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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

# *EPR* connections

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## District Project Updates

The District has been busy planning and facilitating a number of projects to improve your park system. Security systems in Evans and Casey Jones Parks were recently upgraded with new cameras, and additional cameras were added to monitor the artificial turf field and the pickleball courts. Cameras have been very useful in the past in identifying vandalism suspects, so we hope these improvements continue to deter crime and vandalism within the parks. We will also continue to replace portions of cracked / broken sidewalks within Evans Park this year and have put in some new landscaping near the splashpad. You will notice some concrete work being done in coming weeks, so please watch for closed-off portions of sidewalk and be safe. The District also recently released an RFP to solicit bids for a new pedestrian crosswalk across County Road 17 that will connect Evans Park and Casey Jones Park and improve safety for park visitors. The PROST Master Plan effort is wrapping up and the plan report is under final revisions with a projected release date in early July. We look forward to sharing all that we learned through this study and presenting a vision for the future of parks, recreation, open space, and trails within the greater Elizabeth Community.

## Upcoming Special Events

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July 5K and Pancake Breakfast

Come support the EHS Cardinal Club for a fun run / walk the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Register until July 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or on site the day of the event. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth. Our good neighbors, the Church of Latter Day Saints will also be hosting a free pancake breakfast, kids parade, and car show. The High Plains Singers will also be on hand to entertain all attendees. Come on out and join us for a great start to this festive day!

### Elizabeth Celtic Fest – July 19-20

Get yer kilt on at the 2025 Elizabeth Celtic festival in Casey Jones Park. Enjoy authentic Scottish food, Irish Whiskey ice cream, beers and ales, live music, bagpipers, 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 visit [www.elizabethcelticfest.org](http://www.elizabethcelticfest.org)

### Shred Fest – August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Like to skateboard, scooter, BMX, or inline skate? All youth between the ages of 2-18 are invited to compete in a variety of disciplines at the Evans Park Skatepark. Participants also receive lunch. This event is organized and offered by a community partner and all proceeds will benefit the Grass Family Foundation and its efforts to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and the neurodivergent community.



Scan code to register

# Open Program Registrations

## Youth Pickleball Clinic

Is your child interested in pickleball? Have them join our pickleball instructor Lynne Watts for a fun clinic where youth can learn the game and participate in various drills to develop their skills. Clinic will be held June 28 in Casey Jones Park from 8:30-10am. Open to youth ages 10-18. Cost is \$15.

## Youth Flag Football

Get signed up now for the fall flag football season. Age divisions are co-ed and include 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Cost is \$65 per player. Volunteer coaches are needed. Games start 8/23 and end on 10/11, with all practices and games held in Elizabeth. Register at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)

## Youth Soccer

Registration for fall youth soccer remains open until July 21<sup>st</sup>. Age divisions include: 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, & 10-12. Youth that span two divisions should register for the division that best suits their size and ability. Play begins 8/23 and ends on 10/11. All practices and games will be held in Elizabeth. Cost is \$65 per player and volunteer coaches are needed. Register at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call 303.646.3599 with any questions.

## Sportsfest Days 2025

Calling all sports loving youth between the ages of 8-12! Come to Evans Park on Wednesdays from 10am-noon beginning July 2<sup>nd</sup> to play some pick-up ball in the park. Our Recreation Intern, Josh will lead youth and facilitate play with a fun sport activity each week. Get out of the house this summer and play like a kid should play. This is a free activity for all interested youth. Meet on the south soccer field.

## Adult Pickleball Skills & Drills

Join instructor Lynn Watts for a fun session of skills and drills to help improve your game. Clinic will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30pm-7pm on the Connelley Court at the pickleball courts in Casey Jones Park. Open to individuals 16 and up. Cost is \$15. Register at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call 303.646.3599 for more info.

## Missoula Children's Theatre Camp

Join the MCT Staff for a creative local production of Treasure Island this summer. Campers will learn, rehearse, and then provide 2 live performances for the community to enjoy. Camp is open to youth 6-18 and is held July 21-26 at Elizabeth Middle School. Cost is \$75 for District residents and \$85 for non-residents. Call us at 303.646.3599 for more info or visit our website at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)

**We believe that every child has a right to play. If registration fees are a barrier to your child's participation, please give us a call and we will figure something out.**

## A Message from the Director

It has been quite a journey here in my time with the EPR District, and I look forward to being a part of what comes next. I think back to when I first started in this position in 2016 and the parks were empty all day long until youth sport practices started at 5pm. I contrast that with today, where I see 15-20 cars daily at the pickleball courts as I approach the park in the morning, and a half-packed parking lot out my office window, and the "Elizabeth Beach" as we staff call it, packed with moms, a few dads, some grandparents, and dozens of kiddos playing in the splashpad. People are using the parks a lot and it is great to see. Through the leadership and vision of the board, the efforts of staff, and your support, we have successfully activated the parks over the years and continue to strengthen our community through play.

As the Greater Elizabeth Area PROST Master Plan project wraps up, I am eager to share the findings and recommendations with residents and get to work on pursuing the goals and objectives that have been identified. I look forward to developing new parks in the northern portion of the District and improving the equity of access to District amenities for residents in this growing area. I look forward to a community discussion on funding for a recreation center as initially envisioned within the Casey Jones Park master plan and now reinforced in the PROST master plan. Are we ready to get this built? I look forward to pursuing opportunities to get trails built and providing safe alternative routes for accessing hubs within the community by walking or biking. And more importantly, I look forward to seeing the community continue to gather in the parks and play.