



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To be filled in upon  
final draft

## CITY COUNCIL

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## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

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## CONSULTANT TEAM

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## LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP

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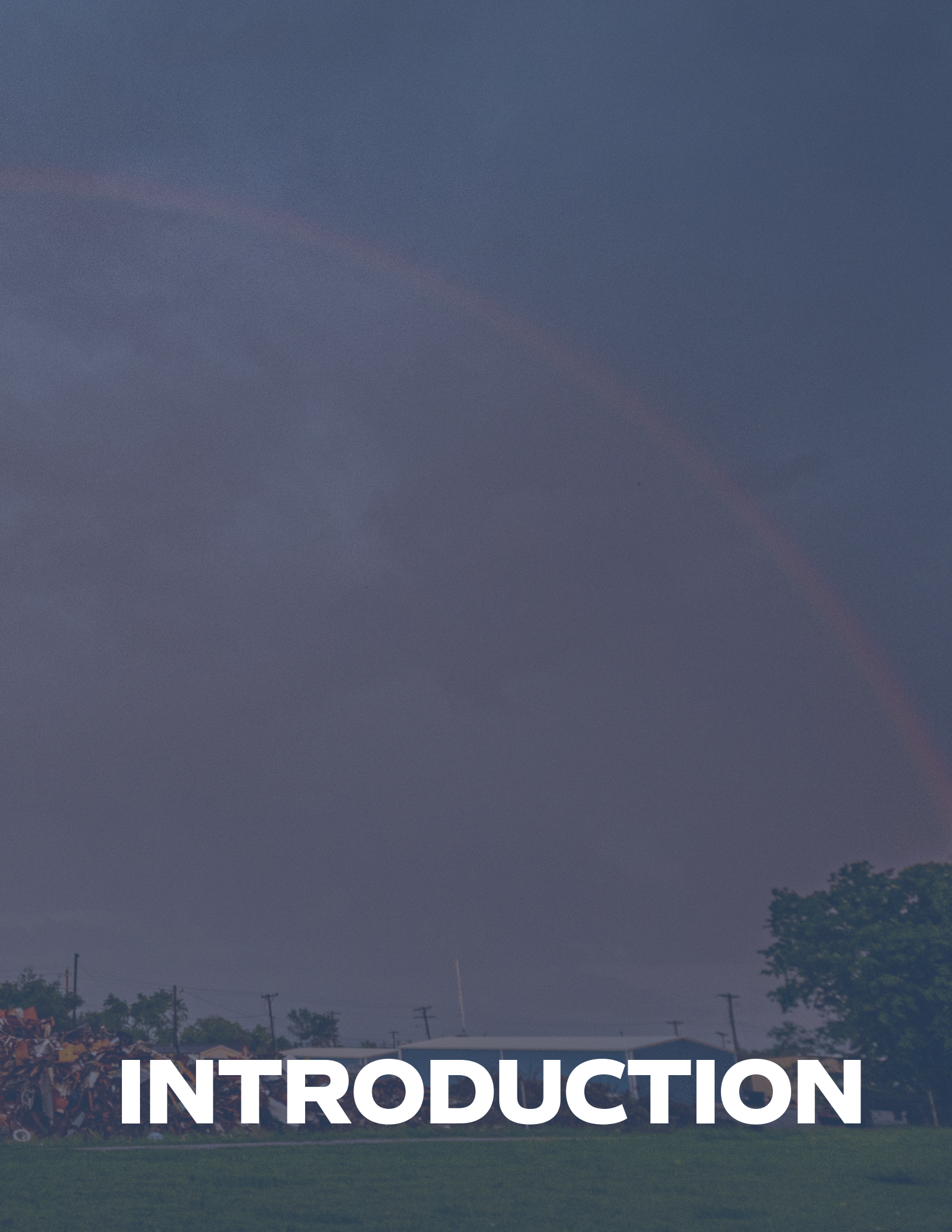
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# INTRODUCTION



## BARNSDALL TODAY

### A Little Town with a Big Heart

Founded in 1905 and originally known as Bigheart, Barnsdall has long been shaped by the determination, pride, and resilience of its residents. From its beginnings as a railroad and oil community to the close-knit town it is today, Barnsdall's history reflects a community that has continually adapted to change while maintaining a strong sense of identity and connection.

Residents often describe Barnsdall as a place where neighbors know one another, people step up to help when needed, and community traditions remain an important part of everyday life. Events such as Bigheart Day, local school activities, community gatherings, and volunteer efforts help strengthen the relationships that make Barnsdall unique and foster a strong sense of belonging across the community.

### Built on Resilience

Throughout its history, Barnsdall has faced challenges that have tested the community's resolve. Tornadoes, fire, flooding, economic shifts, and changing industries have all influenced the town's development over the past century. Yet each challenge has been met with perseverance, collaboration, and a commitment to moving forward.

Today, Barnsdall remains proud of its small-town character, established neighborhoods, civic institutions, and community traditions. Residents value the community's welcoming atmosphere, strong work ethic, and the natural and recreational assets that contribute to its quality of life. These strengths provide a foundation for future investment and growth.

### Looking Forward

Like many rural communities, Barnsdall faces both opportunities and challenges as it plans for the future. Residents have expressed a desire to strengthen downtown, expand housing opportunities, improve infrastructure, support local businesses, and create amenities that attract and retain residents of all ages. At the same time, preserving the character, connections, and sense of community that define Barnsdall remains a priority.

These aspirations, combined with Barnsdall's long history of perseverance and community pride, provide the foundation for the Roadmap to Resilience. As the community looks ahead, there is an opportunity not only to rebuild, but to strengthen local neighborhoods, support economic opportunity, enhance quality of life, and create lasting benefits for future generations.

## THE 2024 TORNADO

On the evening of May 6, 2024, Barnsdall experienced one of the most significant disasters in its history when a powerful EF4 tornado tore through the community. The tornado carved a path of destruction through portions of Osage County before impacting Barnsdall and continuing northeast toward Bartlesville.

The tornado caused catastrophic damage to homes, businesses, community facilities, utilities, and infrastructure. Entire homes were destroyed, established neighborhoods were heavily damaged, and many residents were displaced. Local businesses and industrial facilities sustained significant impacts, disrupting economic activity and affecting employment opportunities within

the community. Trees, power lines, and public infrastructure were damaged throughout the area, creating immediate challenges for emergency response and recovery efforts.

The storm claimed the lives of two individuals and injured dozens more. In the weeks following the disaster, 309 households registered for FEMA assistance. Federal inspections verified disaster-related losses for 151 households, totaling more than \$12.8 million in damage to homes and personal property. Beyond the physical destruction, the tornado left a lasting emotional impact on residents, families, and business owners. For many, the event marked a defining moment in Barnsdall's history and highlighted both the vulnerabilities and strengths of the community.



### EF-4

Tornado Rating



### 180 MPH

Peak Winds

### \$12.8M

Property  
Losses

### \$9.1M

Recovery Assistance  
Awarded

### \$7M

FEMA Recovery  
Projects

### 309

Households Registered for FEMA  
Assistance

### 151

Households with FEMA-Verified Disaster  
Losses

### 78

Households Receiving FEMA Individual  
Assistance

### 25

People Rescued from Damaged  
Structures

### 33

Injuries

### 2

Fatalities

Data captured as of June 2026

## RECOVERY AND REBUILDING

In the months following the tornado, Barnsdall secured significant federal, state, tribal, nonprofit, and volunteer support to aid recovery efforts. Through FEMA's Public Assistance Program alone, nearly \$7 million in eligible recovery projects have been awarded to address debris removal, infrastructure restoration, utility repairs, emergency protective measures, and improvements to public facilities. These efforts have helped stabilize community operations and restore critical services while laying the foundation for long-term recovery and resilience.

Recovery efforts have also been supported by local organizations, volunteers, tribal partners, nonprofit organizations, and neighboring communities that contributed time, resources, and expertise throughout the recovery process.

Recovery assistance has also helped residents begin rebuilding their lives. Through FEMA's Individual and Households Program, more than \$9.1 million in assistance was awarded to affected households to support housing recovery and other disaster-related needs. Although significant progress has been made, the work of rebuilding neighborhoods, supporting local businesses, improving infrastructure, and strengthening community assets continues. These ongoing needs underscore the importance of a coordinated, long-term approach to recovery and revitalization.

This Roadmap was developed to respond to current conditions and support Barnsdall in this moment. While recovery remains an important focus, this document recognizes that resilience involves more than rebuilding what was lost. It is an opportunity to strengthen neighborhoods, support local businesses, improve infrastructure, enhance quality of life, and position Barnsdall for long-term success. The community's response to the tornado demonstrated the strength, determination, and compassion that define Barnsdall, and those same qualities will continue to guide the community's path forward.





# ROADMAP TO RESILIENCE

The Barnsdall Roadmap to Resilience provides a community-driven framework for guiding recovery, revitalization, and long-term investment following the May 2024 tornado. Developed through collaboration between residents, community leaders, partner organizations, and public agencies, the Roadmap establishes a shared vision for the future while identifying practical actions to help Barnsdall move toward long-term resilience.

The Roadmap is organized around five focus areas identified through community engagement and stakeholder input:



**Downtown  
& Economic  
Development**



**Housing &  
Neighborhoods**



**Infrastructure  
& Utilities**



**Land Use &  
Property**



**Community  
Resilience &  
Identity**

Together, these focus areas address both the recovery needs created by the tornado and the long-term opportunities that will shape Barnsdall's future.

## Supporting Long-Term Recovery

The Roadmap to Resilience provides a framework for identifying community values and directing investments where they can have the greatest community benefit. The Roadmap helps align local initiatives with funding opportunities while supporting continued rebuilding efforts across Barnsdall.



## Building Resilience for the Future

Resilience is the ability of a community to adapt, recover, and thrive in the face of immediate shocks and chronic stressors. While the tornado served as the catalyst for this planning effort, the Roadmap looks beyond a single event. This document seeks to strengthen Barnsdall's ability to withstand future challenges, capitalize on emerging opportunities, and grow as a vibrant place to live, work, and visit for generations to come.

The Roadmap is intended to serve as a flexible guide for decision-making. As community needs, funding opportunities, and local priorities evolve, the Roadmap can be used to evaluate projects, support grant applications, coordinate partnerships, and guide public and private investment. Together, the vision, goals, strategies, and actions outlined in this document provide a path towards a stronger, more resilient Barnsdall.



## How Different Audiences Use This Roadmap

### Residents and Property Owners

Residents can use this Roadmap to understand the community's vision for the future, learn about priority initiatives, and identify opportunities to become involved in local recovery and revitalization efforts. This Roadmap defines investments, improvements, and actions that will help shape Barnsdall's future, and residents can refer to it to track the City's progress towards recovery.

### Community Leaders and Decision Makers

City officials, board members, and community leaders can use the Roadmap to guide policy decisions, prioritize investments, evaluate opportunities, and coordinate implementation efforts. The Roadmap provides a shared framework for decision-making that reflects community priorities and long-term goals.

### Businesses and Property Owners

Business owners, entrepreneurs, developers, and property owners can use the Roadmap to better understand community priorities, investment opportunities, and areas targeted for revitalization. The Roadmap can help inform private investment decisions and identify ways

to support Barnsdall's economic growth and development objectives.

### Community Organizations and Partners

Nonprofit organizations, civic groups, schools, faith-based organizations, and community partners can use the Roadmap to align programs, identify partnership opportunities, and support community-led initiatives.

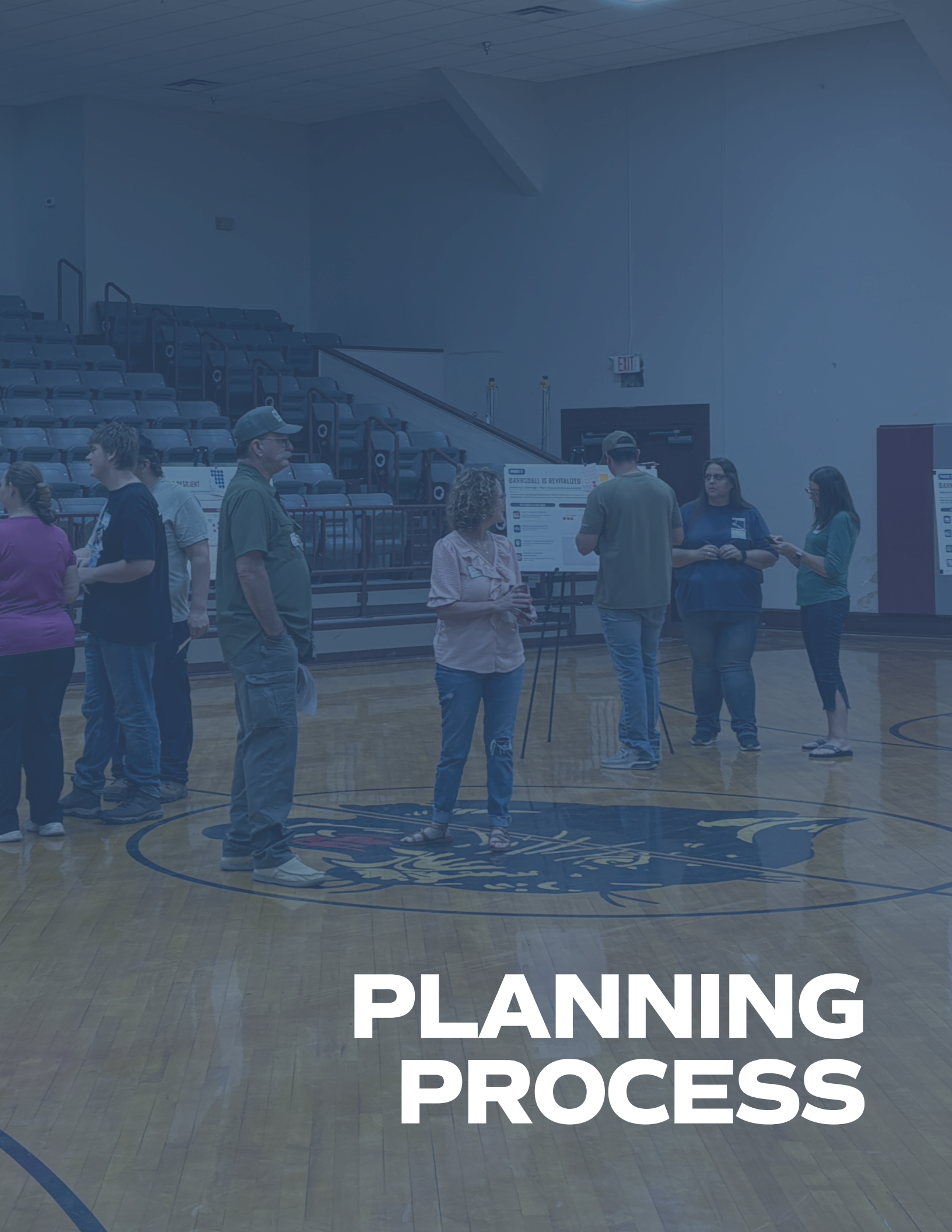
### Funding Agencies and Grant Programs

The Roadmap documents community priorities, identified needs, and implementation strategies that can support future funding applications. Local leaders and partners can use the Roadmap to demonstrate community support, establish project readiness, and strengthen applications for grants, loans, and other funding opportunities.

### Future Leaders and Community Champions

Recovery and revitalization are long-term efforts that extend beyond any single project, funding cycle, or leadership term. Future elected officials, community leaders, volunteers, and residents can use the Roadmap as a guide for maintaining momentum, building upon past successes, and continuing to advance the community's vision over time.





# PLANNING PROCESS

The Barnsdall Roadmap to Resilience was developed through a collaborative planning process that brought together residents, community leaders, partner organizations, and technical experts to identify priorities for recovery, revitalization, and long-term resilience. The process was designed to be community-driven, ensuring that local knowledge, lived experiences, and community aspirations guided the development of the Roadmap.

Through public engagement, stakeholder discussions, focus area working sessions, and ongoing collaboration, the planning process sought to answer three key questions:

- What challenges and opportunities will shape Barnsdall's future?
- What actions are needed to support recovery and revitalization?
- How can the community build upon its strengths to create a stronger and more resilient future?

The resulting vision, goals, strategies, and actions reflect the priorities and aspirations shared by the Barnsdall community throughout the planning process.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



### Barnsdall Long-Term Recovery Group

The Barnsdall Long-Term Recovery Group served as the primary steering committee for the planning process and led discussions about the Roadmap's key focus areas. Comprised of local leaders, residents, business owners, and community stakeholders, the group provided ongoing guidance, reviewed recommendations, and helped ensure that the document remained grounded in community priorities. The LTRG is an established 501c3 to support recovery efforts.



### Planning Team

The planning process was led by a partnership between the City of Barnsdall and the Consultant Team. Working closely together, the Planning Team coordinated community engagement activities, facilitated discussions, conducted technical analysis, and developed the strategies and recommendations included throughout the Roadmap to Resilience.

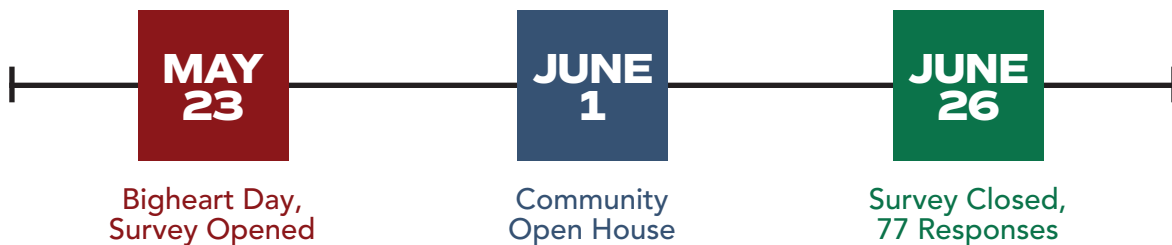


### National Park Service RTCA Assistance Program

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program provided planning support and technical assistance throughout the process. RTCA contributed expertise related to community revitalization, recreation, connectivity, placemaking, and quality-of-life improvements while helping facilitate community engagement activities.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement served as the foundation of the planning process. Through outreach at Bigheart Day, a community survey, an interactive open house, and online engagement opportunities, residents were invited to share their experiences, identify priorities, and help shape the future direction of Barnsdall. These activities gathered input on community strengths, recovery needs, quality of life, housing, economic development, infrastructure, and future opportunities. Feedback received throughout the process helped inform the vision, guiding principles, focus areas, goals, strategies, and actions included in this Roadmap.



## WHAT WE HEARD

Community input revealed several recurring themes that reflect both the community's immediate recovery priorities and its long-term aspirations. These themes informed the vision, guiding principles, focus areas, and recommendations presented throughout the Roadmap to Resilience.

### Community Priorities

Residents expressed a strong desire to not only recover from the 2024 tornado, but to use this opportunity to create a stronger, more connected, and more vibrant community for future generations. When asked, "What would make Barnsdall a place you're proud to call home in the future?" the community responded:



To develop a more detailed understanding of local challenges and community priorities, the planning team collaborated with the National Parks Service RTCA Program to develop an online survey. The survey was available for one month on the project website. To increase engagement, the survey was also linked on various promotional materials, including flyers, poster boards, and staff presentations. Key responses are visualized in **Figures 2, 3, and 4**.

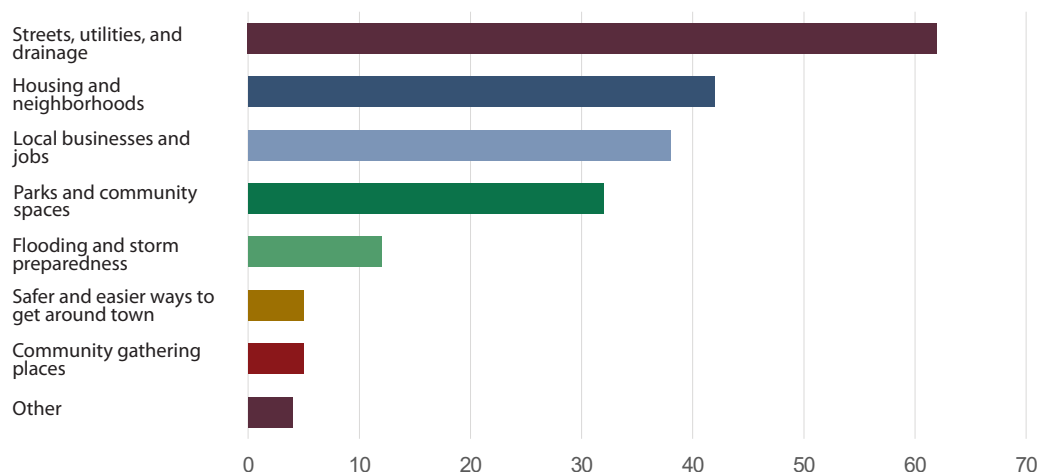


**Figure 2.** What areas of recovery should Barnsdall focus on most right now?

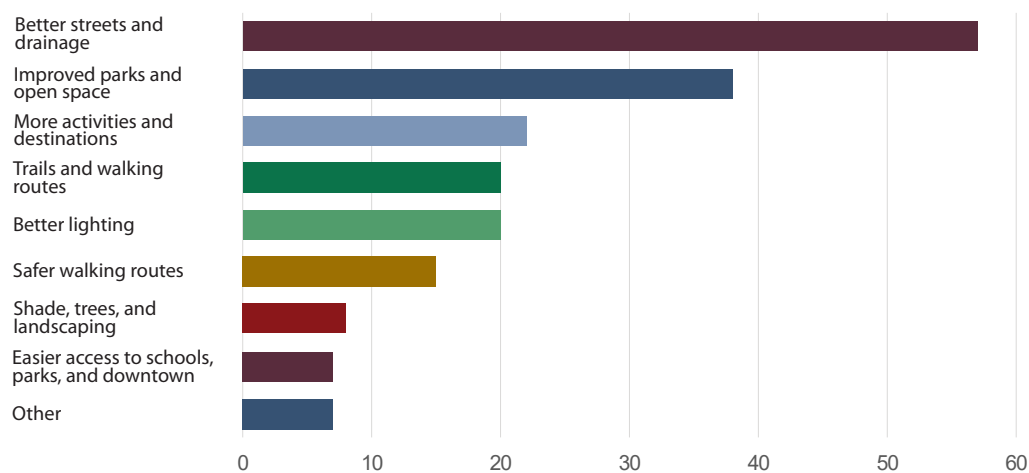


**Figure 3.** What types of improvements would most improve your daily experience within the City?

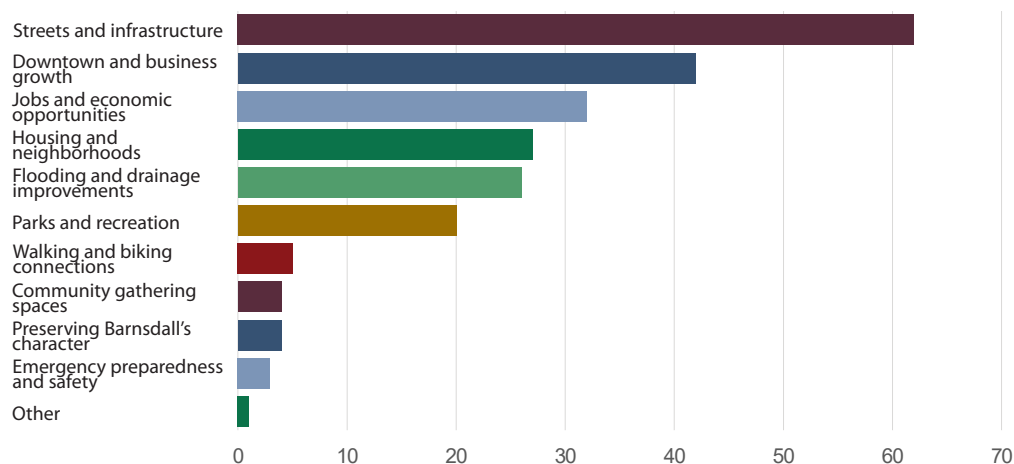


**Figure 4.** If Barnsdall could focus on only three major improvements over the next 10 years, what should they be?

## Engagement Takeaways

After completing public engagement efforts, including the community survey, interactive open house, and virtual feedback activities, the planning team assessed engagement results and grouped their takeaways into the five established focus areas. These takeaways played a vital role in shaping the key actions recommended in subsequent chapters.



### Infrastructure & Utilities

- Improve streets, drainage, and utilities
- Invest in reliable infrastructure
- Strengthen community services



### Downtown & Economic Development

- Revitalize downtown
- Support local businesses
- Attract new jobs and investment



### Housing & Neighborhoods

- Expand housing opportunities
- Support neighborhood recovery and reinvestment
- Improve housing quality and affordability



### Community Resilience & Identity

- Create community gathering spaces
- Strengthen Barnsdall's welcoming atmosphere
- Build upon the strong relationships that make Barnsdall unique



### Land Use & Property

- Reduce barriers to rebuilding homes
- Encourage revitalization of vacant or underutilized properties
- Preserve Barnsdall's historic character and small-town feel





# VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# VISION FOR RECOVERY

This Roadmap is grounded in a shared vision for the future and a set of guiding principles that reflect the values, priorities, and aspirations expressed during the public engagement phase of the planning process. Together, the vision and guiding principles provide a foundation for decision-making, helping ensure that future investments, projects, and actions contribute to the long-term success of the community.

*“Barnsdall is a resilient and welcoming community where residents and visitors thrive through strong connections, safe and vibrant places, quality education, and opportunities for future generations.”*

The following guiding principles represent the values that should shape every decision made under this Plan. While the focus areas identify where the community will direct its efforts, the guiding principles describe how those efforts should be approached to ensure they reflect Barnsdall’s vision and community values.



## Community & Connection

Strengthen community connections, encourage collaboration, and foster a welcoming environment where residents feel supported and engaged in Barnsdall’s future.



## Quality of Life

Support investments in schools, housing, parks, services, and community amenities that make Barnsdall a safe, healthy, and supportive place for families and future generations.



## Small-Town Character & Pride

Preserve the values that define Barnsdall, such as connectedness, resilience, and community pride, and reinforce the places that ground those values, including local churches and schools.



## Economic Opportunity & Sustainability

Encourage local business growth, job creation, housing opportunities, and reinvestments that strengthen Barnsdall’s economy and support long-term sustainability.



## Resilience & Forward Thinking

Use recovery as an opportunity to prepare Barnsdall for the future by improving infrastructure, addressing barriers, and creating a stronger, more adaptable community.

## WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

The Road to Resilience is about more than completing projects; it is about creating lasting, positive change for the people who call Barnsdall home. Success is measured not only by what is rebuilt, but by the strength of the community that emerges in the years ahead. Success means that:

- Barnsdall has continued to recover while positioning itself for long-term prosperity.
- Infrastructure is reliable, resilient, and prepared to support future growth.
- Downtown is a vibrant center of community life, local businesses are growing, and neighborhoods offer quality housing choices.
- Public spaces and community amenities are well maintained, creating opportunities for recreation, connection, and community pride.

Perhaps most importantly, success means that Barnsdall is prepared for the future. Community leaders, residents, businesses, and partners continue to work together toward shared goals, investments are guided by a common vision, and new opportunities build upon the community's strengths. The result is a welcoming, resilient community that honors its past while creating new opportunities for future generations.

### From Vision to Action

Barnsdall's Roadmap to Resilience translates the community's vision into action through a clear implementation framework. Each recommendation in this Plan is rooted in the community's shared vision and guiding principles, ensuring that future decisions and investments remain aligned with Barnsdall's long-term goals.

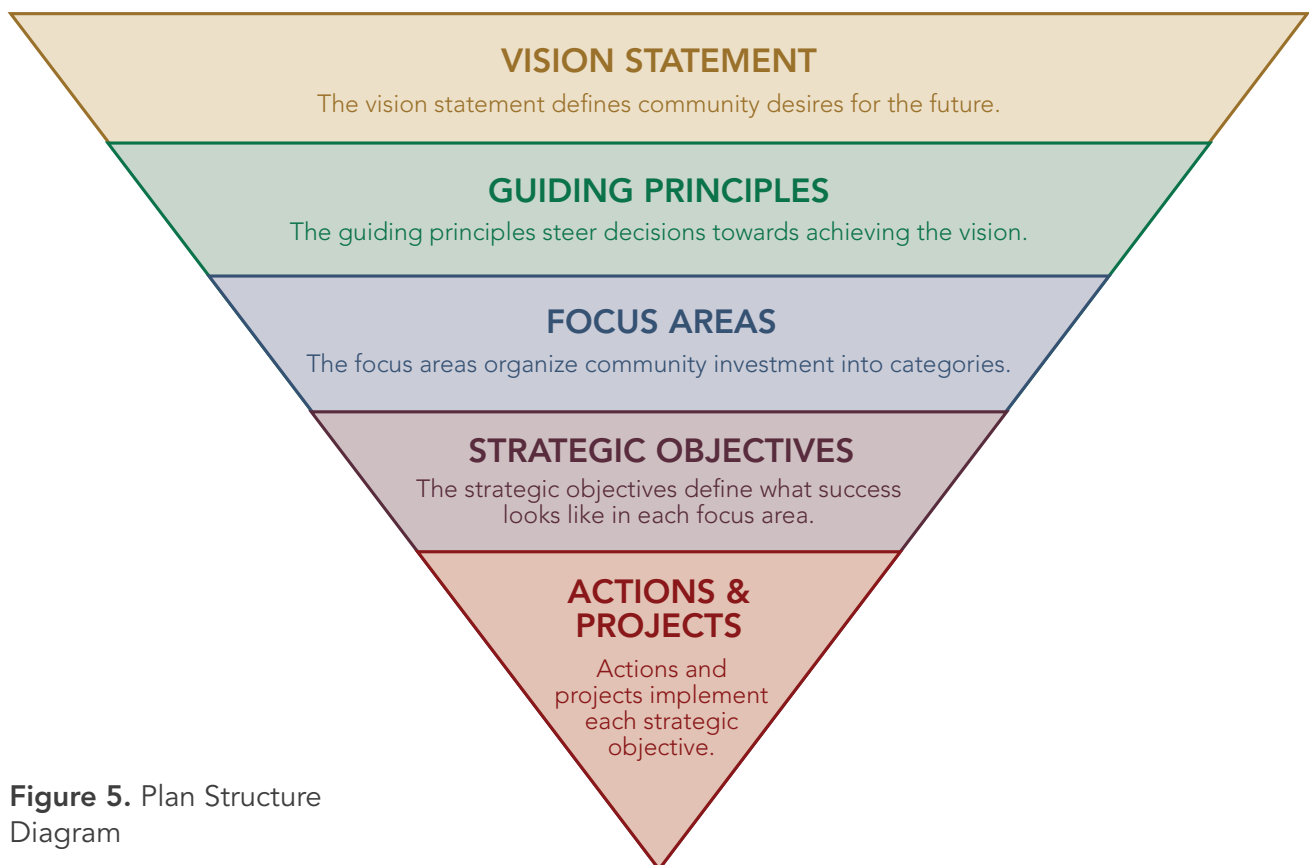


**Figure 5.** Plan Structure Diagram





# **PHASED ACTION PLAN**

# PHASED ACTION PLAN

The Roadmap to Resilience recognizes that meaningful community change occurs over time. Rather than presenting a single list of recommendations, this Plan organizes actions into implementation phases that reflect community priorities, project readiness, available resources, and logical sequencing. This approach allows the community to build upon early successes while remaining flexible as funding opportunities, partnerships, and local needs evolve.

These phases are intended to guide decision-making, not prescribe a rigid schedule. Many actions will occur simultaneously, continue across multiple phases, or advance as opportunities arise. Phase One is representative of progress that has happened to date. Together, the phased action plan provides a practical framework for coordinating investments, pursuing funding, tracking progress, and moving Barnsdall's vision from planning to implementation.

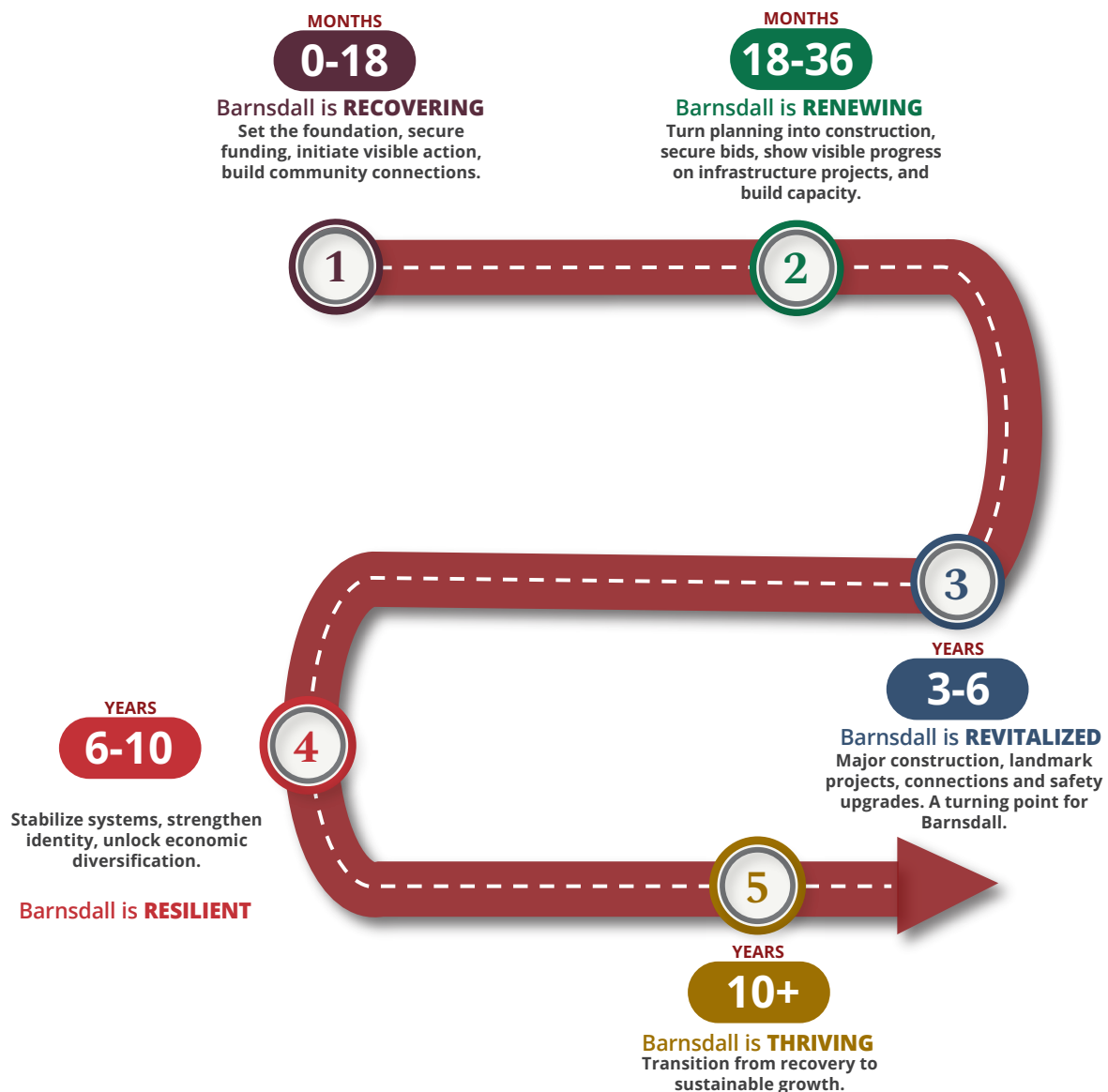


Figure 6. Roadmap to Resilience

## Recovery Timeline Since 2024



## HOW TO USE THIS ROADMAP

Each phase is presented in a dashboard format designed to provide a concise overview of the actions, priorities, and implementation considerations associated with that stage of the Roadmap to Resilience. Together, the dashboards help illustrate how individual projects and strategies contribute to Barnsdall's broader vision and long-term goals.

While every phase has a distinct purpose, the information is intended to be used as a practical reference for tracking progress, coordinating implementation, identifying funding opportunities, and guiding future decision-making. The dashboard for each phase consists of three sections as described below:

**1**

### Phase Overview

Provides a brief description of the phase, including its timeframe and role within Barnsdall's overall recovery journey.

**2**

### Key Projects

Highlights the major activities and initiatives that support each of the Roadmap to Resilience focus areas.

**3**

### Implementation Considerations

Outlines key factors that may influence successful implementation, including project dependencies, funding and staffing needs, coordination requirements, and potential risks.

## How to Read Phase 1

Phase 1 is structured differently from the phases that follow. Because this phase covers the first 18 months following the May 2024 tornado, much of the work identified in this phase has already been completed or is underway. The Phase 1 dashboard documents this early progress, highlights remaining recovery needs, and establishes the foundation for the actions identified in later phases.

### **1** Phase Overview

Provides a brief description of the initial recovery period, including its timeframe and role in stabilizing the community and establishing a foundation for long-term recovery.

### **2** Key Accomplishments

Highlights key recovery actions and investments completed or underway since the tornado, organized around Barnsdall's five focus areas and strategic objectives.

### **3** Implementation Considerations

Highlights key successes from the initial recovery period as well as remaining needs, dependencies, capacity considerations, and other factors that may influence Barnsdall's transition into the next phase of recovery.

# PHASE 1: BARNSDALL IS RECOVERING

## Phase Overview

The first phase of recovery focused on stabilizing the community, restoring essential services, and addressing the immediate impacts of the May 2024 tornado. Through the collective efforts of residents, volunteers, local organizations, tribal partners, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies, Barnsdall made significant progress in clearing debris, restoring infrastructure, supporting affected households, and rebuilding critical community assets.

The accomplishments highlighted in this phase represent work that has already been completed or is actively underway. Together, these efforts established the foundation for Barnsdall's continued recovery while strengthening partnerships, building momentum, and identifying the resources needed to advance the long-term goals outlined in the phases that follow.

## Key Accomplishments



### Downtown & Economic Development

#### Restore Community Assets and Support Economic Recovery

- Launched the Renewing Barnsdall recovery initiative to guide long-term revitalization and identify redevelopment priorities.
- Completed \$1.57 million in FEMA-funded right-of-way debris removal, restoring access to downtown businesses, neighborhoods, and public facilities.
- Secured FEMA funding to repair City-owned buildings damaged by the tornado and support continued municipal operations.
- Coordinated with state and federal partners to position the community for future recovery and revitalization funding.



### Housing & Neighborhoods

#### Support Neighborhood Recovery and Rebuilding

- Supported 309 households in registering for FEMA Individual Assistance (IA), of which 78 households received aid.
- Restored critical utility infrastructure, including the water system, emergency warning siren, and other public facilities while supporting residents through recovery programs.
- Advanced housing recovery through volunteer partnerships, with Mennonite and Amish teams constructing replacement homes following the tornado.
- Provided residents with rebuilding guidance, permitting information, and resources throughout the initial recovery period.



**Infrastructure  
& Utilities**

**Restore Critical Infrastructure and Strengthen Essential Services**

- Invested more than \$560,000 in FEMA-funded utility improvements, including repairs to the City's water tower, water distribution system, and lift station.
- Replaced the City's tornado warning siren through a FEMA-funded recovery project to strengthen emergency preparedness.
- Coordinated infrastructure assessments, land surveys, and flood mitigation planning to support safe rebuilding and the phased reopening of impacted areas.
- Facilitated infrastructure assessments and utility restoration to support safe rebuilding throughout the community.
- Advanced improvements to the Bird Creek Lift Station and wastewater system, including pump upgrades and a new force main to improve system capacity and reliability.



**Land Use &  
Property**

**Restore Public Property and Prepare Sites for Redevelopment**

- Removed tornado debris through two FEMA-funded projects totaling approximately \$4.6 million, including citywide right-of-way clearance and debris removal from Bird Creek.
- Restored public parks and cemetery facilities damaged by the tornado.
- Implemented rebuilding guidance and temporary development restrictions while infrastructure, floodplain, and site assessments were completed.
- Began evaluating redevelopment opportunities through the Renewing Barnsdall planning process.



**Community  
Resilience &  
Identity**

**Build Local Capacity for Long-Term Recovery**

- Established five community focus areas and leadership teams to guide the Renewing Barnsdall planning process.
- Advanced recovery through 12 FEMA Public Assistance (PA) projects totaling approximately \$7 million in eligible project costs.
- Leveraged more than \$1.4 million in donated resources to support emergency response and community recovery.
- Worked with FEMA, OEM, the Osage Nation, nonprofits, volunteers, and community partners to coordinate long-term recovery.

## Implementation Considerations

### Key Successes

#### Established a Strong Foundation for Recovery

- Immediate response efforts restored essential services, stabilized community operations, and positioned Barnsdall for long-term recovery.

#### Secured Significant Recovery Funding and Partnerships

- Federal, state, tribal, nonprofit, and volunteer partnerships provided critical financial resources, technical assistance, and local capacity to support rebuilding efforts.

#### Restored Critical infrastructure and Community Assets

- Major investments in debris removal, utilities, public facilities, and emergency preparedness enabled residents, businesses, and community facilities to begin rebuilding safely.

#### Created a Roadmap for Long-Term Revitalization

- The Renewing Barnsdall initiative, focus area leadership teams, and collaborative planning process established a shared vision and implementation framework for future investment.

Figure 7. Emergency Command Center Volunteers



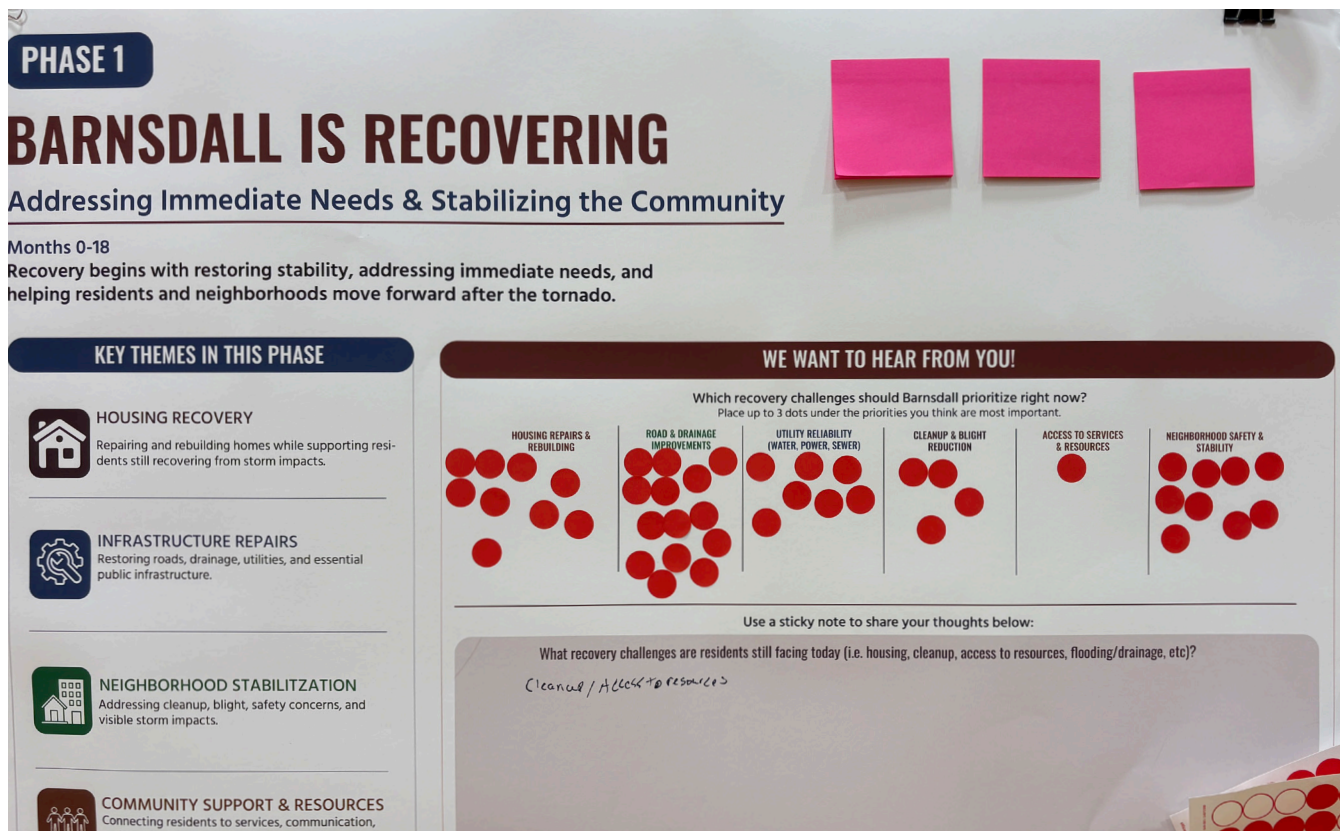


Figure 8. Public Meeting Feedback

## Remaining Considerations

### Continue Housing & Neighborhood Recovery

- Rebuilding efforts should remain coordinated with infrastructure improvements, redevelopment opportunities, and long-term housing needs.

### Maintain Momentum for Downtown & Economic Revitalization

- Recovery investments should continue to support business retention, property redevelopment, and community reinvestment.

### Leverage Recovery into Long-Term Resilience

- Future investments should build upon completed recovery projects while improving infrastructure reliability, community preparedness, and quality of life.

### Sustain Partnership and Pursue New Funding Opportunities

- Continued collaboration among local, tribal, state, federal, nonprofit, and private partners will be essential to implementing the next phases of the Roadmap to Resilience.