

YEAR-END 2016

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





Town of Castle Rock 100 N Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104



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# What was accomplished?

Following is a selection of the Town's top accomplishments from 2016, organized by key community priority:



## Provide outstanding public health and safety services

 Improved the Town's fire risk rating (ISO) from 5 to 2, on a scale from 1-10, where 1 is best – this positively impacts property insurance rates for those in the community



- Led the implementation of a Countywide law enforcement strategy to help prevent domestic violence homicides
- Implemented body-worn cameras at Castle Rock Police to facilitate greater community trust and transparency
- Renovated the Police Department to accommodate present and future staff growth



## Secure the community's long-term renewable water future

- Continued the WISE project as planned, with water delivery to Castle Rock set to begin in late 2017; and put under contract additional water rights and purchased the Box Elder well field as part of the long-term Alternative Source of Supply project, all within or below budget
- Refinanced water resources funding instruments, locking in a fixed interest rate of 2.5 percent, as compared to the previously budgeted 3.35 percent, resulting in potential savings of millions of dollars to Castle Rock Water customers
- Completed a major water court case that allowed the Town to pump more than 47 million gallons of renewable water from East Plum Creek in 2016 – and will allow much more in the coming years – at very little cost



## Create primary jobs, expand the tax base and improve the business climate

- Supported the opening of The Move office building and stores at the Promenade at Castle Rock, as well as the continued expansion of the Castle Rock Adventist Hospital campus
- Assisted in moving employment-based businesses to Town including iMotion, Infinity Labs, Master Magnetics, Mirage Dental and Vista Petroleum



## Provide a safe transportation system, minimizing traffic congestion

- Opened Castle Rock Parkway/North Meadows
   Drive, improving traffic conditions at the north
   end of Town; and improved Plum Creek Parkway
   at Wilcox and Perry streets, improving traffic
   conditions at the south end of Town
- Continued upgrading the Town's traffic signal system, including the addition of signals at Founders Parkway and Black Pine Drive and at the entrance to the Ridge Road shopping center
- Invested \$7 million in road maintenance projects, focused in 2016 on northern Castle Rock



## Provide an outstanding parks, recreation, trails and open space system

- Opened phase two of Philip S. Miller Park, including the Amphitheater, Millhouse and Plaza, as well as the Wolfensberger Pedestrian Bridge, to connect the park to Ridgeline Open Space
- Renovated Butterfield Pool and improved Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course, including adding restrooms and concrete cart paths, which contributed to record revenue in the course's 17-year history



# Maintain community character and identity, with a particular focus on Downtown Castle Rock

- Changed Town Code to require, instead of encourage, neighborhood meetings for annexation and zoning applications; and made public notice signs more readable
- Approved Riverwalk, a Downtown development with 228 residential units, 11,000 square feet of retail and 20,000 square feet of office space; and saw the construction of Mercantile Commons, with 12 residential units and 12,000 square feet of retail and office spaces

More achievements are in the 2017 Adopted Budget, available at CRgov.com/**2017budget**.

# How are we doing?

Following is 2016 data regarding some of the performance goals the Town tracks. Additional performance information is in the 2017 Adopted Budget, available at CRgov.com/2017budget.



### Police Department response time

5 min, 53 sec







### Fire Department response time

7 min, 50 sec TOTAL RESPONSE TIME









Became the first water provider in Colorado to receive a Gold Award in the State's Pursuing Excellence in Drinking Water program due in large part to key performance indicators like:

- Maintaining a rate of one or fewer water quality complaints per 1,000 accounts
- Realizing fewer than three water distribution system breaks per 100 miles of pipe



Processed 768 new business

Issued about 1,150 new residential permits and commercial permits with a value of about \$65 million.



Became the 110th agency in **America** to earn accreditation from the American Public Works Association.

Maintained an overall condition index of 76 on primary streets, exceeding the goal of 75.



Hosted eight new events in Downtown Castle Rock. Held four community

open houses regarding growth, and graduated 26 residents from the new Your Town Academy program, which provides education about Town operations.

Received recognition from WalletHub as one of the Best Small Cities in America.

# How do we compare with our neighbors?

With Town property taxes on a \$300,000 home at only about \$35 per year, Castle Rock provides services to the community at a great value. Here's a look at how the cost of living in Castle Rock compares to some of our neighbors.

## Property tax on a \$300,000 home

This is the amount of municipal-only property tax on a home valued at \$300,000 in other local full-service communities, which do not provide any services via special district. It's important to note that the lion's share of a resident's property tax payment goes to the local school district, the county and other special districts, and not to the municipality.

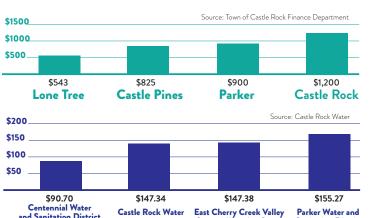
## Sales tax on a \$30,000 vehicle

Colorado residents pay sales tax on newly purchased vehicles in the community in which they live. This is the municipal sales tax that would be due in Douglas County communities on a vehicle valued at \$30,000. In Castle Rock, the Town portion is 4% of the total 7.9% charged. The rest goes to the state (2.9%) and Douglas County (1%).

## Typical summer water bill

This includes water, wastewater and stormwater for a typical single-family residence in these comparably sized districts. Actual bills vary based on water usage and the size of the property.





# What are our key priorities for 2017?

Public open houses were held, and multiple Town Council discussions occurred, before Town Council approved eight key priorities for 2017. Listed under each priority are key 2017 action items.



### **Enhancing our transportation**

- Continue annual pavement maintenance program, focused in 2017 on southern Castle Rock
- Continue initial planning for the Crystal Valley Parkway/Interstate 25 interchange
- Reconstruct Meadows Parkway between Prairie Hawk Drive and U.S. Highway 85 and Emerald Drive between Plum Creek Parkway and Emerald Court
- Construct a roundabout at Third and Perry streets
- Using public input, update the Town's 20-year transportation plan



### **Ensuring our public safety**

- Construct and equip Fire Station 152 in Crystal Valley Ranch open in 2018
- Add two Patrol Officers in Police and a Fire Prevention Officer in Fire



### **Ensuring our water future**

- Move forward on Plum Creek water reuse/diversion project, including possible acquisition of United Water assets
- Continue the WISE, Box Elder and Chatfield Reallocation projects
- Continue implementing financial management plan to minimize rates and fees changes



## **Maintaining strong Parks and Recreation**

- · Complete improvements to Festival Park; and plan for the Town's next neighborhood park
- Design and acquire property to extend the East Plum Creek Trail south to Crystal Valley Parkway in 2018, using \$1 million in grant monies secured in 2016
- Participate in the development of recreational opportunities at Rueter-Hess Reservoir



#### **Enhancing our historic Downtown**

- In cooperation with the Downtown Development Authority, facilitate Downtown redevelopment projects
- Complete and consider recommendations from the Downtown parking study



## **Managing growth**

- Adopt a 2030 Vision and an update to the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan
- Implement the new impact fee and Development Services fee schedule



### **Pursuing economic development**

- Consider financial participation in a project to bring further higher education opportunities to Castle Rock
- Use the Economic Development Fund to pursue opportunities consistent with Town goals



#### **Managing Town fiscal obligations**

- Complete the 2017 Community Survey
- Update the Town's strategic plan
- Complete the 2018 Budget, along with the annual three-year financial plan and five-year Capital Improvement Program

Please contact the Town Manager's Office if you have comments or suggestions on how to improve this report, 720-733-3552 or TownManager@CRgov.com.