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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

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EPR Receives \$150K GOCO Grant for Campground Expansion

On March 12th, it was announced that the District's grant request to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to support the expansion of the campground in Casey Jones Park was approved. The funds are being awarded through GOCO's *Resilient Communities* program, which funds one-time immediate needs or opportunities that have emerged in direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, the District saw increased demand on the campground, and recognized the need for an expansion. While the District applied for \$187,500 in support, the \$150,000 awarded will greatly assist in completing the project and moving the developing Casey Jones Master Plan forward. The campground expansion was identified as a priority through the master planning process due to the need for increased capacity and the increased revenues it will produce to support further park development. The expansion will include 10 new full-hook-up RV sites, 4 all-season yurts, and a tent camping area, all to be located east of the rodeo arena.

Casey Jones Park Master Planning Update

The District has recently contracted with the highly distinguished design firm, MIG, to complete the Casey Jones Master Plan and Recreation Center Design Project. Barker, Rinker Seacat will be the architecture team working on the recreation center design as a subcontractor of MIG, and has designed numerous recreation centers in Colorado and across the country. After much deliberation by the Board of Directors, MIG was selected from a diverse group of talented firms based on their approach to the project, their estimated costs, the strength of their team and subcontractors, and their overall fit with the project and familiarity with the Elizabeth Community. Design work will focus on the campground expansion first as GOCO grant funding is being used for that aspect of the overall project. It is expected that the campground expansion will be completed in the fall of this year. MIG has also begun working on overall park design based upon the vision created by the Casey Jones Park Master Plan committee. The District has also assembled a citizen based recreation center design committee which held its first meeting on March 29th. This committee will identify and prioritize the needed and desired programming for a future recreation center and assist in determining the community demand for such a facility. The committee will be seeking resident input in coming weeks through public surveys and will be working through the Spring and early Summer to create the vision for a comprehensive facility that will guide the design process.

YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION ENDS 4/6/2021

Summer Soccer

Ages: 4-12

Fee: \$60

Dates: 5/1 – 6/26

This is a recreational league for players of all levels. Games played on Saturdays at Evans Park with practices during the week. Practices begin week of 4/19 with games played 5/1-6/26. Volunteer coaches needed and receive program refund.

Girls Softball

Our Girls Softball program serves girls ages 8-12 (10U and 12U) and plays in the Parker League, with games held at O'Brien Park in Parker on Saturdays. Practices held during the week in Elizabeth. Fee is \$99. Register online at www.elizabethpr.com or call park office at 303.646.3599

T-Ball

This is an introduction to baseball for youth ages 4-6. Focus is on teaching basic hitting, catching, throwing, and base running skills on the individual level, not team competition. Practices begin week of April 19, with games played on Saturdays from 5/1 through 6/26. Fee is \$50/player. All activities take place in Elizabeth. Volunteer coaches are needed and receive a program refund after the season. Guidance and support is available for new coaches as desired. Register online at www.elizabethpr.com or call park office at 303.646.3599.

Majors / Minors Baseball

This program serves youth ages 9-12. Youth are assigned division / team based on pre-season skill assessment. Season includes home games in Elizabeth and travel to other communities such as Ellicott, Peyton, Kiowa, Elbert, and Rush. All games played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Saturdays. Fee is \$115. Volunteer coaches needed. Register online at www.elizabethpr.com or call park office at 303.646.3599.

Rookies Baseball

This is a machine pitch league for players between the ages of 6-8. Practices begin week of April 19 with games on Saturdays on 5/1 through 6/26. All activity takes place in Elizabeth. Fee is \$60/player. Volunteer coaches are needed and receive a program refund after the season. Guidance and support is available for new coaches as desired. Register online at www.elizabethpr.com or call park office at 303.646.3599.



Message from the Director

After such a Wintry month of March, I am so excited for the warming temps of the coming days, the greening of the grass on the athletic fields, and the increasing visits to the parks by all of you and your families. Emerging from both the winter season and this horrendous pandemic really makes Spring and the upcoming Summer something uniquely special.

The District's Easter Eggstrvaganza event is scheduled for this Saturday, and though we had to limit numbers to some extent and require reservations, we so look forward to offering kids and families a bunch of fun on what looks to be a beautiful day. In addition to youth sports starting this May, the District is offering adult softball and volleyball this summer as well, so regardless of your age, get out there and play.

The Evans Park Splashpad will return to normal operations this year, and no reservations will be required. We appreciate your patience and cooperation last year in utilizing the system. We anticipate an opening in Mid-May, though it may open sooner or later dependent upon weather conditions.

Lastly, please know that we have re-seeded some natural areas within Evans Park and have temporarily closed the Disc-Golf Course to allow for the regrowth of vegetation for erosion mitigation. Please stay on designated trails when in natural areas and allow these areas to heal.

Thanks for your continued support of the Elizabeth Park and Recreation District, and as always, if there is anything we can do better, please let us know.

Cheers,
Mike Barney