

Community Focus Statement A: Protect the community's treasures for years to come.

Action Statement A.3: Construct a community center that accommodates community-focused events, evening meetings, and recreational activities.

A3

Benchmark: The construction and operation of a multi-functional space in an accessible location for the community that holds regular youth and community events.

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

Estimated Cost: Approximately \$3,000,000



Van Asselt Community Center in Seattle, Washington. Photo source: [Seattle Parks](#)

To protect the treasures of Mentone for years to come, the community could develop a multifunctional community center to be used as a gathering place for events, meetings, and activities. Community centers can serve as locations for a range of services and programs, including sports events, youth programs, town hall meetings, and holiday gatherings. Particularly in unincorporated communities, community centers serve as the necessary meeting space for residents to share information and access local government services and programs. Existing community groups could benefit from additional space, and the availability of a community center could allow for expanded membership of these groups.

The community center in Mentone could be developed from an existing structure, converted through adaptive reuse. Alternatively, the community could acquire a vacant or abandoned structure and renovate it to best serve community needs. Community centers can be limited to a recreation building with a multipurpose room and other indoor facilities, or they can also include recreational amenities such as sports fields, parks, and other outdoor facilities. Prior to designing the Mentone community center, users and needs should be identified. Knowing how the building will be used before it is designed will ensure form follows function. Additionally, policies for community center use, staffing and funding should be put into place before the community center opens.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources:
1. Hold a meeting to form a Community Center Committee, and elect a Chair of the group.	Champion	Month 1	USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
2. Identify either: a) an existing structure for adaptive reuse, b) abandoned structure for renovation, or c) vacant land for new development.	Community Center Committee	Year 1 to Year 3	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
3. Create a proposal for the community center, the space required programs and services to be offered, and budgeted for construction and operation. Incorporate and advise youth/cultural organization (if such partnership is found). With the understanding that the space will take a number of years to build and complete, plan uses and activities for a market 5-10 years into the future.	Community Center Committee	Year 1 to Year 3	USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grants https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/community-facilities-programs Let's Play Initiative http://www.letsplay.com/
4. Identify and apply for grant funding (nationally, regionally and county opportunities). Track any other sponsorship opportunities, community donors, etc. File for non-profit status.	Community Center Committee	Year 1 to Year 3	Building Communities from the Inside Out, Kretzman and McKnight How to Start a Community Center: http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/start-community-center-5093.html
5. After funding is secured, begin process of hiring architects, designers, and contractors to build the community center.	Community Center Committee	Year 3 to Year 6	
6. During Community Center construction, develop plans, policies and regulations for the operation of the space. Develop fundraising events.	Community Center Committee	Year 3 to Year 6	