

Community Focus Statement A: Maintain the rural character of the community.



Action Statement A.4: Establish a landscaping and lighting guide to help current and new residents and businesses either install or modify landscaping and lighting to meet the needs of the desert and dark sky regulations.

Benchmark: A landscaping and lighting guide is implemented and shared throughout the community for use in new development and in renovating existing properties. **Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community **Estimated Cost:** Variable depending on proposed improvements

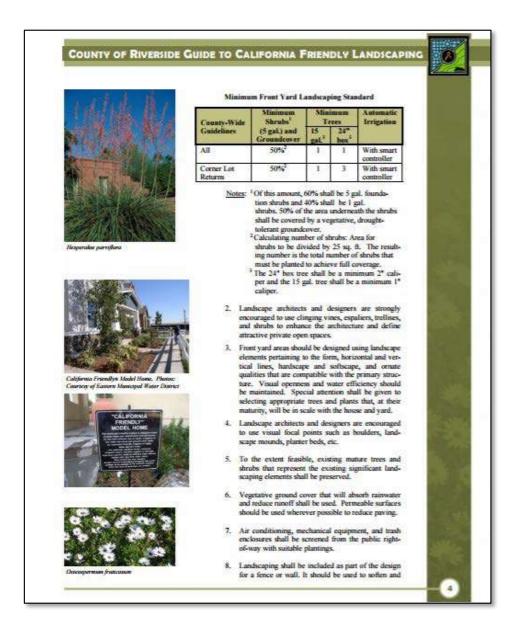
Landscaping and appearance contribute greatly to the character of Lucerne Valley and provide health and environmental benefits. Lucerne Valley has a "Garden Club" that maintains the native desert vegetation at the Senior Center. The club also holds an annual native/xeric plant sale.

A set of guidelines for landscaping would establish clear options for vegetation that minimizes water usage, contributes to health, and reflects the vision and community values of Lucerne Valley. A focus on native, drought-resistant, and aesthetically pleasing plants will reduce water consumption and enhance the community's overall beauty.

In addition to landscaping guidelines, the adoption of lighting standards for development will ensure the visibility of the night sky is unhindered by light pollution. Such standards could include lighting lumen level, number and type of lighting equipment, direction of light or shielding, and timing of lighting. The control of unnatural lighting makes a dramatic improvement in the nighttime visibility of stars and significantly increases the beauty and feel of the community. The Joshua Tree Community is currently working on a draft ordinance. This can serve as a template for the Lucerne Valley Community.

When developing the landscaping and lighting guidelines, a combination of empirical data and community input should be used to draft specific allowances, suggestions, and prohibitions. The guidelines should focus on native and drought-tolerant vegetation that would thrive in Lucerne Valley without displacing existing native species but also fit the culture and aesthetics of the community. Similarly, lighting guidelines should outline proven methods of reducing light pollution without inhibiting the sense of safety for residents.





Example of landscaping guidelines encouraging the use of native vegetation. Photo source: County of Riverside



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
Hold a meeting to establish a Landscaping Organization	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Landscaping Standards http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads /lus/DevelopmentCode/DCWebsit e.pdf San Bernardino County Glare and Lighting Standards 83.07 http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Plannin g/DevelopmentCode.aspx Heaps Peak Arboretum, Plants of the San Bernardino Mountains http://www.heapspeakarboretum.co m/mountainplants.htm International Dark Sky Association, Lighting Ordinances http://darksky.org/lighting/lighting- ordinances/
 Identify native and drought-tolerant vegetation that fits the aesthetics and environment of Lucerne Valley. 	Lucerne Valley Landscaping Organization	Month 1	
Draft landscaping guidelines based on the vegetation list and community input.	Lucerne Valley Landscaping Organization	Months 2–4	
4. Finalize the landscaping guidelines.	Lucerne Valley Landscaping Organization	Month 4	
5. Draft lighting guidelines based on community input.	Lucerne Valley Landscaping Organization	Months 4–6	
6. Finalize the lighting guidelines.	Lucerne Valley Landscaping Organization	Month 6	
 Promote awareness and provide information on the guidelines and reasons for the standards. 	Lucerne Valley Landscaping Organization	Month 6, ongoing	

