



**Notice of Regular Meeting of the
Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors
Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 11:30am
Montrose Community Recreation Center
16350 Woodgate Road
Montrose CO 81401**

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

II. Open Forum: Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person)

III. Staff Recognition:

a. **Introductions:**

b. **Certifications:** Matt Brickey – Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO), Water Safety Instructor (WSI); Casie Miller – Serv Safe Manager

c. **Anniversaries:** None

d. **Awards:**

i. Volunteer of the Quarter: Q1 2024

ii. Patron of the Quarter: Q1 2024

iii. PT Staff of the Month: March, April 2024

iv. Core Staff of the Month: March, April 2024

IV. Resolution 2024 – 5 Supporting, pursuing, and implementing a GOCO Generation Wild planning grant for up to \$105,000

V. Committee Updates and Assignments

a. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Christina, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy)

b. **Administrative** (Board: Alli, Barb. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa, Debby)

c. **Foundation** (Board: Megan, Barb. Staff: Mari, Astro)

d. **Growth** (Board: Ken, Suzi. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Justin, Miguel)

e. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy)

f. **MURA** (Board: Alli)

VI. Executive Director's Update

VII. Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes

a. Regular Meeting of the Board 04.25.2024

VIII. Adjourn

Next BOD Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing

June 27 at 11:30am

CRC 16350 Woodgate Road

Montrose, CO 81401

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, May 2024

Finance

Finance reports for March were completed and filed in the Finance Committee folders and also shared to Board via Google Drive. April finance report will not be completed in time for the May BOD meeting.

Page | Mandatory financial audit for 2023: Letter of Engagement has been filed with Don Moreland. In fall, we will release the
1 request for proposals for full audit services in 2024, to include the mandatory (legally-required) and management practices both. While we had planned to release the RFP to engage on the 2023 audit, we simply ran out of time to give ample response and selection / contracting time with firms.

We (as of May 17) are awaiting further confirmation from the State regarding the warrant for the SB22-238 property tax reimbursement. That item is planned to be included for appropriation at either the May or the June BOD meeting.

Human Resources

Annual performance reviews (**PARS**) are still underway in May. Following review of all full-time and $\frac{3}{4}$ time PARs by Mari, PARs will be returned to the supervisors for any needed revisions / scoring changes and then supervisors meet with employees in early June. All PARs will be finalized in June, and merit increases go into effect the first payperiod in July. Employees have, for the past few years, received a cost of living (COLA) increase at the first of the year (in 2024 it was a wage adjustment from the class and comp upgrade), and an additional merit increase based on PAR scores in July. Further, Lisa has released a survey to employees asking for their input / preferences for COLA, Merit, and benefits. This information will be used by the Executive Division to plan for the future compensation packages.

Many summer hires have been made so that the MRD has consistent and fun, competent, engaged staff in all program, park, and facility areas!

Special Projects – Open and underway

Baldrige Regional Park: community open surveying / engagement has completed, with more than 1,600 engagements. The statistically valid survey is now prepping to be mailed to select households.

Fun / Event Committee (this is a staff committee composed of staff from several operational areas): are busy planning for multiple activities and events. The Fun portion of the committee focuses on hosting activities to keep employees engaged, well, and happily-adjusted to their work lives; the Event portion of the committee focuses on community events and engagement. Planning is underway for July is Park & Recreation Month (both professional staff day on July 19th, and community month event), and CO Parks & Recreation Association (CPRA) Director's Section meeting / continuing education day in Montrose on July 26th. There's also eagerness to create a new mascot. We want to be sure there's complete operating protocols and scheduling around how it is to be "employed" before moving forward. We may fund this and put it into service in the 4th Q.

Friendship Hall: Montrose County events management staff is calendaring the ongoing events and bookings, and MRD staff is calendaring its activities and use needs. In June, we anticipate getting together to compare calendars and review whether we think it possible to align around facility usage.

Division Reports

Admin

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May **joint City / MRD planning**: The team (subgroup) reviewed **Placer.ai**, a web-based product to help capture visits to a particular space (parks, civic center), visitor behaviors, demographics, etc...to help gain insights and make decisions. City IT confirmed that it will integrate / host the platform, pay for 65% of the nearly \$30,000 cost to purchase (MRD will pay for 35% to be invoiced by the City). This is quite exciting as it will allow both entities to review more accurate usage and lead to improving a number of decisions regarding park and facility uses.

Accreditation: The accreditation team (Debby, Miguel, Astro +Mari) have been diligently working toward setting up a great system for organizing and tracking progress toward creating, revising, and coordinating the policies, procedures, documents, and narratives in preparation for rolling out the system to chapter leads and assignments. There are 10 chapters, each one focusing on a different area of both organization foundation and operations (e.g. human resources, finance, evaluation, recreation programming, land and facilities). The team plans to apply for accreditation in 2025, and will have 2 years to complete that process.

Parks & Maintenance – Miguel

- **CRC Skylight Project**
 - Skylights were delivered Apr 27, 2024
 - Skylights were installed by both Tony Vila and Malachi Moreno the week of April 29
 - 25 skylights were replaced, most of the skylights had some sort of cracking, discoloration, and had failed due to weathering.
- **CRC Competitive Pool Pump Repairs**
 - The facilities maintenance team identified a slow leak issue with the comp pool pump seal. Once this happens, the water starts corroding other parts of the pump including the housing. We recommended immediately pulling the pump and to get the seals, bearings and gasket replaced.
 - John Loco and Dwain Sherriff planned and executed the removal and installation of the pump and motor. The motor weighed nearly 450lbs, and was hoisted through existing plumbing. Overall the plan was completed to perfection, safety was of the highest priority, and the comp pool was only down for less than 12-hours. (this was super cool and simply amazing

Recreation Services - Justin

Adult Sports - Matt has been busy being a new dad (again) and getting the summer pickleball schedule lined out. Initially, we were going to push for more open play, but after meeting with the pickleball steering committee it will look similar to last summer.

Page | **Youth Programs** - Miller has been working hard on getting the Summer Adventures team hired. He and Shelly are 3 excited about this summer's staff. Registration is also strong with 60 of 80 spots full. Miller has also been putting together the outline of the significant expansions of our enrichment programs given that MCSD is no longer going to offer after-school or summer programs.

Aquatics - to say Matt Brickey has hit the ground running would be an understatement. He has already gained his AFO and LGI certifications and is working on others. He has also rolled out a higher set of expectations for aquatics staff who are already rising to meet those. They have also been busy readying for the Special Olympics Swim Meet.

Field House - Despite the slower time of year Alex has stayed busy prepping for the outdoor pool season and formalizing several processes and procedures for FH operations and rentals.

Active Adults Liz has started reviewing the contract between the Golden Circle and the City of Montrose to see if there are any opportunities for expansion of services that we haven't been aware of.

CRC - Wade and Casie welcome the expected slowdown in attendance at the CRC that is typical this time of year, especially after the large crowds during MCSD spring break. They have also been busy lining up 15+ school groups who are coming to the CRC for their end-of-year field trips starting in early May. The CRC also hosted a Weehawken aerial arts performance on the basketball courts to showcase the upcoming Alice Show in May. Despite a mishap with the lift the performance was a huge success with over 250 people attending. We will look to host more events like this in the future.

Fitness & Outdoors - John and Gene have been successfully troubleshooting a couple of items on the new cardio equipment. General feedback has been very positive with the new equipment. Additionally, the outdoor programming season is off to a great start with 16 participants in the youth mountain bike program.

Front Desk - Julie and Laysa have been busy training 3 new hires. Each of them is progressing quickly and is eager for more. We also added another insurance program option for memberships with FitOn Health. The reimbursement rate is 80% for adult memberships which is significantly more than any other insurance reimbursement program such as Silver Sneakers.

Youth Programs – Abby

This month we started Youth Lacrosse Practices at Cerise Park. We currently have way more lax numbers than previous years and seem to be on the growth in Montrose. This year the MLF (montrose lacrosse foundation) was not able to get enough teams to participate in an indoor lax tournament and so they traded the montrose tournament for some friendly matches against our buddies from Grand Junction (grand valley lax). We even had a first-ever girls LAX game here in Montrose with the help from the Grand Valley Girls Lacrosse team. Our teams will play in Grand Junction's tournament this weekend and then Vail the following weekend to end their season.

We also had our last few sessions of Homeschool PE before the school year came to an end. We had both classes full so it was a very well attended class for both the younger and older kids.

We also finished a sporties for shorties clinic which is where we meet 3 times for 45 minutes and each week we teach a new sport. Justin was a big help in helping those to run at the Field House as Alex is learning more about those programs.

We started another round of Intro to Pickleball Clinics for kids aged 7-10 which is also full with 12 kids-- enough to have kids playing on all 3 courts! We started this clinic last summer in August and found interest but the dates were not working with families' schedules so this time we did it late spring and seems to have worked better as the class is full!

Youth soccer, our biggest program, had a nice little week off for spring break but has been going very well! We have been busy over at the fields Thursdays and Saturdays with a full schedule of games and a lot of new refs this season so lots of training and mentoring the younger, newer part time staff.

We also an intro to soccer clinic starting up again over at the Field House at the end of the month, along with a Fundamentals of Pitching for baseball being led by Miller at the end of the month running right before baseball season with hopes of getting kids to make good habits and build skills at the rec level.

Data, Grants and Evaluation – Astro Grants and Outreach

- Submitted Colorado Parks and Wildlife Partnership for the Outdoors grant, working with MADA and FOYA. Request is \$10,000 for hunting and fishing programs targeting the Latino community and outreach in that community.
- Cinco De Mayo planning continued (successfully held May 5)
- Colorado Byline Article published
- Senior Planet: obtained go ahead from Golden Circle and the City to continue implementing this technology program at the senior center. Next step is to procure apx 10k in funding to purchase computers. Exploring grant and local sponsorship opportunities.
- NRPA Coaches Grant: began planning for this grant with Youth Program staff. This is for appx \$5k to provide additional training in social and emotional learning in sport to coaches, MRD staff, and non-profit partners.
- Begun exploration of an Outdoor Recreation After school program with Recreation Programming staff and a citizen advocate
- Received affirmative response to GOCO concept draft; MRD is invited to submit a GOCO Generation Wild Planning grant.
 - The concept paper described at a general level what the purpose and content of the eventual grant would be. GOCO then decides if they want the MRD to submit that grant. The next step, the actual grant application, will be more specific. The purpose of the grant would be to work with the coalition of partner organizations including Colorado Canyons Association, Friends of Youth and Nature, Nature Connection, Voyager Youth Programs, and Outer Range to increase the participation of socially disadvantaged (latino and low income) youth in the Uncompahgre Valley. This would include running

pilot programs focused to this end and doing outreach and engagement in these communities. The result of these efforts would include creating a plan to continue working as a coalition toward these ends using a full GenWild grant, which includes hundreds of thousands of dollars over multiple years.

- Some of the \$80,000 budget proposed in the concept would be distributed to these partner agencies to run the programs. Some of it would be kept by the MRD to pay for the cost of providing leadership and administration to the coalition and running programs themselves. Some of the money would go to Civic Canopy to continue to provide facilitation. The MRD would receive the full \$80,000 and then distribute it because only government entities can receive GOGO funds, and they have designed this program to fund coalitions through a primary entity that receives the funds.
- If awarded the planning grant, it would set the MRD, Montrose, and the Uncompahgre Valley up to apply for a full Generation Wild grant in the coming years, which could bring close to a million dollars into our community for the purpose of getting kids outside in outdoor recreation.

Metrics

*Passes Held: 7,821 In April 2024 up from 7,777 in March 2024; compared to 6,821 in April 2023

*Avg Weekly Revenue Day Pass: \$5,884 in April 2024 down from \$6,609 in March 2024; compared to \$5,487 in April 2023

*Weekly visits: 24,095 in April 2024 down from 33,070 in March 2024; compared to 24,398 in April 2023

*People per hour: 72.9 in April 2024 down from 74.5 in March 2024; up from 70.4 in April 2023

*Child Watch Visits: 348 in April 2024 down from 434 in March 2024; compared to 326 in April of 2023

*Childwatch Annual passes: 91 in April 2024 from 93 in March 2024; compared to 70 in April 2023.

*Climber certifications: 296 in April 2024 up from 293 in March 2024; up from 190 in April 2023

*FH rental: \$3,426 in April 2024 down from \$4,410 in March 2024; compared to \$4,467 in April 2023.

*CRC rental: \$2,924 in April 2024 down from \$3,724 in March 2024; compared to \$3,666 in April 2023.

Summary: All results on season trend with the exception of facility rentals. Checking in with facility staff for operational explanation.

Scholarships provided \$1,422 in 33 disbursements.

Flex Rec

Average daily attendance fitness 6.8 appx steady from previous month

48 memberships steady from previous month

End

JARED POLIS
GOVERNOR



136 STATE CAPITOL
DENVER, COLORADO 80203

TEL 303-866-2471
FAX 303-866-2003

May 17, 2024

The Honorable Colorado State House of Representatives
The 74th General Assembly
Second Regular Session
State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO, 80203

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado State House of Representatives,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 24-1080, "Concerning Requirements for Youth Sports Personnel that Improve the Safety of the Participants," at 4:27 pm.

Supporting and protecting children, youth and families has always been a cornerstone of my administration. I was pleased to see Senate Bill 24-113, "Concerning Measures to Make Youth Sports Safer" ("SB 24-113"), also moving through the legislative process, and have signed that bill today. SB 24-113 requires employed and volunteer coaches to complete mandatory reporting training, creates guidance around abuse training, establishes reasonable expectations for background checks, requires the adoption and adherence of a code of conduct, and directs the Attorney General's Office to develop a notice of requirements to be shared with impacted organizations for their use. SB 24-113 was able to achieve a better balance of realistic employer expectations driven by input from the impacted organizations, which is why I signed that bill today.

We need to do more to keep children safe in our communities. However, House Bill 24-1080 (HB 24-1080) conflicts with SB 24-113 in important ways, namely by placing unrealistic and counterproductive expectations and undue burden on coaches and chaperones - many of whom are volunteers or family members - of youth sports organizations and parks and recreation districts relating to first aid training and background checks. HB 24-1080 and SB 24-113 create different requirements for background checks and, to my knowledge, there was no intentional effort to align or merge the two conflicting bills throughout the legislative process. Signing both bills would both confuse and frustrate leagues and coaches attempting to comply with new state policy and create different legal expectations for the same organizations.

As passed, HB 24-1080 is an unfunded mandate that would require youth sports organizations and local parks and recreation districts to ensure a staff member at each event has cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and artificial external defibrillator (AED) training, even if there are no AEDs on site. Additionally, the bill requires current and prospective chaperones and coaches to undergo background checks every

three years. For those who have spent more than 180 days out of the country in the past ten years, those individuals would be required to complete an international background check as well.

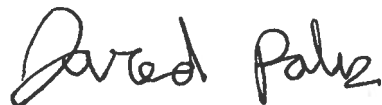
While I understand and share the goals of the sponsors to ensure all kids are safe when participating in youth sports, I remain deeply concerned about how the language in HB 24-1080 would have unintended negative consequences on many of Colorado's youth sports organizations and participants, making it more difficult for them to recruit volunteers or operate at all. These are small business, non-profit, and local government organizations that operate on limited resources. Imposing costs related to background checks and required training for equipment they may not even have on these organizations as written in this bill could force them to cut back on sports programming, ultimately harming Colorado youth in every community. Comparatively and to help put this in perspective, the expectations around background checks for coaches and chaperones under this bill would be more onerous than what we currently have in place for early childhood educators and teachers.

The bill's ambiguous language around new mandates creates uncertainty for these organizations, which may result in increased litigation risk. As written, the bill is unclear as to when a parent would be considered a "chaperone" or "volunteer." This would lead to unexpected outcomes. For example, without a clear exclusion for family members, a parent or guardian who offers volunteer support for overnight travel, or to accompany their child, would be required to meet the background check requirement. Further, the bill lacks the policies and procedures required by the FBI for the release of criminal records maintained at the international level. Without this language in statute, the requirement in HB 24-1080 for a potential coach or chaperone to get an international background check is unworkable.

I do not believe the impacted organizations and participating families had a meaningful opportunity to help shape the bill during the legislative session. While our Office and impacted organizations attempted to amend the bill to eliminate ambiguity, support implementation, and reduce litigation risk as it moved throughout the process, these efforts were largely rebuffed by bill sponsors.

For the above reasons, HB 24-1080 is disapproved and vetoed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado

cc: Jena Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State



I am pleased to inform you that last night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Special District Grant Accessibility Act (H.R. 7525). This legislation, introduced by Representatives Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) and Pat Fallon (R-TX), marks a significant milestone for special districts, including those in Colorado.

H.R. 7525 aims to codify a first-ever definition of "special district" in federal law and ensure that districts are eligible for all appropriate forms of federal financial assistance. With approximately 3,500 special districts in Colorado alone responsible for critical services ranging from drinking water and wastewater management to health care, transit, and natural resource conservation, this legislation addresses a long-standing need for recognition and support at the federal level.

Representative Pettersen highlighted that special districts in Colorado have yet to have a specific definition under federal law, resulting in missed funding opportunities that could enhance services such as reliable ambulance service, wildland protections, pandemic response services, and more. Through bipartisan collaboration, H.R. 7525 aims to rectify this issue and provide special districts with the resources, autonomy, and flexibility needed to address their communities' unique challenges and opportunities.

This legislative development not only underscores the importance of advocacy and collaboration within the special district community, but it also holds the promise of a brighter future for our districts and the communities we serve. As members of the Special District Association of Colorado, we celebrate this achievement and eagerly anticipate the positive changes it will bring.

We are securing Senate sponsors of a companion bill for the Senate and hope H.R. 7525 makes it to the Senate. The process at the federal level is a bit different from that of Colorado in terms of procedure.

Thank you for your valuable attention to this matter. Your insights and feedback are always appreciated so please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,
Ann Terry
CEO



SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS THROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION



A group of people stretch in a park.

Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock

Men take a break from playing basketball in an indoor gym.

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INTRODUCTION

A woman volunteers at a local community center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

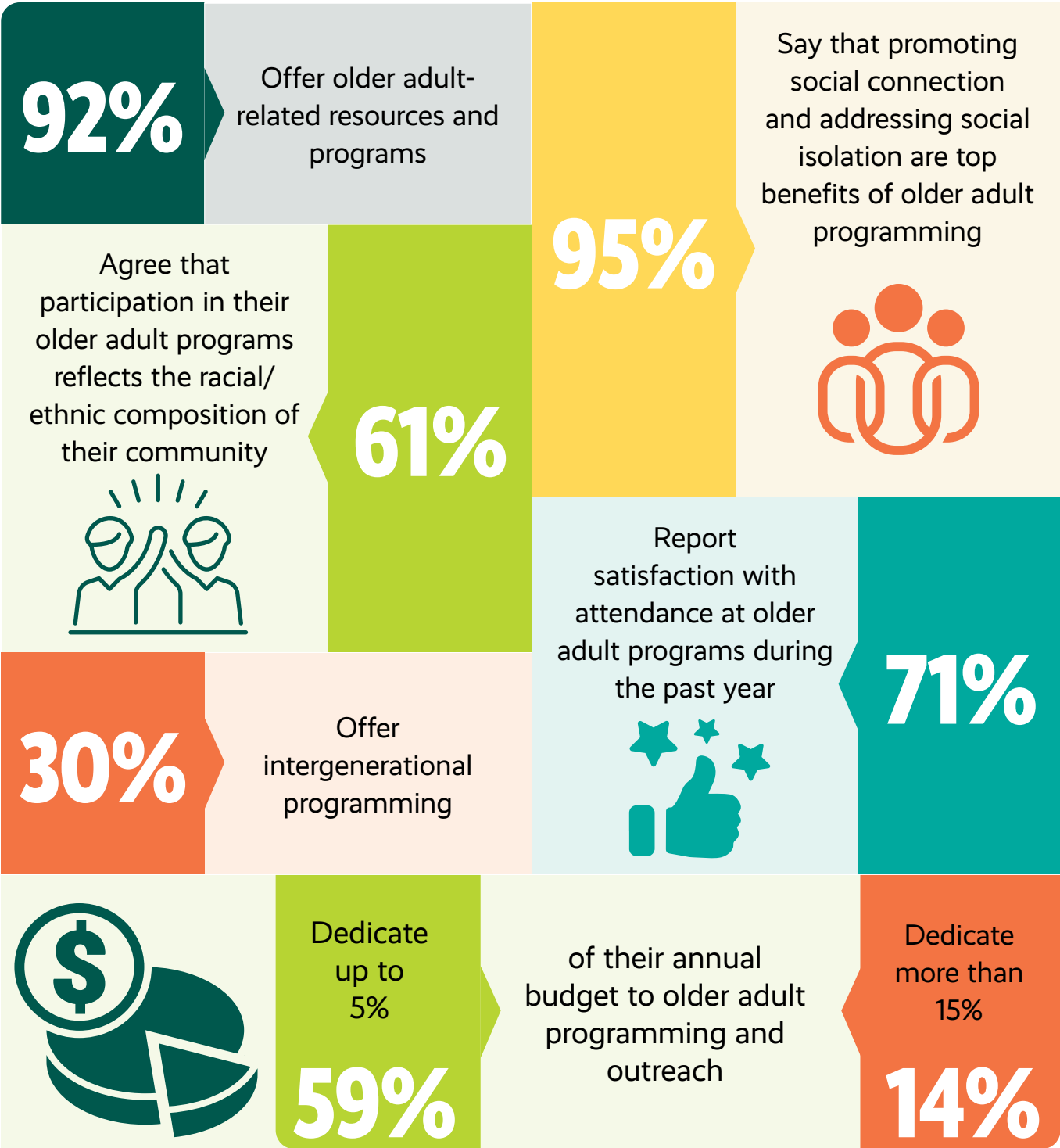
Park and recreation agencies across the United States provide essential services and programs to all members of their community. Because every community is unique, each agency must consider the various backgrounds, interests and needs found in their diverse population to better serve their entire community.

One of the largest groups in nearly every community is comprised of adults older than 55, often termed “older adults.” The older adult population increases every year. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that baby boomers — adults born between 1946 and 1964 — account for nearly 17 percent of the U.S. population and number 55.8 million people. In the past decade alone, the older adult population in the United States has experienced its fastest growth in more than 100 years, and it will continue to increase as baby boomers and Generation Xers (those born between 1965 and 1980) age. To better serve this growing population, park and recreation agencies must provide facilities, programming and other critical resources that support the lifestyles and diverse needs of this steadily increasing group. This includes, but is not limited to, providing accessible and affordable evidence-based programs, safe and inclusive environments for assembling and an adequate number of activities.

To gain greater insight into how park and recreation agencies and their staff serve older adults, in December 2023 the Research team of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) surveyed park and recreation professionals. The survey asked participants to describe the facilities, services, outreach and programming that their agencies offer to older adults, as well as the challenges agencies face in serving this ever-growing population. The survey generated responses from nearly 300 park and recreation professionals; this report summarizes the data from those responses.

SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS THROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION: KEY FINDINGS BY THE NUMBERS

Of the park and recreation agencies responding to this survey:



People practice yoga in a park.

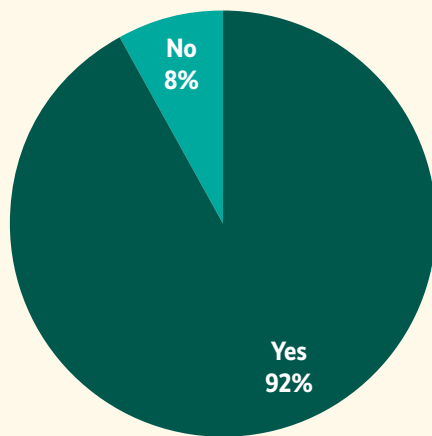
PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK



OLDER ADULT PROGRAMMING AT PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES

Most local park and recreation agencies across the United States offer facilities, activities and programming dedicated to older adults in their communities. Specifically, 92 percent of agencies surveyed offer resources and programs related to older adults. More than half of the agencies (56 percent) that have older adult offerings are located in suburban jurisdictions, followed by urban jurisdiction settings (29 percent) and rural agencies (15 percent).

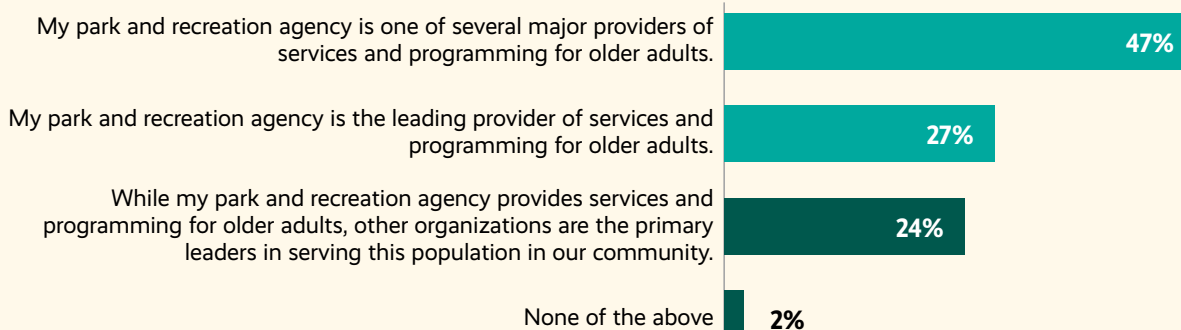
Ninety-Two Percent of Park and Recreation Agencies Offer Facilities, Activities and Programming for Older Adults



Percentage Distribution of Respondents

Older adult programs and facilities offered by park and recreation agencies are not only common in communities across the nation. In many communities, park and recreation agencies are recognized as leading providers of older adult services and programming. While 27 percent of respondents indicated their agencies are the leading providers of older adult services and programming in their community, nearly half (47 percent) of the park and recreation agencies that offer some programming or facility designed for older adults reported they are one of several major providers of services and programs for this population. Twenty-four percent of respondents indicated that other organizations are the community leaders for these offerings.

Seventy-Four Percent of Park and Recreation Agencies Are Major Providers of Services and Programming for Older Adults



Percentage Distribution of Respondents

The numerous activities and programs offered to older adults provide many benefits to participants. Among the agencies offering an older adult program or activity of some kind, nearly all (95 percent) specified the promotion of social connection and addressing social isolation as top benefits of older adult programs and facilities. The full list of benefits selected included:

- Promoting social connection/Addressing social isolation (95 percent of survey respondents)
- Promoting physical activity (89 percent)
- Providing a safe space for older adults to gather (86 percent)
- Providing affordable and accessible opportunities (76 percent)
- Promoting mental health (75 percent)
- Connecting older adults to enrichment and learning opportunities (73 percent)
- Maintaining overall health and well-being (62 percent)
- Engaging with/Being active in the community (56 percent)
- Connecting older adults to healthcare resources (45 percent)
- Connecting older adults to healthy meals (44 percent)

The 92 percent of park and recreation agencies offering older adult programs and facilities extend a breadth of activities and other offerings to their communities. These diverse activities reflect the unique interests and needs of the older adult population and are

Adventures Await for Older Adults in Howard County, Maryland

“Adventure is exactly what Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks is infusing into its active aging programs through its newest programs, Encore Adventures. In this series of programs, adults ages 55 and up can participate in a variety of outdoor adventures. These programs are facilitated by the department’s Adventure & Outdoors group. Through the Encore Adventure series, participants can engage in kayaking, archery, fishing, bike walks, history hikes and our indoor rock wall. There is something for every level of engagement. Once individuals try five different adventure programs, they become a certified Encore Adventurer, complete with a patch and certificate!”

[Read more](#)

designed to encourage socialization, promote mental and physical health, and provide safe and affordable space for older adults to try something new.

The activities offered by at least 50 percent of surveyed agencies include:

- Exercise classes (89 percent)
- Sports and games (86 percent)
- Arts and crafts classes (73 percent)
- Volunteer opportunities (73 percent)
- Special events and festivals (68 percent)
- Field trips, tours and vacations (65 percent)
- Activity-related job opportunities within their agency (60 percent)
- Cultural enrichment opportunities (59 percent)
- Social clubs (57 percent)
- Organized group outdoor recreation (52 percent)

Intergenerational programming creates opportunities for older adults and younger members of the community to connect. These programs promote healthy intergenerational relationships between children and older adults and increase awareness, understanding and positive attitudes across generations. Almost one-third (30 percent) of agencies offer intergenerational programming. The most common activities mentioned included reading groups, arts and crafts, gardening, food and cooking classes, and mentoring opportunities.

Park and recreation agencies offer older adult programming in a variety of venues. At least half of agencies deliver programming in recreation centers (57 percent); parks, trails and greenways (53 percent); senior centers (51 percent); and/or community centers (50 percent).

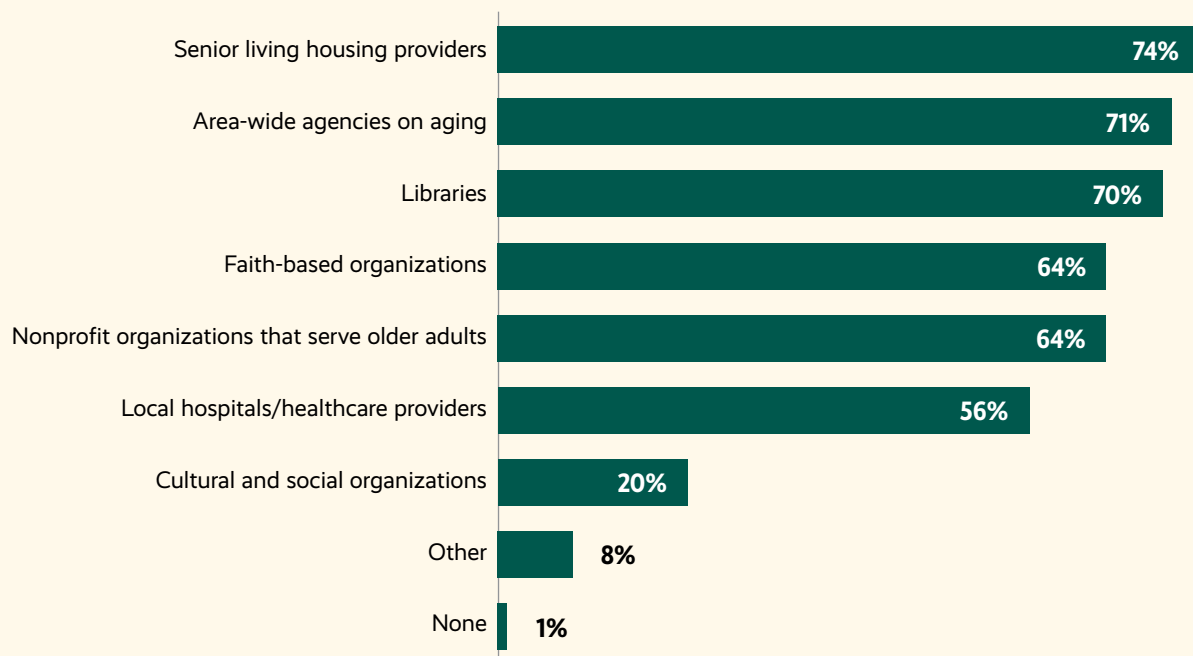
At Least Half of Park and Recreation Agencies Deliver Older Adult Programming at Recreation Centers, Outdoor Spaces, Senior Centers and/or Community Centers



PARTNERS AND EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Park and recreation agencies often partner with other community organizations to meet the increased demand for older adult activities and programs. The three most commonly cited types of partner organizations were senior living housing providers (74 percent), area-wide agencies on aging (71 percent) and libraries (70 percent). Partnering with other community organizations allows park and recreation agencies to better serve their older adult community and provide more programming and activities than would otherwise be possible.

Agencies Indicated a Variety of Other Significant Providers of Older Adult Programming and Activities in Their Communities



Percent of Respondents

Combating Social Isolation Through Harmony

“The Harmelodian Club, with members in their 70s and 80s, meets every Monday morning for 90 minutes to practice and play together while also enjoying each other’s company. ‘They are a close-knit group that really cares about each other,’ said Lynne Yuill, [St. Charles (Illinois) Park District Adult Activity Center] supervisor. ‘They welcome each other with open arms.’ That sentiment is genuine as members describe their club of harmonica players as welcoming, stress free and like a second family. That goes a long way for new members, since the majority of newcomers have never played before. Most began playing the harmonica when they joined the club, at the suggestion of a friend, to socialize or to learn a new skill. But no matter what the reason, one thing’s for certain — once they started, they were hooked and haven’t looked back.” [Read more](#)



A teacher helps an art class participant with her drawing.

Examples of the types of cultural and social organizations that provide older adult programming include:

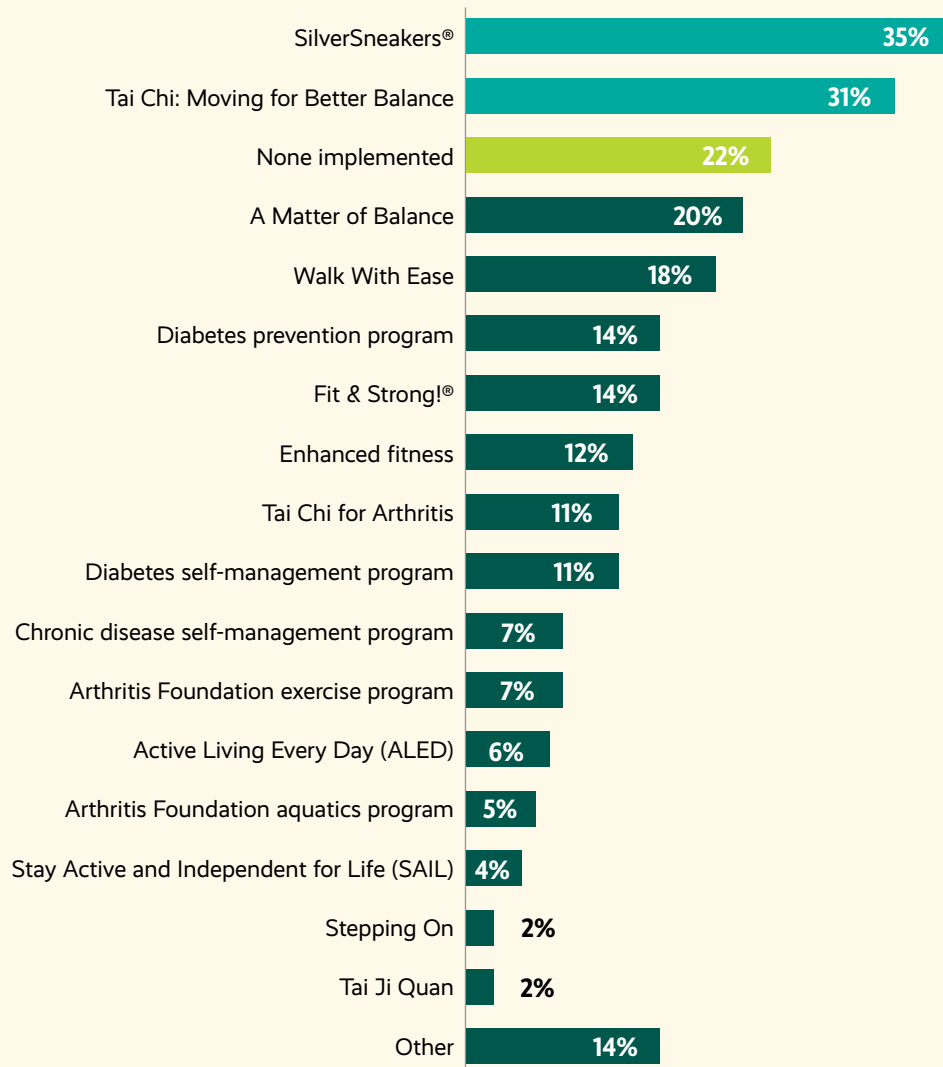
- Animal/Wildlife groups (e.g., wildlife centers, therapy dogs)
- Arts clubs/centers/councils
- Farms/Garden clubs
- Health and safety organizations
- Historical societies
- Music clubs
- Nationality/Cultural centers
- Professional organizations
- Retirement and seniors groups/clubs (e.g., AARP, senior interest groups)
- Senior centers
- Social/Service clubs (e.g., women's clubs, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, VFWs, Red Hatters)
- Tribal councils

Finally, eight percent of respondents mentioned other significant providers of older adult programming, including:

- City/Town/County offices (e.g., county transportation services)
- Commissions on aging
- Community centers
- Community foundations
- Homeowners associations
- Military groups
- Mobile home parks
- Nutrition services (e.g., Meals on Wheels)
- Senior living communities
- Social media groups

Among the numerous options for older adult engagement, respondents also indicated implementing a variety of evidence-based programs, led by SilverSneakers® (35 percent) and Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance (31 percent). Based on sound research findings, many of these evidence-based programs support the physical and cognitive well-being of older adults, encouraging everything from daily movement to improving balance, preventing diabetes and learning how to implement an arthritis exercise plan.

Respondents Were Most Likely to Have Implemented SilverSneakers® and Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance Out of a Wide Array of Evidence-Based Programming Options Within the Past Two Years



Percent of Respondents

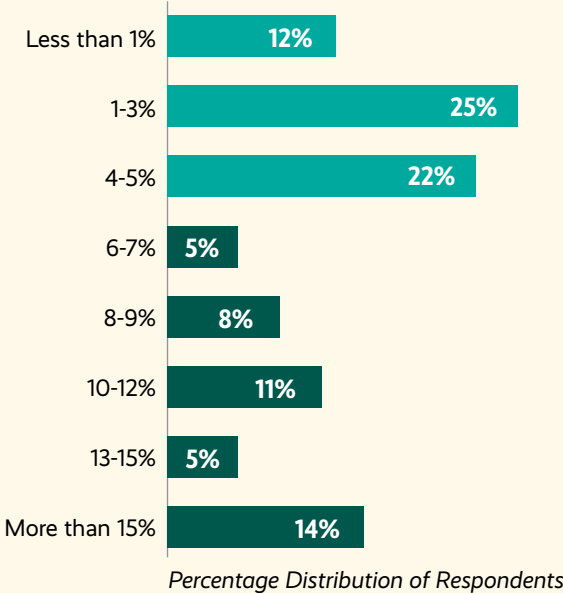
A group of people do Nordic walking exercises.



BUDGETING FOR OLDER ADULT PROGRAMMING

While agencies strive to provide their older adult community members with high-quality, relevant programs, many do so with a tight budget. More than half (59 percent) of park and recreation agencies reported that they dedicate up to five percent of their annual operating budget to older adult programming and outreach. At the other end of the spectrum, a small share (14 percent) of agencies indicated that they allocate more than 15 percent of their annual budget to serving older adult populations.

More Than Half (59%) of Agencies Devote Up To 5% of Their Annual Operating Budget to Older Adult Programming and Outreach



Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

A group of women do water aerobics in a pool.

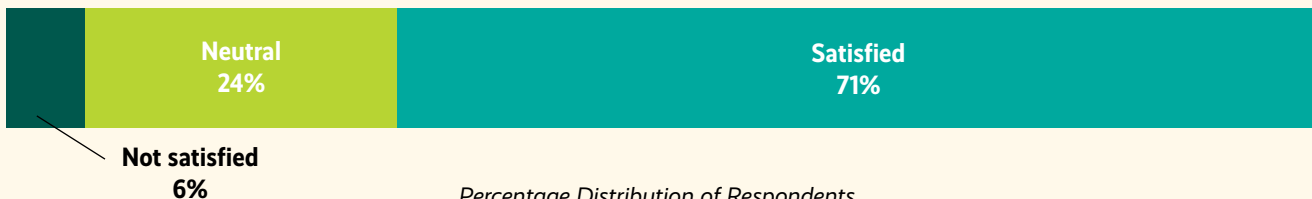
PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

ENGAGEMENT AND POST-PANDEMIC IMPACT

The older adult population has been increasing throughout the nation as baby boomers age. Likely correlated, park and recreation agencies have experienced a growing number of participants and greater involvement in their older adult programming. Other factors that contribute to increased participation in older adult programming include an increased desire to socialize and improve one’s health since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as agencies’ efforts to be more inclusive and reach underrepresented groups in their communities.

Most agencies (71 percent) that provide older adult programming and other activities in their communities are satisfied with current program attendance.

Most Agencies (71%) Are Satisfied With Attendance at Older Adult Programs During the Past Year



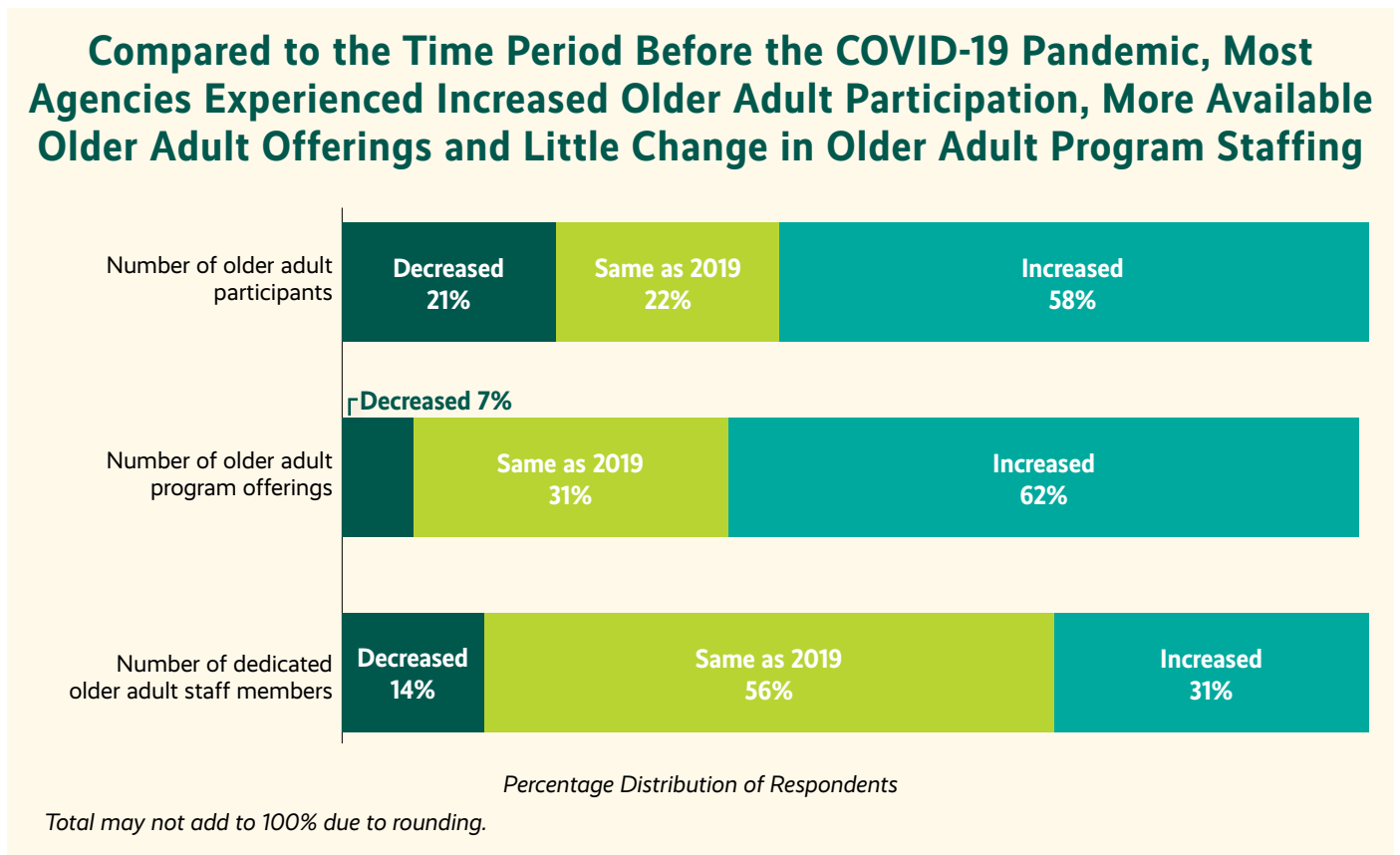
Percentage Distribution of Respondents

Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Many restrictions — like physical distancing, limiting group size and self-isolation — were enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and safety of the general population. Older adults were among those considered at higher risk, and in turn, were encouraged to take extra precautions. To explore how the COVID-19 pandemic affected — and continues to affect — older adult programs, the survey asked respondents about the extent to which attendance, program offerings and staff have been impacted from December 2019 — before the COVID-19 pandemic — to December 2023.

Compared to the time period before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than half (58 percent) of agencies reported an increase in the number of older adult participants in related programs and facilities in 2023. Smaller percentages of respondents reported no change (22 percent) or a decrease (21 percent) in older adult participation from December 2019 to December 2023. Many agencies (62 percent) indicated an increase in the number of older adult program offerings since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic appears to have had little impact on the number of dedicated staff members who administer older adult programs, evidenced by the 56 percent of agencies that reported staff capacity remained the same post-pandemic. In fact, 31 percent of respondents indicated that their staffing for these offerings increased. The relatively small remaining share of agencies (14 percent) experienced reduced staffing.

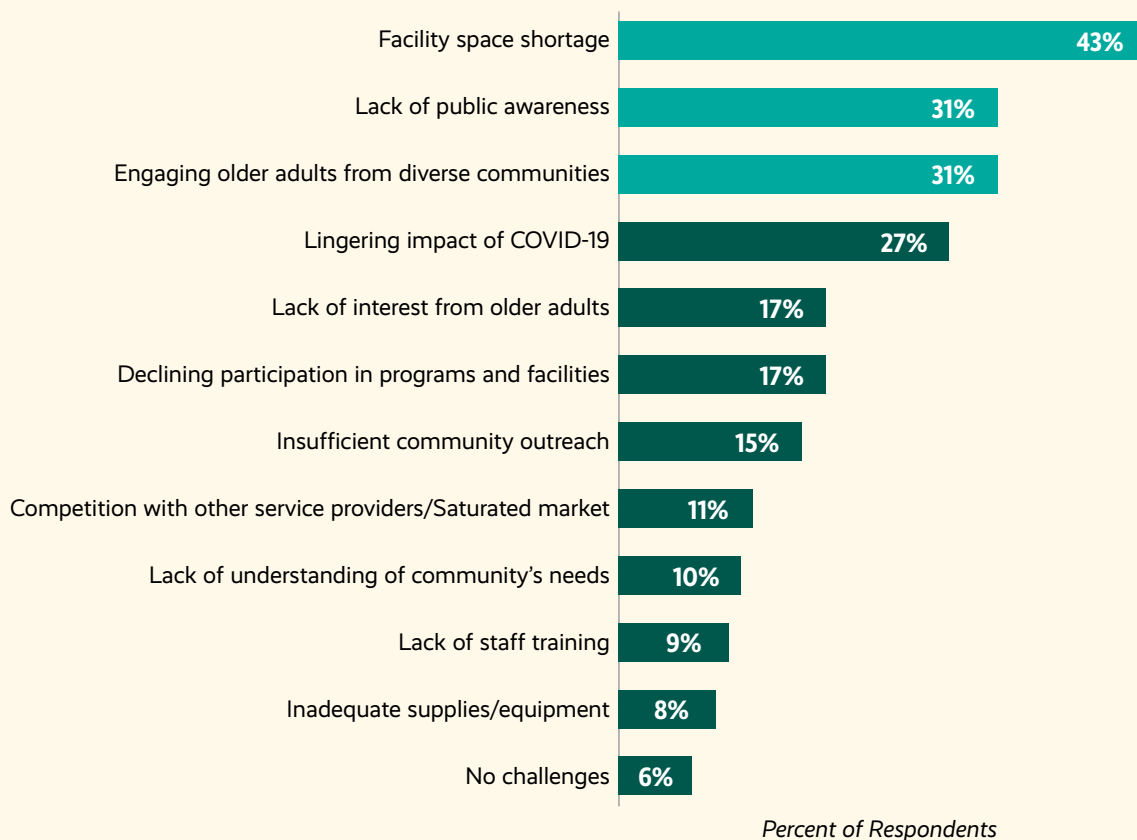


Agencies commonly indicated little to no sustaining impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on older adult program participation. Positive impacts included a higher standard of cleaning and hygiene in facilities and an increased awareness of the benefits of staying fit and active for health. At least one agency has continued to support community health by offering vaccine clinics because of the pandemic.

Survey respondents did not commonly highlight continued pandemic-related challenges. The few pandemic-related challenges they did share were generally related to participation. For example, a few respondents reported that they are approaching recovery to pre-pandemic participation levels, but it is a slow process. Some older adult community members continue to be hesitant about participating in activities outside of the home for safety. At least one agency mentioned that many of the oldest community members who previously participated in such programs have not yet returned, while other agencies reported that older adults have begun to take part in larger numbers.

Despite the increase in attendance and program offerings post-pandemic at many locations, agencies continue to face challenges when providing older adult programming. Aside from funding and staffing challenges, the three most often cited challenges faced by respondents were facility space shortage (43 percent), lack of public awareness (31 percent) and engaging older adults from diverse communities (31 percent). It was somewhat puzzling that the next most frequently selected challenge was the lingering impact of COVID-19 (27 percent). As discussed previously, few survey participants offered negative lingering impacts of the pandemic.

Aside From Funding and Staffing, the Three Most Often Cited Challenges Faced by Agencies Included Inadequate Facility Space, Insufficient Public Awareness and Engagement of Diverse Older Adults in the Community



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN OLDER ADULT PROGRAMMING

The goal of older adult programming is to support all adults over the age of 55, regardless of race, identity, ability or other characteristics. A majority of agencies (61 percent) indicated that participants in their older adult programs mirror the racial and ethnic profile of their communities, while 16 percent of these agencies suggested that some additional effort could be extended in this area.

Sixty-One Percent of Agencies Agreed That Participation in Their Older Adult Programs Reflects the Race and Ethnicity Profile of Their Communities



Percentage Distribution of Respondents

Park and recreation agencies aim to provide resources and programming to all residents of their communities. While 36 percent of respondents indicated that they actively design programming and outreach to attract underrepresented groups, 51 percent reported their agencies did not have any such programs or outreach, and 13 percent were unsure. This finding suggests that additional training and resources may be beneficial to park and recreation agencies, particularly for those that do not believe their participants fully reflect the demographic tapestry of their community.

The agencies that implemented specific efforts to reach underrepresented groups in the older adult community reported the following types of activities:

- Working with leaders from local underrepresented groups
- Offering low-cost programs for low-income residents
- Hosting English as a Second Language classes
- Providing luncheons and other activities for the LGBTQIA+ community
- Providing a site for nutrition programs, like Meals on Wheels
- Sending newsletters and hanging fliers in well-traveled locations where residents live
- Offering free meeting space
- Offering transportation and other accommodations for people with disabilities

Park and recreation agencies continue to take steps to ensure that more activities and programming are centered around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to best meet the needs of the entire older adult population in their communities. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

highest percentage of responding agencies reported they ensure facility and recreational programming policies are inclusive of income, race, ethnicity, gender identity, ability and neurodivergence (61 percent) and they survey community members about interests and gather feedback (54 percent).

Agencies Were Most Likely to Indicate That They Implemented Inclusive Policies and Gathered Feedback From Participants to Ensure Activities for Older Adults Center Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)



Percent of Respondents

CONCLUSION

Park and recreation agencies provide essential activities, resources and programming to older adults across the United States. Many of these agencies lead or are among the leading providers of older adult programming in their communities, and they continually are adapting to serve the diverse older adult population.

Despite the challenges of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, most agencies reported that attendance at older adult programs has either stayed the same or increased since December 2019. Many agencies attributed socialization as the main reason older adults participate in relevant programming. Older adult offerings and activities, such as evidence-based programs, also work to promote better physical and mental health in older adults.

Park and recreation agencies face additional challenges when it comes to providing older adults in their communities with adequate programming and activities, including facility shortage issues, raising public awareness and engaging older adults from other diverse communities. To encourage inclusivity and increase participation in a way that accurately represents the older adult population in each community, additional training, partnerships and other resources would be beneficial. Yet, this may be an issue for some agencies because of tight budgets; nearly 60 percent of agencies dedicate five percent or less of their annual operating budget toward older adult programming. In addition, about half of agencies indicated they require additional access to evidence-based training programs to better serve their older adult population.

As baby boomers and Gen Xers continue to age, the interests and needs of the older adult population keep expanding. As a leading provider of older adult activities and programming in communities across the United States, park and recreation agencies are primed to continue to serve the needs of this ever-increasing older adult population.

See also: Caplan, Z., & Rabe, M. (2023, May 25). *The Older Population: 2020*. U.S. Census Bureau, tinyurl.com/2wnxusk6; Giraudeau, C., & Bailly, N. (2019). *Intergenerational programs: What can school-age children and older people expect from them? A systematic review*. *European journal of ageing*, 16(3), 363–376, tinyurl.com/yc66bwuh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the park and recreation professionals and their agencies that completed the survey, the data from which served as the basis of this report. Thank you to Melissa May, Dianne Palladino, Danielle Doll, Lindsay Collins, Alexandra Reynolds, Allison Colman, Natalia Ospina, Colleen Pittard, Sydney Manns, Kim Mabon and Kate Anderson for making this report possible.

The research team would like to thank [RRF Foundation for Aging](#) for its generous support of this project.

ABOUT NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this vision by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates — the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being.

NRPA brings strength to our message by partnering with like-minded organizations, including those in the federal government, nonprofits and commercial enterprises. Funded through dues, grants, registrations and charitable contributions, NRPA produces research, education and policy initiatives for our members that ultimately enrich the communities they serve.

NRPA places immense importance on research and data to raise the status of parks and recreation and conducts research with two goals. First, NRPA creates and analyzes data to help park and recreation agencies make optimal decisions on operations, programming and spending. Second, NRPA develops data and insights that support park and recreation professionals making the case for greater and more stable funding to policymakers, key stakeholders, the media and the general public. The NRPA Research team works closely with internal subject matter experts, respected industry consultants and the academic community to develop its reports and data resources. Learn more at nrpa.org/Research.



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BI parks goes to voters for \$10 million for pool

By [Steven Powell](#) • May 15, 2024 1:30 am



Parks courtesy photo The pool would increase from six to eight lanes if the \$10 million bond is approved. Voters on Bainbridge Island will be deciding on a \$10 million bond to deepen and widen the Ray Williamson Pool from six to eight lanes.

The BI Metro Parks & Recreation District board made that decision at a recent meeting. Parks commissioners already had planned to improve the pool, but if the bond passes it can be improved even more. The commissioners decided BI voters had a right to decide the issue. Expansion would mean increases in programs and usage.

Public comments at the meeting favored expansion. Katherine Fort is a Bainbridge Aquatic Masters member, has kids who are members of BI Swim Club, and is part of a group that has already secured more than \$46,000 in pledges toward fundraising. Ken Bennett has been swimming with BAM for about 12 years and is part of a group that has already met with a professional fundraiser.

Commissioner Tom Goodlin said he received an email that asserted that he had a conflict of interest regarding the pool renovation. The email did not say why, but presumably it is because he is a BAM member. Park district attorney Hayes Gori said he does not consider Goodlin as having a conflict.

The conversation about adding lanes started in December when Stemper Architecture found the addition of two lanes to be feasible. If the project is delayed costs will go up, code requirements will change, and there are imminent failure concerns that need to be addressed to avoid the potential for closure.

Phase I of the renovation will address most of the imminent failure concerns such as the electrical and the HVAC. The pool is 54 years old, and replacing it is too expensive. The board in March committed \$2.5 million out of reserves and to fund the remainder of the estimated \$5.5 million with a combination of fundraising, grants and loans.

Then the board decided to expand the pool to eight lanes and make it deeper, and to pay for it with a \$10 million bond, if approved by voters.

Goodlin said having a pool has been a core service of parks since 1965 when the district was created in part due to the need for a community pool.

Commissioner Jay Kinney said he thinks the aquatic community realizes that to encourage people to vote for the renovation they are going to have to raise a lot of money themselves, and he is glad they are working on that.

Park Services superintendent Lydia Roush said parks has an opportunity to receive some Fletcher Bay Property from an anonymous donor. The property is 0.4-acre. The site offers potential trail connections and has minimal amounts of invasive species. Staff sees it predominantly as a passive use park with some potential for a neighborhood pocket park.

Mary Meier, executive director of the BI Parks & Trails Foundation, said this is a great opportunity to highlight what an incredible gift something like this is. Small parcels are very meaningful for building community.

Exclusion memorial

Acting executive director Dan Hamlin said a draft agreement with the National Park Service would give parks access to up to \$100,000 annually from NPS to implement an interpretive services plan.

Parks has asked the BI Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association if it is interested in using the money to implement the interpretive services plan, which it is. Parks would receive the funds, use a portion to cover the cost of services provided to the site, and pass the rest to BIJAEMA to implement the plan.

Staff reports

Park Services superintendent David Harry said staff is in discussions with community members about a project to build a picnic shelter next to the KidsUp! Playground at Battle Point Park.

Roush said that after work on the tree thinning project at Moritani Preserve it looks messy, but that is part of the process like in a home renovation and she guarantees it is going to be gorgeous.

Aquatic Program administrator Jenette Reneau said the Aquatic Center is offering more swim lessons than it has since before COVID, and staff has built a robust swim lesson program for summer. There are 27 new BAM members who were able to be moved onto the team from the waitlist after some lane and schedule modifications were made. The Aquatic Center is almost fully staffed for summer when just a year ago staff was struggling to keep the pools open.

Recreation superintendent Bryan Garoutte said summer registration has started. Staff has already begun work on the fall recreation catalog. The Fly Fishing Expo at Battle Point Park will be May 18.

Board remarks

Commissioner Dawn Janow said she met with Reed Price, executive director of the BI Senior Community Center, who was putting out feelers to see if parks can house BISCC programs during possible closures of their facility for renovation.

Commissioner Ken DeWitt said Jack Niehaus, a young man who grew up on BI and was involved in park activities, was killed in a car wreck in Thailand recently.

Kinney said he mentioned at the last board meeting that the pickleball group wanted to make a presentation about plans for covered courts and that has been scheduled for the first board meeting in June. He also asked if staff anticipates that the tennis courts at Sakai Park will be built this year, and Hamlin said yes.



**Notice of Regular Meeting of the
Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors
Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 11:30am
Montrose Community Recreation Center
16350 Woodgate Road
Montrose CO 81401**

- I.** **Call to Order, Roll Call:** called to order at 11:35am. In attendance: Director Christina, Director Paul, Director Suzi, Director Allison, Director Barbara, Director Megan, and Director Ken.
- II.** **Open Forum:** Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person). There was no public comment.
- III.** **Staff Recognition:**
- a. **Introductions:** Matt Brickey, Recreation Coordinator – Aquatics. Jeremy introduced Matt. Matt has worked with us since 2019 and became the Aquatics Coordinator recently. Director Paul asked if he had opinions on an outdoor pool. Matt stated he is excited about the prospect as it will increase what the MRD can offer in Aquatics.
 - b. **Certifications:** No new certifications this month.
 - c. **Anniversaries:** Lisa Lopez, 3 years, Jessica Workman, 6 years.
 - d. **Awards:**
 - i. PT Staff of the Month: March 2024 (will be announced in May)
 - ii. Core Staff of the Month: March 2024 (Will be announced in May)
- IV.** **Updates & Reports**
- a. **ADA Transition Plan 1st Q –**

Jeremy reported that the budget for ADA improvements in 2024 is \$50,000. A Citizen Advisory Team has been formed and has met. MRD Board member Barbara Sharrow is on the Committee. A variety of advocates and family members are on the committee as well. Director Barbara said she is excited to also get some individuals with disabilities added to the Committee. It will meet quarterly. Its goals are to begin engagement and outreach and create awareness of what the MRD offers for the community. There are still a list of accessibility improvements to be made including adding accessible picnic tables, additional signage, improvements to facility fixtures, and policies that need to be written.
 - b. **Capital Improvement Plan 1st Q**
 - i. **EV Charging Stations**

Charging stations are on the Capital Improvement Plan list. (The Field House improvements are on hold). Director Suzi asked when the pool indoor re-painting will happen. Miguel said we have received 2 paint quotes and they were higher than expected. He continues to do research on options. It is currently not budgeted for 2024. Jeremy recommended saving this job until 2025. Director Barb asked if the funds allocated for the Field House in 2024 could be used elsewhere. Jeremy stated that this is a discussion that the Growth Committee needs to have. Director Christina stated that a couple of our plans for 2024 are on hold and does not believe that we should spend money on other items. Miguel is confident that the MRD maintenance crew will be able to repair the paint internally this year.

Jeremy stated that in 2022 we had the option to spend money to do an upgrade on the charging stations and we chose to spend the minimal amount. Now, 4G is needed for all stations and we are discussing if we spend the funds to update them. Two stations are currently working and two are not. The cost of updating them will be added to our 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. Director Suzi asked if the MRD charges for charging, Jeremy said currently we do not charge for that service. Director Christina stated that this is worth a discussion, and asked if it fits in our cost model. Miguel said the cost to the MRD is minimal. Miguel also said other chargers in town are

no cost. Director Paul suggested that the MRD reaches out to the City of Montrose to see if we can take advantage of the grant that they receive for charging stations. He also thinks that we need to discuss possibly charging for the use of the chargers. Jeremy also stated that the Capital Improvement Plan for next year will be discussed starting in 2 months and this will be addressed.

V. Employee Handbook annual Revisions

- a. Annual revisions referred through the Admin Committee.
The Board stated that they don't feel the need to discuss the proposed changes in detail. The Admin Committee went through the changes in detail. The two board members involved were Directors Barbara and Allison. Director Allison stated that the process went through was quality. Jeremy stated that the formatting will be addressed but we focused on the content in the meetings. Director Barbara stated she would like to follow up with Lisa after the meeting on a couple of changes that she suggested and did not have time to review before this meeting. The board decided to wait on approval of the handbook until Barb's questions are answered.

VI. Committee Updates and Assignments

- a. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Christina, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy)
Mari and Christina met before the board meeting and talked about the agendas for April, May and June. Christina suggested that the Board discuss Committee assignments and Board Officer Positions. She asked that if people were interested in being on the board, they reach out to her. She stated that the election will be held in May or June.
- b. **Administrative** (Board: Alli, Barb. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa, Debby)
Director Allison stated there were no updates besides what was already discussed on the Employee Handbook.
- c. **Foundation** (Board: Megan, Barb. Staff: Mari, Astro). Director Megan stated that there is nothing new to report. Director Barbara stated the Foundation's 501C3 application is in process. Director Megan, when asked, said that the Tri has 40 participants signed up so far. Astro applied for and received a grant for the event. Director Megan stated that volunteers are needed.
- d. **Growth** (Board: Ken, Suzi. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Justin, Miguel). Director Ken stated they have not met. He also stated he attended the City Planning Commission recently, where open space was discussed. He stated that a sidewalk down Ogden Road is being discussed. Director Christina stated that she is aware that the City is also discussing trails. Director Ken said this was not discussed at the recent meeting.
- e. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) Director Allison stated that they met and that a portion of financials were received yesterday. She also stated that revenue collections are slightly ahead of last year and that we are "healthy" financially. Sales tax receipts are up as well as Lottery Funds. Senate Bill 238 was passed last year, the good news for the MRD is that we will receive some backfill funds on property taxes. Jeremy stated that this will not be received next year. The 2023 full Financial Report should be received in May.
- f. **MURA** (Board: Alli)
Director Allison said that they did meet. She stated that "Project Green" is slated at Colorado Outdoors which will include a residential and commercial building. She stated that they will break ground in early 2025. She also stated that they finalized the SOP for the City discussing with potential developers what infrastructure that they can provide. This would include items such as sidewalks and parking areas. She stated that they are also going for additional financing for further development. She stated that there will be 3 hotels at this sight eventually.

VII. Executive Director's Update

HR update: Quentin, who has been a Maintenance Technician, has taken the Aquatics Leader position and will begin on April 27. Jeremy also stated that we are in the Performance Appraisal Review Process. Christina stated that the board will also be doing the ED evaluation soon, and will include a 360 evaluation.

Justin presented the data for the year to date. Most participation is up. The CRC has 1,200 more members than last year. He stated that Hailee (Lead Lifeguard) did a wonderful job during the transition of Aquatics Coordinators. The first ever Dad/Daughter dance was very successful with over 50 participants at the CRC. Miller did a report on the Enrichment Program. Jeremy said that the school system will stop providing their enrichment program so the MRD may absorb many of those kids. Miller is evaluating how this can be done. Director Christina asked if the MRD can increase the number of kids we serve. Miller stated that facility

space is an issue but we are working with the school district to utilize some of its facilities. The school district is discussing the possibility of busing kids to the program.

VIII. Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes

a. Regular Meeting of the Board 03.28.2024 – Director Allison moved to approved minutes, Director Barb seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 12:59pm

Next BOD Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing

May 23 at 11:30am

CRC 16350 Woodgate Road

Montrose, CO 81401