

- 2025 Proposed District Budget
- PROST Master Plan Community Workshop – Dec 11<sup>th</sup>
- 2024 in Review
- Upcoming Programs & Special Events



## Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

# EPR connections



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## PROST Master Plan Community Workshop

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us for a community workshop on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm at Elizabeth High School. We will be soliciting your thoughts and opinions on all things related to parks, recreation, open space, and trails (PROST) in order to develop a vision for what you want your parks and recreation system to be in the Elizabeth Community. The Board also wants to again hear from residents on whether a recreation center should be pursued.

The master plan effort is a collaboration with the Town of Elizabeth and the Elizabeth School District and is being financially supported through a GOCO planning grant. All three partners desire a comprehensive plan for ensuring residents have access to public spaces, amenities, and services that meet their expectations for what a community should offer. The developed master plan will guide future park system improvements and help to expand equity of access in currently underserved areas of the District.

Thanks for your support and engagement in continuing to make the Elizabeth Community an even greater place to live. We hope to see and hear from you on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 2024 in Review

### - The Debut of Two New Recreational Amenities and Programming Additions-

As we look back over the last 11 months, I am proud to share all the District has accomplished for the Elizabeth Community in 2024. The Board of Directors and staff were truly focused on getting things done and providing residents with park enhancements and new programs / services. Construction of four new pickleball courts and an artificial turf ballfield, as well as a new park entrance, roadway, parking lot, and storm drainage system began early in the year and continued through much of the summer. The new park features were officially opened on August 10<sup>th</sup> and have been a huge hit with all that have had the opportunity to get out and play on them. Both facilities are state of the art and provide residents with high quality park amenities to pursue their recreational interests right here in town.

The District added new programming in 2024 including a youth volleyball program and pickleball lessons, leagues, and tournaments, which all proved to be very popular. 60 girls participated in the inaugural volleyball program which hopes to grow even more in 2025, and the District saw over 225 registrations for its new pickleball programming.

The District also worked with the Elizabeth School District to take over management of the Kids Club programming at Singing Hills Elementary. The District now offers licensed before and after school childcare at the school for families in need and coordinated day camps during the summer and other school breaks. The District will take over management of Kids Club programs at Running Creek Elementary in January of 2025 and will continue to seek opportunities to address the continued shortage of childcare services within the community.

# Upcoming Programs & Special Events

## Mayor's Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
3pm – Santa's Village (Gesin Lot)

Tree Lighting at 5pm  
Main St and Broadway - Elizabeth

## Youth Volleyball

**Ages 6-10 / Co-Ed**

Registration Opens January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Season Starts - March 25<sup>th</sup>

After tremendous interest last year, youth volleyball is back for 2025. Practices will be held 1 to 2 times per week with games played on Saturday afternoons at Elizabeth Middle School. Two divisions are offered: 6-8 and 8-10. Players 8 years of age should select the division that best matches their skill level and physical size. Fee is \$65 per player. Register at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call the Park Office at 303.646.3599



## Basketball Official's Training

### Register Now

We are now hiring youth basketball officials for the upcoming season and providing free training to help you be successful. If you have basic sports knowledge, a positive attitude, and want to make a little extra income, register online now at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call the Park Office at 303.646.3599. All games played on Saturdays from Jan 11 – Mar 1 in Elizabeth.

## *An Elizabeth Christmas*

**Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - 1-3pm**

**Casey Jones Pavilion**

Come join friends and neighbors for some holiday cheer! Santa will be on hand for pictures and last-minute gift requests, and we will have crafts, snacks, and warm drinks for all. Also enjoy a horse drawn carriage / sleigh ride through the park.

## 2025 Proposed District Budget

The Board of Directors will be completing a final review of the 2025 proposed budget and making any needed adjustments before adoption at its December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The budget includes just over \$1.2M in General Fund revenues and an additional \$695K in Enterprise Fund revenues for a total of \$1,927,494 to fund operations, programming, and capital purchases / improvements. Total District expenses, including a capital outlay of \$667,876, are projected to total \$1,884,586.

The capital purchases that are proposed within the budget include an alarm / shut-off system for the well in Casey Jones Park, a new Zero-turn mower, a new leaf vac system, new security cameras within the parks, Casey Jones Park signage and way finding, and a net system to deter balls from entering the parking lot at the new artificial turf ballfield.

Proposed capital improvement projects include replacing pea gravel within the Evans Park playground with poured in place rubber to improve accessibility and decrease maintenance, pursuing a pedestrian crosswalk on County Road 17 that links Evans Park and Casey Jones Park, renovating the walking trail north of the pond in Evans Park and addressing erosion issues, replacing cracked and uneven sidewalks in Evans Park, and paving of the roadway into Casey Jones Park to access the pickleball courts and artificial turf ballfield.

The capital outlay allocation also includes \$317,276 for debt payments related to the purchase of land to expand Casey Jones Park in 2020, and the construction of the pickleball courts and artificial turf ballfield in 2024.

The December 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting will include a public budget hearing for those that may want to learn more or share their thoughts with the District Board of Directors. The full 2025 budget can also be viewed on the District website once it is approved, or you can request a copy of the draft now by emailing Mike Barney at [mike@elizabethpr.com](mailto:mike@elizabethpr.com)