



Priority Project Locations for Deming's Community Forest

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| 1 John T. Waits Park Neighborhood | 7 T-Ball Fields/Rainbow Park/Former BMX Park |
| 2 Viramontes Park Neighborhood | 8 East Pine Street |
| 3 Downtown Historic District | 9 Trees Lake Park Complex/Starmax Entertainment Complex |
| 4 Luna County Courthouse and Park | 10 Country Club Golf Course/Football & Soccer Fields |
| 5 Nacio Herb Brown and Elsie Vega (Chicano) Parks | 11 Developing Neighborhoods |
| 6 Mimbres Valley Medical Center/E.J. Hooten Complex/Deming High School | |



A visualization 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. Image by Anthropopolus Design + Planning.

Executive Summary

Deming's Community Forest Management Plan is ready to get growing! The plan contains helpful information about the city's community forest, with specific recommendations for its growth and care. While the community forest includes all trees and vegetation within the city's boundaries—across parks, streets, yards, and open spaces—much of the emphasis of the plan is on managing trees and plants in public spaces.

At first, it might seem as though a community forest management plan would only need one sentence: Plant more trees! A well-managed community forest can provide multiple benefits that support Deming's goals for its development. However, just like any infrastructure, a community's trees and landscapes require an ongoing investment of both time and money to ensure they remain healthy and provide the benefits and services that the community values. Planting must also be balanced against tree water needs to use water wisely in New Mexico's desert communities.

Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network

The Southwest New Mexico Community Forestry Network (CFN) is here to help Deming with the implementation of this plan. Western New Mexico University (WNMU) received a 5-year-grant from the USDA Forest Service to increase tree canopy in six communities: Bayard, Deming, Hurley, Lordsburg, Santa Clara, and Silver City. WNMU leads the project in collaboration with project partners Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) and Integrated Biological Solutions (IBIS).

The network will help maintain existing trees, plant trees across the communities, and provide support and technical assistance over the remaining years of the grant. The network website, swnmforestry.org, is designed to help coordinate efforts and share information between communities and project partners.



How to Use The Plan

Deming's Community Forest Management Plan is intended as a practical guide for town leadership and staff, outlining specific implementation strategies for the planting, care, and management of the community forest. It reflects the community's stated values, plays to the city's strengths, identifies key challenges and opportunities, and charts a path toward achieving Deming's goals for the development of both the community forest and the city at large. **Designed with a five year life-span (2026–2031) in mind**, the plan is a dynamic document that encourages the application of adaptive management practices to respond to changing conditions and shifting priorities.

Basis for the Plan

This section provides background information on how the plan was developed, including community context, analytical data regarding Deming's community 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 engaging in Deming and its community forest.

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 agency 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 Southwest Community Forestry Network website (swnmforestry.org) which will continue to be updated as more resources are created and collected by the network.

From Planning to Action

Community participation will be vital as Deming moves from planning to implementation. Residents, nonprofits, and business owners will help shape neighborhood projects through outreach, education, and volunteer efforts, supported by the CFN. By integrating tree planting with stormwater management, park revitalization, and streetscapes, the city can address challenges such as heat, flooding, and drought while building shared stewardship and civic pride. With strong leadership and community collaboration, Deming is well positioned to expand its canopy, revitalize historic landscapes, and strengthen the resilience of its natural infrastructure and community for generations to come.

Recommended Goals and Strategies

Deming's Community Forest Management Plan sets three Goals that support a vision of a healthy community forest and help organize the work ahead. Strategies within each Goal set actionable and measurable tasks to help realize those goals. The *Action Plan* near the end of the plan expands upon these Goals to recommend Actions within each Strategy, including timelines for completion, roles of partners and collaborators, and available resources.

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

- 1A. Invest in building staff expertise and support to strengthen Deming's community forest management.
- 1B. Collaborate with local community forestry partners to implement, evaluate, and update ordinances and policies to support city-wide community forest initiatives.
- 1C. Implement a community forest health monitoring program to prioritize tree maintenance and tree risk reduction.
- 1D. Develop and streamline a tree maintenance and landscape irrigation program that balances tree health with water conservation goals.
- 1E. Engage community members in the growth and care of the community forest.
- 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.

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

- 2A. Revitalize established neighborhood parks and school landscapes by reducing tree risk and practicing succession planting.
- 2B. Develop and implement a monitoring and maintenance plan for street trees in Deming's older neighborhoods.
- 2C. Develop and implement a tree maintenance and succession plan for National Historic Register landscapes and other historic landscapes.

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.

- 3A. Expand tree planting opportunities at recently developed outdoor recreation and entertainment facilities.
- 3B. Proactively integrate tree infrastructure and irrigation into new and expanding residential developments along streets and in parks and other public spaces.
- 3C. Focus on improving and expanding the community forest in key community service areas throughout Deming.
- 3D. Enhance environmental health and community forest benefits by increasing biodiversity in tree and understory plantings and selecting native species for new planting projects.

