

Community Focus Statement E: Improve open space and recreational opportunities for Helendale residents.

Action Statement E.6: Construct a community gym with workout facilities and an indoor pool.

E.6

Benchmark: Community funded, purchased land, designed facility, and constructed a community fitness center with established operating and maintenance procedures and costs.

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

Estimated Cost: \$1.5–\$2.5 million for construction (excludes right-of-way and design costs)



Community gym example. Photo source: Snehal Kanodia

The availability of public recreation and health facilities can improve a community in both immeasurable and measurable ways. Such activity centers provide not only physical health opportunities but also a place for social gathering, a sense of community, and mental and emotional benefits. The centers also offer recreational activities for children and encourage interaction and education for residents. While such facilities can be in the form of a community center that is constructed, maintained, and run by a public agency such as the Helendale Community Services District (CSD), another avenue could be to form a public-private partnership that allows a private or nonprofit group to help fund and maintain the facility with help from the CSD.

The construction of a community gym and accompanying pool would be approximately \$165 to \$175 per square foot. A decent-sized facility would cost between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million, with the final price dependent on size and amenities. The design, maintenance, and operation of the facility would be additional costs. By partnering with a private organization and taking advantage of fundraising and grant opportunities, much of the cost can be covered without public funds. Being flexible in design inclusions can help with obtaining grants by matching what the grant requires to the facility design. Similarly, a significant amount of community outreach and input on what residents' desire can get them interested and excited in the project and improve private fundraising abilities.

A well-publicized example of a public-private sports facility is the Boise Aquatic Center in Idaho. Both the Boise Family YMCA and the City of Boise were interested in constructing a world-class facility with an Olympic-size indoor pool, but the YMCA was unable to raise the necessary funds, and the City of Boise was also unable to fund the facility it wanted as part of the City's recreational services. As a result, the City and the YMCA forged a

partnership in which the City aided in funding and building the facility, while the YMCA assumed responsibility for continued maintenance and operations. The combined facility was built with over \$8 million from private donations and fundraising, and \$5 million in City funding. It opened January 8, 1996, and continues to be successful.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish community support and committee for a community fitness center.	Champion	Months 1–12	United States Conference of Mayors, Public-Private Partnership Makes Boise's Aquatic Center Possible - and Successful https://www.usmayors.org/bestpractices/bp98/Boise11_16_98.html The National Council for Public-Private Partnerships http://www.ncppp.org/ Urban Land Institute, Ten Principles for Successful Public/Private Partnerships http://uli.org/wp-content/uploads/2005/01/TP_Partnerships.pdf
2. Approach potential large donors such as established businesses in the area to discuss funding opportunities.	Committee	Months 6–18	
3. Establish funding for a feasibility study.	Committee with support from Helendale Community Services District	Months 13–24	
4. Conduct a feasibility study to determine potential locations, capital costs, and maintenance and operating costs.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 25–36	
5. Conduct a community meeting to determine local support of the feasibility study results.	Committee and Helendale Community Services District	Month 36	
6. Identify funding for the community fitness center through private donations and fundraising opportunities.	Committee and Helendale Community Services District	Months 37– 61	
7. Purchase land parcel, if needed.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 62–68	
8. Procure building design plans.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 69–92	
9. Develop an operating and maintenance plan.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 82–92	
10. Construct the community fitness center.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 93–122	