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## Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

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## **Dry Spring Significantly Impacts Park Athletic Fields**

The historically dry fall and early winter as well as the total lack of moisture in April has caused tremendous stress on the park's athletic turf. The south soccer field in Evans Park in particular has large areas of turf loss, and other fields show unusual patchy and worn areas. While it may appear that turf maintenance is lacking, the stark reality is that much of the turf simply did not survive the lack of moisture over the period when irrigation systems were shut down for the winter season. Irrigation systems cannot be operated until there is confidence lines and heads will not freeze, typically occurring in mid to late April. In order to facilitate the spring soccer season for youth, staff prioritized allowing youth to play over the health of the turf. Following the conclusion of spring soccer on May 14, the south soccer field will be fenced and closed off as it is re-seeded. We look forward to the field, and all turf areas in the parks being back in top shape soon. Currently, staff are aerating and fertilizing all turf areas, and began irrigating on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your understanding and patience as we work to revitalize these turf areas.

## ***Residents Vote No on Recreation Center***

Despite the District's belief that the community desired a recreation center, 71% of participating voters opted not to fund the project during the recent election. Over 4900 ballots were returned, representing a 37% return rate. The District received a lot of feedback during the election process, with many voters expressing concerns that included: increased taxes, the language of the ballot question, the lack of a sunset period for the proposed tax increase, and the inclusion of other proposed improvements within Casey Jones Park. The general concern about further development and the associated impacts within the Elizabeth Community was also raised by some and appeared to be a reason for opposing the project. Board Members certainly expressed some disappointment in the results, and had hoped that the planning efforts, which were led by community stakeholders and residents, were truly representative of wider community desires. They also acknowledged that the current economy, inflation concerns, and geo-political conditions likely impacted resident opinions.

The Board will now continue to review the election and further engage with residents to develop an understanding of the types of park and recreation amenities they may desire. This will include assessing potential future support for a recreation center with consideration of the feedback that we have received during the past election.

The Board and District want to thank all the residents and community stakeholders that volunteered to participate in the planning processes over the last 18 months, and all residents that took the time to learn about the ballot measure and participate in the election. If and when the community may decide we want a recreation center, the plans will be ready.

# Program and Special Event Updates

## Adult Co-Ed Softball

Registration is now open for the Elizabeth adult co-ed softball league. Games are played on Friday evenings at Evans Park and the season begins June 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a season ending tournament on July 23. Space is limited, so register today at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com).  
\$650 / team.



## Missoula Children's Theatre Camp July 25-30

The District is excited to bring back the MCT Summer Camp for 2022 and offer local youth a unique theatre experience. Youth between the ages of 6-18 are invited to register and be a part of a local production this summer. Participants will work with professional actors from MCT throughout the week and rehearse their roles before giving two live performances of *The Frog Prince* on Saturday July 30 for the Elizabeth Community. Register today at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)

## Adult Paint and Sip Social May 27 / 6:30-9pm

Join local artist Courtney Tice for a fun evening of guided acrylic canvas painting. The theme for the evening will be mountain landscapes. Participants are welcome to bring snacks and adult drinks to share pot-luck style with other participants if desired. Program is held in the Casey Jones Pavilion and all art supplies and materials are provided. Registration fee is \$35. Space is limited and these classes fill quickly, so register today at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)



## Elizabeth Stampede and Community Rodeo

Put on your boots and get on down to the Elizabeth Community Rodeo on May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Casey Jones Park. This free event is sure to please as local talent competes in a variety of events including the young ones doing some mutton busting. The historic Elizabeth Stampede starts on June 2, with the concert, and then rodeo performances throughout the weekend. Purchase tickets and get more info at [www.elizabethstampede.com](http://www.elizabethstampede.com)

*Words to Play by*

**"It is a happy talent to know how to play."**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Youth Summer Art Camps May 23-25

Register for this fun art mini-camp as summer gets started and explore All Things Pokemon (ages 6-9 / 10am-1pm) or Mythical Manga (ages 10-14 / 1:30-4:30pm). Camps are held in the Casey Jones Pavilion. Cost is \$75 and all materials are provided. Register at [www.elizabethpr.com](http://www.elizabethpr.com)

## Drop-In Fitness Classes Yoga / Zumba

Join our dynamic instructors for a Yoga session on Monday evenings at 7pm and / or Zumba on Thursdays at 7pm. All classes are held in the Casey Jones Pavilion. Drop-in fee is \$10/ participant.