

UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Festival Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**
 - 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18; Festival Park
- **Starlighting**
 - 2-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18; Downtown Castle Rock
- **Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex holiday hours**
 - Closed Thursday, Nov. 23
 - 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24
 - Closed Monday, Dec. 25
 - 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31
 - Closed Monday, Jan. 1
- **Winterfest**
 - 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2; Festival Park
- **Storytellers and S'mores**
 - 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9; Festival Park
- **Reindeer Games**
 - 3-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15; The Amphitheater and Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Christmas Tree Recycling**
 - Dec. 26-Jan. 31; Douglas County Fairgrounds (mulch will only be available at this location) and Metzler Ranch, Founders and Paintbrush parks
- **Daddy Daughter Ball, "A Night in Paris"**
 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9; Douglas County Events Center



Special Preview Event held to generate excitement for new trail project



The southern extension of the East Plum Creek Trail is a planned 2-mile segment beginning at its current ending located at South Perry Street. It will continue south to Crystal Valley Parkway. This project will complete the Town's southern portion. The Lanterns development will construct the final link where it will tie into Douglas County's planned trail system.

On Oct. 18, Parks and Recreation Commission members and staff led a guided hike along the future trail alignment. Thirty residents attended this special preview event to get a sneak peek of the two-mile stretch prior to construction commencement.



As with past trail projects, Castle Rock Water and Parks and Recreation have joined efforts to complete both trail and stormwater improvements simultaneously. Trail improvements will include the Union Pacific Railroad underpass at the project's westerly limit, as well as retaining walls and trail construction to Crystal Valley Parkway.

Staff and the design consultant, RESPEC, continue to refine construction plans for the project. Plans are expected to be ready for internal review in November. Construction will begin in 2018.

Local resident of Keepers of the Rock program receives prestigious award as community champion

Dennis Carnahan, Project Manager for the Town's Keepers of the Rock volunteer program, was recognized by the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association as the Community Champion. The award recipient is chosen based upon significant effort to influence and improve the quality of community through parks, recreation and community services.



Keepers of the Rock maintains Rock Park in partnership with the Town's Teen Court program. Keepers improves the physical quality of the trails and landscape while providing community service opportunities to first-time criminal offenders. Through mandated service, defendants learn the importance of investing manpower through the beautification of parks.

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Festival Park

With Starlighting around the corner, an enormous amount of progress took place in October at Festival Park. Almost all of the concrete flatwork was completed for the splash pad, the concert stage and the Second Street promenade areas. Crews installed the built-in wood seating for the landing structure, gas for the nearby fire pit and the walking structure underneath the iconic lantern feature. The wood wrapping for the lantern is now 80 percent finalized. All of the underground electrical was finished and the LED light poles installed.

One of the most noticeable features are all the new trees, shrubs and sod. The details are quickly bringing the park together!



Operations and Maintenance Facility

Coordination and design efforts between the Town's Park Maintenance and Facilities divisions took place for the new shared facility, planned to host both divisions in 2018. Drawings were submitted, reviewed and returned by the necessary Town divisions in October. Parks and Facility staff are now working together to formalize final comments on plans. Construction is slated to start in the first quarter of 2018.

TRAIL PROJECTS

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

Castlewood Ranch neighborhood trail connection

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



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In a joint effort, the Town bid the project for construction, prepared construction plans, submitted plans for review to Public Works and Castle Rock Water and provided project management, while the District provided project funding.

Castlewood Ranch awarded contractor SaBell's Enterprises and construction began on Sept. 11. During October, SaBell's placed 100 linear feet of reinforced trail with toe wall and

rumble strip, 400 linear feet of cedar rail fencing, 422 square yards of seed and mulch and 32 square yards of seed and erosion blanket. The project was inspected and approved as final by the Town and the District. Both hardscape and landscaped items will be monitored in the future to ensure all items last their warranty.

OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

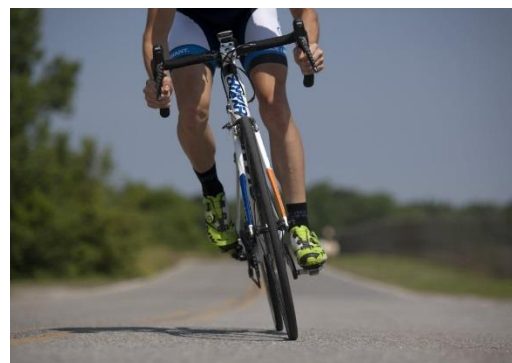
The Town's Fire and Rescue Department is coordinating the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Castle Rock with the assistance of a qualified fire ecology consulting firm, Anchor Point Group. The goal of the CWPP is to identify and prioritize fuel reduction treatment, wildfire hazard mitigation, regulation of structure ignition and public education and outreach efforts.



The Parks and Recreation Department has been identified as a key member of the internal stakeholder team due to the ownership and management of the public open spaces. The first meeting with Anchor Point was held in October. Roles, responsibilities, estimated timelines and administration of the CWPP were discussed. It is anticipated that a final draft of the CWPP will be available by summer 2018.

E-Bikes on Castle Rock trails and sidewalks

Pedal assist bicycles, also known as electric or e-bikes, are a newer trend in recreation and commuting. To plan for resident usage, staff are assessing whether to impose use regulations for trails, sidewalks and bike lanes in Castle Rock. According to recent Colorado statute, e-bikes are defined as a bicycle with a motor and are currently



prohibited on Castle Rock trails per Municipal Code, unless the motor is not engaged by the user.

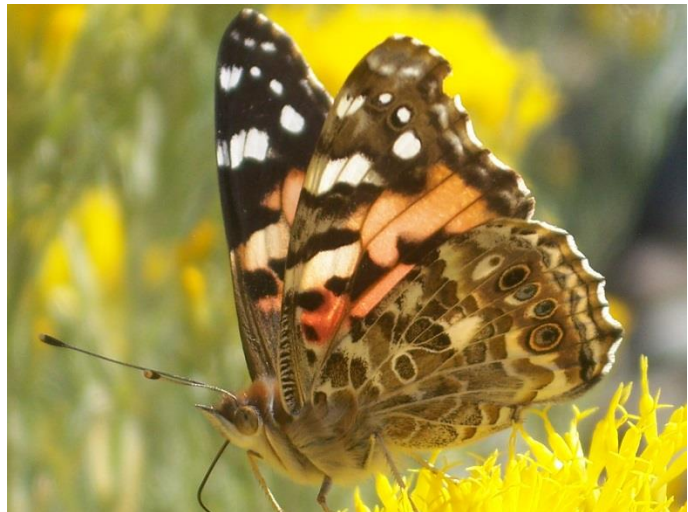
The Parks and Recreation Department will work with Public Works, volunteers from Ridgeline Wranglers and the Castle Rock Police Bike Patrol to develop new policy. Once a draft is created, the Town will seek public input.

National Resource Phenomenon - the Painted Lady irruption

An abundance of Painted Lady Butterflies were found all around Castle Rock in October. In fact, all over the Front Range, these orange and black butterflies that are smaller than Monarchs, spread over late blooming flowers like rabbitbrush, thistle and sunflower plants. The higher than average population explosion was so significant that the National Weather Service picked up a 70-mile wide swarm of the butterflies on radar.

While these butterflies are common and widespread, the unusual population boom can be attributed to warmer and wetter weather in early spring, as well as low levels of parasites and disease. The individuals seen in this area had migrated north from year-round ranges in the Sonoran Desert to find additional food.

Despite this unique irruption, the numbers of native butterflies and other pollinators are declining nationwide. It is estimated that up to one third of human food crops are dependent on pollinators such as butterflies, bees, moths and other insects. There are many simple steps homeowners and landowners can take to help or attract butterflies to yards, including adding native plants and shrubs, avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides and offering small shallow pans of water.





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POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

For the Keepers of the Rock volunteer program, crew leaders led 21 volunteers in conducting 200-feet of step and tread maintenance on the West Summit Trail above and below the switchback. Leader Dennis Carnahan reported that some of the fence posts are rotting around the trail circling the Rock. Social trails are now forming in the native areas where the fence has come down. Parks maintenance staff will work with volunteers to create an interim solution to prevent erosion and eventually fix the fence.



Ridgeline Community and Faith Lutheran churches came together for "Be the Church" day. Eight members from both churches cut back the vegetation along Mitchell Creek Canyon Trail, concentrating on overgrown willows.

As part of a recent adoption of Philip S. Miller Park, five members of the King Soopers Cultural Council spent one hour collecting trash around the park.



Eleven members of the National Honors Society from the STEM School of Highlands Ranch volunteered to help with the last Ridgeline Wrangler outing of the season. The Wranglers are a volunteer group who meets monthly to improve trail conditions at Ridgeline Open Space and occasionally Philip S. Miller Park. Everyone was divided into two work crews to cut vegetation and corridor clear both the purple and red trails at Philip S. Miller Park.



In October, 110 students from Timber Trail Elementary School in Castle Pines visited Castle Rock to plant 16 trees at Matney Park and 24 trees at Metzler Park. The teacher commented, "Thank you so much for the amazing experience--our kids had a great day, and we felt like they got what we wanted them to take away from the day... We were inspired by your Spring up the Creek event and hoping to do something similar."





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Lisa Sorbo, from POST, assisted the Fire and Police Explorer programs with planning Castle of Terror. The theme of this year's haunted house was Freak Show. Volunteer opportunities were posted to VolunteerConnectDC.org. The haunted house required 50 volunteers each night for five performances. Lisa recruited and coordinated the volunteers for all of the performances and tracked over 1,500 contributed volunteer hours.



Special Programs and Events

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

On Oct. 7, Philip S. Miller Park successfully hosted the inaugural Castle Rock Trails Festival. The event combined the much loved liveBIG family adventure run with the Ridgeline Trail Races. The festival included an ultramarathon, marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K and the family adventure run. Over 750 people raced, while hundreds more attended for the pre- and post-race festivities, including a John Denver tribute concert featuring John Adams. It was a full day of running, music and fun.



Fall was unquestionably in the air when the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park was transformed into a giant pumpkin patch on Oct. 28. Hundreds of families came out to the Town's Harvest Festival to find the perfect pumpkin. Attendees carved pumpkins for the Great Pumpkin Wall, while little ones got their faces painted, bobbed for apples, wandered through the mini straw maze and took hay rides through the park. The Great Pumpkin Wall was lit once the sun went down and families gathered to watch movie classics, "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" and "The Goonies."



The ninth annual Spooktacular was the largest yet with well over 2,300 attendees. Children and parents tried their luck with activities such as the cake walk, ring-a-ghost, bowl-for-mummies and the pumpkin can toss. The face painters did an excellent job helping families look the part.



Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

PREPARED BY BOB PERSICHETTI, HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

October turned out to be slightly above average with respect to rounds and revenue. Play was down when compared to the prior year by 1,157 rounds, but October 2016 set all-time records for rounds and revenue with well above average weather the entirety of the month. The golf operation fell short of the projected revenue, but remains at budget year-to-date (YTD). Despite the shortfall, revenue in October exceeded the 10-year average by \$17,835 and the average income per golfer is up by \$1.81 YTD. Overall, the golf fund is in a healthy position going into the final two months of the year.



Parks Maintenance

PREPARED BY BOB MALONEY, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Now that trees have lost foliage, the bluegrass turf is going into dormancy and all the fall sports activities have wrapped up, Parks Maintenance can implement the necessary measures for parks, turf and trees to prepare for the upcoming winter. Preparations include irrigation shut downs, athletic field conversions and plant and tree maintenance.



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These precautions are implemented to ensure a quicker and more vibrant spring for the Town's turf and landscaping.

The Parks Division was busy lighting approximately 200 trees with over 75,000 twinkling lights in downtown along Wilcox and Perry streets and near Town Hall to prepare for the annual Starlighting event and holiday season. Staff will continue to work downtown in November on buildings, bridges and at the redeveloped Festival Park to finish prior to Starlighting.

