

# Upper Rio Grande Events & Recreation Complex

## Mineral County Fairgrounds



### *A grassroots community project meets local and regional needs*

The Mineral County Fairgrounds has a new name: The Upper Rio Grande Events and Recreation Complex. This long-range regional project is expected to play a significant role in economic development and year-round recreation. Many activities not previously available to the community will enhance the quality of life and support economic development for generations.

In considering the impacts that the recreation complex will have on Creede, MCFA sought to dream big. Not only will the recreation center serve

local residents, but it will offer opportunities to the entire San Luis Valley: swimming lessons and competitions, tournaments for regional sporting events, an annual pro rodeo that would draw entries from all across the West, large concerts, car shows or conferences, and any number of other seasonal (including Winter) events!

Through the hard work and dedication of the Board of Directors and Creede's amazing community of volunteers, the project continues to make significant progress.





## *Site cleanup complete*

The site has good connections to town and surrounding areas, such as the Bachelor Loop Byway taking in historic silver mines and Deep Creek Trail up to Snowshoe Mountain. In partnership with Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, a Voluntary Cleanup plan and EPA/Brownfields grants, the site that was contaminated by years of mining activity is now 90% remediated to residential standards. The contaminants were scraped, compressed and capped by a twelve-inch layer of clean soil from the site. The newly added soil was seeded with grasses to ensure the stability of the soil, curtail erosion and increase the aesthetic appeal.



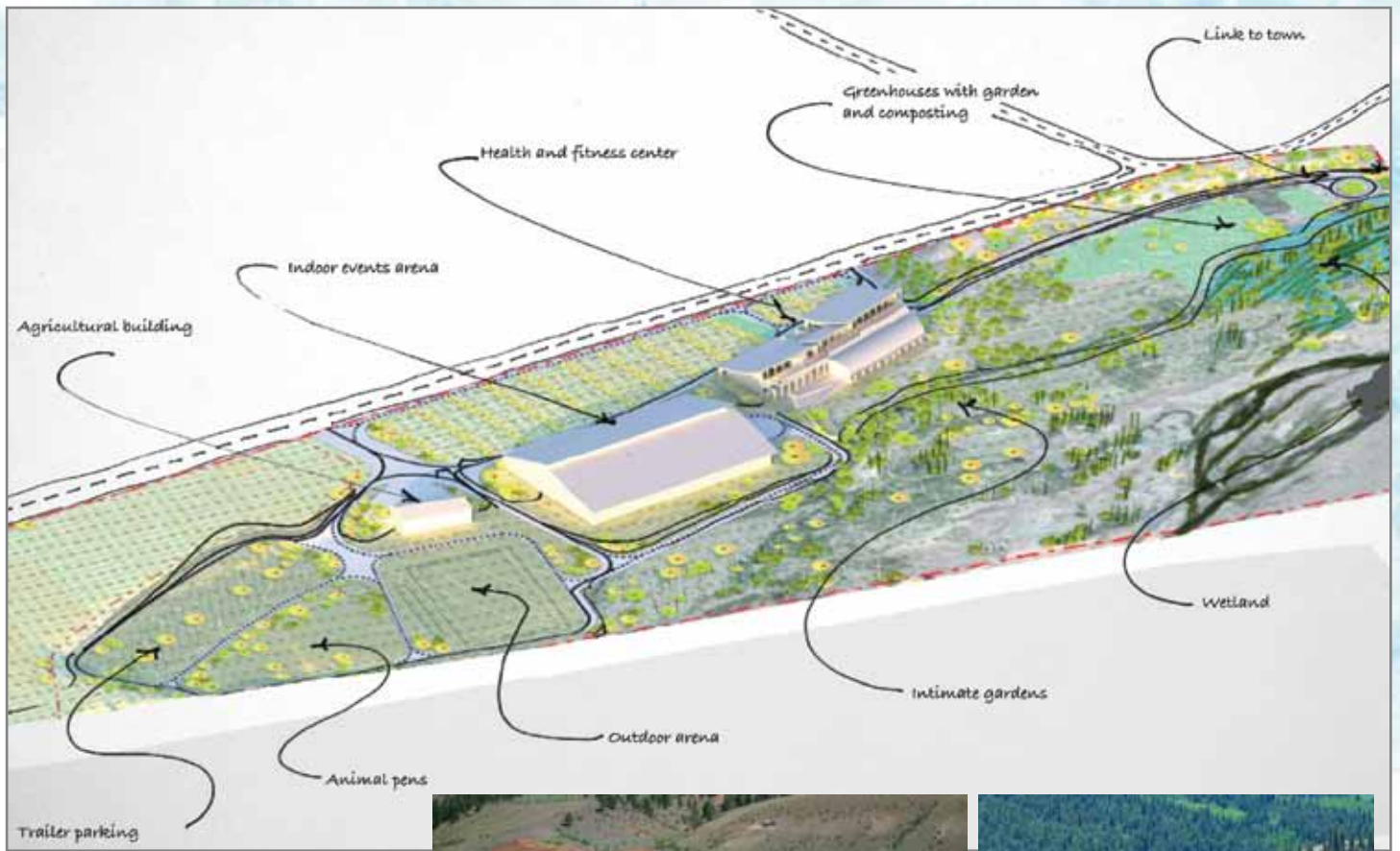
## *Initial design phase complete*

With the recent remediation of the site completed, the Board of Directors has turned its focus to building. In July of this year, 51% Studios presented a package of images and concepts detailing the Masterplan for the site. This plan creatively organizes the many uses planned while beautifully reflecting the spirit of Creede. An architecture which could be described as ‘mountain vernacular brought current’ uses local materials in frank and improvisory ways, similar to structures built by the early miners in the area. Furthermore, an environmentally responsive

design makes use of geothermal and solar energy available on the site.

New facilities will include a multi-purpose all-season indoor arena, a recreation building with basketball court, swimming pool and activity rooms, a 4H barn, and a market garden with composting and greenhouse facilities. Already on site are an outdoor arena and 12 pens, to which will be added two training corrals and trailer parking for overnight eventers.





## ***Outdoor arena relocated***

The outdoor arena has been relocated to its permanent location on the lower bench of the site. The move was prompted after the clean up process to provide a better viewing and riding experience. The new location is on the site's middle bench and provides a gorgeous view of the Creede cliffs and the Bristol, Snowshoe and La Garita Mountains. The location allows for trailer access, ample parking and wind protection.

Electricity has been installed to the arena through a grant from the Town of Creede's Virginia Christensen Fund and the volunteer help of Mike Atwater, Caleb Sina, Avery Augur and Jason Vinyard.

## ***MFCA's Vision Statement***

*"The Mineral County Fairgrounds Association's vision is to serve as a community leader in transforming an unused parcel of land into a signature destination place that is reflective of Creede and Mineral County's rural Western-heritage traditions. In designing, developing, constructing and maintaining a year-round, multi-functional complex, MCFA foresees the*

*long-term values that the fairgrounds project will have for this community and the Upper Rio Grande Valley. MCFA is dedicated to accepting the challenge and pledges to strive toward fulfilling the goals set forth in this ambitious, grassroots initiative."*



## ***Moving forward***

As a non-profit entity, MCFA realizes that volunteers are their most valuable assets. Donated time and services, along with funding contributions, translate into solid proof of our community's commitment and support for this ambitious project. This proof creates leverage for raising capital funds for contraction through grants. Any individual or group that would like to give in any capacity is welcome!

***Learn more at [www.upperriogrande.org](http://www.upperriogrande.org)***

*Photos, drawings and text courtesy of the Mineral County Fairgrounds Association.*