



TOWN OF
LAKE CITY

NEWSLETTER



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LAKE CITY

Aug. 11th, 2025

Ice Wall Expansion Project

Project Scope of Work: (To be performed by Town Staff)

Phase 1 : Removing the original ice wall off municipal water and adding 24 routes to the original wall and area of Devil's Kitchen. Completed

Phase 2 : Adding climbing routes to the west of the Beer Garden. In Progress, estimated completion by November 2025

Phase 3 : Adding routes to the Dynamite Shack area which will extend seasonal climbing with the sloped cliffs (not only vertical routes); and In Progress, estimated completion by November 2025

Phase 4 : The final build-out expansion resulting in nearly one mile of farmed ice at the highest-altitude ice climbing destination in the world. In Progress, estimated completion by November 2025

In August of 2024 the Town of Lake City was awarded a DOLA Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant in the amount of \$69,600 with a Town Match of \$14,400. Of the \$14,400 match, \$5000 of it came from an El Pomar Foundation Grant and a \$1,000 San Juan Solstice Grant.



Ice Wall Expansion Project Budget

Total Project Cost: \$87,000 (For Construction Materials)

DOLA - REDI Grant: \$69,600

El Pomar Grant: \$5,000

San Juan Solstice Grant: \$1,000

Town Match: \$8,400

Totals for Ice Wall Donations

The Town is mostly relying on donations to cover the expenses to operate the ice wall.
Climbers and locals are showing their increasing appreciation & support through donations & sponsorships.

2022 Ice Wall Donations: \$14,754.50 (Includes \$840 in local ice fest sponsorships)
2023 Ice Wall Donations: \$19,243.44 (Includes \$745 in local ice fest sponsorships)
2024 Ice Wall Donations: \$21,663.46 (Includes \$835 in local ice fest sponsorships)
2025 YTD Ice Wall Donations: \$27,080.11 (Includes \$3,900 in local ice fest sponsorships)

2023 Operating Expenses

- Salaries Full Time: Estimated at \$2,500
- Salaries Ice Wall Part Time : \$1,072
- Ice Wall R&M Supplies: \$10,235.35
- Ice Wall Electricity: \$5,968.04
- Sanitation services: \$1,830.00

2023 Total Estimated Operating Expenses =

\$21,605.39



$\$21,605.39 - \$19,243.44 = \$2,361.95$ Not Covered by Donations

2024 Operating Expenses

(This includes labor for 2024 Ice Wall Expansion Project due to REDI grant funding only construction material costs since it does not cover staff labor time)



- **Salaries Full Time:** Estimated \$6,000 (estimated \$3,500 on ice wall expansion)
- **Salaries Ice Wall Part Time:** \$4,965 (\$3,900 on ice wall expansion)
- **Ice Wall R&M Supplies:** \$6,631.32
- **Ice Wall Electricity:** \$7,073.10
- **Sanitation Services:** \$3,323.50

2024 Total Operating Expenses = \$27,992.92

$\$27,992.92 - \$21,663.46 = \$6,329.46$ Not Covered by Donations



2025 Operating Expenses Budgeted

(This year we have broken out the different ice wall expenses into their own line items to help track operating expenses)

Salaries - Ice Wall: \$6,987 (Expansion labor \$3,500)

Ice Wall Operating Supplies: \$4,250.00

Ice Wall Electricity: \$11,300 (Estimate per year when all expansions completed and running 6 pumps on 4 electrical pedestals.)

Sanitation Services: \$5,526.09 YTD (Budgeted \$3,500, New sanitation service provider required a weekly schedule instead of a bi-weekly schedule and we had 6 porta potties. We will explore ways to reduce this cost for the upcoming season, most likely reducing the number of porta potties to 4.)

Ice Wall Events: \$2,308.76 YTD (Budgeted \$1,500, decision to have Ice Fest ceremony dinner at Lake City Arts was made after budget was passed. Will increase to \$2,500 next year)

Travel & Training: \$508.90 YTD (Budgeted \$450)

Permits: \$200

2025 Estimated Total Expenses Based on Budget and YTD amounts = \$31,080.75

Donations Received YTD: \$27,080.11

Estimated On-Going Annual Operating Costs

Salaries – Ice Wall Full-Time : \$2,500

Salaries - Ice Wall Part-Time : \$1,500

Ice Wall Operating Supplies : \$5,500

Ice Wall Electricity : \$11,300

Sanitation Services : \$4,500

Ice Wall Events : \$2,500

Travel & Training : \$500

Permits : \$200

Total Estimated Annual Operating Expenses: \$28,500

We have received an overwhelming amount of praise and appreciation from the Ice Climbers that have come here to climb, not only on what we have done and are doing but also on how we have been operating the Ice Wall. They know that only through their donations can we continue to operate the ice wall without charging them a fee. It is the belief of Town staff that there will be more and more ice climbers that will continue to come and visit Lake City so long as there is sufficient lodging available.

Ultimately, we know that winter lodging capacity is what will prevent us from becoming overrun and overcrowded, but for now there is a growing demand for lodging during the winter months due to the ice wall.

I welcome anyone to contact me if they have questions or concerns regarding the Ice wall or anything else related to the Town and its operations. I am always glad to have the opportunity to address any questions or concerns that any member of the community may have regarding the Town.

Sincerely,

Alexander (Lex) Mulhall

Town Manager

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