



ERBM  
RECREATION &  
PARK DISTRICT  
*Meeker, Colorado*

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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## **ERBM RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT**

101 Ute Road  
Meeker, CO 81641  
970.878.3403 | [erbmrec.com](http://erbmrec.com)





## *Dear community,*

We are very excited to present to you Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan (ERBM) Recreation & Park District's 2023 Annual Report! This document details the progress, achievements, highlights, and challenges of the past year as we proudly continue to serve Eastern Rio Blanco County.

Our approach to this Annual Report is a little different from the past. For one, it's much shorter and easier to read! With this document, we want to:

- answer your questions
- promote transparency
- celebrate community engagement
- share challenges, solutions, and key projects
- start important conversations about the future of recreation

We hope the condensed format helps increase engagement and improve accessibility to this important information. If you have any questions or thoughts to share, please stop by the Meeker Recreation Center (101 Ute Road) or attend a board meeting, typically held the third Tuesday of every month. We welcome your feedback!

Through the highs and lows, we remain dedicated to serving the residents and visitors of this beautiful community, supporting health and well-being, and fostering a vibrant future. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for making Eastern Rio Blanco County such a unique and special place to call home.

We look forward to serving you in 2024!

***ERBM Recreation & Park District Staff***

# ABOUT THE DISTRICT



## OUR MISSION

ERBM Recreation & Park District creates year-round recreational, cultural, and outdoor experiences that improve well-being and promote a vibrant community for the residents, visitors, and future generations of Eastern Rio Blanco County.

## CORE VALUES

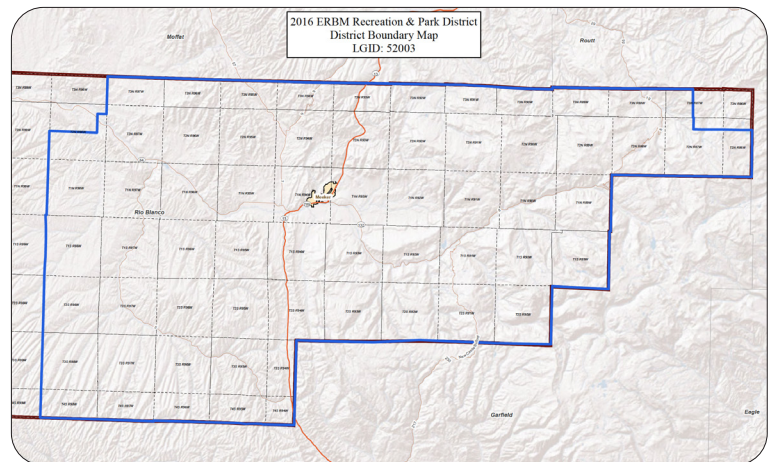
STEWARDSHIP  
QUALITY SERVICE  
OPEN COMMUNICATION  
OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

## HISTORY

Founded in 1981, ERBM Recreation & Park District is a special district in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The District's boundaries encompass approximately 2,000 square miles, all of which are situated in the eastern half of the county. At the time the District was organized, tracts of land that were forty acres or more and all personal property located on tracts that were zoned, and primarily used for agriculture, were excluded from the boundaries.

The District is headquartered at Meeker Recreation Center, 101 Ute Road, Meeker, Colorado. The Center was constructed in 2008 and features many amenities for the community, including a fitness room, pools, lounge, multipurpose room, and dance studio.

The District also maintains the parks in Meeker, which feature open spaces, play equipment, fishing locations, hiking trails, and a mountain bike flow course.



The District encompasses approximately 2,000 square miles in eastern Rio Blanco County and is headquartered at Meeker Recreation Center in Meeker, Colorado.

# INTERNAL STRUCTURE

Three departments at ERBM keep things running smoothly under the supervision of our Board of Directors.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### JOHN STRATE

PRESIDENT  
3 YEAR TERM  
(MAY 2025)

### KENT WALTER

VICE PRESIDENT  
4 YEAR TERM  
(MAY 2027)

### KIM KENDALL

SECRETARY  
3 YEAR TERM  
(MAY 2025)

### GINNY LOVE

TREASURER  
(MAY 2025)  
*APPOINTED TO REPLACE  
VICKY EDWARDS IN MAY 2023*

### LISA MOFFITT

DIRECTOR  
4 YEAR TERM  
(MAY 2027)

## RECREATION

**This department is comprised of Aquatics and Recreation divisions and provides recreational opportunities that promote health, wellness, and community engagement for residents of all ages, abilities, and interests.**

In 2023, Recreation consisted of five full-time staff, with one exempt staff added in June for a total of six, as well as one part-time staff. They planned, coordinated, implemented and evaluated activities including swim lessons, pool parties, Bounce N' Splash, baseball, softball, football, dance, tumbling, cheer, community events, and more.

## PARKS & FACILITIES MAINTENANCE (PFM)

**This department is comprised of Maintenance and Custodial divisions and cares for our community's natural and built environments, including our parks, facilities, trails and recreational spaces.**

In 2023, PFM consisted of 8 full-time staff, three part-time staff, and one seasonal staff. They kept indoor and outdoor facilities clean and safe, improved accessibility, maintained ERBM's pools, and repaired equipment.

PFM staff took the lead on ERBM's float for the Range Call Fourth of July Parade (below) and won Best of Show!

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**This department is comprised of Human Resources, Guest Services, and Finance divisions and provides essential support functions for operations.**

In 2023, the Department consisted of five full-time staff and three part-time staff. **Human Resources** attracted, developed, and onboarded our talented workforce while ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations. **Guest Services** provided patrons with a positive first point of contact at the front desk and assisted with various inquiries and tasks. **Finance** oversaw budget development and planning and maintained comprehensive accounting records.



2023

# FINANCIALS

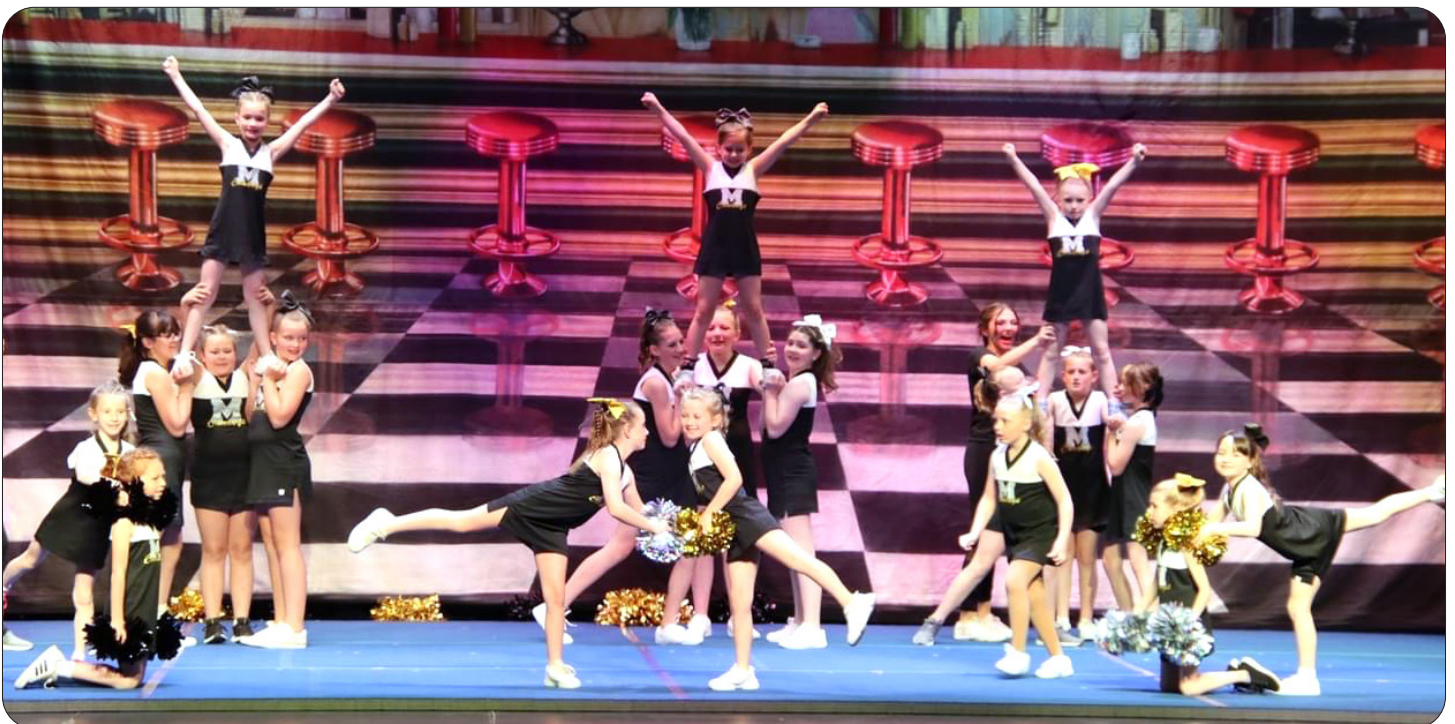
The District relies primarily on property tax mill levy funding, comprising 95% of its revenue stream. Here are 2023's numbers at a glance.

- **\$3.9 million** in total revenues
  - **\$3 million** in property tax revenues (15% increase over the previous two years)
  - **\$415,000** in income investment revenue (six times the anticipated amount)
  - **\$41,000** surplus in the fund balance (savings account)
- **\$3.86 million** in total expenses
  - including all equipment and capital improvement project expenditures
  - **\$435,000** saved vs. budgeted amount on personnel and operations

Additional financial information is available on the District's website at [erbmrec.com](http://erbmrec.com) and by request. Please give us a call at 970-878-3403 for more information!

## LOOKING FORWARD

Projections for 2024 suggest another **15% increase** for an estimated **\$3.5 million** in funding.





# COST RECOVERY

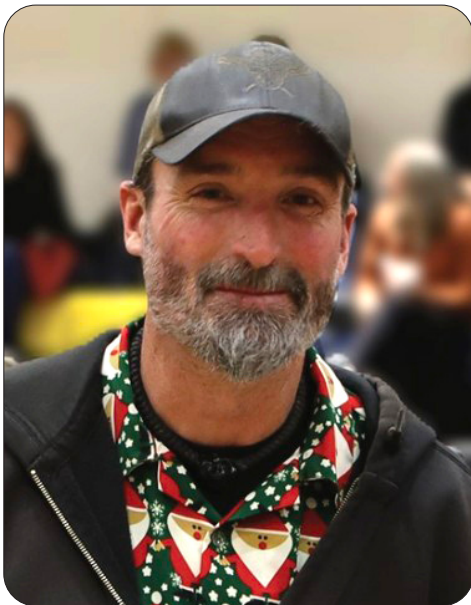
ERBM’s Recreation Department also tracks cost recovery: the proportion of expenses covered by revenue generated from various activities. Cost recovery ensures responsible use of all District resources and helps us provide the best-possible service to our community members.

Service Category	Cost Recovery (Target)	Cost Recovery (Actual)	Activity Participants
Community Events	1-3%	4%	2115
Drop-In Activities	3-5%	7%	55
Education & Enrichment	15-20%	10%	216
Skills Based Beginner	20-25%	32%	314
Skill Based Intermediate	25-30%	21%	978
Specialized Events	35-40%	38%	718
Skill Based Advanced	65-70%	32%	54

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The heart of ERBM's mission is community. We seek to engage residents, visitors, collaborators, and stakeholders to provide recreation opportunities for all.

Essential to this process are volunteers and community partners.



Our 2023 Volunteer of the Year was Obie Deming (above).

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a crucial part of the District's success. They generously donate their time and skills to support basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, flag football, dance, tumbling, community events, and more.

**68**  
volunteers

**865**  
hours donated

*Thank you, volunteers!*





# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

ERBM is proud to collaborate with many local groups. We appreciate these partners and their contributions to fun and recreation in Eastern Rio Blanco County!

## **Colorado Parks & Wildlife**

Youth Fishing Day, Family Ice Fishing, Hunter Education

## **Meeker Lions Club**

Youth Fishing Day, Family Ice Fishing, Breakfast with Santa

## **Meeker Police Department**

Youth Fishing Day

## **White River Electric Association**

Meekerpalooza

## **Mountain Valley Bank**

Summer Festival

## **Meeker School District**

Fifth grade robotics program, athletics clinics

## **Meeker Chamber of Commerce**

Meekerpalooza, Meeker Beautification project

## **Meeker Arts & Cultural Council**

Community theater production of Big Fish

## **Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship Trials**

2023 event sponsor

## 2023 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Cardboard Derby
- Family Ice Fishing Day
- Inflatable Pool Parties
- Mother-Daughter Tea
- Hunter Education
- Father-Daughter Ball
- Bounce N' Splash Series
- Youth Fishing Day
- Meekerpalooza
- Run for Your Life 5K
- Stars N' Stripes 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Run Club
- Community Water Wars
- Mother-Son Dance
- Pumpkins, Eats N' Treats
- Breakfast with Santa

# MEEKER RECREATION CENTER USAGE

# 41,886

## visits to Meeker Recreation Center

↑ 7.5% from 2022

**13,651**  
drop-in visits

**28,235**  
member visits



# 685

## memberships

### **First Responder Program**

*Free MRC access*

72 memberships, 1645 uses

### **Financial Assistance Program**

*50% discount*

44 memberships

### **Corporate Membership Package**

*\$2 entry per person per day*

10 entities, 765 uses

# TRAIL USAGE

Sanderson Hills  
Park Trailhead

**20,799 uses**

Circle Park  
Trailhead

**9,264 uses**

Ute Park  
Trailhead

**8,184 uses**





# CHALLENGES & **SOLUTIONS**

## LIMITED GYM SPACE

A demand for gym space has consistently exceeded available capacity for some time. This limits access and availability, especially during the winter months. ERBM appreciates a collaborative use agreement with the Meeker School District to help bridge this gap, but the scheduling of activities remains a big challenge.

## MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

Local parks suffered from issues with irrigation systems in 2023, affecting grass and vegetation. Moving forward, park maintenance will be a higher priority for the Parks & Facilities Maintenance Department, with more efficient and consistent deployment of employees to address and alleviate these issues.

## STAFFING

Meeker Recreation Center is open seven days a week. With long operating hours, employees must be available for a variety of morning, evening, split, and weekend shifts. We have lost employees who cannot maintain this necessary flexibility. Additionally, the District has struggled to find part-time workers, along with most other establishments in Meeker. Hiring and retaining lifeguards has also been a challenge.

To address this issue, we have implemented all available incentive programs, including merit-based personnel increases and pension contributions. In December 2023, the compensation plan was re-analyzed to account for minimum wage increases, cost of living adjustments, and industry standard averages.

ERBM also took advantage of a statewide Pools Special Initiative program to help recruit and retain lifeguards. This allowed the Aquatics Division to create an incentive program for high performers.

The ERBM Employee Scholarship program, approved by the Board in August 2023, helps our employees pursue higher education. This opportunity is available to high school, college, and trade school students.

## SAFETY

In May 2023, there was a significant safety event at Meeker Recreation Center. Leadership staff developed an after-action summary report outlining various procedural changes to be implemented immediately. ERBM takes the safety of both our patrons and our staff very seriously and is confident these changes will continue to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESIGNATION/REPLACEMENT SEARCH

Sean VonRoenn resigned as Executive Director on December 1, 2023, after 8.5 years with the District to take a position in Arizona. We wish Mr. VonRoenn the very best in his future endeavors and thank him for his efforts.

The search for a replacement was led by the Board, with recruitment efforts spearheaded by Employer's Council. ERBM had 31 applicants for the position, and Employer's Council named six semi-finalists. Initial interviews took place in January.

# KEY PROJECTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## MRC ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Parks and Facilities Maintenance staff changed the grade of our primary entrance to reduce the slope and improve accessibility. They also shaved down concrete in various locations to reduce tripping hazards and lowered many amenities throughout our facilities to make them easier to reach.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION TRANSITION

2023 was the first full year of implementing online registration. This successful transition has significantly improved efficiency, allowing Guest Services to devote more time to creating positive patron experiences. 95% of registrations now take place online.

## MEEKER RIVERFRONT PROJECT: PHASE II

Phase II of the Riverfront Project is a collaboration between ERBM and the Town of Meeker. The Town will lead the project for this phase, which will include access enhancements, shoreline stabilization, and landscaping at Circle Park, with a projected cost of \$1.8 million. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and other grants will provide \$1.1 million, and ERBM has allocated \$400,000 of Conservation Trust Funds (CTF)\* and general operating funds for this project.

\*CTF funds are a portion of lottery proceeds constitutionally mandated to be distributed directly to local government and special districts based on population. Funding can be used for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site. CTF funds were used in 2008 for the construction of MRC. Since then, funds have been kept in a restricted interest-bearing account, which totaled \$314,000 at the end of 2023. They are distributed and monitored through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

## MRC 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Meeker Recreation Center celebrated 15 years in operation in 2023. The 15th person to visit MRC on the 15th of each month won \$15 in Chamber Bucks.

Melissa Carter (right) was the July winner of \$15 in Chamber Bucks for MRC's 15th anniversary celebration.





# Thank you for another year of Community FUN!





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