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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

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Casey Jones Park Master Planning Effort Begins

A number of community stakeholders have begun meeting to create a draft master plan for Casey Jones Park, which now contains over 100-acres. The group is focused on creating a regional recreational campus with diverse use that will serve residents and visitors for generations to come. Objectives include dedicating areas for land conservation and a future community center, improving rodeo and special event space, infrastructure assessment and recommendation of needs, and assessing other opportunities based on community needs and desires. The draft master plan is to be presented to the Board of Directors by late Summer and the District will seek GOCO grant funding to assist in financing the eventual development plan.



Message from the Director

Sometimes, even recreation is not a fun job

A couple of weekends ago, I had to walk onto both ball fields at Evans Park and tell everyone the game was over. I clearly was not a popular guy at that moment. I felt horrible. The previous weekend, we had observed the same group's activities and notified them afterwards of their need to comply with our rules for field use during these challenging times when social distancing remains necessary. They assured us they would limit activities to practice going forward and honor our current restrictions, though that next weekend, the activity was not lessened, it had instead seemingly become a "everything back to normal" mentality with a full game being played, umpires being used, and 40-50 spectators crowded together behind home plate on each field. I couldn't allow it to proceed because I do not want our parks to get shut down due to the activities of individuals unwilling to respect the present ways we have to do things. While we staff want to get back to playing as much as anyone, its our hobby as well as our job, we all must be willing to ease back in to sports as conditions and the guidance we receive allows. We can't play a game of softball at this point the same way we did last summer. We can make specific modications to the way we play and gather however that enables us to respect the threat of Covid-19 spread while still enjoying some level of the activities we love. Its tough all the way around out there right now, and participating in sports is no different. It can be done, but we need to find ways to create and maintain social distance to the extent possible, avoid physical contact with others, cover our nose and mouth when not able to distance (ie: 1st baseman with a runner on first), avoid / limit the sharing of touched items, and stay home when sick. Please folks, play smart and lets ensure we keep our parks open.

Splashpad Open with Reservations Required

Though the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to present a significant level of risk that each family and individual must assess to determine what level of activity and social interaction they may be comfortable with, the District recognizes that access to play is important and essential in these challenging times.

To operate the splashpad during a need to continue social distancing, the District is implementing a reservation based system for use. Families that reside within the District can make a reservation by contacting the park office at 303.646.3599 and will have exclusive use for up to an hour per day. All use will be supervised by a District staff member who will operate the splashpad, ensure exclusive use, and disinfect touchable surfaces between reservations. To assist in covering the expenses of these splashpad monitors, the District is assessing a reservation fee of \$8 per 30-minutes, or \$15 per hour. We want to ensure all District families have access to the splashpad as usual, so if the reservation fee is a barrier to use for your family, please let us know and we will certainly work with you to adjust the fee as needed. Visit our website at www.elizabethpr.com and click on the “Parks and Facilities” tab at the top of the page and then select “Splashpad” to see the full opening and operating plan. When possible, the splashpad will be operated as a free drop-in use facility as always intended. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation, and we hope to see you soon.

Program & Special Event Updates

Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on the District’s programs and special events. Both the Elizabeth Stampede and the Celtic Festival have now been cancelled for 2020. Youth baseball and softball leagues have also now been cancelled for this summer, though we will be offering small group baseball clinics for Rookies and T-Ball players beginning June 1st. These clinics will be limited to 6 participants and will focus on individual skill development in the areas of catching, throwing, hitting, and base running. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. We are also assessing similar program opportunities for older youth and will provide updates as we are able. All families that registered for baseball or softball will receive a full credit on their account for future use. If your situation requires a refund rather than an account credit, please call the office or send us an email and we can happily assist you. It is unlikely that we will be able to offer Adult Softball this summer, and fall sport programs may also likely be cancelled unfortunately. Staff will continue to assess program opportunities that allow us to meet recommended pandemic guidelines over coming weeks and will provide updates as we are able. It’s hard imagining a summer without baseball and maybe a fall without football / soccer, though that’s where things stand for now folks. Check our website at www.elizabethpr.com for latest program info and registration details.



Trail Riding

Quote of the Month

Between every two pine trees there is a door leading to a new way of life

John Muir