

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY OF HARDY; VERSION 1.3

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 14-42-307a(1) et. al. provides that each municipality operating under a charter shall have the authority to exercise all powers relating to municipal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hardy, Arkansas passed Ordinance No. 2021-6, an Ordinance Specifying a Strategic Planning Process for the City of Hardy, Declaring an Emergency, and for Other Purposes on the second day of November, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hardy, Arkansas wishes to proactively guide and assist with the future growth and development of the city by establishing and maintaining a documented list of initiatives they believe is necessary to aid the city's growth, health, safety and quality of life.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hardy desires to have the City Planning and Zoning Commission oversee the yearly review, update and overall management of the strategic planning process.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hardy wishes to encourage public, private, and corporate participation in compiling, maintaining and achieving the plan goals.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hardy seeks to encourage all resources of the city including the Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC), Hardy Water Works (HWW), and other City of Hardy committees to achieve the plan goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARDY, ARKANSAS THAT:

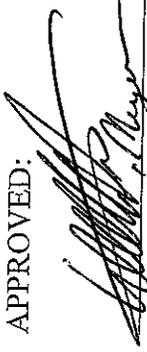
SECTION I: The City of Hardy Strategic Plan is hereby adopted in its' current form of Version 1.3.

SECTION II: The City of Hardy Planning and Zoning Commission shall continue to update the Strategic Plan annually, as the Strategic Plan is a living and working document.

SECTION III: The City of Hardy may incorporate the Hardy Strategic Plan into the annual budgeting process.

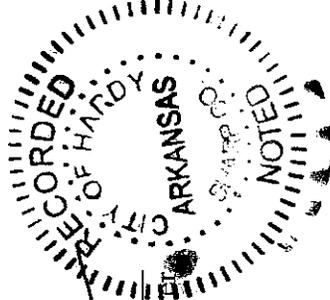
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF November, 2025.

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Willow R. Sharp, Recorder-Treasurer



Filed 12/11/2025 WJL
City of Hardy, Arkansas
Recorder-Treasurer Office

Mayor: Ethan J. Barnes

Recorder/Treasurer: Willow R. Sharp

Alderman: Tony Berry, Amy Clay-Thomas,

Laura Smith, Natalie Quintana-DuBois

Sue Taylor, Ginni Kauffman

City of Hardy, Arkansas



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City of Hardy Strategic Plan Version 1.3

- V. 1.2: Approved by Planning & Zoning: 10/21/2024*
- V. 1.2: Approved by Council Res. 2024-25: 11/18/2024*
- V. 1.3: Presented to Council for Review/Adoption on: 11/10/2025*

Filed 12/11/2025 WJ Zelle
City of Hardy, Arkansas
Recorder-Treasurer Office

City of Hardy, Strategic Plan

Version 1.3

OVERVIEW

The City of Hardy, Arkansas is a municipality situated in the northern portion of Sharp County and a slight portion of southern Fulton County. The city spans some 5.4 square miles of land in the valley along the emerald green Spring River. Area lakes and streams makes up .26 square miles of the city area. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad, the largest freight railway in the United States, and Arkansas Highway 63 bisects the city. The 2020 Census finds the population to be 743 residents, however the summer seasonal population grows to an estimated 5,000 given the number of vacation homes in the city and surrounding area. As the population is less than 2,500 people Hardy is classified a City of the 2nd Class by the State of Arkansas.

STRATEGY

The City Council of Hardy wishes to proactively assist with future growth of the city by establishing and maintaining a documented list of initiatives they feel necessary to aid the city's growth, health, safety, and quality of life. They therefore provide this document to help focus attention on the areas of growth and assist those involved in its growth.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The City of Hardy was impacted by 4873DR-AR (4873DR) on or about April 4, 2025, when severe storms, tornadoes and flooding caused a major disaster in the State of Arkansas. The City of Hardy in Sharp and Fulton Counties were determined to be adversely affected by the disaster under the Presidential declaration dated May 21, 2025. As a result, the following listing of projects related to city damages should be considered a priority for the City:

- A. Repair/Restore City Parks/Restrooms/Structures/Equipment:
 - i. Loberg Park
 - ii. Hardy "Buford" Beach
 - iii. Hardy Campground and RV Park
- B. Repair/Restore Damaged City Streets
- C. Repair/Restore Water Department Sewer Pump Lift Stations/Equipment
- D. Replace Fire Department Trucks
- E. Repair/Restore City Hall Building

INITIATIVES

	Initiative Description	Goal Date/Status
1	Sewer Expansion Project – E. Riverview Drive to Buford Beach. Possibly include Robinhood Lane. Goal is to get city residents off septic systems and on city sewer especially near the rivers.	2027/2028
2	Water Expansion – The Razorback Addition near Boothe Road to the motor court area below the Spring River Dispensary. Goal is to get city residents on city water and begin expansion north along U.S. 63.	2027/2028

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	Initiative/Description	Goal Date/Status
3	Hard Surface Every City Street - Complete every street in the city with a "hard surface" road. This would include about 4 miles of gravel in this estimate. Woodland Hills, Riverside across from Spring River Apartments. * Utilize State Street Aid Program, bi-annual requests.	2027-2037
4	Road Connection - Possibly get Robinhood connected to Sharp Lane to Booth Road.	2027
5	Water Main Move - Moving the water main off Main Street to First Street prior to State deeding Main Street to the city. Reconsider cost of controlling/maintaining Main Street for future budgetary issue.	
6	Sidewalks - Update Main Street sidewalks with accessibility.	2026-2030
7	Relocate Fire and Police - Fire Dept. and Police Dept. to be located on the bypass out of the flood plain. Consider exploring corrective options such as drains and rain gardens to reroute excess water.	2027
8	Restrooms at Beach - Install year-round bath facilities at Buford Beach * Restore this facility (in list of immediate needs).	2024 ✓
9	Video Surveillance - Introduce Camera Systems at our parks 75% is now completed * Restore (in list of immediate needs at parks).	2026
10	RV Park- Update Bathroom facilities. * Restore (in list of immediate needs at parks).	2026/2027
11	Gym Remodel - Paint and spruce up Old Hardy Gym (new ceiling). Restore front door and Mr. Holden's "Let the Sun Shine In" memorial. Central Heat and Air Accomplished 2022. Fans covered.	2026/2027
12	Better Picnic Facilities in Parks - Get better, possibly permanent picnic tables, fire pits etc. in our parks to keep from having to move for flood etc. Concrete tables and benches and fire pits may be an option. * Restore (in list of immediate needs at parks).	2026/2027
13	Shaded Benches - Get additional benches in our parks and see that existing and new are shaded. * Restore (in list of immediate needs at parks).	2026/2027
14	Road Washouts - Work on a better grading schedule and preventative road maintenance for spring floods.	Yearly
15	Buford Beach Expansion—Install a dog park area, possible pavilion area, playground equipment for youth, and improve access to Spring River. * Restore (in list of immediate needs at parks).	2026/2027
16	Expand Property Holdings - Consider expanding property holdings along the Spring River and/or highway corridor.	Yearly
17	Code Enforcement - Get a workable plan for getting city transitioned to better code enforcement by helping citizens clean, maintain, and revamp abandoned property.	2026

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	Initiative Description	Goal Date/Status
18	Better Utilize Loberg Park – Better utilize the land and facilities that Loberg Park has to offer such as the extensive electrical hookups on the southwest corner or pavilion space.	2026/2027
19	Electric Car Hookups – Provide spots in town for electric cars to recharge.	2026/2027
20	Consider an ordinance for no skateboards or bicycles prohibited on sidewalks and post signage stating such.	2026
21	Consider a Commercial Sign Ordinance	2026
22	Purchase of small tractor and bush hog for Street Department	2024 ✓
23	Upgrades to Wastewater Treatment Facility	2026/2027
24	Install lights at blue Hardy sign at Civic Center	2026/2027
25	Add Street lights to each end of Truck Route & at residential entrances.	2025/2026
26	Add small hut structures (on skids) that house snacks, games, fishing products, etc. to the RV/Loberg Park area for summer convenience.	2027
27	Establish a community board of volunteers to assess the needs of their neighborhood and help council members with pertinent information to better assist with budgetary means, procedures, and recommendations.	Yearly
28	South Hardy Street Care—Cut down overgrown tree limbs impeding open access to streets; cut roadside areas for better visibility, etc.	Yearly
29	Improve city property conditions and overall appearance of the city	Yearly
30	Explore the feasibility of a façade improvement program for downtown	2026
31	Craft an incentive strategy for businesses to locate in Hardy	2026/2027
32	Build partnerships and programs that support youth and adult development to ensure a skilled local workforce. Considering partnering with local education partners.	2026/2027
33	Update some 911 addresses to dispatch centers as some current addresses need clarification.	2026
34	Truck Route directional mapping updates for 18-wheelers. Work with ARDOT to install additional signage advising of truck route option.	2026/2027
35	Conduct more outreach to other communities, collaborating on economic growth to the area, and sustainability of goods and services.	2026/2027
36	High value/low-cost Economic Development/Placemaking. Consider a more concentrated effort on branding (tree city), public art works, parklets, etc.	2026/2027
37	Investigate economic opportunities around arts and culture and complete an art and culture needs assessment.	2026/2027
38	Investigate a renewable energy strategy, such as exploring a compost/waste-to-energy facility.	2026/2027
39	Finish the Pocket Park on Main Street, donated by King Family.	2026

Filed Bill 2025 W506
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	Initiative Description	Goal Date/Status
40	Investigate adding an official emergency shelter fully equipped for disasters (hangar style). See #7 (Possibly locate with Police and Fire Department, including a tornado safe room. Seek grant funding for this.	2026/2027
41	Implement a city-driven marketing campaign that promotes Hardy as a destination to live, play, and conduct business.	2026
42	Collaborate with local businesses to offer better opportunities/appearance as a united business community and implement a platform that visitors find friendly and welcoming year-round.	Yearly
43	Explore options for area in Loberg Park designated for dogs.	2026/2027
44	Focus on landscaping; tree planting (tree city), and grounds maintenance.	2026/2027
45	Economic study on city revenue options, bonds, infrastructure planning.	2026/2027
46	Continuation/expansion of water service lines.	Yearly
47	Replace old water meters with new digital remote read meters.	2026/2027
48	Continue working with the Spring River Area Chamber of Commerce to promote and generate business development and tourism.	Yearly
49	Work together with BNSF Railway to implement strategic focus on rail economy relationship in Hardy, the railway's history in Hardy, and future growth opportunities with BNSF Railway.	2026/2027
50	Implement an asset management plan to replace aging vehicles/equipment in Water, Police, and Fire on a bi-annual rotating basis to prevent deferred replacement issues/high-cost.	2026/2027
51	Conduct water/sewer rate study every five (5) years (by year 2030) per Act 605 of 2021 of the Arkansas Legislature (AR Dept. of Agriculture).	2029
52	Ensure Hardy Water Works NPDES Permit is renewed prior to 7-31-2028 with ADEQ.	2027
53	Install city limits signs on all outside entrances into Hardy jurisdiction.	2026/2027
54	Consider working with state to install traffic cameras at 63/412 Jct.	2027
55	Consider implementing a "your speed" radar monitoring digital sign on northbound and southbound directions of Main Street traffic flow.	2027/2028
56	Work with residents to clearly have reflective 911 addresses posted on entrances to property for first responders, EMTs, fire, police, utility, etc.	2026/2027

*** This document is a working document and may be amended by the City of Hardy Planning and Zoning Commission, and/or the Hardy City Council at any time. Any changes to this working document may be presented to the City Council for amendment and adoption by resolution with a majority vote in favor. Hardy City Ordinance 2021-6 states that the plan shall be adopted by the Hardy City Council by October annually.*


 Filed 12/11/2025
 City of Hardy, Arkansas
 Recorder-Treasurer Office