



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
AUGUST 2017  
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## UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Glow for REAL, Zumba Fitness Fundraiser**
  - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Parks and Recreation Job Fair**
  - 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19; the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park
- **2017 Summer Concert Series - Halfway to Hazard**
  - 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Public Lands Day**
  - 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30; Woodlands Bowl Open Space
- **Castle Rock Trail Festival**
  - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7; Philip S. Miller Park
- **Free Concert featuring John Adams, the Tribute to John Denver**
  - 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 7; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Castle of Terror, Castle Rock's most frightening haunted house!**
  - 7-10 p.m. Oct. 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; Fire Training Center, 303 Malibu St.
- **Spooktacular**
  - 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28; the Miller Activity Complex
- **Harvest Festival**
  - 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28; the Amphitheater and Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park





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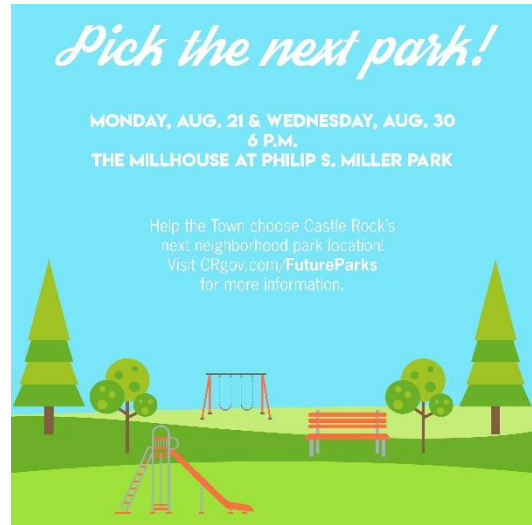
## **PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION**

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

### **Neighborhood Park Site Selection Public Process**

In August, Department staff hosted two public meetings to share information with residents and garner feedback regarding the selection process for the next neighborhood park site. An online survey was also available for residents unable to attend either of the meetings. 547 residents offered input by submitting a survey.

The Town anticipates developing five to eight acres of parkland within an allotted \$2 million budget. It's important to note that funding sources for the construction of new parks is different than the sources for renovation and maintenance of existing park properties. Revenue for new park development is generated through Town impact fees. These fees, by state statute, can only be utilized for development attributed to community growth.



The five sites currently under consideration for development include:

- Terrain Lot 2
- Castlewood Ranch Tract L
- Cobbletsonte Ranch Tract L
- Crystal Valley South/Park School
- Meadows F18 Lot 2

These potential sites were identified by seven key criteria including existing nearby public and private recreation amenities, existing nearby access to open space and trails, anticipated cost of development, recreation programming potential, the current population density and projected rate of growth for the site's surrounding area and the site's operational budget impact.

Next steps for park site selection including providing a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Sept. 20. Staff will summarize the public input received and provide an overall assessment of the potential development sites. Once a recommendation has been approved by Commission, staff will then seek final input from Town Council. Once Council approves a recommended site, staff will initiate the beginning stages for design by issuing a request for proposal.

## Festival Park

August proved to be one of the busiest months for the construction project to date. This 2-acre park site continues to become more congested as additional work is completed. This month's focus included:

- The placement of the two large underground vaults to house the splash pad equipment
- The installation of plumbing and splash pad components
- Completed bump out work on the curb along Wilcox Street to create additional parking spaces upon project completion
- Erected black steel towering as the basis for the lantern feature
- Placed restroom footings
- Installed storm and sanitary sewers and water for the restroom
- Completed the large concrete wall in the middle of the site
- Placed additional boulders to progress the project's stonework
- Completed all irrigation and electric



## Operations and Maintenance Facility

Coordination and design efforts between the Town's Park Maintenance and Facilities divisions took place for the new Operations and Maintenance Facility. The facility, planned to host both of the divisions in 2018, will be located at the end of Caprice Drive. In August, a coordination meeting was held with the project architect, civil, electrical and plumbing engineers, as well as the Parks Maintenance Division, Facilities Division and IT Department to review the design and provide comments. The meeting was essential to proactively foresee and address issues prior to project commencement.

## **TRAIL PROJECTS**

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

### **Mitchell Creek and Tabor Court Trail Connections**

Staff continued to work with the Founders Metropolitan District in Founders Village to connect Mitchell Creek Trail to Ridge Road and Tabor Court. The District is responsible for funding the design and construction, and the Town of Castle Rock is responsible for project management and coordination. The contractor completed remaining site re-vegetation. Railing for the trail is now in production and will be installed in October.

### **Castlewood Ranch Neighborhood Connection**

The Castlewood Ranch Metro District contacted the Town to request a neighborhood connection from Mitchell Street to both Peabody and Ardmore streets through an existing open space tract. The open space is currently used by Mesa Middle School students who travel to and from school. The completed project will provide improved access for the local neighborhood and a safer commute for students.



In a joint effort, the Town will bid the project for construction, prepare the construction plans for the project, submit the plans for review to Public Works and Castle Rock Water and will provide project management. The District will provide project funding.

Throughout August, staff issued a request for proposal to bid the project. SaBell's Enterprises LLLP submitted the low responsive bid in the amount of \$65,832. Construction is scheduled to begin in September and conclude in November.

### **Trail Concrete Repair and Replacement**

To track necessary maintenance, park staff continuously identify, photograph, map and calculate damaged concrete sections throughout the Town's park and open space sites. In 2016, sections were repaired in Founders and Butterfield parks and at Memmen

Ridge Open Space. In 2017, concrete repairs will be completed along portions of the East Plum Creek Trail and at Native Legend and Woodlands Bowl open spaces.

In August, staff competitively bid the concrete repair and replacement project and awarded SaBell's Enterprises LLLP. SaBell's has successfully completed similar concrete repair work for the Town in the past. The projected project cost is \$14,272. Work will commence in September and conclude in October 2017.

## McMurdo Gulch Trail

The McMurdo Gulch trail, once completed, will travel through the Terrain and Cobblestone Ranch neighborhoods, and connect to the Woodlands trail to the west and the Cherry Creek trail to the east. This project will complete part of a larger statewide trail network known as the Colorado Front Range trail. Richmond Homes, the developer of Cobblestone Ranch, will continue to build approximately 3 miles of concrete trail per their development agreement as the neighborhood gets built out. In August, a one mile stretch was completed.

## OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

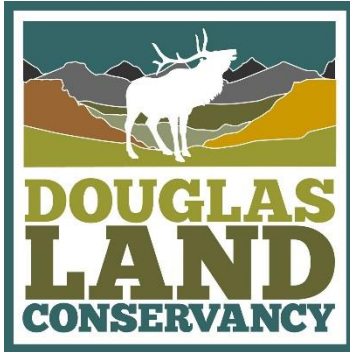
PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

## Raptors Over the Rock

The Town partnered with Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC), a local nonprofit land trust organization, to bring back this exciting program for a second year. Nature's Educators introduced various raptors native to the Colorado region. Educators reviewed the birds' unique characteristics, diet, hunting practices and habitat, highlighting the need to conserve and protect that habitat forever.



Four raptor ambassadors were presented to the audience – an Eastern Screech Owl, a Peregrine Falcon, a Turkey Vulture and a Golden Eagle. The night ended with a "meet and greet" where kids and parents were able to get close to the ambassadors, ask questions and take pictures. Before the event, kids painted their very own eagle talon replica. The successful program at the Philip S. Miller Park Amphitheater was attended by more than 300 people, up from the approximate 250 people last year. The event offered both DLC and Nature's Educators an opportunity to advertise their non-profit organizations and collect donations.



This was the first of three events this year highlighting the partnership between the Town and DLC. DLC is committed to the protection of open space in Douglas and Elbert County and holds three permanent Conservation Easements in Castle Rock. The two additional events are scheduled in September: Animals of Pokémon, focusing on the real-life animals that are the basis for the characters from the popular video game, and Public Lands Day, featuring the unveiling of three new interpretative panels and a guided hike in the Woodlands Bowl Open Space.

## Special Programs and Events

PREPARED BY HEATHER ROSSITER, SPECIAL PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR, AND JENNIFER REINHARDT, EVENTS SPECIALIST

Castle Rock's National Night Out, hosted by the Castle Rock Police Department, moved from its historical location at the White Pavilion to the Pavilions at Philip S. Miller Park. National Night Out was founded by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984, to promote crime prevention. More than 38 million people in 16,000 communities across the United States and Canada take part each year.



On Aug. 1, 500 people attended the successful event, featuring K-9 demonstrations, tours of police and fire vehicles and educational series on SWAT teams and investigations. Residents also enjoyed free food, free popcorn and an outdoor screening of "Zootopia."



August broke records for the Town's Special Events Division by hosting its first sell out concert at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. When John Ford Coley and the Little River Band hit the stage on August 26, 1,800 people watched the Grammy nominated singers of "Lonesome Loser" and "Cool Change."

## Recreation Center Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

August is typically the slowest month for admissions and participation at the Recreation Center. This provides a great opportunity to close the facility for five days to complete tasks for maintenance and improvement projects that would not be possible while open to the public.

This year's projects focused on modernizing the aging facility. In addition to the annual deep clean, Town staff coordinated projects to improve the atmosphere and safety of HVAC improvements, brightened up areas by changing color schemes and replaced old entrance landscapes. Feedback from the public has been overwhelmingly positive!



Improvements included:

- Painted the lobby, stair rails, Panorama Hall, strength center, selectorized fitness center and locker rooms
- Refreshed paint in various activity areas throughout the facility
- Replaced stair tread from the lobby to the lower level
- Installed diamond plating in the strength training area
- Replaced brick planter borders outside the main entrance with colored poured concrete borders
- Installed a new domestic water boiler for the north side of the building
- Completed the installation and startup of a new air-conditioning unit for the spin studio
- Deep cleaned all fitness equipment
- Deep cleaned all carpets throughout the facility
- Contracted washing for all exterior windows
- Resurfaced wood playing surfaces in Panorama Hall, the basketball and racquetball courts and the fitness studio
- Restriped the parking lot and increased the number of handicap parking spaces
- Cleaned out medians in lower parking lot to remove overgrowth and debris





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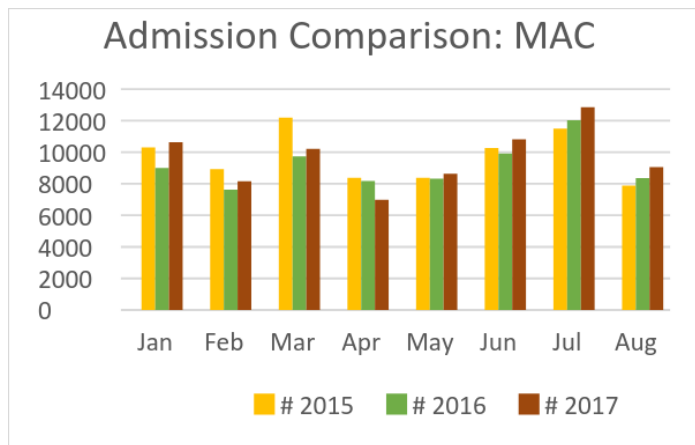
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Despite the facility closure in August, youth daily admissions continued its streak of six months of year-over-year increases, with a growth of 25 percent when compared to August 2016. Overall admissions, however, decreased by 7 percent compared to August 2016. This decrease correlates to increases in admissions at the outdoor pools and a planned decrease in the number of group fitness offerings at the Recreation Center from the previous year.

## MAC Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

The momentum continued in August at the MAC. Participation increased when compared to the corresponding month of 2016 for the seventh time in 2017. August 2017 daily admission increased by 6 percent; youth admissions increased by 14 percent when compared to the same period of the previous year.



## Athletics

PREPARED BY SCOTT SMEETON AND MATT GASSER, ATHLETICS SUPERVISORS

All fall youth sports are underway, including coed volleyball, flag football, soccer and fall competitive league baseball! New to the youth flag football program is the addition of a seventh-eighth grade division. Nearly 30 teams participate in this program for first through eighth graders. All games are played at the Metzler Ranch fields on Thursday evenings, under the lights and on Saturday mornings. Little Tykes Soccer Program also experienced success with nearly 300 total registrations.

Also new this fall is the offering of evening Strider classes on Monday and Tuesday nights after 4 p.m. at the MAC. This is the first time the Department has offered Strider classes during the school year.

Archery classes also experienced an increase in registration. The beginner class had 19 participants, many of whom will continue on to the intermediate and advance classes upon completion.

