



Perk Up the Park Fundraising Begins for Ridgway Athletic Park Pavilion

The holidays came early to the Town of Ridgway when a generous anonymous donor recently offered to build the small rural community a new multi-purpose pavilion at its Regional Athletic Park.

“For years I have been dreaming of having shelter for our teams,” says Jon Kornbluh, Ridgway resident, longtime soccer coach and former program director for the Ouray County Soccer Association. “On any given Saturday, we’ve got three games going with hundreds of parents and kids, and nowhere to go when weather sets in. As a small non-profit, it’s all we can do to raise enough money to keep the kids playing ball. This gift will be an asset to the entire community.”

The new pavilion is planned to include shelter to protect park users from sun and inclement weather, storage rooms for local sports clubs to keep their gear safe and tidy, and a concession area for selling and serving food and drink at community or sporting events. The Athletic Park currently offers soccer fields, a pump park, skate park, tennis and pickle ball courts, basketball court, picnicking, dog walking and potentially an improved baseball field.

“The biggest thing for me is the storage issue,” continues Kornbluh. “You can’t run a successful program, much less support an entire athletic field complex, out of a broom closet. The current situation is severely limiting.”

The Ridgway Regional Athletic Park is a Town-owned park and upon completion, the Town will also own the new pavilion. According to Jen Coates, Town Manager, the intent of this facility is to serve the community at large and have as broad and frequent use as possible to enhance the public’s experience at this park. The new pavilion will be open to the community for public and private events under the Town’s special event policy.

The Ridgway Town Council approved a funding agreement for the Perk Up the Park Pavilion Project at its June 2019 meeting. Town has committed to the project and is working to fundraise \$100,000 in cash and in-kind contributions by the end of this year. The donor will match funds raised through the community 3 to 1, up to \$300,000, for a total potential project cost of \$400,000.

The Town is asking for donations to make this the best possible project for Ridgway and the entire region. If enough money is raised, the project could include improvements to the existing park restrooms and a kitchen for cooking and selling warm food during games or for holding nonprofit fundraising events such as a pancake breakfast.

The Town of Ridgway has set up a dedicated Alpine Bank account specific to this project and is collecting tax-deductible donations online and at Town Hall through the end of the year. For more information or to donate to the Town’s Perk Up the Park fundraising campaign, go to www.colorado.gov/ridgway/perk-park-pavilion-project.

(see photo below)



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Existing park restrooms and potential site of new Ridgway Athletic Park Pavilion