




**TO:** Chair Wade Bryson, Assembly Public Works & Facilities Committee  
**FROM:** Lauren Verrelli, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation  
**DATE:** January 24, 2024  
**RE:** Dimond Park Field House Elevator vs. Lift

The Parks & Recreation Department believes that all our facilities should be accessible to people of all abilities. The Dimond Park Field House (DPFH) offers Juneau’s only public indoor track, which is inaccessible to people with disabilities and reduced mobility. Installing an elevator or lift not only aligns DPFH with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) but also sends a positive message about CBJ’s commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all of our guests. This memo provides an analysis of the pros and cons associated with the installation of a traditional elevator versus a [chair lift](#) at DPFH.

### Elevator (approx. \$984,000)

<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ADA User-Friendly:</b> Elevators are more accommodating to users with disabilities, providing a smoother and more user-friendly experience for individuals with mobility challenges.</li> <li>• <b>Capacity:</b> An elevator can accommodate multiple people simultaneously, making it efficient for moving groups during peak usage times and allowing caregivers to accompany guests who need assistance.</li> <li>• <b>Space Efficiency:</b> An elevator requires less mezzanine space compared to lifts, maximizing the available space within the Dimond Park Field House.</li> <li>• <b>Local Repair Support:</b> CBJ has a local contractor that provides maintenance and repair services for elevators in municipal facilities, ensuring a quick response and reducing downtime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Higher Initial and Maintenance Costs:</b> The capital acquisition cost of an elevator is higher than a lift, and periodic maintenance also costs more.</li> </ul>

## Lift System (approx. \$413,000)

<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lower Cost:</b> Lifts have a lower capital acquisition cost with reduced maintenance expenditures, providing a more budget-friendly option for accessibility improvements.</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Minimal ADA Compliance:</b> Lifts meet the basic accessibility threshold required for ADA compliance, but they do not offer the same user-friendly experience as elevators.</li><li>• <b>Limited Capacity:</b> Lifts have a more confined space, accommodating one or two individuals at a time.</li><li>• <b>Increased Mezzanine Space Usage:</b> A lift system requires more mezzanine space since two lifts are required: one from the turf to the mezzanine and a second from the mezzanine to the track. This will impact the overall layout and reduce the functionality of the mezzanine.</li><li>• <b>No Local Certified Repair Personnel:</b> There are no certified lift repair technicians in Juneau, which could result in longer downtime.</li><li>• <b>Uncertain Life Expectancy and Maintenance Needs:</b> The lifespan of lifts and their maintenance requirements are uncertain and are likely less than an elevator.</li></ul>

### Recommendation

While more expensive, an elevator is the Department's preferred option. While the initial cost and maintenance expenses associated with an elevator are higher, this option has the least impact on the facility while providing the most accessible, user-friendly experience over the long term. The availability of local repair support for an elevator also ensures prompt maintenance, minimizing disruptions for DPFH users. While cheaper, a lift system would consume more space in the facility, provide limited capacity, and offer uncertain lifecycle costs due to the lack of local maintenance support.