



The Town sought a design to combine its recreational center, library, and senior center into a new state-of-the-art Community Center. A primary focus was exploring how this single resource could create efficiencies through shared space and encourage interaction between different user groups.

The connection between the new building, existing Town amenities, and various retail opportunities was important to promote walkability and inclusion. The new Community Center has proven to be a success, bringing residents together, providing essential services, and enhancing the quality of life in



the Town and surrounding areas. The project site is on Town parkland, which provides the opportunity to integrate with existing recreational opportunities such as hiking and various sports activities.

Sustainability and environmental protection were key considerations throughout the design process. The building has a highly efficient thermal envelope and uses all LED lighting. Radiant slabs were used to provide heat along large windows. The building uses daylighting and highly insulated translucent wall/skylight systems to greatly reduce electric loads. On the exterior, green infrastructure techniques limit the potential impact of the road and parking infrastructure. The project site includes wetlands to the north, east, and south, all of which were protected and enhanced as part of the development. The construction schedule considered environmental concerns with the building phases timed to minimize temporary heating needs and reduce the construction's carbon footprint.



Design for Equitable Communities

Integrated with the surrounding community in the Town Center, the Community Center provides for the confluence of all age groups and recreational opportunities into a single location.

A robust pedestrian system provides connectivity to various recreational opportunities in Memorial Park and to retail accommodations immediately to the north. This site is connected to necessary grocery stores and small businesses along Chili Avenue. Residents may park at the Community Center, utilize the various interior amenities, and then access the best the Town has to offer without ever having to use their vehicle.

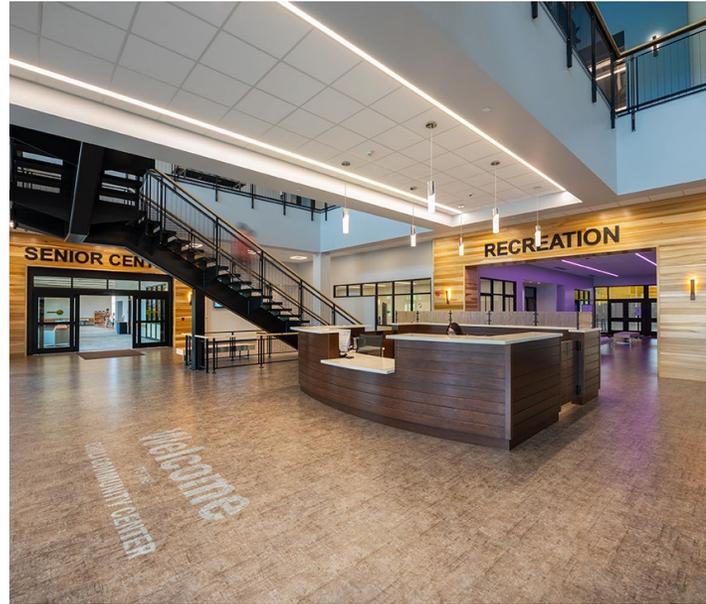
Inside, the Center combines a variety of opportunities for people from all generations to learn, play, and interact. These amenities include an elevated track, pickleball courts, fitness rooms, children's learning centers, maker space, craft rooms, and even a pool table in the senior center. The spaces are combined to allow for programming from all resources in the building. The Library, Senior Center, and Recreation Center areas all provide comingled programs for patrons, with opportunities for all.





Design for Economy

The Town had long desired to provide their residents a new and efficient Library, Senior Center, and Recreation Center. Rather than attempting to construct each project independently, the design team, in collaboration with the Town, developed a solution that would combine all three into a single facility which maximized and enhanced the multiple benefits of each, while doing so in a cost and environmentally sensitive manner. By combining all three into a single building, the Town greatly reduced construction cost, schedule, operating cost, and environmental impact, all while being centrally located in the heart of the community. Shared circulation spaces, mechanicals, roof, foundation, access, and parking are just some of the many efficiencies realized by the project.

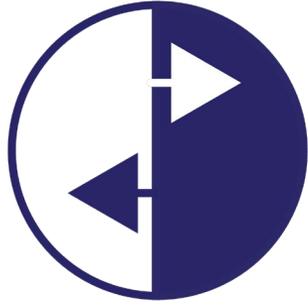




Design for Wellness

The Community Center promotes physical, social, and mental wellness by merging all aspects of life. The recreation center includes a gym with basketball and pickleball courts, a mezzanine level track, and fitness room areas that host classes for those seeking physical activity. There are designated rooms for crafting, children's learning, teenagers, quiet spaces, and an outdoor area integrated with the natural environment, providing opportunities for all generations to enjoy the space. Large community rooms within the Senior Center promote gatherings for playing cards, watching movies, and catered events. All three of these elements are brought together in a large, multi-level entrance lobby which encourages interaction before or after the many activities all can enjoy. The integration is expanded outside of the building where residents have direct access to the Park and the Town Center pedestrian system. The layers of interaction better connect people within and beyond the building.

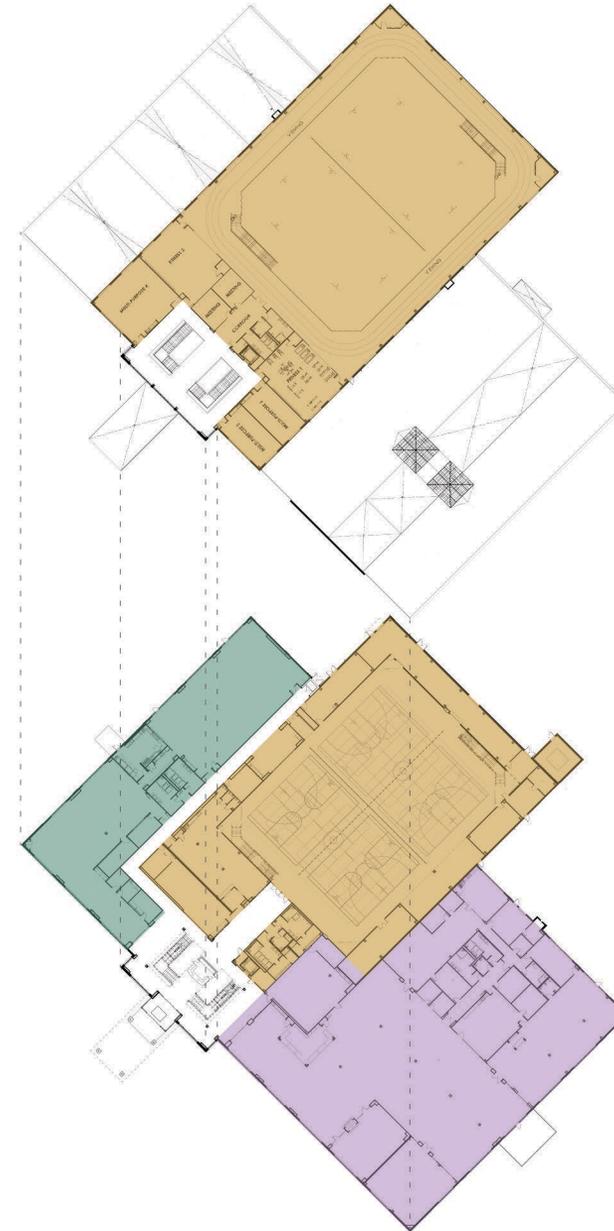




Design for Change

The Center is a multi-faceted building designed with community and adaptability in mind. The spaces are designed to allow for flexibility due to its multi-use program. Ancillary rooms are used for meetings, outsourcing for organizations, fitness programs, senior programs, and recreational programs. Beyond the primary purpose rooms are multi-purpose spaces, which are placed throughout the building and have a variety of internal resources including built-in sound systems, access to water and plumbing, and variable HVAC supplies. The room sizes were designed to vary from small and cozy spaces to spaces accommodating up to 300 people. The Center was also designed as an Emergency Essential facility; it has its own full building generator systems to withstand the growing number of severe weather events and other emergencies. The spaces were designed to have very few structural encumbrances. The entire design parti was centered around "Design for Change" and was an essential criterion for the buildings program. The Town of Chili has changed how services are available to its citizens, and the design team responded by designing a building that provides services for all ages. These services range from recreation to education, and more lifestyle-oriented care such as essential care support.

Due to the ever-changing and growing nature of a community's spatial needs, the design team took great care to make spaces designed to be easily modified or divided in the future. The Center is home to Libraries, Senior Services, and Recreational Programs/Services. As these needs change in the future, the building can change and adapt to meet those needs.



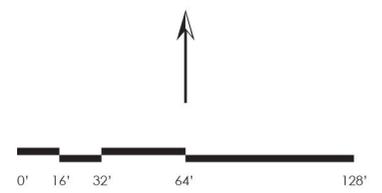
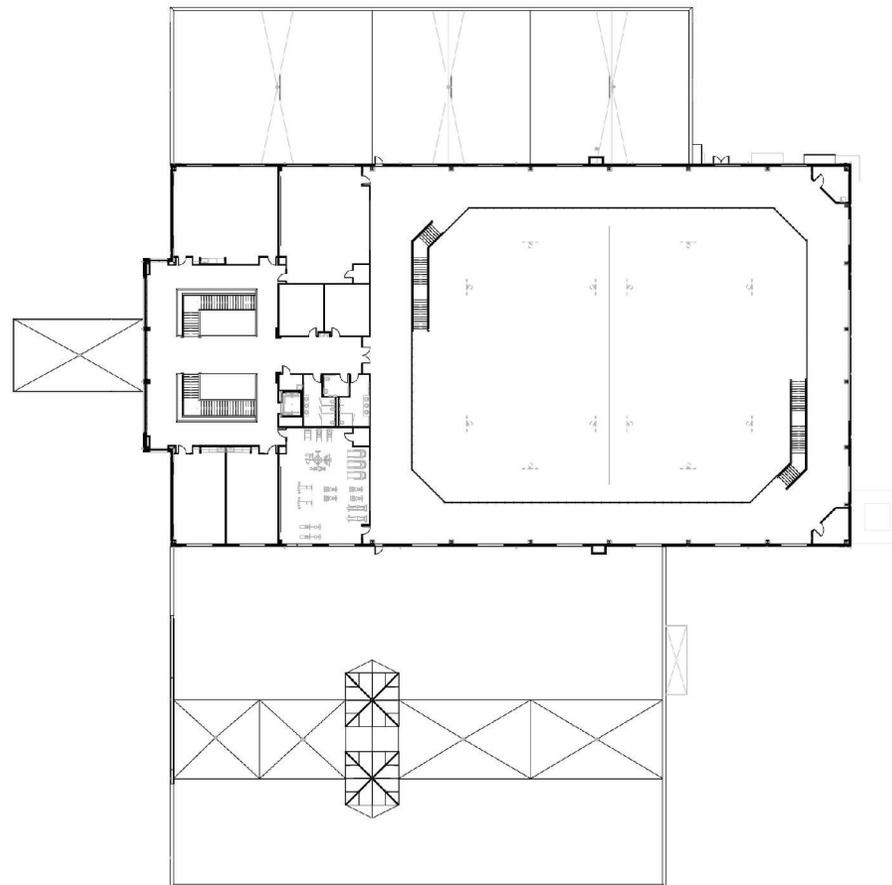
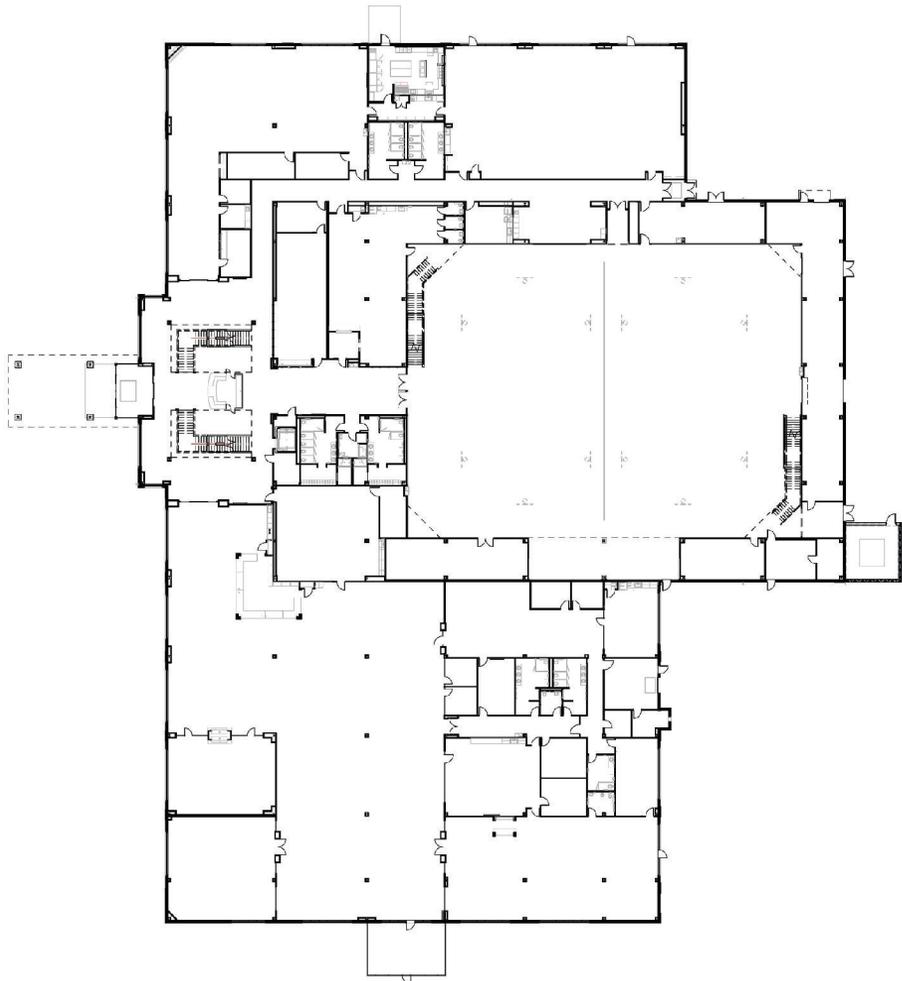


Community Impact Award

When approaching the design for the Chili Community Center, the site began as an underdeveloped park on the outskirts of the town center. It was underutilized and was a site that many different parts of the community could benefit from. The goal of the Center was to provide necessary updates to spaces for community uses. These goals centered around the idea of creating a “Town Center” for constituent services. In doing so, there have been many benefits to the community since its opening. This project created synergies between the use of space among a variety of populations. Seniors and children using the same facilities at the same time allow for many different forms of community building. Centralized services within the same building saved countless tax dollars for the community.

The Center is a prototype building that combines facilities for senior, recreation, and library uses in one building. Creating multi-purpose spaces that can be co-used by any of these resources was a key component to the design program. Rather than having single-use spaces, efficiency was created through these multi-use spaces, allowing for a 33% reduction in the overall square footage. Combining spaces, combining a mix of patrons and user groups, and combining functions into one building will be a model for future community centers. Apart from the monetary and spatial benefits, the Center has proven to be an essential addition of resources to the community of Chili.





1st & 2nd Floor Plans



- SENIOR CENTER
- RECREATION
- LIBRARY



Programmatic Section



Children's Library

A dedicated space for children hosts an array of interactive reading and play materials. Vibrant colors throughout foster a creative, fun space.



Teen's Library



A separate space for teens provides various multi-media entertainment options. Neutral tones throughout promote a low-key getaway.



Senior Center



Billiards and a fireplace are just two of many easygoing amenities in the Senior Center. Warm earth tones foster a home-like atmosphere.



Public and Private Staff

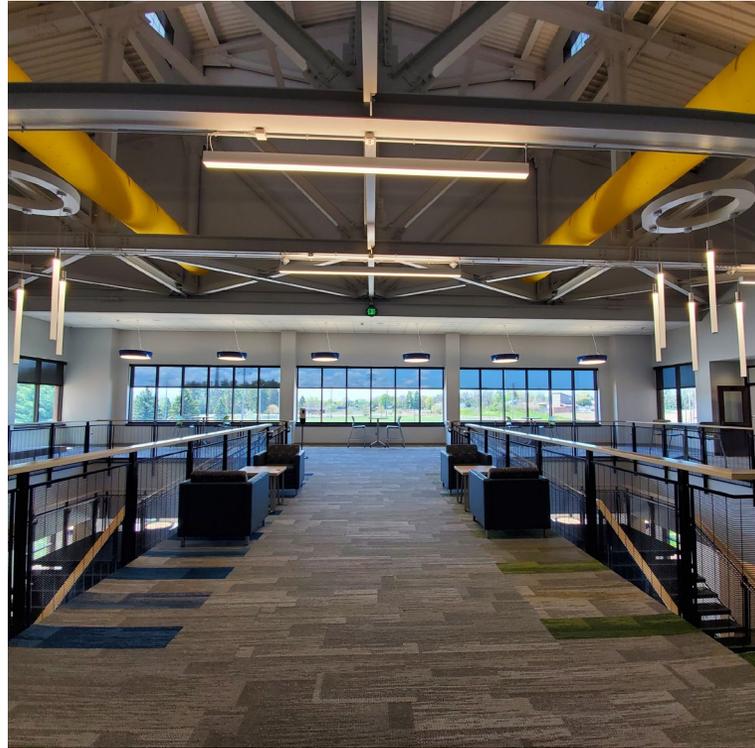


Central library spaces bring materials, themes, and colors from individual areas to create a cohesive space for all.



Recreation Center

Two basketball courts provide ample indoor recreational space. A wrapping walking track further promotes patrons to stay active.



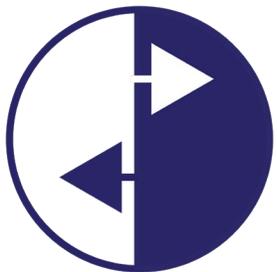
Daylighting and Views

Extensive glazing throughout gives various spaces ample natural light fostering a healthy, ambient environment.



Highlighting Stairways

Circulation elements in large, open atriums promote stairways over elevators. The atrium is welcoming with plentiful outdoor views and natural lighting.



Chili Community Center

Overlapping three programs into one has brought the Chili community together and promotes a healthy lifestyle for all.