



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
JULY 2017  
PAGE 1 OF 12

## UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Fitness Fridays**
  - 8-9 a.m. Fridays, Aug. 11, 18 and 25; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Yoga in the Park**
  - 9-10 a.m. Sundays, Aug. 12, 19 and 26; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Recreation Center annual maintenance closure**
  - Aug. 14-18
- **Pedal the Moon**
  - 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19; Founders Park
- **2017 Summer Concert Series - Little River Band**
  - 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Raptors Over the Rock**
  - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Free Concert "Hip Pocket"**
  - 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **2017 Summer Concert Series - Matt Maher**
  - 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Animals of Pokémon**
  - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Pooch Plunge**
  - 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 9; Butterfield Crossing Pool
- **REAL Zumba Glow in the Park**
  - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **2017 Summer Concert Series - Halfway to Hazard**
  - 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22; the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Public Lands Day**
  - 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30; Woodlands Bowl Open Space



**RAPTORS OVER THE ROCK**  
Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park  
Wednesday, July 19 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park for an exciting presentation featuring the birds that share our home. Afterwards, plan on attending the meet and greet and get a chance to see some of our local raptors up close and personal.

This is a free event for the entire family made possible by the Douglas and Conservancy and the Town of Castle Rock through the generous support of \$10,000 per family, we appreciate to help further the program.

Pack a picnic dinner and bring your family out for a night of entertaining education about our local raptors.

RSVP are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome as space allows. To register go to [CRgov.com/RockRaptors](http://CRgov.com/RockRaptors)

**NATURE'S EDUCATORS**  
Educational Wildlife Programs

For more information:  
[CRgov.com/RockRaptors](http://CRgov.com/RockRaptors)  
Get the chance to meet a live Eagle, Hawk, Owl, and Falcon up close and personal!

Sponsored by:  
PHILIP S. MILLER PARK  
ALBERT WEAVER  
DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY  
1375 W. Plum Creek Parkway  
Castle Rock, CO 80104  
TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK  
COLORADO

## **PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION**

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

### **Festival Park**

Big changes took place in July at Festival Park with the installation of two wooden pedestrian bridges. These will provide uninterrupted north-to-south access over the gulch that runs through the center of the park. Contractor M.A. Mortenson placed the concrete wall in the center of the park and backfilled its north side, the forms on the south side of the structure will soon be removed. Construction crews also installed several underground utilities, positioned all of the rock work on the south side of the gulch and placed helical piers for the boardwalk system leading from the park to the parking lot at Town Hall. The landing structure will soon be erected at the southwest corner of Perry Street once its roof arrives.



### **LED Sign Installation**

An LED sign was installed in Philip S. Miller Park. The purpose of this message board is to display information and notifications for park patrons such as upcoming concerts, special events, trail closures, races, etc. The sign was designed to aesthetically match surrounding architecture, and its scale is appropriate for park users.



## **TRAIL PROJECTS**

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

### **East Plum Creek Trail**

The extension of the East Plum Creek Trail is a two mile segment that will lengthen the trail south of Perry Street near Safeway to Crystal Valley Parkway. Most of the extension will be built on Town owned open space, however, there are two private properties the Town will need to acquire to complete the project. Purchase agreements have been signed by both owners and returned to the Town. Property owners are working with the title company to arrange for closing.

In July, project design reached 90 percent completion and engineer cost estimates were submitted to Town staff for review. Once the Town acquires the privately owned land, a public meeting will be planned to gain input from residents on the project and its design.

To prepare for the extension of the East Plum Creek Trail, the Department has joined efforts with Castle Rock Water to complete various trail and stormwater improvements located in the Heckendorf Ranch neighborhood along the Douglas Lane Tributary. Trail improvements will include the Union Pacific Railroad underpass at the project's westerly limit, as well as retaining walls and trail construction to Crystal Valley Parkway. The design for these improvements is also at 90 percent. Final design will be completed this summer with construction beginning this fall.

### **Mitchell Creek and Tabor Court Trail Connections**

Staff continued to work with the Founders Metropolitan District in Founders Village to connect Mitchell Creek Trail to Ridge Road and Tabor Court. The connections are a joint project. The District is responsible for funding the design and construction, and the Town of Castle Rock is responsible for project management and coordination.

Throughout July, the contractor poured the remaining concrete for trail construction and completed the short retaining wall west of the pedestrian bridge over Mitchell Creek at the Tabor Court connection. Items to be completed still include 100-linear feet of railing and site preparation for seeding, mulch and erosion control blanket.





## Castlewood Ranch Neighborhood Connection

The Castlewood Ranch Metro District contacted the Town to request a neighborhood connection from Mitchell Street to both Peabody and Ardmore streets through an existing open space tract. The open space is currently used by Mesa Middle School students who travel to and from school. The completed project will provide improved access for the local neighborhood and a safer commute for students.

In a joint effort, the Town will bid the project for construction, prepare the construction plans for the project, submit the plans for review to Public Works and Castle Rock Water and will provide project management. The District will provide project funding.

In July, design plans were completed, reviewed and approved for construction by Town staff. Staff are now preparing a Request for Proposal and bids will be accepted beginning in August.

## Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course Cart Path Improvements

The third phase of path improvements are now underway at the Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course. Grading, erosion and sediment control plans were completed and will be submitted for Town staff review and approval in August. Construction will begin in September.

### OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

## Raptors Over the Rock

Due to unsafe weather conditions from a strong thunderstorm, the outdoor public event featuring live birds from Nature's Educators, Raptors Over the Rock, was postponed. Organizers had hoped the gathering clouds would move right past the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park in time, but continuous heavy rain and nearby lightning forced a cancellation. Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) received RSVP's from approximately 300 people, the majority of whom were new to the DLC mailing list.

The rescheduled date for the event is 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28. New event posters and publicity are being coordinated with the Town's Community Relations Division.

## Integrated Noxious Weed Management - Releases

As part of an integrated pest management strategy to control noxious weeds on Town-owned properties, the Town utilizes biological control agents such as a seed head weevil insect on diffuse knapweed plants.

In July, collections of *Larinus Minutus*, the lesser knapweed flower weevil, were released in specifically identified areas at Quarry Mesa Open Space and Matney Park Disc Golf Course to address dense infestations. The adult weevils, or small beetles, will feed on the foliage and then procreate. The larvae consume nearly all contents of knapweed seed head, eliminating the seed from the flower. Overwintering adults will return to the knapweed the following year and continue to spread wherever knapweed plants are present; as numbers of weevils increase, the amount of plant damage will also increase. The process takes a few years, but is just one component to noxious weed control, in addition to mowing, mechanical pulling and spraying.



## Integrated Noxious Weed Management - Monitoring

Release sites of lesser knapweed flower weevils and knapweed root weevils at Rock Park and Ridgeline Open Space were monitored this month to assess the efficacy of these biological control agents. These agents were released on contaminated sites in 2016.

At both sites, older knapweed plants showed signs of weevil feeding. Ridgeline Open Space, which had releases of both the flower and root weevils, showed a more significant decrease of any new plant growth, only dead and dried plants were present from last year's growth. Both locations also showed very little growth of new knapweed plants. All of the new plants found were infested with weevils, highlighting the ongoing effect and expansion potential of these biological control agents.



Release Site A - July 2016



Release Site A - July 2017



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
JULY 2017  
PAGE 6 OF 12

## **POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Front Range Christian Church of Castle Rock hosted a youth group from Cross Point Church in Texas. The visitors were anxious to help the community. Over a four day period, the group split time between helping the Parks and Recreation Department and the Sky Cliff Center.

23 youth and three adult leaders volunteered at Philip S. Miller Park to remove all of the cobblestones from the raised landscape beds in the Core Plaza surrounding the splash pad. Now that the beds are cleared, the Park Maintenance Division plans to fill them with synthetic turf so the areas can provide additional shaded seating for visitors.

Volunteers also removed over 500-feet of barbed wire to open Philip S. Miller Park to a contiguous and newly acquired parcel of open space; corridor cleared a portion of the Blue Loop Trail to remove encroaching vegetation; deep cleaned the play structure and locker rooms at the Miller Activity Complex; and finished the remainder of landscaping upgrades from an existing project within the Craig and Gould neighborhood.



## **Special Programs and Events**

PREPARED BY HEATHER ROSSITER, SPECIAL PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR, AND JENNIFER REINHARDT, EVENTS SPECIALIST

July kicked off with a patriotic performance from the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. This 60 piece ensemble, performed for over 600 people over Independence Day weekend with special guest, the Liberty Belles.



Western Heritage Welcome ended the month with a Texas Longhorn steer drive through Downtown Castle Rock.



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
JULY 2017  
PAGE 7 OF 12

Hundreds of people lined the streets as a team of cowhands led by Police Chief Jack Cauley and Commander John Anderson drove a few dozen steer from Rock Park down Perry Street. Residents then enjoyed western-themed food at the chuck wagon.

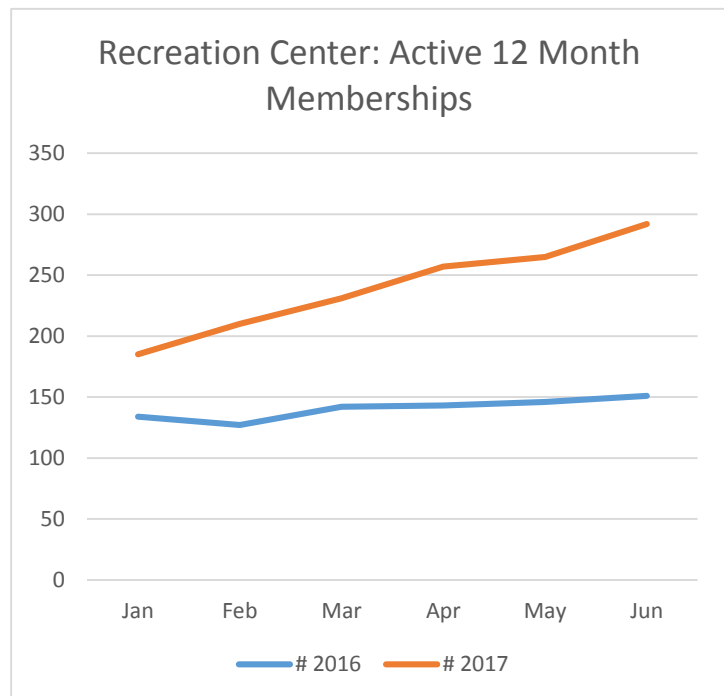


## Recreation Center Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

The Recreation Center ended July with youth driving the daily admissions. For the past five consecutive months, youth daily admission increased over the respective month of the previous year. July 2017 youth admissions increased 2 percent over July of 2016.

Participants on annual memberships also demonstrated a strong performance in July showing an increase of 89 percent of members on a monthly payment plan over July of 2016. Memberships are a positive indication that patrons are increasingly recognizing the value of investing time and resources in participating at the Community Recreation Center.





# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

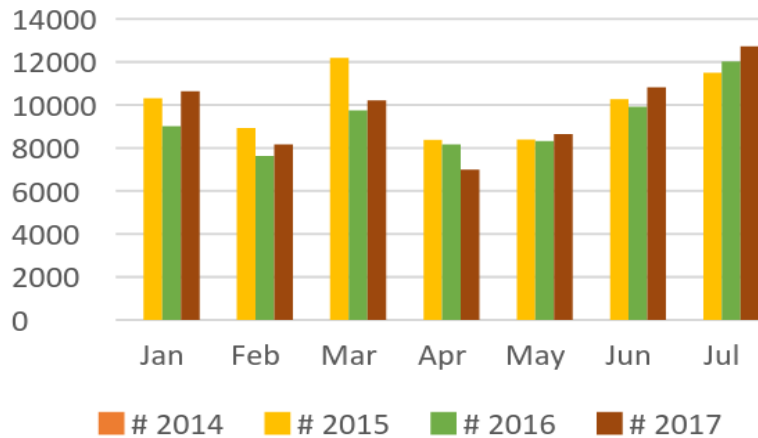
MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
JULY 2017  
PAGE 8 OF 12

## MAC Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

The Miller Activity Complex (MAC) continued to show momentum in 2017. With the exception of April due to pool boiler issues, the facility demonstrates a year-over-year increase in participation each month. July was the busiest month since the facility opened, with daily admissions increasing by 5 percent compared to July 2016. Youth admissions continue to be the driving force with an increase of 12 percent year-over-year.

### Admission Comparison: MAC



## Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS SUPERVISOR

New to the Recreation Center Lobby is the Weigh and Win Kiosk. The kiosk is a partnership with incentaHEALTH, Castle Rock Adventist Hospital and the Town of Castle Rock to incentivize living a healthy lifestyle with encouragement, coaching and rewards. Kiosks participating in this program are part of a statewide network. After patrons complete an initial weigh-in, users receive personalized coaching and tools to promote healthy eating and an active lifestyle. If users weigh-in at least once every 90 days, they will qualify for cash rewards.







# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
JULY 2017  
PAGE 9 OF 12

## Aquatics

PREPARED BY ZACH MORRIS, AQUATICS SUPERVISOR

This year's Cruisers swam strong to end the season. Out of six teams in the Mountain Hi Swim League Division C Championships, Cruisers East and West finished second and third respectively. Between the two teams, 52 participants qualified as All-Stars.

The Castle Rock Rippers dive team competed in the Rocky Mountain State Games at Colorado College on July 29. All ten of the competing Castle Rock divers placed, bringing home four gold medals, four silver medals, one bronze medal and a fourth place.



## Athletics

PREPARED BY SCOTT SMEETON AND MATT GASSER, ATHLETICS SUPERVISORS

The summer baseball program ended with celebratory spirit, highlighted through playoff, championship and all-star games at Metzler Ranch Park. Runner-up and champion teams from the fifth through eighth grade levels received trophies during postgame, on-field announcements. For the all-star competition, players were recognized prior to the game and announced as they came to bat. Music was played between innings and highlights announced to honor the participants for a season well played.





# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
JULY 2017  
PAGE 10 OF 12

During the month of July, Athletics staff offered the 14er program. Six participants trekked up the steep mountainside on a cloudy day to conquer Mt. Bierstadt! This was the first time in two years the program ran due to the amount interest and registered participants. Registration is now open for another hike in August to Mt. Quandary near Breckenridge.



## Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

PREPARED BY BOB PERSICHETTI, HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

July started out hot and dry but ended with heavy rains. Over the final eight days, the golf course received over five inches of rain. While the moisture was a welcome sight following very dry conditions, it did impact playability for patrons. The course was showing significant signs of heat stress prior to the rain events, but has since recovered entirely without significant turf loss damage.

Total revenue for the month was \$514,415, which marked a \$54,218 above the 10-year average and the second best total in July since the course opened. Heading into August, the Golf Fund is \$34,007 ahead of budget and \$135,499 ahead of the same period in 2016. The average income per player year to date (YTD) is \$1.41 above the average in 2016. Overall, the fund is in a healthy position through the first seven months.

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Total Revenue	\$514,415	\$522,566	\$523,229	\$1,734,619	\$1,599,120
Total Rounds	5,884	6,105	6,251	20,797	19,502
Avg. Income/Player	\$87.43	\$85.60	\$83.70	\$83.41	\$82.00
Golf Shop Sales	\$35,092	\$34,493	\$35,299	\$117,909	\$109,778
Food and Beverage Sales	\$97,112	\$100,733	\$103,060	\$295,427	\$285,111



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR

JULY 2017

PAGE 11 OF 12

## Golf Course Maintenance

The month of July has been very hot and dry. Staff stayed busy repairing sprinkler heads and hand watering. The golf course reduced irrigation levels to less than 59 percent of the evapotranspiration rate to conserve water for the Town. Mowing heights were raised in the roughs and on the fairways to help the turf through the drought. Wetting agent injection was used to maximize available irrigated water. In addition, sulfate of potash was applied to assist the turf with heat stress tolerance.



Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. One of the central certification categories of this program is water conservation. Red Hawk proudly uses one-third less water than the average course in this region of the country. To assist with the drought, staff even cleaned machinery by blowing debris with air instead of utilizing water. Staff are researching the increased use of native plant species to reduce irrigated acreage, and water has been turned down to minimal levels on peripheral areas such as hole five along Prairie Hawk Drive.

## Athletics Field and Turf Mowing

PREPARED BY CORY WHITE, PARKS SUPERVISOR

During July, the Town of Castle Rock had the privilege to host the USSSA State Baseball World Series. This event takes place the first week of the month where teams from around Colorado come to play for the state title. Field staff do an incredible job of preparing for this important event that generates tax revenue through hotel stays, restaurants and miscellaneous purchases throughout the week.



Throughout the month, staff worked on improvements to areas of need, removed over 1,800 square feet of irrigated sod around Metzler Ranch Park and replaced the sod with left over cobblestone recently removed from Philip S. Miller Park. Maintenance crews will soon add plants, decorative grasses and planting beds to improve the aesthetic appeal of the landscaping.

