



# 2023 Annual Report

## Evergreen Park and Recreation District



# Letter from the Executive Director

The Evergreen Park & Recreation District is excited to present our 2023 Annual Report. The 2023 report highlights projects, activities, and awards received. We express sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the Park and Recreation District through 2023 as we continue to provide high-quality programming, facilities, events in our mountain community.

Our teams have been busy taking care of what we have and rebuilding recreation. We have been closely working with the Board of Directors to move forward with a continued 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. In 2023, we celebrated the Lake House 30 year anniversary, Wulf Recreation Center 50 year anniversary, and Buchanan Recreation Center 20 year anniversary. We have been challenged with aging infrastructure that we are doing our best to keep up with. We appreciate all the support form the November election and the overwhelming support of 72% in favor of supporting the District.

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](http://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 and participations and 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

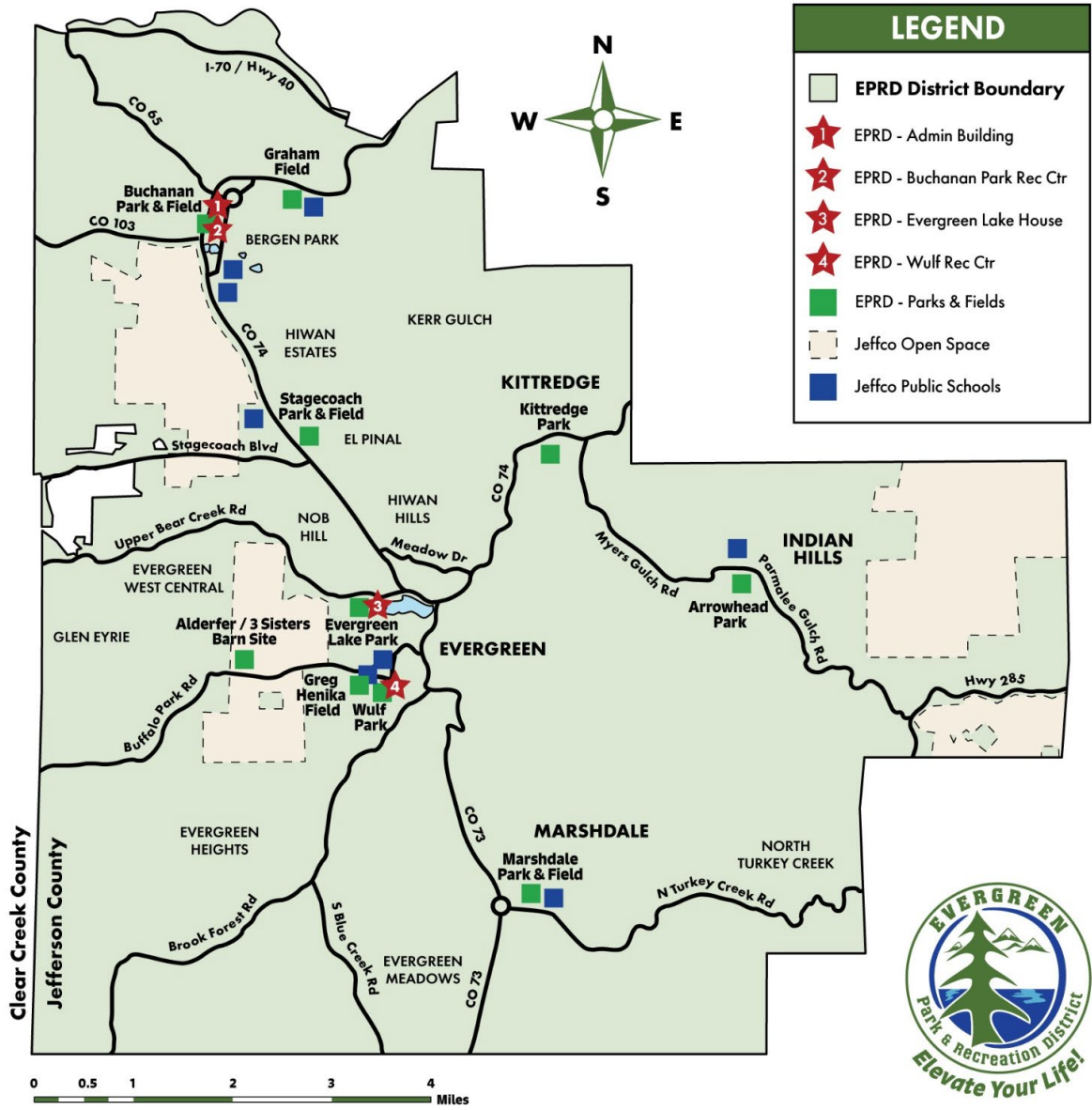
The mission of EPRD is to improve the quality of life of the Evergreen community by providing a wide range of excellent, financially responsible park and recreation amenities and programs while maintaining and enhancing the area’s mountain character.

## 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.

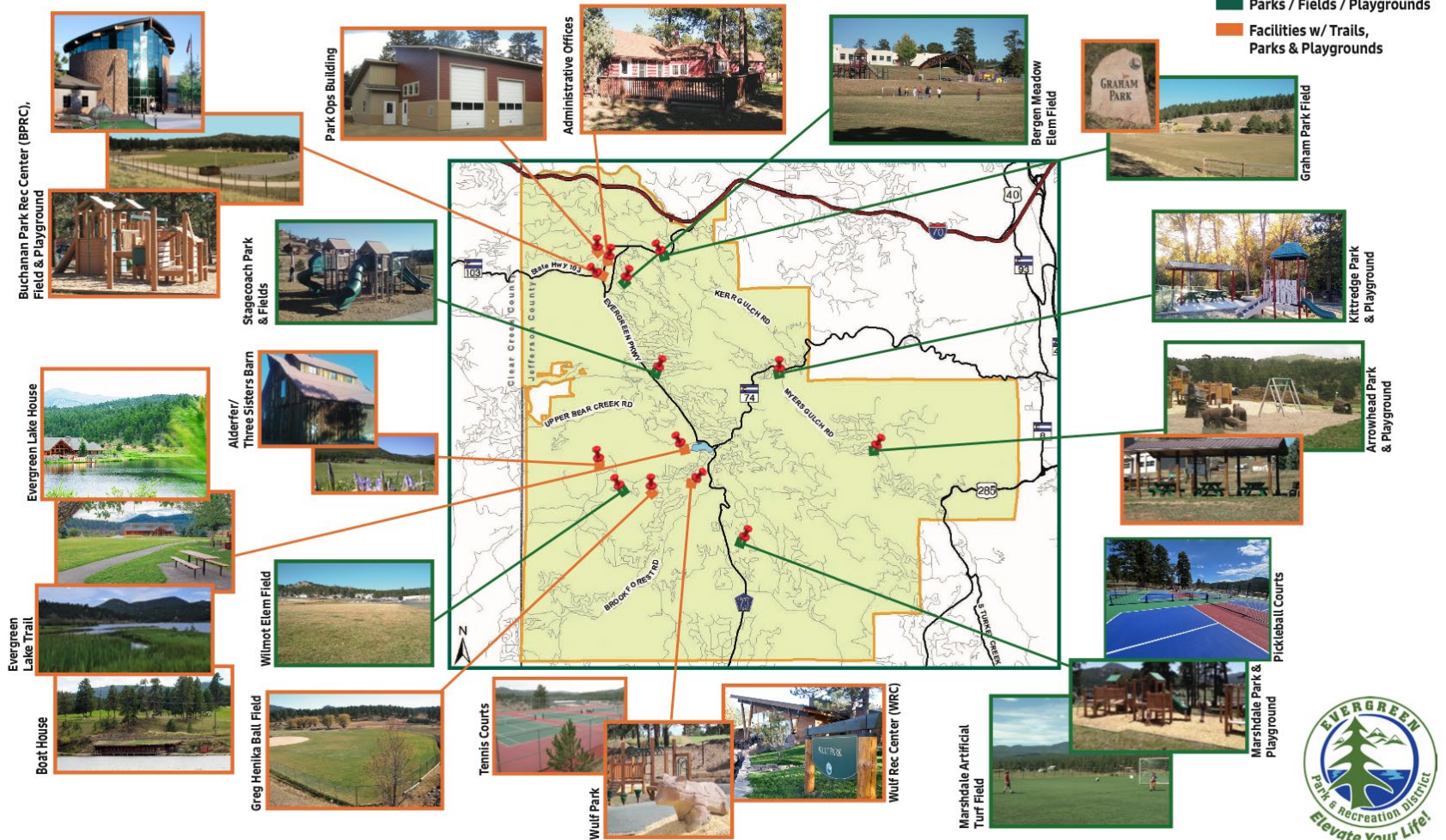


# EPRD District Map



# EPRD Facilities, Parks, Fields, Playgrounds & Trails

## EVERGREEN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT MANAGED FACILITIES, PARKS, FIELDS, PLAYGROUNDS AND TRAILS



# 2023 Board of Directors



*(left to right)*

**Nina Armah** | *Secretary*

**Mary McGhee** | *Treasurer*

**Peter Eggers** | *President*

**Don Rosenthal** | *Second Vice  
President*

**Betsy Hays** | *First Vice  
President*

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



# 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. The majority 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. Many of the trails are destination hikes and attract not only residents, but also users from outside of District boundaries.





# Recreation and Facilities

## Camps

- 824 Adventure & Preschool campers
- 51 Youth in INSPIRE camp
- 212 Youth in Gymnastics camp
- 161 Youth in Sports camps
- 50 Youth in Climbing camps
- 73 Youth in Specialty Camps

## Lake House

- 15,000 Boating & stand-up paddle board admissions
- 20,000 Skating admissions

## Facilities

- 161,484 Recreation center visits
- 7,151 Fitness class admissions
- 2,614 Aquatic lessons/participants



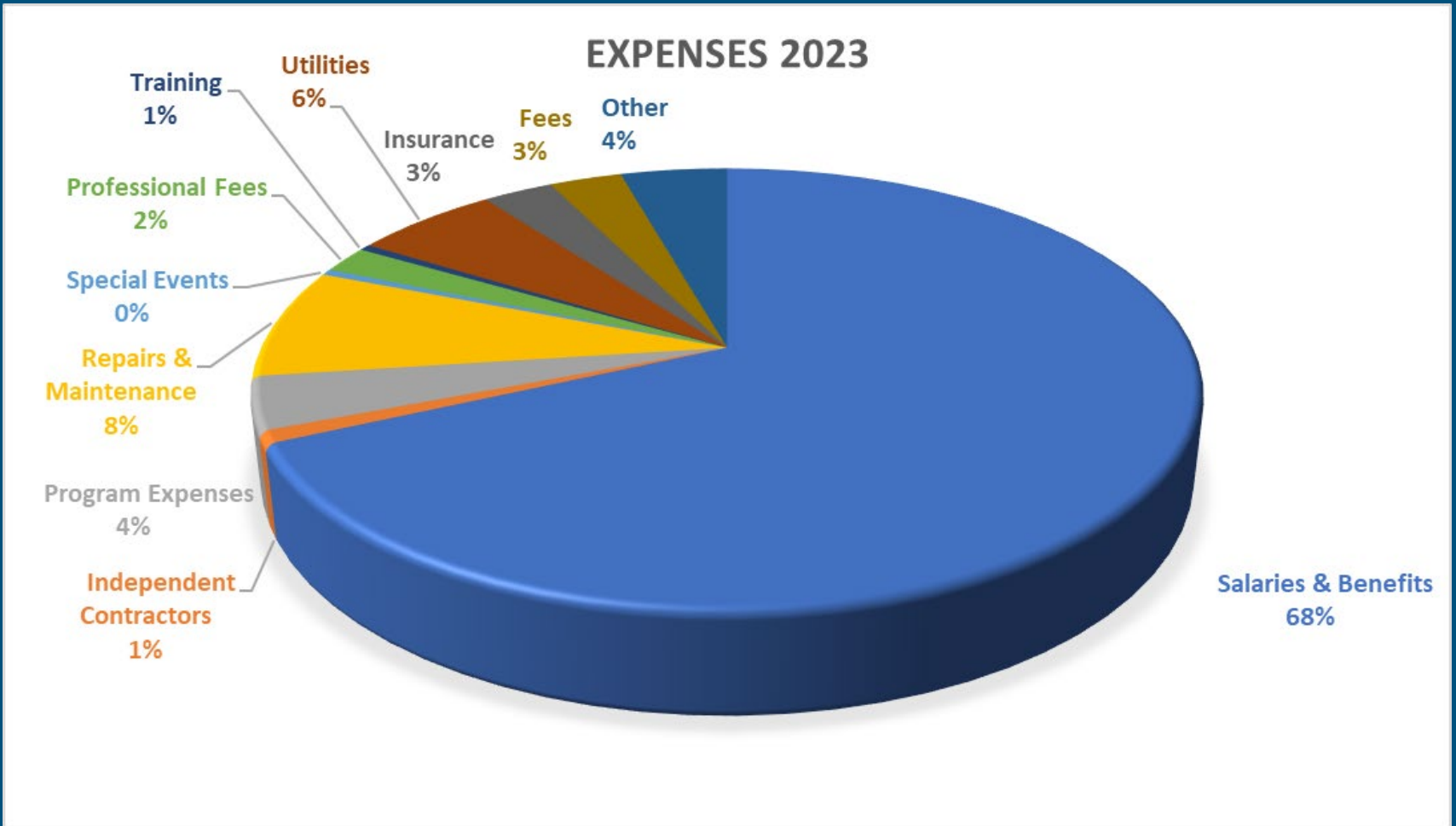
# Information Technologies (IT)

In 2023, the IT department undertook several key initiatives to enhance our technology infrastructure and security.

- We meticulously prepared the backend systems for the migration from Google Workspace to M365, ensuring a smooth transition.
- We conducted comprehensive computer training sessions to boost user proficiency and efficiency.
- We implemented Verkada security camera systems at Wulf, Parks, Buchanan, and the Lake House to strengthen our security measures.
- Additionally, we set up new printers for Buchanan, Wulf, Admin, and the Lake House, improving our printing capabilities across these locations.



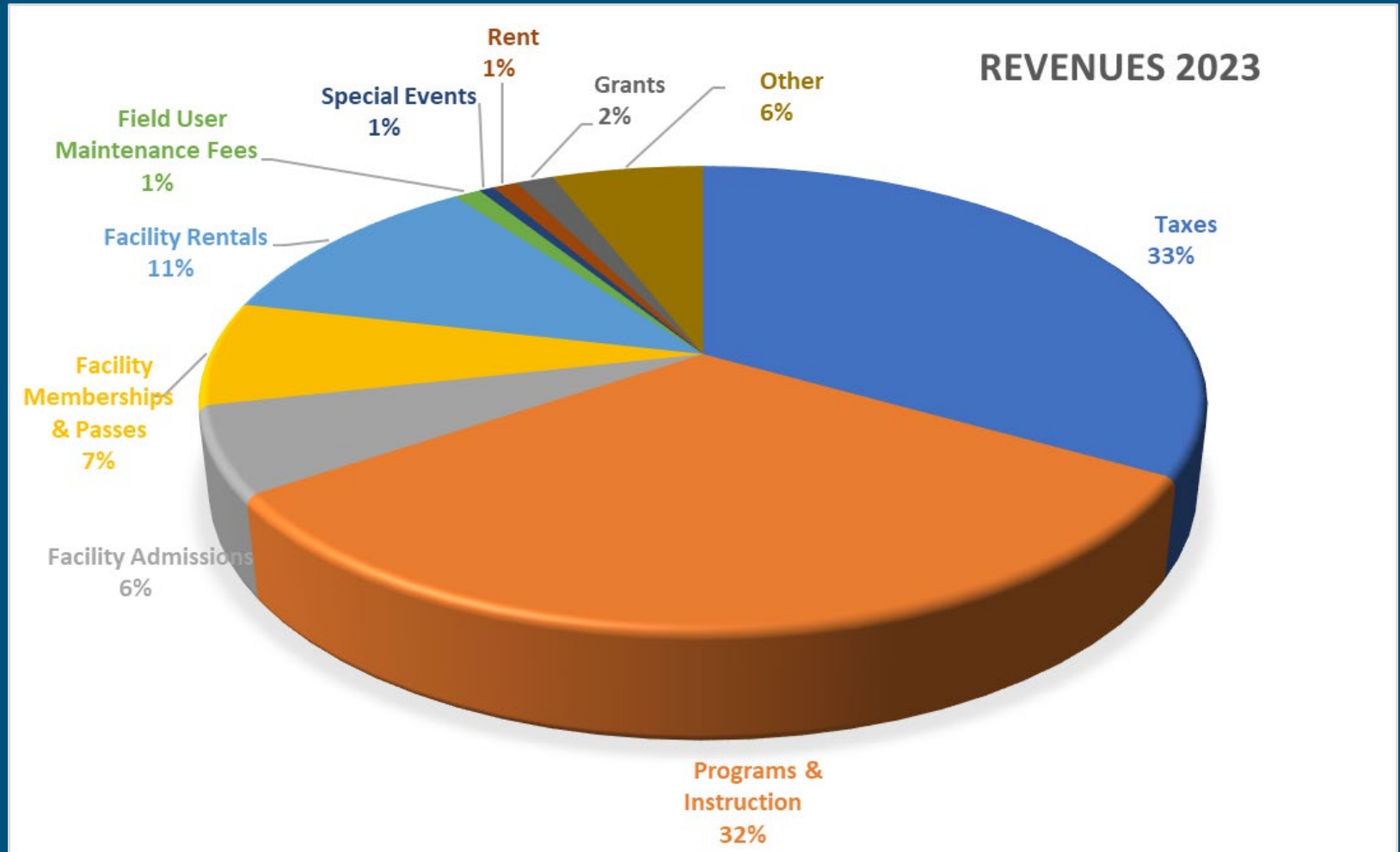
# 2023 Operational Expenditures



- EPRD's 2023 appropriations of \$300,000 towards capital projects and \$485,000 added to reserve funds.



# 2023 Operations Revenue



- EPRD's 2023 appropriations are approximately \$15.2 million in total for the District.



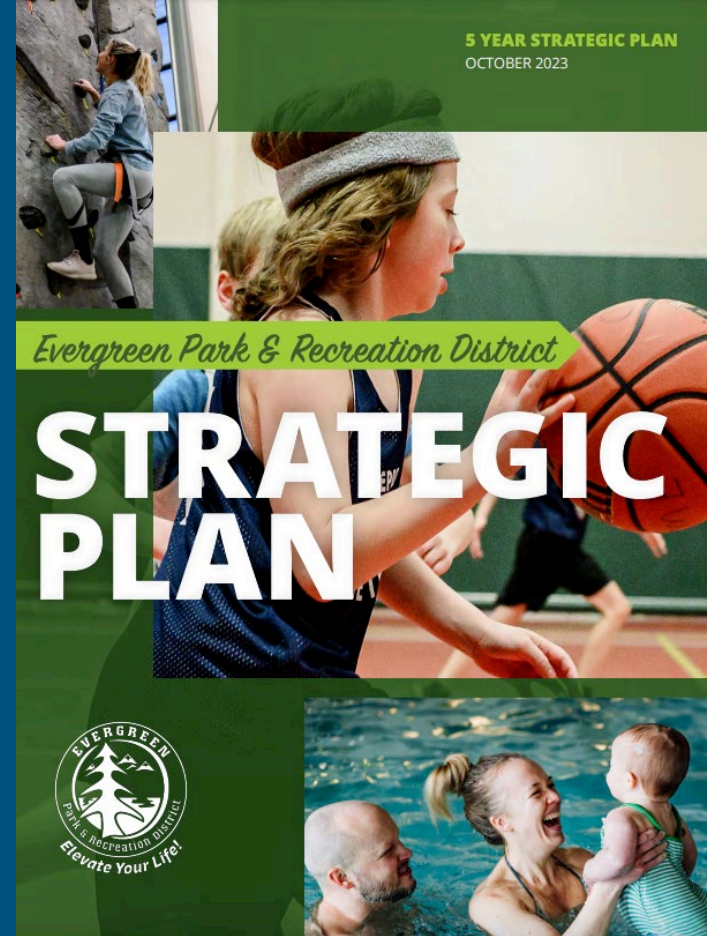
# 2023 Strategic Plan

In 2022-23, EPRD embarked on a year of strategic planning to produce EPRD's 2023 Strategic Plan. To make sure future planning reflects input from the community, the planning process considered over 2,365 points of community engagement including:

- 288 people gave online feedback
- 150 comment cards at our rec centers
- 150+ participants in six discovery sessions
- 25 meetings of civic clubs & community organizations
- 5 community events such as Skate the Lake
- 617 responses/feedback from area youth grades K-12
- 580 responses to the Communitywide Survey
- 557 responses to open link survey to all stakeholders

Based on this extensive feedback and other factors, EPRD plans to:

- **TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE** to address current maintenance needs at door facilities;
- **REBUILD RECREATION** to improve our parks and rework our rec centers; and
- **EXPAND FACILITIES & SERVICES** to add new opportunities to serve the whole community.



# Strategic Plan

## Take Care of What We Have

During strategic planning, community members expressed how important it is to them for EPRD to **TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE** to maintain and improve the indoor and outdoor facilities we currently operate.

EPRD responded in two ways. First, EPRD grouped future projects by priority. The budget for Package 1 priority projects includes 65% funding to **TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE**.

In addition, EPRD advanced a ballot measure in November 2023, asking voters to extend current mill levy funding and repurpose it for maintenance, operations, and capital projects.

*Voters enthusiastically approved EPRD's request at 73% in favor.*

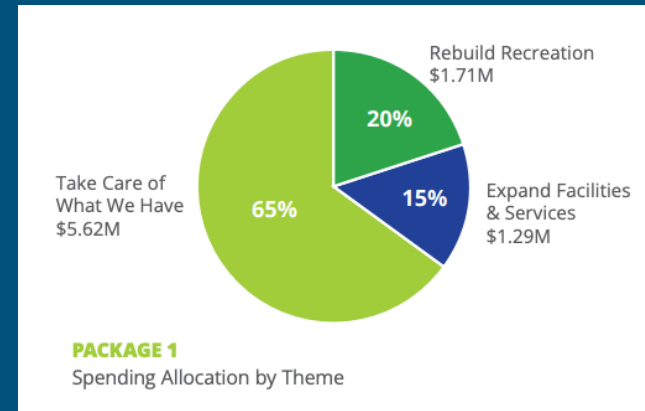
**TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE** projects started:

### INDOOR FACILITIES

- Buchanan electrical system improvements
- Buchanan window upgrades
- Wulf & Buchanan new workout equipment
- Wulf roof replacement
- Wulf HVAC upgrades
- Wulf tile & grout repairs
- Lake House roof replacement
- Lake House floor refinishing

### OUTDOOR FACILITIES

- Buchanan cold plunge & outdoor hot tub
- Buchanan rebuild dugouts
- Stagecoach rebuild dugouts
- Wulf rebuild sand volleyball
- Wulf improve playground
- Districtwide security camera upgrades
- Districtwide equipment & vehicle upgrades



# Capital Improvement Projects

In 2023 we did the following CIP projects at BPRC and WRC:

- 1) Replaced the Make up Air Unit for the locker rooms at Buchanan.
- 2) Replaced the Lighting Panel with a new panel at Buchanan.
- 3) Completed the final upgrade for the HVAC BAS system at Wulf.
- 4) Installed an ADA compliant Pool Chair Lift for the Wulf Pool.
- 5) Added new fitness equipment for both Wulf and Buchanan.
- 6) Installed new security cameras at both Wulf and Buchanan.



# 2023 Grants

Grants, planning, and implementation move forward in cycles. Once funding is secured, a project may go into planning in earnest and then move forward to implementation.

## 2023 was an IMPLEMENTATION YEAR for EPRD!



In 2023 EPRD delivered the following projects that were made possible by securing grant funding in 2019-2022:

- The Evergreen Lake North Trail, delivered on budget and on time in October 2023
- 37 bear-proof trash & recycling receptacles installed in parks
- Employee training and support for childcare staff plus plans for an improved playground at Wulf Park

Grant funding awarded in 2023 for future projects included a grant from Colorado Youth Corps Association to provide seven weeks of weed mitigation from the Mile High Youth Corps (a \$77,000 value).





# EPRD Partners and Relationships

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

- Active 4 All EPRD Foundation
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Jefferson County Open Space
- Denver Mountain Parks
- Evergreen Metro District
- Youth Sports Leagues
- Indian Hills Improvement Association
- Kittredge Civic Association
- Community organizations such as Downtown Business Association and Evergreen Chamber of Commerce
- Community Non-Profits such as Active4All, Evergreen Fire District, MALT, Blue Spruce Kiwanis, Center for the Arts Evergreen, Sculpture Evergreen, Mount Evans, Young Life, Evergreen Rotary, and many more...
- Local publications such as the Canyon Courier, 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 it's event and program offerings to provide even more memorable experiences for community members and visitors alike. Our 2023 sponsors included:

- Chow Down Pet Supply
- JR's Landscaping
- Hop's Drops
- Beau Jo's
- 5280 Exteriors
- Lynn Westfall
- Flow Theory
- Natural Grocer's
- Campfire Evergreen
- Evergreen Brewery
- Piney Wine & Spirits

Etc...



# 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 enhance the quality of life for our residents and attract visitors from near and far, showcasing the vibrant spirit of our mountain community.

- Summer Concert Series
- IceFest
- Pond Hockey Tournament
- Buchanan Family Movie Nights
- Evergreen Trail Race Series
- Foothills Fourth
- Family Campout
- Haunted Trail Walk
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Etc...



# 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
- 614 hours



## INSPIRE Fundraisers

- Troutdale Dinners | 24 Volunteers | 72 hours | \$6000+ raised
- Evergreen Ice Melt | \$5000+ raised
- Andy Smith Jr. Golf Tournament | 20 volunteers | 100 hours | \$15,000+ raised



## Other Volunteer Community Days included:

Community Garden Build days | Downtown Evergreen Cleanups | Sparkle for Special Needs | & more!!!



ACTIVE4ALL EVERGREEN

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 2023 A4A polar plunge event at Evergreen Lake had over 400 participants and 18 volunteers, raising funds of almost \$20,000! EPRD is grateful for their partnership and the volunteer base that supports their fundraisers.



# 2023 Green Initiatives



In 2023, EPRD formed its first ever *Green Team*! 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.*



## 2023 Green Team projects included:

- Working with the Colorado Green Business Network to conduct facility assessments at both Recreation Centers, gauging areas of strength and improvement for utility usage.
- Adopting a road for the District, which staff now visit annually to clean up litter and debris.
- Purchasing smart power strips to reduce electricity and energy consumption in staff work spaces.
- Implementing a new printing policy to reduce paper usage.
- Purchasing the District's first electric vehicle.
- Successfully gaining Board approval to budget funds toward green initiatives.

*More to come in 2024!*



## Accomplishments

- Passed Ballot Measure 6C, which provided EPRD with the revenue needed to pay off the existing bond, and allows EPRD to fund ongoing operations, maintain existing assets, and make capital improvements.
- 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 finalized and signed.
- Hired for several crucial District roles, including Marketing & Communications Supervisor, Park Operations Manager, Executive Assistant, Children's Programs Supervisor, and School Age Specialist.
- Purchased the District's first electric vehicle.
- Awarded a grant to purchase and implement bear proof trash cans throughout the District.
- Executive Director Cory Vander Veen awarded Young Professional of the Year by the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce
- Facility Operations Manager Bob Schmitz awarded Facility Manager of the Year through the Colorado Park and Recreation Association.



## Projects

- WRC - Base system Upgrade HVAC
- WRC - ADA Chair Lift
- BPRC -MAU Unit Replacement
- BPRC - Lighting Panel Upgrade
- Gen - Fleet Lease Program
- Gen - Security Cameras
- Gen - Technology / Hardware
- Gen - Strategic District Wide Plan
- Demo of placer park and facility data
- Diatomaceous Earth (DE) filter and grid replacements
- Completion of the Evergreen Lake North Trail construction
- Tried new surveillance system
- Finished implementation of new building-wide internet access at Wulf
- Continued implementing cybersecurity systems and processes
- Lake House began using warming hut during skating season

# Denver Cooperative Agreement

Evergreen Lake is a favorite year-round destination for boating, ice-skating, and mountain recreation, with over 250,000 visits per year. Evergreen Lake is part of Dedisse Park, which is owned by the City & County of Denver. EPRD has worked in partnership with the City & County of Denver for over 40 years to manage and share recreation at Evergreen Lake with people from Evergreen, Denver, and across the Front Range.

Beginning in 2016, the two partners recognized a need to update their Cooperative Agreement to align with current goals and increased use and programming at the Lake. After seven years of collaboration, in 2023 EPRD and the City & County of Denver finalized and signed their new Cooperative Agreement governing the programs, facilities, operations, and maintenance of portions of Dedisse Park, including recreation at Evergreen Lake.

The new Cooperative Agreement will run through 2052. EPRD is honored to work with the City & County of Denver to provide recreation facilities and programming at the picturesque Evergreen Lake.



*Thank You to Denver  
for this rare opportunity.*



[EVERGREENRECREATION.COM](http://EVERGREENRECREATION.COM)