



2024 Annual Report

Evergreen Park and Recreation District



Letter from the Executive Director

The Evergreen Park & Recreation District is happy to present our 2024 Annual Report. This year report highlights projects, activities, and awards received.

Our teams have focused on "taking care" and continuing to "rebuild recreation" per the strategic plan outline. We have finalized with Board of Directors a financial plan to accomplish the laid-out packages from the Strategic Plan. We continue to demonstrate innovative and thoughtful approaches to programming, operations, maintenance, and overall safety. We continue to battle the Districts aging infrastructure that we are doing our best to keep up with.

We look forward to seeing you at an event, park, program, or facility soon. Please follow us on social media and/or sign up for updates at evergreenrecreation.com, as we have a lot of great things happening and we want to share it all with you! We'd like to thank you, our community, for your continued support, participation, and for allowing us to help "elevate your life!"

Cheers,
Cory Vander Veen,
Executive Director, Evergreen Park & Recreation District



About Evergreen Park & Recreation District



EPRD is a Special District, which is a form of local government authorized under state law and created to perform a specific purpose. In our case, that purpose is to serve the park and recreation needs of our constituents.

Today, EPRD serves approximately 23,000 people residing within District boundaries. The District covers 50,000 acres (78 square miles) and serves the communities of Evergreen, Bergen Park, Indian Hills, Kittredge, and Marshdale.



EPRD: Elevate Your Life!

Strategic Vision

Together we build opportunities to elevate the lives of our community!

Mission Statement

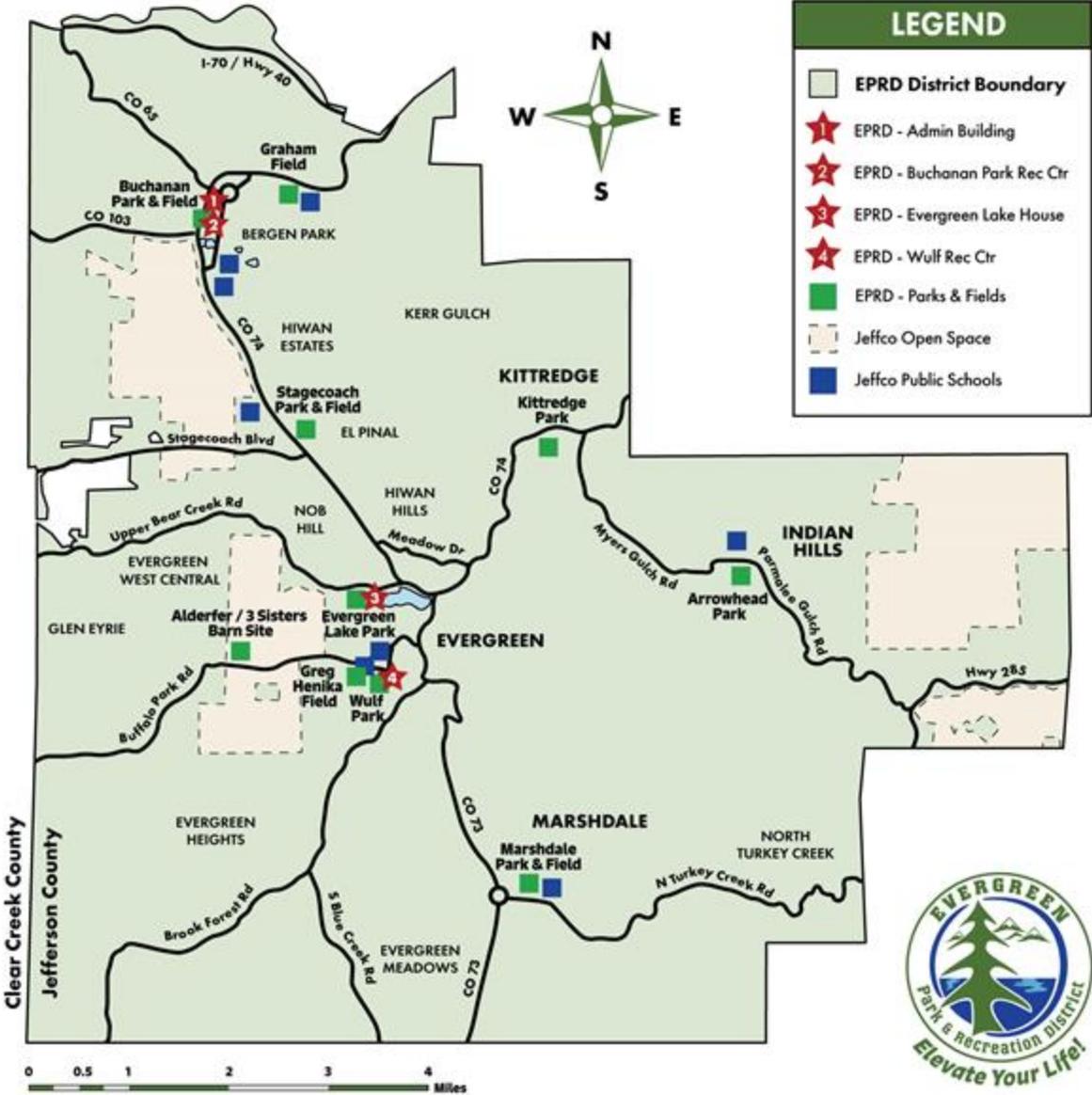
The mission of EPRD is to improve the quality of life of the Evergreen community by providing a wide range of excellent, financially responsible park and recreation amenities and programs while maintaining and enhancing the area's mountain character.

History of the District

The Evergreen Park & Recreation District (originally named the Evergreen Metropolitan Recreation and Park District and renamed in 1992) was authorized in January 1969 by a vote of the residents of the area. At that time, the stated purpose of the District was to provide recreational opportunities to its residents and construct a community center with a swimming pool.



EPRD District Map



2024 Board of Directors

The District is governed by a 5-person Board of Directors, each elected for a four-year term by the District residents.

(left to right)

Nina Armah

Secretary

Mary McGhee

First Vice President

Peter Eggers

Treasurer

Don Rosenthal

Second Vice President

Betsy Hays

President



***THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE INCREDIBLE PROGRESS MADE IN 2024!***



Parks

The Evergreen Park & Recreation District owns over 75 acres of parkland on 15 different parcels and partners with various other agencies in the management of approximately 180 additional acres on 7 additional parcels. Components of the Evergreen Park and Recreation District's managed park property include:

- Ball diamonds (7)
- Multipurpose fields (9)
- Open turf (1)
- Picnic grounds/shelters (8)
- Playgrounds (7)
- Tennis court locations (4)



There are over 230 miles of hiking and biking trails within the boundaries of the Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD), 6.45 miles of which are on EPRD property. Most of these trails are owned and managed by other agencies. Several types of trails exist, including natural trails and paved trails. Some trails are contained within the extent of individual parks, and some meander through the District and connect parks and open space to homes and businesses. In 2024, EPRD is excited to acquire Kittredge park from Jefferson County Open Space. This will continue to be a great community park and EPRD has shifted from leasing this park to now owning this property.



Recreation and Facilities

Camps

- 1,039 Adventure & Preschool campers
- 52 Youth in INSPIRE camp
- 195 Youth in Gymnastics camp
- 249 Youth in Sports camps
- 60 Youth in Climbing camps
- 171 Youth in Specialty Camps

Lake House

- 17,049 Boating & stand-up paddle board admissions
- 17,679 Skating admissions

Facilities

- 260,000 Recreation center visits
- 10,184 Fitness class admissions
- 1,156 Aquatic lessons/participants



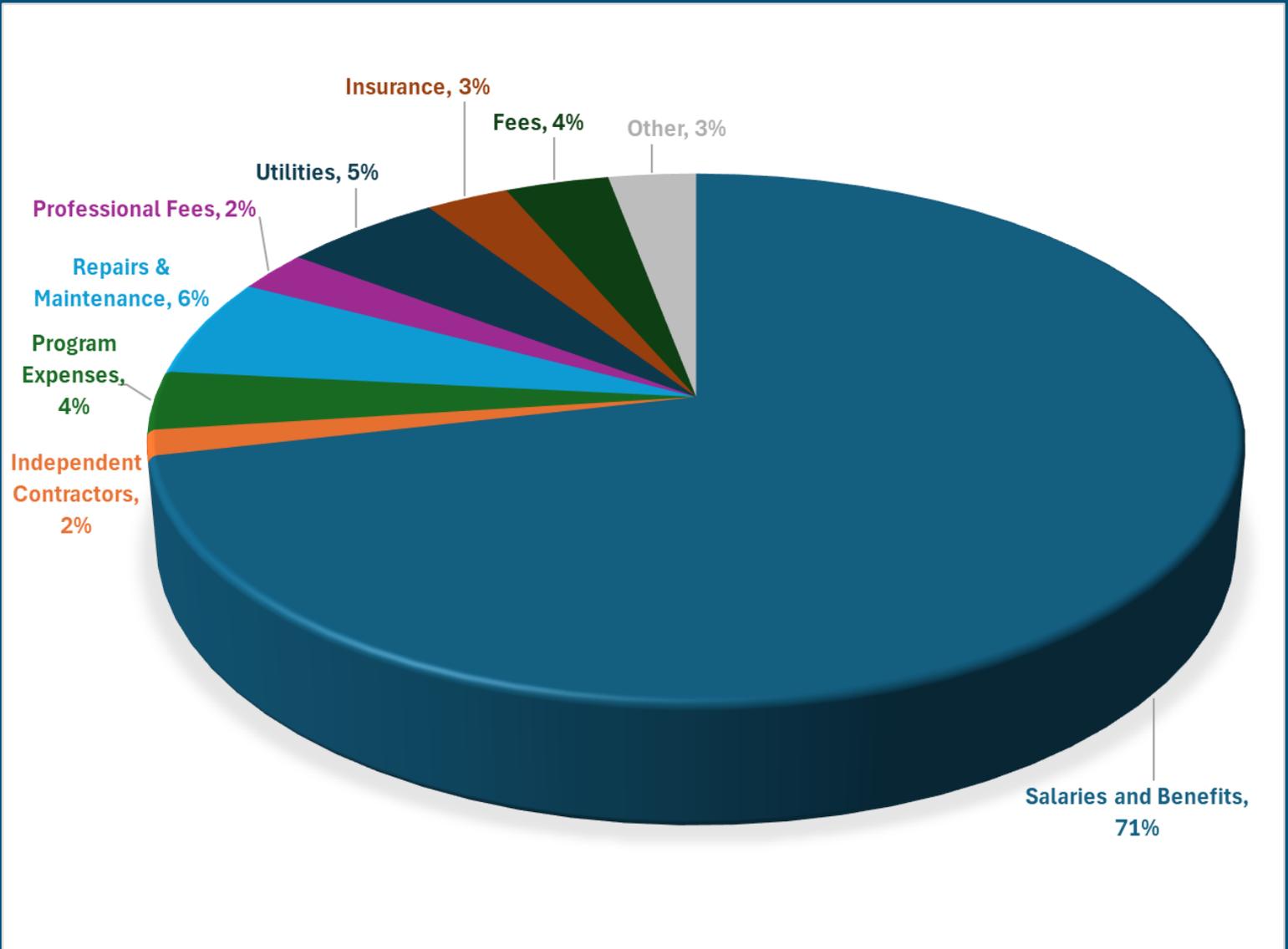
Information Technologies (IT)

In 2024, the IT Department led several critical initiatives aimed at strengthening our technology infrastructure, enhancing security, and improving user experience across the district. Key accomplishments include:

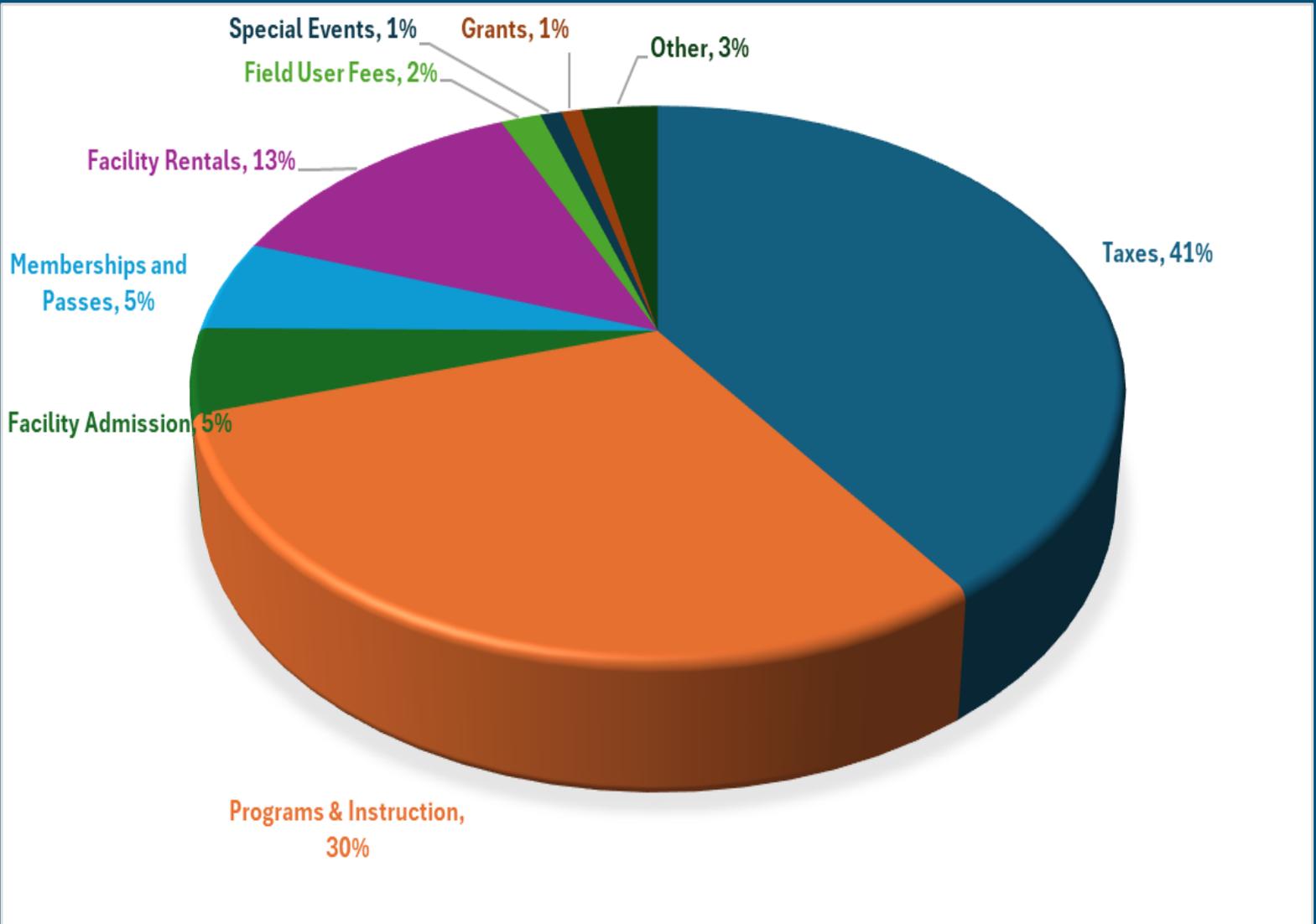
Infrastructure & Security Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installed fiber cabling at Buchanan to support new security cameras and Wi-Fi access points at the Rec Center.• Deployed new security cameras at Park Operations and additional cameras at Wulf.• Installed UBOX battery-powered cameras in multiple parks to expand surveillance coverage.• Upgraded network infrastructure with new switches at Wulf.
Technology Upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolled out Microsoft 365 across the District.• Decommissioned legacy Google services.• Provided staff with new laptops, replacing desktop systems district-wide (excluding Front Desk stations).
Web & Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched a new, streamlined district website with improved ADA compliance.• Consolidated user accounts to support efficient PDF remediation and accessibility efforts.
Communications & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installed informational TVs in Rec Center lobbies for announcements and promotions.
Cybersecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered district-wide cybersecurity training to maintain compliance with insurance requirements.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented the official .gov domain for improved digital trust and transparency.



2024 Operations Expenditures



2024 Operations Revenue

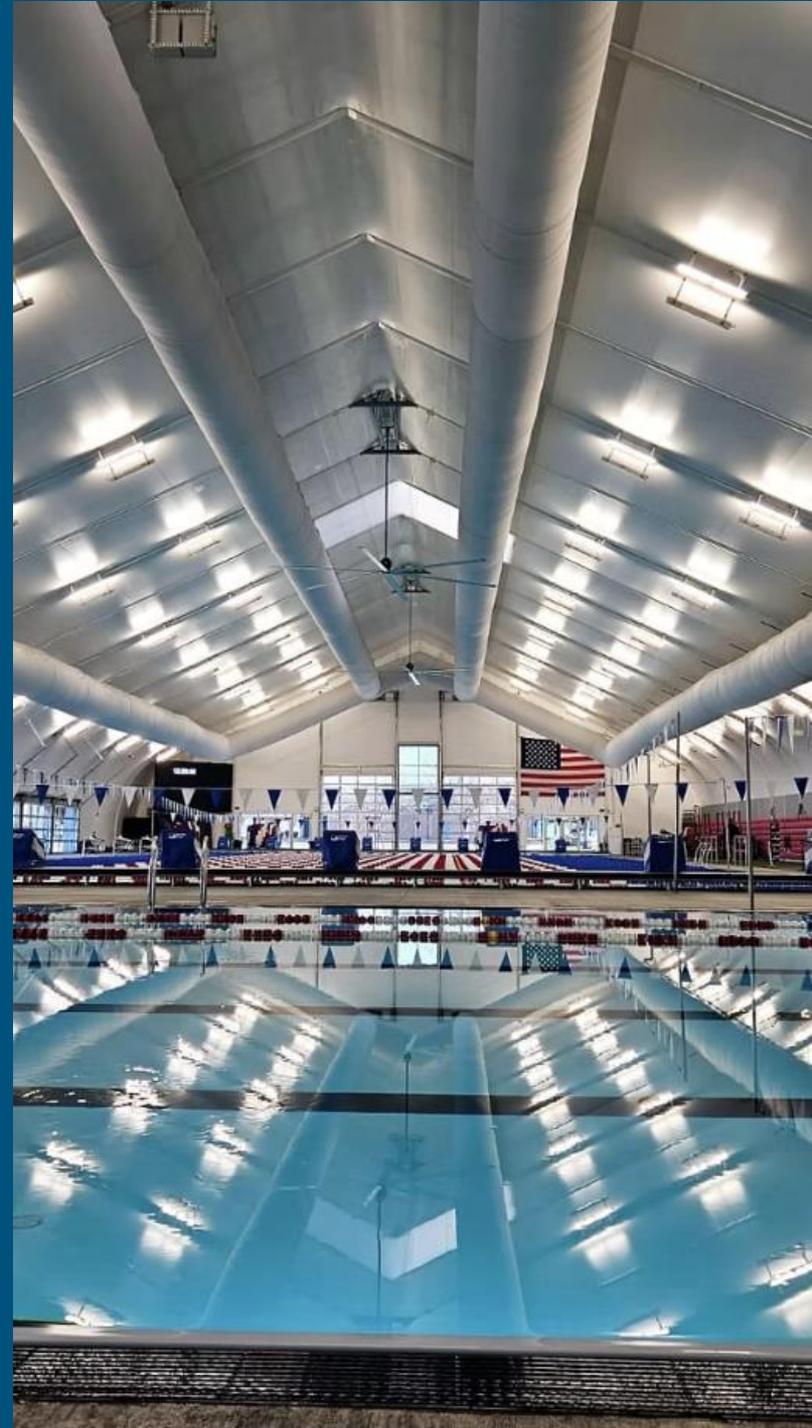


2024: Planning for Major Capital Improvements

Strategic Planning and a successful ballot measure in 2023 set up EPRD to begin planning and fundraising for major capital projects in 2024. The major capital projects include:

- **AQUATICS EXPANSION**
- **BUCHANAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS**
- **FIELD HOUSE/GYM EXPANSION**
- **WULF REC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS**

EPRD will build the major improvements using portions of regular revenues from fees and property taxes, grants, private donations, and certificates of participation. Certificates of Participation are essentially bonds offered by a local government that are secured by property or guaranteed revenue. In this case the added annual revenue from the mill levy extension approved by voters in 2023 (73% in favor) made it possible for EPRD to secure the loan to make the improvements within the next five years, ***without another bond campaign or tax increase.***



Capital Improvement Highlight: Buchanan Park

The improvement of EPRD's 42-acre Buchanan Park – which comprises more than half of the total 78 acres that EPRD owns – has been a priority for the community and the District since the first part of parkland was acquired in 1994 with 96% voter approval.

In 2024, EPRD gathered community feedback, assembled stakeholders, and hired designers and engineers to help us make this 30-year vision a reality. EPRD launched its grant campaign and helped local community members with their own fundraising efforts to support park elements they care about most.



Capital Improvement Projects

In 2024, EPRD completed various Capital Improvement Projects district-wide:

- 1) Replaced the Make up Air Unit for the locker rooms at Buchanan.
- 2) Resurfaced the pool at Buchanan Park Recreation Center and installed new play features.
- 3) Installed a new lighting panel at Buchanan Park Recreation Center.
- 4) Completed the final upgrade for the HVAC base system at Wulf.
- 5) Added an indoor cold plunge and outdoor hot tubs to Buchanan Park Recreation Center.
- 6) Installed an ADA compliant Pool Chair Lift for the Wulf Recreation Center Pool.
- 7) Added new fitness equipment in both Wulf and Buchanan gyms.
- 8) Installed new security cameras at both Wulf and Buchanan.
- 9) Collaborated with Indian Hills to create a concrete public community gathering space.
- 10) Replaced playground at Wulf Recreation Center.
- 11) Completed improvements at the Marshdale Pickleball Courts, including resurfacing, expanding courts, and installing shade structures, landscaping, and sound-proofing.



...and more!!!



2024 Proposals & Grants

In 2024 EPRD pursued more grants than it ever has in a single year. Here is a partial list of grant agencies EPRD proposed to in 2024:

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Jefferson County
- Jefferson County Open Space
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Gates Foundation
- Boettcher Foundation
- Colorado Gives
- SIPA Colorado
- FEMA



Our hard work paid off. The grant applications filed in 2024 have generated more than \$1.25 Million in outside funding for EPRD to use over the next few years, covering projects from Buchanan Park improvements to hail damage at the Lake House to website accessibility improvements.

EPRD Partners and Relationships

EPRD maintains relationships with many entities that play important roles in District success.

- Active 4 All EPRD Foundation
- Seniors 4 Wellness
- Friends of Buchanan Park
 - Blue Spruce Kiwanis
 - Hops Drops Evergreen
 - Evergreen Skatepark Coalition
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Jefferson County Open Space
- Evergreen Fire Rescue
- Denver Mountain Parks
- Evergreen Metro District
- Youth Sports Leagues
- Evergreen Downtown Business Association
- Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce
- Community Non-Profits such as Center for the Arts Evergreen, Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society, Evergreen Rotary, Mountain Music fest, Mountainfilm, and more!
- Local publications such as the Canyon Courier, Evergreen Living, Lariat Loop, Macaroni Kids, Peach Jar, and more!



Sponsorships & Advertising

EPRD is grateful for the support of our sponsors, whose contributions are essential to offering diverse programs and events to the community each year. Through collaboration with these businesses and organizations, EPRD is able to enhance our event and program offerings to provide even more memorable experiences for community members and visitors alike. Our 2024 sponsors included:

- Chow Down Pet Supply
- JR's Landscaping
- Hop's Drops
- Beau Jo's
- Lynn Westfall
- Natural Grocer's
- Evergreen Brewery
- Piney Wine & Spirits
- And more...



Events

EPRD hosts a diverse array of events each year, ranging from outdoor concerts in our stunning mountain setting, to sporting events, to family-friendly festivals celebrating local community and culture. With something for everyone, EPRD's events have grown and continue to enhance the quality of life for our residents and attract visitors from near and far, showcasing the vibrant spirit of our mountain community.

Park & Flex



Froestival



Yoga & Wine



Summer Concert Series



Family Campout



Plus,

- IceFest
- Pond Hockey
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Our first ever Haunted House
- Movie Nights
- Senior Line Dancing
- AND MORE!



Volunteers & Community Days

EPRD's volunteers play a crucial role in enhancing our community through their commitment to giving back and supporting events. We are incredibly thankful for their dedication and the lasting positive impact they have on our District.



Park & Adopt-A-Road Cleanups

8 Cleanup Events

76 Volunteers

152 Hours



INSPIRE Fundraisers

Evergreen Ice Melt	45 Volunteers	\$10,000
Andy Smith Jr. Golf Tournament	15 Volunteers	\$21,200
Boogie at the Barn	10 Volunteers	\$20,000
Triple Bypass	5 Volunteers	\$20,000



ACTIVE4ALLEVERGREEN

Active4All (A4A) Evergreen is the charitable partner of EPRD. They strive to mobilize public support and financial improvement of parks and recreational

opportunities for all members of the Evergreen community. They do this by accepting donations and hosting fundraising events. In 2023, they raised over \$25,000 for EPRD. This funded scholarships for EPRD'S INSPIRE program and various capital projects.

The 2024 A4A polar plunge event at Evergreen Lake had hundreds of participants and 28 volunteers, raising funds of over \$40,000! EPRD is grateful for their partnership and the volunteer base that supports their fundraisers.



2024 Green Initiatives



In 2024, EPRD Green Team made incredible progress on its environmental and sustainability initiatives! The Green Team consists of various staff members with a passion for sustainability and environmental stewardship. The mission of the EPRD Green Team is **to increase sustainability and improve the environmental impact of EPRD activities, events and facilities.**

2024 Green Team projects included:

- **Achieved Bronze Certification** with the Colorado Green Business Network (CGBN) through the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- **Welcomed EPRD's first-ever Sustainability Specialist** as a seasonal staff member, in partnership with the CSU Impact MBA fellowship program
- **Conducted waste audits at EPRD events** to determine areas for improvement in waste diversion
- Began **planning to implement waste-sorting stations** at EPRD events in future years
- **Created Sustainable Events Guidelines** to improve internal practices and reduce waste at District events
- **Implemented a Green Construction Policy** to prioritize sustainability and environmental impact in all EPRD construction and service contracts
- **Organized ongoing community trash cleanup events** throughout the year, as well as Adopt-A-Road Cleanups
- Hosted a community **Earth Day celebration**



Green Business
Network Certified
BRONZE MEMBER

More to come in 2025!

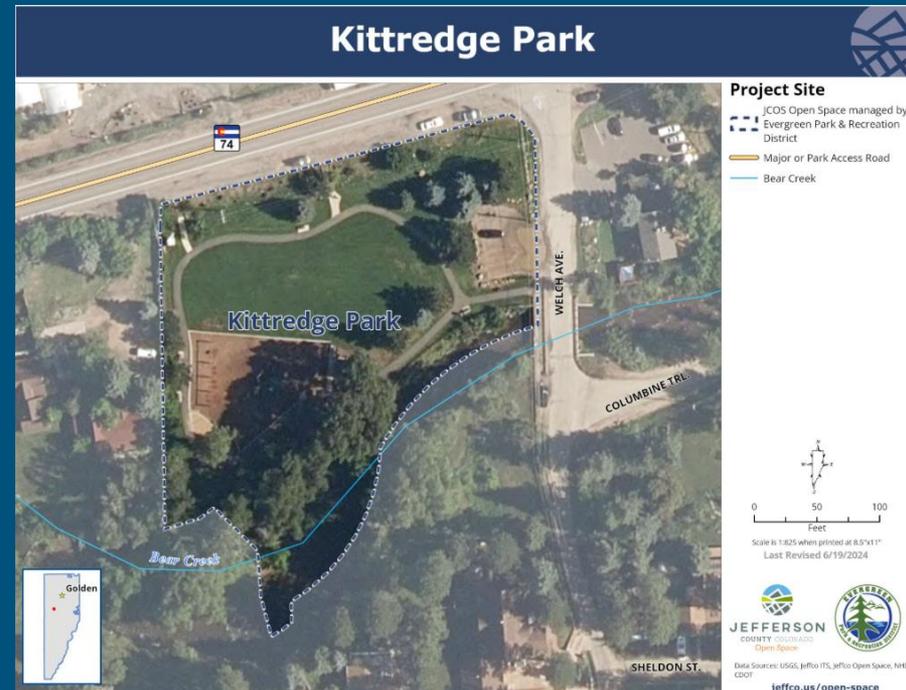
2024 Key Highlights

- Successfully completed and adopted EPRD's 2023 Strategic Plan, which provides a roadmap for EPRD to serve the community for the next 5+ years.
- Denver Cooperative Agreement fees ordinance approved by Denver City Council.
- Hired for several crucial District roles, including Events & Sponsorships Specialist, Guest Experience Manager, Director of Operations, Financial Controller, Assistant Finance Controller, Human Resources Manager, and full-time Park Operations staff.
- Hired first Sustainability Intern in partnership with the CSU Impact MBA program.
- Continued community input and planning for Buchanan Park improvements.
- Awarded \$40,000 Jefferson County grant from Bronco Stadium Funds that jump started the grants for Buchanan Park.
- Implemented formalized employee stretch goal program for bonus incentives.
- Migrated all District emails, calendars, and documents from Google to Microsoft 365.
- Board direction and approval on planning for the expanded Aquatics Facility at BPRC



Kittredge Land Acquisition

- Jefferson County acquired Kittredge Park in 1986, Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) has leased this property to the Evergreen Park and Recreation District (EPRD).
- The movement of Bear Creek and several property transactions around the creek that occurred over many decades resulted in the need to adjust the south park boundary. To address this, JCOS completed multiple settlements with landowners to clearly define public and private land around Bear Creek. These transactions sustain public access to Bear Creek that visitors have always enjoyed. The public areas are defined by fencing, as shown on the attached map. JCOS has now transferred ownership of this property to EPRD in December by County Commissioner approval.





EVERGREENRECREATION.COM