

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

Action Statement E.4: Create a little league park and practice fields

E
4

Benchmark: Acquire land for a little league park by the end of 2017.

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

Estimated Cost: \$350,000



Little League baseball players with Navy sailors during a game ceremony. Photo source: U.S. Navy

A Little League park and practice fields will provide greater opportunities for youth to exercise and engage in group sports. The benefits of youth sports are many, including learning to socialize and play well with others, meeting new people, feeling connected to the community, and improving physical fitness. Team sports also teach youth about attention, focus, and communication. Little League baseball parks also offer mentoring and coaching opportunities for parents and adults. Programs require umpires, equipment managers, and scorekeepers, for a variety of opportunities for community involvement.

Helendale. A location adjacent to a school should be considered to encourage joint use of the facility. It is recommended that the community work with local community groups, businesses, property owners, the County, and Helendale Community Service District (CSD) to seek funding for the acquisition of parkland and associated amenities for the ball fields. Additionally, a management and maintenance plan should be put into place once the park opens.

The community should look for a central location to site this new facility that is easy to access from all neighborhoods in

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a committee to work with the Community Services District	Champion with support from Helendale Community Services District	Months 1–3	Change Lab Solutions, Local Agency Strategies for Funding the Development and Maintenance of Parks and Recreation Facilities in California http://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/Parks-Financing_White-Paper_FINAL_20151007.pdf Arlington Little League http://arlingtonlittleleague.org/Page.asp?n=109716 http://www.livestrong.com/article/546884-what-are-the-health-benefits-of-baseball/
2. Identify potential sites for a Little League park and practice fields	Committee with support from Helendale Community Services District	Months 1–3	
3. Secure grants and seek funding mechanisms for acquisition of parkland and park amenities. Funding sources may include grants, donations, sponsorships, and the Helendale Community Services District’s Parks and Recreation Assessment.	Committee with support from Helendale Community Services District	Months 4–8	
4. Identify land appropriate for park development.	Committee Helendale Community Services District	Months 9–12	
5. Draft a plan for the establishment, maintenance, and provision of amenities to the area.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 12–18	
6. Install amenities and access improvements.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 18–24	
7. Partner with local youth and volunteer groups to help with maintenance.	Committee with support from Helendale Community Services District	Years 3–5	