

Community Focus Statement B: Maintain the rural desert lifestyle and character.

B2

Action Statement B.2: Prepare a landscaping and lighting guide to help current and new residents landscaping companies and construction and development companies either install or modify landscaping and lighting to meet the needs of the desert landscape and dark sky regulations.

Benchmark: A practical landscaping and lighting guide is widely used by the community.

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

Estimated Cost: \$2,500 Committee of community members

The landscaping and appearance of Joshua Tree contribute greatly to the character of the town and have health and environmental benefits. However, it may be challenging for residents and businesses to know what vegetation provides such benefits, enhances the aesthetics of the area, and is adapted to the desert landscape. The Joshua Tree community is currently working on the development of a dark skies ordinance. The next step is the development of easy to understand educational materials for developers, builders and property owners to understand how to replace, retrofit and install lighting that would meet the requirements of the ordinance.



Protecting the night sky starts with YOU!

<p>1 Light only what you need</p> 	<p>2 Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need</p> 	<p>3 Shield lights and direct them down</p> 
<p>4 Only use light when you need it</p> 	<p>5 Choose warm white light bulbs</p> 	<p>6 Join IDA! We need your help to continue the fight against light pollution.</p> 

*Educational brochures developed by the International Dark Skies Association that is available for purchase.
Photo source: IDA*



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Seek interested parties and community members to form a group	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Landscaping Standards http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/DevelopmentCode/DCWebsite.pdf
2. Identify native and drought-tolerant vegetation that fits the aesthetics and environment of Joshua Tree.	Groups with Mojave Desert Land Trust, with support from community	Month 2	Heaps Peak Arboretum, Plants of the San Bernardino Mountains http://www.heapspeakarboretum.com/mountainplants.htm
3. Draft landscaping guidelines based on the vegetation list and community input.	Groups with Mojave Desert Land Trust, with support from community	Months 3 – 5	National Park Service, Joshua Tree Plant Species List https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/nature/plant_species_list.htm
4. Encourage the County to adopt landscaping guidelines.	Group	Month 5	
5. Draft lighting guidelines based on community input.	Group	Months 5 – 7	International Dark Sky Association http://darksky.org/
6. Encourage the County to adopt lighting guidelines.	Group	Month 7	
7. Increase awareness and provide information on the guidelines and reason for standards.	Group	Month 7 – On-going	