



Castle Rock PARKS & RECREATION

September 2025
Monthly Report



UPCOMING

Events

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

OCTOBER
18

Spooktacular
1 to 4 p.m.
Philip S. Miller Park

OCTOBER
19

Fall Festival feat. Creepy Crawlies Around the Rock
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Festival Park

NOVEMBER
8

Pie Bake-Off
10:30 a.m.
Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

NOVEMBER
22

Starlighting
2 to 6 p.m.
Downtown Castle Rock

NOVEMBER
27

Holiday closure
All day
Cantril School, Castle Rock Recreation Center, Miller Activity Complex

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space and Trails

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.

Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space plan approvals and implementation progress

In September, Town Council approved the Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space Master Plan and Management Plan, marking a major milestone in advancing the long-term vision for the Town's largest open space acquisition. The 681-acre property, acquired in 2024 through a partnership with Douglas County, The Conservation Fund, and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), represents the largest open space purchase in Castle Rock's history. The plans will guide the preservation of the property's ecological and cultural resources while providing for phased public access and recreation opportunities.

Following Council's approval, staff began implementing the first phase of improvements to prepare the site for public access in 2026. Initial investments total approximately \$2 million and include trail construction, roadway upgrades, trailhead and parking lot development, and signage installation. These projects are being advanced through a combination of Council-approved and internally approved agreements. Town Council has also approved a construction contract with Timberline TrailCraft LLC for trail development, as well as a contract with SaBell's Civil and Landscape LLC for roadway maintenance, drainage upgrades, and trailhead parking improvements.

The trail project includes approximately 15 miles of soft-surface trails ranging from easy to difficult, along with accessible routes and natural stone features. Timberline TrailCraft was selected as a sole-source provider based on its expertise in sustainable trail design and its existing relationship with the Town for trail construction and maintenance. Work will begin as soon as feasible, with completion anticipated in 2026 to coincide with the property's opening.

The roadway and parking improvements include base roadway and drainage work, along with three key alternates: construction of the Cattleman's Trailhead parking lot to expand visitor capacity; development of an accessible trail and maintenance path connecting the Creekside Trailhead to the dam; and paving of the entry drive to improve year-round access and minimize maintenance needs.

These improvements represent the first major infrastructure phase in preparing the property for public use. With the plans and initial construction contracts approved, Parks and Recreation staff will continue coordinating phased improvements through 2025 and 2026. Upcoming milestones include the completion of trail and roadway work, installation of signage and amenities, and final preparations for opening Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space to the public in 2026. This phased approach ensures public access is expanded in a way that preserves the property's unique ecological and cultural values, reflecting the community's priorities for conservation and responsible recreation.



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space and Trails



Outdoor table tennis installed at four Town parks

In October, the Parks and Recreation Department completed the installation of new outdoor table tennis tables at four community parks—Bison, Centennial, Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial and Emerald. This project originated from a resident request earlier in the summer to explore adding outdoor table tennis as a recreational amenity in Town parks.

Following an evaluation of suitable sites and available products, staff selected durable Cornilleau outdoor tables distributed by Best Outdoor Ping Pong Tables. The tables feature galvanized steel frames, a 9mm laminate top and a permanent metal net designed to withstand both weather and heavy use. Each table carries a 10-year warranty and has been field-tested in other municipalities, such as Seattle, Washington, and Lewisville, Texas, where they have performed well under varying conditions.

The total project cost was \$20,499.96—approximately \$5,000 per table—making this installation both cost-effective and low-maintenance. With the new tables now in place, residents can enjoy a fun, social and inclusive activity that has been an Olympic sport since 1988. Staff will monitor use and gather community feedback over the coming months to help determine whether additional tables should be considered in future park improvement projects. Users should plan to bring their own paddles and balls.



Baldwin Park playground replacement

Baldwin Park's new playground is officially open and ready for play. During the last week of September, the Parks and Recreation Department removed the original 1993 playground and installed a new, modern play structure, which opened to the public on Oct. 3.

The previous equipment had exceeded its anticipated 20-year service life and showed significant wear. The replacement playground meets current safety standards and provides an updated, engaging play space for children and families. Featuring new climbing elements, slides, and accessible components, the playground enhances Baldwin Park's role as a valued neighborhood destination.

This project represents the Town's ongoing commitment to reinvesting in aging park infrastructure and ensuring safe, high-quality recreational amenities for the community. With the new playground complete, residents are encouraged to come out, climb, slide and explore this refreshed play space.



OPERATIONAL UPDATES

and Local Impact

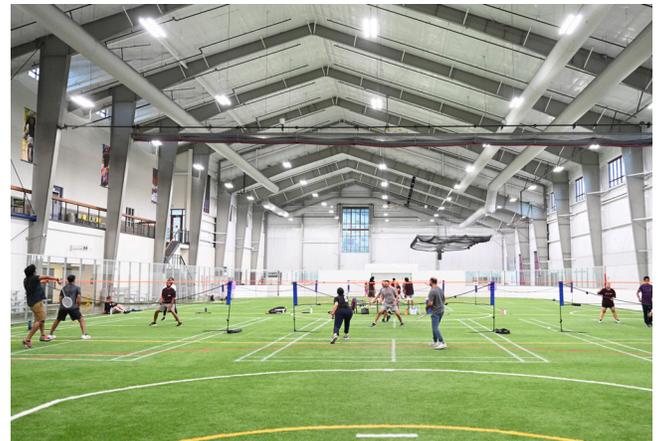
Scholarship program expands access to recreation opportunities

The department's Scholarship Program continues to make a meaningful impact in expanding access to health, wellness and enrichment opportunities. In 2025 to date, 89 individuals have benefited from the program through participation in recreation activities and facility memberships. A total of \$7,821.66 in scholarship assistance has been awarded so far this year, helping to ensure that financial circumstances do not prevent residents from engaging in recreation programs and services.



The Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to individuals and families who may face barriers to participation. Assistance is available for internal programs, facility memberships and passes, while contracted programs are not eligible for funding. Applicants must demonstrate

2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPACT

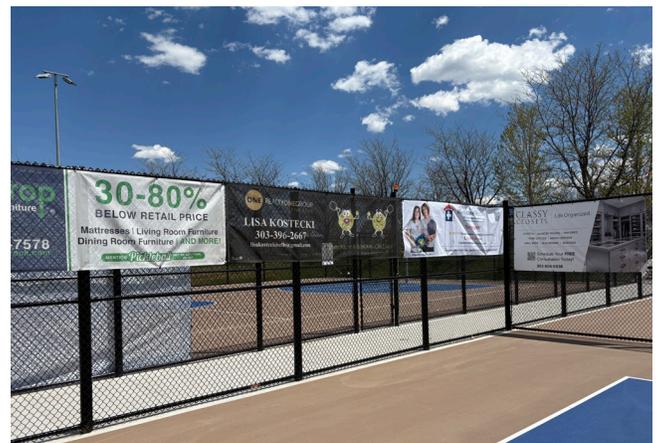


financial need, special circumstances or temporary hardship to qualify. Scholarship awards are determined quarterly by a review committee, with application deadlines on March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. Program fee assistance is limited to \$300 per person annually, while memberships and punch passes do not have an annual cap.

More than a funding source, this program supports the department's mission to foster inclusivity, promote health and well-being and reduce access barriers for residents who might otherwise be unable to participate. These scholarships strengthen community connections and ensure that recreation remains a shared benefit accessible to all.

FUNDING SUPPORT

The Pickleball Banner Sponsorship Program continues to serve as an important funding mechanism for the Scholarship Program. Year-to-date, \$7,500 has been raised through pickleball banner sponsorships, directly contributing to scholarship awards and expanding the program's reach.



Together, these efforts demonstrate the department's ongoing commitment to equitable access and responsible stewardship of resources that enhance the quality of life for Castle Rock residents.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

and Local Impact

Big Drive Sculpture Series approved to celebrate Castle Rock's heritage

Town Council also provided direction on a proposed public art acquisition and installation agreement with DKLA Design, LLC, for the Big Drive sculpture series. The project will include three large-scale steel cow sculptures to be installed at Rock Park Open Space in the grassy area north of the parking lot. Designed as a signature feature of Castle Rock's Sesquicentennial celebration in 2026, the installation will honor the Town's deep ranching and agricultural roots while creating a permanent cultural landmark that celebrates Castle Rock's heritage and identity.

Constructed of corten and galvanized steel with natural finishes, the sculptures will range in size up to 11 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Their rugged materials and design will reflect the character of the land and the community's western traditions. The Big Drive sculptures will be fabricated and installed by artists Don Kennell and Lisa Adler of DKLA Design, a Santa Fe-based studio known for creating monumental public artworks nationwide.

Installation is anticipated in summer 2026 to coincide with Castle Rock's Sesquicentennial celebrations and Western Heritage Welcome Week. The project reflects the Town's ongoing investment in public art as a means of beautification, placemaking, and community pride, ensuring that Castle Rock's story and spirit remain visible for generations to come.

Staff present at National Recreation and Park Association Conference

Four Parks and Recreation staff members represented the Town of Castle Rock at the 2025 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida in September. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Smullen, Fitness and Wellness Supervisor Courtney Bakos, and Special Project Analysts Rebecca Erickson and Jenny Nagel presented a professional education session titled "Strategic Recreation Programming: Aligning Needs, Goals and Accreditation."

The presentation shared a strategic framework for designing, implementing and evaluating recreation programs that are responsive to community needs while aligning with CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) standards. The session addressed how departments can build sustainable, data-informed programming that



supports accreditation, operational efficiency and long-term community engagement.

Developed collaboratively over the past two years by the department's recreation staff, the framework presented is the result of extensive internal research and cross-team effort. This collaboration has strengthened the department's ability to apply strategic, measurable approaches to recreation planning that balance innovation with accountability.

The session drew over 140 attendees and generated significant interest among professionals nationwide. The QR code linking to supplemental resources was scanned more than 230 times, demonstrating the value of the material and its relevance to agencies seeking accreditation guidance. Attendees also earned Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through participation, further underscoring the session's professional merit. The department's session received a 4.65 satisfaction rating, exceeding the conference average and earning strong praise for its practical tools and clear connection to CAPRA standards.

This presentation reflects both the department's leadership in the field and its commitment to knowledge-sharing across the parks and recreation profession. By contributing to the national dialogue on accreditation and strategic programming, staff helped elevate the visibility of Castle Rock's innovative practices and data-driven approach to service delivery. The same session is scheduled to be presented again at the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Conference in Vail this October, extending its reach and impact within the state.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

and Local Impact



Weight room equipment upgrade completed at the Rec Center

The weight room renovation project at the Rec Center has been successfully completed. Work began the last week of September and was finalized on Friday, October 3. This project replaced all existing strength equipment with new Hammer Strength machines — a brand recognized for its durability, ergonomic design and use in collegiate and professional athletic facilities nationwide.

The upgrade ensures that the Rec Center continues to provide high-quality, reliable equipment to support a wide range of fitness goals for community members. During installation, the weight room was temporarily closed to allow for removal of the previous equipment and setup of the new layout.



Completion of this project reinforces the department's commitment to maintaining well-equipped, community-focused recreation spaces.

Revised Group Fitness check-in procedure improves program access and safety

In response to consistent participant feedback and steadily growing class attendance, a revised check-in procedure for select group fitness classes will begin in early October. This update reflects both the popularity of our programs and our commitment to maintaining a safe and positive experience for all participants.

Under the new system, participants will check in at the front desk and receive a tag confirming registration. Instructors will collect these tags at the studio entrance to ensure that only registered participants enter and access equipment. This change strengthens registration compliance, reduces overcrowding and improves the flow of participants in and out of class spaces.



Instructor cooperation has been key to a smooth transition. Their attentiveness has helped preserve the quality of the class experience while supporting consistent implementation across programs.

This revised procedure will:

- Improve the accuracy of participation data for program evaluation
- Enhance safety by maintaining class size limits and equipment availability
- Support equitable access by confirming registration compliance
- Strengthen overall program management as participation continues to grow

By refining internal processes and responding to participant feedback, the Fitness and Wellness division continues to advance its mission of providing safe, organized and high-quality recreation opportunities for the Castle Rock community.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Connecting the Community



Glow Dance Party raises funds for Therapeutic Recreation program

The annual Glow Dance Party was held on Saturday, September 27, at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. This community event featured fitness dance programs including Zumba, Rebel Groove, Mixed Fit and D2G SocaFit, offering a high-energy evening of music, movement and fun. Free glow necklaces were provided to participants upon entry, adding to the festive outdoor atmosphere.

The event served as a fundraiser for the Therapeutic Recreation program, which provides adaptive equipment, scholarships and inclusive opportunities for community members with cognitive or physical disabilities. Participants from the program opened the evening with a special dance performance, highlighting the direct impact of these recreation services.

A record-breaking 386 tickets were sold, nearly doubling the 205 tickets sold in 2024, making this year's Glow Dance Party the most successful to date. The event's proceeds will directly support expanded access and resources for the Therapeutic Recreation program in the coming year.

This year's event was proudly sponsored by Developmental Pathways, a nonprofit agency founded in 1964 that serves more than 15,000 individuals with disabilities and their families. Developmental Pathways supports individuals across their lifespans and has extensive experience assisting those with co-occurring needs from birth through aging.

Community feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Survey comments included:

- "Awesome community event."
- "Everyone seemed excited to be there and it was pretty easy to follow along."

The Glow Dance Party continues to demonstrate the department's commitment to inclusive, community-focused recreation programming. This year's event reflected the strong community enthusiasm for inclusive recreation and highlighted the importance of maintaining programs that promote health, belonging and accessibility for all residents.



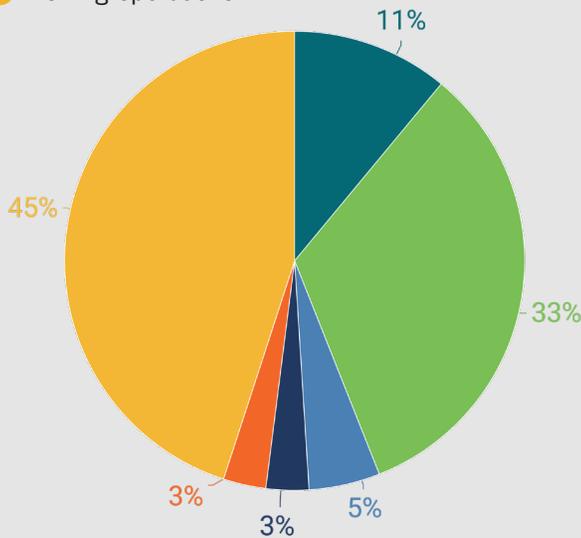
SEPTEMBER OPERATIONS

By the Numbers

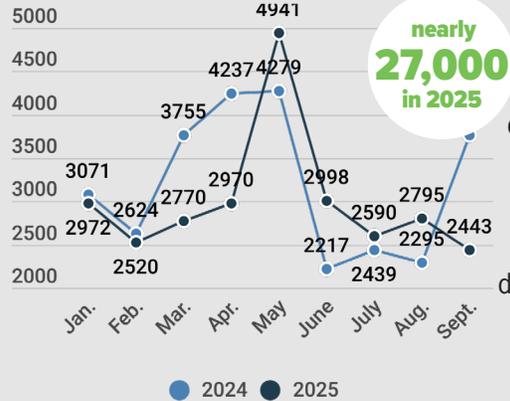
Parks Maintenance and Operations

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

- Field maintenance
- Landscaping maintenance
- Irrigation operations
- Construction and special projects
- Weed management
- Mowing operations



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

POST Partners Volunteer Program



281
volunteers



618
volunteer hours



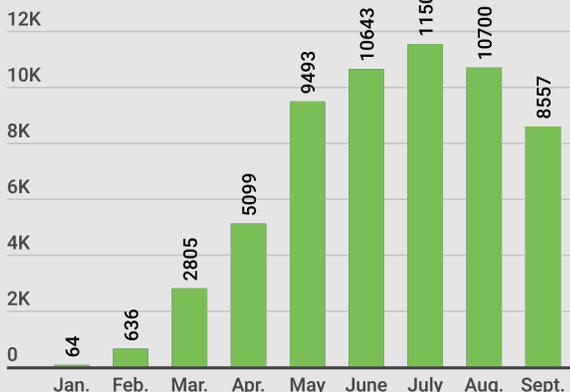
18
events



61
trash bags collected

▲ 64%
increase over Sept. 2024

Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course



Park Pavilion and Trolley Rentals

The Town Trolley is available for rent for a variety of events, including field trips, historic landmark tours, weddings, nights on the town and special event parking transportation.

13
trolley rentals



Pavilions at Town parks are also available for rent throughout the year, with the rest being available on a first-come, first-served basis.

86
pavilion rentals



SOCIAL MEDIA

Summary

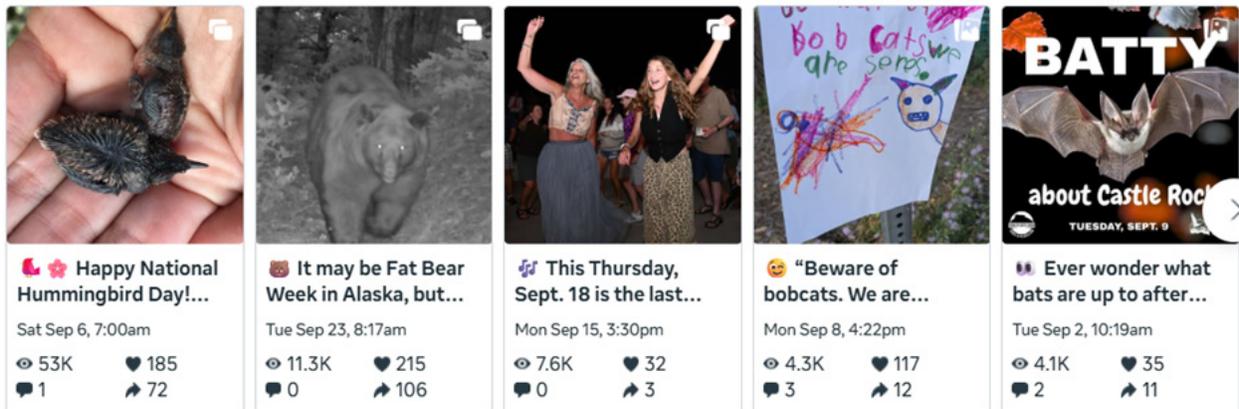
Social Media Overview

Social media continues to be a core outreach strategy for the department, advancing program visibility, event promotion and public engagement. Content is published through both Town and department Instagram and Facebook platforms, in coordination with the Communications Division to ensure alignment with broader messaging goals.

In September, Parks and Recreation content performed strongly across platforms. The Town's Facebook channel saw a 20% increase in engagement with Parks and Recreation-related content compared to August, reflecting continued community interest in departmental programs and updates. On Instagram, while the number of posts dropped from 138 in August to 90 in September, the department still achieved a 4% increase in total views, indicating that high-quality, relevant content is sustaining audience engagement even with reduced posting frequency.

Top performing content

Wildlife-themed content resonated most with audiences in September. Posts featuring hummingbirds, bears, bats and bobcats earned the highest view counts and shares, showing that authentic, locally relevant topics continue to drive strong organic interaction and visibility.



Audience growth

The department's Instagram account gained 180 new followers in September, bringing the total to 5,422. This continued upward trend in followers demonstrates steady community interest and reinforces the effectiveness of varied content types, particularly short-form videos and visual storytelling.

Registration site impact

The department ran 10 paid ads in September promoting programs and events, achieving the lowest cost per click in four months. This improvement reflects more efficient audience targeting and stronger creative performance. Website analytics show that 71% of registration site visits were direct and 14% came from organic searches. Although most visitors continue to access the site directly, social media and referral channels remain important tools for awareness and engagement, supporting residents in discovering and registering for recreation programs and services.

Parks and Rec's Instagram

