

Community Focus Statement A: Increase recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life in Muscoy.

Action Statement A.2: Coordinate with nonprofits, local business, and institutional partners to identify resources to purchase adjacent vacant lots and convert them to parks.

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Benchmark: Established a Pavement to Parks program or a similar Lost Lots program to turn vacant lots into community parks, developed guidelines and funding for the program to ensure the program continues to function for a period of at least three years.

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

Estimated Cost: \$20,000 – \$100,000



Pocket park in a residential neighborhood in Irwindale, CA. Photo Source: Shane Burkhardt

Businesses, institutions, and nonprofits can be important partners in creating spaces in the community that contribute to recreation and community-building activities, like community gardening. Building on a physical asset inventory (like the one identified in Action Statement A.1), community members and partners can work together to purchase and develop vacant and underutilized lots to convert to parks and open space. Community groups or nonprofit organizations are important partners in identifying potential sites where this conversion would be the most cost effective and feasible.

Nonprofits are strong partners as they can help mobilize the community toward park design,

programming, and management. Businesses, both local and regional, can help sponsor park development and can mobilize employee resources and volunteers in construction. Institutions, like the Community Hospital of San Bernardino and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, could provide grants and funding to develop parks and open spaces as part of their community benefits program to reduce obesity and chronic illnesses.

Organizations like KaBOOM!, the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, Miracle’s Grants for America’s Children, and the LEGO Children’s Fund offer funding and programming for developing parks and open spaces. Other governmental resources, like the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides funding for communities like Muscoy to construct and renovate facilities used for public service, health care, recreation, community service, and public safety. Areas with the lowest population and income levels receive higher grant considerations.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to establish a Local Parks Committee.	Champion	Month 1	<p>California state conservation programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Tax Benefits for Wildlife Habitat Contract or Open Space Easement Property Tax Benefits for Public Parks and Preservation Income Tax Benefits for Open Space Conservation The Land Conservation Act/Open Space Subvention Program <p>Corporate sponsorship guidance http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx</p> <p>Private funding for parks http://www.rff.org/files/sharepoint/WorkImages/Download/RFF-IB-14-01.pdf</p> <p>Park and recreation grant funding http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants http://www.nrpa.org/Grants-and-Partners/Recreation-and-Health/Coca-Cola-Refreshing-Community-Spaces/</p> <p>Pavement to Parks: http://pavementtoparks.org/</p> <p>Additional grant sources: http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants</p>
2. Work with residents and community groups to identify vacant and underutilized lots that would be ideal for conversion to parks or open space.	Local Parks Committee	Months 1 – 2	
3. Establish a Pavement to Parks program or a similar Lost Lots program to include one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund to acquire vacant or underutilized lots Tax credits for donation of land to a parks/open space district Property tax incentives for property owners who allow conversion/use of their property for parks, open space, and community gardens 	Local Parks Committee	Months 2–4	
4. Develop a map of target properties, program guidelines, an application process, and a fund for the program.	Local Parks Committee	Month 5	
5. Reach out to and partner with nonprofits, charitable foundations, local institutions, and businesses (both local and regional) for sponsorship of lot acquisition and construction of community parks. Apply for governmental and other grant funding.	Local Parks Committee	Months 5–8	
6. Reach out to property owners to inform them of the new program and encourage them to take advantage of it.	Local Parks Committee	Month 8–onward	
7. Work to acquire vacant or underutilized lots in the community, and start constructing community parks.	Local Parks Committee	Month 8–onward	