



Castle Rock  
**PARKS &  
RECREATION**  
January 2026  
Monthly Report



# CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

## *Parks, Open Space and Trail Projects*

The following updates summarize general progress that occurred throughout the month on capital projects managed through the Parks and Recreation department; for background information and additional details visit [CRgov.com/ProjectUpdates](https://CRgov.com/ProjectUpdates).

### Trail Construction continues at Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space

Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space continues to take shape as one of Castle Rock's most exciting conservation and recreation milestones. This 681-acre property was secured to protect its unique rolling grasslands, ponderosa forests, dramatic canyon cliffs and rich habitat for wildlife, while eventually providing low-impact outdoor access for the public.

January brought visible progress on the first pieces of that future access. Along the new 0.6-mile ADA-accessible Willow Creek Trail, crews have installed culvert storm pipes, constructed retaining walls and placed the first lift of road base. Timberline TrailCraft continues clearing the trail corridor, preparing for the next phases of construction.

At the Cattleman's trailhead, which is one of the key access points envisioned in the master plan, work has begun to shape the visitor experience. SaBell's Civil and Landscape crews have started placing fill to level the parking area and are preparing for wall installation along the entry drive. Meanwhile, design coordination is underway to reimagine the entryway and gateway to prepare for resident access.

All of this momentum builds on the Town's adopted master and management plans, which were shaped through community input and approved to ensure that public access is balanced with habitat and cultural resource protection. As Phase 1 construction continues, the Town remains on track for an anticipated public opening in 2026, bringing Castle Rock residents and visitors their first opportunity to explore this remarkable landscape.

### Progress continues for essential east-to-west connector trail

The Industrial Tributary Trail, a vital east-west link in Castle Rock's regional trail network, continues moving forward as a project that will connect the new Castle Rock Sports Center and Philip S. Miller Park to downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Designed to offer a safe, accessible alternative to walking or biking alongside the busy Plum Creek Parkway and I-25 interchange, this trail is a key piece of the Town's Parks and Recreation Master Plan vision for an interconnected system of trails and outdoor amenities.



Rendering



Significant technical and environmental coordination has been underway. Staff completed a second round of comments on the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR), an important step in managing floodplain impacts and ensuring the trail's design fits within stormwater and regional drainage systems. The Colorado Department of Transportation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are reviewing an incidental take permit as part of the broader Habitat Conservation Plan process — a requirement for addressing potential impacts to the federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a species that depends on riparian habitat protected under federal law.

Permitting work is also advancing with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' floodplain permit review, laying the regulatory groundwork needed before full construction can begin. Meanwhile, construction drawings for the trail are nearing completion and are expected to be finished next month, positioning the Town to move towards bidding the project for development once final approvals are secured, and the Town is continuing its work coordinating with BNSF Railway to finalize a required crossing agreement.



In the field, early infrastructure activity is beginning through developer efforts. Brickyard crews are preparing to start work on their developer-responsible segment of the project, including construction of a box culvert beneath Prairie Hawk Drive — a critical component supporting both the future trail alignment and improved stormwater conveyance.

Each of these steps brings the Industrial Tributary Trail closer to becoming a reality for our community — a safe, scenic connection that complements our parks and open space network and enhances non-motorized mobility across Castle Rock.



### Castle Rock Sports Center construction advances

Construction continued this month on the Town's much-anticipated indoor recreation facility, the Castle Rock Sports Center. The 145,000 square-foot facility will serve as a premier destination for sports, recreation and community wellness in Castle Rock.

Work progressed steadily throughout the month, with several major structural milestones achieved. Mid-month, crews set the south bridge truss and demobilized the concrete crane as concrete work concluded. Construction began on the concrete masonry block walls for a stairwell, advancing vertical development within the structure. Shortly after, crews began installing steel for the natatorium roof, followed by placement of the north bridge truss later in the month. By month's end, natatorium roof joists were in place, marking significant advancement in the building's structural framework.

The facility, located on 10.1 acres off Prairie Hawk Drive, remains on track for a summer 2027 opening.

# OPERATIONAL Updates



## Miller Activity Complex play structure receives safety upgrades

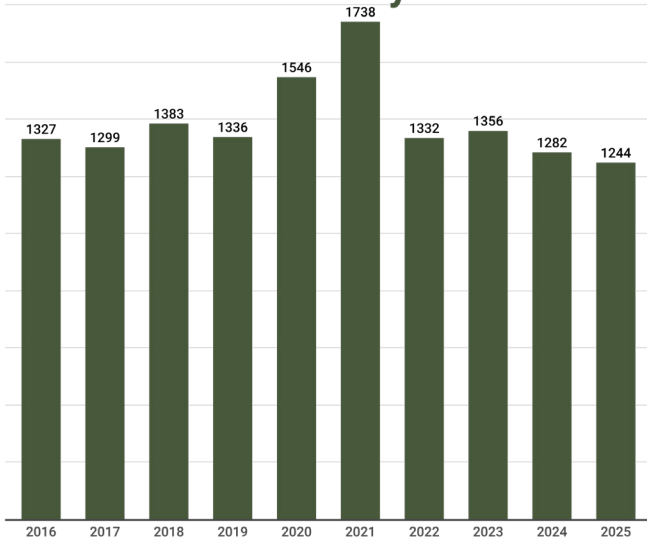
The indoor children’s play structure at the Miller Activity Complex remains a high-use amenity that supports year-round active play for younger children, regardless of the region’s varying weather conditions. Installed when the facility opened in 2014, the structure includes a 23-foot-tall slide, additional slides and indoor climbing elements designed to promote gross motor development, movement and social play within a controlled indoor environment.

As part of the department’s ongoing asset management and risk mitigation practices, refurbishment work was completed last month to ensure the structure continues to meet safety expectations and industry standards. Improvements included replacement of degraded protective padding, repair of netting zip ties and installation of additional impact-absorbing safety mats based on current inspection guidance. These updates support continued compliance with safety recommendations, extend the useful life of the equipment and reduce long-term maintenance risk.



The project was managed in house by the Recreation Specialist, allowing the work to be completed efficiently and cost effectively while maintaining direct oversight of safety and quality standards. She was assisted by staff from the Park Operations and Maintenance division, who maintain Certified Playground Safety Inspector certification, furthering adherence to nationally recognized safety standards and reinforcing the department’s commitment to proactive risk management and visitor protection.

## Christmas Trees Recycled Annually



## Christmas tree recycling program supports sustainability

For 26 years and counting, the Park Operations and Maintenance team has recycled Christmas trees for Castle Rock residents. This long-standing tradition continues to support sustainability and community beautification.

From Dec. 26 through Jan. 31, the team recycled 1,244 trees dropped off at Metzler Ranch, Founders and Paintbrush parks, as well as the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The trees are processed into mulch for use in Town-owned parks and landscaped areas. Beginning in April, mulch will also be available to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Mulch can be picked up on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Douglas County slash-mulch site on Caprice Drive. This program helps divert organic waste from landfills while reinvesting materials back into the community through cost-effective landscape maintenance.

# OPERATIONAL Updates

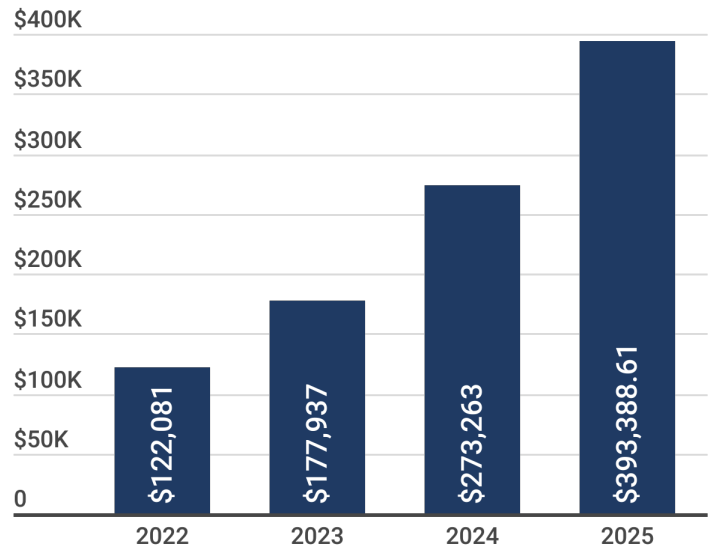
## One-day sale generates record revenue and participation

On Dec. 19, 2025, the department launched its fourth annual limited-time offer: a one-day sale on facility memberships, passes and personal training sessions at the Recreation Center, Miller Activity Complex and Cantril School. With a significant 20% discount, this promotion incentivizes fitness enthusiasts to invest in their health and wellness while encouraging new memberships and passes from less frequent visitors.

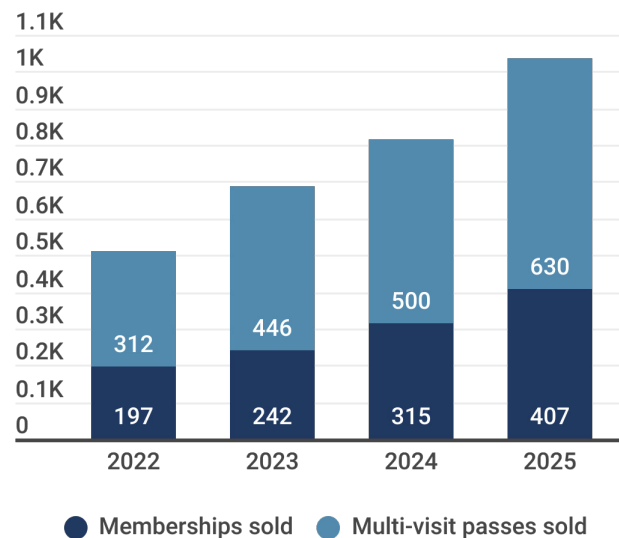
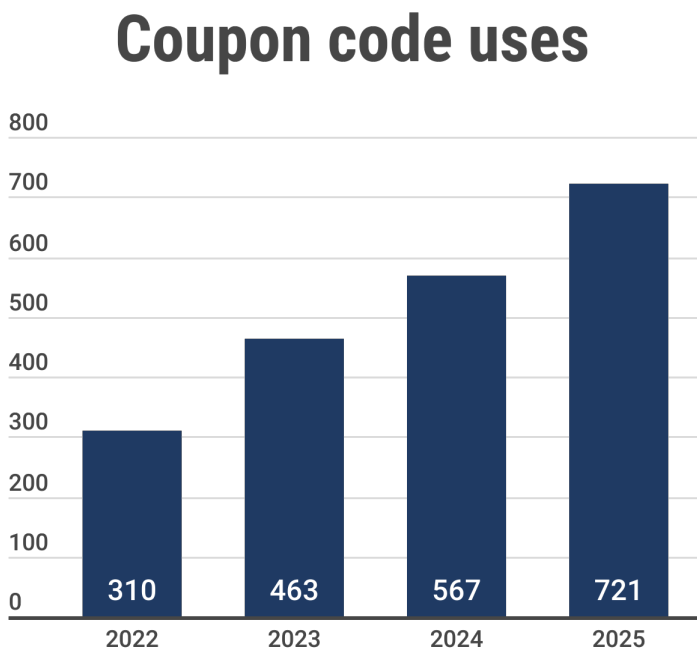
This year's sale achieved outstanding results, with performance continuing to climb year over year. In 2025, net revenue reached \$393,388.61, a 44% increase from last year, and a 222% increase from the first year the sale was offered in 2022. Membership sales rose to 407, while 630 multi-visit passes were purchased. Both are significant gains from previous years. The discount code was used 721 times, demonstrating strong engagement.

Staff showed tremendous dedication in promoting, executing and managing this high-demand initiative, with front desk teams playing a key role in ensuring smooth operations and a positive customer experience throughout the day.

## Net revenue



## Quantity sold



# PROGRAM AND EVENT

## Updates



### Learn to Swim program sees growing demand

The department's Learn to Swim program continues to serve as a core year-round recreation offering and an important public safety initiative. Designed for all ages and ability levels, the program provides progressive instruction through both group and private lessons, helping participants build the skills, endurance and confidence needed to be safe in the water. Instruction follows a structured curriculum that supports consistent development from early water comfort through advanced stroke refinement.

The program is organized into four instructional phases, including Parent-Tot, Fundamentals, Stroke Development and Stroke Refinement, allowing participants to advance through age-appropriate skill levels over time. Sessions are typically offered in six-week series with scheduled buffer periods to accommodate make-up lessons, holidays and staff training. This structure helps maintain program quality and instructional consistency while supporting operational flexibility. Condensed swim "boot camps" are also offered during the summer months to meet seasonal demand.



Series 4, held Jan. 5 through Feb. 14, generated a total of 90 registrations across group and private lesson offerings. Registrations increased 11% compared to the same time period in 2025, reflecting continued community demand and growing participation in structured swim instruction. Enrollment included a mix of early childhood lessons, progressive skill levels and private youth and adult instruction, demonstrating the program's ability to serve a wide range of resident needs.

The continued growth of the Learn to Swim program supports the Town's commitment to wellness and water safety while strengthening the department's ability to provide valuable, skill-based programming.

### Winter Ball delivers family fun

The 2026 Winter Ball brought Trollstice-inspired magic to families, creating a memorable evening of community celebration. On January 31, 368 attendees gathered for a night of sparkle, shine and high-energy fun, many dressed in vibrant costumes, dresses and playful accessories that embraced the trolls-themed spirit.

The evening featured a lively dance party filled with music and movement. Guests enjoyed snacks and desserts, themed crafts, photo opportunities and special character appearances that added to the festive atmosphere. From families dancing together to friends posing for pictures and creating keepsakes, the event delivered magical moments for attendees of all ages.

The department's Teen Advisory Group volunteered at the event, serving drinks and snacks, assisting with a raffle for guests and helping support a smooth event experience.



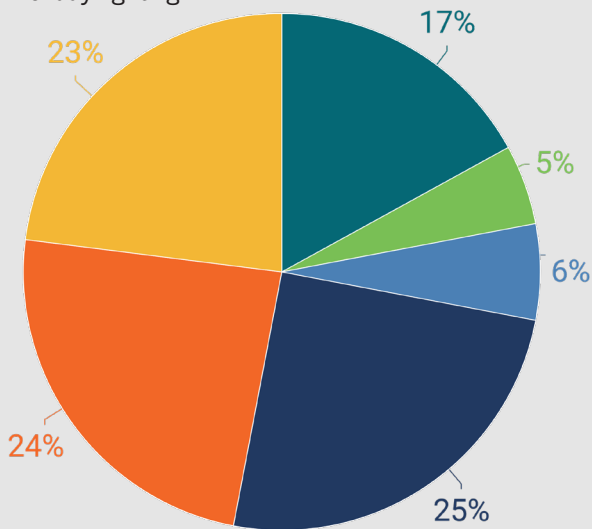
# JANUARY OPERATIONS

## *By the Numbers*

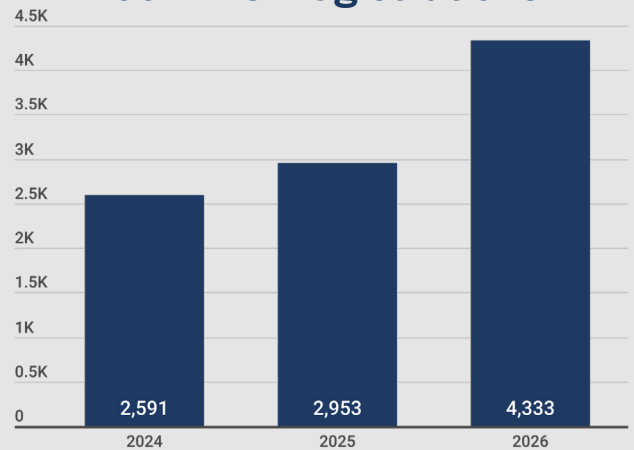
### Parks Maintenance and Operations

This chart provides a breakdown of Parks Maintenance and Operations activities and areas of focus for the month.

- Field maintenance
- Irrigation operations
- Construction and special projects
- Landscape maintenance
- Snow removal
- Holiday lighting



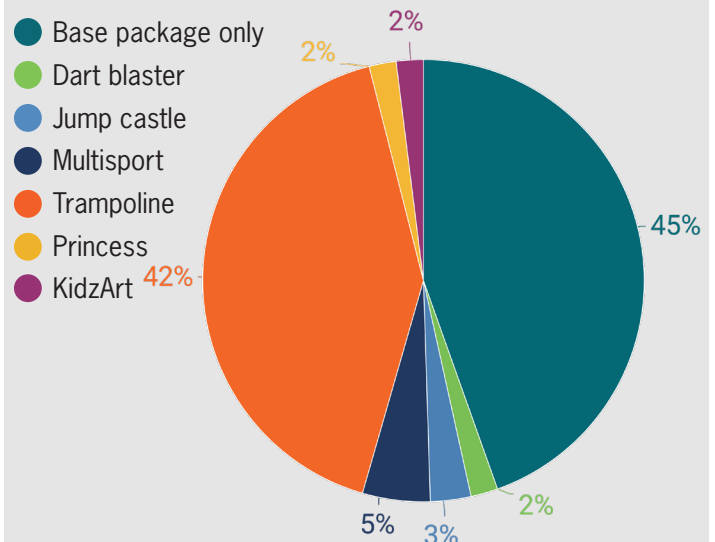
### RockREC Registrations



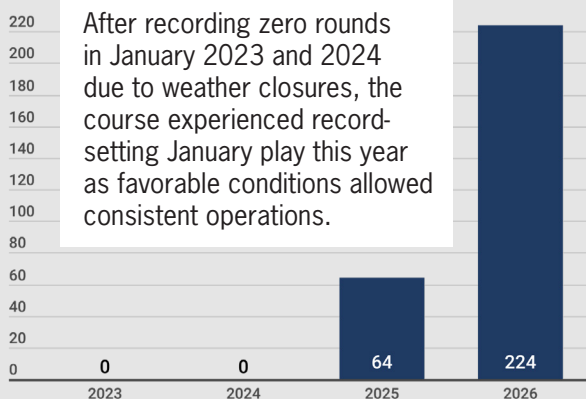
This data represents the number of online program registrations completed via the RockREC app or the desktop version of the site, Recreation.CRgov.com, in January over the last three years.

### Birthday Parties

January birthday parties remained a strong offering, with 66 parties hosted across three facilities, matching overall booking demand from the prior year. Attendance increased from 705 to 792 children over January 2025, reflecting larger average party sizes and continued community interest in this program.



### Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course



After recording zero rounds in January 2023 and 2024 due to weather closures, the course experienced record-setting January play this year as favorable conditions allowed consistent operations.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## Summary

### Social Media Overview

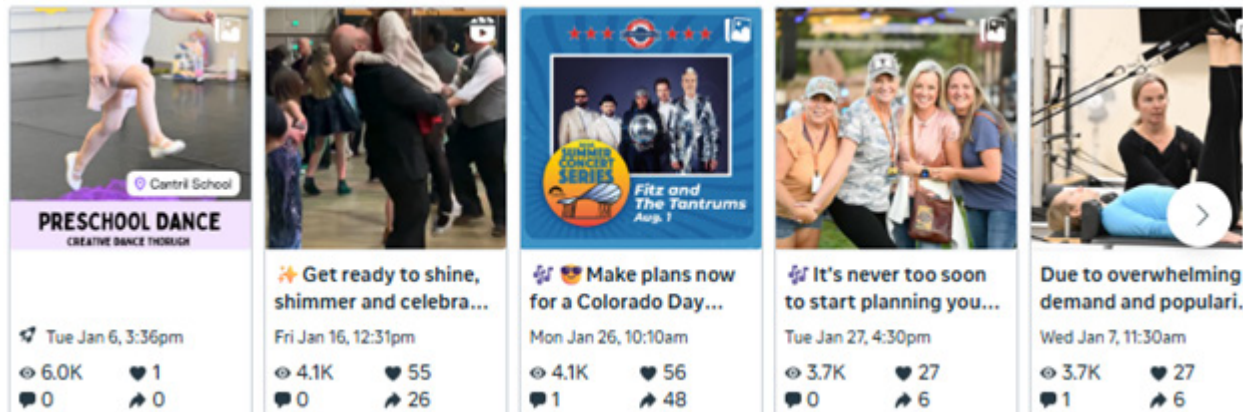
Social media remains a key outreach tool for the department, elevating program visibility, event promotion and community engagement. Content is shared through both the Town's Facebook and Instagram platforms and the department's Instagram platform, in coordination with the Communications division, to ensure consistent and strategic messaging.

In January, Parks and Recreation content saw substantial year-over-year growth across platforms. On the Town's Facebook page, Parks and Recreation-related content reached 310,800 users, a significant increase from 45,400 in January 2025. This jump reflects strong community interest in programs, capital projects and seasonal activities.

On Instagram, the department published 72 posts, reels, ads or stories in January, up from 62 during the same month in 2025. Engagement also increased meaningfully: content interactions rose from 492 in January 2025 to 1,300 in January 2026, indicating higher user interaction with program information, facility updates and event details.

### Top performing content

The department's highest-viewed Instagram content in January centered on events and dances: preschool dance classes, the Winter Ball and Summer Concert Series promotions made up the top-viewed content. These results show that timely updates related to events and seasonal programming continue to drive strong organic visibility.



### Audience growth

In January, the department gained 99 new social media followers, bringing the total to 5,680. By comparison, January 2025 saw a gain of 32 followers for a total of 3,770, reflecting significant year-over-year growth. This continued momentum demonstrates the effectiveness of a more strategic content approach focused on timely storytelling, video trends and high-interest community topics to expand reach and strengthen audience engagement.