



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



UPCOMING

Events

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

NOVEMBER
22

Starlighting
2 to 6 p.m.
Downtown Castle Rock

NOVEMBER
27

Thanksgiving holiday closure
All day
Cantril School, Castle Rock Recreation Center, Miller Activity Complex

DECEMBER
5

Festival Park Starlight Market
3 to 8 p.m.
Festival Park

DECEMBER
6

Festival Park Starlight Market
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Festival Park

DECEMBER
6

Reindeer Games
1 to 4 p.m.
Philip S. Miller Park

DECEMBER
13

Storytellers and S'mores
5 to 7 p.m.
Festival Park

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space and 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.

Construction officially underway for Town's new indoor recreation center

The Town of Castle Rock's much-anticipated, state-of-the-art indoor recreation facility, the Castle Rock Sports Center, is officially under construction in the Brickyard development. The 145,000-square-foot facility will create a premier destination for sports, recreation and community wellness in Castle Rock.

After more than five years of planning and partnership, the Town celebrated the official groundbreaking on Tuesday, Oct. 28. The ceremony was held at the 10.1-acre project site off of Prairie Hawk Drive, the location of the former Acme Brick factory. The facility is expected to open in summer 2027.



The Castle Rock Sports Center will feature two competition gymnasiums for basketball, pickleball and volleyball, a 25-yard by 25-meter pool and a warm-up pool, indoor fitness areas with group exercise rooms and a spinning studio, a child watch area, meeting and party rooms, an indoor walking track, and modern locker rooms. The project also includes a new trail that will link the Brickyard area to Downtown Castle Rock and Philip S. Miller Park.

"This facility will be a game-changer for Castle Rock," said Mayor Jason Gray. "The Castle Rock Sports Center reflects years of planning and community input, and it's being built through strong public and private partnerships that will benefit our residents for generations."

The Sports Center addresses a long-identified community need for additional indoor recreation space. The Town has not constructed a new gymnasium or competitive pool since 1988, when the Town only had about 8,000 residents.

Beginning in 2021, the Parks and Recreation department initiated an Indoor Recreation Feasibility Study and public engagement process to collect input. Through surveys, open houses and stakeholder meetings, residents helped identify preferred locations, as well as features and amenities desired in a new recreation facility.

Because the Town had limited suitable sites for a facility of this size, it issued a Request for Proposals seeking a partner that

could contribute land and help advance the project. Confluence Companies responded with a proposal to build the Sports Center as part of the Brickyard redevelopment, a 31-acre mixed-use project that will revitalize an abandoned industrial property east of Interstate 25.

The start of Phase 1 construction — which includes the Sports Center — marks a key milestone in bringing new economic opportunity to Castle Rock while meeting growing recreational needs and maintaining a high quality of life. Construction of the Sports Center is possible thanks to a public-private partnership between the Town of Castle Rock, Confluence Companies and Saunders Construction.

The approximately \$75 million project cost will be funded through growth-related revenues such as impact fees and future sales and lodging taxes generated by the Brickyard development. The Town's participation is also supported through the Castle Rock Urban Renewal Authority, which helps facilitate redevelopment of underused areas through tax-increment financing. This funding plan allows the Town to expand recreational opportunities responsibly, while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

To learn more about the project and sign up to receive project updates, visit CRgov.com/CastleRockSportsCenter.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

and local impact



Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Brauer honored with statewide award

From scenic open spaces to award-winning trails, parks and recreation centers, much of what makes Castle Rock such a vibrant and connected community can be traced to the vision and guidance of Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Brauer.

The Colorado Parks and Recreation Association recently honored Brauer with its top professional service award in October. The 2025 Fellow Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, longstanding dedication and meaningful contributions to the advancement of parks and recreation in Colorado.

Brauer has devoted over 30 years to the field, including more than two decades of service to the Town of Castle Rock. During that time, he has transformed the Town's parks and recreation system into a nationally recognized model of excellence, earning two National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Awards in 2012 and 2018, and achieving accreditation through NRPA's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies in 2015, with re-accreditation in 2020.

"Jeff's vision, dedication and ability to foster collaboration have shaped Castle Rock into one of the most desirable and active communities in Colorado," said Mayor Jason Gray. "This award is a well-deserved honor that reflects not only his outstanding leadership, but also the positive, lasting impact he's made for our residents."

During his time with the Town, Brauer has overseen the creation, preservation and redevelopment of Castle Rock's most beloved community spaces, including Philip S. Miller Park and the Miller Activity Complex, Festival Park, Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park, Metzler Family Open Space, Butterfield Crossing Park and the inclusive Possibilities Playground, as well as numerous neighborhood parks and local trails.

Most recently, Brauer has spearheaded collaborative efforts with both private and public partners to preserve and activate the historic Cantril School in Downtown as an arts and enrichment hub; complete Castle Rock's segments of the regional Colorado Front Range Trail; acquire and complete the master planning process for the 681-acre Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space; and break ground on a new indoor recreation facility, the Castle Rock Sports Center, within the Brickyard project.

Through innovation, collaboration and a steadfast commitment to excellence, Brauer leads a dedicated Parks and Recreation team that will continue to enhance the quality of life for Castle Rock residents for years to come.

Learn more about the Parks and Recreation department and all it offers Castle Rock at CRgov.com/ParksandRec.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

and Local Impact

Town Council approved Art and Culture Grant Program applications

Town Council has approved the 2025–2026 Art and Culture Grant Program recommendations as presented by the Public Art Commission and Town staff. Funded through the Public Art Fund, this annual program supports local art and cultural initiatives that enhance creativity, education, and community engagement in Castle Rock.

For the 2025–2026 cycle, 17 applications were submitted. After review, six projects were selected for funding, totaling \$30,683.15. These grants span across program, project, and educator categories, reflecting a diverse range of artistic disciplines and community impact.

Approved recipients include:

- AerialWorks – A \$5,000 project grant for a Día de los Muertos-inspired aerial theater performance
- Castle Rock Band – A \$4,968 program grant supporting free community concert performances
- Castle Rock Music – A \$5,000 project grant for completing a new downtown Community Stage
- Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation – A \$4,715 project grant for a carved public art sculpture along Hangman's Gulch Trail
- Tri Arts Project (TAP) – A \$10,000 program grant to host quarterly art exhibitions and community talks at the Cantril School Building
- William Faber – A \$1,000 educator grant for a community songwriting workshop series

The review panel noted strong alignment with the Town's cultural goals among approved applicants. To support future applicants, the panel will refine guidelines, host an informational session and adjust the next application window to open in winter 2025 for the 2026-2027 cycle.

Teen Advisory Group: Empowering youth voices

The department's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) continues to give local youth a meaningful voice in shaping Parks and Recreation programs and community events. Open to students in grades seven through twelve, TAG members play an active role in planning, preparing and organizing activities that make Castle Rock a vibrant and welcoming place. From lending ideas to major community celebrations like Spooktacular and Climb4Change to providing input on Town initiatives, TAG members serve as a bridge between their peers and Town leadership.



For the 2025–2026 school year, the newly established Teen Advisory Group includes ten dedicated members — five middle school students and five high school students — who bring energy and creativity to every meeting.

Their next project aims to spread holiday cheer. Starting Nov. 23, residents can visit the Recreation Center to take part in the Giving Tree, which is a heartwarming initiative organized by the Teen Advisory Group. Each ornament on the tree holds a gift card request for a local family or individual in need. Simply take a tag, attach it to your donated gift card and return it by Dec. 5.

Last year, our community donated 95 gift cards totaling more than \$2,300. With the help of TAG and our generous residents, let's see if we can top that total this season! Learn more about the Teen Advisory Group and their community projects at CRgov.com/TAG.

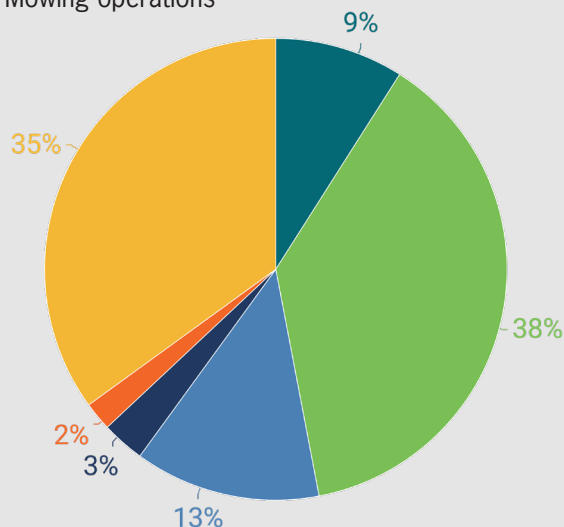
OCTOBER OPERATIONS

By the Numbers

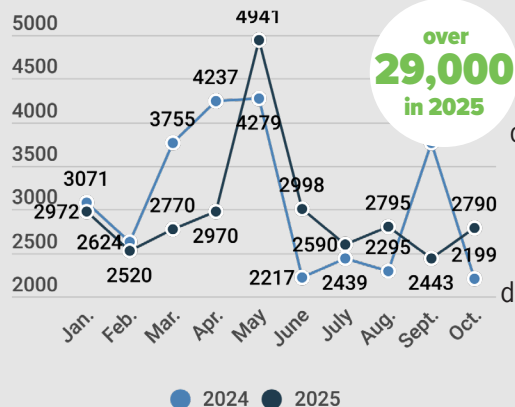
Parks Maintenance and Operations

This chart provides a breakdown of Parks Maintenance and Operations activities and areas of focus for the month.

- Field maintenance
- Holiday lighting
- Irrigation operations
- Construction and special projects
- Weed management
- Mowing operations



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

POST Partners Volunteer Program



293
volunteers

▲ **129%**
increase over
Oct. 2024



682
volunteer
hours

▲ **141%**
increase over
Oct. 2024

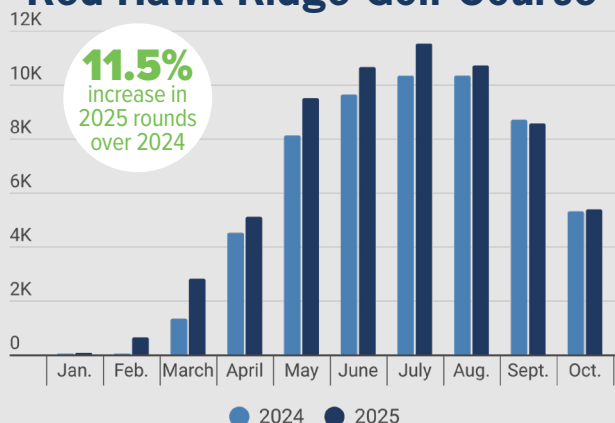


17
events



60
trash bags
collected

Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course



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.

Pavilions at Town parks are also available for rent throughout the year, with the rest being available on a first-come, first-served basis.

6

trolley
rentals



39

pavilion
rentals



SOCIAL MEDIA

Summary

Social Media Overview

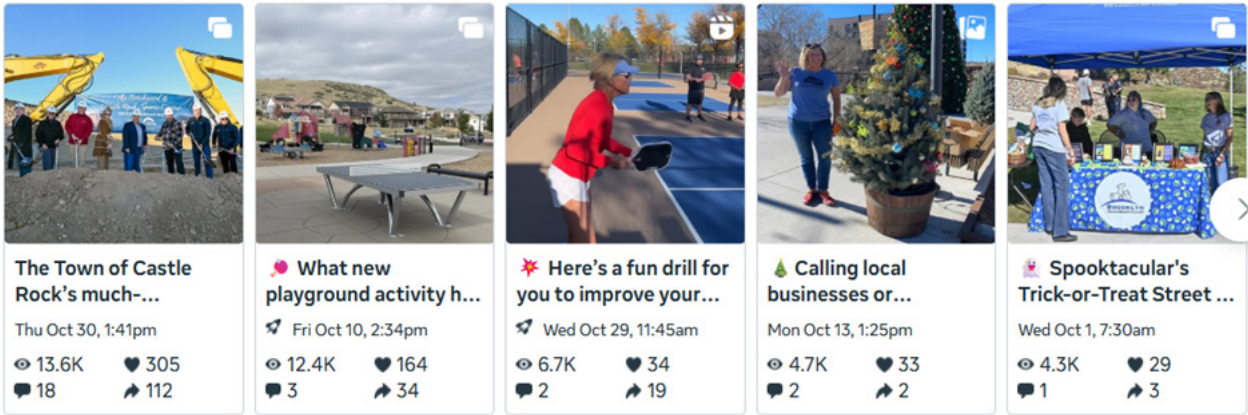
Social media remains a key outreach tool for the department, elevating program visibility, event promotion and community engagement. Content is shared through both the Town's Facebook and Instagram platforms and the department's Instagram platform, in coordination with the Communications division, to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

In October 2025, Parks and Recreation content saw substantial year-over-year growth across platforms. On the Town's Facebook page, Parks and Recreation-related content reached 208,600 users, a significant increase from 65,100 in October 2024. This jump reflects strong community interest in programs, capital projects and seasonal activities.

On Instagram, the department published 91 posts, reels or stories in October 2025, up from 79 during the same month in 2024. Engagement also increased meaningfully: link clicks rose from 240 in October 2024 to 784 in October 2025, indicating higher user interaction with program information, facility updates and event details. This growth highlights the continued impact of the department's dedicated social media content creator, who celebrated her one-year anniversary in August and has significantly strengthened the channel's reach and engagement.

Top performing content

The department's highest-viewed Instagram content in October centered on the Castle Rock Sports Center groundbreaking event, court sports and fall special events. These results show that timely updates related to major projects and seasonal programming continue to drive strong organic visibility.



Audience growth

Instagram follower growth remained steady throughout 2025. The department's account increased from 4,260 followers in April 2025 to 5,536 followers in October 2025, reflecting growing community interest and strong engagement across video and photo-based content.