



EPRD STRATEGIC PLAN

Frequently Asked Questions

What community feedback did EPRD consider in its Strategic Plan?

Over the course of several months in early 2023, EPRD created 2,342+ touchpoints of engagement with the Evergreen community. EPRD attended more than 25 meetings of civic clubs and community organizations and reached out at five community events such as Skate the Lake. Over 150 community members participated in six discovery sessions, 288 people gave online feedback, and 150 community members submitted comment cards at our rec centers. Next, every District resident received a postcard inviting them to weigh in (570 responses), and an online “open link” survey was made available to all EPRD stakeholders including non-District residents (557 responses). Finally, EPRD engaged with K-12 students in a variety of ways to receive feedback from 617 area youth.

What other information did EPRD consider in its Strategic Plan?

In addition to community input, several other factors were considered to develop the Strategic Plan:

- Comprehensive assessments of current conditions of EPRD indoor & outdoor assets
- Current demographic information about the community & recent trends in parks & recreation
- Detailed feedback from user groups
- Plans and studies previously compiled by EPRD and others
- Cost estimates for adding new facilities/programs, future operations and maintenance costs &
- Guidance from planning consultants on implementation strategies, cost recovery, and funding.

How were potential initiatives prioritized?

The EPRD Board developed specific Criteria for prioritizing strategic initiatives, assessing the degree to which a project:

- Is Supported by the Community
- Is Fiscally Responsible and Operationally Feasible
- Takes Care of What We Have
- Promotes Sustainability
- Increases Usage of EPRD Facilities and/or Users’ Quality of Experience, and
- Fulfills the Long-Term Vision of EPRD.

Other dynamic factors including urgency, operational capacity, and new opportunities also play into the prioritization and implementation strategy of potential initiatives.

How were projects grouped into Package 1 and Package 2 Initiatives?

Package 1 and Package 2 initiatives were developed based on the above EPRD Board Criteria and other dynamic factors such as urgency, operational capacity, and new opportunities that arise. The packages are also designed to maximize the reach of available funding for improvements to serve the whole community. Both packages are dependent on EPRD securing additional funding. Package 1 initiatives will be implemented first. Package 2 initiatives, which focus on future developments and large capital improvements to both Buchanan and Wulf rec centers, will require additional funding.

What are the initiatives in Package 1 and Package 2?

See <https://www.evergreenrecreation.com/334/Strategic-Plan-2022-23> for more details.

Package 1 Initiatives

- **Indoor Facilities** - address maintenance needs and improve conditions and accessibility at both Rec Centers and the Lake House.
- **Parks & Fields** – improve maintenance and amenities and adopt park standards at Wulf Park, Kittredge Park, Stagecoach Park, Arrowhead Park and fields at Evergreen Middle School, Bergen Valley and Wilmot Elementary.
- **Buchanan Park** – plan and implement park enhancements to create an expanded community gathering space, better trail connections, and greater accessibility throughout EPRD’s flagship park. During park planning, consider features requested by residents such as a small off-leash dog park, a new skatepark, or an all-season rink for roller skating & ice skating.
- **Pickleball & Tennis** – upgrade outdoor pickleball facility at Marshdale Park and resurface the tennis courts at Wulf Park. Explore public/private opportunities for more indoor/covered courts.
- **Land Acquisition & Community Opportunities** – create an opportunity fund to help EPRD form partnerships and respond to strategic opportunities to expand our reach, acquire land, and leverage funding.

Package 2 Initiatives

- **Expanded Aquatics Center** – an indoor/outdoor aquatics center at Buchanan Park including more lap lanes, new leisure & therapy pool features, and an outdoor plaza with a splash pad & hot tub.
- **New Gymnasium Space** – new multipurpose gymnasium space at both Wulf and Buchanan Rec Centers, adding an indoor running track, indoor court space, and new climbing features.
- **Indoor Facilities** – utilization & accessibility improvements and major facility upgrades (revamps to locker rooms & program space, more efficient mechanical systems, etc.) at both Rec Centers and the Lake House.
- **Community Opportunities** – continue to watch for partnership and funding opportunities to expand facilities and services, focusing on improving trail connectivity and watching for strategic opportunities to acquire land.

What is the implementation timeline for Package 1 initiatives?

The Strategic Plan groups Package 1 initiatives into target implementation timeframes of 0-2 years, 3-4 years, and 5+ years. Current sequencing concepts for Package 1 initiatives *assume that voters will authorize a mill levy extension in November 2023*. Other factors can affect the implementation timeline as well: What if a facility has to close for major repairs? What if a new opportunity arises to share resources? The implementation strategy is designed to be flexible enough to respond to new funding opportunities, urgent projects, changing community needs, and other factors.

What if a pool breaks down or other costly repairs are needed?

EPRD finds itself in a predicament of aging infrastructure, changing recreation trends, and many competing requests from our community. EPRD’s first priority is to continue to address maintenance and repairs in a timely and responsive fashion. Under current conditions, should a pool break down, or if other costly repairs are required, EPRD may need to tap reserves and/or reallocate money from other capital improvements, operations, or programming. EPRD’s new Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for EPRD to plan more proactively to upgrade essential components and improve maintenance, thereby helping avoid unexpected repairs.

Where can I learn more and view EPRD’s new Strategic Plan?

Find the new Strategic Plan and more information on EPRD’s website at <https://www.evergreenrecreation.com/334/Strategic-Plan-2022-23>.

