Community Forest Management Plan

2026

City of Deming

Photo shows local art on a dead tree in Hurley, one of the six communities in the Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network. The project team has dubbed him Tree Rex. He has become a bit of a mascot for the project.

Acknowledgments

City of Deming Leadership

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Table of Contents

Cottonwood at Elsie Vega Park. Cover photo shows the Deming Ducks statue and tree canopy at the Luna County Courthouse Park.

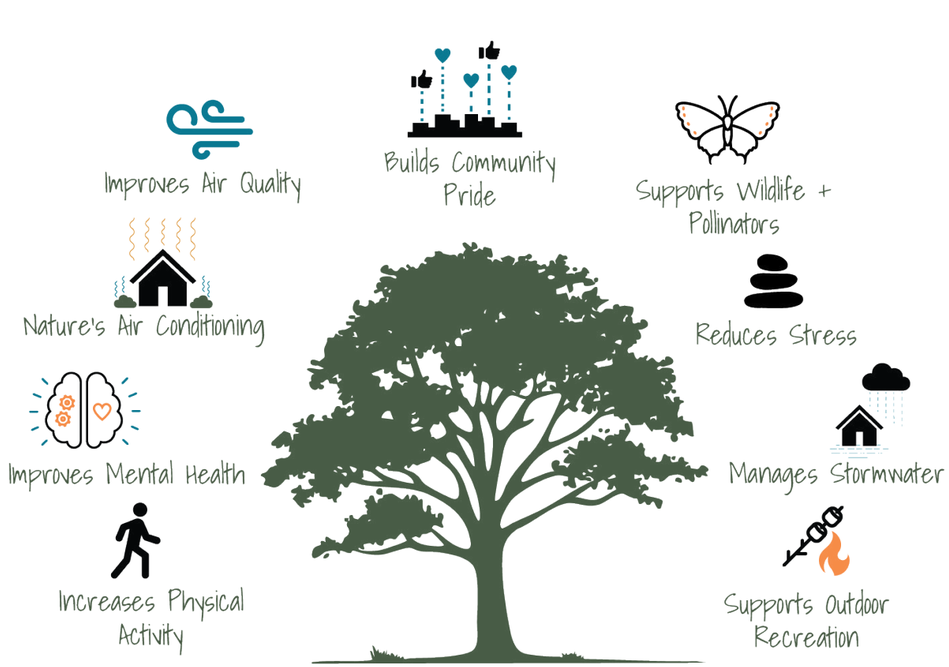
Getting Started

Welcome to Deming's Community Forest Management Plan! This plan contains helpful information about Deming's community forest, with specific recommendations for its growth and care. The plan is just one part of a greater effort to increase tree equity in southwestern New Mexico. Deming, along with Bayard, Hurley, Lordsburg, Santa Clara, and Silver City, is part of the Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN).

Before getting started, here are **definitions for some important terms** that are used throughout this plan.

Community Forest: The word "forest" might suggest an area up in the mountains that is dense with trees. Just as a wildland forest is made up of all the trees and other vegetation within a specific area, Deming's community forest (also known as "urban forest") is made up of all the trees and plants within the city's municipal boundaries. All the trees and other vegetation in parks and public spaces, residential and business lots, and open and undeveloped space compose Deming's community forest.

Wildland foresters take a landscape-scale approach to evaluate and manage threats to forest health and productivity, and the same principle applies to community forestry. Urban forests are managed by examining all of a city's trees and vegetation as a whole to assess the trends, patterns and priorities that emerge. This approach allows managers to respond with informed strategies to improve and protect the overall community forest, while still addressing the health needs of individual trees. Furthermore, just as wildland foresters manage forests to provide resources and ecosystem services, Deming's community forest can be strategically managed to provide multiple environmental, economic, and social benefits to the community.



Benefits of Urban Trees

Urban forests, and the individual trees they are comprised of, play a crucial role in enhancing the livability and resilience of our communities, particularly in the arid Southwest. Trees provide a wide variety of social, environmental and economic benefits that can be maintained or even enhanced through best management practices.

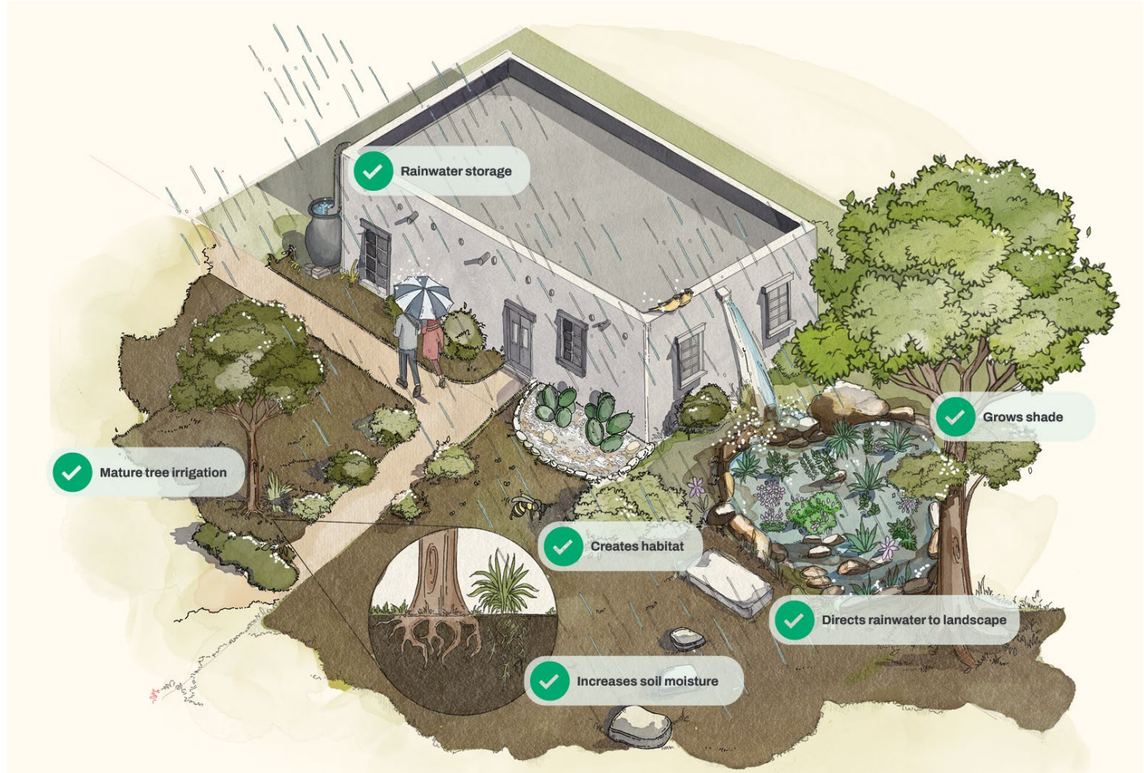
Urban: The term urban might not be relatable for Deming, but in the context of this plan, urban simply means an area that has a higher density of residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional development.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI): Green Stormwater Infrastructure, or GSI, is an approach to stormwater management that creates many small, distributed green spaces that soak up rainwater where it falls, reducing stormwater runoff that carries pollution to waterways. GSI captures rainwater and recharges soil moisture, which brings much needed water to plants and trees that create shade for people and habitat for wildlife.

GSI features are designed to leverage the power of living, natural systems to provide the community with many benefits. By directing rainwater from roadways and other impervious surfaces to landscaped areas, GSI can reduce nuisance flooding and support irrigation of trees and other plants, which helps to grow more green space while conserving Deming's drinking water supply.

"Trees cool the earth, help foster growth of other plants, and help create a beautiful biodiverse community."

- Deming Resident



Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), also known as rainwater harvesting, provides multiple benefits. Image credit: Arid Low Impact Development (LID) Coalition.

Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network

The USDA Forest Service awarded Western New Mexico University (WNMU) a 5-year grant to increase tree equity in six small, rural communities in southwestern New Mexico: Bayard, Deming, Hurley, Lordsburg, Santa Clara, and Silver City. While WNMU is the grant lead, Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) and Integrated Biological Solutions (IBIS) serve together with WNMU as the project team.

As part of the project, IBIS developed Community Forest Management Plans for Deming and each of the five other communities. **These management plans serve as the foundation to guide all subsequent project work to be done in each community throughout the remainder of the grant period and beyond,** including tree planting and tree maintenance (e.g., tree pruning, irrigation assistance, pest management). The project team is guiding the implementation of these plans by providing technical and capacity building support to the city. GRIP is leading the planting of 1,000 trees total across all six communities, and funding at least one week of tree maintenance work per year in each community. Prioritization of planting and maintenance work is informed by the assessments and recommendations provided in the Community Forest Management Plans.

One of the key outcomes of the project is the formation of the Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN), which is facilitated by the project team and includes all six communities. The CFN was designed to help coordinate efforts and share information between communities and project partners. The CFN website, swnmforestry.org, includes links to additional resources that are referenced in this community forest management plan and a curated list of other useful resources. The network and the project team will continue producing tools and materials as needed to help the towns put their plans into action.

The CFN's work is focused on:

- Providing guidance and on-the-ground support for tree planting and maintenance.
- Sharing educational resources for a variety of audiences, from community members to tree care professionals.
- Encouraging collaboration between communities in the region.
- Supporting municipalities to engage community members in the care and development of their urban forest.
- Connecting southwest New Mexico communities to statewide resources and other networks.
- Supporting communities to leverage the Community Forest Management Plans to obtain additional funding for implementation.
- Assisting communities to address resource shortfalls.
- Building municipal staffing capacity through training and program development.

Southwest New Mexico COMMUNITY FORESTRY NETWORK

Community Forestry Network partners attending the Think Trees Conference in Albuquerque, February 2025.

Purpose of the Plan

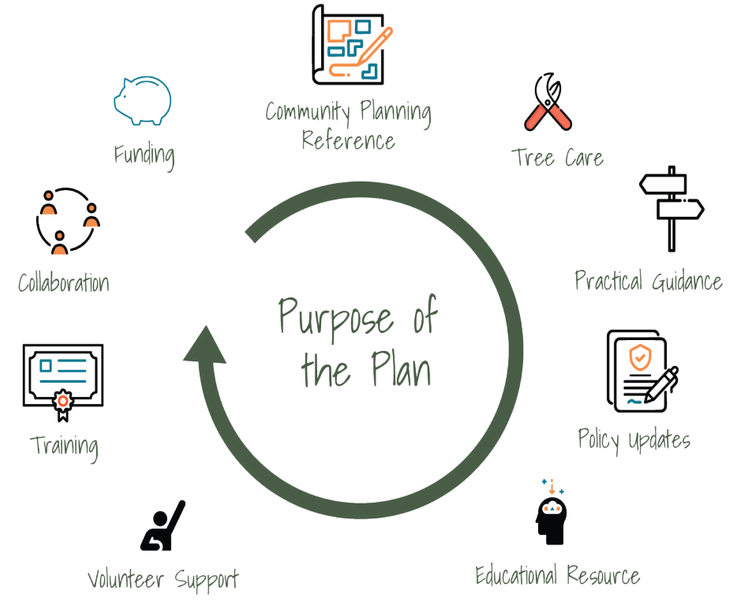
At first glance, it might seem as though a community forest management plan would only need one sentence: Plant more trees! As wonderful as they are, trees and public green spaces require an investment of both money and time to make sure they produce maximum benefits without posing unnecessary risk, such as falling limbs and infrastructure interference. And in New Mexico's desert communities, the water requirements for planting additional trees must also be carefully considered and budgeted for.

A well-managed community forest can provide multiple benefits that support Deming's long-term development goals. However, just like any infrastructure, urban trees require an ongoing investment. This plan strives to balance costs and benefits within Deming's unique community context in order to make management recommendations and identify opportunities for the CFN to support efficient community forest management in the region.

This plan is designed to be a practical guide for the City of Deming, outlining specific implementation strategies for the planting, care, and general 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 Deming's goals for the development of both the urban forest and the city at large.

"Trees literally and figuratively help me breathe. They help me stay connected to truth and nature and make me feel alive!"

- Deming Resident



The purpose of Deming's Community Forest Management Plan is to provide practical guidance to maintenance staff and municipal leadership, educational resources to staff and project partners, and provide a reference that will support all future community planning efforts.

Scope of the Plan

This plan defines Deming's community forest as all trees and vegetation within municipal limits, but **the focus of the plan is on trees, shrubs, and other woody perennial plants**. The reason for this is that these plants have a long-term presence and therefore represent the highest potential benefit to Deming. However, they can also represent the highest cost and risk, requiring long-term planning and specialized management. Other vegetation, like grasses and flowers, are recognized as important components of a community forest and are included in this plan's discussion, but they are not the primary focus.

For this plan, the area of analysis was determined by the densely populated or urbanized portion within the city boundary. While this plan considers Deming's entire community forest, much of **the emphasis of the plan will be on assessing trees and vegetation in public spaces and providing municipal recommendations** to the City of Deming and its major partners.

Deming's Community Forest Management Plan cannot be static if it is to be successful. This must be a dynamic document that encourages the application of adaptive management practices (plan-do-check-fix) in order to respond to changing conditions and shifting priorities.

The management plan was written with a five-year lifespan in mind (i.e., 2026-2031), at which time it should be updated and adjusted based upon progress made and lessons learned over the coming years. The newly formed Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN) and the recently expanded New Mexico Tree Alliance can serve as community educational resources and technical or logistical support for Deming's priority projects. **As Deming continues to work to strengthen its approach to community forest management, there are many resources available to aid in this effort.**

Inclusive Park, part of the Trees Lake Park Complex, is an exciting new outdoor spot in Deming. There is opportunity for additional tree planting and green stormwater infrastructure here.

How to Use This Plan

The City of Deming's Community Forest Management Plan is organized into three sections: the *Basis for the Plan*; the *Action Plan*, and *Additional Resources*.

Basis for the Plan

This section provides background information on how this plan was developed, including community context, analytical data regarding Deming's urban 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 engaged in Deming and its community forest. However, it is not necessary to read this section to understand and implement the *Action Plan.*

Action Plan

This section identifies three broad goals for Deming'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 municipal and volunteer support. **Deming's *Action Plan* is 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 Deming'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.

"Just looking at trees improves my well-being. They bring me mental clarity and peace."

- Deming Resident

Recommended Goals and Strategies

Deming's Community Forest Management Plan sets three primary **Goals** that guide a vision of a healthy community forest and organize the work ahead. **Strategies** within each goal outline actionable and measurable tasks designed to help achieve these goals. The *Action Plan,* beginning on page 67 of this document, expands upon these Goals to recommend **Actions** within each Strategy, including timelines, partners and collaborators, and available resources.

Goal 1 serves as the primary and overarching goal for the community forest, with strategies that apply broadly across all areas. Goal 2 addresses key historic landscapes in Deming, and caring for and improving these older community forest areas to maintain community character and support economic initiatives. Goal 3 focuses on setting new landscapes up for success, by developing them in a way that enhances the benefits of the community forest for Deming, now and in the future.

Goal 1

Deming cohesively and collaboratively manages a resilient community forest that contributes to broader community goals.

Strategies:

1.A: Invest in building staff expertise and support to strengthen Deming's community forest management.

1.B: Collaborate with local community forestry partners to implement, evaluate, and update ordinances or policies to support city-wide community forest initiatives.

1.C: Implement a community forest health monitoring program to prioritize tree maintenance and tree risk reduction.

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

1.E: Engage community members in the growth and care of the community forest.

1.F: Implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in high stormwater runoff areas such as pavement, roofs, and other impermeable surfaces to water trees and reduce localized erosion and flooding.

Goal 2

Deming revitalizes historic landscapes and manages tree risk to maintain community character and support local economic initiatives.

Strategies:

2.A: Revitalize established neighborhood parks and school landscapes by reducing tree risk and practicing succession planting.

2.B: Develop and implement a monitoring and maintenance plan for street trees in Deming's neighborhoods.

2.C: Develop and implement a tree maintenance and succession plan for national historic register landscapes and other historic landscapes.

Goal 3

Deming sustains its investment in new landscapes and proactively integrates the community forest into residential, commercial, and recreational development to enhance public health and quality of life.

Strategies:

3.A: Expand tree planting opportunities at recently developed outdoor recreation and entertainment facilities.

3.B: Proactively integrate tree infrastructure and irrigation into new and expanding residential developments along streets and in parks and other public spaces

3.C: Focus on improving and expanding the community forest in key community service areas throughout Deming.

3.D: Enhance environmental health and community forest benefits by increasing biodiversity in tree and understory plantings and selecting native species for new planting projects.

Community Forestry Best Management Practices for Deming

The assessments and recommendations presented in Deming's Community Forest Management Plan are rooted in science-based best management practices in the field of urban forestry. To produce the goals, strategies, and actions featured in the Action Plan, the following best management practices were considered in the context of Deming's vision, capacity, strengths and ongoing challenges.

Planning

- Select a wide variety of tree and plant species adapted to thrive in local conditions to conserve water, increase biodiversity, and improve forest health.
- Establish and implement an irrigation plan for all new plantings.
- Select the right tree for the right place, considering both plant and site characteristics.
- Stagger tree plantings over time to grow a resilient community forest with a distributed age structure.
- Prioritize planting in underserved neighborhoods and high-use pedestrian spaces.
- Incorporate trees and irrigation into public infrastructure projects whenever possible to maximize opportunities for greening public spaces.
- Integrate green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) with community forestry projects to reduce flooding, provide trees with supplemental irrigation, and promote water conservation.

Plants

- Prioritize the maintenance and health of mature trees to retain canopy and maximize tree benefits.
- Create and maintain an urban tree inventory to actively monitor tree health and prioritize work.
- Support soil health by using organic mulch and reducing soil compaction.
- Use correct pruning techniques, eliminating tree "topping" (a harmful pruning practice where the tops of trees or large branches are indiscriminately cut off, often leaving stubs behind) and other out-of-date techniques.
- Address public safety concerns by proactively identifying and mitigating high risk trees through trimming or removal.

People

- Engage and empower community members to support community forest goals on both public and private property.
- Invest in workforce development and ensure tree care workers are trained in proper maintenance, monitoring and integrated pest management techniques.
- Establish town policies, ordinances, programmatic workflows, and budgets that support the goals of sustainable community forest management.
- Collaborate with regional and statewide forestry programs and networks to leverage resources, expertise, and funding opportunities.

"I love trees. They give us life."

-Deming Resident

Tree Care and Tree Biology Basics

The **branches** and **leaves** of a tree collect energy from the sun and transpire water. Branches grow from their tips, not the base.

- Any pruning cut is a wound to the tree. Minimize pruning to only what is needed for human safety and what is aesthetically appropriate for the species.
- Pruning wounds heal faster and better when correct pruning cuts are performed (see *Additional Resources* for more information).
- Branches stay at the same height on the trunk as the tree grows.
- Two or more vertical branches can pull the tree apart at the branch crotch; prune early to favor one.

The **trunk** provides strength and structure, and expands outward as the tree grows.

- Damage to outer bark creates weak points in the tree and allows diseases to enter the tree. Protect the trunk from weed whackers and other equipment.
- Ropes or cords tied around the tree choke sap flow as the trunk expands, and can even kill the tree over time.

The **roots** carry water and nutrients. Roots expand out to the width of the leaf canopy and are two to three feet deep.

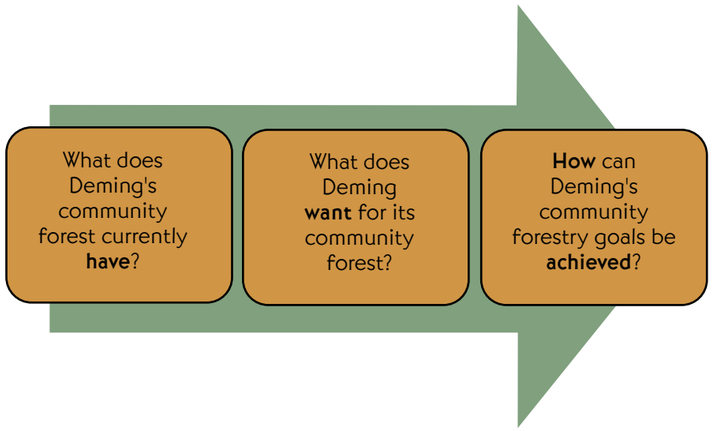
- The root collar, where the roots transition to trunk, should be at or slightly above the surface of the ground.
- Irrigate fine root hairs at the ends of roots near the edge of the leaf canopy. Keep them moist at all times, even through winter.
- Protect roots from damage with organic mulch rings or under-plantings.
- Roots that circle the trunk can cause tree instability and eventually choke off nutrient and water flow in the trunk; circling roots are best cut at tree planting.

Basis for the Plan

Public input and local knowledge are critical components to any community planning effort. To develop the Deming Community Forest Management Plan, the project team gathered information in multiple ways.

- Conducted multiple interviews with Deming city officials, staff, and local experts to introduce them to the project, get initial input on priority areas, and understand the basics of the City's current approach to landscape management.
- Reviewed the Deming Comprehensive Plan, Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP), and other available planning documents to identify community goals, projects, and opportunities for integration of the community forest.
- Met with partners frequently between September 2024 and November 2025 to conduct a broad assessment of existing trees and public spaces to identify opportunities and challenges for planting and maintenance.
- Worked closely within the project team to glean local knowledge and incorporate their implementation and training experiences to help shape goals, strategies and actions.
- Reviewed and analyzed data regarding Deming's community forest such as climatological conditions, geography, natural vegetation types, and existing policy and ordinances.

Community input in these various forms was integrated into a broader assessment of the City of Deming, which is discussed in the following sections: the **Community Context, Community Forest Assessment,** and **Community Forest Stewardship**. This assessment was guided by three key questions:



New tree planted at Trees Lake Park in October of 2024 during an event hosted by GRIP.

The Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Park is an historic site for Deming, and host to many community events. Image credit: Google Maps.

Community Context

The City of Deming is located in southwestern New Mexico along the US Interstate 10 (I-10) corridor, and is one of just two incorporated municipalities in Luna County. Deming is the county seat and the main population center in Luna County with an estimated population of 15,272 according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2024). Luna County borders Grant County to the north, Doña Ana County to the east, Grant and Hidalgo counties to the west, and Mexico to the south.

The City of Deming's municipal boundaries encompass an area of about 16.7 square miles. With approximately 6,900 housing units and a 64% homeownership rate, residential properties make up the greatest land use type, and a significant portion of Deming's land area is privately owned. Agriculture (mostly outside of city limits) is an important part of Deming's cultural context and economy. One of the largest chile and jalapeño processing plants in the world is located in Deming. The City of Deming also owns and operates several industrial parks outside of the municipal boundary.

The land that is now the City of Deming was originally inhabited by the Apache, who used the area as hunting grounds before Spanish explorers arrived in the late 1700s. Conflict with the Apache delayed colonial settlement until the mid-1800s, when U.S. forces established Fort Cummings in 1860. The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad and later the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe line transformed the region into a railroad hub. Deming's identity as a major railroad hub continues to hold cultural and economic significance today, though the city's economy has diversified as rail traffic shifted to El Paso.

Deming was founded in 1881 and officially incorporated as a city in 1902, named after Mary Anne Deming, a community leader, philanthropist, and the wife of a railroad developer. The city quickly grew with the construction of schools, hotels and churches, and was known briefly as the "New Chicago" for its rapid expansion. The construction of I-10 in 1964 further cemented Deming's role as a key stop between Texas and California, while the city also attracted veterans and retirees with its dry climate.

In the 20th century, much of Deming's economy and community life was shaped by institutions such as the Holy Cross Sanitarium, Camp Cody during World War I, and later a U.S. Army air base that was established during World War II. Federal projects under the WPA (Works Progress Administration) and Civilian Conservation Corps added infrastructure that supported growth during difficult economic times. The city's commercial core emerged around Silver Avenue and soon expanded to Gold Avenue and Pine Street, while residential areas filled in nearby neighborhoods.

Today, Deming reflects its rich history through western-influenced architecture and a diverse cultural fabric shaped by Anglo, Hispanic, African American, and Chinese communities. While growth has slowed in recent years compared to earlier decades, the city has steadily expanded since 1960, with notable increases among older age groups and Hispanic/Latino residents, who now make up more than two-thirds of the population. Education levels have also risen, supported by institutions like Western New Mexico University–Deming, as graduation rates from Deming Public Schools remain strong.

Together, these factors highlight Deming's resilience and adaptability as a rural New Mexico community with deep historic roots and evolving demographics.

Deming is also one of several *Colonias* in Luna County. *Colonias* are a federally recognized community that is within 150 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, and have special infrastructure needs such as water systems, wastewater systems, and road and housing infrastructure. To address these needs, the New Mexico State Legislature passed the Colonias Infrastructure Act in 2011, which aims to provide financial support for infrastructure development, promote efficient and cost-effective planning, improve community quality life, and stimulate economic growth. **The *Colonias* status opens up opportunities for community forestry funding related to localized flooding, infrastructure, and quality-of-life.**

Deming Governance and Partners

The City of Deming has a Mayor-Council-Manager form of government, with an elected Mayor as the chief executive and the City Council as an elected legislative body. These entities are responsible for policy-making. A City Manager oversees day-to-day operations and city staff. Support is provided by key departments including the Municipal Clerk's Office, the City Attorney, the Public Works Department, and the Police and Fire Departments. The Community Services, Parks, and Public Works Departments include various staff members responsible for the management and maintenance of trees across the city's roadways, parks, trails, buildings, and recreational facilities.

Deming employs about ten city maintenance staff who are responsible for all maintenance work in the city, including landscape maintenance. Maintenance staff report that tree care is low on the priority list, and that there is currently no tree care schedule; rather, staff focus on trees when they have time. Sports such as baseball are popular in Deming, and maintaining ball fields is a high priority that takes a lot of staff time. Street tree and median maintenance is split between staff that focus on parks and those that focus on streets, while the cemetery has a separate staff of 2-3 people. The Recreation Department manages the newly-acquired golf course and the trees at that site, and currently has seven staff.

Maintenance personnel also have limited training on tree planting and care topics such as pruning and integrated pest management. However, the staff reports a strong interest in receiving training and learning more about how to properly care for Deming's community forest. **Recommended areas of staff training** include proper irrigation and the installation and care of irrigation systems, tree health diagnostics, proper tree planting, structural pruning, proper mature tree pruning techniques, and chainsaw use. **A certified arborist on staff** is also recommended for a community of Deming's size and community forest complexity. While those skills are being developed on staff, high quality contractors can fill those needs and support the care and maintenance of city trees.

During interviews, one maintenance staff member commented, "Why are trees dying? We know how beautiful they used to look. We are losing them and we don't know what to do." This community forest management plan aims to address these questions and connect Deming with training, resources, and strategies to cultivate a healthy and resilient urban forest.

Community forest management in Deming will be a collaborative effort. Luna County and NMSU Extension, Tree NM, the CFN, and the State of New Mexico Forestry Division, Urban and Community Forestry Program are key potential partners for enhancing and caring for the community forest. Deming is also made more vibrant by Deming MainStreet, Keep Luna County Beautiful, and the Deming-Luna County Economic Development Corporation, an agency that contributes to development of the local economy.

"My father made me plant hundreds of trees. It was hard work! But now as an older adult I clearly see the benefits. Now I make my kids plant hundreds of trees!"

-Deming Resident

A professional arborist contracted by the CFN does maintenance work on the Silver Street median trees.

Deming Landscape Policies

Deming has a Trees and Shrubbery ordinance (Title 8, Chapter 3), a rarity for New Mexico that is to be commended. The ordinance primarily establishes requirements for private landowners to maintain trees on their property "in such a condition as to not constitute a hazard tree," and to not cause obstructions to roadways and sidewalks. The ordinance gives the code enforcement officer authority to address tree hazard and obstruction issues as well as vandalism or other damage to trees in public spaces. **Effective monitoring and enforcement of these ordinances** is dependent on the ability of the code enforcement officer to work with a professional arborist who is trained in tree hazard assessment and pruning techniques.

Establishing a Tree Board, a group of local experts who are dedicated to enhancing the well-being of trees in a community and may be called upon for consultation and support, would also assist the city in implementing these ordinances and this community forest management plan. **Applying for Tree City USA status** from the Arbor Day Foundation could be a point of civic pride for the work Deming has invested in its community forest.

Deming also has a set of ordinances that govern development activities, including some that are related to community forestry. A section on Landscape Standards (12-18-2) promotes the use of *The Enchanted Xeriscape, A Guide To Water-Wise Landscaping In New Mexico* by the Office of the State Engineer, and the "Low Water Use/Drought Tolerant Plant List", published by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Deming also has ordinances with vegetation and planting guidelines for the cemetery.

In relation to community forest management, Deming already has established ordinances that require:

- Developments designed to encourage the preservation of desirable native vegetation and the use of low water use and drought tolerant plant material.
- Landscape plans that clearly identify the land area developed to turf or other non drought tolerant vegetation.
- The prohibition of turf areas generally, with some exceptions.
- Establishing a minimum number of shade trees for parking lots and other development areas.
- Landscape islands at the end of all parking rows, each with a minimum of one shade tree.
- Appropriately landscaped stormwater detention and drainage ponds.

The established ordinances also promote the use of mulch and/or low water use ground cover, and the preservation of existing plants and trees.

A section for New Development Plans (13-5-1) also has some additional text that requires stormwater drainage study/plans and landscape plans, promotes preservation of existing plants, and promotes "any proposed system designed to harvest and distribute stormwater for domestic use within the subdivision." These ordinances support the integration of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) with community forestry initiatives, which is discussed in greater detail later in this plan.

Local residents completing the public survey in November 2024 that informed the creation of this Community Forest Management Plan. Many of these outreach events included giveaways of tree seedlings.

Public Survey for Community Input

One of the key community engagement strategies used by the CFN project team was a public survey open to all Deming residents. Sixty nine Deming residents responded to the public survey, which was open for a period of three months. To ensure that all residents in Deming had an opportunity to contribute, the team used a wide range of outreach strategies. The public surveys were made available in both English and Spanish.

The public survey requested information about potential priority locations for tree planting projects, tree maintenance and removal, and areas with flooding that could benefit from green stormwater infrastructure. Residents also had the opportunity to share which benefits of trees are most important to them, to give opinions about their preferred plant palettes for community forest projects, and to share their personal "Tree Stories". Responses to the survey questions highlighted that **Deming residents deeply value their existing trees and strongly believe the city will benefit from having more.** The survey revealed overwhelming support from the community for this initiative.

According to the survey results, Deming residents are most interested in community forestry projects that prioritize benefits for human health. The most popular tree benefit among residents was "improve air quality", with **70% of survey participants reporting that they want more trees in Deming to help filter pollutants from the air and improve overall air quality.** Residents also highly value trees for other health impacts, such as their ability to mitigate heat, improve mental health, and support outdoor recreation for community members in Deming. A strong interest in wildlife habitat and biodiversity was also expressed, as well as a desire to beautify the city through the urban forest.

Guiding Plans

The City of Deming's vision for its community is set forth in several key planning documents, including the Deming Comprehensive Plan (2020) and the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). **This Community Forest Management Plan builds upon and advances many of the goals outlined in these complementary plans**, such as town beautification, revitalization of business districts, enhancement of pedestrian-friendly spaces that encourage walking and recreation, and promotion of water-wise landscaping practices.

Other planning documents that informed the development of this community forest management plan, and contain many complementary goals, strategies, and actions include the 2009 Deming 40-Year Water Plan, 2013 City of Deming Downtown Master Plan, 2022 Luna County Comprehensive Plan, and 2024 Trees Lake Master Plan. Additionally, in 2018 Deming was included in an effort by New Mexico State Forestry to prepare a tree inventory and statewide management plan, with a focus on historic and legacy trees.

Community Forest Assessment

The City of Deming's community forest comprises all the trees and plants over one meter (about 3.3 feet) tall within the city's municipal boundaries. The trees and plants that make up the community forest include both the natural vegetation of the desert and the human-introduced trees and plants of the more developed areas.

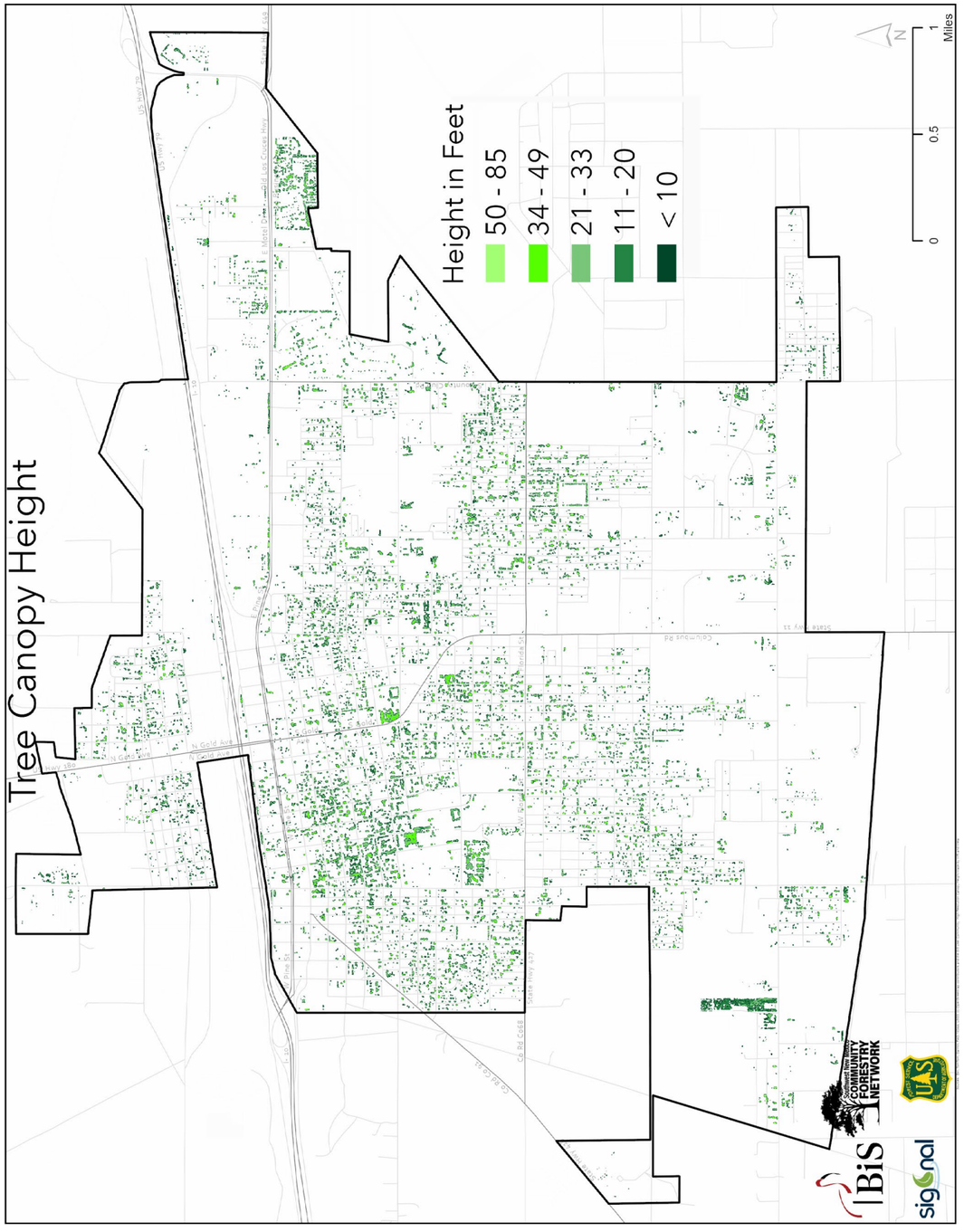
It is important to consider that much of Deming's land area is privately owned, and trees and landscaping in these private spaces contribute greatly to the city's total tree canopy cover. **Engaging Deming residents in planting, growing, and caring for trees on their property can play a critical role** in enhancing the overall health of Deming's community forest. The CFN will provide resources to help Deming engage with the community, including educational resources on plant selection and irrigation recommendations.

There are several powerful mapping tools and analysis methodologies that provide data related to the health of the Deming community forest. **The following sections summarize the analyses of spatial data that helped inform this plan**, including data for tree canopy height and distribution, topography, land surface temperature, tree inventories and more.

"Trees have always been very important to me, since I was a child. I would always sit under trees to play and lay under them to look at the clouds. Trees bring back memories of my childhood."

-Deming Resident

The Starmax Entertainment Complex has outdoor spaces, enjoyed by both residents and visitors.



The green on the above map of Deming shows the distribution of tree canopy in the area, including all plants over 1 meter (approximately 3.3 feet) tall. Image credit: SIG-NAL.

Tree Canopy

Tree canopy cover is the percentage of land area covered by the leaves, branches, and stems of trees and plants when viewed from above, across the whole community in both public and private spaces. Satellite imagery provides data about tree canopy distribution as well as data to assess the range in height of vegetation greater than one meter tall (3.3 feet). **Larger tree height and a denser tree canopy are generally associated with greater benefits to a community**, such as providing more shade and heat mitigation.

The total percentage of tree canopy cover is one way to assess the overall condition of an urban forest. The satellite imagery analysis shows the total canopy cover (the percentage of land that is covered in plants and trees greater than 3 feet tall) within Deming municipal limits is 4.9%. Deming's tree canopy (plants taller than 10 feet) is about 3%, while smaller understory plants (between 3 and 10 feet tall) contribute an additional 1.9% to the total canopy.

The canopy cover map shows that the highest density of tree canopy and the tallest trees in Deming occur mainly in park areas, streetscape plantings, and scattered throughout neighborhoods.

USDA Forest Service research shows that in a desert community like Deming, a tree canopy of 15% is a realistic goal. While it can be motivational for a community to set tree canopy goals, and it's clear that it would be beneficial to increase Deming's total canopy from its current rate of 4.9%, it is important to consider this goal in the context of the region's limited water availability. To conserve water resources while increasing tree canopy for maximum community benefit, it is recommended to **concentrate on increasing canopy in high use areas where people need shade the most**, rather than aiming to reach a 15% tree canopy cover across the entire city.

"I am a tree hugger! We need trees everywhere!!!"

-Deming Resident

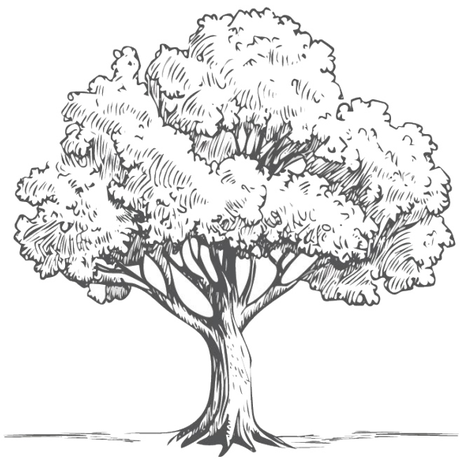
An area of dense but aging tree canopy at the Luna County Courthouse in Deming.

Tree Canopy *(cont.)*

Deming's municipal boundaries include large areas of land with sparse and low-growing vegetation (such as the areas to the south and west of the city with low residential and commercial development), as well as pockets of very dense tree planting (such as the pecan farm in southwest Deming). Including these areas in a city-wide tree canopy assessment can skew the overall canopy coverage percentage and may not accurately reflect the canopy cover in developed urban areas. To provide more meaningful data to support the assessment of Deming's community forest, these areas were excluded from the total tree canopy percentage analysis. A more localized tree canopy analysis is provided by the Tree Equity Score tool developed by American Forests, which evaluates tree canopy cover percentage by census block.

"As a kid I always liked playing outside under this tree and now as an adult I like to spend time under the shade of that same tree especially on those hot summer days."

-Deming Resident



Large Trees

Small Trees & Shrubs

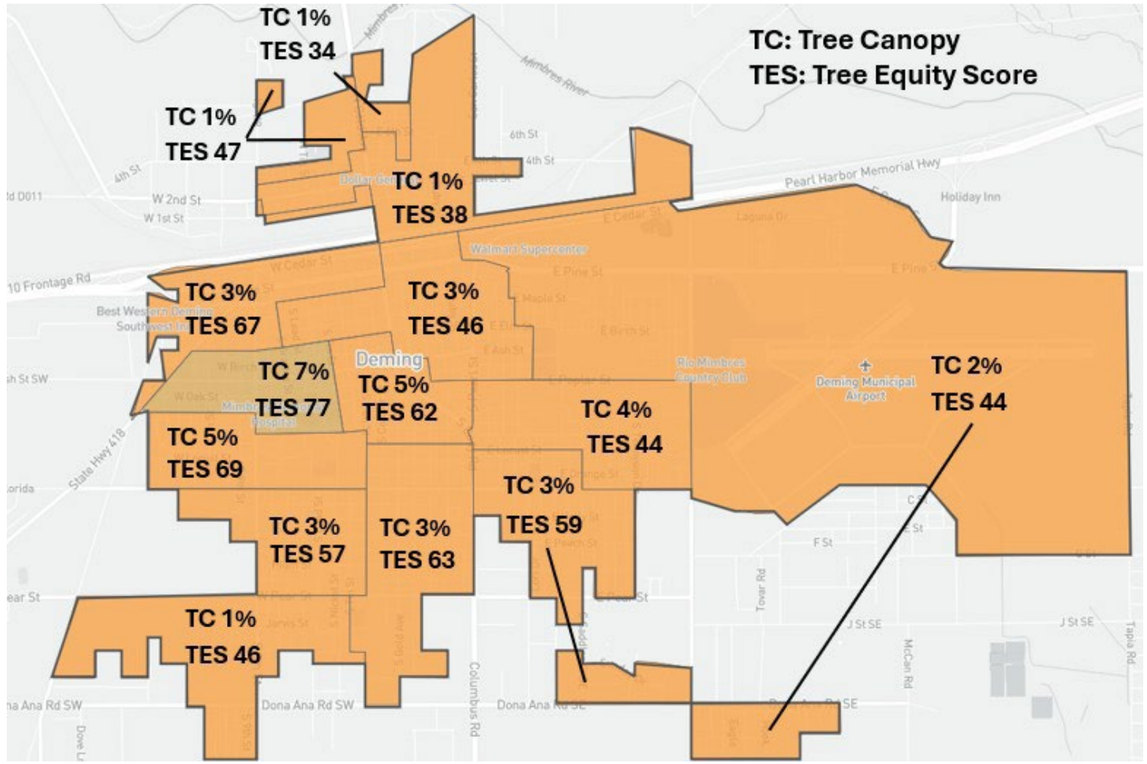
Canopy Cover	3%	1.9%

Within Deming municipal boundaries, 4.9% of the land area is covered by the leaves, branches and stems of the trees and plants over 3 feet tall, when viewed from above. 3% of Deming's canopy cover comes from trees over 10 feet tall, while 1.9% comes from trees and plants between 3 and 10 feet tall.

Tree Equity Score

American Forests created the Tree Equity Score tool to "help address damaging environmental inequities by prioritizing human-centered investment in areas with the greatest need." By assessing tree canopy in relation to demographic statistics such as poverty, race, health burden index, unemployment and heat disparity, this tool assesses how equitably green space is distributed across a community (by census block). **The tool provides useful data and statistics that may be helpful for grant writers as they are developing funding proposals for new projects.** For example, census blocks with lower Tree Equity Scores indicate an area with less canopy and a higher concentration of vulnerable populations that may be prioritized for new tree planting projects. The Tree Equity Score National Map can be accessed via the web at treeequityscore.org.

All of the census blocks in Deming are significantly below the US Forest Service goal of 15% for desert communities, and the Tree Equity Score tool rates all census blocks as high priority for planting. Only the older neighborhoods surrounding Memorial Park and the Mimbres Memorial Hospital have higher tree canopy cover relative to other areas of town, at 5 to 7% tree canopy coverage according to the Tree Equity Score tool. There is very little tree canopy in the developing neighborhoods north of I-10 and in the far southwest, with tree canopies around 1%. **Residential areas in these census blocks should be considered a high priority for tree planting initiatives** to increase equitable access to green spaces across the community.



American Forests' online Tree Equity Score (TES) tool, pictured above, combines demographic data with tree canopy (TC) data to create a single measure of tree equity, scored from 0 to 100. The lower the TES, the greater the need for investment in the urban forest.

Tree Inventory

While citywide tree canopy cover data provides a useful overview of vegetation patterns, it does not reveal much about the health or condition of individual trees within Deming's community forest. For instance, an area in southwest Deming shows the highest density tree canopy in the City, but it is a pecan farm. To better understand the structure, health, and management needs of the community forest, **conducting a tree inventory is an essential and widely used management tool.**

A tree inventory provides detailed data about individual trees within the community forest, which can be used to support informed decision-making, help set management priorities, and preserve institutional knowledge about tree conditions and maintenance needs, even as staff and leadership change over time.

Tree inventory efforts can be scaled depending on the resources available and the information most needed for urban forest management. For areas such as parks and high-use public spaces, detailed information about each tree can be collected routinely to allow monitoring of tree health and maintenance needs over time. In lower priority areas, such as in parking lots, a simple "windshield" or drive-by inventory every few years may suffice. It is recommended that Deming develop and maintain a tree inventory that includes all trees in publicly-accessed spaces managed by the city of Deming, Luna County, Deming schools, and other government-managed locations to help establish and track management objectives.

In 2018, an inventory of roughly 200 trees in Deming was conducted by New Mexico State Forestry. The focus of this inventory was on the oldest trees in the city, particularly those in historic landscapes such as the Luna County Courthouse and oldest city parks. The CFN project team and Deming MainStreet team have added to the inventory by conducting basic tree inventories for key parks, community spaces, and streetscapes and has updated or expanded inventory data for previously inventoried areas. These efforts have been conducted largely for the purpose of identifying trees that may be in need of high priority maintenance.

Deming's tree inventory data was entered into Tree Plotter, an online tool for urban forest asset management. The New Mexico State Forestry Division has supplied a license for all communities within New Mexico who wish to use this software as a tool to map, manage and enhance the care of their urban forest. **It is recommended that the City of Deming continues to update its tree inventory data in Tree Plotter** to support effective and efficient management of the community forest.

There are several key pieces of information that should be part of any Deming tree inventory effort:

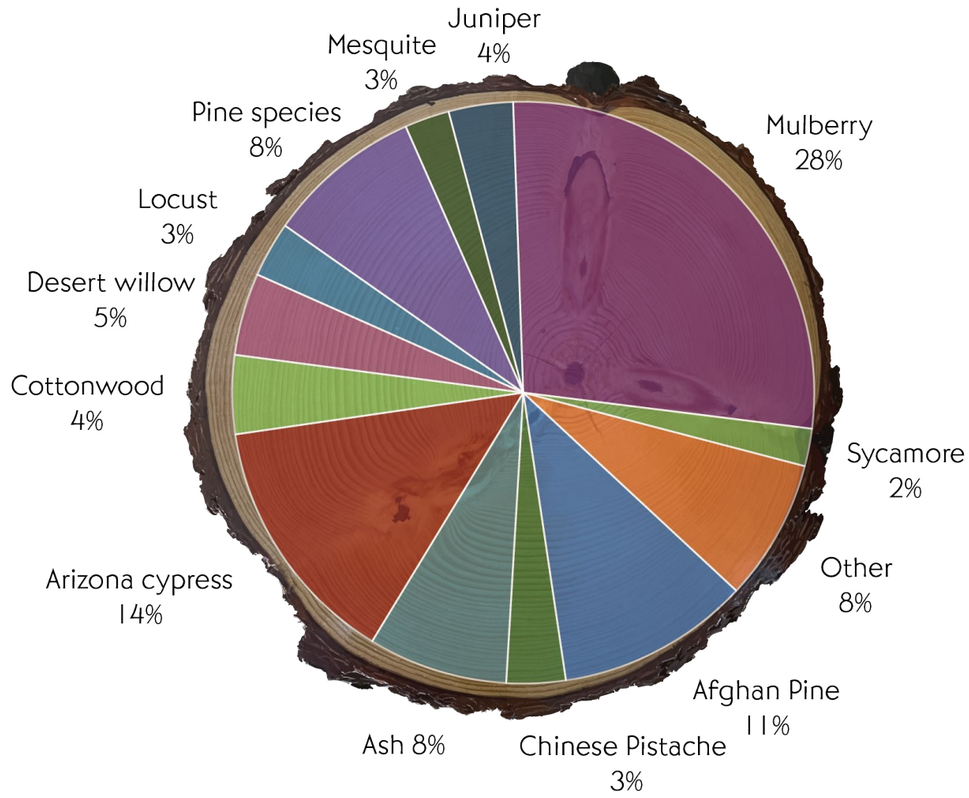
- **Tree genus/species**
- **Tree height**
- **Tree health condition**
- **Tree risk**

A tree inventory is a common management technique that provides more detailed information about the overall health of the community forest and informs decision making. The image above is from Tree Plotter, a software program that the New Mexico State Forestry Division provides to New Mexico communities with a dot for each inventoried tree.

Tree Genus or Species

A diverse community forest is considered healthier compared to a forest dominated by just a few species. Increased biodiversity allows an ecosystem to better adapt to changing environmental conditions, maintain ecosystem functions, and provide a wide range of ecosystem services and habitat for wildlife.

Tree pests generally target trees by genus or species, and therefore having a community forest with low biodiversity makes that forest particularly vulnerable to outbreaks that could cause wide-spread tree mortality. In the field of urban forestry, a standard goal proposes that a healthy urban forest should be made up of no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family of trees. Current data in Tree Plotter for Deming shows a diversity of over 40 species. There is a dominating presence of common mulberry (*Morus alba*) in Deming, with over 25% of trees inventoried as mulberry trees. Mulberry trees, while providing shade, are problematic due to high allergenic properties, and are even banned in some New Mexico cities. Arizona cypress is also highly represented at 12.4% of trees inventoried, and is a tree native to the area (although also allergenic). Afghan pine is also heavily represented at almost 10.7% of the canopy, and provides some of the tallest and most noticeable trees in streetscapes and parks. However, many of these trees are struggling as drought persists and temperatures rise, and likely need increased irrigation.



The trees in Deming's public spaces show a wide variety of species and genera, but greater diversification is desired. For example, the dominant species is mulberry, which is not native to the area and creates allergies for some people.

Tree Genus or Species *(cont.)*

An emerging alternative goal for tree diversity proposes that there should be at least three or more species in any given group of trees in a community area. Many of Deming's landscapes and streetscapes are challenged by this goal. For example, South Silver Avenue, leading from the Luna County Courthouse is dominated by mulberry (most of which are dying or in very poor health).

As new planting projects are developed for Deming's public spaces, it will be important to diversify the tree species used, prioritizing regionally native trees and incorporating tree cultivars that provide new options for large, low water, and drought tolerant shade trees.

Additionally, supporting urban wildlife habitat and biodiversity is of great importance for residents in Deming, with 60% of public survey participants indicating that this is one of the benefits of the urban forest that they value the most. Tree and plant diversity is important for this goal. Community trees not only enhance the quality of life for humans but also serve as vital habitats for diverse native wildlife, including birds, beneficial insects, and small mammals. **Planning for a community forest with an abundance of native species can support biodiversity in Deming** by creating nesting sites, food sources, and corridors for wildlife to thrive.

Tree Height

Tree height data helps assess both the risk a tree poses if it fails and provides a general indication of its age. When many trees in a community forest are of similar age, they tend to decline at the same time, leading to canopy loss. Just as species diversity strengthens a forest, age diversity ensures consistent tree canopy cover over time.

Satellite data shows that Deming has a mean tree canopy height of 14.3 feet within city limits, with a maximum height of 86 feet. The tallest trees are in the older parks and landscapes. This is consistent with the inventory data that shows Deming has many large shade trees and evergreens in its older public spaces, such as the Luna County Courthouse and along some streets. It is evident that at certain sites, many of the trees were planted at the same time. For example, the cottonwoods at Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park are all a similar height and age, and may therefore reach the natural end of their lives around the same time.

To sustain consistent canopy cover for future generations, **Deming should apply the principle of succession planting**—a long-term approach that staggers tree planting over time to create a balanced age distribution. Regularly supplementing landscapes with new and replacement trees will ensure a resilient, multi-generational community forest rather than one dominated by a single aging cohort.

Each tree species in the Luna County Courthouse Park is displayed in a different color, showing a dominating presence of old mulberries (in bright green).

Tree Health Condition

An assessment of the health condition of individual trees gives an idea of the overall health of Deming's urban forest. Tree Plotter uses a simple scale to evaluate tree condition:

- *Excellent* - nothing is apparently wrong with the tree.
- *Good* - the tree has minor issues, routine monitoring and maintenance needed, with no need for immediate care.
- *Fair* - the tree has issues which will require maintenance to bring it back to good health and form.
- *Poor* - the tree has issues that will likely not be able to be corrected to bring it back to good health and form.
- *Dying/Dead*

It is important to note that in Deming, tree conditions to date have been evaluated by a cursory visual assessment and without tree health assessment tools. Assigned conditions may not accurately reflect the actual health of individual trees. As the tree inventory is being completed, a **thorough tree health assessment should be conducted to gain a more accurate understanding of Deming's overall tree canopy health**. This information should inform the development of a maintenance schedule, and support prioritization of tree replacement or succession planting. Tree Plotter can be used to keep track of specific trees in priority locations for this purpose. Additionally, these data can yield helpful information about which tree species are performing well in Deming and which species should not be planted because they are struggling to thrive in local conditions.

The trees in areas that have been inventoried in Deming show a distributed mix of tree health conditions from "Dying" to "Good". Out of 1,087 trees currently inventoried in Tree Plotter, about 30% are reported to be in "Poor" or "Dying/Dead" condition, 39% are in "Fair" condition, and 29.6% are in "Good" condition. This relatively even distribution of conditions also applies to most species, indicating that tree age and site conditions (such as lack of irrigation) are having more impact on tree health than species selection. Many older streetscape plantings are in poor health or dying, indicating where a lack of adequate irrigation may compound other climatic factors. The species with the highest numbers such as mulberry, Arizona cypress, and Afghan pine also have the highest number of trees in poorer health.

Photo shows an example of a large tree in poor health condition in Elsie Vega Park. Due to its location in a high use area, this is a high priority for maintenance.

Tree Risk

Assessing tree risk is a good approach to prioritizing maintenance work in a community forest. Tree risk is a combination of tree condition, tree height/size, and potential consequences should the tree fail (such as causing injury to people or damage to utility lines, buildings/infrastructure, vehicles, etc.) All **trees in Deming's parks and community gathering spaces should be considered higher priority for maintenance** due to their potential risk to people should they fail.

Accurate individual tree risk assessments are most reliably done by qualified professionals who are trained in tree health assessment and evaluation of site conditions. **Training landscape maintenance staff on basic tree risk assessment principles** will allow them to provide risk management recommendations, proactively plan the city's tree maintenance needs into the future, and identify when the help of a professional arborist may be needed.

"Trees help me reduce stress and feel grounded."

-Deming Resident

Climate and Vegetation

Deming sits in a wide plain in Southwestern New Mexico, north of the Florida Mountains at an elevation of 4,330 feet in the Basin and Range Province. The vegetation in the area can be characterized as Chihuahuan desert scrub. This high desert vegetation community is dominated by creosote bush, tarbush, whitethorn acacia, and mesquite along with a wide variety of woody shrubs and cacti interspersed with perennial grasses and bare ground. Changing temperature and precipitation patterns, combined with a legacy of agricultural practices, has reduced plant cover, leaving more bare ground open to wind and water erosion. Large playas to the west and southwest contribute to frequent dust storms, especially during the spring winds.

Deming is unique in southwestern communities in that its precipitation comes almost exclusively during summer monsoonal rains. Winters are generally mild and sunny, with occasional overnight freezing temperatures. Summer temperatures are increasingly getting warmer, reaching towards 110°F. **The total amount of precipitation has declined in recent years, leading to earlier and more intense periods of drought.** The monsoon rains, historically active in this region between July and September, help cool ambient temperatures during the heat of summer. However, monsoon patterns are becoming more variable and extreme, with periods of severe drought and intense precipitation.

"Mexican elders are one of my favorite trees. Trees are resilient and beautiful."

-Deming Resident

Deming isn't the only community experiencing these changes. **Average temperatures across New Mexico have increased by 2°F** since the beginning of the 20th century, causing many communities to re-examine what types of vegetation are prudent choices for new planting projects. The annual number of days reaching 100°F in New Mexico has increased from an average of 12 days (1900 - 2020) to nearly 20 days per year (2015-2021). This same pattern is seen in increasingly warm evening temperatures, with the number of nights above 70°F nearly doubling in recent decades compared to the previous century. These changes are already having an impact on the types of tree species that are able to survive and thrive in Deming's local climate conditions.

Example of a regionally appropriate, climate-resilient plant palette for Deming.

Mexican Sycamore
Platanus mexicana

Western Soapberry
Sapindus drummondii

Escarpment Live Oak
Quercus fusiformis

Texas Sage
Leucophyllum frutescens

Arizona Cypress
Cupressus arizonica

Desert Willow
Chilopsis linearis

Screwbean Mesquite
Prosopis pubescens

Desert Fernbush
Chamaebatiaria millefolium

Cliffrose
Purshia mexicana

Parry's Agave
Agave parryi

To plan for a long-lived, resilient urban forest in Deming, tree species selected for planting must be drought tolerant to perform well in the region's arid environment, and should be adapted to withstand the range of temperatures in the area, both summer highs and winter lows. The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone designations help guide the selection of trees and plants that will have the best chance of succeeding in Deming throughout their lifespan. Each Zone designation is based on the 30-year average of recorded temperatures, with an emphasis on the lower threshold of temperatures. The 2023 Hardiness Zone map classifies Deming within Zone 8a. Trees have a multi-decade lifespan, and because the temperature is projected to increase substantially over the next several decades, it is prudent to prioritize planting tree species that function well in the current zone designation but will also be able to thrive under the projected zone designation of the future: 9b.

It is recommended that Deming adopts a diverse, regionally native-focused plant palette that is well adapted for the town's specific climate and geography. As part of this project, regionally appropriate tree lists have been developed for Deming and can be found in the *Additional Resources* section of this plan. Selecting species for planting projects from this recommended palette will help prepare Deming's community forest for a resilient future as summers become hotter and drier.

It is also worth noting that warmer temperatures and drier conditions can exacerbate the impacts of tree pests. Insect pest cycles are influenced by temperature, while tree cycles remain driven by daylight hours. As these two cycles continue to diverge, insect pests can impart damage to trees for a longer period of time and at more vulnerable times for tree health. **Developing an Integrated Pest Management Plan** in coordination with NMSU Cooperative Extension pest experts will support community forest management in Deming by improving the effectiveness of pesticide applications, reducing waste, and improving overall community tree health.

"I love pine trees, I take care of them and protect them from pests."

-Deming Resident

Example of a regionally appropriate, climate-resilient plant palette for Deming.

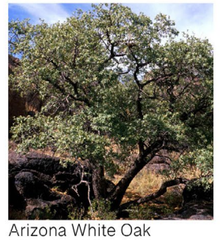
Chinkapin Oak
Quercus muehlenbergii

Palo Verde
Parkinsonia florida

Mexican Elder
Sambucus mexicana

Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria

Woolly Butterfly Bush
Buddleja marrubiifolia

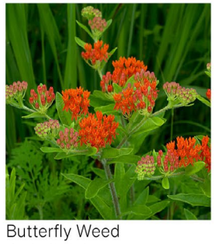


Arizona White Oak
Quercus arizonica

Honey Mesquite
Prosopis glandulosa

Sand Sage
Artemisia filifolia

Blue Mist Spirea
Caryopteris clandonensis

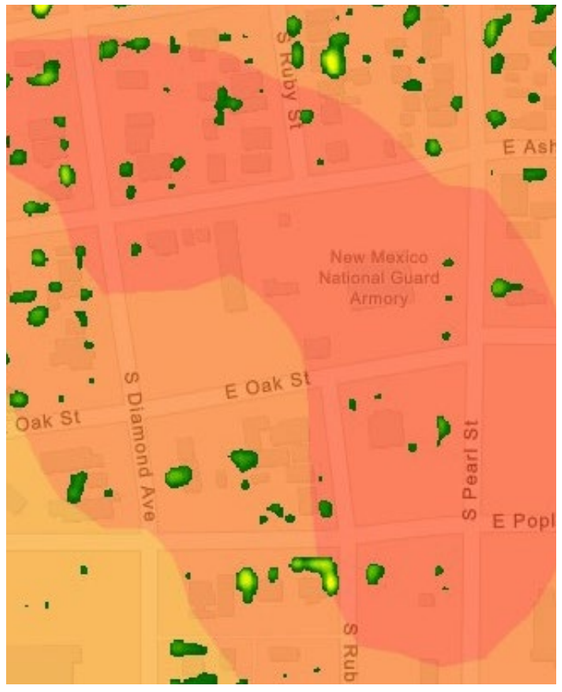


Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa

Land Surface Temperature

Land surface temperature refers to how hot the "surface" of the Earth feels to the touch, as opposed to the ambient air temperature. This data is collected by satellite, and so the "surface" from the satellite's perspective could be pavement, rooftops, plant leaves, bare ground, or other surfaces. Dark surfaces such as parking lots and dark building roofs tend to be hotter than lighter colored areas, as they absorb heat from the sun and radiate it back out into the atmosphere at night.

Land surface temperature data demonstrates how hot Deming can get, with mean surface temperatures in many parts of the city reaching 124 to 132 degrees Fahrenheit. This level of heat can have serious human health impacts, particularly for vulnerable populations. Heat is the number one weather-related cause of death in the United States. New Mexico's Department of Health estimates that heat related deaths will double between 2020 and 2030, based on climate models that project an increase up to 111 days of extreme heat per year (90 degrees F or higher).



The land surface temperatures map overlaid with tree canopy shows that areas with vegetation are cooler than parking lots and buildings. This shows a "hot spot" at the intersection of East Poplar and South Pearl streets, a vast area of pavement with little vegetation. Land surface temperatures at this location exceed 124 degrees Fahrenheit.

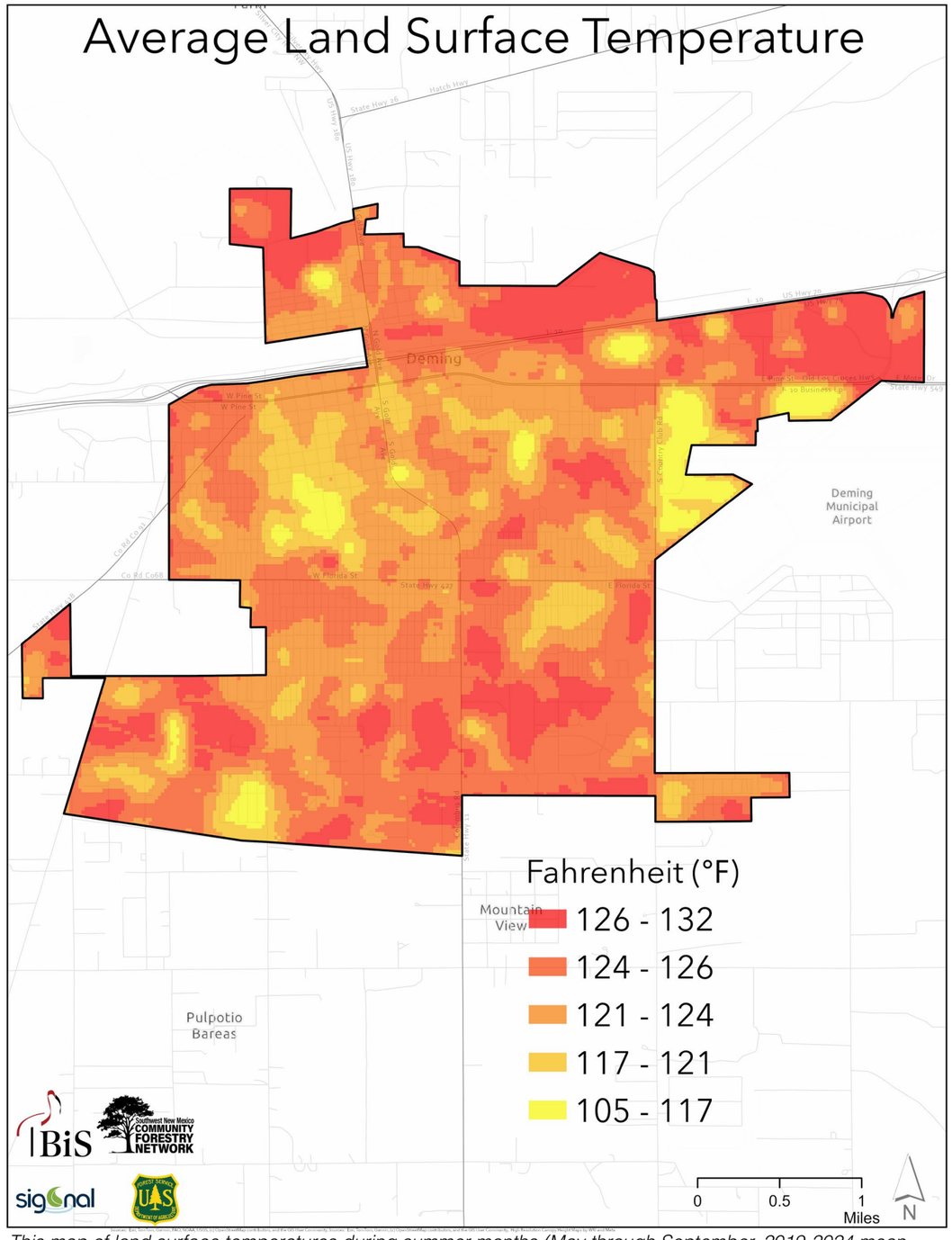
The land surface temperature map shows that **areas with higher tree canopy have lower surface temperatures,** illustrating that trees and other plants can help mitigate high temperatures. Areas of vegetation and grass such as E.J. Hooten Park and the Rio Mimbres Country Club appear on the map as yellow and light orange, indicating cooler surface temperatures. In contrast, the hotter areas of Deming (appearing in red or dark orange) coincide with where there is less vegetation and more pavement and heat absorbing surfaces. A notable area of high temperature is north of I-10 (as well as the far east section of Deming south of I-10). Other "hot spots" include areas throughout the city with mainly bare ground, and the southeast section of Deming that has lower tree canopy.

While the land surface temperature map gives a good picture of where Deming's "hotspots" are located, the scale of currently available satellite data is not a fine enough resolution to prioritize specific tree planting locations. However, knowing that areas with a greater amount of heat absorbing surfaces (like roadways, sidewalks, and buildings) will have higher surface temperatures indicates that **recreation areas, pedestrian walkways and bike paths should be prioritized for tree planting to help lower harmful heat levels in high-use areas.**

Trees and plants can help combat heat, but heat can also be extremely detrimental to tree health. Trees planted near roads, sidewalks, and other heat absorbing surfaces must survive both ambient heat and additional heat reflected from the pavement. **To help urban trees survive heat stress, Deming should use light-colored, organic mulch materials and/or plant living ground cover around trees, in addition to providing adequate irrigation.**

"The shade gives quail a place to rest."

-Deming Resident



This map of land surface temperatures during summer months (May through September, 2019-2024 mean values) illustrates how hot it can get in Deming. Extreme heat can have significant human health impacts.

Water and Irrigation

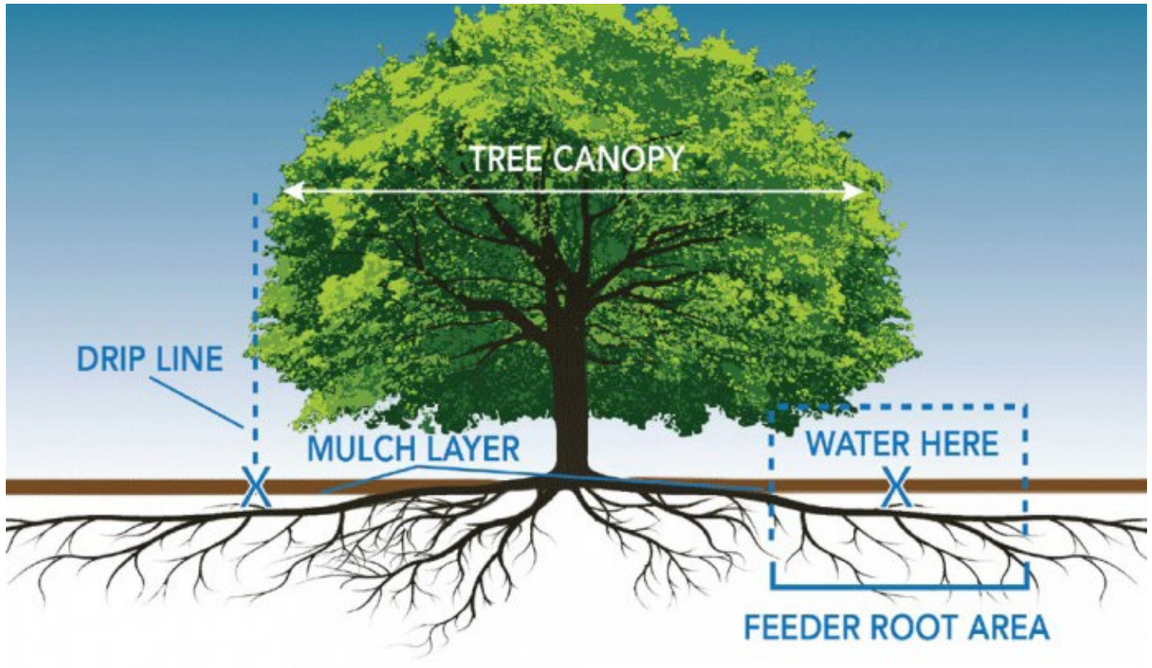
Deming relies solely on the Mimbres Groundwater Basin for its water supply. The basin is characterized by a complex geology with significant groundwater resources, although the aquifer has been steadily declining in recent decades. Droughts and long-term agricultural pumping have accelerated the depletion of the aquifer by reducing natural recharge and increasing reliance on groundwater resources. Surface water in the Mimbres Basin plays a role in recharging the groundwater supply for Deming. The Mimbres River is ephemeral in the Deming area, flowing only during heavy rainfall. While groundwater quality in Deming is generally good, concerns about water quality do exist. Septic tanks and salinity pose problems, particularly in areas in north Deming.

Currently Deming's water resources are not projected to keep up with the demand over time. While priorities for the efficient use and management of water resources are a top priority in the Comprehensive Plan and 40-Year Water Plan, Deming has little water to spare. **Water usage requires careful planning when considering planting additional trees and plants, both at a municipal and residential scale.**

All trees and landscaping will need some form of irrigation throughout their lives, especially during periods of heat and drought. To conserve water resources while increasing tree canopy for maximum community benefit, it is recommended to **concentrate on increasing canopy in high use areas where people need tree canopy benefits the most,** rather than aiming to increase tree canopy across the entire city. Additionally, incorporating GSI and planting low-water-use species will help to minimize watering requirements.

Insufficient irrigation is a very common cause for poor tree health in urban areas. Trees need slow, deep watering to saturate the soil deep into the root zone (about 18-24 inches). Trees should be watered near the canopy drip line where its fine roots are located, rather than at the base of the trunk. **Adding mulch rings and drip emitters around trees will reduce water loss to evaporation, and will encourage deeper watering.** The volume and frequency required for proper tree watering is dependent on several factors, including the time of year, the age of the tree, and the tree species. Soil moisture should be monitored regularly to ensure sufficient irrigation and avoid over-watering, which can also be harmful to the tree. Relying solely on spray irrigation systems that concurrently irrigate turf grass and trees can be problematic for tree health. Grass and larger plants or trees have different watering volume and frequency needs, and grass always wins in the competition for available water, often leaving trees under-watered. As Deming continues to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its irrigation systems and invest in irrigation systems at new planting projects, take care to **ensure trees' watering needs are being met in the irrigation planning process, from sapling to mature tree.**

The City of Deming enacted a Water Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 4, Section 9-4-6) that restricts water usage for outdoor irrigation. As part of any public education campaign regarding water conservation and compliance with the ordinance, include methods for harvesting rainwater and reducing drinking water use for irrigation and proper tree irrigation information into public education materials and outreach. The CFN project will assist in developing these educational resources.



Trees take up most of their water using fine roots located at the canopy drip line. Graphic credit: Denver Water.

"I love when the trees bloom and it tells me that summer is coming. I love to stare at their beauty."

-Deming Resident

Dense tree canopy at the Luna County Courthouse Park.

Soils

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey provides complex geo-referenced information about soils. The data is not precise at small municipal scales, and urban soils are often very different compared to surrounding natural areas. However, the soil survey provides useful insight into potential challenges with soil related to community forest management in Deming.

Most of Deming's soil is deep, sandy loam. Loamy, well-drained soils are generally good for tree planting, and soil depths should accommodate the structural roots of mature trees. Large trees need at least two feet of soil to establish structural roots. **During tree planting, care is needed to ensure there is adequate soil volume available for the tree**, considering the expected mature size of the tree species being planted. Tree roots generally extend several feet beyond the canopy drip line of the tree, and these fine roots tips are where the tree pulls in most of its water from the soil. Soil sponges, an excavated hole filled with a mix of pumice, compost, and wood chips, should be considered to improve infiltration and support tree health by storing water in the soil nearby.

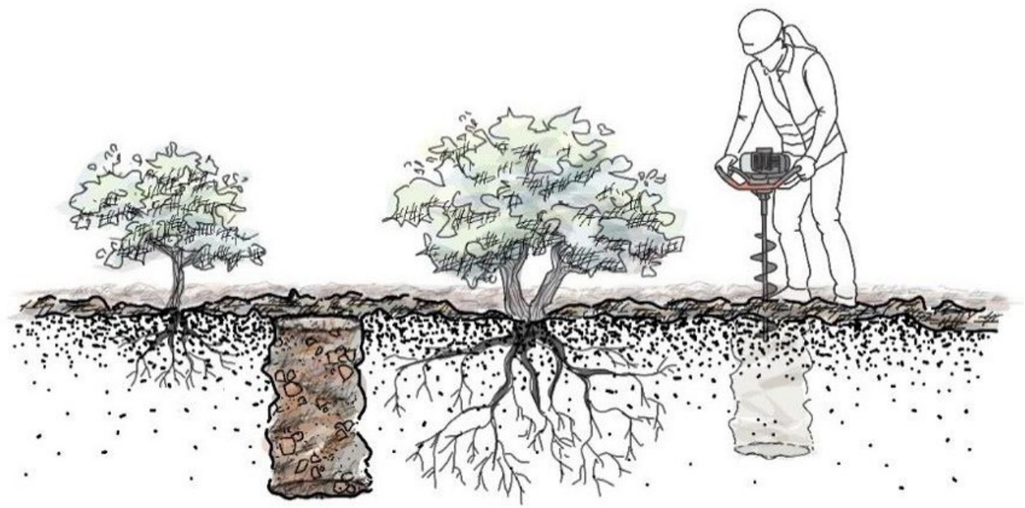
Deming's soils are slightly saline. Combined with low precipitation amounts, there may be salt buildup in the soil, which can impact water uptake in the roots, impeding plant growth and causing leaf damage. **Targeted plant root irrigation can help mitigate salt buildup**.

Deming's soil has very low organic matter content. Organic matter is critical to plant growth and helps stop soil degradation and erosion. It is possible to add organic matter to soil, such as manure and compost; however, because organic matter will decompose at a faster rate than the surrounding soil, too much organic matter can eventually cause destabilized soils. **Utilizing organic mulch around trees and plants allows nutrients and water to seep into the soil slowly and be held near tree roots for longer.**

There may be additional challenges with soils in landscapes built on fill material, such as at Trees Lake Park. **Soil testing may be helpful to determine soil amendment requirements**, and the fill materials may need to be heavily supplemented with soil suitable for tree planting. Extra care must be taken when adding soil amendments, particularly fertilizers, as they can have unintended negative impacts on tree roots.

"I love trees. We can always use more."

-Deming Resident



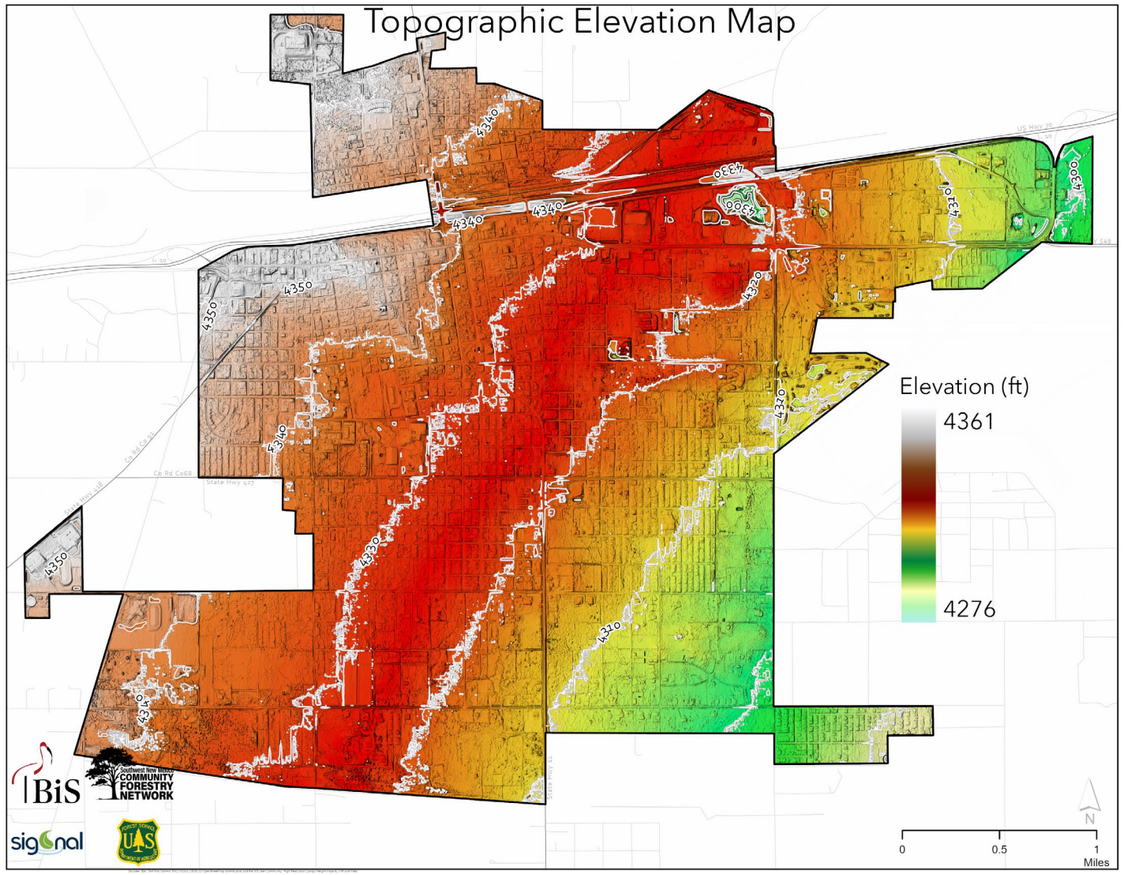
Soil sponges can help improve water infiltration and storage. Graphic credit: NMDOT GSI Maintenance Manual.

Flooding

In addition to persistent drought conditions, Deming is experiencing increased flooding during the intense seasonal monsoon rain events, when rainfall overwhelms the terrain due to drainage issues and impervious surfaces. Stormwater drainage challenges are complex due to the flatness of the terrain, though the city is generally sloped downward to the southeast. The Deming Comprehensive Plan identifies the need to update the Storm Drainage System Master Plan "to study the current problem areas and identify solutions to remediate...drainage issues." Planting trees and implementing both residential and commercial scale GSI can help mitigate water flowing and ponding in the streets.

"We love to connect with nature when we water our trees at home."

-Deming Resident



The elevation map for Deming shows a roughly 100 foot transition from high elevation areas (white/red) to low elevations (green).

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) is a stormwater management approach that can help mitigate flooding issues, reduce erosion, and protect water quality and watershed health. **GSI works by directing stormwater from impervious surfaces into vegetated landscapes**, which slows the flow of water, infiltrates stormwater runoff into soils, and intercepts precipitation on leaves and branches of plants before it hits the ground. GSI features such as curb cuts, bioswales, and stormwater harvesting basins can be implemented alongside tree planting projects to catch stormwater and repurpose it for irrigation, mitigating nuisance ponding while also growing more trees and plants that provide a range of other benefits to the community.

As part of upland urban watershed management, practicing rainwater harvesting at homes and businesses and directing rainwater to landscaped basins instead of driveways and streets reduces the volume of stormwater that causes flooding in downstream communities. The ordinances for new development in Deming include a section that promotes "any proposed system designed to harvest and distribute stormwater for domestic use within subdivisions," further supporting GSI practices.

It is recommended that Deming continue to integrate GSI with ongoing public urban forestry initiatives, and also encourage residents to use rainwater harvesting practices on private property. Re-purposing stormwater to irrigate plants creates a more vibrant and beautiful town while simultaneously helping to address flooding problems.

A green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) feature with curb cut, bioswale and basins in Silver City constructed by Asher Gelbart, Green Energy Now, that will harvest rainwater to irrigate the landscape and reduce flooding in streets during storm events.

"I would like to have more green areas. Trees are life."

-Deming Resident

Native plants irrigated with green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) at the Silver City Waterworks.

Residents who participated in the community survey, along with our project team experts, identified locations throughout town that would benefit from the addition of GSI.

- **Trees Lake Park and Starmax Area**: Extensive flooding due to impervious surfaces is occurring in facility parking lots and within the parks themselves such as the batting cage, skate park, and pickleball courts at Starmax, new weight training area at Trees Lake, and within Inclusive Park. GSI features such as curb cuts and swales, soil sponges, and vegetative and organic ground cover could help mitigate flooding, increase water infiltration, and provide supplemental water to new trees and understory plantings.
- **Deming High School**: This site receives high volumes of stormwater runoff into a ditch in front of the school as surface flows generally move to the southeast part of town. Building on existing GSI (such as a large swale) could mitigate high runoff and direct the water to irrigation. Building in the right-of-way may be necessary to help address the high volume of flooding here.
- **Medians on Gold Avenue and the MainStreet District:** The City is working on plans to upgrade streetscapes and medians along Gold Avenue between Pine Street and East Poplar Street. The CFN can assist during the design process to incorporate GSI features as this is developed and streetscapes are redesigned with bumpouts and medians.
- **Medians along Silver Avenue:** Currently the street trees are flood irrigated and a short rock wall creates a physical barrier between the street and the open soil. Expanding the rock openings to encourage more street runoff to enter the median will allow a greater volume of stormwater to be captured by the median.
- The **John T. Waits Park** north of I-10 experiences flooding in the parking lot that could be mitigated with curb cuts to direct stormwater into planting basins. Street runoff could also be directed into new tree plantings.
- **Other Specific Areas Mentioned in the Community Survey** for GSI projects include: along 8th Street, near the Mimbres Valley Hospital, along the Country Club walking trail, Pear Street, Lead Street, and near the old BMX Park on Ash Street.

Flooding at Inclusive Park and the Starmax batting cage. GSI practices can re-purpose stormwater to irrigate plants, creating a more vibrant and beautiful city while helping to address flooding problems.

A volunteer planting event hosted by GRIP at Trees Lake Park helped to build community support and demonstrate the need for community participation in the care of the community forest.

Community Forest Stewardship

In the context of a community forest, stewardship refers to a long-term, holistic, and collaborative approach to managing urban trees and green spaces. Community forest stewardship integrates environmental, social, and economic goals to ensure that both current residents and future generations can continue to benefit from the presence of trees within their community.

Within Deming's community forest, there are a wide variety of **distinct landscape types, referred to in the plan as "Stewardship Areas", that each require nuanced management considerations**. Each Stewardship Area exhibits differences in the compositions of native, invasive, and intentionally planted vegetation; the entities responsible for management; the approach to how management goals and priorities are set and accomplished; the primary benefits, functions or uses the landscape is being managed for; the policies and processes that govern the landscape, and; the infrastructure that may be present, such as irrigation, GSI, streets, and sidewalks.

"I just enjoy the benefits of trees and want to see more around Deming."

-Deming Resident

To inform effective management recommendations the town's landscapes have been organized into four primary Stewardship Areas:

1. **Residential Neighborhoods**
2. **Outdoor Sports and Recreation**
3. **Community Services and Business Areas**
4. **Arts, Culture, and Tourism**

The following sections provide detailed discussions of each Stewardship Area, outlining general management considerations as well as site-specific recommendations.

Organizing landscapes in Deming by Stewardship Area helps to answer the following guiding questions at a finer scale and produce the strategic recommendations featured in the *Action Plan* section of this document.

» What does this Stewardship Area have?

» What are Deming's goals for this Stewardship Area?

» How can Deming's community forestry goals for this Stewardship Area be achieved?

Stewardship Area: Residential Neighborhoods

Deming's community forest plays a vital role in enhancing quality of life within residential neighborhoods. The presence of trees and green spaces contribute to creating neighborhoods that feel safer, more welcoming and more livable. **Research shows that residents are more likely to spend time in public spaces with trees and vegetation, and that access to green space is linked to a stronger sense of safety, community pride, and social connection.** Neighborhood green spaces foster opportunities for positive, meaningful interactions among neighbors by creating inviting places for people to relax, gather with friends and family, and enjoy a connection to nature. In this way, the community forest strengthens social cohesion and supports a sense of belonging throughout Deming's neighborhoods.

The trees in neighborhoods are managed by both residents and municipal staff, for the benefit of residents. Municipal involvement in tree management in residential areas is often influenced by community feedback and leadership decisions, but it is essential to ensure that management efforts are equitable. A key goal of stewardship in residential areas is to determine whether all residents, regardless of neighborhood, have equitable access to the benefits provided by the community forest. Assessing tree canopy coverage across neighborhoods can help identify disparities and guide strategies to achieve a more balanced and inclusive urban forest.

Successful community forest initiatives in residential areas depend on clear, proactive communication and public engagement. Sharing timely information about tree maintenance activities, planting programs, and care recommendations empowers residents to participate in sustaining the urban forest. Providing educational materials about proper tree care, suitable tree species for private yards, and long-term maintenance practices can further strengthen neighborhood canopy health. **Establishing a simple, accessible reporting mechanism, such as a 311 system or online platform, would allow residents to easily submit tree-related concerns or requests**, improving responsiveness and trust between the community and city staff.

The Residential Neighborhood Stewardship Area includes a discussion of parks, schools, street trees and residential yards. The following sections expand upon the management priorities for each of these unique landscape types that contribute to the overall community forest in Deming.

Relevant Landscape Types:

- Parks
- Neighborhood Street Trees
- Residential Yards
- Schools

Primary Tree Benefits:

- Sense of Place and Community
- Shade, Cooling, Air Quality
- Mental Health, Nature Connection
- Property Value, Energy Savings
- Wind and Visual Blocking

Management Goals:

- Liveability
- Beautification
- Safety
- Connectivity, Walkability

Management Influences:

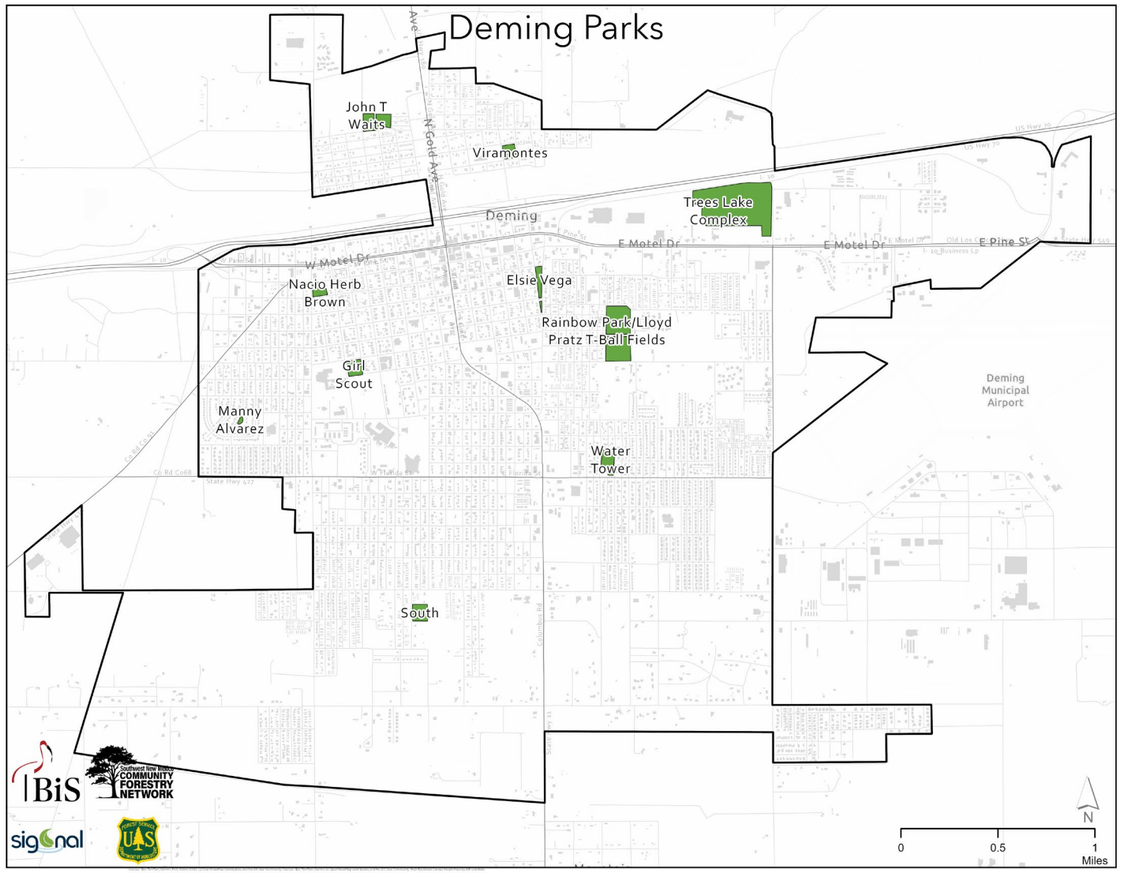
- Equity
- Town Leadership
- Community Member Input

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide essential oases in urban environments, offering recreation opportunities and community gathering spaces while also providing valuable tree canopy, wildlife habitat and shade. For many residents, parks are the most direct way to experience trees and nature close to home. A widely recognized standard, promoted by the National Parks and Recreation Association, is for all residents to live within a 10-minute walk (roughly a half-mile) of a quality park.

The Trust for Public Land's Park Serve tool, which maps park access in urban areas nationwide, provides data that can be used to improve park equity in Deming. The ParkServe tool currently does not include several of Deming's parks in its analysis, resulting in an undervaluation of park accessibility. However, the tool allows evaluation of proposed park space, and when missing Deming neighborhood parks are added for evaluation, the tool estimates that **over 73% of Deming residents live within a 10-minute walk of one of ten neighborhood parks**: Elsie Vega (Chicano), Florida (Water Tower), John T. Waits, Manny Alvarez, Nacio Herb Brown, Rainbow, Scout, South, Viramontes, and the Trees Lake Park complex (including Voiers "Pit" and Inclusive parks).

In addition to the ten neighborhood parks assessed in the ParkServe tool, Deming also has other pocket parks, dog parks, and outdoor recreational facilities that provide additional green space. The high number and even distribution of these spaces reflects Deming's commitment to providing quality of life amenities to residents. The ParkServe tool highlights priority areas where access to parks remains more limited and where future investment could be most impactful. For example, the new and developing neighborhoods in the south and west of Deming, and north of US- 10, are identified as the highest priority areas for developing park space.



The nine neighborhood parks in Deming are well distributed, providing equitable access for many community members.

Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park is one of nine neighborhood parks across Deming providing important outdoor space for the community.

To continue enhancing park amenities, Deming is recommended to **add requirements to the land use code requiring new residential developments to include parks, playgrounds, or other public use areas**. These urban planning policies should also aim to proactively reserve space and irrigation access for tree planting in developing neighborhoods.

Park Maintenance and Irrigation

Many of Deming's parks are older, established parks with large trees that require ongoing monitoring and care. Because residents are encouraged to use parks they should always be safe community forest spaces. **Parks are a high priority for tree pruning and when necessary, tree removal, due to their high use and human risk potential.** Park trees are also the highest priority for tree inventories, so that their condition and maintenance needs are routinely monitored and addressed.

Many of Deming's neighborhood parks are older, established parks with large mature trees that require both immediate care and ongoing maintenance. It is recommended that Deming prioritize completing or updating the tree inventory and risk assessment in these older parks to identify and address tree risk. Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park, Nacio Herb Brown Park, Scout Park, Manny Alvarez Park and Florida (Water Tower) Park have aging cottonwoods, mulberries, Arizona cypress, Afghan pine, and other large tree species, some of which are reaching the end of their natural lives. **Succession planting with phased replacement** should begin now to ensure the replacement trees have time to grow to a substantial size before the old trees need to be removed, maintaining continuity in the look and feel of these important parks.

In some cases, there are opportunities to improve established parks by adding new areas of tree planting. For example, John T. Waits Park, Viramontes Park, Rainbow Park and South Park primarily have large stature perimeter trees, with interior open turf spaces that are being kept open for recreation. There may be opportunities to add strategically placed clusters of trees and shrubs with organic mulch and groundcover within the park, to **create small, cooler "oases" within these larger parks** that offer more comfortable and sheltered spaces for visitors while still leaving space for recreation.

In newly developed park spaces, such as the Trees Lake Park complex, the focus is on planting young trees and sustaining proper tree care so that they are able to reach maturity, when they will provide maximum benefits such as shade. To ensure these efforts are successful, it is important to select appropriate tree species and to train staff in proper planting and staking techniques. Young trees in park spaces may require structural pruning to avoid branch interference with walkways, open spaces, and park infrastructure. **Training staff on proper structural pruning techniques, and developing and following maintenance schedules** will develop good quality large trees. Unfortunately, because young trees are often most prone to vandalism and theft, it is recommended that **Deming proactively works with public safety personnel to address tree vandalism and theft issues**.

"I have mental health issues and I enjoy going to parks and lakes to just soak trees up."

-Deming Resident

Renderings of imagined improvements to Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park, adding landscaping features to the interior of the park and planting a diversity of shade trees to replace the cottonwoods in poor health. Sketches by Anthropopulus Design + Planning.

Park Maintenance and Irrigation *(cont.)*

Newly planted trees have intensive irrigation needs for the first three to five years after planting until they are better established. Developing both short and long-term irrigation plans prior to planting is imperative for successful community forestry projects. To support the long-term health of trees in the town's parks and other public spaces, it is recommended that Deming **continue efforts to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its irrigation systems**. This includes evaluation of the function of current systems on a regular schedule, addressing maintenance needs promptly or proactively, and investing in water-efficient irrigation systems at new planting projects. Areas with existing irrigation systems may benefit from expanding and adjusting the spray or drip zones, and ineffective nozzle spray heads should be replaced. To streamline this effort, it is recommended that Deming **establish irrigation standards in their community forest management program** so that all irrigation infrastructure is the same, simplifying irrigation system maintenance and minimizing staff time required.

Most parks combine turf grass and trees within the same irrigated landscapes, which can create maintenance and tree-care challenges. Improper mowing or weed trimming can cause serious damage to tree trunks and roots if they are struck or cut by mechanical equipment. Severe or frequent mechanical damage can interrupt the flow of water and nutrients within the tree and cause other issues that can result in tree death or decline. A simple and yet critical way to protect existing trees is to **train park maintenance staff in these basic tree-care principles to raise awareness and reduce accidental damage to trees during routine mowing and maintenance.** Additionally, using rings of organic mulch around trees and plants (minimum 3-foot radius) serves as a barrier and helps protect them from mechanical damage from mowing, with the added benefit of promoting soil health and water infiltration. Organic mulch allows nutrients and water to seep into the soil slowly and to be held longer where they are available for uptake by tree roots.

Urban parks are also used by transient populations seeking shade, rest, and safety. While this reflects the importance of parks as community refuges, it can also create unique maintenance challenges for vegetation and trees. Park staff are often on the front lines of addressing these issues, and their experience provides valuable insight. Recognizing these challenges and **including park staff in broader discussions around community and social needs** will help ensure that both people and trees are supported.

The Trees Lake Park complex, including Inclusive Park (pictured) have had extensive investment in trees and landscaping. It will require focused maintenance and irrigation to sustain the health of these newly planted trees.

Schools

Schools are important neighborhood focal points and provide critical outdoor recreational space for children and youth. Shade trees in these spaces make play and outdoor learning more pleasant and provide sun protection. Additionally, **research has shown that children who see trees and plants outside school windows have better focus, and score higher on standardized tests.** Within the City of Deming, almost all of the schools are strategically located adjacent to or near parks and recreational facilities. This provides an excellent opportunity to focus community forestry resources in these areas.

Deming had the foresight to plant trees many years ago at schools citywide, including Chaparral Elementary, Bell Elementary, Smith Elementary, and Memorial Elementary. These trees are largely around the perimeter of the school grounds to provide a windbreak, but also cool the school grounds and create a more positive learning environment. **Periodic monitoring and maintenance of these trees is recommended, including pruning and removal when needed**. School campuses may also benefit from additional interior campus tree plantings to provide shade for outdoor learning spaces.

The newer schools, including Ruben S. Torres Elementary, Bataan Elementary, Red Mountain Middle School, Deming Intermediate School, and the Deming High School Complex, had trees and other landscaping installed when the schools were built that include windbreaks, parking lot trees, entrance trees, and play area landscaping. To protect this investment, **ongoing maintenance of these trees and adjustments to the irrigation systems** must be scheduled and performed for these trees to remain healthy and grow into maturity. Deming can coordinate with school maintenance staff to encourage and support ongoing landscape assessment and maintenance, and share CFN trainings and resources.

Caesar Chavez Charter High School, adjacent to Viramontes Park, is also a good potential partner on community forestry projects and would benefit from increased trees and landscape plantings. This school has several aging mulberries that would benefit from proper pruning and maintenance; **connect the maintenance staff responsible for the trees at Cesar Chavez Charter School with CFN resources**.

Deming High School presents a high priority opportunity for green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), as water runs across the football field and campus into a ditch in front of the school. While some GSI already exists (such as a large swale running along the perimeter fencing), there is an opportunity to increase stormwater capture and infiltration to reduce runoff and help irrigate additional tree plantings.

Public schools and grounds are under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Public Schools Facility Authority (NMPSFA). Any planting projects that are planned at schools should be done in close coordination with them to understand landscaping or infrastructure projects that may be anticipated, and what the funding priority is. If a project is already planned for a site, but funding is not expected soon, a community group could coordinate a planting project with CFN's help, with the understanding that the trees may be replaced during future school landscaping projects. Once trees are planted, ongoing maintenance and irrigation adjustments must be scheduled and performed for these trees to continue to be beneficial resources. It may also be helpful to **include school staff in CFN training events to support basic tree care**.

"I can remember building tree houses in a maple tree. Best times of my life."

-Deming Resident

Neighborhood Street Trees

Creating safe and shaded walkways to access parks, community gardens, and elementary schools is important to support healthy neighborhoods. Of Deming community members responding to the survey, mitigating pedestrian heat was a top priority at 67%. The National Parks and Recreation Association's "Safe Routes to Parks: Improving Access to Parks through Walkability" outlines steps to make parks more accessible. Urban trees can assist in these efforts, as they provide shade, aesthetic enhancement, and improved walkability. When paired with green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), streetscapes can also help manage localized flooding. However, street trees present unique management challenges, such as limited planting space, soil compaction, and visibility or safety concerns.

Many of Deming's oldest neighborhoods have connecting streets with large, mature street trees. These trees should be considered a top priority for careful monitoring for tree risk due to falling branches or interference with street signs, sidewalks, line of sight from vehicles, and buildings. It is recommended that the City of Deming **complete and maintain a street tree inventory** to identify maintenance priorities, inform routine monitoring schedules, and **coordinate with Deming Public Works on sidewalk and street interference issues**.

The City of Deming has invested in sidewalk installation along several key corridors, including Ash, Poplar, and Florida Streets that connect neighborhoods to community services. Additionally, there are wide buffer strips along many roads and sidewalks throughout Deming's neighborhoods. **Focusing new tree planting along these sidewalks and in buffer strips can increase their walkability and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods**. Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) features, such as curb cuts and water harvesting basins, can be co-located with street tree projects to direct rainwater from surrounding pavement into drought-tolerant landscapes. For example, neighborhoods north of I-10 have the lowest tree canopy in the city, and this area would greatly benefit from these types of neighborhood planting initiatives.

Residential Yards

The largest land use in Deming is single-family residential, which means **residential trees are a significant contributor to the community forest and the overall benefits it can provide.** Trees in private yards provide cooling and improved air quality benefits to the whole community–two of the top benefits identified in the community survey as important. **Encouraging residents to maintain and plant trees on their property will expand Deming's community forest much more than the City can do on its own.**

In addition to privately owned single-family residential homes, the community forest can be used to great benefit in multi-family housing complexes. Planting trees and other landscaping in these areas supports outdoor play spaces and provides shade for pedestrian and bike corridors, connecting residents to schools and other services. Of particular note from a community forestry perspective in Deming is the Kingdom of the Sun Retirement Village on Buckeye Street, near the EJ Hooten Recreational Complex. This complex has old, large trees, creating a distinct island of tree canopy. **Ensure the maintenance staff responsible for the trees at this location and others are trained in basic tree risk assessment, and connect them to CFN resources.** The Sierra Vista Apartments across from John T. Waits Park and the Desert Sun Apartments across from Ruben S. Torres Elementary School also have significant landscaping and tree canopy, and offer an opportunity to create urban forest oases in the community. Deming's ICIP includes community and transitional housing projects that may have opportunities to incorporate trees and landscaping.

Deming can **encourage residents to connect with CFN partners and help provide them access to educational resources about tree care and irrigation**, and connect them to tree planting opportunities. Residents can also be encouraged to install rainwater harvesting features on their properties to help reduce stormwater runoff and provide supplemental irrigation for residential landscapes, reducing the use of drinking water for outdoor use. This engagement may also result in establishing a cohort of volunteers to support maintenance of public landscapes and help implement Deming's community forest management plan.

Neighborwoods is a Tree New Mexico residential tree planting program that is expanding statewide. Image Credit: Tree New Mexico

Renderings of cohesive landscaping at the Trees Lake Park Complex. Sketches by Anthropopulus Design + Planning.

Stewardship Area: Outdoor Sports and Recreation

Outdoor sports and recreation are an important component of community culture, enjoyment, and quality of life in Deming, and the City of Deming and Luna County have invested significantly in recreational facilities. The trees and landscaping at these facilities are managed very differently than those at neighborhood parks. While trees and landscaping are certainly not wanted in the athletic fields themselves, shade trees in spectator areas and parking areas and/or windbreak trees around the fields are opportunities for the community forest to provide additional benefits to these spaces.

The trees at outdoor recreation facilities are managed by city and county staff. Maintenance of turf and other landscapes at ballfields and other outdoor competitive sporting facilities often becomes the subject of intense focus due to high visibility and use at these locations. These facilities can also have complex irrigation challenges and high water use to support heavy traffic turf grass areas. This combination can become a time-consuming priority for maintenance staff; yet maintaining these community resources is important.

The Recreational Facilities Stewardship Area includes a discussion of key recreation areas and walking paths. The following sections expand upon the management priorities for each of these unique landscape types that contribute to the overall community forest in Deming.

From the Deming Comprehensive Plan:

Deming seeks to "Maintain a comprehensive system of parks, trails, and recreational facilities to promote community health, wellness, and quality of life."

"We should plant many trees now because the trees live longer than we humans do."

-Deming Resident

Relevant Landscape Types:

- Recreational Parks
- Ballfields and Courts
- Athletic Facilities
- Walking Paths

Primary Tree Benefits:

- Shade, Heat Mitigation
- Community Pride & Wellbeing
- Wind Break
- Air Quality

Management Goals:

- Efficiency
- Civic Pride
- Aesthetics

Management Influences:

- Government Leadership
- Deming School Athletics
- Municipal Land Use Codes

Trees Lake Park Complex

Trees Lake Park, Voiers "Pit" Park, Inflatable Water Park, and Inclusive Park are four adjacent parks that form a primary outdoor recreation hub on East Cedar Street, south of I-10. The recreation area includes walking paths, an amphitheater, a lake stocked with fish, inclusive playgrounds, and picnic spots. An inflatable water park is also a popular attraction during the warmer months. The City of Deming made a significant investment in planting over 200 trees in this park complex. To maintain this investment, intensive focus on proper irrigation and young tree structural pruning is needed. Additionally, incorporating organic mulch, small plantings, GSI, and ground cover will help support the long term survival of these trees.

Many of the newly planted trees are showing signs of stress at Voiers "Pit" Park. Lack of irrigation and poor soil quality is a likely culprit, and it is recommended that Deming test and improve irrigation infrastructure while consistently monitoring and caring for existing trees and plants. Additional maintenance and management considerations for this park complex are discussed in the Neighborhood Parks section of this plan.

Trees at Trees Lake Park have shown poor growth, resulting in dead branch pruning and poor tree form.

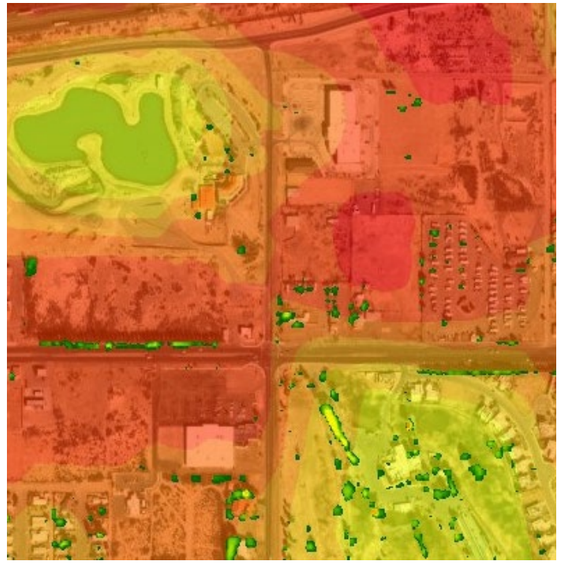
The New Mexico Tree Plotter tree inventory shows the location and condition of trees in the Trees Lake Park Complex, ranging from good (bright green) to pale green (fair) to poor (orange) to dead/dying (red). Focused maintenance and irrigation will be needed to sustain the large investment made in the community forest.

Starmax Family Entertainment Complex

Across the street from Trees Lake Park is the burgeoning Starmax Family Entertainment Complex, which currently includes a movie theater, a skate park, batting cage, and pickleball courts. Deming's historic train depot was relocated to this site, which provides additional opportunities for restaurants, playscapes, and other family entertainment options. Walking paths are also planned that will connect the complex to the Country Club as well as to the soccer and football field complex.

The site is currently largely devoid of any vegetation, and trees and other landscaping that would provide a multitude of benefits, including attracting visitors, cooling outdoor areas, improving air quality, and managing stormwater. **As plans for this complex are developed, proactively plan and incorporate landscaping and supporting irrigation, including GSI to augment irrigation.** This complex is an opportune place to incorporate GSI, as stormwater runoff can quickly cause flooding in low lying areas at the facility.

The Starmax complex is owned by Luna County. Establishing clear lines of responsibility for maintenance and irrigation of landscaping at the complex and developing a written landscaping policy will help create a common aesthetic to establish management continuity of the complex.



Land surface temperatures at the Starmax Complex show hotter temperatures (red) near the movie theater in comparison to the cooler temperatures at the Country Club and Trees Lake Park. This heat can be mitigated through the use of trees and other landscaping. Image credit: SIG-NAL.

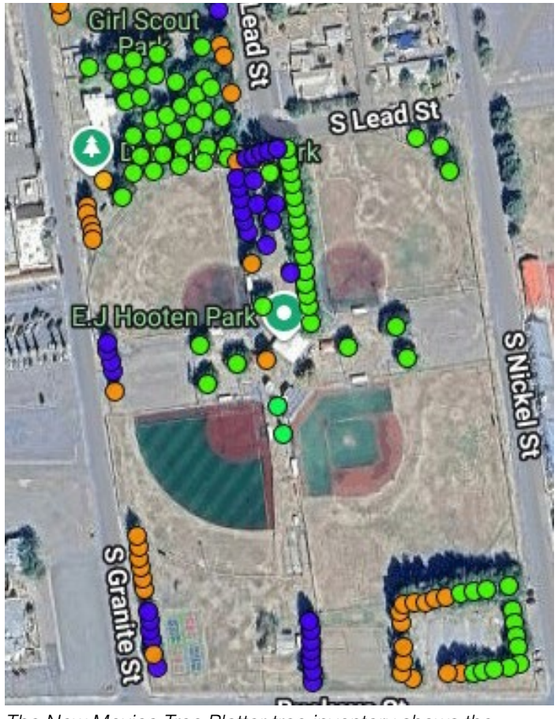
"As a child, I remember sitting in the tree at my grandma's house to just unwind."

-Deming Resident

The Starmax Complex has many opportunities to utilize GSI in conjunction with landscaping to reduce flooding while developing valuable tree canopy.

E.J. Hooten Sports Complex

The E.J. Hooten Park Sports Complex, near the west-central part of the city, includes the Deming Little League fields and park spaces with trees (including Scout Park and a dog park). This complex is across the street from Memorial Stadium football fields and Deming High School, which has tennis courts and other sports amenities. The trees inventoried at this location were mostly identified as being in good condition. Many of the mature trees are relatively tall species, and periodic monitoring is needed to manage tree risk in this high use space. The trees at the E.J. Hooten Complex comprise only a few species. As replacement trees are planted, focus on diversifying the species at this location for a healthier community forest.



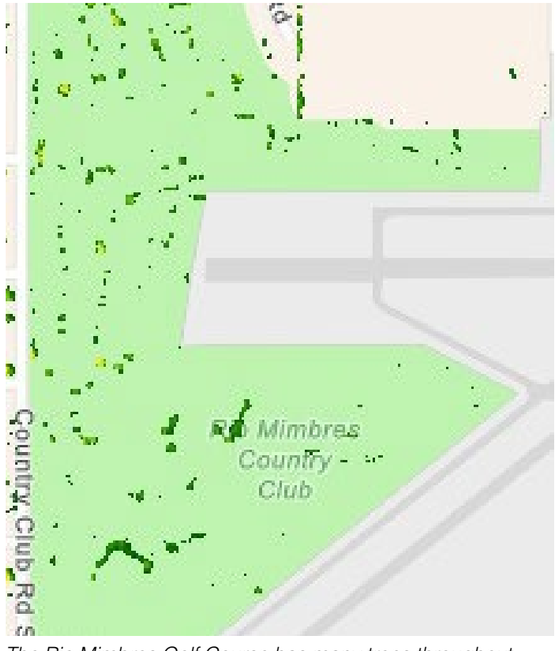
The New Mexico Tree Plotter tree inventory shows the location of trees in the E.J. Hooten Recreational Complex. Each color represents a different species; the area would benefit from future species diversification.

Amistad Splash Pad

The new Amistad Splash Pad across from Herb Nacio Brown Park included trees and other landscaping in the installation. Ongoing maintenance of these trees and adjustments to the irrigation systems must be scheduled and performed for these trees to remain healthy and grow into maturity.

Rio Mimbres Country Club and Golf Course

The Rio Mimbres Country Club and Golf Course was recently acquired by the City, and staff are working to revitalize the tree canopy. Like any park setting, tree risk management is a high priority here, especially since there are many older cottonwoods that easily drop branches as they age and may be hollow. Conducting a tree inventory and updating it annually to identify tree maintenance priorities at the Golf Course is recommended. As part of the annual inventory update, assess functionality of the irrigation system to inform irrigation upgrades and adjustments for effective irrigation delivery. The area also needs succession planting to ensure tree canopy is maintained into the future.



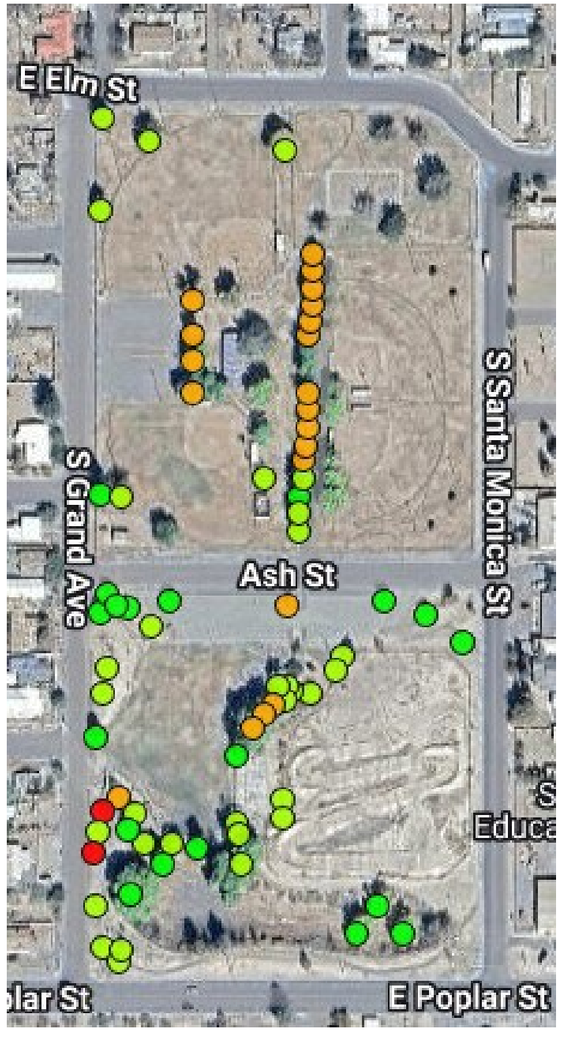
The Rio Mimbres Golf Course has many trees throughout the course. Completing an inventory of trees would help establish maintenance schedules and inform irrigation. Image credit: SIG-NAL.

Raymond Reed Road Soccer & Football Complex

South of the Country Club and Golf Course along Raymond Reed Road are soccer and football fields. The area has some windbreak trees around one of the fields and shade trees in a common spectator area. Expanding windbreak planting and adding additional shade trees are opportunities for the community forest to provide additional benefits to these spaces. The parking area across the street is adjacent to a dog park that would also benefit from tree planting.

Lloyd Pratz T-Ball Fields

The recreational area straddling Ash Street between South Grand and South Santa Monica includes t-ball fields, a playground, and Rainbow Park (discussed previously). The adjacent BMX Park space has been retired and will be used for something else in the future. This area has several trees in poor or dead condition that will require pruning or removal. As plans develop for the use of this space, it is recommended that Deming work to maintain and expand tree canopy in high use areas of the park.



The New Mexico Tree Plotter tree inventory shows the condition of trees in the Lloyd Pratz T-ball Field Complex, ranging from bright green (good) poor (orange) to dead/ dying (red). Tree maintenance and replacement planting will be needed at this location.

Walking Paths

Deming's Comprehensive Plan and ICIP prioritize improving walkability with multimodal paths. Community forestry projects are important components of these walkability initiatives, as they beautify these routes, create more comfortable conditions for pedestrians, help create a sense of connectivity by visually linking key areas, and soften road impacts such as noise and poor air quality. **Seventy percent (70%) of Deming residents responding to the community survey identified improving air quality as the top priority, while 65% prioritized mitigating pedestrian heat.**

Several newer walking paths have been installed throughout Deming, and these are prime locations for tree planting to provide shade, cool pavements, and improve local air quality. The walking path along the perimeter of the Country Club connects to the Raymond Reed Road Complex and has the potential to be expanded across East Pine Street to connect the Starmax Entertainment Complex and Trees Lake Park. In the community survey, adding plantings along the Country Club walking trail emerged as a priority among residents. Trees and other landscaping can create shade and improve walkability. The walking path near Santa Monica and Ash around Rainbow Park and former BMX park has several existing trees in need of maintenance and would benefit from additional plantings.

Trees and plants provide refuge for people escaping the heat. However, heat can also be extremely detrimental to tree health. Trees planted near roads, sidewalks, and other heat absorbing surfaces must survive both ambient heat and additional heat reflected from the pavement. **Using light-colored, organic mulch materials and/or planting living ground cover around trees, and providing adequate irrigation, are key to helping trees survive heat stress.**

"Trees remind us to enjoy the little things in life with their beauty."

-Deming Resident

Stewardship Area: Community Services and Business Areas

While community forest management often focuses on trees and vegetation in parks and other high-use landscapes, the trees and shrubs located along streets and near businesses, government offices, medical facilities, public transportation stops, and other types of community services are equally important to Deming's overall community forest. These landscapes help reduce the urban heat island effect, manage stormwater in heavily paved areas, and also contribute to the social benefits of the community forest, such as enhancing community pride, mental health and perceptions of safety.

The trees in community service and business areas benefit residents of both Deming and Luna County who use Deming as a regional hub for services. However, tree care at these types of sites is rarely a priority and is often handled by untrained staff or external contractors. The focus tends to be on maintaining neat, low-maintenance landscapes rather than promoting long-term tree health. Without regular attention, tree health decline can go unnoticed until trees are dead or dying, which can result in frequent tree replacement and a lack of mature trees in these areas. Establishing formal annual maintenance schedules and irrigation checks is essential to sustaining the benefits these trees provide.

A common feature of this Stewardship Area is the interface of landscaped areas with paved areas, such as driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks. Common challenges in these landscapes include trees planted in spaces that will not provide adequate root space as they mature, irrigation improperly placed at the trunk of the tree and not at root tips where trees take up water, and surrounding the tree with gravel and other heat reflecting surfaces instead of organic mulch or under plantings. As a result, these trees are often in poor condition after a few years. Developing a brief design guide for future installations, and modifying land use code requirements to set minimum standards for planting space and mulch will help reduce tree mortality in these challenging landscapes. Modifying existing installations to expand root space and using GSI practices such as curb cuts and swales for irrigation can improve tree health at existing sites.

The Community Services and Business Stewardship Area includes a discussion of the East Pine Street Corridor and two additional areas in Deming with a high density of community services. The following sections expand upon the management priorities for each of these unique landscape types that contribute to the overall community forest in Deming.

Relevant Landscape Types:

- Government Buildings
- Health & Community Services
- Commercial Development
- Streetscapes

Primary Tree Benefits:

- Reducing Urban Heat
- Stormwater Management
- Traffic Calming
- Air Quality

Management Goals:

- Efficiency
- Professionalism
- Aesthetics

Management Influences:

- Government Leadership
- Business Owners
- Municipal Land Use Codes
- NM Dept of Transportation

East Pine Street Corridor

The East Pine Street corridor includes several government facilities and other amenities, including the Marshall Memorial Library, City Hall, Motor Vehicle Department, Police Department, and Mimbres Learning Center. East Pine Street continues to the Mountain View Cemetery and the Municipal Airport, and connects to Trees Lake Park and the Rio Mimbres Country Club. This corridor has a significant number of street trees, with median trees close to downtown and large pines lining the street.

The presence of street trees along East Pine is unusual for New Mexico and is commendable, reflecting both the foresight of city planners long ago and current urban planning efforts. The trees in the medians and buffer strips along the sidewalk are maintained by the City of Deming, but changes require coordination with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) because East Pine Street is also the business loop for I-10.

The following activities are recommended to **revitalize the streetscape along the East Pine Street corridor**:

» The existing trees in the medians near downtown appear to be struggling, and several have died or are in very poor condition. Work with NMDOT on curb cuts and other GSI measures to help irrigate the plants, replace trees with species appropriate for these sites, and supplement with additional small plants.

» Expand median planting and sidewalk buffer strip plantings further east on East Pine Street to Country Club Road. Coordinate with the NMDOT on planting and GSI installation.

» The large pine trees on the eastern end of East Pine Street are struggling, possibly due to irrigation and heat issues, which can exacerbate pest problems such as bark beetles. Conduct an inventory of these trees, including an irrigation assessment. Increase irrigation through implementation of GSI from parking areas and the road, and consider supplemental irrigation to maintain the health of these trees. Due to their size and location along a major thoroughfare, these trees are considered high risk trees, and need to be diligently pruned and removed if necessary.

» Work with commercial businesses along this corridor to develop streetscaping as part of economic development. Deming MainStreet might consider partnering with the Luna County Adopt-A-Road program, which would encourage businesses and volunteer groups to get involved in advancing city beautification and the community forest.

East Pine Street has both existing street trees in need of maintenance and irrigation improvement, and opportunities for increased street tree plantings in medians and sidewalk buffer strips. Image credit: Google Maps.

The following activities are recommended for the community service areas along the East Pine Street corridor:

» **City Hall** has few trees with the exception of street trees. With the large parking area, pavement significantly increases land surface temperature. While increasing tree canopy here may be difficult because it requires the removal of pavement, treatment of compacted soils, and new irrigation infrastructure, look for tree planting opportunities that can cool the area on street rights-of-way and around government buildings during future renovations and expansions of City Hall.

» The **Marshall Memorial Library, Motor Vehicle Department, Police Department, Mimbres Learning Center, and Deming Airport Terminal** all have xeric landscapes that include trees. Establish a monitoring and maintenance schedule for these landscapes, and look for opportunities to implement GSI and increase tree canopy in these important service locations.

» The **Mountain View Cemetery**, east of the Deming Airport and managed by the City of Deming, has many large established trees, including pines and mulberries. It is managed by 2-3 staff that are separate from other City entities that provide tree maintenance. The cemetery has a strict planting policy (City of Deming Code, Chapter 8-4-5), as individual plot owners are prohibited from planting at gravesites, including flowers, trees and shrubs. Many of the older trees are struggling, and the pine trees have been attacked by bark beetles. Ensure irrigation to trees is adequate and working properly to help protect trees from insects and disease, and conduct pruning and tree removal to reduce risk. The Deming ICIP includes a project for cemetery expansion; proactively incorporate tree planting and irrigation infrastructure into these plans.

"Trees are vital for air and shade especially here in the desert."

-Deming Resident

Mimbres Valley Medical Center Area

The Mimbres Valley Medical Center Complex on 8th Street is across the street from the E.J. Hooten Recreational Complex and Scout Park. The complex is comprised of the **Mimbres Memorial Hospital, the Deming Luna County Senior Citizens Center, and a large professional building**. The hospital has well-maintained landscapes at the corner of Ash and 8th Streets, maintained by Medical Center contractors. The remainder of the complex is largely devoid of trees and landscaping. In addition to tree benefits already discussed, research shows that views of trees speed human healing and are beneficial for mental health. It is recommended that Deming supports opportunities to expand the hospital landscaping across this complex.

The **Sam Baca Aquatic Center** is on the same block as the Mimbres Valley Medical Center. The street-facing sides of the center are well landscaped around a stormwater swale, and are an excellent example of street tree placement that benefits the surrounding neighborhoods. Perform ongoing maintenance of these trees and adjustments to the irrigation systems.

8th Street is a major connector to this hub. Sidewalks are not well developed along this corridor, but it has wide roadsides that could support tree and shrub planting supported by GSI that separate vehicle traffic from pedestrians.

The Mimbres Valley Medical Center area, which includes the Senior Center, would benefit from additional interior campus tree planting. Image credit: SIG-NAL.

Cody Road/Columbus Road/State Highway 11

South of the Luna County Courthouse at Poplar Street, Gold Avenue becomes Cody Road, continuing to Columbus Road/State Highway 11 (NM-11). This street is a primary transportation corridor for Deming, with major cross streets that connect to other amenities in the city. There are several businesses along the street, and commercial growth is likely to expand further south along the corridor.

Between Poplar Street and Florida Street, Cody Road has sidewalks, decorative lighting, and formal streetscaping at several intersections. The streetscaping includes brick surfaces, benches, and street trees and plants installed in tree wells. Some of the tree wells are empty, likely indicating trees that died and were removed, and many of the remaining trees are showing signs of stunted growth and decline, likely due to root compaction and lack of irrigation. Inventory the trees, shrubs, and empty tree wells along Cody Road, and assess irrigation and root compaction at these sites. Work with NMDOT on curb cuts and other GSI measures to irrigate the plants, replace trees with species appropriate for these sites, and supplement with additional small plants.

Poplar Street west of the Luna County Courthouse has two large medians with middle aged trees surrounded by gravel mulch. These trees are suffering from heat stress and root compaction. GSI modifications to these medians to use stormwater flow for irrigation, and underplantings to replace gravel mulch could help alleviate these issues.

Many of the commercial businesses along this corridor have streetscaping, which helps make this corridor feel more accessible and walkable. Continue to work with commercial businesses along this corridor to develop streetscaping as part of economic development.

Cody Road has several locations with streetscaping that includes tree wells. Irrigation and root compaction issues are causing poor tree health.

"When I was younger my parents had these huge pine trees in the yard. One was so huge and tall that you could see it from far away."

-Deming Resident

Renderings re-imagining the Silver Street median landscaping leading to the Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Park. Sketches by Anthropopulus Design + Planning.

Stewardship Area: Arts, Culture, and Tourism

The community forest is an important component of what gives character to Deming's arts, culture, and tourism areas, and should be integrated into future initiatives. Deming's oldest trees hold stories of the development and history of the city decades ago. The trees and landscapes lining Deming's streets and cultural buildings are key to the aesthetic of these important cultural sites, while also offering economic benefits to the community. **Studies have shown that the presence of trees attracts more visitors, encourages them to stay longer, and increases foot traffic for local businesses, ultimately promoting economic development and tourism**.

Implementing public art, beautification projects, and other public space improvements are critical to enhancing the downtown area and all of Deming. Combining this with tree planting and landscaping projects can produce inspiring results including outdoor sculpture areas, pollinator gardens, and lovely seating areas. Even small projects such as murals or street corner enhancements with plantings and benches can make a big impact on a city, drawing more tourism, and attracting and retaining residents. The Americans for the Arts (www.americansforthearts.org) has a wealth of resources on public art and placemaking. A study on Quality of Life's Influence on Place Attachment (2024) found that aesthetics and physical features such as beautiful landscapes, pleasing design and cleanliness can foster a strong emotional bond with a place.

The trees and landscape types included in this Stewardship Area benefit both residents and visitors alike, and are managed with the intent of establishing Deming's public-facing image and creating a distinct sense of place. Aesthetics, community character, and cleanliness are key management priorities, and these landscapes often contain unique components requiring specialized care (e.g., pocket parks, GSI). Municipal management priorities are informed by leaders of arts, culture and tourism organizations and local business owners. **The Deming MainStreet organization is the key partner for the enhancement and management of this Stewardship Area**. This New Mexico state-sponsored organization seeks "to engage people, rebuild places, and work to revitalize our local economy," and has already undertaken several projects that incorporate the use of trees.

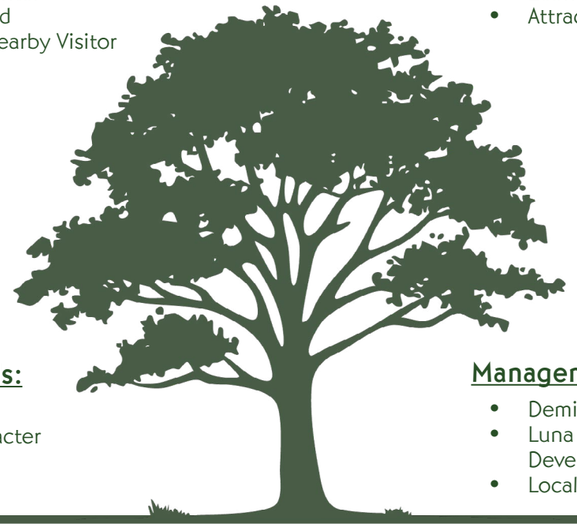
The Arts, Culture, and Tourism Stewardship Area includes a discussion of the Downtown Deming Historic District, the Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Park, the Deming Visitor Center, and connections to other visitor attractions. The following sections expand upon the management priorities for each of these unique landscape types that contribute to the overall community forest in Deming.

Relevant Landscape Types:

- Downtown Historic District
- Luna County Courthouse and Park
- Deming Visitor Center
- I-10 Frontage Road
- Connections to Nearby Visitor Attractions

Primary Tree Benefits:

- Aesthetics
- Sense of Place
- Economic Support
- Attracting and Retaining Visitors



Management Goals:

- Beautification
- Community Character
- Cleanliness

Management Influences:

- Deming MainStreet
- Luna County Economic Development Corporation
- Local Business Leaders

Downtown Deming

Deming's downtown and historic core is the hub of arts and cultural activity, with many local restaurants and businesses. A variety of non-profit organizations and support centers are also downtown. The Downtown Deming Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Deming Luna County MainStreet has created a Historic Downtown Walking Tour that highlights sixteen historic buildings. Deming was once a significant railroad-era boomtown, and the downtown district was planted heavily with trees that were brought in on the trains. Many of these historic landscapes remain today. The trees and landscapes lining Deming's downtown streets and cultural buildings are key to the aesthetic of the city and key cultural sites. Deming's "legacy" trees, documented in the 2018 Statewide Community Forest Analysis and Management Planning Deming Tree Inventory, hold stories of the development and history of the city decades ago.

The **downtown streets named after minerals** running north to south from Pine Street to the south have a significant number of old street trees, likely planted during the railroad boomtown years. Because of their location, age and typical street tree health issues, these trees are a priority for tree inventories and scheduled monitoring and maintenance. Granite, Silver, and Platinum Avenues are particularly notable, because the street trees are planted in medians dividing the road. These medians feature historic flood irrigation channels that originally irrigated the trees and doubled as stormwater conveyance. Most of these trees are now in failing condition, most likely due to lack of irrigation combined with root compaction and age. Only Silver Avenue is recognized as a state historic district, but this green infrastructure is a prominent historic feature of Deming's landscape, with identity and culture that should be preserved. As the trees are now reaching the end of their lifespan, the City of Deming will need to consider which species are appropriate to use when replacing these median trees, and make improvements to the irrigation and historic stormwater channels to retain this cultural feature.

The **Deming Luna Mimbres Museum** is the largest free museum in New Mexico and a tribute to the rich cultural tapestry of Deming and the Mimbres Valley. The Museum is adjacent to the historic Deming Armory and **Veterans Park**, which has a few large trees in declining condition and a new tree planting. Across the street from the

Veterans Park on Silver Avenue has large, older trees in need of maintenance. Succession planting has started in this park, a practice that should be implemented throughout Deming.

The street trees in Downtown Deming, including those on Silver Avenue and Gold Avenue, have unique challenges, including root compaction, insufficient irrigation to fine root tips, and additional pruning requirements to avoid pedestrian and vehicle conflicts. Image courtesy of Deming MainStreet.

Museum is the Custom House, with a back patio that hosts events. There is a dense tree canopy covering the patio grounds, and many of these trees are aging and in fair to poor condition. The Museum and Custom House trees are surrounded by turf grass and may be receiving insufficient levels of irrigation, as well as suffering from root compaction from walking paths and buildings. Schedule routine monitoring and maintenance of the Museum and Custom House trees, evaluate irrigation, and consider succession plantings to ensure that these landscapes maintain their canopy as trees age and need to be removed.

The **Silver Avenue streetscape** leads to the museum. These trees are planted in tree wells on the sidewalk. Root compaction, insufficient irrigation to fine root tips, and restrictive grates girdling the trees are all issues facing these types of tree plantings. Additional pruning is also usually needed to avoid tree impacts to vehicles or pedestrians. These trees should have routine monitoring and maintenance as high profile, high risk trees with staged removal and underplanting.

The **Deming Arts Center**, located on Gold Avenue and Pine Street downtown, is a historic building that is home to the Deming Arts Council. The Deming Arts Center has a **corridor pocket park** behind the building, with a line of Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) running from Gold Avenue to Copper Street, planted in sidewalk wells with grates. The trees in the corridor pocket park may need pruning to avoid building interference, and the tree wells are showing poor drainage.

The **Gold Avenue streetscape and medians** downtown are currently being upgraded to include additional plantings and GSI. Along downtown Gold Avenue is **Leyendecker Plaza,** a sculpture park and parking area, planted with Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*). The trees in Leyendecker Plaza will experience challenges with root compaction and heat from surrounding pavement and gravel mulch. Routine maintenance checks and irrigation adjustments are necessary.

The **Arts Park** is a pocket park between two buildings on East Pine Street. There are several Chinese pistache and ash trees planted in tree wells in the park that are in declining condition. Root compaction and insufficient irrigation to fine root tips are likely causes of tree health problems. Additionally, the trees may be causing interference with surrounding buildings and may require more aggressive pruning or replacement with a smaller tree that fits better in this tight corridor. Evaluate the long term health of these trees and consider replacement plantings of species better adapted to this type of pocket park.

"Trees are my muse."

-Deming Resident

Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Park

The Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Park provide a key cultural draw and are on the National Register of Historic Properties. The grounds host popular community events such as the Great American Duck Race. Luna County maintenance staff are responsible for monitoring and maintaining these trees. The grounds include two large areas of turf grass lawns that were planted extensively with mulberry trees that are now aging and declining in health. Poor pruning techniques have been used on these trees in the past which have further impacted their health.

The courthouse landscape requires a detailed tree maintenance, removal and succession planting plan coordinated with Luna County Community Development Department and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office to maintain this historic landscape as a community amenity.

The Luna County Courthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places. The landscape requires a tree maintenance, removal and succession planting plan to maintain this historic landmark's beautiful presence in Deming.

The Courthouse Park has long lines of mulberry trees that are aging, declining in health, and have had poor pruning.

Deming Visitor Center

The Deming Visitor Center is located on E Pine Street. The center is managed on a day-to-day basis by Deming MainStreet and has a combination of xeric landscaping and turf grass with trees. Landscaping and tree maintenance are performed by Deming Parks Department staff. Establishing two-way communication channels between Deming MainStreet and the Parks Department, defining responsibilities, and setting clear expectations are paramount for the success and the health of this important landscape. **Create a detailed landscape maintenance plan, coordinate training for Deming staff on maintenance, and establish maintenance schedules to enliven this landscape** and make it into a showcase that welcomes new visitors.

I-10 Frontage Road/Cedar Street

Deming's location along I-10 provides an opportunity to attract travelers to visit Deming landmarks and businesses. Deming's ICIP includes beautification projects for the exit ramps of Exits 81 through 85; as these projects develop, incorporate landscaping and trees. Exits, 82A and 82B connect travelers to the downtown district in Deming. Small streetscaping projects can beautify the entrances to Deming and mitigate transportation-related air quality.

The eastbound Exit 82A ramp connects to West Cedar Street at **Depression Park**, a small feature installed by the NMDOT that is now the responsibility of the City of Deming to maintain. There are three Chinese pistache trees planted in the park, surrounded by hardscape and gravel, which is frequently treated for weeds. Herbicides used on these weeds is also negatively impacting the health of the trees nearby, both through root uptake and through leaf damage caused by herbicide drift and evaporation. Care must be taken to give tree root zones a wide buffer when applying herbicide. This park could be greatly improved aesthetically by replacing the gravel with organic mulch and small plantings that help cool the surrounding pavement.

There are several trees on the **north side of Cedar Street** along the chainlink fence along I-10 that would benefit from routine monitoring and maintenance, and the possible addition of GSI features to allow stormwater from the road to provide supplemental irrigation. There are also many weedy trees along the fenceline that should be removed to improve aesthetics and prevent further invasive tree spread.

The **intersection of the I-10 Frontage Roads and Gold** is key to directing travelers to Deming's downtown district. Deming MainStreet has plans to enhance this intersection using art work on the I-10 underpass. Streetscaping at this intersection is challenging and would necessitate direct coordination with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) who has jurisdiction for the Frontage Roads. Even modest native landscapes would provide an aesthetic improvement to make a positive first impression on travelers exiting the interstate, while supporting biodiversity and air pollution mitigation in Deming.

The **Amtrak train stop at Ruby Street** on the north Frontage Road would benefit from landscaping. A few small desert shrubs and cacti with GSI features at this location would draw attention to the train station.

Other Visitor Attractions

Many visitors come to the Deming area to visit nearby attractions, including City of Rocks and Rockhound State Parks. While these are outside of City limits, they contribute to Deming's tourism economy. It is recommended that Deming continue to partner with Keep Luna County Beautiful and Luna County's "Adopt-a-Roadway" program to enhance major travel corridors in the county through plantings and trees, to attract more people to Deming, to address dangerous driving conditions due to dust, and to improve air quality.

The Southwestern New Mexico State Fair Grounds, located south of the Deming Airport, is sparsely planted with trees. Lack of irrigation at this site is likely the primary limitation to extensive tree planting. However, investing in simple irrigation and drought-tolerant shade trees and landscaping with native grasses and shrubs in strategic locations may help address dust and heat issues. Implementing GSI using stormwater runoff from the airport pavement, building roofs, and Raymond Reed Boulevard could help minimize supplemental irrigation needs.

"Trees are the best way to support pollinators because they provide many blooms."

-Deming Resident

Cedar Street and Depression Park could be transformed into an attractive draw to downtown Deming with improved tree care practices, additional landscaping, and the incorporation of GSI for irrigation.

Priority Community Forest Projects

The *Community Context*, *Community Forest Assessment*, and *Community Forest Stewardship* sections of this plan identify many general recommendations, management considerations for different Stewardship Areas, and specific projects to improve the health of Deming's community forest. Together with the map on pages 63-64, this section of the plan synthesizes these recommendations into specific community forest projects. These projects strive to achieve the most benefits from the community forest through efficient management while balancing cost and resource demands.

1 2 Neighborhoods North of Interstate 10

The residential neighborhoods north of I-10 have the lowest tree canopy in Deming at only 1%, and have the lowest Tree Equity Scores in the city. These neighborhoods should be considered the highest priorities for tree planting initiatives, including residential tree planting programs.

It can be challenging to make a community feel cohesive and safe when it is divided into segments by state highways. NM Highway 180 (NM-180) bisects these neighborhoods, and the businesses along NM-180 currently maintain very few trees and landscaped areas. There is an opportunity for community forestry initiatives along this highway to help create a sense of community and connectivity for residential neighborhoods, while also addressing urban heat and transportation-related air quality. This will be a challenging initiative because of the NMDOT rights-of-way along NM-180, and private ownership of the lots along this road. As development continues, Deming can proactively identify opportunities to collaborate with other property owners and agencies to enhance streetside landscaping.

The neighborhood west of NM-180 has John T. Waits Park and Ruben S. Torres Elementary, both of which have tree canopies that need to be maintained and can possibly be expanded. A sidewalk connects the school to the park along North 8th Street to West 4th Street and continues down North Tin Street and West 2nd Street to reach US-180. Adding trees and other plants along this existing corridor can improve walkability and connectivity, while cooling the neighborhood.

Likewise, the neighborhood east of NM-180 has Viramontes Park and Cesar Chavez Charter School located adjacent to one another, which provide a cool oasis for this area. Sidewalk connectivity is not as developed in this neighborhood. Trees supported by GSI could help define unpaved walking paths that are separated from the roadway (for example, along 4th Street out to the Luna County Detention Center). If sidewalk infrastructure is developed here in the future, look for opportunities to integrate street trees and GSI features as sidewalk infrastructure.

John T. Waits Park (pictured) and Viramontes Park can be used as starting points for expanding tree canopy in their respective neighborhoods, both of which have some of the lowest tree canopy in Deming.

3 4 5 Downtown Historic Landscapes

Tree canopy in the downtown historic district is 3%, and the Tree Equity Score prioritizes this area as one of the highest in town in need of tree planting initiatives. The City of Deming and the Deming MainStreet organization have initiated many positive projects to honor and improve the district, including new streetscaping and pocket parks. As these efforts continue, develop detailed maintenance plans and assign clear levels of responsibility for specialized tree maintenance and irrigation.

The district includes two key historic landscapes: the **Luna County Courthouse Park**, and the **streetside and median trees along the "mineral" streets**. The trees in these areas are aging and many are in failing health. It is recommended that Deming develop a plan for the maintenance and replacement of these historic landscapes, in coordination with Luna County, Deming MainStreet and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office.

The downtown historic district is bordered by the City's oldest parks – **Nacio Herb Brown Park** on Slate Street and **Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park** on Pearl Street – which feature mature, historic trees, some reaching the end of their natural lives. Efforts should focus on revitalizing these parks and landscapes through high-risk tree pruning, removals and replacement planting to sustain these historic parks.

From top to bottom: Silver Street median trees; Nacio Herb Brown Park.

7 9 10 Outdoor Recreation Amenities

The City of Deming and Luna County have invested heavily in developing a wide variety of outdoor recreational facilities and connecting them with multimodal paths to create a network throughout the city. However, there is minimal landscaping associated with this new recreation infrastructure, making them some of the hottest and most exposed areas in the city. Strategic landscaping to complement these outdoor recreation amenities can encourage their use and make them safer to use.

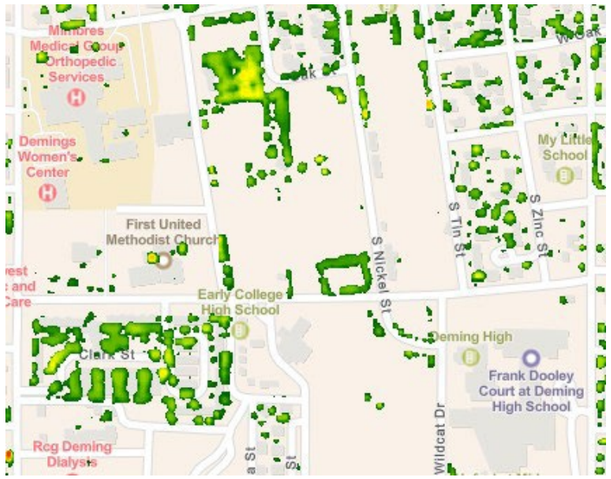
Deming can work to expand tree planting and landscaping at **Trees Lake Park**, and focus maintenance on trees planted at **Voiers "Pit" Park and Inclusive Park**. As the plans for the **Starmax Entertainment Complex** develop, work with Luna County to include shade tree planting and irrigation infrastructure (including GSI). Planting additional shade and windbreak trees and GSI infrastructure in the spectator and parking areas at the **Raymond Reed Road Football and Soccer Field Complex** would also provide community benefits.

Developing streetscaping supported by GSI along the new **Country Club multimodal path**, and the **East Florida, Poplar, and Ash Street sidewalks** can better connect neighborhoods to recreational amenities. Look for opportunities to connect these sidewalks to the **walking path around the former BMX park** and **across East Pine Street** to the Starmax Entertainment Complex and Trees Lake Park area.

From top to bottom: Trees Lake Park; intersection of walking paths at Florida Street and Country Club Road

6 Mimbres Valley Medical Center and E.J. Hooten Complex Area

The area around the Mimbres Valley Medical Center and E.J. Hooten Complex has one of the highest tree canopies in Deming, averaging 6%, but has many opportunities to expand the tree canopy. This location serves many Deming and Luna County residents, with the Mimbres Valley Medical Center, Deming High School, the Senior Center, Aquatic Center, Scout Park, Deming Dog Park, and a number of high density housing areas all located here. This hub provides an excellent opportunity to efficiently provide tree canopy benefits to a large range of residents, and is also a good opportunity to pilot green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects. The City of Deming should continue to expand the tree canopy here while maintaining the existing tree canopy, with an overall goal of 15% tree canopy in this area. This will require working collaboratively with several organizations, including Luna County and the Deming Schools, and with residential property owners.



The tree canopy map for the area surrounding E.J .Hooten Park shows an opportunity to provide more tree canopy in an area that serves many Deming residents.

8 Deming's Street Tree Legacy

Deming has a long history of planting street trees, and is one of the few New Mexico communities to have existing street tree infrastructure in many places. Committing to maintaining this legacy and developing a network of shaded, walkable streets could be a great source of civic pride.

Start with developing an inventory of all street trees, street tree infrastructure, and potential street tree planting sites. Several street tree projects have been discussed in other priority project areas, including the Historic District, and neighborhoods north of I-10. Additional major corridors include East Pine Street, Cody Road, Ash Street, and 8th Street. Develop routine monitoring and maintenance plans for these trees to minimize risk, and expand tree planting where possible to further develop walkability and connectivity to other key hubs in town.

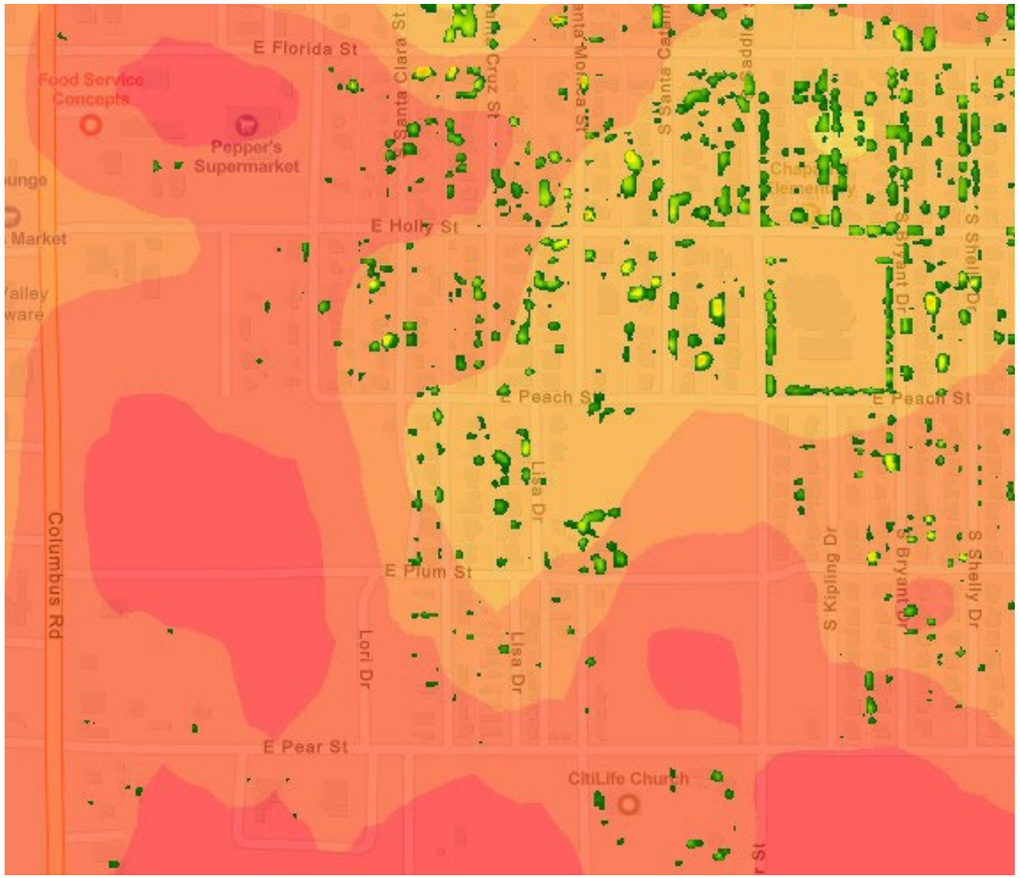
Deming has a long legacy of street trees, a rarity for New Mexico. Capitalizing on existing street tree infrastructure and revitalizing Deming's street trees could be a great source of civic pride.

11 Southeast and Western Developing Neighborhoods

The area around Bataan Elementary School and Red Mountain Middle School currently has low housing density but is likely to accommodate future residential growth. Tree canopy in this area is low, approaching 1%. As development occurs, proactively incorporating sidewalks, parks, streetscaping, and associated irrigation—and embedding these requirements in land use codes—will be essential. The Trust for Public Land's ParkServe tool identifies this area as a high priority for new park development. The lack of community services and limited walkability in this neighborhood highlight the need for more accessible public amenities.

Likewise, the neighborhoods southeast of the East Florida Street and Columbus Road intersection have low housing density, low tree canopy, and high land surface temperatures. As these neighborhoods develop, proactively incorporating additional parks and streetscapes that include trees, GSI, and irrigation will be key to supporting livability. Walkability and connectivity can be enhanced by incorporating trees along streets to Florida (Water Tower) Park and Chaparral Elementary School, and connecting to the Florida Street walking path.

These developing neighborhoods could also benefit from a residential tree planting program with Tree New Mexico or other partner organizations. Deming can collaborate with the CFN to ensure tree canopy is included with any new development.



Developing neighborhoods like the one southeast of East Florida and Columbia Road have low tree canopy and high land surface temperatures. Proactively incorporating sidewalks, parks, streetscaping and associated irrigation is essential to healthy neighborhoods.

Map of Deming's Priority Community Forest Project Areas

1 John T. Waits Park Neighborhood:
- » Expand tree canopy, connectivity

2 Viramontes Park Neighborhood:
- » Expand tree canopy, connectivity

3 Downtown Historic District:
- » Streetscapes and revitalization of historic landscapes

4 Luna County Courthouse and Park:
- » Revitalized landscaping

5 Nacio Herb Brown Park and Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park:
- » Park revitalization

6 Mimbres Valley Medical Center/ E.J. Hooten Complex/Deming High School:
- » Expanded tree canopy, tree maintenance, and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

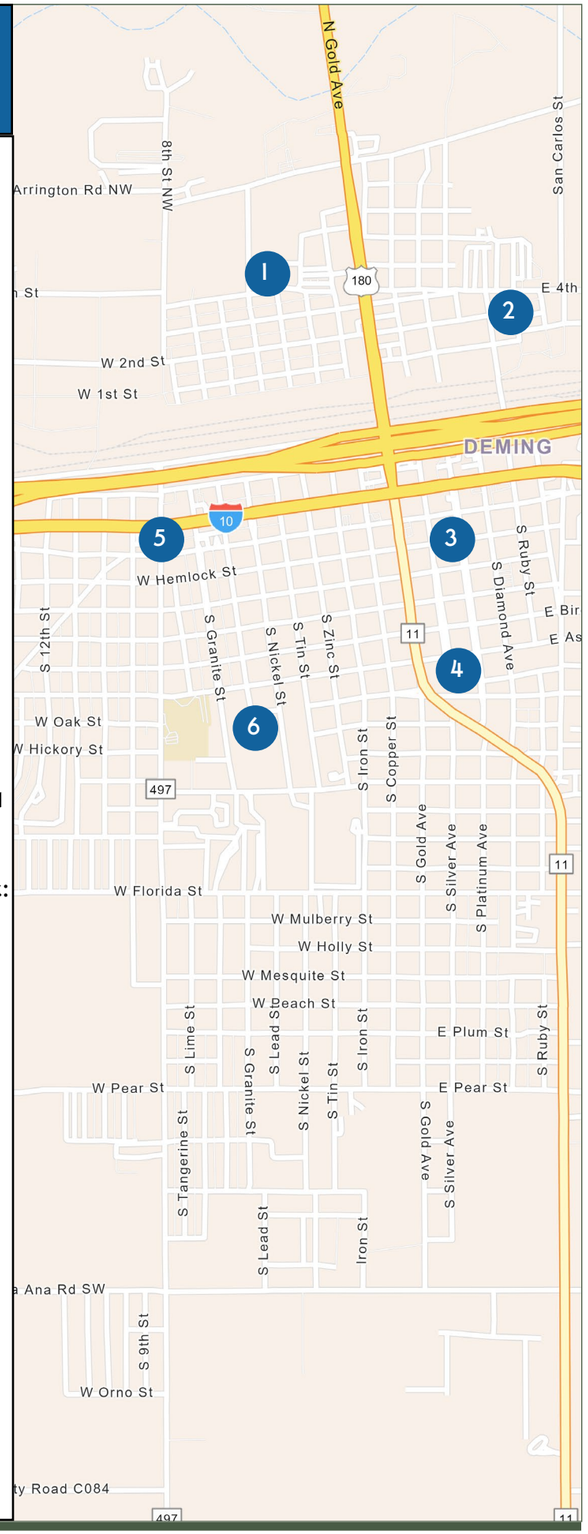
7 T-Ball Fields/Rainbow Park/Former BMX Park:
- » Walking path connectivity, tree maintenance

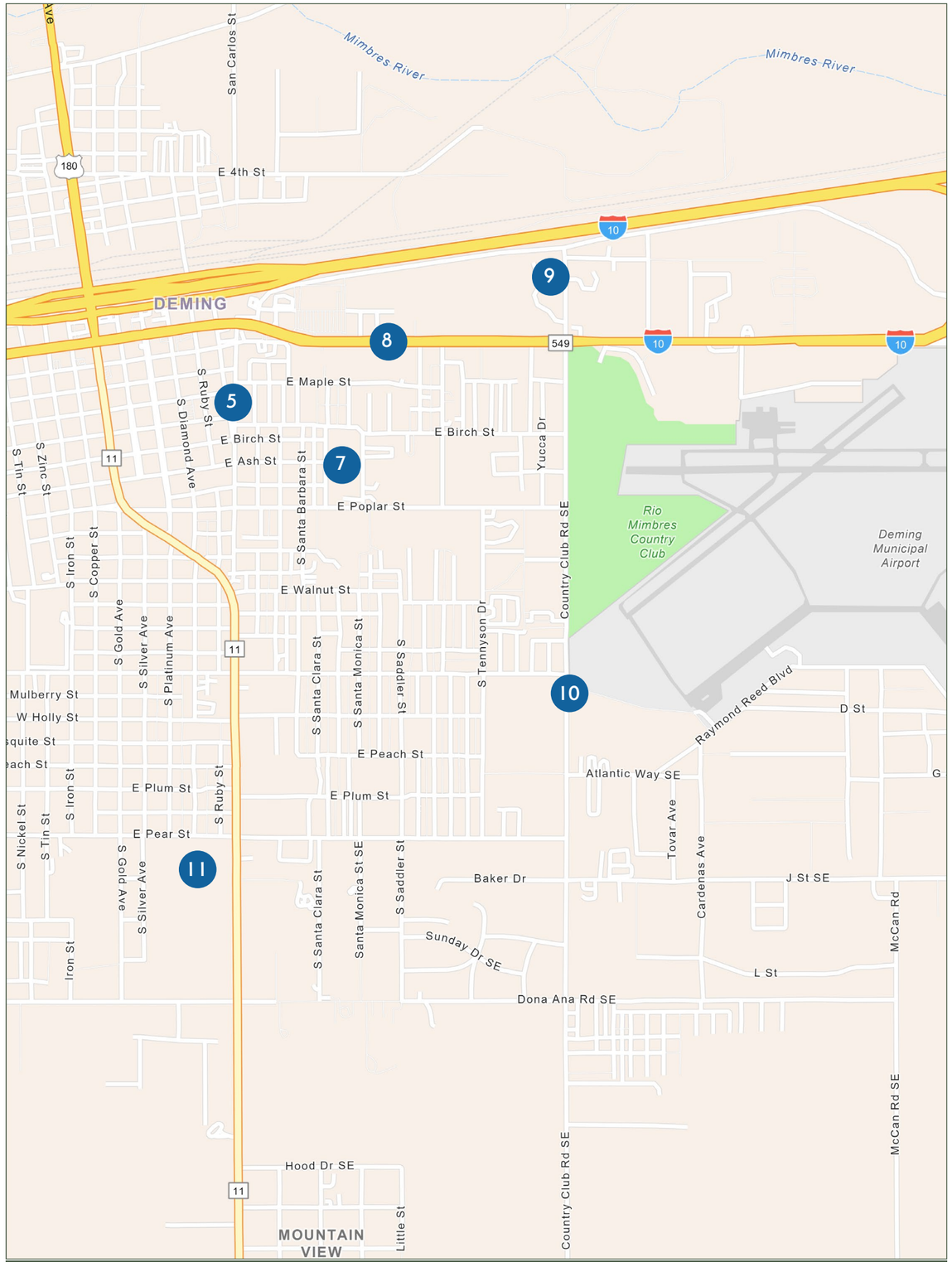
8 East Pine Street:
- » Street tree maintenance and planting

9 Trees Lake Park Complex/ Starmax Entertainment Complex:
- » Maintenance of new trees, expanded trees and landscaping with GSI

10 Country Club Golf Course/ Football & Soccer Fields:
- » Walking path landscaping, tree maintenance and succession planting, shade tree planting

11 Developing Neighborhoods:
- » Residential tree planting





From Planning to Action

With the adoption of this community forest management plan, Deming has completed a comprehensive planning phase that establishes a clear framework for managing and enhancing its community forest. The previous sections provide an overview of the data and analyses that informed this plan, with discussion of key management considerations for each of the four distinct landscape types in Deming, referred to as "Stewardship Areas." The *Action Plan* in the following section defines specific goals, strategies, and actions that align with community priorities. With key assessments and inventories largely in place, **the city is poised to move from planning to action—**translating the recommendations in this plan into visible improvements across the city's parks, streetscapes, and neighborhoods and integrating the community forest into the town's broader initiatives.

The Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN) will serve as a vital partner in this effort, providing coordination, technical expertise, and professional development to strengthen Deming's capacity for long-term urban forest management. The CFN will support the city by connecting municipal, county, state, federal, and institutional partners, facilitating shared learning, and promoting best management practices. Through this collaboration, Deming's staff, contractors, and community organizations will have access to shared tools, training, and resources that support the implementation of this Community Forest Management Plan. Together, Deming and its partners will continue to build on the foundation established during the planning phase.

To inform management decisions and support the work ahead, completing and regularly updating the city's tree inventory is a foundational and ongoing task. Tree inventory data will help guide the development of efficient maintenance schedules, prioritize high-risk removals, and identify succession planting areas, while preserving institutional knowledge over the coming decades. These efforts will ensure the community forest remains healthy, safe, and resilient in the face of environmental change and future community development needs.

The CFN can provide training and other support for municipal tree care staff and partners.

CFN tree planting event in Trees Lake Park in October 2024.

The CFN can support Deming municipal staff and partners to prioritize and implement community forest projects.

Community participation remains essential as Deming moves forward. Residents, nonprofits, and local boards will play key roles in implementing neighborhood and park projects, supported by CFN outreach, education, and volunteer coordination. Integrating tree planting with stormwater management, park revitalization, and neighborhood greening will help address pressing challenges such as heat, flooding, and drought, while fostering a shared sense of stewardship and civic pride.

The move from planning to implementation marks the beginning of a sustained investment in Deming's natural infrastructure. The following *Action Plan* will serve as a working "To Do List" to implement this plan. The CFN will assist by kick-starting the implementation with priority tree removals and planting projects, helping establish maintenance priorities, and supporting access to trained arborists and regional forestry specialists.

With city leadership and staff guiding the work and the CFN providing strong technical and collaborative support, Deming is well-positioned to expand its tree canopy coverage, revitalize historic landscapes, and integrate green infrastructure into future growth. This coordinated effort will ensure the community forest continues to provide environmental, cultural, and economic benefits for generations to come.

"I have a cottonwood tree that is close to my heart because it has provided my family a large shaded area. I remember being a little kid and enjoying the shaded area with my brothers, counting how many birds it had."

-Deming Resident

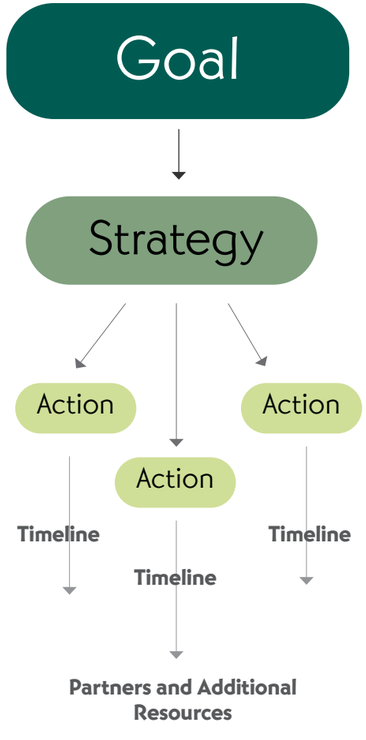
Action Plan

Throughout the remaining years of the project, a significant investment is being made to enhance Deming's community forest through the Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry 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 guide a vision of a healthy community forest and organize the work ahead. Goal 1 sets an overarching goal for the community forest, with strategies that apply broadly across all areas. Goal 2 addresses key historic landscapes in Deming, and caring for and improving these older community forest areas to maintain community character and support economic initiatives. Goal 3 focuses on successful new landscapes, by developing them in a way that enhances the benefits of the community forest for Deming, now and in the future.

Each goal is supported by targeted strategies and actions that work together to help Deming 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 goal is presented with a list of potential partner organizations and available supporting resources.

The goals, strategies and actions were informed through engagement with Deming leadership and staff, Luna County leadership and staff, community members, and local experts. The project team also carefully reviewed Deming's available planning resources including the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and others. The results of this engagement and the analyses that informed the recommendations featured in 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

1 Deming cohesively and collaboratively manages a resilient community forest that contributes to broader community goals.

Strategy 1A

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

Actions		Timeline
1A.1	Establish a Deming City Arborist position, filled by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to oversee implementation of the community forest plan, tree maintenance, and policy review and enforcement.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
1A.2	Support and encourage professional landscape maintenance staff to actively participate in the CFN, where they can collaborate with other professionals and connect to educational resources and events to further their skills in urban forestry and GSI implementation and maintenance.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
1A.3	Engage with the CFN to provide staff training on tree care, pruning, irrigation maintenance, integrated pest management, risk management, and GSI maintenance. Include government, school, and commercial landscapers.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
1A.4	Coordinate across Deming municipal departments on issues related to the community forest: » Deming Code Enforcement officer - issues and coordination related to tree risk monitoring. » Deming Public Safety – issues related to tree vandalism and theft. » Deming Community Services – grant writing and management, issues related to transient population use of parks and other landscapes.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)/ Ongoing

Action Plan

Goal

1 Deming cohesively and collaboratively manages a resilient community forest that contributes to broader community goals.

Strategy 1B

Collaborate with local community forestry partners to implement, evaluate, and update ordinances and policies to support city-wide community forest initiatives.

Actions		Timeline
1B.1	Periodically evaluate and update existing Vegetation Ordinances and Land Use Codes, including: » Trees and Shrubbery Ordinance (8-3) » Landscape Standards Ordinance (12-18-2) » New Development Plans (13-5-1)	2-5 Years (Medium Term)/ Ongoing
1B.2	Establish a Tree Board to guide Deming's community forest management that includes city and county staff, key community forest partners, and members of the public.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)/ Ongoing
1B.3	Apply for "Tree City USA" status from the Arbor Day Foundation for civic recognition of Deming's community forest efforts and demonstrate long-term commitment to program principles.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
1B.4	Collaborate with community forestry partners to share information on tree species, maintenance, and irrigation and collaborate on community forest initiatives.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
1B.5	Publish and promote the tree list and plant palette appropriate for Deming's climate and geography, focused on plants native to the southwest U.S./northern Mexico.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
1B.6	Develop a Deming Integrated Pest Management Plan.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
1B.7	Update the Deming Community Forest Management Plan.	2031

Action Plan

Goal

1 Deming cohesively and collaboratively manages a resilient community forest that contributes to broader community goals.

Strategy 1C

Implement a community forest health monitoring program to prioritize tree maintenance and tree risk reduction.

Actions		Timeline
1C.1	Complete Deming's tree inventory in Tree Plotter, with a focus on city-owned landscapes. Update Tree Plotter at least annually to inform maintenance and tree risk reduction priorities. Priority locations: » All parks » Deming Luna Mimbres Museum and Custom House » Rio Mimbres Country Club and Golf Course » Mountain View Cemetery	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
1C.2	Collaborate with Luna County and other community forestry partners to expand use of Deming's tree inventory in Tree Plotter. Annually monitor all government-managed landscape trees within city limits. Priority locations: » Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Park » Deming Public Schools » Cesar Chavez Charter School	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
1C.3	Complete a street tree and street tree infrastructure (e.g., tree wells, grates) inventory for city properties and within the city right-of-way to identify maintenance and tree risk reduction priorities. Priority locations: » Downtown Gold and Silver Avenue streetscapes » Granite, Silver, and Platinum Avenue medians » Other "mineral" streets » Tree Streets such as Spruce, Maple, Elm, and Poplar » E Pine Street » 8th Street » Cody Road » Cedar Street	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing

Action Plan

Goal

1 Deming cohesively and collaboratively manages a resilient community forest that contributes to broader community goals.

Strategy 1D

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

Actions		Timeline
1D.1	Create mechanisms to access tree expertise and skilled labor via: » Municipal contracts with certified arborists for skilled maintenance. » Sharing certified arborist support between major partners. » Supporting the development of a CFN regional urban forester position.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
1D.2	Evaluate irrigation efficiency at parks and other city landscapes and transition to a uniform standard for irrigation parts that are used on all irrigation projects.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
1D.3	Create an annual community forest maintenance schedule and budget based on tree inventory data and with support from the CFN. Priority locations include all parks, street trees, and historic landscapes. » All parks » Street trees » Historic Landscapes	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing

Strategy 1E

Engage community members in the growth and care of the community forest.

Actions		Timeline
1E.1	Connect residents to existing educational resources, partner organizations and events on community forestry issues to empower community members to action. Priority topics: » Regionally appropriate plant selection that are drought-tolerant and support pollinator and wildlife habitat. » Tree planting and maintenance. » Water conservation and proper tree irrigation. » GSI and residential-scale rainwater harvesting.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
1E.2	Increase tree canopy by promoting tree planting and landscaping in residential areas and partnering with organizations that support residential tree planting programs. Priority neighborhoods: » North of Interstate 10 » Developing neighborhoods west and southeast	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
1E.3	Support tree monitoring and maintenance at multi-family housing complexes including the Kingdom of the Sun Retirement Village, Sierra Vista Apartments, and Desert Sun Apartments.	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing

Action Plan

Goal

1 Deming cohesively and collaboratively manages a resilient community forest that contributes to broader community goals.

Strategy 1F

Implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in high stormwater runoff areas such as pavement, roofs, and other impermeable surfaces to water trees and reduce localized erosion and flooding.

Actions		Timeline
1F.1	Conduct a field-based analysis to identify locations where stormwater harvesting is feasible and create a "shovel-ready" list of projects to include in the update of the Deming Storm Drainage System Master Plan. Pursue Colonias funding to address localized flooding with green stormwater infrastructure. Potential areas for GSI projects: » Trees Lake Park and Starmax Family Entertainment Complex » Deming High School » Medians on Gold Avenue and the MainStreet District » Medians along Silver Avenue » John T. Waits Park » Neighborhood Parkway Strips	5+ Years (Long Term)
1F.2	Provide GSI education to residents and business owners and incentivize stormwater managed in landscapes.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
1F.3	Integrate GSI with ongoing community forestry initiatives and public education, and ICIP street improvement projects.	Ongoing

GOAL 1 PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- SWNM Community Forestry Network
- New Mexico Tree Alliance
- New Mexico Urban & Community Forestry Program (EMNRD)
- NMSU Cooperative Extension
- Local Deming Community Forestry Partners
- Tree New Mexico Neighborwoods Program
- New Mexico Schools Faciliy Authority

GOAL1 RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Recommended Tree and Plant List for Deming
- Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- Irrigation Guide
- Bernalillo County Residential Rainwater Harvesting Guide

Action Plan

Goal

2 Deming revitalizes historic landscapes and manages tree risk to maintain community character and support local economic initiatives.

Strategy 2A

Revitalize established neighborhood parks and school landscapes by reducing tree risk and practicing succession planting.

Actions		Timeline
2A.1	Analyze Deming's tree inventory to systematically revitalize established parks through tree pruning, tree removal and replacement of high-risk trees, and additional tree and understory plantings. Increase irrigation efficiency and expand irrigation systems as needed. Priority parks: » Elsie Vega (Chicano) Park » Nacio Herb Brown Park » Scout Park/Dog Park » Manny Alvarez Park » Florida (Water Tower) Park » Viramontes Park » John T. Waits Park » South Park	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing
2A.2	Coordinate and collaborate with Deming Public Schools and the New Mexico School Facilities Authority (NMSFA) to ensure tree maintenance, tree risk assessment and reduction, and succession planting is occurring regularly at school facilities with older trees. Prioritize: » Chaparral Elementary » Bell Elementary » Smith Elementary » Memorial Elementary » Cesar Chavez Charter School	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing

Strategy 2B

Develop and implement a monitoring and maintenance plan for street trees in Deming's neighborhoods.

2B.1	Based on the street tree inventory (Action 1.C.3), prioritize the pruning or removal of high-risk trees and coordinate with electrical and telecommunication utility providers and professional arborists to conduct work.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
2B.2	Coordinate with Deming Public Works on street tree maintenance in the event of interference with street and sidewalk infrastructure. Make note of any infrastructure interference in Tree Plotter when updating Deming's tree inventory.	Ongoing
2B.3	Analyze tree species that are performing well as street trees, and plant a diversity of resilient species in empty tree wells and sidewalk cutouts.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

Action Plan

Goal

2 Deming revitalizes historic landscapes and manages tree risk to maintain community character and support local economic initiatives.

Strategy 2C

Develop and implement a tree maintenance and succession plan for National Historic Register landscapes and other historic landscapes.

Actions		Timeline
2C.1	Coordinate with the Luna County Community Development Department and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office to develop a detailed tree management plan for the Luna County Courthouse and Courthouse Grounds, to include: » Tree removal and replacement » Structural pruning and maintenance for existing trees » Improving irrigation efficiency » Additional succession plantings and tree species selection	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2C.2	Revitalize Deming Luna Mimbres Museum, Custom House, and Veterans Park: » Tree removal and replacement » Structural pruning and maintenance for existing trees » Improve irrigation efficiency » Additional succession plantings	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
2C.3	Prioritize revitalization of the Granite, Silver, and Platinum Avenue medians: » Remove high risk trees, prune branches » Phased removal of older trees » Succession plantings and tree species selection » Improve irrigation efficiency and GSI features	1-2 Years (Short Term)
2C.4	Revitalize the community forest at Mountain View Cemetery: » Remove high risk trees, prune branches » Succession plantings » Expanded planting » Incorporate trees and irrigation in Deming ICIP project for cemetery expansion	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

GOAL 2 PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- SWNM Community Forestry Network
- New Mexico Tree Alliance
- Deming MainStreet
- New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office
- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- New Mexico Schools Faciliy Authority

GOAL 2 RESOURCES INCLUDE:

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

Action Plan

Goal

3 Deming sustains its investment in new landscapes and proactively integrates the community forest into residential, commercial, and recreational development to enhance public health and quality of life.

Strategy 3A

Expand tree planting opportunities at recently developed outdoor recreation and entertainment facilities.

Actions		Timeline
3A.1	Develop and execute a detailed maintenance and irrigation plan for Trees Lake Park, Voiers "Pit" Park, Inflatable Water Park, and Inclusive Park to sustain the community forest investment: » Conduct a detailed irrigation assessment and improve irrigation efficiency. » Conduct soil testing near tree roots to determine fertilization recommendations. » Conduct a planting assessment of newly planted trees; conduct root pruning, root ball lifting, and mulching to address root issues. » Conduct structural pruning of new trees. » Incorporate ground cover, including mulch and understory plantings to complete the landscape. » Additional tree plantings	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3A.2	Collaborate with Luna County to develop and implement a landscaping plan for the Starmax Family Entertainment Complex, including tree planting, groundcover, GSI, and irrigation.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3A.3	Revitalize the community forest at the Country Club Golf Course: » Remove high risk trees, prune branches » Assess irrigation efficiency » Succession tree planting using diverse tree species » Expanded tree planting and irrigation along walking path and throughout Golf Course	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3A.4	Revitalize the Lloyd Pratz T-Ball Fields, Rainbow Park, and former BMX Park space. » Remove high risk trees, prune branches » Assess irrigation efficiency » Replacement tree planting using diverse tree species » Incorporate tree planting to match new use of BMX Park space	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3A.5	Plant trees and other landscaping along walking/multi-modal paths to cool pavement and mitigate transportation-related air pollution. » Former BMX Park walking path » Country Club Golf Course multi-modal path » East Florida Street sidewalk » East Poplar Street sidewalk » East Ash Street sidewalk	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3A.6	Plant windbreak trees and shade trees in spectator areas at the Raymond Reed Road Soccer and Football Fields and Dog Park.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

Action Plan

Goal

3 Deming sustains its investment in new landscapes and proactively integrates the community forest into residential, commercial, and recreational development to enhance public health and quality of life.

Strategy 3A (cont.)

Expand tree planting opportunities at recently developed outdoor recreation and entertainment facilities.

Actions		Timeline
3A.7	Conduct annual monitoring and maintenance of the existing trees at the E.J. Hooten Sports Complex and plan for succession tree planting using diverse tree species.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3A.8	Identify opportunities for trees and landscaping in ICIP project funding requests and develop cost estimates: » Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Equipment » Construction and Improvements to Multi-Use Paths » Dog Parks » Tulip Brownfield Repurpose Recreation Project » Additional succession plantings	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

Strategy 3B

Proactively integrate tree infrastructure and irrigation into new and expanding residential developments along streets and in parks and other public spaces.

Actions		Timeline
3B.1	Develop and implement a streetscape plan that includes GSI to enhance tree canopy along streets in the neighborhoods north of I-10.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3B.2	Develop and implement a park and streetscape plan for the neighborhood around Bataan Elementary School and Red Mountain Middle School.	5 Years (Long Term)
3B.3	Develop and implement a park and streetscape plan for the developing neighborhoods southeast of the East Florida Street and Columbus Road intersection.	5 Years (Long Term)
3B.4	Identify opportunities to include trees and landscaping in ICIP project funding requests for Community and Transitional Housing.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)

Action Plan

Goal

3 Deming sustains its investment in new landscapes and proactively integrates the community forest into residential, commercial, and recreational development to enhance public health and quality of life.

Strategy 3C

Focus on improving and expanding the community forest in key community service areas throughout Deming.

Actions		Timeline
3C.1	Restore streetscapes along the East Pine Street corridor for beautification, heat mitigation, and walkability. Coordinate with the NM DOT on maintaining median plantings and addition of GSI and more street tree plantings. Collaborate with businesses to expand streetside landscaping, and include Deming city landscapes: » City Hall » Marshall Memorial Library » Motor Vehicle Department » Police Department » Mimbres Learning Center » Deming Airport Terminal	2-5 Years (Medium Term)/ Ongoing
3C.2	Work with the Mimbres Valley Hospital to maintain and expand tree planting and landscaping on hospital grounds and in the surrounding complex, including the Sam Baca Aquatic Center and the Deming Luna Senior Center.	2-5 Years (Medium Term)
3C.3	Collaborate with Deming MainStreet and Keep Luna County Beautiful to integrate the community forest into Deming's broader tourism, revitalization, and development initiatives. » Deming Visitor Center landscape maintenance and revitalization » Gold Avenue streetscape and Leyendecker Plaza maintenance » Downtown pocket parks maintenance » Depression Park expanded planting and ground cover » Deming ICIP beautification projects for I-10 Exits 81 through 85 ramps » I-10 Frontage Road and Gold Avenue landscaping » Amtrak train stop landscaping » "Adopt-a-Roadway" initiatives	2-5 Years (Medium Term)/ Ongoing
3C.4	Coordinate and collaborate with Deming Public Schools to properly maintain and further expand school landscapes, including regular tree health monitoring, insect and disease checks, and irrigation efficiency checks. » Ruben S. Torres Elementary » Bataan Elementary » Red Mountain Middle School » Deming Intermediate School » Deming High School Complex	1-2 Years (Short Term)/ Ongoing

Action Plan

Goal

3 Deming sustains its investment in new landscapes and proactively integrates the community forest into residential, commercial, and recreational development to enhance public health and quality of life.

Strategy 3D

Enhance environmental health and community forest benefits by increasing biodiversity in tree and understory plantings and selecting native species for new planting projects.

Actions		Timeline
3D.1	Publish and promote use of a regionally appropriate tree list and plant palette focused on native, drought-tolerant plants to promote resilience and conserve water resources.	1-2 Years (Short Term)
3D.2	Promote increased species diversity in tree planting projects city-wide on both public and private property.	Ongoing
3D.3	Look for opportunities to implement pollinator gardens, such as in pocket parks, streetscapes, GSI installations, parking aprons, and public building landscapes.	Ongoing

GOAL 3 PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- SWNM Community Forestry Network
- New Mexico Public Schools Association
- Deming MainStreet
- Keep Luna County Beautiful
- Luna County
- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- Deming Public Schools/New Mexico Schools Facility Authority

GOAL 3 RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Recommended Tree and Plant List for Deming
- Guide to Planning and Implementing Community Forestry Projects
- Irrigation Guide
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation Guide
- Example Maintenance Schedule

Additional Resources

Supporting Networks & Organizations

Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN)

Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP)

Integrated Biological Solutions (IBIS)

Western New Mexico University (WNMU)

Luna County Cooperative Extension

New Mexico Tree Alliance

New Mexico Urban Forest Council

New Mexico Forestry Division

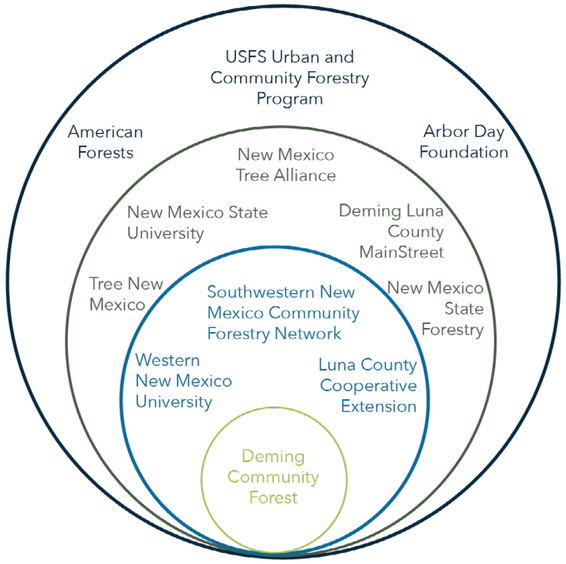
Arid LID (Low Impact Development) Coalition

Tree New Mexico

Arbor Day Foundation
- » Partners in Community Forestry
- » Trees are Good
- » TreeCity USA

American Forests

US Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program



Supporting Documents

The Southwest Community Forestry Network (CFN) website, swnmforestry.org, was designed to help coordinate efforts and share information between communities and project partners, including links to additional resources that are referenced in this management plan. The network and the project team will continue producing and curating tools as needed to help the towns put their plans into action, such as:

- » Examples of seasonal maintenance schedules and checklists.
- » Guides to planning and implementing community forest projects.
- » Guides to planning and implementing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects.
- » Templates for recommended policies, such as a Vegetation Ordinance, a Complete Streets Ordinance and/or a Cemetery Tree Policy.
- » Templates for contracts to enlist the support and specialized skills of a Certified Arborist, and a list of recommended questions to ask when selecting a practitioner to hire.
- » Example landscape maintenance and irrigation budgets.
- » Landscape irrigation guides and other resources.
- » Guide to connecting with regional resources and groups, such as the NM Tree Alliance and the SW Directory of Tree Care Practitioners.
- » Resources for soil testing and promoting soil health.
- » Resources for engaging residents and exploring neighborhood tree planting programs.

More resources can be found on the Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN) website: swnmforestry.org.

The CFN Community Engagement Roadmap

Public input and local knowledge are critical components to any community planning effort. In September 2024 the project team produced the Community Engagement Roadmap. This document outlined the project's approach to engaging various audiences in the development of the Community Forestry Management Plans. The project team employed a unique set of strategies tailored specifically to each of the six community's needs and public practices.

The Roadmap includes actionable engagement strategies that can be adapted and applied to a variety of future projects in Deming that have a public outreach component, such as:

- » Using different approaches to reach a variety of community audiences in a way that best suits their needs and interests.
- » Informing, consulting, involving, collaborating with, or empowering the engagement audiences at strategic points in the project (Source: Spectrum for Public Participation, International Association for Public Participation).
- » Establishing clear objectives for community engagement.
- » Employing a variety of engagement techniques to "meet people where they are," such as: community surveys, outreach booths at well-attended events, presentations, informational handouts, consultations with community groups and municipal leaders, use of social media and traditional media, fliers and door hangers, providing access to translation services, mailings, and creation of "Info Hubs" and a project website.

As Deming works to champion projects featured in this plan, the Comprehensive Plan, the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) or other plans, **this Community Engagement Roadmap can serve as a useful resource to help project planners conduct meaningful community engagement**.

Public outreach event at Trees Lake Park in October 2024, where residents were able to learn about the project, complete the survey to provide input for the development of the Community Forest Management Plan, and take home a tree seedling to plant at their homes.

Recommended Tree List for Deming (1/3)

LARGE SHADE TREES

Common Name	Latin Name	Water Needs	Local Expert Notes
Persian Silk Tree/ Mimosa	*Albizia julibrissin*	Medium	Susceptible to freeze damage when young.
Common Hackberry	*Celtis occidentalis*	Medium	Prairie Sentinel(R) is a good cultivar for a more columnar look.
Netleaf Hackberry	*Celtis reticulata*	Low	Great native tree, not a good street tree.
Coolibah Tree	*Eucalyptus microtheca*	Low	Minimally known in this area by experts, but adapted to the climate.
Kentucky Coffee Tree	*Gymnocladus dioicus*	Medium	May experiment with this species, mixed results in other areas of NM.
Osage Orange	*Maclura pomifera*	Medium	Great tree, seedless and thornless varieties available.
White Mulberry	*Morus alba*	Medium	Very tolerant tree for urban conditions. High invasive potential.
Chinese Pistache	*Pistacia chinensis*	Medium	Performing very well. Very popular; beware of overplanting.
Honey Mesquite	*Prosopis glandulosa*	Low	Look for Texas variety that are thornless and more tree-like in form.
Shumard Oak	*Quercus shumardii*	Medium	
Southern Live Oak	*Quercus virginiana*	Medium	Doing well in many locations.
Western Soapberry	*Sapindus saponaria var. drummondii*	Low	Can form thickets, and has toxic properties.
American Elm	*Ulmus americana*	Medium	Gorgeous old specimens in area. Mostly sold as hybrid cultivars.
Cedar Elm	*Ulmus crassifolia*	Medium	
Lacebark/Chinese Elm	*Ulmus parvifolia*	Medium	Prolific seeds in fall - concern about invasiveness. Different tree than Siberian Elm.

Recommended Tree List for Deming (2/3)

EVERGREEN TREES

Common Name	Latin Name	Water Needs	Local Expert Notes
Arizona Cypress	*Cupressus arizonica*	Medium	Great tree with good hybrids available.
Yaupon Holly	*Ilex vomitoria*	Medium	Not a lot of familiarity locally, but doing well in other areas of NM.
Alligator Juniper	*Juniperus deppeana*	Low	Exhibiting some die-back locally. Does need supplemental irrigation.
Eastern Red Cedar	*Juniperus virginiana*	Low	
Aleppo Pine	*Pinus halepensis*	Low	Few examples locally, but seem to be doing well.
Italian Stone Pine	*Pinus pinea*	Medium	Few examples locally, but seem to be doing well.
Arizona White Oak	*Quercus arizonica*	Low	Evergreen oaks generally do well locally.
Emory Oak	*Quercus emoryi*	Medium	
Escarpment Live Oak	*Quercus fusiformis*	Medium	
Interior Live Oak	*Quercus wiszleni*	Medium	
Mexican Elder	*Sambucus mexicana*	Medium	High performer in urban environments. Fast growing, but needs pruning to maintain its tree form.
Texas Mountain Laurel	*Sophora secundiflora* (SEE *Dermatophyllum secundiflorum*)	Low	Struggling with cold hardiness.

Recommended Tree List for Deming (3/3)

SMALL/MEDIUM TREES

Common Name	Latin Name	Water Needs	Local Expert Notes
Mexican Redbud	*Cercis mexicana*	Medium	Redbuds are doing well locally, Texas and Mexican species in particular. Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is not generally recommended due to its intolerance to wind, but 'Forest pansy' varietal has grown well. Redbuds greatly benefit from good pruning.
Western Redbud	*Cercis occidentalis*	Medium	
Oklahoma Redbud	*Cercis reniformis*	Medium	
Texas Redbud	*Cercis texicana*	Medium	
Desert Willow	*Chilopsis linearis*	Low	Highly recommended.
Texas Persimmon	*Diospyros texana*	Low	Not much local experience with this species.
New Mexico Olive	*Forestiera neomexicana*	Medium	Highly recommended.
Golden-ball Leadtree	*Leucaena retusa*	Low	Good tree, but currently difficult to find.
Southern Wax Myrtle	*Morella cerifera*	High	No local experience with this species.
Texas/Little Leaf Mulberry	*Morus microphylla*	Low	Highly recommended; may cause allergies.
Olive	*Olea europaea*	Low	Experimental, but matches climate zone. Fruitless variety available.
Blue Palo Verde	*Parkinsonia florida*	Low	Experimental, may be sensitive to cold.
Palo Verde 'Desert Museum'	*Parkinsonia x cercidium*	Low	Little experience, but some good local examples.
Hoptree (Wafer Ash)	*Ptelia trifolata*	Low	Recommended by local experts. Drought tolerant.
Screwbean Mesquite	*Prosopis pubescens*	Low	Thorny, and concerns regarding their ability to handle local soil conditions.
Texas Red Oak	*Quercus buckleyi*	Medium	Highly recommended.
Chaste Tree	*Vitex agnus-castus*	Medium	Performing well locally, and can achieve small tree size in right conditions.

Pine tree at John T. Waits Park, an important community forest location in Deming's northwest.

"I grew up picking apricots to make jam with my grandma."

"I have a very personal connection with trees and am trying to grow a food forest in my yard."

"I love nature and being around nature really helps with my mental health."

"I used to play in my grandma's mulberry many years ago."

"We are all in desperate need of more trees."

-Deming Residents


Thank you Deming, for planting the
next generation of trees!