



Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
January 2022



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CRgov.com/ParksandRec



parks@CRgov.com





Upcoming Events

View up-to-date information at CRgov.com/Events.

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|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| FEBRUARY 16 | COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT OPEN HOUSE 7 - 8 p.m. Virtual | APRIL 27 | WILD IN OUR TOWN 6 - 7 p.m. Philip S. Miller Douglas County Library |
| MARCH 3 | COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT NEST BOX MONITOR TRAINING 6:30 - 8 p.m. Virtual | MAY 4 | BASICS OF BIRDWATCHING CLASS (PART I) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Philip S. Miller Douglas County Library |
| MARCH 29 | RIDGELINE WRANGLER SEASON KICK-OFF MEETING 6 - 7:30 p.m. Miller Activity Complex | MAY 14 | BASICS OF BIRDWATCHING GUIDED WALK (PART II) 8 - 10 a.m. East Plum Creek Trail |
| APRIL 5 | RHYOLITE DIRT CREW SEASON KICK-OFF MEETING 6 - 7:30 p.m. Miller Activity Complex | MAY 18 | BASICS OF BIRDWATCHING GUIDED HIKE (PART III) 8 - 10 a.m. Gateway Mesa Open Space |
| APRIL 16 | EARTH DAY WILLOW HARVEST AND PLANTING 9 - 11 a.m. East Plum Creek Trail | MAY 21 | CLIMB4CHANGE 6:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park |



Parks, Open Space & Trails

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED FOR POSSIBILITIES PLAYGROUND

The Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation is now seeking sponsorships and large- and small-donor funding support for a Possibilities Playground at Butterfield Crossing Park.

The Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Plan identifies the need for improvements at Butterfield Crossing to address safety, life cycle replacement and accessibility to improve user experience. In 2020-2021, staff and Design Concepts, the project's landscape architect, coordinated planning efforts to set the design for renovation work. Survey results from the project's planning phase demonstrated a collectively strong community desire to create an inclusive playground and shared space to serve users of all ability levels.

The goal of this proposed Possibilities Playground would be to offer a universally designed, sensory-rich environment that enables children of all abilities to develop physically, socially and emotionally. Visitation data from inclusive playgrounds nationwide indicates that because the disabled population is so underserved when it comes to outdoor recreating opportunities, visitors travel well beyond the distance of their local neighborhood park, which could make this playground a regional destination for an underserved population.

The Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation is joining forces with the Parks and Recreation Department to fundraise \$1.2 million to make this playground a reality. [The Foundation is gratefully accepting donations online.](#) Questions about these efforts may be directed to Executive Director Marne Hansen at info@crptfoundation.org.

The Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing Castle Rock's parks, open space and trails and the recreation opportunities and experiences available to the community. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.





POST Partners Volunteer Program

HELP CASTLE ROCK'S BLUEBIRD POPULATION SOAR; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2022

They help brighten the sky and add music to the morning. Bluebirds are a fascinating native species found in Colorado, and volunteers can help improve their vitality. The 2022 season of the Colorado Bluebird Project kicks off Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Join nature experts for an informational virtual open house from 7 to 8 p.m. Learn about why it's important to look after these beautiful birds. Plus, find out about the basics of having a bluebird box in your backyard or how to become a volunteer with the project.

The program begins in late March, when bluebirds return from their winter migration, and runs through the end of summer. Weekly monitoring begins in April. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help maintain and monitor nesting boxes throughout the community. Registered volunteers will visit the boxes regularly on a rotating two- or three-week basis to collect important nesting data. Volunteers are also needed to help with nest box construction and repairs.

A separate virtual training will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 3 for those who decide to participate as volunteer monitors in the program.

For more than 14 years, the Colorado Bluebird Project has operated under POST Partners and Denver Audubon. The program aims to improve the vitality of native bluebird populations throughout Colorado, with the goal of informing and educating the public about bluebirds. Since 2007, there have been more than 7,200 bluebirds, swallows and other native birds fledge from the boxes around Castle Rock.

There are 190 nesting boxes installed in Castle Rock's parks, open spaces, trails and other public spaces. In 2021, 126 volunteers contributed nearly 2,200 hours to help increase the bluebird and swallow populations in Castle Rock.

For volunteer sign-up and more information, including a training manual and guidelines for installing nest boxes, visit CRgov.com/Bluebird.

VOLUNTEER CASTLE ROCK: NEW WEB FEATURE

The Town of Castle Rock is excited to announce the launch of a new volunteer registration platform. The online site will provide a one-stop-shop to research and register for volunteer opportunities. The platform is rolling out this month and will initially feature information about the Town's POST Partners program, featuring programs in parks, open spaces and trails. In the near future, the platform will include more comprehensive offerings for athletics, golf, therapeutic recreation, and opportunities for other Town Departments and organizations. Learn more and get a sneak peek at VolunteerCastleRock.CRgov.com.





Education

GET A JUMP START ON SUMMER; YOUTH CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Parents looking to keep kids busy during school break should look no further. Castle Rock has something for everyone looking to enjoy the dog days of summer. Running from Monday, May 30 through mid-August, the Town's full-day, half-day and specialty summer camps are available for kids ages 3 to 18, with a variety of themes. A full list of summer camp offerings, descriptions and prices may be found at CRgov.com/Camps.

Camp offerings include:

Athletic and Adventure Camps

- Gold Medal Camps
- Multisport Camps
- RockRec Camps
- The Great Outdoors Camps
- Adventure Club Preschool Camps

Specialty Camps and Clinics

- KidzArt
- Dance Exploration
- Summer Jedi and Fencing Training Camp
- Soccer Buddies
- Inspire to Learn and Imagine
- Youth Tech
- Clay Creations and Crafts Camp
- Mad Science Summer Camp
- Therapeutic Recreation

Registration is now open, and spots fill up quickly. Register before Monday, Feb. 14 to receive \$10 off full-day Athletic and Adventure Camps with coupon code CAMP22. This code may only be applied for full-day Athletic and Adventure Camps and is not eligible for half-day or specialty camps.

Secure your kid's spot today at CRgov.com/Camps.



JOIN THE ADVENTURE; PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Do you have a little learner anxious to start school? Are you worried about getting your child's education off on the right foot? The Town's Adventure Club junior preschool, preschool and pre-kindergarten programs may be the answer. Registration opened Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Research shows children who attend preschool are more prepared for kindergarten. The Town's state-licensed program ensure your child understands the basics. The program is accepting children ages 2.5 to 5 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Classes begin the week of Monday, Aug. 29 at the Castle Rock Recreation Center, 2301 Woodlands Blvd. The program generally follows the Douglas County School District's school-year calendar.

Junior Preschool classes are being offered for children ages 2.5 and 3. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. The child's third birthday must fall after Oct. 1, 2022.

Preschool classes for children ages 3 and 4 are being offered Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15 a.m. to noon, or 12:30 to 3:15 p.m. Children must have reached their third birthday by Oct. 1 to be enrolled in the preschool class.

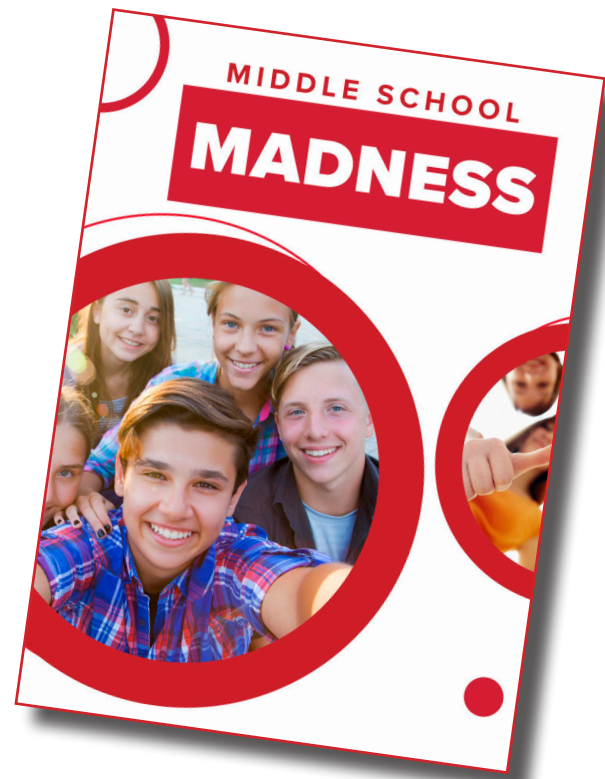
Pre-kindergarten is for children ages 4 and 5. Classes are available as either a three-day or five-day program. Pre-kindergarten classes are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 a.m. to noon, or 12:30 to 3:15 p.m. – or Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 3:15 p.m. Children must have reached their fourth birthday by Oct. 1.

The Town's Adventure Club Preschool has earned a Level 3 rating from Colorado Shines for excellence in early learning. Colorado Shines is a free service offered through the Colorado Department of Human Services' Office of Early Childhood, which rates Colorado's early care and learning programs. Preschool programs with a high rating offer a program that is safe and supports healthy development.

Visit the Recreation Center or log onto CRgov.com/AdventureClub for registration or more information. Questions? Contact Youth Specialist Mindy Fortin at 303-814-7454 or mfortin@CRgov.com.

NEW PROGRAM OFFERED FOR MIDDLESCHOOLERS

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders are invited to come to the Miller Activity Complex on Friday evenings for fun activities like sports, dancing, Nerf wars, food and other madness. The program, Middle School Madness, launched Friday, Feb. 4. Registration includes access to the trampoline pit and the pool. Led by some of the best counselors around, this exciting program will give your kids the opportunity to stay up late, socialize with new and old friends and participate in fun-filled madness! [Registration available online.](#)





Fitness & Wellness

NUTRITION COACHING NOW AVAILABLE

The Castle Rock Recreation Center now offers nutrition coaching services. With one-on-one 45-minute sessions, participants can rediscover the joy of eating and learn to trust their bodies. A focus on intuitive eating and gentle encouragement will provide a non-punitive approach to achieving goals. No diets, no restrictions, no judgment - only love for one's self and for food. The program will also break down diet culture, impart thought reframing to cultivate a positive relationship with food and instill flexible meal planning. [Learn more and register online.](#)



Parks Operations & Maintenance

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

For nearly two decades, the Park Operations and Maintenance Division has recycled Christmas trees for Castle Rock residents. From Dec. 26 through Jan. 31, the Park Operations and Maintenance team recycled 1,417 trees dropped off at Metzler Ranch, Founders and Paintbrush parks and the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The mulch is used in Town-owned parks and other landscaped areas. Beginning in April, the mulch will also be available to residents on a first-come, first-served basis through Oct. 31. The mulch can be picked up on Saturdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Douglas County slash-mulch site at Caprice Drive.

