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## Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec 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

## Proposed 2023 District Budget

The Board of Directors will be holding a public hearing on December 6<sup>th</sup> at its monthly meeting before approving the 2023 budget. The District's budget includes a General Fund which accounts for tax revenues, lottery proceeds, and other revenue sources that pay for general administrative expenses and capital improvements, and an Enterprise Fund which accounts for business activities including programs, facility permits, campground operations, and other fee based services. The proposed General Fund budget includes revenues of \$1.16M and \$675K in operational expenses. The proposed Enterprise Fund budget projects revenues of \$398K and operational expenses in the amount of \$222K. The proposed Capital Improvement Budget for 2023 is robust at just under \$1M, tapping into District reserves, and proposed projects include a new pickleball complex, an artificial turf ballfield, completion of the campground renovation, playground improvements, new irrigation control boxes, well system improvements, and the purchase of some equipment to assist with park maintenance operations.

## 2022 in Review

### - Improving District Infrastructure -

The year began with the completion of the Casey Jones Master Plan and hopes of voter approval for funding to pursue a new recreation center as well as other aspects of the master plan. Residents decided in May however that they did not support an increase in the District mill levy to fund the proposed projects at this time. The Board then decided to pursue other elements of the Casey Jones Master Plan that could be funded within the District's current budget. This included a planned renovation of the existing campground, the creation of a maintenance yard to securely and safely store supplies and materials, and equipment, and the replacement of the ballfield lights, which had become unusable. Should the community choose to fund the larger aspects of the master plan such as the recreation center, field house, and/or event arena in the future, the plans will be ready.

The Board discussed the acquisition of some open space properties from Elbert County, with the focus being on how the District could help facilitate the development of additional park spaces. The vacancy of the County Manager position throughout much of the year has stalled the discussion, though the Board looks forward to the possibility of acquiring additional properties and expanding service while increasing access to parks for District residents.

Through the District's Programs and Special Events Division, over 1150 youth participants registered for an event or program, and over 370 adults came out to play. The District's special events attracted over 1070 individuals to Evans or Casey Jones Park to come together with neighbors and celebrate our community.

The District also welcomed two new staff this year with Joyce Wasson stepping in as Administrative Assistant, and Michael Burns as a new Park Technician. Ryan Staley was promoted to Parks Manager, and our part-time Office Attendant Janet Turbett retired. All the best Janet!

# Upcoming Programs & Special Events

## Mayor's Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 3,  
3-6pm – Santa's Village  
Canned Food Drive – donations welcome  
Tree Lighting at 5pm  
Main St and Broadway - Elizabeth



## Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

Register Now - Season Starts Jan 27, 2022

Get your team together and get signed up for this fun weekly night out to play. Teams can roster up to 12 players age 16 and up with 6 on the floor at a time. Games are played on Friday evenings. Teams play two matches each Friday evening during the season. Cost is \$300 per team. All games played at Elizabeth Middle School.

Register at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)  
Or call 303.646.3599



## Christmas and Caroling with Santa

Saturday, Dec 17

1-3pm

Casey Jones Pavilion

Come join District Board Members and staff 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.



Turkeys Hiding Out at Casey Jones Park

## Words to Play By

**In all of living, have  
much fun and laughter.  
Life is to be enjoyed,  
not just endured**

- Gordon B. Hinckley -

## Message from the Director

*The Power of Parks and Recreation*

If you want to see and experience the real power of a park, come on out and visit a park on about any Saturday of the year from Spring through Fall. Parks and recreational programming are essential elements of a community's infrastructure and provide unique opportunities for residents and visitors to come together and play or just sit and enjoy nature. Play, more than just about anything else, has the inherent ability to help us forget about our differences and troubles while fully engaging us in flow inducing experiences that contribute to our physical, cognitive, and emotional health. From skateboarders having their own space to gather together for a sick session after school, to disc-golf enthusiasts standing in the woods facing a daunting mondo, to a group of sixty-somethings engaged in an epic-long volley on the pickleball court, to a mother teaching her son how to cast a pole in Dragonfly Pond, and a grandpa getting their grandchild on a horse for the first time in the riding arena, your local parks provide the background for some of the most enjoyable and memorable times in our lives. They also provide a space for more passive pursuits such as walking a trail and enjoying nature, sitting on a swing watching the sunset, or finding a nice tree to sit under and write a short story while the magpies proudly chirp and hop about the branches above you. Parks are for here everyone! They are truly good medicine and I see the positive impacts that parks have on people every day. So regardless of how you like to play, unwind, or enjoy leisure, get out to a park soon, take in the fresh air, spot some wildlife, and treat yourself to a little fun. We'll be sure to keep the parks ready for ya. The Board and staff wish you all a very happy holiday season!