



Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
March 2025
Monthly Report



UPCOMING

Events

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



Wild in Our Town

4 to 5:30 p.m.

Philip and Jerry Miller Library



Earth Day Willow Harvest and Planting

9 to 11 a.m.

McMurdo Gulch Trail



Holiday closure

All day

Cantril School, Miller Activity Complex and Recreation Center



Spring Up the Creek

9 to 11 a.m.

[See location list](#)

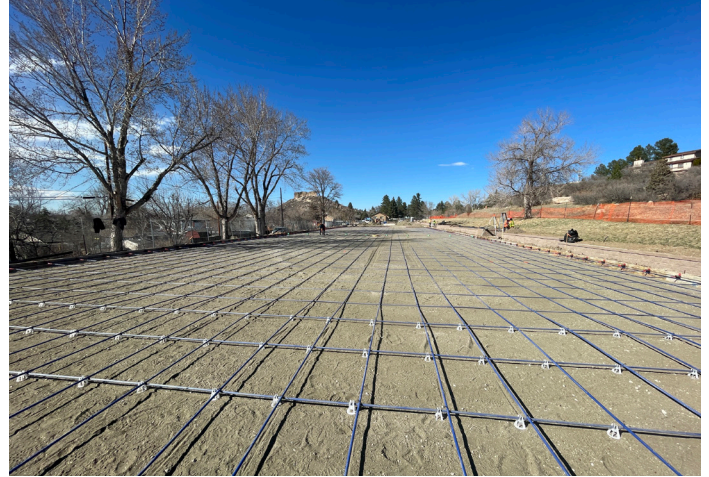
CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space & 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.

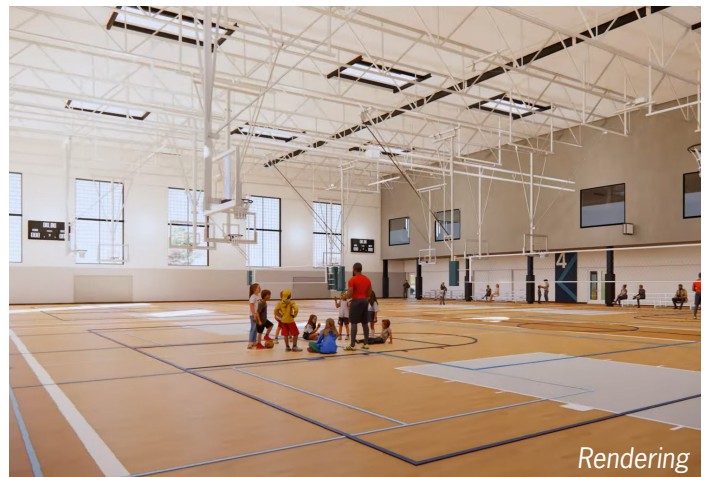
CENTENNIAL PARK COURT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

SaBell's Civil and Landscape completed the demolition of the asphalt courts to prepare the site for new surfacing. Renner Sports Surfaces set up framing for the southern courts and will pour this month as weather allows prior to setting up the northern courts. All courts will hopefully be poured and set in April.



BRICKYARD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AND ZONING

In March, Town Council approved a resolution authorizing a Letter Agreement between the Town and CD-Acme, LLC to support the advancement of the Castle Rock Sports Center project. This agreement allows Acme to enter into trade agreements and order materials—up to a total of \$5 million—to help maintain the construction schedule and minimize potential cost increases in the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) budget. These expenditures will be reimbursed by the Town and credited against the final GMP. This step enables critical pre-construction activities while project planning continues. Town staff will return to Council this spring with a Recreation Center Facility Agreement and financing package, aiming to break ground later this year. A walkthrough of the proposed facility and updates can be found at CRgov.com/NewRecreationCenter.



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space & Trails



LOST CANYON RANCH OPEN SPACE

In March, the Town hosted an open house and a 20-day online questionnaire to gather public feedback on the draft master plan for Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space. Online input from 97 participants showed a fairly balanced response, with 40% of comments being positive, 25% neutral and 35% negative. The feedback was analyzed across four key areas: recurring themes, top concerns, areas of approval and emerging trends.

Major themes included the challenge of balancing conservation with public access, differing opinions on allowed recreational activities, concerns over traffic and neighborhood impacts, interest in guided and educational experiences, and varied views on using existing structures for programming. Top concerns centered on traffic and neighborhood disruption, wildlife preservation, and fears of site overuse. On the positive side, respondents appreciated the Town's transparency, supported phased and controlled access and praised the property's natural beauty. A clear trend emerged valuing conservation and passive recreation, while opinions diverged on biking, dog access, and event uses.

Staff will continue to partner with project architect Wenk and Associates to incorporate the feedback and concerns into the final master planning document. The plan will be presented to the property's conservation easement holder, the Douglas Land Conservancy, this spring, followed by seeking Town Council approval. Once the master plan is approved, site improvements and trail development will commence. Trails contractors Timberline TrailCraft and Tony Boone Trails have completed trail flagging and will be on site throughout April to determine final trail alignments in preparation.



OPERATIONAL

Insights and Updates

Program and Event Updates

BLUEBIRD MONITORING SEASON TAKES FLIGHT

The 2025 Colorado Bluebird Project season is officially underway in Castle Rock. This year's program kicked off with a well-attended open house in early February at the Millhouse, where nearly 90 people gathered to learn how to support bluebird populations—whether in their own backyard or as part of the Town's dedicated volunteer team.



Interest in the program continues to grow. Following the open house, 95 new participants completed one of two mandatory training sessions, joining a team of returning volunteers to

prepare for the upcoming monitoring season. During March, volunteers completed inspections and maintenance of more than 210 nest boxes across 34 sites. Weekly monitoring began on April 2, and will continue into August or until the nesting season concludes.

The Colorado Bluebird Project in Castle Rock, now entering its 19th season of data collection, operates under the guidance of the Denver Audubon Society and is part of the Town's POST Partners Volunteer Program. The program's goals remain the same: to improve the vitality of bluebird populations statewide while educating and engaging the public in meaningful conservation efforts.

Four partner schools also continue to participate, with students learning firsthand about the nesting cycle by monitoring boxes on or near school grounds. These educational opportunities help nurture the next generation of conservation-minded residents.

Residents are reminded not to open or disturb any nest boxes, all of which are marked with signage to protect the sensitive nesting birds. To learn more about the Colorado Bluebird Project in Castle Rock—including photos and a recap of the 2024 nesting season—visit CRgov.com/Bluebird.

A LEGACY THAT GROWS: CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY IN CASTLE ROCK

In Castle Rock, Arbor Day isn't just a date on the calendar—it's a symbol of our long-standing commitment to trees, nature and community. For 38 consecutive years, Castle Rock has been recognized as a Tree City USA community, a designation that reflects our dedication to environmental stewardship and the simple power of planting a tree.

Every April, Town Council commemorates this commitment by proclaiming the third Friday of the month as Arbor Day in Castle Rock. It's a tradition rooted in action—with more than 4,100 trees now thriving in our parks and along our streetscapes, each one playing a part in creating shade, improving air and water quality, reducing erosion and enhancing the natural beauty of our hometown.

This year, you can be a part of that tradition. The POST Partners program is once again hosting community tree planting and park cleanup events to mark the occasion. With plans to plant more than 50 trees at Metzler Ranch Community Park and Mitchell Gulch Park, there are plenty of opportunities for residents to roll up their sleeves and help grow the future of Castle Rock's green spaces.

Join us for one of the following Arbor Day volunteer events:

- Thursday, April 24 | 9:30–11:30 a.m. at Metzler Ranch Community Park
- Friday, April 25 | 9:30–11:30 a.m. at Metzler Ranch Community Park
- Monday, April 28 | 9:30–11:30 a.m. at Mitchell Gulch Park

Volunteers ages 12 and up are welcome. Sign up and learn more at VolunteerCastleRock.CRgov.com.

Since 1993, Castle Rock residents have planted trees in nearly every corner of town—from Centennial and Paintbrush parks to Philip S. Miller Park and the Native Legend Trail. With your help, 2025 can be another proud chapter in that story.

OPERATIONAL

Insights and Updates

NEW WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE PROGRAM SERVES TO PROMOTE SAFETY AND CONFIDENCE

In response to a growing interest in personal safety and self-empowerment, the Town has partnered with Castle Rock Martial Arts to offer a new Women's Self-Defense course. This program is designed to provide participants with practical skills and knowledge to increase personal safety and confidence in a variety of everyday situations.

The six-week course, taught by 7th Degree Black Belt Master Scott Carroll, focuses on situational awareness, threat assessment and strategic physical responses. Through hands-on instruction and realistic scenario training, participants gain both a strong defensive mindset and the practical techniques necessary to handle potential threats.

Classes are held Saturday mornings at Cantril School. The first session runs from April 12 through May 17. The program is open to women ages 16 and older and was developed in response to resident feedback and interest in wellness offerings that promote safety, confidence and community resilience.

This new initiative reflects the Town's commitment to supporting well-rounded, proactive programming that addresses real-world needs in a supportive and engaging format.

PICKLEBALL BANNER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHES TO SUPPORT RECREATION ACCESS

This spring, the Parks and Recreation Department launched its Pickleball Banner Sponsorship Program, offering local businesses an opportunity to gain visibility while supporting community recreation. The program allows businesses to display branded banners from May through October at five of Castle Rock's busiest outdoor pickleball courts.

In addition to marketing benefits, the program serves a broader community purpose. Proceeds support the Parks and Recreation Department's scholarship fund, which helps reduce financial barriers for residents who wish to participate in recreational programs, activities and services. By participating in this initiative, businesses can align their brand with active community engagement while contributing to equitable access to health and wellness opportunities in Castle Rock. Interested organizations are encouraged to complete an interest form at CRgov.com/SponsorParksandRec.

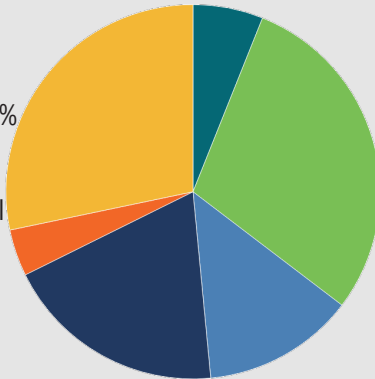


MARCH OPERATIONS

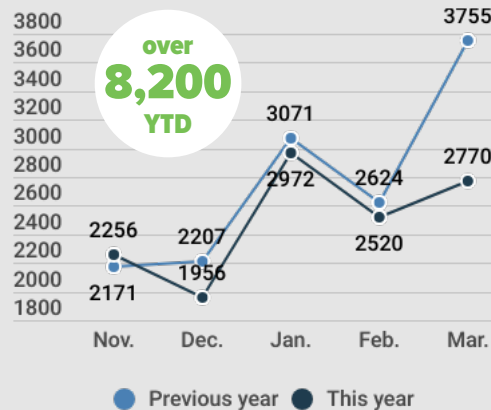
By the Numbers

Parks Maintenance and Operations

- Fertilizing: 6%
- Field maintenance: 29%
- Irrigation operations: 13%
- Weed management: 4%
- Snow removal: 29%
- Construction and special projects: 19%



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

Facility Operations

5,808

total facility memberships as of March 1



increase in Rec Center daily admissions over March 2024



increase in spring break week combined Rec Center and MAC admissions over 2024

POST Partners Volunteer Program



518
volunteers



958
volunteer hours



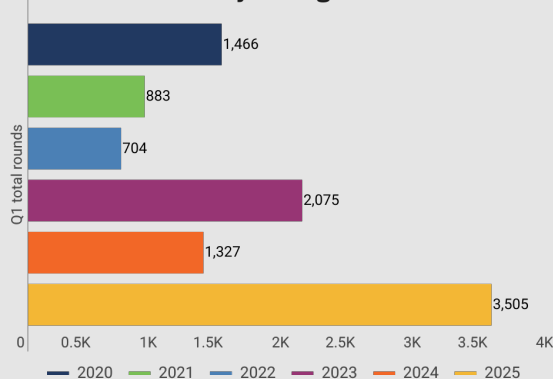
15
events



372
trash bags collected

Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

Golf Rounds: January through March



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.

3
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. Rental numbers for both assets typically slow with colder weather.

5
pavilion rentals

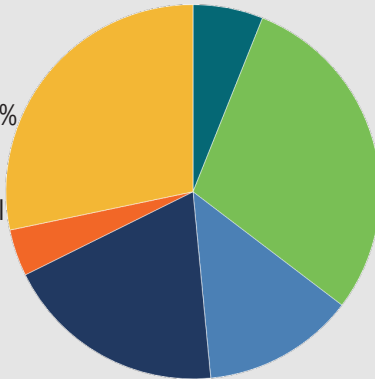


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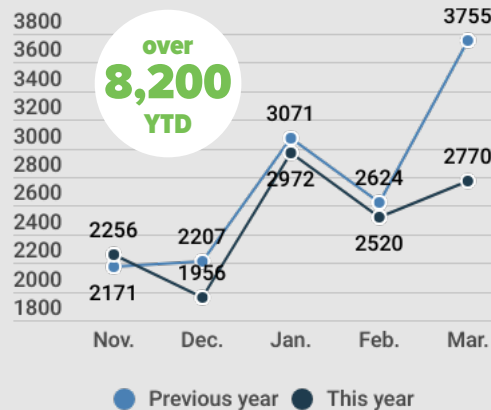
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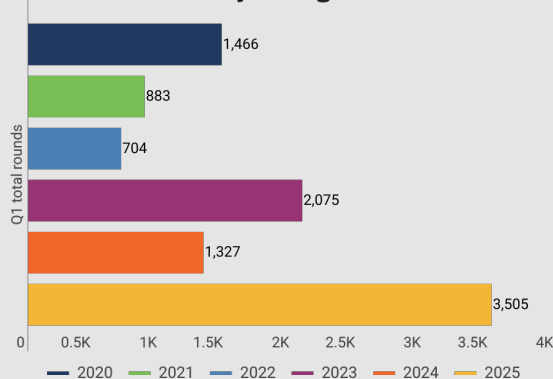
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