community forest through proactive management, skilled staff, and informed policy.

### Strategy 3A

**Invest in building staff expertise to strengthen Santa Clara's community forest management.**

Actions	Timeline
3A.1 Support Santa Clara staff to actively participate in the CFN, where they can connect to educational resources and events to further their skills in urban forestry and GSI implementation and maintenance.	Immediate and On-going
3A.2 Invest in staff training for tree care, irrigation maintenance, tree risk assessment, integrated pest management, and GSI maintenance. » Invite school staff to CFNtree care trainng events	1-2 Years and On-going
3A.3 Create a mechanism to access tree expertise: » Establish contracts with certified arborists. » Support the development of CFN regional resources.	1-2 Years (Short Term)

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » New Mexico Urban & Community Forestry Program
- » NM Tree Alliance

#### Resources include:

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



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 3

Santa Clara fosters a thriving community forest through proactive management, skilled staff, and informed policy.

### Strategy 3B

Develop and streamline a strategic landscape maintenance program.

#### Actions

Actions	Timeline
3B.1 Complete the existing Santa Clara tree inventory in Tree Plotter and periodically update the data set to inform priorities for maintenance and high risk tree risk reduction.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3B.2 Establish and adhere to a tree maintenance schedule, to include: » Tree pruning/removal. » Irrigation checks. » Mulch and understory planting maintenance. » Insect and disease checks.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3B.3 Identify opportunities to integrate GSI practices into landscaping projects to re-purpose stormwater to irrigate plants, curb flooding, and provide multiple community benefits.	On-going
3B.4 Improve irrigation efficiency at parks and transition to a uniform system for irrigation parts that are used on all irrigation projects.	1-2 Years and On-going

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » NM Urban and Community Forestry Program
- » NM Tree Alliance

#### Resources include:

- » Example Maintenance Schedule
- » GSI Implementation Guide
- » Irrigation Resource



# Santa Clara Action Plan

## Goal 3

Santa Clara fosters a thriving community forest through proactive management, skilled staff, and informed policy.

### Strategy 3C

Establish municipal policies that support Santa Clara's community forest goals.

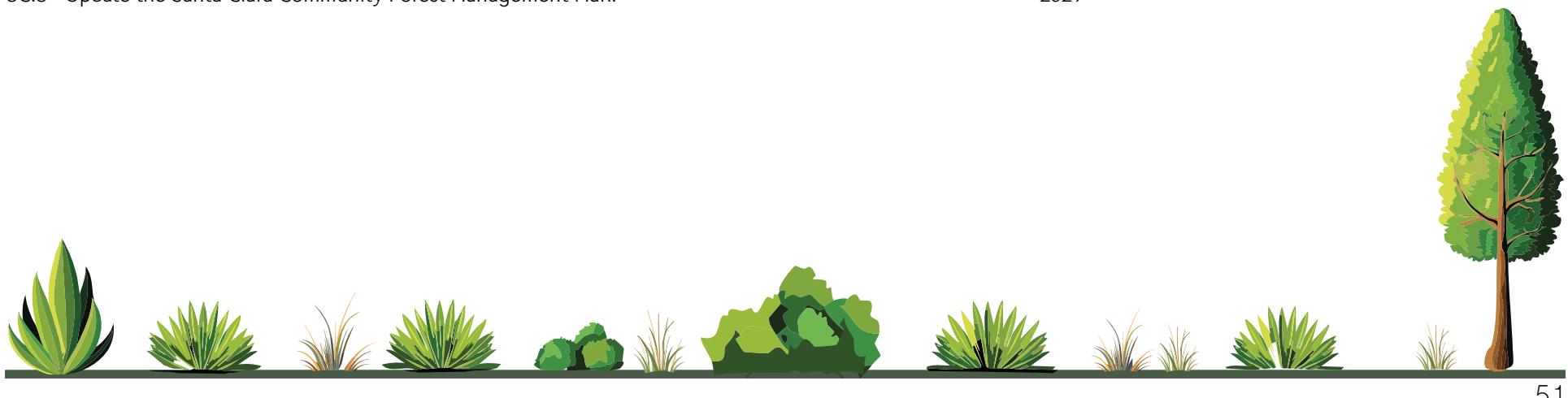
Actions	Timeline
3C.1 Establish a vegetation ordinance that includes: » Formalized authority of town staff. » Protection and preservation of existing healthy, mature trees. » Irrigation and water conservation policy. » Designated responsibilities in ROWs and buffer strips - municipal, private, and public. » New development landscaping requirements.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3C.2 Establish and update an annual budget for landscaping projects, including irrigation and maintenance.	Immediate 1-2 Years (Short Term)
3C.3 Update the Santa Clara Community Forest Management Plan.	2029

#### Partners include:

- » SWNM Community Forestry Network
- » NM Urban and Community Forestry Program

#### Resources include:

- » Example Vegetation Ordinance
- » Example Budget Template



# Fort Bayard Action Plan

## Goal 4

The community forest at Fort Bayard is well maintained and supports the economic activity of the region.

### Strategy 4A

Monitor high risk trees in Fort Bayard and elevate issues to the State of New Mexico.

Actions	Timeline
4A.1 Review the tree inventory (4.A.1) annually and identify high risk trees that need immediate maintenance. Elevate to the responsible party identified in Fort Bayard policy (4.C.1).	Ongoing

#### Partners include:

- » State of New Mexico General Services Department
- » New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division

#### Resources include:

- » New Mexico Tree Plotter



# Fort Bayard Action Plan

## Goal 4

Fort Bayard's community forest is well maintained and supports economic activity in the region.

### Strategy 4B

Coordinate with the State of New Mexico and other partners on a development and restoration plan for Fort Bayard to ensure the community forest is included as infrastructure that requires funding and maintenance.

Actions	Timeline
4B.1 Request that the State of New Mexico conduct a tree inventory in main parade grounds and other high use areas in Fort Bayard, and use it to complete a cost estimate of maintenance and removal needs.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
4B.2 Request that the State of New Mexico conduct an assessment of the irrigation system at the parade grounds and other high use areas in Fort Bayard, with a cost estimate to make it functional again.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
4B.3 Stay engaged on the funded project to upgrade the water infrastructure system at Fort Bayard and monitor how it impacts irrigation of the landscape.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
4B.4 Update the Fort Bayard Historic District Plan infrastructure list to include trees and other landscapes, to ensure the community forest is included as infrastructure that requires funding and maintenance.	1-2 Years (Short Term)

#### Partners include:

- » State of New Mexico General Services Department
- » New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division

#### Resources include:

- » New Mexico Tree Plotter
- » Fort Bayard Historic District Business Plan (2016)
- » Irrigation Resource



# Fort Bayard Action Plan

## Goal 4

The community forest at Fort Bayard is well maintained and supports the economic activity of the region.

### Strategy 4C

Create a long-term plan for Fort Bayard's community forest that identifies irrigation responsibilities, maintenance responsibilities and processes, and sustained funding.

Actions	Timeline
4C.1 Establish a vegetation policy for Fort Bayard that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Responsibilities for irrigation and other landscape maintenance.</li><li>» Protection and preservation of existing, mature trees.</li><li>» Irrigation and water conservation policy.</li><li>» Operational funding and staffing.</li></ul>	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
4C.2 Work with the State of New Mexico to establish and update an annual budget for landscaping projects, including irrigation and maintenance.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

#### Partners include:

- » State of New Mexico General Services Department
- » New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division

#### Resources include:

- » Template Vegetation Ordinance
- » Example Maintenance Schedule
- » Irrigation Resource

