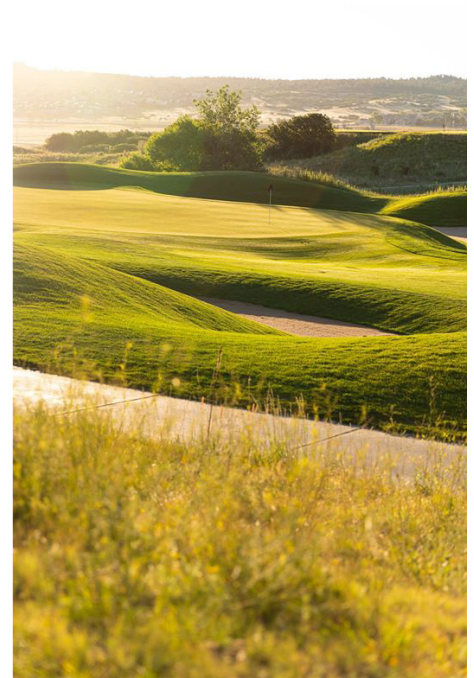




Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
Monthly Report:
July 2020



LEARN MORE



CRgov.com/ParksandRec



parks@CRgov.com



Upcoming Events

In response to COVID-19, many Town events have been modified, postponed or canceled to ensure the safety of community members. View up-to-date information and register for events at CRgov.com/Events.

AUGUST
14
FREE FITNESS FRIDAYS
8 - 9 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
16
FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Festival Park

AUGUST
16
FREE YOGA IN THE PARK
9 - 10 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
20
**TUNES FOR TRAILS FREE CONCERT
FEATURING THE LONG RUN**
6:30 - 9 p.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
21
FREE FITNESS FRIDAYS
8 - 9 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
21
**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
FEATURING THE DENVER POPS**
6 - 10 p.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
23
FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Festival Park

AUGUST
23
FREE YOGA IN THE PARK
9 - 10 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
28
FREE FITNESS FRIDAYS
8 - 9 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
30
FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Festival Park

AUGUST
30
FREE YOGA IN THE PARK
9 - 10 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park



VISIT COMPLETED WITH THE COMMISSION FOR ACCREDITATION OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES

In 2015, the Town of Castle Rock's Parks and Recreation Department joined the ranks of elite agencies across the country by earning accreditation status through the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

CAPRA provides quality assurance of accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the United States by providing a management system of best practices and is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies. This mark of distinction indicates that the Town of Castle Rock has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs and safety, demonstrating a strong commitment to offering community members the highest quality of services.

A significant amount of time and effort has gone into achieving and maintaining this distinction, as it is an honor held only by 172 agencies across the country. In March, the Department submitted its self-assessment report to demonstrate compliance with the 151 recognized standards. In June, staff hosted a week long virtual visit with three visitors from across the country. The Department will attend an official CAPRA hearing at NRPA's annual conference this fall, which will also be held virtually. Once the hearing is complete, the Department will be notified of its updated accreditation status.





Parks, Open Space and Trails

SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVED FOR THE DESIGN OF THE COLORADO FRONT RANGE TRAIL IN CASTLE ROCK

On July 21, Town Council approved a services agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) to design a substantial portion of the Colorado Front Range Trail within Castle Rock. SEH will complete design engineering, surveying, environmental and geotechnical services for approximately 5 miles of trail.

The Colorado Front Range Trail is a statewide-envisioned network, which will eventually travel along Front Range communities from New Mexico to Wyoming. With Castle Rock as a major crossroads, its proposed trails will connect Colorado Springs to the south with the Cherry Creek Regional Trail and Chatfield State Park to the north. SEH's design will include approximately five miles of trail in three separate areas in the Montane, Terrain and Cobblestone Ranch neighborhoods.

This project will be further supported through various partnerships. With Town staff taking the lead, the proposed team will also include Douglas County, Starwood Land Ventures, LLC (the developers of Terrain), Toll Brothers, Inc. (the developers of Montaine), the Douglas Land Conservancy and the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

During the last week of July, SEH held a design kickoff meeting to discuss project scope and goals, stakeholder coordination and action items. SEH will soon begin site surveying.

Final design is anticipated to be completed in fall 2021, with construction occurring throughout 2022. The design will be funded through the Conservation Trust Fund, while a \$2 million grant awarded by the Great Outdoors Colorado Connect Initiative will help fund future project construction.

This project was identified in the Town Council-approved 2015 Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

SELLARS GULCH TRAIL EXTENSION

On July 24, 2020 SaBell's Civil and Landscape LLC began construction of a trail connection. The project will extend the existing Sellars Gulch Trail to Plum Creek Parkway, adding 570 linear feet of 8-foot wide concrete. The extension will provide improved neighborhood access to users. Construction is anticipated to be completed in early September.

SURVEY RESULTS RECEIVED FOR PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Parks and Recreation 2019-2024 Proposed Capital Improvement Plan prioritizes improvements to existing parks. Butterfield Crossing, Mitchell Gulch and Plum Creek area parks are scheduled to receive the first round of upgrades with construction commencing in 2021.

After issuing a request for proposals, staff selected landscape architecture firms DHM Design Corporation and Norris Design for design development. DHM will focus on Mitchell Gulch and Plum Creek area parks, while Norris Design will help plan the changes at Butterfield Crossing Park. Initial site assessments were completed, and staff have worked with both firms to identify essential maintenance work and propose various enhancements.

Throughout July, public feedback was gathered through online surveys to direct each facility's initial renovation design. Postcards were mailed to residents living in the vicinity of each park to encourage participation in the surveys, which were available through July 30. Results can be viewed on the following page. After responses are reviewed, the design firms will create concept plans and additional input will be sought.

These upgrades will be funded by the Conservation Trust Fund, which is comprised of three sources: Colorado Lottery Funds, Douglas County Shareback and recreation licenses. The Conservation Trust Fund is not generated through sales tax revenue and is designated solely for park and trail maintenance upgrades.

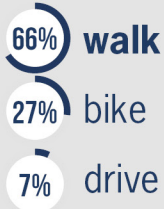
To stay up-to-date on these park improvement projects visit CRgov.com/ParkImprovements.

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SURVEY RESULTS

MITCHELL GULCH PARK

99 replies

HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE PARK?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE PARK?



TOP 3 IMPROVEMENTS OR ELEMENTS:

- 1 Series of looped trails in natural area (48 votes)
- 2 Yard or plaza games (42 votes)
- 3 Kids pump-track/bike features (39 votes)

BUTTERFIELD CROSSING PARK

143 replies

HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE PARK?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE PARK?



TOP 3 IMPROVEMENTS OR ELEMENTS:

- 1 Shade or benches
- 2 Trees or improved landscaping
- 3 Improved playground

PLUM CREEK NORTH PARK

162 replies

HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE PARK?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE PARK?



TOP 3 IMPROVEMENTS OR ELEMENTS:

- 1 Shade structures (109 votes)
- 2 Playground (96 votes)
- 3 Social gathering areas with seats (88 votes)

PLUM CREEK SOUTH PARK

115 replies

HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE PARK?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE PARK?



TOP 3 IMPROVEMENTS OR ELEMENTS:

- 1 Looped trails in natural areas (85 votes)
- 2 Additional trailside seating areas (52 votes)
- 3 Additional shelters (52 votes)



Community Events

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The 2020 Summer Concert Series will kick off on Friday, Aug. 21 at the beautiful Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. The Denver Pops will take the stage for a third straight season with Derek Evilsizor. This year, the Pop's will perform a Salute to Ol' Blue Eyes, featuring classics like Fly Me to the Moon and New York, New York. The Denver Dolls, well known for performing vintage music of the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's, will open the festivities. [Tickets are now available for purchase online.](#) Attendance will be limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and attendees are asked to wear face coverings during the check-in process and while walking around the event.

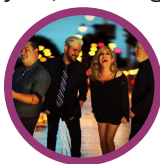
The Summer Concert Series is part of the Town's goal to keep our community character alive with community festivals, concerts and activities. Nestled in the beautiful setting of Philip S. Miller Park, the Amphitheater has become one of Colorado's most-sought-after live music venues. The intimate setting, family friendly environment and amazing acoustics make for a great musical experience.

For more information on this year's concert series and future lineup, visit CRgov.com/PSMConcerts.

FREE CONCERTS RETURN TO CASTLE ROCK

Friday nights in the summer are best spent enjoying the beautiful weather and unwinding from a long week at work in Downtown Castle Rock. First Fridays After 5 returned on July 3 featuring the Dueling Pianos of Howl at the Moon in Festival Park. Prior to enjoying the free music and festivities, runners and walkers participated in the patriot-themed 5k After 5 Run/Walk Series. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, a limited number of event goers were allowed in the park at a single time. Staff counted access points and people were encouraged to arrive early.

For more information on future First Friday's to be held this year, visit CRgov.com/FirstFridays.



08.07 | 5 P.M. | SLAMABAMA
THE PERFECT BLEND OF COUNTRY, ROCK AND POP

09.04 | 5 P.M. | FOOZ FIGHTERS
ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP FOO FIGHTERS TRIBUTE BANDS



The Tunes for Trails free concert series kicked off July 16 with a stellar performance from That Eighties Band. Due to capacity restrictions, attendees were required to register to attend the event held at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park; 470 spots sold out within a single hour.

Donations from this concert series benefit the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation. The Foundation works to enhance the Town's parks, trails and recreational spaces. Because of the concert's limited capacity, the Foundation gave back to the community and live streamed the event through Facebook. Over 1,600 people checked in to the live stream to enjoy the show.

For registration information on future 2020 Tunes for Trails concerts, visit CRgov.com/TrailTunes.



08.20 | 6:30 P.M. | THE LONG RUN BAND
COLORADO'S TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES

09.17 | 6:30 P.M. | FACE VOCAL BAND
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ALL-VOCAL ROCK BAND



PEDAL THE MOON

Nearly 200 people departed Butterfield Crossing Park on Friday, July 31 as part of the 10th Annual Pedal the Moon bike ride. As the bikers traveled south along the East Plum Creek Trail, they enjoyed the sight of the moon and stopped at bike decoration stations to add glow-in-the-dark festivities. Once arriving at Festival Park, riders enjoyed food prepared by Boy Scout Troop 261, viewed the moon through telescopes set up by the International Dark-sky Association and participated in other fun activities set up throughout the park.

To ensure participant safety, masks were worn by all staff members and Boy Scouts. Riders were also asked to wear masks at check-in and main tent areas. Hand sanitizer was available, and tables and other high-use items were continuously wiped down with disinfectant throughout the evening.



Education

RAPTORS OVER THE ROCK

On Tuesday, July 21, residents were invited to attend Raptors Over the Rock at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, over 80 people attended this free, family-friendly event to learn all about the characteristics that define raptors, where they live and how they hunt. Attendees were required to register and were asked to wear face coverings during the check-in process and while walking around the event. Four bird ambassadors were present including a Harris Hawk, a Peregrine Falcon, a Great Horned Owl and a Turkey Vulture.

Raptors Over the Rock is part of the Animals Around the Rock environmental education series, organized by the Town of Castle Rock in partnership with the Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC). DLC is a non-partisan, non-profit land trust dedicated to the protection and conservation of the natural character, habitat and open space of Douglas County and other areas within the central Front Range region of Colorado. While these events are free, donations to DLC are encouraged.

In addition to Raptors Over the Rock, the series has historically featured Reptiles Under the Rock, Batty About Castle Rock and Creepy Crawlies at the Rock. Local wildlife experts, organizations and wildlife rehabilitators, such as Nature's Educators and the Denver Audubon Society, present at each program. Due to safety concerns, this year's programming will be scaled back. Reptiles Under the Rock has been canceled and Batty About Castle Rock may be held virtually. Please visit [CRgov.com/RockAnimals](https://www.crgov.com/RockAnimals) for the most up-to-date information on future offerings.



Community Outreach

DEPARTMENT WINS 6 BEST OF THE BEST AWARDS IN CASTLE ROCK FROM COLORADO COMMUNITY MEDIA

- Golf Course – Red Hawk Ridge
- Live Music Venue – Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- Gymnastics – Castle Rock Recreation Center
- Swimming Pool/Waterpark – Castle Rock Recreation Center
- Park – Philip S. Miller Park
- Family Entertainment Center – Miller Activity Complex



PARKS AND RECREATION PROFESSIONALS HONORED BY GOVERNOR POLIS

Over the past few months, Parks and Recreation agencies across the nation have proven that they are an invaluable essential service in these uncertain times. Throughout this pandemic, 83 percent of people across the country now consider visiting local parks, open space and trails as critical for good mental and physical health. As citizens are told to social distance, there's no better way than recreate outside.

Now, the community is saying thank you to all of the Parks and Recreation staff who has continued to provide these essential services through Parks and Recreation Professional Day. Governor Jared Polis signed a proclamation recognizing park and recreation professionals around the community for their tireless work to ensure local parks, open space and trails remain accessible to all Coloradoans. As health guidelines evolve, Castle Rock Parks and Recreation is prioritizing the public's safety and recognizes the valuable services the department provides to the community.

NEW TRAIL TIPS WEBPAGE

Spending time outdoors is one of the joys that come with the changing season. For many people, hiking or biking the Town's trails is at the top of the summer list. Before heading out the door, the Town wants trail users to keep a few things in mind to help keep everyone safe. This is why staff created a new webpage – CRgov.com/TrailTips – to provide tips for hiking with dogs, tips for hiking in the summer heat and tips on proper trail etiquette. The site also kindly reminds trail users to visit the Town's Facebook page on Thursdays before making any weekend plans as Trail Thursday posts include important updates, such as closures due to construction or upcoming events.


This newly created webpage, along with Trails Thursday social media posts amongst other educational items, have become integral components of the Town's trail etiquette campaign to expand public awareness and provide responsible outdoor recreation tips. Trails Thursday posts consistently rank in the top three for engagement on social media with the Town and the highest for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Home | Services | Parks and Recreation | Open Space and Trails | Trail Etiquette

Trail Etiquette

Spending time outdoors is one of the joys that come with the changing season. For many people, hiking or biking the Town's trails is at the top of the summer list. Before heading out the door, the Town wants trail users to keep a few things in mind to help keep everyone on the trails safe.

1. Be courteous and communicate – the Town's trails are mixed use, meaning they are open to hikers, bikers, runners and walkers. Warn people when you are coming up behind them. Kindly request that slower traffic hang to the side while faster traffic passes.
2. Yield – it's harder to go uphill than down. Generally, downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic.
3. Stay on the trail – don't trample the natural habitat along the soft-surface trails by straying from the path.
4. Be aware of blind corners – slow down through the twists and turns, and please watch out for other users.
5. Keep pets on a leash – interactions with wildlife like snakes and coyotes don't usually end well for pets. Save yourself a vet bill and make sure our four-legged friends stay safe.
6. Don't lunge out – if using ear buds, make sure the volume is low enough to hear your surroundings or use the one in/one out methodology.
7. Don't yell. Mud, no – stay off wet or muddy trails. Leaking tire or shoe prints on muddy trails damages the surface and could require costly repairs. Use one of the Town's many paved trails instead.



Following these basic rules can help ensure all trail users can enjoy the natural beauty around Castle Rock. Check out the Town's [Facebook page](#) before making any weekend plans. Follow our Trail Thursday posts for important trail updates.

Tips for hiking with your dog	Tips for hiking in summer
<p>We love being outdoors, but during the warm weather months, particularly at the height of summer, adapting your hiking routine is essential to ensuring a safe and enjoyable time. Hot weather hiking with dogs, in particular, requires a few extra steps. Here's how to prepare for hiking to prevent heat stroke in your furry companion and any other heat-related injuries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹️ Wash out for hot surfaces. Remember they aren't wearing shoes, however, dog hiking boots can be helpful when walking on rocky paths and hot surfaces. ☹️ Match the difficulty of the trail with the age and health of your pet. You don't want to overwhelm their stamina and be stuck carrying them back to the car halfway through. Believe me, that's no fun at all, and it'll be a long trea back. ☹️ Check on the day's projected weather conditions, so you can tailor your hike with your pet accordingly. This way, if it's stormy, you'll know to dress appropriately, and if there's a heat wave, you'll be prepared to pack extra water, or even more your gear to a cooler day if you're brave enough to hike with your dog during hot weather, avoid hiking during the hottest times of the day. In general, it's smart to set out early in the morning for your hike or wait until the sun is setting in the evening. ☹️ Pack lots of water. Always pack enough water for yourself and your dog. My rule is to pack what I think we'll need, plus some extra just in case of emergency. You never know if you'll need it. Even wetting down your paws for will assist in keeping them cool. <p>Along with water specifically for your pet, bring a collapsible travel bowl or a special water bottle with a built-in bowl. Take frequent water breaks, especially on strenuous ones during hot weather conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹️ Bring the right leash. Evaluate what type of leash will work best for your dog and your planned hike. Opt for a sturdy leash over a longer lead when on the trail. A hands-free leash fastened around the waist gives the dogs some freedom to move around, but they can be easily regained in when needed. For rough, rocky, and steep terrain, we recommend a short leash for more control and to keep your dog close. In Colorado, we're always on the lookout for snakes, and larger creatures, like mountain lions, out on the trail. We are in their territory after all, so it pays to keep your dog close. ☹️ Bring along emergency supplies. When you carry a pet emergency kit with the essentials, like alcohol wipes, tweezers, and bandages, you know that you can address any minor injuries that may come up on the trail. Please note that cacti are prevalent on our trails. ☹️ Clean up after yourself and your pet. Don't forget to bring along enough poop bags to clean up after your pet. You may be out in nature, but as long as you are making use of public land that others have access to it's good to follow the honor code of leaving a place nicer than you found it. If stopping for a snack during a longer hike, make sure to collect the trash and drop it in the trashcan in the parking lot before heading home. ☹️ Bring treats and snacks. Most dogs love getting a special reward, and that doesn't change when hiking, so don't forget to pack a few treats to reward her for being a great hiking partner during one of your breaks. And for longer hikes, bring a snack or even a bowl of food for your pet to keep their energy up, especially when you're both exerting yourselves on a hot weather hike. <p>Source: Edited from article by Melanie Lewis as published on Rover.com</p>	



Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

GOLF CONDITIONS IN COVID-19 CLIMATE

The golf fund has recovered nicely after a bumpy start due to COVID-19 restrictions and closures early in the year. Total revenue at the end of July 2020 is down to budget by \$16,000, which is very favorable considering the course fell \$132,000 behind budget at the end of April. The golf industry as a whole has been thriving since reopening earlier in the year and courses are yielding record revenue numbers as a result. Red Hawk Ridge eclipsed the \$600,000 monthly revenue mark for the first time ever with \$623,662 in July. June also had record revenue numbers beating the previous mark by over \$30,000. If demand remains high, staff is confident that the golf course will meet budgeted numbers by the end of the year.

In addition to the high demand for golf, Red Hawk Ridge is also benefiting from the reuse water source that was added this year. Converting from well water to reuse water has increased the availability of water for irrigation purposes and because of this, staff has been able to keep the golf course in excellent condition throughout the dry summer months. Staff also completed 90 percent of the bunker renovation project, which has led to more playable and aesthetically pleasing bunkers throughout the golf course. Many golfers are playing Red Hawk Ridge for the first time this year and it is safe to say that they are experiencing a great first impression.

