

**Community Focus Statement A:** Preserve the desert ecosystem, its natural beauty, and the community’s harmonious relationship with the environment.

**Action Statement A.3: Develop a master plan to connect existing designated open spaces with Joshua Tree National Park.**

**A<sub>3</sub>**

**Benchmark:** An Open Space Master Plan is adopted to provide guidance in planning decisions.

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

**Estimated Cost:** Variable depending on proposed project.



Example path suitable for a connective trail. Photo source: National Park Service

A connection to the natural environment increases the health and quality of life of local residents, as well as creates a sense of ownership and connection to the area that benefits both the people and the environment. The community of Joshua Tree is located near the edge of Joshua Tree National Park and is near the Desert View Conservation Area, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, and Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness Area. These areas have immense recreational and cultural value to the community, and connecting the areas to the existing open space areas in Joshua Tree can provide greater access to and appreciation of the local natural environment. The increased connectivity can also help bring visitors into Joshua Tree from the nearby conservation areas for lodging,

dining, and additional recreation.

Having a comprehensive plan for connecting these open space areas will help guide future planning efforts and funding access to complete infrastructure and facility improvements in these areas. The plan should identify the desired connections, their locations, and associated projects and costs, as well as potential funding sources, with justification and prioritization for each project. The community can use this plan to seek federal and state grant funding or local contributions to fund the building and maintenance of trail and path connections and amenities.



Action:	Action Leader:	Timeline:	Objective Resources:
1. Establish a committee of interested residents to work with Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District - CSA 20 (JTRPAD)	Champion	Month 1	American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund <a href="https://americanhiking.org/gear-resources/grant-opportunities/">https://americanhiking.org/gear-resources/grant-opportunities/</a>
2. Evaluate community desires and priorities.	Committee	Months 2 – 3	National Trails Training Partnership <a href="http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/">http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/</a>
3. Partner with state and federal agencies to identify opportunities.	Committee, with support from state and federal jurisdictions	Months 2 – 3	Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks District- CSA 20 <a href="http://www.joshuatreerecandpark.org/">http://www.joshuatreerecandpark.org/</a>
4. Identify funding sources.	Committee	Months 3 - 9	
5. Work with the community to draft an Open Space Plan.	Committee, with support from community	Months 3 – 9	
6. Continually review available funding and development opportunities to implement the plan.	Committee	On-going	