

What are the Community Capitals?

The Community Capitals Framework provides a way of looking at assets of a whole community. The mapping process helps groups think about how their projects might ripple out and build many assets, as a stone dropped in the pond sends ripples in every direction. A project might directly or indirectly affect all of the capitals or only a few.

Natural capital

- Natural resources and natural beauty like rivers, parks, outdoor recreation, and farmland.

Cultural capital

- Activities we feel comfortable with and ways the community nurtures creativity including local traditions, art and music. It also includes ways of thinking, such as expectations the community has of youth.

Human capital

- Knowledge, skills and abilities of people. Human capital also includes leadership ability and health and wellness of people.

Social capital

- Connections among people & organizations that help make things happen. This includes *bonding*, close ties that build group membership and sense of belonging, and *bridging*, linking to new and varied individuals and organizations.

Political capital

- Access to power and power brokers such as government officials, what voices are heard and listened to, and the capacity of individuals and groups to exert power.

Financial capital

- Monetary resources available to invest including business development and entrepreneurship as well as philanthropy

Built capital

- Infrastructure that supports the community such as telecommunications, roads, and buildings.