

Community Focus Statement G: Reinforce the sense of “community”.

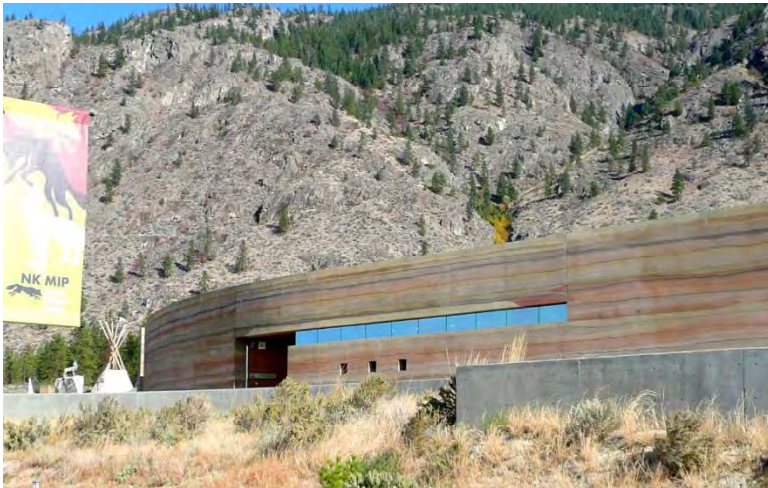
Action Statement G.1: Prioritize and develop community recreational facilities such as a community cultural center, an open space venue for live performances, and/or a dog park.

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Benchmark: An inventory of community assets with prioritization is completed and updated annually. Priority projects are reviewed, funded and identified and implementation begun. Begin work on developing items on the prioritization list, and update the community asset inventory annually.

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

Estimated Cost: Variable depending on the project.



Nk'Mip Desert Culture Centre in British Columbia. Photo source: [Architect21c](#)

Recreational facilities provide areas for community members to gather and celebrate, and they are important for the continued development of Joshua Tree. By organizing and prioritizing community needs, Joshua Tree can identify key community desires, as well as identify cost-effective solutions.

To prioritize and eventually develop community recreational facilities, Joshua Tree should conduct a community asset inventory to identify existing resources. There are several benefits to conducting a community-based asset inventory, and in this process, Joshua Tree could identify and enhance what already

exists in the community. For example, residents could identify vacant land that would be appropriate for the development of a dog park. An abandoned industrial building could be transformed into a community cultural center. Extra outdoor space in a commercial area could be transformed into an open space venue for local musicians.

After the community assets are inventoried, it is key to pay attention to parts of the community that are underused such as vacant land or abandoned residential/industrial buildings. Then, Joshua Tree can begin to identify new ways to make these assets work for the community. Community groups or nonprofits can assist in identifying potential sites where this conversion would be the most cost effective and feasible.

Questions the community can ask during the asset inventory and prioritization process:

- How might these assets be connected to individuals, associations, and institutions in the community?
- Which community needs could be filled by existing but underused facilities? Which community needs could require the construction of new facilities?

- Who could begin to put the redevelopment process in motion?
- How might the project be funded?

As the priority list is developed, Joshua Tree can gain a better understanding of community development projects moving forward. Various community associations could take on different projects simultaneously, or perhaps the community as a whole could tackle simple and cost-effective developments (for example, turning a vacant lot into a dog park) while awaiting funding for larger, more complex projects (such as constructing a community cultural center). The community can revisit the priority list annually to track progress and goals on community development projects.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting of interested parties to create Community Committee	Champion	Month 1	US Department of Agriculture https://www.usda.gov/
2. Complete a community asset inventory to identify existing community facilities.	Community Committee	Year 1	US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration https://www.eda.gov/
3. Identify existing assets that can be repurposed or reused and connected to existing needs.	Community Committee	Years 2–3	US Department of Health and Human Services https://www.hhs.gov/
4. Develop a prioritization list, documenting community needs, project feasibility, and potential funding sources.	Community Committee	Years 2–3	National Recreation and Park Association http://www.nrpa.org/
5. Assign community organizations or individuals projects on the prioritization list.	Community Committee	Years 2–3	Sources: UCLA Center for Health and Policy Research http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/programs/health-data/trainings/Documents/tw_cba20.pdf
6. Identify grant funding as needed	Community Committee with Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District	Year 2–On-going	Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District- CSA 20 http://www.joshuatreerecandpark.org/
7. Revisit the community asset inventory and prioritization list to make sure the inventory is up to date and the list matches current community needs.	Community Committee	Annually	