

Community Focus Statement B: Develop and improve parks and recreational facilities and services for all ages.

Action Statement B.5: Identify centralized open space/community gathering areas for programming of community events.*

IN PROCESS

Benchmark: An online method is established to identify community gathering areas, publicize and circulate the online site, create a list of spaces, and conduct biannual review of the spaces for condition and maintenance needs.

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

Estimated Cost: \$100 per review event



Lake Gregory Regional Park in Crestline. Photo source: Michael Baker International

In mountainous communities like Crest Forest, it is often difficult to identify community gathering areas because many spaces are hidden behind trees or elevation changes. In order to identify the available community gathering areas, the communities can become more aware of the spaces that are available to them and the areas that require repair or maintenance. By encouraging community members to identify these spaces, this activity would also strengthen connections to the Crest Forest communities and the environment.

Community members can be asked for feedback to identify centralized open spaces and gathering areas and to identify spaces that meet the needs of the community. Feedback could be gathered via an online poll, like MetroQuest and its map pinning feature, or a

shareable Google map on which community members can place location markers. Once these spaces are identified, a list could be maintained by a community organization or committee. The organization or committee could host biannual audit events in which they would organize a group of community members to visit each listed site and report on the condition of the space and any maintenance (as needed). This list would be available for comments during community events. Park maintenance audits can assist in the community’s approach to managing resources, maintenance, and expanding parks and community spaces. The data can help with recommendations to improve parks, which play an important role in creating and sustaining healthy, livable communities in Crest Forest.

*In progress by the Crestline Community Development Alliance and Chamber of Commerce.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create an online method of identifying community gathering areas by either partnering with MetroQuest or creating a shareable Google Map that community members can place pins on.	Champion	Month 1	How to Create Shared Collaborative Google Maps http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-create-shared-collaborative-google-maps/
2. Publicize the tool through email, newsletters, Facebook, newspapers, etc., to attract a variety of community members.	Committee	Month 2	Characteristics and Guidelines of Great Public Spaces https://www.planning.org/greatplaces/spaces/characteristics.htm
3. Finalize the list of spaces with visits to the spaces to determine the capacity and ideal uses of each identified space.	Committee	Month 3	
4. Create a group of community volunteers to conduct a review of the spaces for condition and maintenance needs.	Committee	Month 4	
5. Conduct review of the spaces.	Committee with community volunteer group	Biannually	
6. Update the list of spaces as needed.	Committee	On-going	

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