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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

EPR connections

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District Project Updates

The District has initiated and / or completed a number of projects so far this year to continue improving your parks and make Elizabeth an even greater place to live. A new shade / picnic shelter has just been built adjacent to the pickleball courts in Casey Jones Park and will provide much needed relief from the sun for players between games. The concrete pad will be poured in coming days to complete the project.

Concrete replacement efforts continued at Evans Park this year as several cracked / uneven sidewalk sections were replaced. The crew also coordinated the installation of new concrete tee pads for Prickly Pines Disc Golf Course, improving safety and enhancing the player experience. Friends of Prickly Pines

Disc Golf made a generous financial donation to the project as well and continue to be strong stewards of this local gem that is ranked amongst the top courses in the state. The district also hired a contractor to repaint portions of the park office building that had become bare and / or was peeling for quite some time. The crew also installed a new liquid fertilization system at Evans Park, improving efficiency, reducing costs, and improving park safety for visitors.

Recreation Center Project Update

At its regular May meeting, the Board of Directors made the decision to not proceed with asking voters to fund a recreation center in November of 2026. As they reviewed updated construction costs for the facility as proposed within the Casey Jones Park master plan and assessed current financing limits, the gap was just too wide to proceed with the current plan. The initial thought of phasing construction and building as much of the proposed facility as the budget would allow in phase 1 no longer seemed practical or efficient.

Board member Kurt Prinslow proposed that the district revisit the facility design, incorporate cost consultation through a builder in the process, assemble a citizen committee to provide input, and develop a new schematic design for a facility that is within budget to present to residents. The Board was in full agreement and member Dondi Connelley expressed that a pared down facility design was needed that avoided any fluff and focused on the most important and desired programmatic elements. The Board acknowledged that a community pool is the most desired element for the facility as expressed by residents and noted that it will be prioritized in the new design.

The Board expressed a desire to have a new schematic design available for residents to view by this fall and will then consider asking voters to fund the construction costs in May of 2027.



Programs and Special Events Updates

Youth Flag Football

Flag Football is filling up fast, so register now to secure your child's spot! Registration is open to all youth between the ages of 4-12. The season kicks-off Aug 22nd and runs through Oct 10th. Cost is \$75 per player. Volunteer coaches are needed and receive a refund for a child's fees after the season. Register at www.elizabethpr.com

MLS GO Youth Soccer

Fall soccer registration is now open to all youth ages 4-12 until full. The season starts Aug 22nd and runs through Oct 10th. All practices and games held in Elizabeth. Cost is \$100 per player. Volunteer coaches are needed and receive a refund for a child's fees after the season.

Register at
www.elizabethpr.com

Adult Outdoor Volleyball

Adults need to play too! Join us for a fun season of volleyball on the grass in Casey Jones Park. This co-ed league serves up the action and offers both 4v4 and 6v6 options. Matches will be played on Thursday (6v6) / Friday (4v4) evenings beginning at 6pm. Play is scheduled to begin Aug 6th and will continue through September 11th. Cost is \$250 per team.

Every child has a right to play! If registration fees are a barrier to your child's participation, please give us a call at 303.646.3599

Missoula Children's Theatre Camp – LIMITED SPACE REMAINING

Only a few spots remain for this fun theatre camp held July 13-18 at Elizabeth Middle School. Youth will learn and rehearse during the week and put on 2 public showings on Saturday the 18th. Cost is \$75 per participant and is open to youth between 6-18. Call Now!

Elizabeth Celtic Fest – July 18-19

Get yer kilt on at the 2026 Elizabeth Celtic festival in Casey Jones Park. Enjoy authentic Scottish food, Irish Whiskey ice cream, beers and ales, live music, bagpiping, local artisans, and the Heavy Athletics competitions such as the always entertaining caber toss. The activities kick-off at 9am and continue until 5pm on Saturday and 4pm on Sunday. For more info and tickets visit www.elizabethcelticfest.org

Pickleball Tournament

Join our adult pickleball tournament on July 11-12 in Casey Jones Park. Divisions include Women's Advanced, Women's Intermediate, Mixed Doubles, and Men's Doubles. Register at www.elizabethpr.com or give us a call at 303.646.3599

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Keeping District Youth Sports at the Recreational Level

As is most often the case, parks and recreation agencies across the country are responsible for providing entry level sport experiences for local youth. These publicly funded programs are based on introducing youth to sports, teaching fundamental skills, promoting positive sportsmanship, and ensuring every child has an opportunity to play regardless of their ability. Ideally, costs are kept low for families through using volunteer coaches, keeping practices and games local, and setting participant fees based on direct program expenses. For many families, park and recreation leagues will effectively serve all their needs and provide structured programming that fits their schedule and meets the objectives they have developed with their child. For other families a more competitive and intensive sports environment may be desired for their child, particularly if they have a desire to play high school sports or beyond. While both recreational level and club level programs are needed within a community to support the wide range of skills and abilities of local youth, it is important for parents to understand the difference and respect the unique qualities of each. Here at the EPR District, we are committed to maintaining the integrity of the recreational level sport experience we want for our youth. To support this philosophy, we believe that teams should be assembled randomly and therefore we do not accept teammate requests, except for a head coach and their assistant coach. Siblings of course or residents of the same household are placed on the same team. We also do not accept requests for a specific coach. Through randomly assigning players to a team based on age and experience, we are trying to avoid the stacking of any individual team with the best players. It certainly may not be a perfect system, though it does provide an objective structure for dividing up a group of 180 youth into individual teams. We have been informed that some parents may have learned to try and game the system a bit through coordinating answers to registration prompts such as listing days they cannot attend practice, expressing a need for carpooling with another family, and other tactics. We do understand the desire for your child to play with a friend, but remember, it could also mean them missing out on an opportunity to meet new youth and develop new friendships. Please do your part and help keep our youth sport programs at the recreational level.