



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM ROBERT C. HANNA, DIRECTOR

MAY, 2015

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UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Saturday, June 6 (through September 7)**
 - National Trails Day STEP summer program kicks-off
- **Saturday, June 13**
 - REAL Climb 4 Change, Philip S. Miller Park Challenge Hill, 8 – 11 a.m.
- **Friday, July 3**
 - Festival Park interactive community presentation, Movie Night at Festival Park, 5:30 p.m.
- **August 10-14**
 - Recreation Center closed for maintenance
- **August 10-16**
 - Recreation Center gym and racquetball courts closed
- **Saturday, August 29**
 - Pedal the Moon, family bike ride along East Plum Creek Trail, 8:30 – 10 p.m. Meet at Butterfield Park pavilion
- **Saturday, September 12**
 - Pooch Plunge, Butterfield Pool, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **Monday, September 23**
 - Volunteer Bluebird Recognition Pot luck, Public Service Training Facility, 6-8 p.m.



Colorado Arbor Day

PREPARED BY LYNDSEY MILLER, PARKS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The Parks Division plans a celebration each year for Colorado Arbor Day on the third Friday of April. This year Mother Nature had different plans, which forced the division to move Arbor Day back two weeks. On May 1, a mixed class of second and third graders from Clear Sky Elementary joined the Parks Division at Paintbrush Park to plant twelve, 2"-2 ½" trees. Several varieties of trees were planted, including two Crabapples, one Kentucky Coffee, one Golden Rain, one Scarlet Oak, one Chestnut Oak, one Chinkapin Oak, one Black Walnut, two Plum and two Service Berries. The kids were placed in groups with the park employees to learn how to properly plant the trees. The kids also participated in a presentation about how trees grow, live and survive. At the end of the event, each student received a gift bag with a couple seedling trees, as well as, information on the proper planting techniques and care of their new trees. Arbor Day is always a fun event that gives the Parks Division a chance to teach and interact with local elementary school kids.





Tri the Rock and Castle Rock Half Marathon

PREPARED BY RAINA BRIDGMAN, OUTDOOR COORDINATOR

May's rain held off just long enough for the tenth annual Tri the Rock youth triathlon on May 17. The sun was shining, the streets were dry and over 60 volunteers and staff, as well as, 415 participants enjoyed a beautiful Sunday at Butterfield Park. Although numbers were slightly down from last year, owing in part to the unpredictable weather and dismal forecast, the event was undoubtedly a success. Clear Sky Elementary won the school participation award this year with an unprecedented 72 kids coming out to 'TRI' something new. Next year's event already has a following as racer's parents contacted the Parks and Recreation Department with high praise from seasoned athletes stating, "Of all the triathlons their kids had participated in, they would always return to this one as it is always so well organized."



The third annual Castle Rock Half Marathon enjoyed a similar break in May's rain on Saturday, May 30. Lining up in front for the five mile race was elite runner Kenneth Foster of Monument. An Olympic hopeful, he shattered the previous course record by nearly five minutes. The

annual event drew 275 participants this year, many of whom exclaimed, "the runners support in this race, aid stations and volunteers, were exceptional". Runners enjoyed breakfast burritos and fresh fruit provided by Santiago's and Safeway. The feeling of accomplishment was high with runners and many returned with intentions to add this race to their following year's running regime.





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Mesa Middle School – Atlas Bear Team

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR



At the last outing for the season, Mesa Middle School Atlas Bear Team split into five different groups, each helping to maintain a different part of the Mitchell Creek Trail and park network. One group cleaned up trash on the school grounds and completed the weekly nest-box monitoring for the Colorado Bluebird Project. Another group made trail repairs to the Middle School Connection Trail and then hiked the canyon trail. The third group did corridor clearing and debris clean-up along the paved creek trail to Enderud. The fourth group made complete trail improvements and corridor clearing to the Mitchell Creek Canyon Trail. The last group completed corridor clearing while heading south down the paved creek trail to Mitchell Gulch Park, where they cleaned up trash.

New Hope Presbyterian Church

As part of their **Hands of Hope** day of volunteering, 35 church members helped at Philip S. Miller Park by installing crusher-fines along the existing trail coming down from the Challenge Hill. Because that part of the trail, the "Blue Loop", gets year-round use, the crusher-fines will help make it more sustainable in all kinds of weather.



Fourth Annual National Senior Health and Fitness Day

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS

On Wednesday, May 27, Castle Rock's fourth annual National Senior Health and Fitness Day Walk took place at Festival Park. There were nearly 40 participants who enjoyed the sunshine along with a one or two mile walk on the East Plum Creek Trail led by some of the Town of Castle Rock group





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fitness instructors. After the walk, the participants enjoyed coffee and snacks provided by the sponsors of the event: Stryker, Life Spring Home Care, Home Care Assistance and Dazbog Coffee.

Natural Resources Specialist Education Programs

A two-part bird-watching educational series was held in May for the general public. The first part, Basics of Bird-Watching, was an indoor introductory class to birdwatching in Castle Rock. It provided information on field guides, binoculars, local birding hot spots and general birdwatching tips to encourage more residents to get outside, explore nature and learn about local wildlife. The second part of the series was an outdoor guided birdwatching walk held later in mid-May. For this second outdoor class, participants walked along East Plum Creek Trail in the downtown area searching for bird species and improving their bird identification skills. For anyone interested in birdwatching, due to its abundance of healthy riparian (streamside) habitat that favors a diverse range of migratory songbirds, the East Plum Creek Trail is a great place for bird watching with easy access from downtown or northern neighborhoods. In fact, the final count of bird species seen during the two hour outdoor guided walk was 33, which included shoreline birds such as sandpipers, and spring migrants such as warblers and vireos.

Teachers of the Fourth grade classes at Sage Canyon Elementary requested an educational presentation on habitats and ecosystems followed by a guided hike of the park and open space area adjacent to their school. The presentation on local flora and fauna provided an educational background for the students that are creating an outdoor interpretive project for that open space and park area.



Join the Summer Trails Exploration Program!

The Parks and Recreation Department is inviting everyone to get outdoors this summer to explore the beautiful parks, well-planned trails and abundant open space with the Summer Trails Exploration Program, or STEP. The summer-long program kicks off with the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day on Saturday, June 6. Residents are invited to spend the summer exploring Castle Rock trails and be entered to win an outdoor-themed prize. The program will continue through Labor Day on Monday, September 7. An online registration form and tracking log can be downloaded at CRgov.com/STEP. Everyone completing a registration form will get a participation gift. Then, throughout the summer, residents can use the tracking log to keep a record of the number of participating trails they've visited. Every trail hiked will equal one entry into the grand prize drawing at the end of the season. There are 12 sites included in STEP, so participants can earn up to 12 entries. Completed logs should be submitted by September 7. The more sites you visit, the more chances to win the grand prize. Get outside, go for a hike and explore! There's an adventure waiting right in Castle Rock.

For more information on this program, please contact STEP@CRgov.com or 720-733-2294.

As of Tuesday, June 2, we have 115 participants registered for the Summer Trails Exploration Program. And the registration forms keep coming! From the total of 115 participants, 83 are adults and 32 are children under 12 years of age. There are numerous families registering and ready to explore the trails!

2015 International Trails Symposium

Rich Havel, Trails Planner, attended the biennial, international trails conference in Portland, Oregon co-sponsored by American Trails and the Professional Trail Builders Association. Trail managers, advocates, agency and contractors were at the conference from all parts of the world. Conference sessions included topics for getting today's youth outside and physically active, trail signage and social media, volunteer groups, long range visioning and planning, construction techniques and materials. The conference was an amazing opportunity to meet and discuss trail topics with professionals, vendors and consultants.

Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS COORDINATOR

Month/Year	Attendance
May 2014	4,191
May 2015	6,804

May Personal Training		
	2014	2015
30-Minute Session	11	21
Buddy Training	5	4
Individual Sessions	29	54

On Friday, May 29, the Fitness Division held an open house for the new Fitness Garage at the Castle Rock Recreation Center as well as the Mind/Body Studio featuring three new state-of-the-art Pilates Reformers. Certified Pilates Reformer instructors were available to demonstrate the equipment, answer questions and give away gift certificates that are good for one 60-minute session of Reformer Training! In the Fitness Garage, they offered a 20-minute demo class featuring some of the new formats that will be on the Group Fitness Schedule that debuts June 1. In each format, there was an average of 20 participants who all are very excited for the new classes.



MILLER ACTIVITY COMPLEX

MAC Birthday Parties

PREPARED BY MARCY JONES, YOUTH ACTIVITY COORDINATOR

May 2015 MAC Birthday Parties	
Leisure Pool / Climbing Structure	42
Trampoline	5
Trampoline + Leisure Pool / Climbing Structure	15
Jumping Castle	4
Jumping Castle + Leisure Pool / Climbing Structure	2
Sports Theme Party	7
Sports Theme Party + Trampoline	3
Bump Soccer	9
Total Birthday Parties	87
Revenue	\$13,345.00

Facilities

PREPARED BY MIKE KILMAN, FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

The Miller Activity Complex was very busy over the Memorial Day Weekend. Customers took advantage of the many recreational activities available including the leisure pool with its indoor/outdoor feel being extremely popular with the inclement weather. Below are the final weekend statistics:

Total Attendance: 1,587

Total Revenue from Daily Admissions: \$7,083

MAC Indoor Facility Rentals and Athletics

PREPARED BY NICOLE STEHLIK, ATHLETICS SUPERVISOR

Adult Sports –

Summer registration begins on June 1 for all of the Town's adult soccer programs.

Youth Sports –

Staff held a Strider – Learn to Bike introduction class. This was to allow patrons to view the class, try out for free and prepare the instructors so they can develop age appropriate lesson plans.



MAC Facility Rentals Utilization Information

- **Weekday Prime Hours of 4 - 10 p.m.:**
128 reservations utilized 232 out of 378 hours for 61% utilization
- **Weekend Building Hours:**
71 reservations utilized 137 out of 360 hours for 38% utilization
 - ❖ 269 total reservations
 - ❖ 475 reservation hours
 - ❖ 4,779 people on the fields only

Philip S. Miller Park

PREPARED BY JEFF SMULLEN, SUPERINTENDENT OF PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Phase 2 Construction

During the month of May, MW Golden Constructors completed the foundations and walls for the restroom, as well as, site walls in the core plaza. The millhouse footings are also complete and foundation walls will be complete by the second week in June. Amphitheater walls have been excavated and are awaiting foundations, which can move forward now that dry conditions are returning. May was the rainiest month on record with over eight inches of rain. This caused the contractor to lose 25 working days, which will extend the contract completion date to January 16, 2016. Progress is expected to increase significantly in the month of June.



Epic Adventure Tower

Tower construction is complete including the installation of the 42' climbing wall. Head Rush Technologies has moved on site and is working to install and test the zip line cables and Quick Jump devices. A dedication ceremony for the adventure playground and the tower will be held on June 17, 2015 following the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Epic Adventure Tower will be operated by Castle Rock Zip Line Tours and is a fee based service.



Parks and Trails Map Update

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

The Natural Resources Specialist worked with Community Relations staff and a private graphic designer to update the Town-wide parks, open space and trails folding map. The new folding maps will be available to the public by July.

Interpretive Signs

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Staff recently installed 4 new interpretive panels around the Adventure Playground at Philip S. Miller Park. These full-color polycarbonate panels, which were funded in part with a Great Outdoors Colorado grant, highlight the local flora and fauna around the natural landscape, including bluebirds, pines, oak shrubs and pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds. The goal of the panels is to bring environmental education right up to where people play.



Wolfensberger Pedestrian Bridge

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

The Wolfensberger Pedestrian Bridge Project is included in the three year strategic plan with funding proposed for 2016. SaBell's Enterprises and their engineering subconsultant completed the site survey and geotechnical exploration required for design. The completion of the design is scheduled for July 2015. After submitting grant application in March, staff learned that the Great Outdoors Colorado Grant application is not being recommended for funding. However, funds are available in the 2016 budget to complete the project.