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SEPT - 2023



## Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

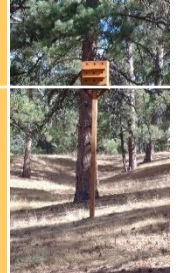
# EPR connections

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## Project Updates

The District is always working to improve your parks, add new amenities, and meet the needs of residents. Here is a little summary of what we are up to. Our renovation of the campground within Casey Jones Park nears completion, and we expect to re-open on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The improved site pads, roadways, and added septic service at most sites will be a great improvement for campers, leading to higher campground revenues for the District. An application has been submitted to Elbert County for an administrative review of a project calling for the construction of a 4-court pickleball complex and an artificial turf ballfield in Casey Jones Park, and we look forward to getting the go-ahead. The new pickleball courts will provide our growing group of local players with a high-quality facility dedicated to the sport and serve as a social hub in the community. The new ballfield will provide girls softball as well as our t-ball and coach pitch baseball programs with an additional resource to support our local athletes. The District is also developing a plan to mitigate erosion and improve the area near the first tee of the disc-golf course in Evans Park.

## A Review of District Finances

As the 2024 budget season nears, the Board is beginning to assess available resources, identify needs, and determine priorities for the next year. In their commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency with the allocation of your tax dollars, they want all residents to understand District finances.

As a taxing governmental entity, the District assesses a mill levy of 2.466 to residents of the District. This translates into about \$760K in tax revenues for the District in 2023. The 2023 District budget projects an additional \$700K in non-tax revenues from sources such as grants, recreation programming, sign advertisements and sponsorships, campground and facility permits, and state lottery proceeds. Expenses for the District in 2023 will account for about \$834 with an additional capital improvement expenditure of about \$500K.

Each year, the Board reviews and approves the budget, which is prepared by staff. The Board then makes a determination as to the amount of funding to be included for capital projects based on identified needs. Dependent upon the funding available within the District's cash reserves, the total annual expenditures may exceed the total revenues collected in that year. The Board has established a minimum cash reserve of three months of operational expenses for cash flow purposes and to enable the District to pay bills should revenues be unexpectedly cut-off for any reason.

As the District anticipates collecting increased tax revenues in 2024 due to the increase in property valuations, the Board believes it is particularly important to ensure tax-payers are made aware of how any additional funding will be used. The list of deferred maintenance and current needs to improve the appearance of our parks is a long one, and these funds will greatly assist in the effort to address some of these concerns. Additional funding will also help fund the Board's desire to conduct a community outreach effort to learn what residents need and want from their park and recreation system. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

## Upcoming Special Events and Programs

### Adult Flag Football Tournament

The annual Elizabeth Turkey Bowl Flag Football Tournament will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at Evans Park. This event is open to the first 8 teams that register. Format is 5 v 5 double elimination and there are no rules or divisions related to gender. All team members must be 16 years of age or older. Cost is \$250 per team. Top two teams receive awards and bragging rights. Register online or contact the Park office for assistance / more information.

### Halloween Haven and Hayride

District staff and volunteers will transform the Casey Jones Pavilion into a haunted haven for youth brave enough to adventure through and avoid the ghosts and goblins to get their treat. Hayrides through the forest will also be offered. This is a free family event held on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Anyone interested in volunteering for the event, or groups interested in creating a Halloween display for the trail rides, please give us a call and get in on the fun.

### Pickleball Tournament

Spots are filling fast for our first Pickleball tournament on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Evans Park. Teams may sign up for either the Women's Doubles or Mixed Doubles division and compete for king and queens of the court status. Join us for this fun event to celebrate pickleball within the Elizabeth community as either a player or spectator.

**Pints in the Park and Arts and Crafts Festival (featuring the Community Rodeo)** – Come on out to Casey Jones Park on 9/23 from noon to 10pm for a full day of fun with friends and neighbors. The Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Stampede to host this event which includes horseshoe and cornhole tournaments, craft beers, live music, a variety of arts and crafts vendors, and even a rodeo performance. Attendance to the event is free. Hope to see you there.



Youth slipping and sliding at Evans Park

## Now Hiring – Join Our Team

The District is currently seeking to fill a couple positions to complement our team and help serve the Elizabeth community. The first position is with our maintenance team as a Parks Technician. This is a full-time position that involves a wide variety of duties including mowing and trimming, snow removal, athletic field preparation, making repairs to park facilities and amenities, and more. The hiring range for the position is between \$16-\$19/hr. This FT position is also eligible for health insurance coverage, retirement benefits, and paid time off. Please forward resume / letter of interest to [Ryan@elizabethpr.com](mailto:Ryan@elizabethpr.com)

The District is also seeking an Event Planner to assist in coordinating a variety of special events for the community throughout the year. This is a new part-time / contracted position that is ideal for someone with event planning experience wanting to work on their own schedule. The ideal candidate will be a detail-oriented individual that can effectively plan and manage event logistics. Candidates should possess strong collaboration skills, knowledge of office applications / systems, and the ability to work with a variety of populations. The hiring range for the position is between \$18-\$22/ hr. If this sounds like your kind of gig, send your resume / letter of interest to [mike@elizabethpr.com](mailto:mike@elizabethpr.com)

### *words to play by*

The opposite  
of play is not  
work, it's  
depression.

- Brian Sutton Smith