Santa Clara, New Mexico

N

US 180

10 — Bataan Memorial Park
1 — (entrance)

Pinon Street
Encino Street
Cactus Street
Cottonwood Street
Lincoln Street
West Oak Street
Pine Street
New Street

James Street
Cleveland Street
Hutchison Street
Prescott Street
Bayard Street
Belin Street

Santa Clara

Viola Stone Park
2

4 Central Community Recreation Park
US 180
5

3 City Hall

Central

8 Central Elementary School

West Oak Street
6
Oak Street
7

South James Street
Suchoff Avenue
South Bayard Avenue
South Cleveland Street
South Prescott Street

Church Street

Bayard Street
Belin Street
North Street
North East Street
East Street
Cameron Creek
US 180

Morrow Street

Miller Street

Mobile Home Park

Boulder Street

Twin Sisters Creek

9 Santa Clara Cemetery

0   0.05   0.1   0.2 Miles

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Priority Project Locations for Santa Clara's Community Forest

1. Entrances to Santa Clara
2. Main Street: Existing Community Amenities
3. Main Street: New Project Locations
4. Central Community Recreation Park
5. Pedestrian/Bicycle Trails
6. Oak Street and East Street
7. Cameron Creek
8. Elementary School
9. Cemetery
10. Bataan Memorial Park

2025 Community Forest Management Plan
VILLAGE OF SANTA CLARA

Rendering of the Bradley Hotel, Mercado, and pump track across the street, imagining the area with green stormwater infrastructure and healthy trees. Created by Anthropopulus Design and Planning.

Executive Summary

Santa Clara's Community Forest Management Plan is ready to get growing! The plan contains helpful information about Santa Clara's community forest, with specific recommendations for its growth and care. While the community forest includes all trees and vegetation within the village'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 Santa Clara'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. Water needs of mature trees or any plantings, must be balanced with water conservation goals, especially 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 Santa Clara with the implementation of their Community Forestry 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.

Southwest New Mexico COMMUNITY FORESTRY NETWORK

swnmforestry.org

How to Use The Plan

Santa Clara's Community Forest Management Plan is intended as a practical guide for village 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 town's strengths, identifies key challenges and opportunities, and charts a path toward achieving Santa Clara'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.

Santa Clara'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 Santa Clara'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 Santa Clara's community forest, one goal for Fort Bayard, 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 municipal and volunteer support. Santa Clara'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 is meant to serve as an educational resource for anyone actively involved in Santa Clara's community forest. The project team will continue to developed 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 Santa Clara'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 Santa Clara's vision, capacity, strengths and ongoing challenges. The recommendations in the *Action Plan* were also informed by: (1) Interviews with elected and town leaders, (2) Public surveys, (3) Existing planning resources including Santa Clara'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.

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

1	2	3	4
Santa Clara's community forest strengthens community pride and promotes economic development.	Santa Clara's community forest contributes to the health and wellbeing of both people and nature.	Santa Clara fosters a thriving community forest through proactive management, skilled staff, and informed policy.	The community forest within Fort Bayard is well maintained and supports economic activity in the region.

1A. Develop cohesive landscapes along Main Street (Fort Bayard Road) that highlight Santa Clara's existing community services.

1B. Integrate the community forest into broader community goals and emergent projects.

1C. Improve and expand the community forest in recreational areas that serve Grant County, while attracting visitors to Santa Clara.

2A. Invest in community forest improvements surrounding Central Recreational Park and the Elementary School.

2B. Utilize the community forest to promote the walkability of Santa Clara.

2C. Manage a healthy community forest to conserve water resources, mitigate risk, and enhance environmental health.

3A. Invest in building staff expertise to strengthen Santa Clara's community forest management.

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

3C. Establish municipal policies that support Santa Clara's community forest goals.

4A. Coordinate with the State of New Mexico and other partners on a development and restoration plan for Fort Bayard.

4B. Create a long-term management plan for Fort Bayard's community forest that identifies responsibilities, processes, and sustained funding.

4C. Monitor high risk trees in Fort Bayard and elevate issues to the State of New Mexico.