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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Recreation District

# *EPR* connections

[www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)

[info@elizabethpr.com](mailto:info@elizabethpr.com)

303.646.3599

PO Box 434 – Elizabeth, CO 80107



## **Pickleball and Artificial Turf Ballfield Project Update**

The District recently received three proposals for the construction of the planned new 4-court pickleball complex and artificial turf ballfield project within Casey Jones Park. All bids were well above the anticipated project budget of \$1.6M, so the Board is assessing where costs may be reduced without lessening the project impact and value for the community. They have reached back out to the contractors that submitted bids and have requested their suggestions for how project costs may be reduced. The Board will meet again soon to decide how best to reduce costs and proceed with the project. They will then award the construction contract to the preferred contractor based on total project cost, schedule for completion, and other pertinent factors. Regardless of the contractor selected, construction is scheduled to begin in late February or early March and continue through the summer with a targeted opening in August.

## **District Looks to Collaborate with Elizabeth Schools to Manage After-School and Summer Day Camp Programs**

As the Elizabeth School District faces challenges in staffing in some areas, they reached out to the Park and Recreation District to see if there may be interest in taking over the after-school program at Singing Hills Elementary. After some discussion between the two agencies, EPR District has completed and submitted an application for childcare licensure with the State of Colorado and is preparing to begin managing the program. Executive Director, Mike Barney expressed that the district taking over the after-school program really fits within his view of an effective community service model. He expressed that the school district and teachers do such a great job of educating and caring for our youth during school time, though Park and Recreation agencies should be committed to serving these youth during out-of-school times. He further shared that after-school programs and summer day camps provide park and recreation agencies the opportunity to serve community families with needed childcare options, so it is important that we step up to the table and provide a quality service for residents.

Although the licensing process can take up to two months or longer, both agencies are currently working to develop an interim plan to maintain the program until Elizabeth Park and Recreation District can obtain its license and officially take over. No big changes are planned in regards to the schedule, fee structure, and program logistics, though the EPR District does look forward to adding its own resources to accentuate the fun and continue providing high quality experiences for participants. The EPR District is also planning to manage the Kids Club summer program at Singing Hills and may assume management of the same programs at Running Creek Elementary should the need arise in the future.

# Program News and Updates

## Majors / Minors Baseball

**Ages: 9-12**      **Fee: \$120**      **Dates: April - June**

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 rural communities such as Ellicott, Peyton, Kiowa, Elbert, and Rush. Fee is \$120. Skill Assessment Sessions are: 4/5 from 5:30-7pm and 4/6 and 4/7 from 12-1pm (players only need attend one session. League play begins 4/20. Volunteer coaches needed. Register online at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call park office at 303.646.3599.

## Zumba

**Drop-In Classes - Thursday Evenings**  
**7-8pm 2/1 through 3/14**

Mark it on your calendar now and join instructor Danielle Gregory for these fun rhythmic fitness sessions on Thursday evenings at the Casey Jones Pavilion. Program is appropriate for individuals of all abilities and fitness levels. No need to sign up, just show up and pay \$10 at the door. Come try it, you'll love it!

## T-Ball

**Ages: 4-6**      **Fee: \$55**      **Dates: 4/20 – 6/22**

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 22<sup>nd</sup>, with games played on Saturdays from 5/4 through 6/22. Fee is \$55/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](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call park office at 303.646.3599.

## Youth Volleyball

**Ages: 6-10**      **Fee: \$65**      **Dates: 3/30 – 5/4**

This is a new program offering for all youth between 6-10 years of age. Divisions include 6-8 and 8-10. Youth age 8 years old should play in the division that best suits their size and skill level. Teams will practice 1-2 times per week and play matches on Saturdays. All activities held at Elizabeth Middle School. **Registration ends 2/26 – don't miss out!**

## Rookies Baseball

**Ages: 7-9**      **Fee: \$65**      **Dates: 4/20 – 6/22**

This is a machine / coach pitch league for players between the ages of 7-9. Practices begin week of April 15 with games on Saturdays on 5/4 through 6/22. All activity takes place in Elizabeth. Fee is \$65/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](http://www.elizabethpr.com) or call 303.646.3599.

## Spring Soccer

**Ages: 4-12**      **Fee: \$65**      **Dates: 3/23 – 5/11**

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 3/11 with games played 3/23-5/11. Volunteer coaches needed and receive program refund. **Registration ends 2/19 – Please Don't Miss It!**

## Highlighting District Amenities and Services

In addition to all the great programs, special events, and park spaces the District manages on behalf of community residents, here are some other services available:

- The rodeo arena in Casey Jones Park is available most days for residents to freely use. Just bring your horse on down to the park, read the warning signage, and ride at your leisure.
- The North Forty Trail within Casey Jones Park passes through a wooded section of the park and is just over 1.3 miles in length. It starts north of the ballfields near the maintenance yard and is open for hiking, biking, and horse back riding. Please keep dogs leashed and pick up dog waste.
- The Casey Jones Pavilion is an 1800 square foot rustic and historic facility that can host your party or event. Need to book some space for an in-town event, check it out.
- The District owns three inflatables that residents can permit for use at their home or in a park at an event. Whether hosting your party at Evans Park or in your backyard, give us a call and add an inflatable.
- The District is committed to ensuring every child has an opportunity to participate in our programs, regardless of financial ability to pay. If your family needs some assistance, just give us a call.