

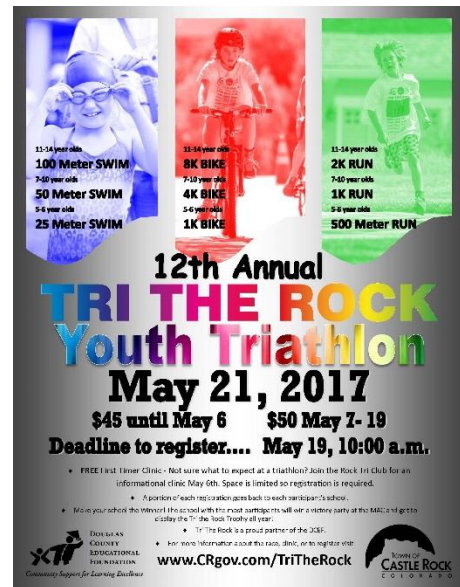


# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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## UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Colorado Bluebird Project Open House**
  - Feb. 23, 7-8 p.m., the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Colorado Bluebird Project Nest Box Monitoring Training**
  - March 1, 7-8:30 p.m., Public Safety Training Facility, 1335 Park St.
- **Ridgeline Wranglers Season Kick-off Informational Meeting**
  - March 28, 7-8 p.m., The Grange in the Meadows, 3692 Meadows Blvd.
- **Rhyolite Dirt Crew Informational Meeting**
  - April 5, 7-8 p.m., Philip S. Miller Library
- **Earth Day Willow Planting**
  - April 8, 9 a.m.-noon, Memmen Ridge Open Space
- **Basics of Bird Watching, Part 1**
  - April 26, 7-8 p.m., Philip S. Miller Library
- **Guided Bird Watching, Part 2**
  - May 6, 8-10 a.m., Third Street Parking Garage
- **REAL Climb4Change**
  - May 13, 8 a.m.-noon, the Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Tri the Rock**
  - May 21, 8 a.m.-noon, Butterfield Crossing Park and Pool
- **National Senior Health and Fitness Day**
  - May 31, 9-11 a.m., the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park



## Special Programs and Events

PREPARED BY HEATHER ROSSITER, SPECIAL PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR



In January, the Special Programs Division was busy preparing for the year ahead and processing bookings for 2017. There are already 25 weddings reserved at the Millhouse, and roughly ten corporate retreats or meetings, ten graduation parties, ten reunions and fifteen pavilion rentals at Philip S. Miller Park. Although Saturday is traditionally the busiest for weddings, many people are opting for



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weekdays, with Thursdays and Fridays having seven each. Staff have received wonderful compliments regarding the beautiful natural setting at the Millhouse, and people especially admire the holiday lights installed by Maintenance staff in the trees.

The 2017 event list is almost complete. This year, staff will be adding several new events including Day of Play, College Game Day and a Pie Bake Off. Nearly 30 special programs and events are planned throughout the year including fifteen racing and cycling events, six free concerts as part of Tunes for Trails/Perks for Parks and four to five concerts as part of the Town's Celebration Concert Series.

The Department is excited to announce the Castle Rock Trail Festival. This event will combine a free concert, the LiveBIG 5k and Family Adventure Run and Colorado Runner's 10k, half marathon and 50k ultra marathon. The festival will be held on Oct. 8 at Philip S. Miller Park.



### **R.E.A.L. (Recreation, Empowerment & Active Living) Adaptive Recreation**

PREPARED BY JAMIE EGLSEDER, SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The REAL Adaptive Recreation ski program is up and running with several first time participants! REAL skiers get paired with volunteers from the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) program, and work to develop skills tailored to individual ability. Beginners learned the basics of turning and stopping, while more advanced skiers took on the green runs and became familiar with different terrain and chairlifts. The talk on the van ride home was filled with tales of excitement, thrills, spills and personal achievements. It was a fun and empowering day for all involved.



The REAL Club also went to Boondocks for Laser Tag to battle it out against other teams on a multi-level playing field. Laser tag tested participants' fine and gross motor skills as participants had to protect home base, score points and keep lasers charged. January definitely kept the Adaptive Recreation Club busy and fun!



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## Toddler, Youth and Teen

PREPARED BY CALLIE JACOBS, YOUTH SPECIALIST

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year has opened for the Adventure Club Preschool and enrollment is strong. This month staff participated in the Castle Rock MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Preschool fair on Saturday, January 21. Approximately 200 families attended the fair, which provided an opportunity for staff to talk with interested families. Several follow up tours have been given as a result of participation in the event.

The Community Helper program began in January with a visit from a mailman. He talked to all students about the process of how mail gets from one point to another, as well as the weather challenges of the job.

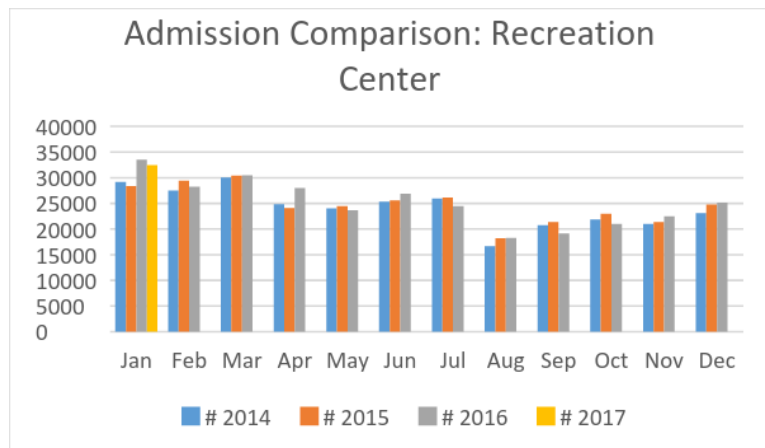


In January, the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), which consists of nine high school students from Douglas County High School and one eighth grader from Mesa Middle School, were busy preparing for the Daddy Daughter Ball and planning a used sweat shirt and winter hat and glove drive that will both take place in February. TAG will have collection boxes at the MAC, the Recreation Center and at Douglas County High School. The group will then join forces with Facing Homelessness-Denver to distribute the items to those in need at Civic Center Park in downtown Denver. The TAG team is very excited about the new project.

## Community Recreation Center Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

January was strong month for participation at the Recreation Center. January 2017 was the second busiest January since the facility opened with over 32,430 admissions. Compared to January 2016, there was a slight decrease among adult and senior admissions but increases among youth.



January also marked the beginning of a locker-room shower upgrade project. Due to the aging plumbing of the



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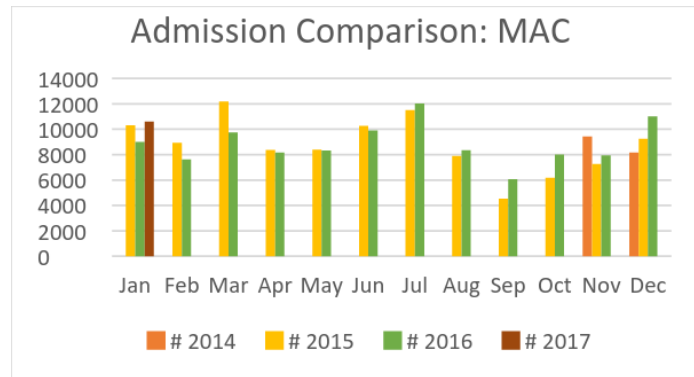
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facility, it was necessary to install shut-off valves on individual showers. With the upgrade, a single shower can be shut down for maintenance, as opposed to the entire locker room. As an added bonus, the hardware is being upgraded to a more modern and serviceable model. The women’s north locker-room has been completed, and the men’s north locker-room is next in line for the upgrade.

## MAC Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

January was another record setting month at the MAC. Daily admissions increased by 17% when compared to January of 2016, with a total of 10,605 walk-in admissions. This placed January 2017 in the top 5 months since the facility opened in November 2014, as well as the best performing January to date.



## Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Personal Training is off to a great start in the New Year. Buddy training has become significantly more popular as it is a more cost effective way to still get individualized attention from a certified trainer while working out with a friend. The Pilates Reformer training has also increased as the instructor has built a solid base of regulars. The majority of new Reformer clients are from word of mouth.

Type of sessions	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	% Increase
Ind. One Hour	57	71	24%
6-Pack Sessions	1	4	300%
10-Pack Sessions	3	4	33%
Buddy Training	3	11	260%
30 Min. Sessions	10	22	120%
Pilates Reformer	11	20	81%

Group Fitness, as expected this time of year has been very busy. The average number of participants in each class over the entire month was 16. In addition to the great turnout from participants, two new instructors were hired to join the program. It is especially exciting that one of the new instructors was a long-time patron and group fitness class participant who loved Zumba so much that the patron decided to become a certified instructor. The instructor now teaches a regular class.

The Fitness Division is also offering more class opportunities during the lunch hour at the Recreation Center:

- Mondays/Wednesdays Cycle from noon-1:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays/Thursdays Yoga from noon-1:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays/Thursdays Express Cycle from noon-12:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays Lunch Crunch from noon-1:00 p.m.



Starting this month, the department implemented a new preventative maintenance schedule with Fitness Tech. A Fitness Tech employee will come to the facility on a quarterly basis for a maintenance assessment. This will increase the lifecycle of equipment as well as reduce potential downtime from out of order pieces.

## Special Interest

PREPARED BY DAVE QUINTANA, SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATOR

Special Interest program offerings in January were positive:

- The pottery program remained busy and was able to accommodate extra patrons in each class due to the addition of new wheels.
- Heather Pochatek led a full Creative Kid's Clay program and showed students new hand building techniques and designs.
- The Practical Spanish Level I class is running and many of the students have already signed up for Level II.
- Dance programming continued to fill Panorama Hall as dancers learned Night Club Two Step and Ballroom Dance.
- January also included a successful Pallet Up painting class up at the Red Hawk Ridge Club House. Instructor Robert Heid had a full class. Students painted a scenic country cabin.



## **Parks Open Space and Trails - Planning and Construction Division**

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

### **Festival Park**

Planning and Construction Manager, Brian Peterson, met with the surrounding businesses in preparation for the commencement of construction at Festival Park. Staff informed businesses of the changes that will be taking place and who the proper contacts will be should any issues arise. Staff also worked with local groups to identify the locations of utilities, and coordinated with the Town's IT Department, the Police Department and the project designer to add camera's to the park for time lapse purposes.



### **Trails Projects**

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

### **East Plum Creek Trail Southern Extension**



The southern extension of the East Plum Creek Trail is a planned, two-mile stretch that will lengthen the trail south of Perry Street through to Crystal Valley Parkway. Most of the southern extension will be built on property owned by Castle Rock, but there are two private parcels the Town will need to acquire. Staff is in the process of acquiring the parcels and met with both property owners. Appraisal reports were completed and offer letters sent to both parties for review. Staff anticipates to close

on the acquisitions in February.

On January 9, staff reached out to three design firms to receive estimates and proposals for the project. The Town has successfully worked with all firms on similar design projects. Two of the three firms submitted proposals, so a design team will be

under contract in early February. Approved construction plans are scheduled to be completed in July 2017.

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

Staff has been working with the Founders District in Founders Village to extend the Mitchell Creek trail west to Ridge Road and east to Tabor Court. The trail connection will be a joint project between the Town and the District. The District will provide funding for both design and construction while the Town will be responsible for project management.

With grading, erosion and sediment control best practices in place and with favorable weather returning, the project has broken ground and initial grading is underway. Staff will continue to monitor the project to ensure trail construction meets the intended design and technical standards.

## **OPEN SPACE PROJECTS**

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

## **Colorado Bluebird Project 2017**

Planning and presenting for the 2017 season of the Colorado Bluebird Project began this month with educational presentations to participating schools. In January, the overview component of the project was provided to students at Castle Rock Elementary, Clear Sky Elementary, Flagstone Elementary, Mesa Middle School and Renaissance Magnet School. Parks staff will return to these schools for a second presentation on monitoring techniques, duties and responsibilities in February.

A sixth school, Sage Canyon Elementary, recently joined as partners in the Project. Students at the school will not only learn about the project and its mission, but will also build five to six new nesting boxes on school grounds and at Wrangler Park. Renaissance Magnet School will also be expanding sites to include locations at Metzler Ranch Park. Thanks to a generous donation from the Home Depot, the materials for these expansions were free. Plus, Home Depot employee Chuck, prepared and pre-cut the wood into panels so assembly was easy for students.





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In February, the general public is invited to attend the Colorado Bluebird Project Open House to learn more about helping bluebirds and the Town of Castle Rock. Volunteers are needed to monitor nesting boxes and breeding activity from April through August. The Open House is on Thursday, February 23 from 7-8 p.m. at the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park.

## **POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

POST accepted applications from two Boy Scouts for Eagle Scout projects this year:

- Bryson Lindsey will be constructing nesting boxes for the Colorado Bluebird Project and installing them at Rock Church. Bryson will then work with volunteers to monitor the boxes this season. The intent for POST is to add Castle Rock Christian Academy, located at the church, as an additional school partner for the Colorado Bluebird Project in 2018.
- Erik Blankmeyer Jr. applied to construct and install three split log benches to the Red Loop at Philip S. Miller Park, which should be completed by early summer.

In a cooperative effort between Town Departments - DOIT, Community Relations and POST - a new trail condition landing page has been added to the Town's website, CRgov.com. The page includes a link to an interactive GIS trail condition map, as well as a blog where residents can post updates about changing trail conditions. This feedback will provide nuanced information such as the location of muddy spots or ice, and this timely information can then inform other trail users, as well as Parks Maintenance staff.

### Trails conditions

Living in Colorado, we are lucky to see as many as 300 days of sunshine per year. While many people are excited to head out the door the second the sun peaks out, a trail may not be as ready as we are. Stay up-to-date by checking out the Town's [trail conditions map](#) or one of our trails blogs below before heading out.

#### Why are trail conditions important?

Hiking or biking on soft-surface trails when they're muddy can severely damage the surface. The trails through Town are designed with drainage in mind, but during the snow / rainy season things may not drain properly. When there's snow on the ground, and temperatures rise above freezing, the ground begins to thaw the top layers of soil. However, the ground below is still frozen. This doesn't allow for proper drainage and can cause a moist and muddy surface. Walking, riding or hiking when it's muddy can damage trails, requiring costly and time-consuming repairs. A good rule of thumb - if you see snow on the ground, stay off the soft-surface trail. The Town has more than 30 miles of concrete trails that are available year-round.

#### Visit our interactive trail condition map



## **Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course Operations**

PREPARED BY BOB PERSICHETTI, HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

The golf course was playable for seven days in January, but the weather was not ideal for golf on any of the days the course was open. Total revenue for the month reached \$9,271, which is right at the average for January. The Golf Fund does not project much for rounds and







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revenue during the winter months so the 2017 budget is not significantly impacted year to date.

Staff has been busy coordinating and planning the 2017 season. Staff met with merchandise vendors to prepare pre-book orders for the season; put together the 2017 advertising and marketing plan; learned a new tournament management software program; prepared the master calendar and tee sheets for the season; met with league committees to set up 2017 schedules; and organized and cleaned in preparation for the year.

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Total Revenue	\$9,271	\$12,252	\$5,870	\$12,252	\$5,870
Total Rounds	57	222	0	222	0
Avg. Income/Player	\$162.64	\$59.19	NA	\$59.19	NA
Golf Shop Sales	\$2,899	\$1,110	\$2,359	\$1,110	\$2,359
F&B Sales	\$2,670	\$1,217	\$3,365	\$1,217	\$3,365

## Weather

The weather in January was typical. Snow storms have been spaced perfectly to keep necessary moisture on the course and limit the amount of desiccation. If the weather pattern remains dry in the early part of February, however, staff may elect to pressure up the irrigation system so the Maintenance Division can apply water to turf areas where necessary.

## Marketing

Staff is currently working on the marketing plan for the 2017 season. The emphasis will be on digital advertisements and the golf course will move away from traditional print ads:

- Continue to advertise in Avid Golfer Magazine and Divot Magazine. Emphasis will be on course taglines including, "a course for everyone," "country club conditions at public course prices," and "mountain style golf minutes from downtown Denver."
- Digitally advertise on Yelp.com to gain presence on the most widely used review site to reach anyone who searches for golf course reviews. During the offseason, the goal will shift to driving business to the restaurant.
- Digitally advertise on Denverpost.com to target social media sites, drive additional rounds and reach potential tournament groups for 2018 sales.



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- Participate in Colorado Professional Golfers Association’s tee times. This site is operated by the Colorado section of the PGA in an effort to provide a centralized location for golfers to make tee times at any course in Colorado.
- Create a presence in Colorado Hotel Magazine in 2017. This publication will be in all hotels during the golf season (July–September).
- Run radio advertisements with Cumulus Radio to target golfers in the Colorado Springs market.
- Create a presence in the Castle Pines Connection newspaper to target golfers in the Castle Pines area.

## Food and Beverage

With one wedding and several smaller events in January, staff drove \$2,670 in total revenue exceeding budget by \$1,453. This is the first year the golf course has attempted to stay open for lunch on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays even when the golf course is closed. The restaurant also remains open on Friday evenings for dinner. As expected, business has been slow but staff hopes that revenue will continue to grow as local residents become aware of the new hours of operation.

Staff has been working on winter projects including super-cleaning the kitchen and bar areas, organizing the kitchen and bar areas, preparing new menus, meeting with vendors for new menu ideas and staff planning.

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Total Revenue	\$2,670	\$1,217	\$3,365	\$1,217	\$3,365
Avg. Income/Player	\$46.83	\$5.48	NA	\$5.48	NA

## Golf Course Maintenance

The month of January was fairly mild and as a result, staff stayed busy. Labor was focused on hauling water tanks to keep ahead of desiccation on bunker faces and new turf areas; backfilling the new concrete paths on holes 4, 8, 9, 10, twelve and sixteen; performing maintenance on and detailing all mowers, carts and tractors; and removing all course amenities for refurbishment.

Staff also worked together to come up with a new tee marker design as pictured to the right. Creative Fabrications did an excellent job laser cutting, welding and powder coating the new steel markers.



## Athletics

PREPARED BY SCOTT SMEETON AND MATT GASSER, ATHLETICS SUPERVISORS

January was a busy month for the Athletics Department as staff were preparing for the eleventh annual Hoopla youth basketball event, held for fourth through eighth grade players and teams. This year's week long tournament was held Jan. 30 through Feb. 3 and nearly 100, 3v3 teams participated. Games, clinics and skill challenge events were held at the Recreation Center and Castle Rock and Mesa Middle schools. The week culminated with an all-star game on Saturday.



Winners and sportsmanship awards were given to several players from each team, as selected by coaches, officials and supervisory staff. Most of the nearly 800 participants in the Winter II Basketball session participated in one or more of the events throughout the week. One parent wrote staff the following statement in response to the experience, *"Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity. We couldn't be happier or more proud of our son."*



In January, the Athletics Department selected two individuals to serve as interns in 2017. One individual will be working through the Mission Continues program that helps 9/11 veterans perform community fellowships with various governmental organizations, including recreation centers. Veterans must apply for a fellowship, complete all military obligations and have been honorably discharged to participate. This intern's fellowship begins in April. The other intern will be a college student from Howard University and will begin in May.

The second Youth Indoor Soccer session started at the MAC with a total of 23 registered teams. The league increased by one team from last session, marking steady participation. Multiple requests were made to add leagues for players 13 and older.



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Going into next winter, staff will assess the potential of adding older age brackets to increase participation.

The Adult Indoor Soccer Winter session started at the beginning of January. Current participation is 484, up from 395 last year which represents a 22% increase over 2016. Registration began for Arena Football where a 6v6 Coed league will be offered for the first time in addition to the 4v4 Mens league. League play will start mid-March.

On Jan. 21, 12 residents traveled to Breckenridge to dog sled as part of the Town's Outdoor Program. The program filled up in the first week that registration was open and there was a waitlist of 5 people. The participants had a great time and said it was a very unique experience.



### **Open Space and Trails**

PREPARED BY BOB MALONEY, PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

In January, Parks Maintenance staff attended a two-day training for Cartegraph, an asset Management Software. Cartegraph will enable the Department to manage and track all assets, monitor life-cycle timelines, streamline resident communication regarding issues at parks, offer efficient task management for staff and will improve the capital planning process by tracking the costs associated with all assets. Over the next few months, staff will be testing this software to gain familiarity and offer feedback before officially implementing Cartegraph later this year.

In January, the Maintenance Division completed the following tasks:

- Assisted in moving the two holiday sheds at Festival Park
- Repaired electric for the flag pole at Rock Park
- Covered graffiti at both tunnels at Founders Park
- Trimmed and mulched branches at Howe Path in the Founders District
- Constructed a mock-up digital sign for Phillip S. Miller Park
- Removed holiday decorations from Philip S. Miller Park, and began holiday lighting removal in Downtown
- Installed the "Wiggly Field" sign at the dog park at Paintbrush Park
- Assisted in snow removal
- Prepared planting beds for spring