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**Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District**

# *EPR* connections

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## **Transplanting the Pines**

The District is once again providing residents the opportunity to purchase Ponderosa Pine trees that can be relocated from Casey Jones Park to your property. The trees are generally 3-25 feet tall and are in areas of the park that will see future development. Our hope is to relocate the trees within the Elizabeth Community now rather than cut them down in the future once planned park projects are initiated. District residents can purchase trees under 8 foot for \$150 and trees over 8 foot for \$250, which is a remarkable savings over tree nursery prices. There is a 10 – tree limit at this time. Residents must also arrange for and pay any associated costs for moving the trees. The District can provide contact information for tree contractors if needed. This program is intended to keep the trees within the Elizabeth Community and to assist in expanding our tree canopy. Trees will require irrigation for up to the first three years after planting in your yard, and potentially longer based on precipitation levels and draught conditions. Call the park office at 303.646.3599 for more info or to get your trees now.

## **Volunteer Group Rebuilds Ballfields at Cimarron**

The Board was approached by local residents Taton Taylor and Zach Wilson in late March with a request to be allowed to rebuild the ballfields at Cimarron Park. The fields, which have not been formally used since at least 2014 and were allowed to revert to natural vegetation, had supported youth baseball for decades prior to 2010. Both Taton and Zach shared fond memories with the Board of their own glory days on that field and their desire to now coach their children in the same location. Whereas the District is challenged with limited financial resources and providing enough athletic fields to meet community needs, the Board eagerly accepted their generous offer and committed to approve and support the effort. The volunteer group, which also includes Brandon Gaither with Brandon's Dirt Works and Todd Eylar and others from the Elbert County Wranglers, has just completed spreading infield material on the first field and will begin using it for practices in coming days. The second field has been skinned of vegetation and graded, and infield material will be added in the future. In addition to rebuilding the ballfields, the project will include new park signage, grading of the parking area, improved barriers to keep vehicles from driving in the park, an improved porta-pottie set up, and renovation of the existing storage shed on the site. Although the site does not currently have a water source for the irrigation of outfields or plumbed restrooms, the District will assess the opportunity to install a well on the property in the future. The new fields will be primarily used for practices for t-ball and coach pitch teams, which do not require much of a grass outfield, and may even host some games if the need should arise. The District asks you to join us in expressing our sincere gratitude to Taton and Zach and all other volunteers that are freely giving their time and financial resources to make this project a reality. Its folks like this that really help make Elizabeth such a great community.

# Program and Special Event Updates

## Adult Co-Ed Softball

Registration is now open for the Elizabeth adult co-ed softball league. Games are played on Friday evenings at Casey Jones Park and the season begins June 9<sup>th</sup> with the tournament on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Space is limited, so register today at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com). \$650 / team. All players must be 16 years or older.



## Missoula Children's Theatre Camp July 25-30

The District is excited to bring back the MCT Summer Camp for 2023 and offer local youth a unique theatre experience. Youth between the ages of 6-18 are invited to register and be a part of a local production this summer. Participants will work with professional actors from MCT throughout the week and rehearse their roles before giving two live performances of *The Secret Garden* on Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> for the Elizabeth Community. Camp is held at Elizabeth Middle School. Register today at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)

## Youth Soccer Summer Camp July 10 - 14

Can't get enough soccer? Register now for the Challenger Summer Soccer Camp. Camps are held at Evans Park and are open to youth ages 3-12.. This program is a partnership with Challenger Sports, and all participants must register through their website at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com) and entering the Elizabeth zip code, or by using the link on our website under the program description. Prices vary based on age and session selected.

## Pickleball Lessons

### - New Session Starts May 15<sup>th</sup> -

Interested in checking out the pickleball craze but don't know where to start? Sign-up for this friendly introduction to the sport and join instructor Lynn Watts for on court skills, drills, and camaraderie. Lessons held at Evans Park with a morning offering from 8:30-10am and an evening session from 5:30 – 7pm. Session meets 5/16 through 6/12 (no class on 5/29). Registration fee is \$50. Lessons are open to individuals 16 and up. Space is limited and these classes fill quickly, so register today at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call us at 303.646.3599 for more info.



## Zumba

### Adult Fitness Classes

Join instructor Danielle Gregory for these fun and high intensity fitness classes which combine 4 types of dance. All classes are held in the Casey Jones Pavilion on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm. Fee is \$50 for the 6-week session starting on May 25<sup>th</sup> or pay \$10 drop-in fee at the door.

## Elizabeth Stampede and Granger Smith Concert

The Elizabeth Stampede is only weeks away and you can feel the buzz of activity as volunteers have begun to prepare for the event in Casey Jones Park. The event kicks off with a concert by Granger Smith featuring Earl Dibbles Jr. on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and then 3 days of rodeo performances. This is the largest community event of the year and we encourage everyone to come out to the park and check it out. Purchase tickets and get more info at [www.elizabethstampede.com](http://www.elizabethstampede.com) Be sure to purchase tickets directly from the Elizabeth Stampede on their website, as ticket scammers are actively trying to charge you higher costs.