

Community Focus Statement D: Enhance and expand connectivity to regional open space and recreational areas.

Action Statement D.2: Develop and incorporate historical information and signage throughout the community regarding natural resources and amenities.

D2

Benchmark: A local historical society or museum, is created, a local register of sites is developed, and a historical tour of Mentone is marketed.

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

Estimated Cost: Variable depending on programs offered.



Mill Creek Cattle Company on Mentone Boulevard.
Photo source: [Don Graham](#)

The Mentone community has many historical and other beneficial natural resources to be preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Identifying historical land/buildings and natural resources is key to preservation, and this identification process should be driven by community members familiar with the Mentone community. A physical asset inventory could be completed to create a database of Mentone’s historical and natural resources. When resources are identified, informational signage and other monuments can be designed and developed in the community.

As part of the physical asset inventory, it is essential to pay attention to historical buildings or natural resources that are underused in order to begin to identify new ways to make these assets work for the community. Community groups or nonprofit organizations can assist in identifying potential sites where this conversion could be the most cost effective and feasible. For example, a vacant historical building could be transformed into a living Mentone history museum and hold local cultural events. Open space areas with natural resources could serve the community as passive recreation parks.

The community should continue to coordinate with the San Bernardino Regional Parks Department and the San Bernardino County Trails and Greenways Committee to develop a wayfinding/signage program with a historical focus for the Mentone community. Local partnerships are also needed to design and fund the development of historical information and signage. The entities best able to carry out this objective may include a local historical society or museum, interested community members, or a planning and public history professional. There is also the opportunity to coordinate a community-based contest for signage or monument design.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting for interested residents to form a local Historical Society	Champion	Months 1	San Bernardino County Museum http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/
2. Work with a local historical society or museum, such as the San Bernardino County Museum, to identify important community sites, buildings, landscapes, and natural resources that represent the agricultural history and western history of Mentone.	Committee	Months 1 – 3	California State Parks - Office of Historic Preservation http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1056 Recommendations for Developing Interpretive Signs http://history.sd.gov/preservation/OtherServices/CHTInterpretiveSignRecommendations.pdf
3. Develop a local register of historical resources with the local historical society that lists important sites, buildings, landscapes, etc. A local register allows for the protection of these resources.	Local Historical Society	Months 3 – 6	Sacramento History Museum Underground Tours (program example) http://sachistorymuseum.org/tours/underground-tours/
4. Develop interpretive signage with the local historical society for resources listed in the local register explaining the history of each resource.	Local Historical Society	Months 6 – 9	Historic Pasadena, Walking & Driving Tours – samples of different types of tours available in Pasadena http://www.cityofpasadena.net/Historic_Pasadena_Walking_and_Driving_Tour/
5. Use the signage to develop and market a historical tour of Mentone.	Local Historical Society	Months 9 – 12	