



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



UPCOMING

Events

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

MAY
24
Festival Park Farmers Market Kickoff
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Festival Park

JUNE
5
First Fridays feat. Mallrats
5:30 to 9 p.m.
Festival Park

JUNE
6
National Trails Day
8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Gateway Mesa Open Space

JUNE
13
Climb4Change
6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
The Challenge Hill
at Philip S. Miller Park

JUNE
18
Tunes for Trails / Perks for Parks feat. The Rick Lewis Project
6:30 to 9 p.m.
The Amphitheater
at Philip S. Miller Park

JUNE
26
Summer Concert Series feat. The Marshall Tucker Band
6 to 10 p.m.
The Amphitheater
at Philip S. Miller 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.

Construction progresses at the Castle Rock Sports Center

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.

Work progressed steadily throughout the month, with continued advancement in both structural and interior construction. Early in the month, crews began installation of the indoor track system within the competition area, marking progress on one of the facility's key program elements. Mass backfilling operations also resumed on the south side of the building, supporting site stabilization and preparation for future exterior improvements. Mid-month, major transitions in construction activity occurred as the steel crane was demobilized, reflecting completion of primary structural steel work, and CORE Electric mobilized on site to begin electrical infrastructure installation. Concrete work continued throughout the facility, including placement of slab-on-grade in office spaces, party rooms and the spinning studio, further advancing interior buildout. Significant progress was also made in the aquatics area. Crews placed the program pool mat slab and began construction of the east retaining wall, followed by the start of Myrtha pool wall installation, a key component of the pool system that will define the final shape and structure of the program pool.

Photos at right highlight construction progress and show, from top to bottom, the center staircase, backfilling at the south entrance and the upper competition gymnasium lobby. All photos were taken April 20.

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



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space & Trails



Trail and site improvements continue at Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space

Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space continues to take shape as one of Castle Rock's most significant conservation and recreation projects. This 681-acre property was preserved to protect its rolling grasslands, ponderosa forests, canyon landscapes and wildlife habitat, while providing future low-impact public access.

April marked substantial progress toward completion of Phase 1 improvements, with key advancements in trail construction, roadway development and site readiness. Corridor clearing is now complete, and major trail segments, including the Willow Creek ADA path, Turkey Track Loop, Gobbler's Pass and connecting trails, have been constructed. In total, approximately seven miles of trail are now complete, including features such as stone steps, rock armoring and retaining walls that support both sustainability and user experience.



At the Creekside trailhead, ADA parking stalls have been installed, and the Willow Creek ADA-accessible trail is now complete. Accessibility features such as chicanes have been incorporated to accommodate wheelchair access while restricting bike use along the path. Crews will continue refining trail connections from parking areas to trailheads in advance of the anticipated July opening.

Roadway and site infrastructure also advanced this month. The entry road from the existing gate to the Creekside trailhead has been asphalt paved, and road base installation between Creekside and Cattleman's trailheads is complete, with additional asphalt work planned for June. Ongoing efforts include trailhead parking lot construction, erosion control and site stabilization, as well as evaluation of internal roadway fencing needs. Staff are also coordinating with a sign fabricator and finalizing property signage graphics to support wayfinding ahead of opening.



From an environmental stewardship perspective, wildlife activity continues to be closely monitored. A golden eagle nest on the property has at least one chick, and staff are coordinating with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on mapping and management efforts. Additionally, a prairie falcon nest has been identified along the west rim, reinforcing the importance of balancing recreation access with habitat protection.

These efforts reflect the Town's continued commitment to preserving natural and cultural resources while thoughtfully expanding public access. Lost Canyon Ranch remains on track for an anticipated public opening this summer.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space & Trails

Advancing the Industrial Tributary Trail

In April, Town Council approved an amendment for continued design and engineering services related to the Industrial Tributary Trail project. Identified in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan, the Industrial Tributary Trail is a critical east-west connection that will link Philip S. Miller Park, the Castle Rock Sports Center, the Brickyard development and western neighborhoods with Downtown Castle Rock. The trail also will improve pedestrian safety by providing an alternative connection outside the busy Plum Creek Parkway and Interstate 25 interchange area.

The Town's portion of the project includes approximately 1 mile of 10-foot-wide paved trail extending from Philip S. Miller Park under Prairie Hawk Drive and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad, with additional crossing improvements planned near East Plum Creek to connect users to the existing trail system. Separately, the Miller's Landing and Brickyard developments are funding and constructing the first half-mile of trail between the Plum Creek Parkway underpass and Prairie Hawk Drive.

Due to the project's proximity to drainage infrastructure and the railroad corridor, extensive coordination and permitting are required to complete the final design. The project includes complex engineering elements such as a proposed tunnel beneath the BNSF railroad, a low-water crossing near East Plum Creek, environmental studies and coordination with agencies including Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Department of Transportation. Approval of the amendment will allow design finalization, secure required approvals and advance the project toward construction. Design is anticipated to be completed later this year with construction expected to begin this fall. The trail is anticipated to open in coordination with the Castle Rock Sports Center in 2027.

Partnership with AllTrails enhances trail access and user experience

The Town of Castle Rock continues to expand access to its trail system through its designation as an official Public Lands partner with AllTrails, a widely used digital platform for outdoor recreation. This partnership allows the Town to provide residents and visitors with a centralized, reliable source of trail information as the community enters peak trail use season.

Through this collaboration, staff have worked closely with AllTrails to ensure that Castle Rock's trail system is accurately represented and regularly updated within the platform. As an official Public Lands partner, the Town is able to share verified trail data, including maps, routes, difficulty levels and elevation profiles, while also providing timely updates related to trail conditions, closures and safety alerts. This helps improve the overall user experience by allowing trail users to plan ahead and make informed decisions before recreating.

The partnership also supports broader goals related to safety, stewardship and accessibility. By directing users to a trusted source for current information, the Town can help reduce impacts to natural resources, encourage responsible recreation and improve navigation across the trail network. In addition, user-generated reviews and photos provide valuable real-time insights that complement official updates and enhance community engagement.



OPERATIONAL

Updates and Insights

Program and Event Updates

Wild in Our Town event connects community with local wildlife education

The annual Wild in Our Town event was held April 23 at the Philip & Jerry Miller Library, bringing together approximately 80 attendees for an evening focused on wildlife education and community awareness. The program continues to be a valuable partnership opportunity, with participation from the Town of Castle Rock, Douglas County Open Space, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance.



Attendees had the opportunity to learn about a wide range of native species, including coyotes, bears, mountain lions and other

wildlife commonly found in the region. Presentations focused on practical strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and promote responsible wildlife viewing, supporting broader community safety and stewardship goals. Interactive elements, including real wildlife displays, enhanced engagement and provided a hands-on educational experience for participants of all ages.

The event remains an effective tool for increasing public awareness and reinforcing the Town's commitment to natural resource education, safety and coexistence with local wildlife. Public environmental education opportunities will continue this summer, beginning in July with Raptors Over the Rock on July 7, the first event in the Animals Around the Rock series.

First Fridays brings summer fun to Downtown Castle Rock

Planning is underway for the return of the First Friday series, a popular summer tradition that brings live music, recreation

and community activity to Downtown Castle Rock. Hosted at Festival Park on the first Friday of June, July and August, the series continues to serve as a key activation event that supports local engagement and enhances the downtown experience.



The First Friday series combines free live concerts, family-friendly activities, food vendors and a community-focused atmosphere, alongside the First Fridays 5K fun run, which begins each evening at 5:30 p.m. These unofficially timed runs and walks provide an additional recreation component, encouraging residents to engage in fitness before enjoying the evening's entertainment. Participation in the 5K is free, with a waiver required, and continues to be a well-attended feature of the event.

The 2026 concert lineup reflects continued investment in high-energy, broadly appealing entertainment, with performances scheduled throughout the summer:

- June 5: Mallrats
- July 3: That Arena Rock Show
- Aug. 7: Six Million Dollar Band

Staff across multiple divisions are coordinating efforts to ensure a successful season, including event logistics, permitting, safety planning, vendor coordination and race operations. Preparations also include managing downtown impacts, coordinating setup and teardown and ensuring a seamless integration of both the concert and 5K components each evening.

As the series returns this summer, the focus remains on delivering a safe, engaging and accessible experience that encourages residents to gather, stay active and enjoy Castle Rock's vibrant downtown environment.

SEASONAL *Preparations*

Farmers Market at Festival Park set to return for summer season

Staff are preparing for the return of the Farmers Market at Festival Park, a seasonal event that supports local agriculture, small businesses and community engagement in Downtown Castle Rock. The market will open Sunday, May 24 over Memorial Day weekend and will run weekly from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through mid-October.

The market will feature nearly 40 vendors, offering a wide range of products including locally raised meats, fresh



produce, baked goods and artisan-made items. The event continues to serve as a key opportunity for residents to access local goods while

supporting regional vendors and fostering connections within the community.

Staff across multiple divisions are coordinating efforts to prepare for the market's return, including vendor coordination, site logistics, permitting and operational planning. The event is hosted in partnership with The LOCAL Colorado, which manages vendor recruitment and overall market operations. As the market season approaches, the focus remains on delivering a well-organized and welcoming experience that encourages residents to gather, shop locally and enjoy Castle Rock's downtown amenities throughout the summer and early fall months.

Staff prepare for outdoor pool and splash pad season

Staff are preparing for the return of outdoor aquatics operations ahead of Memorial Day weekend, when Burgess

Memorial Pool, Butterfield Crossing Pool and the Town's splash pads are scheduled to open for the summer season.

Preparations are underway to ensure all facilities are operational, well-maintained and ready to meet community demand during peak summer months.

Pre-season efforts include routine inspections, cleaning and coordination across staff teams to prepare facilities for public use. This work helps ensure pools and splash pads are functioning properly and aligned with health and safety expectations prior to opening. Staff are also finalizing seasonal operations, including scheduling, staffing and programming to support a smooth start to the aquatics season. Burgess Memorial Pool will again offer family-focused amenities such as a lazy river and zero-entry play pool, while Butterfield Crossing Pool provides lap swimming opportunities along with recreation features for all ages. In addition, splash pads at Festival Park and Philip S. Miller Park will reopen, offering convenient options for residents to cool off throughout the summer.

These coordinated efforts support a successful opening of outdoor aquatics facilities and help ensure a positive experience for residents and visitors as the summer season begins.

