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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

***EPR* connections**

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Evans Park Upgrades

As the local interest in Pickleball continues to grow, the District was lobbied to install permanent courts to support players who can't get enough of this game. We have now received the net systems and are looking forward to getting the two courts set up as weather allows. We will also be re-painting court lines in coming weeks. If you have not played yet and want to check it out, paddles and balls are available for use through the District office. Just give us a call and get in the game. The maintenance crew is in the process of installing new lighting at the skatepark to support evening use. The skatepark really proved to be an important hang-out for many local teens through the pandemic, providing an outdoor space to recreate, and we want to help expand those opportunities. The District is reviewing proposals to install a concrete walkway west of the lower soccer field. This will complete a loop extending from the new Town trail to the existing walkway in the park. It will also provide needed ADA access to the lower (West) multi-purpose field.

Casey Jones Park Master Planning and Recreation Center Design

The District has been busy the last two months planning and requesting proposals to begin the design and engineering phase of developing the recently expanded Casey Jones Park. A design firm will be selected on February 19 to begin work on the project. The goal is to develop a master plan for the property based on the recommendations of the planning committee and begin design on specific park elements. An expansion of the campground will be one of the first improvements pursued. This includes roadway improvements, the creation of a new campground loop to the northeast of the existing campground, the addition of 10 RV sites, the addition of 4 Yurts, and the addition of a formal tent camping area. The District has submitted a grant request with GOCO to support this project. The second component to be pursued this year is the schematic design of a community recreation center. Though funding for the construction of a recreation center has not yet been identified, it is indeed time to create the vision for the future facility. In order to better understand the community's vision for a recreation center, the District is creating a Recreation Center Design Committee. This committee, in combination with public surveying of residents, will identify the desired programming for the facility and assist in layout and design planning. It is expected that the committee will begin its efforts in early March and continue through early Summer. We are actively seeking a diverse group of individuals who are interested in serving on the committee and helping us design an incredible community resource. Specific groups we are seeking representation from include: seniors, adults, teens, parents, and the special needs community. If you have any interest in being a part of this group and helping us create the vision for what this facility will include, please contact me at milke@elizabethpr.com or 303.646.3599 and let me know.

Program Registrations – NOW OPEN

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.



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.

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.

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.

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



Let's Go Sledding!

Words of Wisdom

**For better results,
stop worrying about
opponents.**

coachingyoungathletes.com

Message from the Director

Returning to Play

As vaccinations continue to roll out and provide hope of an increased ability to keep us safe from Covid-19 going forward, I am most excited about our ability to start playing again. Though significant risks still exist for many, the light at the end of the tunnel is visible. We did push our Spring youth soccer program from March to May and believe that a program will be safely offered by that time. Baseball and softball seasons will also start at that time, offering community youth a chance to get back on the field. The thought of Evans Park filled every Saturday with families cheering on our young athletes is one of my favorite aspects of this job. Adults can look forward to summer softball and then kickball to follow, rediscovering the joy of gathering to play and socialize with friends. We all can also look forward to the Elizabeth Stampede in early June, the Celtic Festival in July, and the many other events that will be occurring in our community this coming year. Nothing is for certain, things can always go awry, and we are not fully out of the bag just yet, but I do feel encouraged that things will soon be better. In the meantime, let's continue to wear our masks, frequently wash our hands, do our part to help the situation get better, be kind to each other, and plan for your family's return to play. Thanks for all of your continued support of the Elizabeth Park and Recreation District, and I wish for each of you a fantastic 2021.