

Joint/Shared Use: A Beginner's Guide

In neighborhoods across the country, schools, public agencies, community organizations, and local residents are working to increase opportunities for children and adults to be active and healthy.

WHAT IS JOINT/SHARED USE?

- **Joint/shared use*** happens when two or more private or public entities agree to open indoor or outdoor space for **community use**, often for physical activity. For example, a school can open up their gym to a youth organization, such as a local Boys and Girls Club, to provide a home for an evening basketball league.
- By using existing community facilities, Joint/shared use offers communities with limited access to parks and recreational places an easy and cost-effective way to expand access to physical activity spaces. Especially true in densely populated areas.

WHAT IS A JOINT/SHARED USE AGREEMENT?

- A **Joint/Shared Use Agreement** is a formal agreement between two or more partners that outlines details about implementation, maintenance, operations, and liability for the shared use of an indoor or outdoor facilities.

EXAMPLES OF JOINT/SHARED USE AGREEMENTS

- Opens facilities such as a track, gym, library or playground for general public use outside of normal hours.
- Third party organizations, such as a local YMCA, can operate programs using school or public facilities outside normal hours for activities such as soccer leagues, Zumba classes or after school programs.
- Facilities between local government and schools, such as co-locating a public park or pool next to a school.

WHY JOINT/SHARED USE?

- **Increases access to places to be active in existing communities**
- **Positively impacts community health and well-being**
- **Fosters collaboration and cost-sharing.**
- **Protects both the facility and the community using the facility**



WHERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINT/SHARED USE

- [The Shared Use Spectrum](#)
- [Addressing Childhood Obesity Through Shared Recreational Facilities](#)
- [JointUse.org](#)
- [Joint Use of Recreational Facilities FAQ](#)
- [Promoting Physical Activity Through Joint Use Agreements](#)
- [Shared-use agreements as a strategy for promoting physical activity opportunities in local communities](#)

JOINT/SHARED USE SUCCESS FACTORS

- Clear goals, roles, and responsibilities among all partners involved
- Detailed planning about operations and sustainability
- Long-term commitment and engagement from partners, community residents, and policymakers

* Joint and shared use terminology can differ by profession and setting, but are used interchangeably here for educational purposes.



Los Angeles County Joint Use Moving People to Play (LA JUMPP) is a collaborative of school, park, health, faith, for-profit, and non-profit institutions working to foster equitable access to safe physical activity spaces for all families in Los Angeles County. This fact sheet was adapted from the resources above and Lafleur et al. (2013), and developed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Ad Lucem Consulting. For more information, please contact JUMPP@ph.lacounty.gov.

