

*The MCFA aims to enhance the quality of life and to enrich the sense of community for residents of the Upper Rio Grande region by providing year-round all-age access to quality indoor & outdoor recreation, learning opportunities, and cultural, arts, and entertainment events.*

*We envision the Upper Rio Grande Events and Recreation Complex as a signature destination reflecting our Western mountain heritage and ensuring sustainability through effective green design.*

## Special Thanks to John Parker



John Parker has been a tireless champion of the Mineral County Fairgrounds and the Upper Rio Grande Events and Recreation Complex. His more than generous donation of 46 acres provided a site for the complex—transforming an idea, once only a dream scratched out on café napkins—into a reality.

John Parker has supported MCFA since its inception. He served as a project advisor even as he was working out the details of the deed transfer. As a member of the MCFA Board of Directors, he volunteered valuable time and effort. We owe John Parker for keeping the dream alive; without him, our vision and the needs of the community could not be met.

**Many, many thanks to you John—** from all of us working together now and on behalf of those who will benefit in the future.

## Partnership with Willow Creek Committee Crucial to MCFA Success see [www.Willowcreekde.org](http://www.Willowcreekde.org)

The Willow Creek Reclamation Committee (WCRC) grew out of a small, but determined, group of local citizens who aspired to solving local water quality problems. Historic mining practices (1800s - early 1900s) had impacted not only the Willow Creek watershed, but the Rio Grande. Today the Committee has grown to include a variety of public and private interests, partners, scientific experts and dedicated citizens. Through innovative, non-regulatory approaches, WCRC improves water quality and habitat, reduces flood risks, reclaims areas impacted by mining, and preserves historic structures in the Willow Creek watershed.

The MCFA recognizes the importance of this collaborative endeavor and its many benefits to the community. WCRC lead the partnership effort with MCFA to successfully obtain an EPA Brownfields grants, which provided over \$300,000 for site remediation.

Twenty-five acres were remediated to the EPA's residential standards. In addition, 2.5 acres of wetlands were relocated and enhanced, and over 100 willow shrubs successfully transplanted!



[www.upperriogrande.org](http://www.upperriogrande.org) Contact Us: [info@mineralcountyfairgrounds.org](mailto:info@mineralcountyfairgrounds.org) 719-658-2376 MCFA PO Box 61 Creede, CO 81130

Board of Directors: 2010 President: Jennifer Inge Treasurer: Eloise Hooper Secretary: Jeff Scott

Billy Fairchild Mike Atwater Jim Mietz Jim Vanly

**Upper Rio Grande Events & Recreation Complex**  
Mineral County Fairgrounds

MCFA is a 501 (c)3 Colorado nonprofit corporation. All donations are tax deductible. MCFA qualifies as an approved Colorado Enterprise Zone project. Donations of \$100 or more provide a 25% Colorado tax credit opportunity through the San Luis Valley Enterprise Zone.

# Upper Rio Grande Events & Recreation Complex Mineral County Fairgrounds

Round-up of Events & Accomplishments  
How to Participate

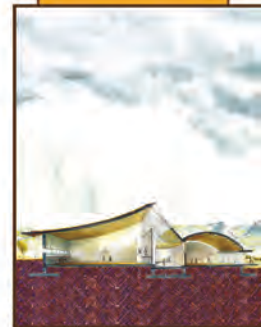
Q&A

Thanks to Donors & Supporters  
Special Appreciation for John Parker

## MCFA Awarded El Pomar Grant

*Funds Provide for Designs that Bring Ideas to Life*

The MCFA enjoyed a great start to the year 2010. On February 3, the San Luis Valley Regional Council of the El Pomar Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to the association. This generous grant, matched with local donations, enabled MCFA to take a giant step forward.



The grant request sought funding to develop a schematic conceptual design of the Upper Rio Grande Events and Recreation Complex—design work needed to advance the next phase in fundraising efforts. The request explained our intent to provide year-round all-age recreation; learning opportunities; and cultural, arts and entertainment events. In addition we emphasized our commitment to a design that would complement our landscape and heritage, and include environmentally responsible features.

Ready to bring our ideas to life—on paper—the Board and its advisors worked closely with the award-winning architectural firm, 51% Studios, to articulate the vision for the Events and Recreation Complex.

The result? A portfolio of studies, plans and vivid drawings that help us communicate our ideas in a tangible way. This newsletter includes a few of these illustrations, so you can begin to get a feel for our vision. Please visit our website soon for additional drawings and explanations, or join us at our next public reception.

Award of the El Pomar grant acknowledged both the milestones already achieved at the Fairgrounds site, and the future benefits to the region.



## A Note from the Board of Directors

*Dear friends, neighbors, donors and members,*

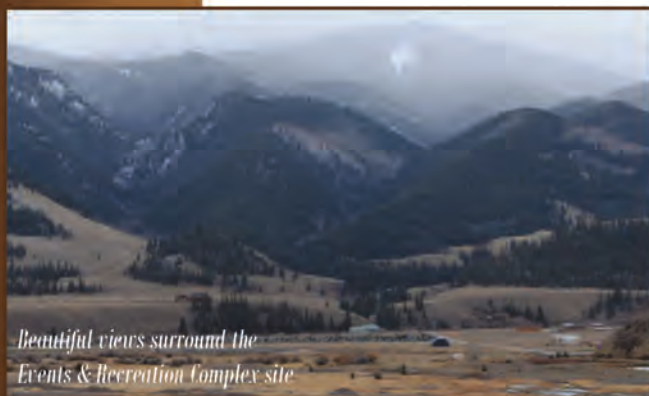
*Before we catch up on our news, we first want to offer a big thanks to those who helped make this year a success. Partners & donors who have sustained our momentum; neighbors & friends who volunteered your time and energy: Big Thanks!*

*We are so pleased to have completed the design concept phase for the Upper Rio Grande Events & Recreation Complex. In 2011 we will be sharing our vision with the larger community, and seeking the capacity building that will allow us to move forward confidently. Our goal is to sustain and expand programming, enhance our fairgrounds, and begin the fundraising that will transform the new drawings into functional, beautiful, and sustainable facilities.*

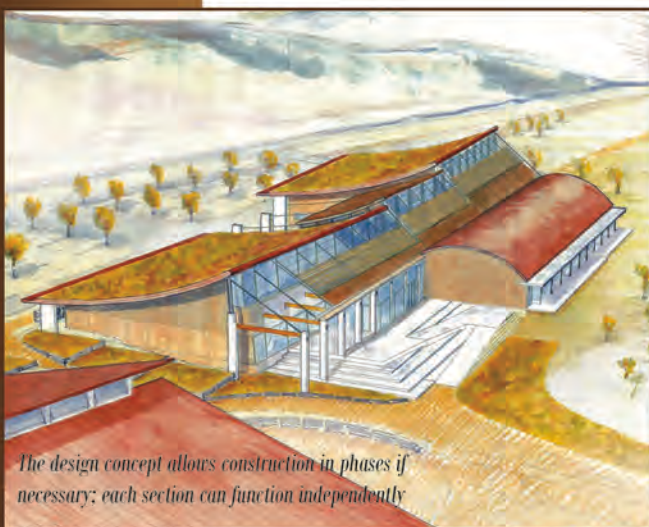
*We invite you to join us. As a volunteer or partner you can help us in many ways. Direct donations or gifts can speed progress. Ask us how you can get involved! Your contribution is a contribution to our community.*







Beautiful views surround the Events & Recreation Complex site



The design concept allows construction in phases if necessary; each section can function independently



#### Some of the Innovative & Exciting Ideas

- ♦ A look & feel that complements the historic buildings of the area—not a stylistic replica, but a design reflective of the practical, improvising, utilitarian western spirit
- ♦ Use of local and recycled materials
- ♦ Conservation of top-soil, and its use for a sod roof, which in turn provides insulation, aesthetic, and habitat value
- ♦ rain gardens and porous surfaces to manage snowmelt / rain runoff
- ♦ steel cable, like that securing historic mining structures, supports a suspended roof
- ♦ living sod roofing, geothermal heating, passive and active solar and wind power will conserve energy and reduce utility costs

## What is the MCFA & what's the Upper Rio Grande Events and Recreation Complex? Q&A

**What is the MCFA?** The Mineral County Fairgrounds Association is a non-profit group formed to develop and administer the *Upper Rio Grande Events & Recreation Complex*—an all-season multi-purpose facility that will support a broad range of recreation and learning experiences.

**That's a big goal; what's the emphasis now?** Most of the first phase of project planning and site development is complete. The focus now is to refine plans, obtain funding and to construct the Events & Recreation Complex. Design plans completed this year call for an indoor events arena; a recreation center with a swimming pool, ball courts, a fitness gym, a climbing wall, activity- and class-rooms; concert venues and greenhouses. The complex will be easily reached by the walk/bike trail from downtown Creede south along Willow Creek.

All aspects of the site and facilities design concepts include elements that promote long-term sustainability. Objectives for the coming year include both capacity building and capital development.

**What's been done so far?** MCFA has secured a desirable site for the fairgrounds and the Events & Recreation Complex (see Thanks to John Parker on pg. 4). Reclamation and improvement of grounds and wetlands is completed, thanks to grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the assistance of numerous partners and volunteers. Construction of the outdoor arena and Events Tent have enabled us to host successful events since 2004.

**How is this paid for?** The MCFA is grateful for and reliant upon donations from generous supporters, grants, partnerships with other organizations, and the contribution of volunteer time. Recent completion of design concepts moves us into the next phase in fundraising in which we will identify foundations, organizations and individuals interested in and capable of funding the project, or a portion of it. Large grants have been identified as obtainable and an endowment fund initiated. Revenues produced by events at the indoor arena will support the future operations budget.

### Reception Invites Community Comment

Eager to share the newly completed design concepts for the Upper Rio Grande Events and Recreation Complex and seeking public input, the MCFA hosted a public reception in July. The Board and 51% Studios introduced the ideas and renderings of the grounds and facilities. Participants provided valuable input which will hone future planning. Thanks to all participants; to the Ladies Aid Society (for the delicious desserts) and to the Creede Community Church for the venue.

## Updates, Events & Accomplishments

### Annual Father's Day Fun

The fifth annual Father's Day event at the Fairgrounds was a great success. The open horse-show welcomed all ages and abilities to participate. Classes for both Western and English riders were critiqued according to 4-H rules by renowned judge Erlene Seybold from Española, New Mexico. Rosemary and Brian Egolf volunteered many hours and contributed funding to ensure the success of the event; additionally Mrs. Egolf managed the show and Mr. Egolf emceed.

Even those who didn't ride enjoyed watching the talented riders and their horses on a beautiful summer day. Thanks especially to: Kazie and Charles Hayes (ringmasters), Tanya Korpi and Zeke Ward (grounds coordinators), Eloise Hooper (Mineral County Recreation Dept.), Rare Things, Tommy Knocker's Tavern and Rio Grande Silver – and to everyone who helped make this a memorable event.

### New Programs Include Dutch Oven Cooking Class

Together with partners including the Creede/Mineral Arts & Rec the MCFA hosted several new and successful programs this year, including Dutch Oven Cooking with Earl Wilson, an ATV instruction course with Mike Atwater, horse training classes, and an ice-cream social.

### Volunteers Build Events Tent

The Fairgrounds now hosts indoor events, at least in warmer weather, thanks to the hard work of generous volunteers, including local boy scouts. The Events Tent, erected in 2007, houses a variety of classes and gatherings until our permanent Recreation & Events Complex is built. In addition it's proving useful as a landmark for identifying the Fairgrounds and future Complex site. The Quonset-hut-type shelter took quite a bit more work to construct than we had anticipated. We are especially grateful to the dozens of volunteers who hung in there and helped.

### New Arena Location Better for All—Electricity Added too!

Our appreciation goes to all who helped to move the arena from its original location to the lower bench of the site last year after the *Volunteer Clean-up* was completed. The new location, only a few hundred yards east, sits lower than the original. Now we can enjoy a gorgeous view, protect participants from the wind, and have ample room for trailer access and parking. Electricity was extended to the new location. Special thanks to Mineral County and Billy Fairchild, the City of Creede's Christensen Fund, and to Mike Atwater, and Caleb Simon for making all of this possible.

### 4-H County Fair July 10th

Happy to be able to host our own County Fair, Mineral County residents welcomed folks from near & far for this traditional event. Judging for arts, home crafts, garden plants & other activities took place in the new Events Tent. Parelli Natural Horsemanship lessons and games were provided by Parelli 2-Star Instructor Petra Christensen.

