



Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
February 2026
Monthly Report



UPCOMING

Events

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

MARCH
25
Trail Maintenance Group Kickoff Meeting
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Aspen and Cascade rooms at the Miller Activity Complex

APRIL
5
Holiday closure
All day
Cantril School, Miller Activity Complex, and the Rec Center

APRIL
18
Earth Day Conservation Project
9 to 11 a.m.
East Plum Creek
Learn more

APRIL
23-24
Arbor Day Tree Planting
9 to 11 a.m.
Cobblestone Ranch Park on Thursday, April 23 and Mitchell Gulch Park on Friday, April 24

APRIL
23
Wild in our Town
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Philip and Jerry Miller Library

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space and Trail Projects

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.

Castle Rock Sports Center construction advances

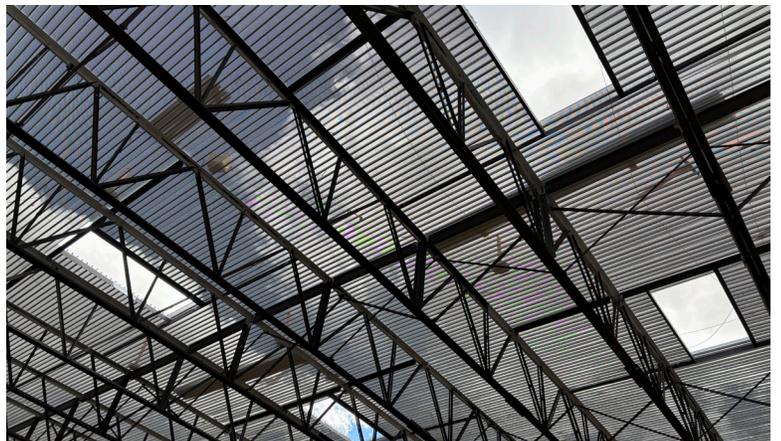
Construction continued this month on the Town's much-anticipated indoor recreation facility, the Castle Rock Sports Center. The 145,000 square-foot facility will serve as a premier destination for sports, recreation and community wellness in Castle Rock.

Work progressed steadily throughout the month, with several key structural and infrastructure milestones achieved. Early in the month, crews began installing roof joists for the recreation gymnasium. Precast erection was completed soon after, allowing the precast crane to be demobilized. Utility work also advanced with completion of underground plumbing in the locker room areas.

Later in the month, crews commenced mass backfilling around the structure and began installing roof drains for the natatorium. Work also began on the building's service gas line, continuing progress on critical infrastructure needed to support future building operations.

Photos at right highlight construction progress and show, from top to bottom, the recreation gymnasium, the natatorium roof and skylights and underground plumbing work in the locker room areas.

The facility, located on 10.1 acres off Prairie Hawk Drive, remains on track for a summer 2027 opening.



OPERATIONAL Updates



Grant expands training opportunities for volunteer coaches

The department was recently awarded the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Coach Training Grant, providing an opportunity to expand training resources for the volunteer coaches who support Town youth athletics programs. Through the grant, up to 150 coaches will be able to complete online training through the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), which focuses on creating positive, supportive youth sports environments that emphasize character development, teamwork and athlete well-being.

The grant also includes a \$2,500 stipend that will be used to provide small incentives and recognition items for coaches who complete the training. Participation will remain optional, as volunteer coaches already complete required background checks and safety trainings while dedicating significant time to supporting youth programs.

In addition, the department received an extension of PCA coach training funded by the Denver Broncos Foundation, allowing staff to offer an additional training opportunity for fall coaches. This session will focus primarily on flag football coaches and may be offered either in person or virtually to maximize accessibility.

Together, these training opportunities further support the department's commitment to equipping volunteer coaches with tools that promote positive youth development and high-quality recreation experiences for participants.

Dog Waste Station Program continues steady growth

The POST Partners Volunteer Program's Dog Waste Station Program continues to support clean parks and trails through partnership with local businesses and community organizations. Now in its 16th year, the program provides waste bags at designated stations throughout the parks and trail system, helping reduce pet waste and maintain safe, welcoming public spaces for residents and visitors.

The program has grown steadily since launching in 2010 with just seven stations. In 2026, the program expanded to 56 stations, up from 55 in 2025, when 40 stations were sponsored by community partners. Currently, 20 sponsorship opportunities remain available, allowing additional businesses and organizations to participate in supporting park and trail maintenance efforts.

Through continued sponsorship and community participation, the program helps promote responsible pet ownership while supporting the ongoing care of Castle Rock's parks, trails and open spaces.

[View a list of 2026 station sponsors and learn more about the initiative.](#)



OPERATIONAL Updates

Upcoming volunteer events offer opportunities to give back

Residents looking for ways to support Castle Rock's natural spaces will have two opportunities this spring through volunteer events hosted by the Town's POST Partners Volunteer Program. These hands-on projects allow community members to contribute directly to conservation efforts while learning more about the importance of protecting local ecosystems.

The first opportunity is the Earth Day Willow Harvest and Planting event on Saturday, April 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. along East Plum Creek north of Wolfensberger Road. Volunteers will help restore riparian habitat by harvesting and planting native willows in areas recently improved through channel and floodplain restoration work.

Later that week, POST will host two Arbor Day tree planting events, continuing Castle Rock's commitment as a Tree City USA community for its 39th year. Volunteers will plant trees at Cobblestone Ranch Park on Thursday, April 23 and Mitchell Gulch Park on Friday, April 24, both from 9 to 11 a.m. These annual plantings help expand the Town's urban forest while highlighting the many benefits trees bring to communities, including cleaner air, improved water quality and cooler neighborhoods.

Both events are coordinated through the POST Partners Volunteer Program, which provides skill-building volunteer opportunities that enhance the beauty and sustainability of Castle Rock's parks, open spaces and trails. The program encourages community stewardship by connecting residents with projects that support the care and preservation of local natural resources.

Community participation continues to be a key part of the program's success. In 2025, 3,273 volunteers contributed 8,839 hours through more than 180 volunteer events, supporting park, trail and open space projects across the community. That dedication represents more than \$340,000 in service value and reflects the strong sense of stewardship residents have for Castle Rock's natural spaces.

Advance registration is required to participate in both upcoming events. [Learn more.](#)



OPERATIONAL Updates



Program highlights: expanding access through inclusive and skill-based recreation

The department continues to offer programs that support wellness, skill development and inclusive participation across the community. Recent highlights from the Therapeutic Recreation and Learn to Swim programs demonstrate growing demand and the department's ongoing commitment to providing meaningful recreation opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.

Therapeutic Recreation programs support inclusion

Throughout February, Therapeutic Recreation programming offered a variety of structured and social activities designed to promote wellness, independence and community connection. Programs included adaptive swim lessons, martial arts, water aerobics and creative arts programming, along with outdoor experiences such as adaptive skiing and snowboarding and a community snow tubing outing. Additional opportunities such as family fitness activities, basketball programming and a recreation center adventure day further expanded participation options.

Collectively, these programs served dozens of participants and several waitlisted individuals, demonstrating continued demand for inclusive recreation opportunities that support physical activity, skill development and social engagement.

Learn to Swim participation increases with expanded scheduling

The department's Learn to Swim program continued to see strong growth during its most recent session. Session 5, held in February, recorded 177 registered participants, representing a 94% increase over the same session in 2025, with an additional 45 individuals on the waitlist.

Several factors contributed to the increase in participation. Daytime swim lesson offerings were added at the Miller Activity Complex, which proved popular with homeschool families and younger children not yet in school. In addition, staff conducted a market analysis and adjusted 2026 pricing to align with 2024 rates, helping make lessons more accessible to families.

The increased enrollment reflects continued community demand for swim instruction and reinforces the department's commitment to providing high-quality water safety programming.



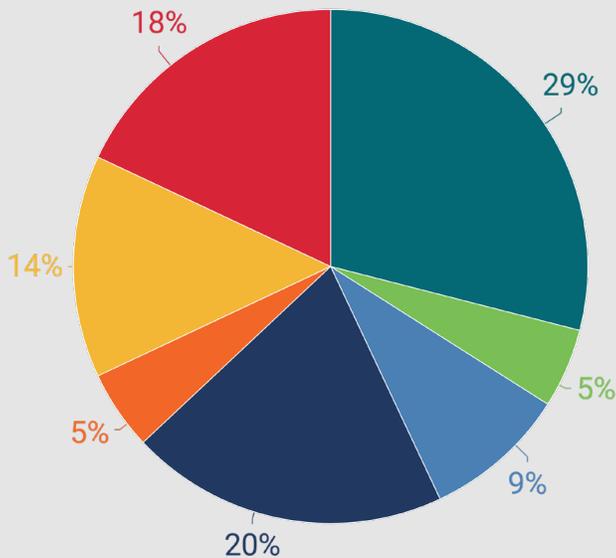
FEBRUARY OPERATIONS

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
- Irrigation operations
- Construction and special projects
- Landscape maintenance
- Tree operations
- Holiday lighting
- Flower box construction



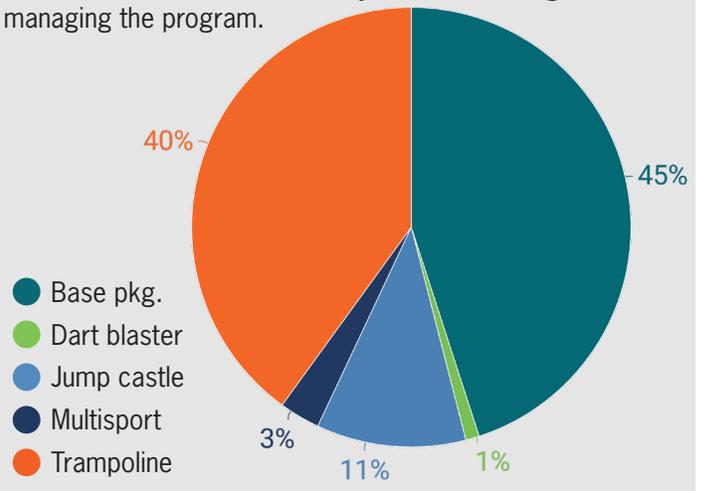
RockREC Registrations



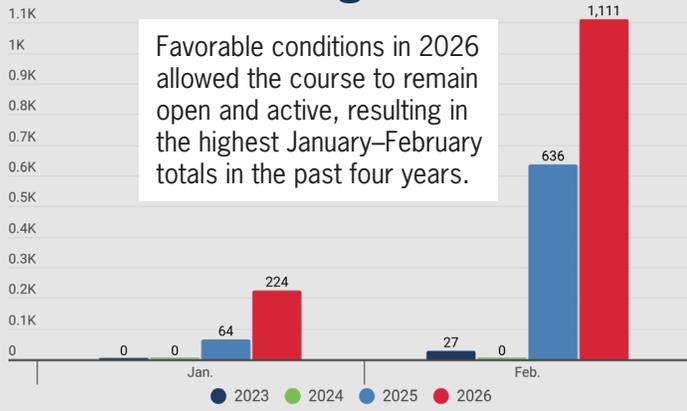
This data represents the number of online program registrations completed via the RockREC app or the desktop version of the site, Recreation.CRgov.com, in January and February over the last three years.

Birthday Parties

February birthday parties continued to demonstrate strong demand, with 73 parties hosted at the MAC and Rec Center, a 15.8% increase over February 2025. Attendance grew significantly, with 960 children participating compared to 763 last year. The MAC reached 76% booking capacity, while the Rec Center reached 38%, and eight weekday parties were hosted, contributing to what was the busiest February on record since the current Party Coordinator began managing the program.



Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course



Favorable conditions in 2026 allowed the course to remain open and active, resulting in the highest January–February totals in the past four years.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Summary

Social Media Overview

Social media remains a key outreach tool for the department, elevating program visibility, event promotion and community engagement. Content is shared through both the Town's Facebook and Instagram platforms and the department's Instagram platform, in coordination with the Communications division, to ensure consistent and strategic messaging.

The department's Instagram engagement increased significantly in February 2026 compared to February 2025, reflecting continued improvements in content strategy and audience reach. Total views grew from 38,600 to 126,900, while reach expanded from 9,900 to 41,500, indicating that content is being surfaced to a much broader audience. Engagement metrics also saw notable gains, with interactions rising from 590 to 3,400, link clicks increasing from 175 to 665, and profile visits growing from 305 to 1,200. Audience growth remained strong as well, with 170 new followers gained in February 2026 compared to 86 in February 2025, demonstrating the effectiveness of strategic content and increased visibility across platforms.

Top performing content

The department's highest-viewed Instagram content in February centered on exciting updates: first, the "Survivor 50" challenge at Philip S. Miller Park's Challenge Hill, and second, an update on the Castle Rock Sports Center. These results show that timely updates related to events and capital projects continue to drive strong organic visibility.

