

SEBASTOPOL COMMONS: BUILDING THE COMMONS

The Building the Commons Committee was established to guide concept development, assess community needs, explore funding, and report quarterly on progress toward creating a Sebastopol Commons — a shared civic space for learning, culture, connection, and wellness.



City of Sebastopol

COMMITTEE GOAL

To lay the foundation for a commons that reflects Sebastopol's values — community, creativity, and connection — and to establish a viable concept for future design and funding exploration.



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Vision for the Sebastopol Commons

- A multi-use community hub serving Sebastopol and West County residents through:
- Education and lifelong learning
- Arts, culture, and creativity
- Health, wellness, and senior services
- Recreation, community classes, and civic engagement
- Expanded and innovative library functions
- The Commons will strengthen social connection and regional vitality.



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Two primary subcommittees were formed for focused work:

Community Needs Assessment
Subcommittee: Evaluating local needs,
demographics, and models for
successful “commons” projects.

Funding Assessment Subcommittee:
Exploring costs, feasibility, and funding
strategies for different facility options.



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Key Activities and Progress

Committee convened five times since inception; established framework and work plans.

Gathered baseline data on West County demographics and community services.

Began comparative research on library/community hub models nationwide.

Advanced Community Needs Assessment — including interviews, surveys, and the creation of a proposed Sebastopol Health Index.

Completed Funding Assessment foundation work, comparing three development options:

- 1. New construction**
- 2. Repurpose or remodel an existing building**
- 3. Remediate and reuse existing city/community assets**

Began developing comparative cost and funding matrices and identifying potential grant sources and partnerships.



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Next Steps

- Next 3 Months:
 - Complete needs assessment synthesis
 - Advance funding analysis
 - Refine subcommittee focus areas
- Next 6 Months:
 - Develop recommendations and conceptual design pathways
 - Identify funding options and potential project partners
- By Q3 2026: Deliver final recommendations on occupants, needs, locations, costs, and funding sources.