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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

# EPR connections

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#### Advertise on the District's Digital Display Board

Need more eyes on your logo or business advertisement? Want to surprise a loved one with a special birthday or anniversary message? Take advantage of the District's digital display board at the corner of Highway 86 and County Road 17 and it is sure to be noticed. The 10mm high resolution digital signboard is 10 feet long by 6 feet wide, placed 10 feet off the ground, and its vibrant colors attract eyes from most everyone that passes by. Daily rates start at \$60 for District residents and discounts are provided for multiple days. This program also helps financially support District park operations and recreation programs. Call us for more info at 303.646.3599 or visit elizabethpr.com



# Project Updates

The District is currently managing a renovation of the campground in Casey

Jones Park as well as planning for the installation of a 4-court pickleball complex and an artificial turf softball field. The long-awaited campground renovation project will add sewer connections at most all of the 25 campsites, improve roadways and site pads, add an emergency 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance / exit, and improve site signage. This project is partially funded through a GOCO grant and will enhance the camper experience as well as District sustainability as the campground generates substantial revenue to help support District operations and capital projects. The site plans are now complete for the pickleball and artificial turf field project, and we are now working with Elbert County for approval of the project and the OK to begin construction. We anticipate releasing a request for proposals within the next month to identify a contractor that will lead the construction, and we hope to break ground later this fall. The 4-court pickleball complex will help meet the demand for courts by local players and provide a high-quality amenity to support participation in the emerging sport. The artificial turf ballfield will help support our community t-ball and coach pitch baseball programs as well as provide a new field for girls' softball programming. A common parking lot will be built between the two new amenities and the roadway into the park will be moved to the south and improved to support increased traffic. We are also in the process of replacing the underground wiring for the ballfield lights at Casey Jones Park. While the light fixtures themselves were upgraded last year, we have now found that the old wiring must also be replaced. The wet spring and frequent faults revealed its poor condition, and continually locating and repairing damaged wire is not feasible. Conduit will be used for the new wiring to ensure that future District staff avoid the challenges we are currently managing.

## **Be Kind to the Parks and Minimize Your Impact**

The Parks are seeing spectacular usage levels this Summer and we are so delighted to see all the smiling faces playing in the splashpad, pursuing athletic activities, fishing in the pond, walking the trails, hanging out at the playground, shredding the half-pipe in the skatepark, and pursuing so many other recreational activities. It really brings us staff great satisfaction to see all of you enjoying the spaces we work so hard to create and maintain for you. As we all flock to the parks for these activities, it is critical that we take a community wide approach to ensuring the parks are taken care of and respected. When visiting, please remember that sidewalks and trails are intended for non-motorized vehicles only (accessibility devices of course and electric assist bikes are allowed). For those that skate / scooter / bike at Evans Park, or have children who do, we want to remind everyone that while these activities are encouraged in the park, they are not allowed on the splashpad. Potential collisions with others or objects, slippery surfaces, and a lot of small bare feet running around make use of wheeled devices on the splashpad unsafe. Please also remember that the splashpad is for humans only, no pets are allowed. Litter, particularly near Dragonfly Pond in Evans Park has been a big challenge this summer, and so we ask that everyone using that area of the park be sure to place all waste into a trash can, and perhaps even pick up a piece or two of someone else's litter during a visit to help out. Leaving it better than we found it is an ideal I hope we can all strive toward. We have also had a few acts of random vandalism recently that has caused damage to the parks. While we are fortunate that it is not a regular occurrence in our community, it is certainly disheartening when it is discovered as it negatively impacts all park users. If you see something that does not look right, please let us or the police know as soon as you can so we can check it out.

Thanks for being a fan of your community parks and for your contributions in making and keeping them safe and aesthetically pleasing places where we can all congregate, recreate, and celebrate.

# **Program and Special Event Updates**

End of Summer Bash - Saturday 8/19, 11am at Evans Park

All youth are invited to attend this fun wet and wild event to close the summer season before heading back to school. The bash will feature the giant slip-n-slide, inflatable jumping fun, a water balloon battle, games, and more. This event is free for all and a great opportunity to get out and play with your Elizabeth friends and neighbors. See you there!

#### **Zumba Classes**

These fun classes combine Salsa, Merengue, and Reggaeton rhythms with different dance styles to provide a great addition to your fitness routine.

Register for the entire 6-week session for \$50 or drop-in on any class date for \$10 at the door. All classes held at the Casey Jones Pavilion on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Classes start August 10<sup>th</sup> and continue through September 14th.

### **Canine Capers Dog Training**

New sessions of our dog training classes will begin in late August and limited openings remain available. For class offerings and meeting dates / times, check our website. Classes held at the Casey Jones Pavilion.

#### **Pickleball Programming**

We are currently putting together late Summer / early Fall pickleball lessons and leagues, so watch our website for schedules and registration information in coming weeks. Get in now on the fun craze that is sweeping the nation. You won't regret it.