

**Community Focus Statement C:** Become a model gateway community to Joshua Tree National Park.

**Action Statement C.10:** Locate open spaces such as courts, plazas, and park areas near and around businesses to encourage visitors to stop in the core downtown/gateway area.

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**Benchmark:** Within the first year, a parks committee/advocacy group is formed to identify potential opportunity sites for parks, plazas, and open spaces in the downtown core/gateway area. By year two, community drafted a plan outlining planned parks and plazas in the downtown and has secured funding for the creation of at least one park.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$40,000–\$3 million



Existing local park in Joshua Tree. Photo source: Michael Baker International

Dedicated areas for open space spur the economy, improve health and the quality of life, and enhance the sense of community and connectivity. While Joshua Tree has ample access to open space, locating areas specific to social gathering within the community will best provide these benefits. Often, a central plaza will serve as the heart of a community and downtown area. Areas with attractive native landscaping, public art, and seating will encourage visitors and locals alike to spend time in Joshua Tree and contribute to the local culture and economy.

Creating parks, courtyards, and plazas in Joshua Tree’s downtown/gateway area will bring

community members together, encourage patronage of local businesses, and create opportunities for fun, fitness, and relaxation. Small parks and gathering spaces can take a variety of forms, from creating seating areas on sidewalk bulb-outs to transforming unused spaces between buildings into courtyards. The community should work with the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce and the Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District, to identify potential sites downtown and develop a plan for the creation of parks and plazas. Local partnerships are needed to design and fund the development of open spaces in the downtown core. The installation of parks and open space amenities such as seating and landscaping can be supported by a local parks committee, funded through a grant, and/or sponsored by local businesses. For instance, a parks committee or “Friends of...” organization might fundraise, supply volunteers, coordinate maintenance and other volunteer efforts, advocate, advise on design and construction, or all of the above.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Engage with the community to help establish a citizens parks committee or advocacy group for open spaces in the downtown core.	Champion with Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District, and community members	Months 1–2	Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District <a href="http://www.joshuatreerecandpark.org/">http://www.joshuatreerecandpark.org/</a>
2. Identify potential opportunity sites for parks, plazas, and courtyards in the downtown.	Parks committee, community, with support from Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District, Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Months 2–4	San Bernardino County Public Works <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/home.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/home.aspx</a>  Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://joshuatreechamber.org/">http://joshuatreechamber.org/</a>
3. Draft and adopt a plan that outlines the planned creation of parks, plazas, and courtyards in the downtown.	Parks committee, community	Months 4–10	Corporate sponsorship guidance <a href="http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx">http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx</a>
4. Reach out to and partner with nonprofits, charitable foundations, local institutions, and businesses (both local and regional) for sponsorship of materials and construction of parks.	Parks committee local institutions, businesses, nonprofits, Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Months 8–12	Private funding for parks <a href="http://www.rff.org/files/sharepoint/WorkImages/Download/RFF-IB-14-01.pdf">http://www.rff.org/files/sharepoint/WorkImages/Download/RFF-IB-14-01.pdf</a>
5. Apply for grant funding for parks and open spaces.	Parks committee with support from Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District	Months 12–18	Park and recreation grant funding <a href="http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants">http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants</a>
6. Secure funding and prepare a budget plan for the creation of one park, plaza, or open space in the downtown.	Parks committee with support from Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District	Months 18–24	<a href="http://www.nrpa.org/Grants-and-Partners/Recreation-and-Health/Coca-Cola-Refreshing-Community-Spaces/">http://www.nrpa.org/Grants-and-Partners/Recreation-and-Health/Coca-Cola-Refreshing-Community-Spaces/</a>
7. Construct parks, plazas, and open spaces in the downtown.	Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District, County Public Works, with support from parks committee	Month 24 – Ongoing	Pavement to Parks <a href="http://pavementtoparks.org/">http://pavementtoparks.org/</a> <a href="http://www.urban.org/sites/default">http://www.urban.org/sites/default</a>



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
8. Continue ongoing operation and maintenance of parks and open spaces.	Parks committee, Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District, with support from community organizations, schools, churches, volunteers	Month 24 – Ongoing	<p><a href="#">ult/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/309067-Partnerships-for-Parks.PDF</a></p> <p>How to Guide for Creating a Pocket Park  <a href="http://www.kibi.org/how-to-guide-for-creating-pocket-park-and-greenspace-projects/">http://www.kibi.org/how-to-guide-for-creating-pocket-park-and-greenspace-projects/</a></p> <p>Creating Mini Parks  <a href="https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpaorg/Grants_and_Partners/Recreation_and_Health/Resources/Issue_Briefs/Pocket-Parks.pdf">https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpaorg/Grants_and_Partners/Recreation_and_Health/Resources/Issue_Briefs/Pocket-Parks.pdf</a></p> <p>NRPA Park Advocate Handbook  <a href="https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/Americas_Backyard/park-advocate-handbook-100711.pdf">https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/Americas_Backyard/park-advocate-handbook-100711.pdf</a></p> <p>Adopt-a-bench program examples  <a href="http://www.losgatosca.gov/1687/Adopt-A-Bench-Program">http://www.losgatosca.gov/1687/Adopt-A-Bench-Program</a></p>