



Castle Rock  
**PARKS &  
RECREATION**  
Monthly Report:  
May 2020



*We missed you!*

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[CRgov.com/ParksandRec](http://CRgov.com/ParksandRec)



[parks@CRgov.com](mailto:parks@CRgov.com)





## Events

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Town events have been cancelled or postponed to ensure the safety of community members. As responses to the pandemic frequently change, please visit [CRgov.com/Events](http://CRgov.com/Events) for updates on cancellations and future events.

### FARMERS MARKET SET TO OPEN JUNE 14

Support the community, local vendors and small business starting Sunday, June 14 at the Farmers Market at Festival Park. Hosted by the Local Colorado, the market will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday through September.

Social distancing requirements will be in place to offer a safe shopping experience. Booths will be spread out to a minimum of six-feet apart. Touchless payments will be encouraged and a sanitation schedule will be strictly enforced. Traffic through the market will be one-way, and customers will be asked to follow directional chalk lines on the ground. Samples will not be offered for the time being. These practices could change throughout the season as additional guidelines are released by local health authorities.

A virtual market experience will also be available. Customers will have the ability to shop online at [TheLocalColorado.com](http://TheLocalColorado.com) and pick up orders on the day of the market. More information will soon be available at [CRgov.com/FarmersMarket](http://CRgov.com/FarmersMarket).





## Responding to COVID-19

### RETURN TO WELLNESS

The Parks and Recreation Department is continuing to expand the services offered to the public to the greatest extent possible during these challenging times. In the return to normal, staff is embracing the best practices and updated guidelines and regulations to provide a safe environment.

The Recreation Center opened on June 1. Users are required to reserve a one-hour time slot within a designated workout zone, and each of the six zones can accommodate up to 10 people. Enhanced cleaning is completed between each time slot. Restrooms and showers are open, but lockers will remain closed so patrons should come prepared in their workout gear.

The Recreation Center's lap pool opened Monday, June 8 and reservations will be required. Outdoor pools will reopen June 22 by reservation only for 90-minute time slots. Each pool will be limited to 50 people at a time. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned between the reservation sessions.

Registration for all summer camps is open and organized youth and adult league sports will resume on June 8 and June 15, respectively. Outdoor sports will be limited to 25 and indoor sports to ten participants. To accommodate summer camps and sports programs, the Miller Activity Complex will remain closed at this time. To view and register for upcoming programs visit [CRgov.com/Registration](http://CRgov.com/Registration).

Town parks, open space and trails continue to offer the public access to the great outdoors. Playgrounds, including the FitGround at Philip S. Park, and outdoor facilities like athletic courts, fields and pavilions are open for public use to no more than 10 people at one time.

Stay updated on the evolving process of returning to normal at [CRgov.com/ReturnToWellness](http://CRgov.com/ReturnToWellness). Social distancing and practicing good hygiene will continue to remain important while using public facilities. Local health officials also recommend wearing face coverings while in public and limiting social interactions to members of your own household as much as possible.

# RETURN TO WELLNESS

Amenity	Status	Notes
Outdoor Basketball, Pickleball and Tennis Courts	Open	Open for use for no more than 10 people at a time
Skate Park	Open	Following strict social distancing guidelines
Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course	Open	Following strict social distancing guidelines
Parks, Open Space and Trails	Open	Safety guidelines including recommendation of both distancing of 6 feet and wearing masks in place
Challenge Hill at PSM Park	Open	Open for use going one-way up, following trail down
Licensed Day Camps	Open	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Half-Day Camps	Open	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Recreation Center	Open	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Ball Fields	Open	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Park Pavilions/Picnic Areas	Open	Open for use for no more than 10 people at a time
Playgrounds	Open	Open for use for no more than 10 people at a time
FitGround at PSM Park	Open	Open for use for no more than 10 people at a time
Youth Athletic Leagues	Open	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Adult Athletic Leagues	Open June 15	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Burgess and Butterfield Outdoor Pools	Open June 22	Will open for a maximum of 50 people per time slot by reservation only
Splash Pads	Open June 22	Following strict COVID-19 response guidelines
Concerts	June Cancelled	Per State Orders, July pending
Miller Activity Complex	Closed to General Public	Open for summer camps only

*Updated per CDPHE Amended Public Health Order 20-28 June 2*



## Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

### RED HAWK SEES SUCCESS AFTER REOPENING

Along with all other divisions within the Parks and Recreation Department, Red Hawk Ridge was innovative in its response to COVID-19. Staff took advantage of the opportunity to work on the golf course without any golfers during its closure to accelerate the bunker renovation project. The maintenance team completed bunker renovations/restorations on holes 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 14 and 16. In addition to the bunker work, the maintenance team completed a landscaping project in the front entryway to the Clubhouse.

Red Hawk Ridge reopened on April 10, after restrictions were lifted for golf courses by the Tri-County Health Department. Reopening the course was determined to be low risk with the implementation of the following safety measures to minimize the risk of potential transmission:

- Required single-rider golf carts to allow for social distancing while playing, bringing in a fleet of 20 additional rental carts to accommodate demand;
- Increased tee time intervals to space out foursomes and avoid gathering on the golf course;
- Modified the online tee time booking engine to allow groups to prepay when making a reservation, thus reducing traffic in the golf shop and Clubhouse by 90 percent;
- Modified Food & Beverage operations to provide take-out options for both golfers and community; and
- Reduced seasonal staff by over 50 percent during April and May to limit customer-employee interactions.

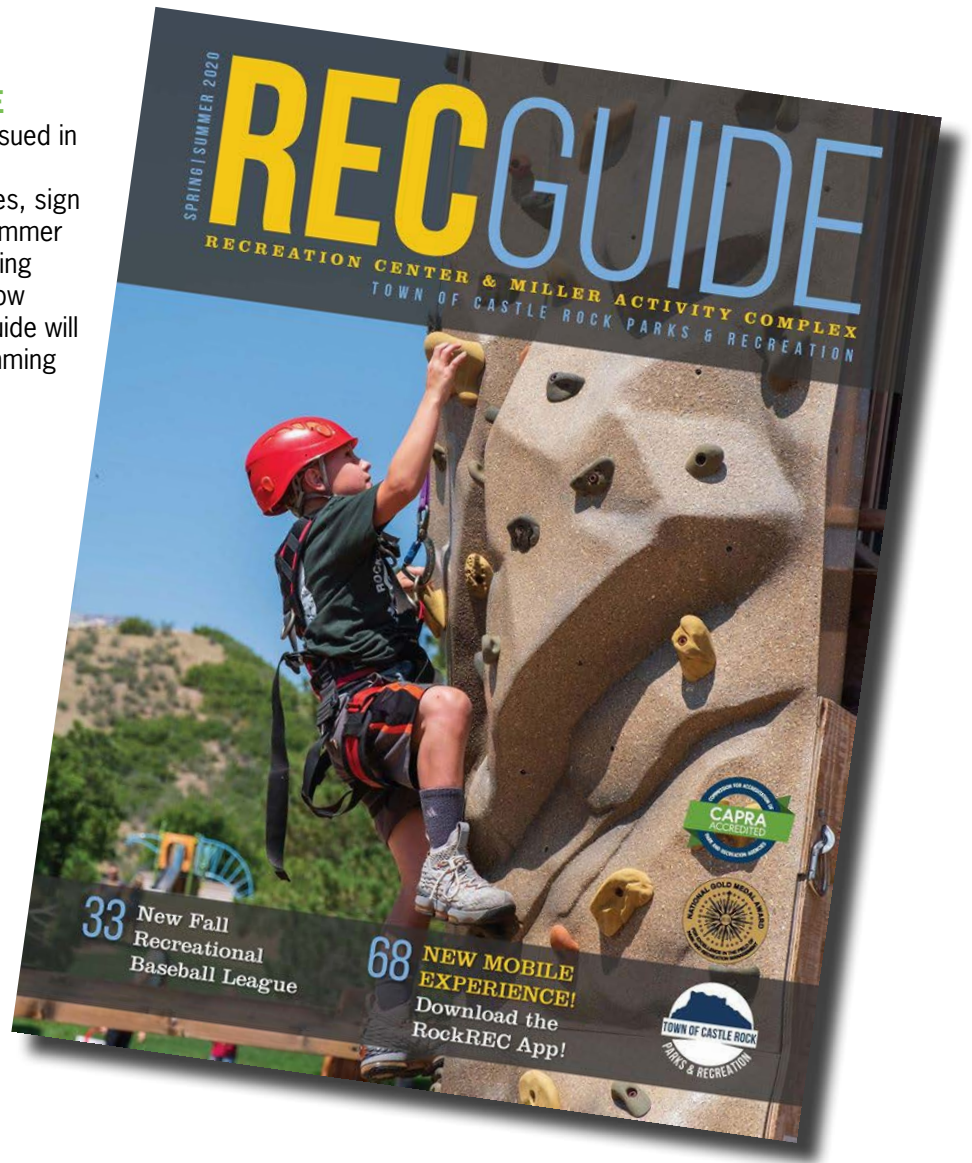
Since re-opening, the course has hosted 7,851 rounds of golf through the end of May, which is 1,005 more than budgeted. This surge helped the course exceed the revenue budget in May by \$10,000, despite operational restrictions and limitations brought on by COVID-19.



## Community Outreach

### DIGITAL REC GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The Spring/Summer 2020 Rec Guide was issued in May and is now available online at [CRgov.com/RecGuide](http://CRgov.com/RecGuide). Discover new activities, sign up for sports, check out a wide variety of summer camps and more! Youth and adult programming begins throughout June and registration is now open. As a cost saving measure, this Rec Guide will not be printed or mailed. Up-to-date programming information is always available at [CRgov.com/Registration](http://CRgov.com/Registration).





## Education

### CLASS OF 2020 WELCOMES NEXT CHAPTER IN STYLE

While the closing of a chapter is never easy, the Town's Adventure Club Preschool went out of their way to ensure that graduating preschoolers experienced a special goodbye despite the pandemic.

A ceremony is typically held each year at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. The graduating preschool class gets gussied up, puts on miniature graduation caps and takes an honorary walk across the stage to accept a diploma. While the annual celebration could not be held this year, staff still went out of their way to ensure the 2020 graduating class felt honored.

Students decorated their cars with favorite animals, crafted signs and participated in a car parade through the Recreation Center's parking lot. While the students thanked the teachers as they passed by, the teachers shouted praise and congratulations towards the students. The adorable procession can be viewed online by [clicking this link](#).

### BASICS OF BIRDWATCHING OFFERED VIRTUALLY

For nearly a decade, the Town of Castle Rock's Natural Resource Specialist has offered the public a free, two-part bird-watching series in the spring. While the outdoor portion of this educational series was cancelled due to COVID, staff opted to hold the class portion virtually to continue its great tradition. The goal of the class is to expose as many people as possible to the enjoyment of birdwatching, which is a fun skill and activity that can be practiced in a socially distant manner.

The virtual webinar hosted 22 new participants who learned all about bird-watching basics. Natural Resource Specialist, Barbara Spagnuolo, discussed field guides and binoculars, offered exceptional bird watching and identification tips and provided information on local birding hotspots. The class was recorded and posted [here](#) on CRgov.com to offer a permanent online resource to Castle Rock residents.

“My daughter was sad she didn't get to wear the funny hat (graduation cap) like her older brother did. But, they all had a blast seeing their teachers at the parade! Thank you for everything Adventure Club! We love you guys! - Ashley G., Adventure Club Preschool Parent”

“The class was very informative and Barbara was extremely knowledgeable! When out on the trail, I now not only look for birds but listen for birds and have been able to identify so many more. I highly recommend this free resource to anyone looking to quickly expand their basic knowledge of bird watching and identification. - Bernice Y., Basics of Birdwatching Virtual Participant”



## Arts and Enrichment

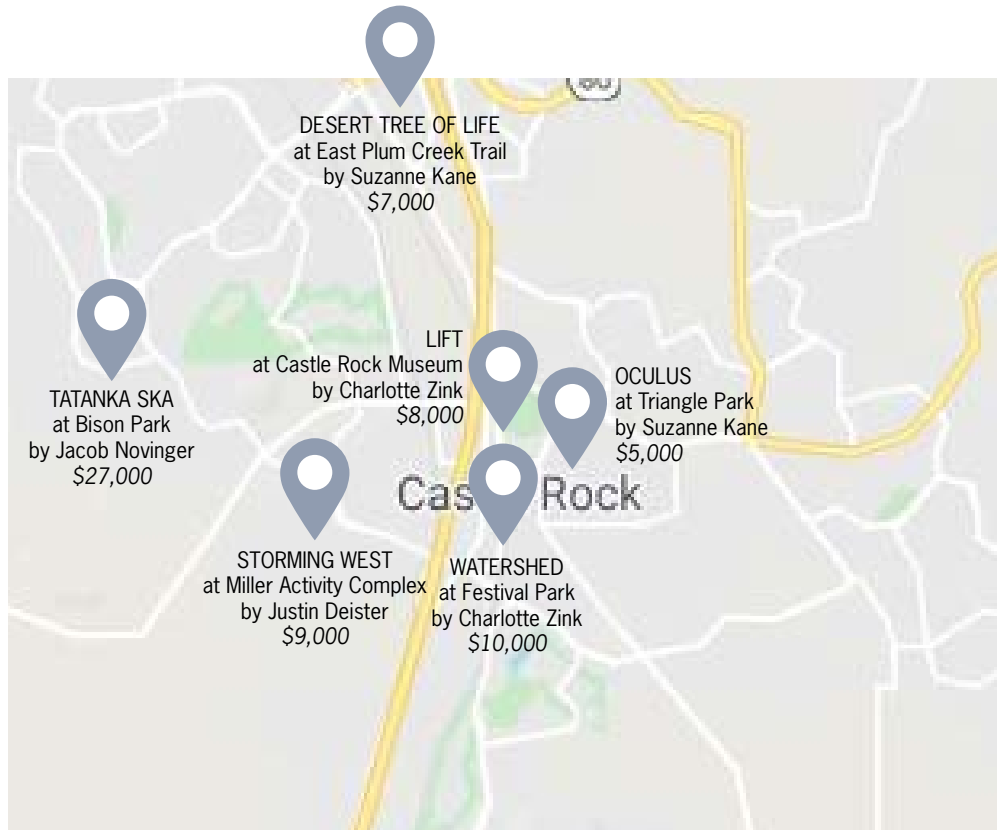
### INSTALLATIONS BEGIN FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY ART ENCOUNTERS

For over a decade, Castle Rock has participated in Douglas County Art Encounters. This program provides rotating sculptures to the residents of Douglas County. Displayed in highly visible areas in Castle Rock, Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, Parker and Roxborough, new pieces are installed each year to promote public interest in art, develop community pride and foster small-town character.

A Public Art Advisory Committee with representatives throughout Douglas County selects the artwork from applications submitted through a public call for art. The committee functions under the direction of the Douglas County Cultural Council. The displayed work is identified throughout the participating jurisdictions and all art is for sale. In addition, for loaning their work, each artist receives an \$800 stipend from the jurisdiction where their piece is installed. Castle Rock funds its portion through the Philip S. Miller Trust Fund.

Seven sculptures will be featured in Castle Rock at various locations, including Bison, Festival and Triangle parks, along the East Plum Creek Trail and at the Miller Activity Complex. Two pieces will be featured downtown near the Castle Rock Museum and at the Third and Perry roundabout.

The following pieces have been installed to date. The program's final installation is scheduled for mid-July. A press release will then be issued to invite the public to visit and enjoy all of the newly-placed sculptures.





## POST Partners Volunteer Program

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SLOWLY REOPEN

Community members looking to take pride in their community, can now volunteer in groups of 10 or less as the POST Partners Volunteer Program reopens opportunities. Since May 19, 80 volunteers have cleaned up 70 bags of trash at eight locations throughout Castle Rock's parks, open space and trails. Location events have included Philip S. Miller Park, Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park, Paintbrush Park, Hangman's Gulch Trail, the East Plum Creek Trail and along Front and Perry streets.

Participants are required to adhere to the following policies while volunteering:

1. If participant is age 14 or under, a parent or guardian must be present at all times.
2. Everyone must register on VolunteerConnectDC.org prior to the event to ensure participation is capped at 10 individuals.
3. All events be will capped at 10 participants (no exceptions).
4. All participants will provide a signed waiver (one per family).
5. Wear closed toe shoes for walking.
6. Your temperature will be taken upon arrival by Program Coordinator, documented and signed.
7. Stay home if you feel sick. If anyone appears sick, they will not be allowed to participate.
8. All volunteers will be required to wear a mask. Please bring your own mask.
9. All participants, unless family living under the same roof, will agree to remain at least 6 feet apart.
10. All participants, unless family living under the same roof, will agree to not carpool.
11. Volunteers will wear either disposable gloves or reusable gloves provided by Coordinator at time of event. (If reusable gloves are used, these will be placed in a bag/bin to be washed after each event).
12. Volunteers will wear the orange vest (safety) during the outing, provided by Coordinator at time of event. (All vests will be placed in a bag/bin to be washed after each event).
13. All tools and equipment will be provided and cleaned in-between events.

Clean up events are held three times per week. For additional information, visit [CRgov.com/POSTPartners](http://CRgov.com/POSTPartners).





## Parks, Open Space and Trails

### FIRST LOOP OF LEGACY TRAIL COMPLETE AND OPEN TO USERS

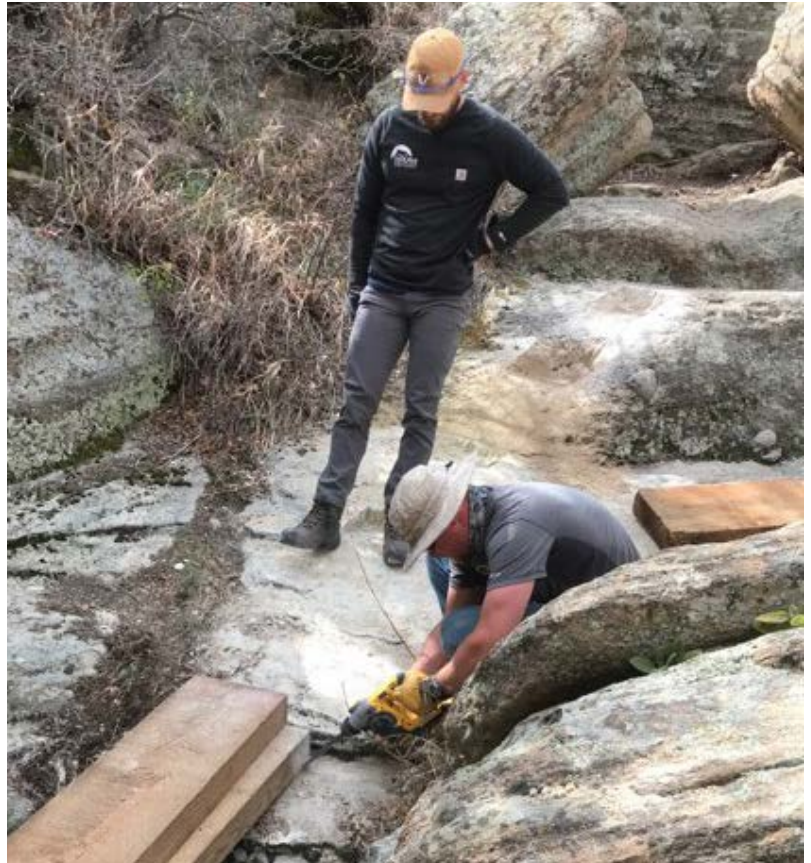
Gateway Mesa Open Space consists of 276 acres of grassland mesa and mixed coniferous forest near the eastern boundary of Castle Rock. Open to hiking only, the 1.6 mile Chuck's Loop Trail travels around the flat open grassland and offers sweeping views.

Throughout 2019, the Town constructed an additional 3,380 feet of soft-surface trail in partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) in the open space. More than 200 volunteers helped during four work outings to build the trail, install 16 rock steps and construct three climbing turns, as well as a 165-foot rock mono-wall.

While phase two will continue the new trail, named Legacy Trail, further east, Park Operations and Maintenance staff worked this spring to offer hikers a full loop back to Chuck's Loop Trail. In addition to extending the trail from phase 1, work included the construction of a wooden bridge with chain railing and the installation of chain hand holds to assist users through an exposed rocky section. Signs were also installed to direct people to the trail and provide differentiation from the existing cap rock.

This unique one-mile trail now offers access to the northern forested portion of the property, laden with mature pine trees, plunge pool wetlands, steep scrub-covered slopes and interesting rock formations. The Legacy Trail Project has been made possible through strong partnerships with the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation, who provided \$10,000 of funding, as well as VOC.

Work will continue in 2020 as VOC plans to host a volunteer workday to continue the trail extension on Saturday, Oct. 10. More details and registration information will be posted when available at [CRgov.com/LegacyTrail](http://CRgov.com/LegacyTrail). The remaining segment, which will likely be completed in 2021, will carry the trail approximately one mile further east.



“I wanted to pass on my compliments to you and the Town for the completion of the Legacy Trail. My wife and I hiked it this afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed this unique section of trail in the high desert. The cool and sometimes damp areas covered with ferns are a pleasure to see and enjoy, and seeing some of the vegetation and rock formations up close on this section of trail is a photographer's dream (after retiring a couple of years ago I am an avid semipro photographer). My compliments on a great new addition. We especially enjoyed the notch trail and the chain and bridge sections near the end. Thanks to all involved for creating the Legacy Trail!  
- Bill L., former Public Works Director of the Town of Silverthorne

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“I just wanted to let you know that Bill and I hiked the Legacy Trail yesterday and loved it! I shared my pictures with the [Division of Innovation and Technology] team and now they all want to visit it too. The rock formations and abandoned truck were a lot of fun. We met another family on the trail and it was their second time trying it out. They loved it, said it was amazing.  
- Amy H., GIS Manager of the Town of Castle Rock

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