

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

### **Action Statement E.3: Enhance recreation programs for youth as well as programs for life-long learning**

# E3

**Benchmark:** Information disseminated to all community members in Helendale about community recreation programs so that all residents have the opportunity to participate.

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

**Estimated Cost:** variable depending on types of programs initiated and developed



*Family Fun Fest croquet activity at Biscayne National Park Florida. Photo source: National Park Service*

In order to develop and improve parks and recreational facilities and services for all ages, residents in Helendale should be actively engaged in identifying interests and needs to expand recreational and lifelong learning programs in the community. Their involvement would allow for the identification and provision of recreational opportunities and facilities specifically geared toward community residents.

In partnership with the Helendale Community Services District, interested residents and community members could be involved in creating an asset database, identifying existing recreational programming, and identifying needs. Resources can then be directed toward facilities or programs that local youth and adults alike want to use, instead of investing time and resources on facilities that are underutilized.

Expanding recreational and lifelong learning programs for youth and adults will improve the health and wellness of Helendale residents. Lifelong learning is the ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for both personal and professional reasons. It enhances social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development.

Recreational programs can be developed to appeal to a wide range of community members, inclusive of all ages and all abilities. Engaging all walks of life in recreational activities will have long-term health benefits, as community members can learn new activities or practice new skills. Providing recreational activities close to home brings community members together and creates opportunities for fun, fitness, and relaxation. Community cohesiveness will also be improved, as these programs offer opportunities to make new friends and establish connections with neighbors.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Reach out to community members who would be interested in serving on a committee to enhance recreation programs for community youth and adults.	Champion	Years 1–3	Helendale Community Services District  Helendale School District
2. Create a committee and identify a chair.	Helendale Recreation Committee	Years 1–3	Funding Sources Fender Music Foundation, <a href="http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org/">http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org/</a>
3. Complete a community inventory to identify existing after-school programs, nonprofits, and development agencies currently offering recreation programs for youth and adults in Helendale.	Helendale Recreation Committee	Years 1–3	Walmart Foundation, <a href="http://giving.walmart.com/foundation">http://giving.walmart.com/foundation</a>
4. Identify popular programs to expand and struggling programs to improve, strengthen, and eventually grow.	Helendale Recreation Committee	Years 1–3	Bank of the West Charitable Grants, <a href="https://www.bankofthewest.com/about-us/community-support/charitable-investments.html">https://www.bankofthewest.com/about-us/community-support/charitable-investments.html</a>
5. Identify any needs/wants of community youth that are not met by existing programs. Expand existing programs to meet this need, or create new programs if merging activities is infeasible.	Helendale Recreation Committee	Years 1–3	Cognizant’s making the Future Grants, <a href="https://www.cognizant.com/company-overview/sustainability/educational-opportunity">https://www.cognizant.com/company-overview/sustainability/educational-opportunity</a>
6. Ensure the recreational programs are held at convenient locations, are affordable, and attract a variety of residents from the community.	Helendale Recreation Committee	Years 1–3	
7. Solicit input from program participants, instructors, and volunteers to evaluate what is working and what could be improved upon.	Helendale Recreation Committee	Annually	The Awesome Foundation, <a href="http://www.awesomefoundation.org/en">http://www.awesomefoundation.org/en</a>