



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



UPCOMING

Events

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

AUGUST
15
Summer Concert Series feat. Cheap Trick
6 to 10 p.m.
Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
18
Animals Around the Rock feat. Reptiles Under the Rock
6 to 7 p.m.
Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
20
Tunes for Trails / Perks for Parks feat. Santa Rios
6:30 to 9 p.m.
Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
22
Popcorn in the Park feat. The Goonies
5 to 8 p.m.
Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

AUGUST
29
Summer Concert Series feat. Still the Same - Bob Seger Tribute with the Denver Pops Orchestra
6 to 10 p.m.
Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

SEPTEMBER
8
Animals Around the Rock feat. Batty About Castle Rock
6 to 7 p.m.
Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

SEPTEMBER
13
Tri the Rock
6:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Butterfield Crossing Park and Pool

UPCOMING *Events*

Recurring Summer Events

Join us for the following events, recurring throughout the summer. View up-to-date information at CRgov.com/Events.



Yoga in the Park



Sundays 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. | The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Festival Park



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space & 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.

Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space welcomes first visitors

Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space reached a major milestone in July with the successful opening of the property to the public. This open space was preserved to protect its rolling grasslands, ponderosa forests, canyon landscapes and wildlife habitat while providing low-impact public access balanced with long-term resource stewardship.

The month began with a dedication event on July 8, where approximately 100 guests, including neighbors along Lost Canyon Ranch Road and Court, were invited to preview the site through guided hikes, photography opportunities and remarks celebrating the project's completion. Beginning July 9, the property was opened for public access.

Prior to opening, staff completed the final stages of site preparation, including installation of trail markers and temporary wayfinding signage, while continuing to refine trail connections between parking areas and trail loops to support a safe and intuitive visitor experience. Approximately 10 miles of trail are now open to the public, including the Willow Creek Path, Turkey Track Loop, Gobbler's Pass, Pronghorn Path, Bootlegger's Loop, Lost Moccasin Trail, Echoes of Ancestors Trail and Big Bear Hollow. Construction continues on an additional five miles of trail, including Rustler's Ridge and Golden Eagle Loop, with permanent wayfinding signage planned for installation this fall following completion of the remaining trail network.

Trailhead and site improvements also reached completion in July. Chicanes, fencing, gate access infrastructure, bear-resistant trash receptacles, split-log benches and bike racks were installed, while traffic calming improvements along Lost Canyon Ranch Road and the new entry gate became operational to support safe visitor access.

Initial visitation and community response have been overwhelmingly positive. Visitors are encouraged to provide feedback through an on-site QR code survey, with 83% of respondents reporting a positive experience at Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space. Trail counters installed



throughout the property also provide the department with valuable data to guide future operations and planning. During July, the busiest day occurred on Saturday, July 18, when 591 vehicles entered the property following the public opening announcement. Peak visitation occurred during the 9 a.m. hour, with Bootlegger's Loop recording the most foot traffic of the trail counters.

July also marked an important milestone in the long-term preservation of the Lost Canyon landscape. The Town completed the acquisition of the 35-acre Guardian Angel Trust property, an inholding located southeast of Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space that includes an access easement through the property, as well as associated non-tributary groundwater rights and well infrastructure. Town Council approved the \$1.1 million purchase to further protect the character of the area and preserve valuable natural resources. With the acquisition finalized in July, the Town's Lost Canyon Ranch Open now spans 716 acres.

The successful opening of Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space represents a significant milestone in the Town's ongoing commitment to conservation, outdoor recreation and responsible stewardship. Staff will continue monitoring visitor use, collecting public feedback and completing the remaining trail segments to further enhance the visitor experience while protecting the property's exceptional natural resources.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

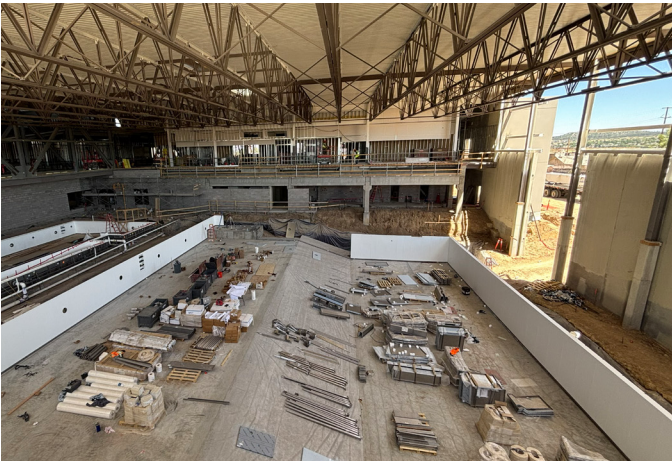
Parks, Open Space & Trails



Castle Rock Sports Center construction continues

Construction continued this month on the Town's much-anticipated new 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.

July marked continued progress as the project advanced toward building enclosure and interior buildout. Major rooftop mechanical equipment, including the primary rooftop units (RTUs) and pool dehumidification units (PDUs), were installed, representing an important milestone in the facility's mechanical systems. Interior construction also moved forward, with ceiling framing beginning in the locker rooms, while framing, in-wall mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) rough-in and above-ceiling MEP work continued throughout both levels of the building.



Building enclosure activities also advanced significantly during the month. Installation of the curtain wall system began in the competition area, while the majority of exterior metal wall panels, glazing and roofing have now been completed. A portion of the north curtain wall remains open to allow construction access, with final installation planned as interior work progresses.

Site development continued around the building as well. Most wet utility installation has been completed, and base course material has been placed on the loop road surrounding the facility. Upcoming work will include curb and gutter installation in mid-August, followed by the first lift of asphalt later this fall as exterior infrastructure continues to take shape.



Photos at left show, from top to bottom, framing for offices, fitness and party rooms; a natatorium overview; and the fitness area, indoor track and gymnasium.

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

JULY OPERATIONS

Updates in Parks and Recreation

Big Drive celebrates Castle Rock's Western heritage

Castle Rock's newest public art installation is now on display at Rock Park Open Space, celebrating the community's ranching roots and enduring Western spirit. In July, the Town's Public Art Commission joined community members and artists Don Kennell and Lisa Adler of DKLA Design to officially dedicate Big Drive.

The installation features three larger-than-life steel sculptures depicting a bull, cow and calf. Created from corten and galvanized steel, the sculptures will naturally weather over time and symbolize strength, family, resilience, stewardship and the connection between generations.

The location at Rock Park carries special significance. Long before Castle Rock became the community it is today, cattle drives helped shape the economy and culture of Colorado and the American West. Today, Rock Park serves as the ceremonial starting point for Castle Rock's annual Western Heritage Cattle Drive, which kicks off the Douglas County Fair and Rodeo each summer. Big Drive builds on that tradition, creating a lasting tribute to the people, history and Western heritage that continue to shape Castle Rock.

Commissioned by the Town through its Public Art Commission, the installation also creates a new destination for residents and visitors to experience public art while enjoying one of Castle Rock's most recognizable open spaces. The project was made possible with support from the Hollie and Anna Oakley Foundation, Indigo Oak Fund, Castle Rock Arts and Culture Foundation and Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation.

The July dedication brought the community together to meet the artists, learn more about the inspiration behind the artwork and celebrate the newest addition to the Town's growing public art collection. Fittingly, the event went off without a hitch. Learn more about Big Drive and Castle Rock's public art program at CRgov.com/BigDrive.



JULY OPERATIONS

Updates in Parks and Recreation



Summer events draw strong community participation

The department's Events team remained busy throughout July, successfully delivering a full calendar of community events while preparing for a busy August schedule. Thousands of residents and visitors participated in celebrations, concerts and family activities that continue to make Castle Rock a regional destination for community events.

July began with the Town's annual First Fridays celebration on July 3, featuring That Arena Rock Show and the free family 5K, which attracted more than 5,000 attendees. The following day, Festival Park welcomed more than 6,000 attendees for the Town's Independence Day celebration. Mid-month, the Tunes for Trails / Perks for Parks concert featuring That Eighties Band drew approximately 2,200 attendees, continuing its tradition as one of the series' most popular performances. The Summer Concert Series also welcomed country artist Jackson Dean on July 18, generating positive feedback from concertgoers.

Other July highlights included Pedal the Moon on July 11, a longtime family favorite that introduced an outdoor movie experience this year with a showing of E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial. The month concluded with the Western Heritage Welcome Cattle Drive on July 24, which set a new attendance record with participation nearly 30% higher than the average attendance from 2022 through 2025.

In addition to delivering these successful events, staff dedicated significant effort throughout the month to preparing for a busy August event schedule, including the remaining Summer Concert Series performances, additional community concerts and the Town's annual Colorado Day celebration. These ongoing planning efforts help ensure each event is delivered safely, efficiently and with a high-quality experience for attendees.



JULY OPERATIONS

Updates in Parks and Recreation

iCan Bike Camp builds confidence and independence

The department's Therapeutic Recreation program successfully hosted another iCan Bike Camp in July, partnering with iCan Shine, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities through adaptive recreation, and the Town of Parker. The week-long camp, held July 20 through 24 at the Parker Fieldhouse, provided 13 Castle Rock participants with the opportunity to learn to ride a two-wheel bicycle while building confidence, independence and lifelong skills.

Research shows that more than 80% of individuals with autism and 90% of individuals with Down syndrome may never experience the independence of riding a bicycle. Through individualized instruction and adaptive teaching techniques, iCan Bike works to change that statistic by helping participants develop the skills and confidence needed to ride independently.

The success of the camp was made possible through the support of 56 volunteers, who contributed 312.5 hours of service throughout the week. Volunteers provided one-on-one assistance to participants in a safe, encouraging and inclusive environment, helping riders progress at their own pace while creating a positive experience for participants and their families. Their dedication played a critical role in advancing the camp's mission of increasing independence, confidence and quality of life through recreation.

Positive coaching training supports youth sports experience

The Parks and Recreation Department successfully completed its National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Positive Coaching Alliance Grant, expanding professional development opportunities for volunteer coaches, staff and youth leaders. Through the grant, participants received complimentary access to the Positive Coaching Alliance online training, which provides research-based strategies for creating positive, supportive and developmentally appropriate youth sports experiences.

A total of 57 coaches, staff members and youth leaders completed the training, helping advance the department's goal of promoting a consistent culture of sportsmanship, positive youth development and character-building across athletics programs. The self-paced course equipped participants with practical tools to strengthen communication, foster positive team cultures, build athlete confidence and create respectful environments for both players and families.



To encourage participation, staff promoted the training through email campaigns, social media outreach, prize incentives and ongoing communication with volunteers. While participation was optional, the initiative reflects the department's continued commitment to investing in coach development and enhancing the overall quality of youth sports programming for Castle Rock families.

The training also builds upon the department's strong volunteer foundation. In 2025, 320 athletics volunteers contributed more than 10,140 hours serving as coaches, race support volunteers and event leaders. Their service, valued at \$392,824, helped participants of all ages build confidence, develop new skills and foster a lifelong appreciation for recreation. Together, these volunteers and the Positive Coaching Alliance initiative reinforce the department's commitment to providing high-quality youth sports experiences led by well-prepared, positive role models.