



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



UPCOMING

Events

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

DECEMBER

24

Holiday closure
2 p.m. early closure
Cantril School, Miller Activity Complex,
Rec Center, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

DECEMBER

25

Holiday closure
All day
Cantril School, Miller Activity Complex,
Rec Center, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

DECEMBER

31

Holiday closure
2 p.m. early closure
Cantril School, Miller Activity Complex,
Rec Center, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

JANUARY

1

Holiday closure
All day
Cantril School, Miller Activity Complex,
Rec Center, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

JANUARY

1-31

Tree recycling
Begins Dec. 26
Visit CRgov.com/TreeRecycle
for locations and instructions

JANUARY

31

Winter Ball
9 to 9 p.m.
James R. Sullivan Events Center at the
Douglas County Fairgrounds

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Parks, Open Space and Trail Projects

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.

Trail Construction commences at Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space

Trail construction at Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space began on November 12 with crews focusing their initial work near the Creekside trailhead. Since mobilizing, over a half a mile of the Turkey Track Loop has been completed. Crews will now shift efforts to completing the trail loops north of the trailhead as the larger network begins to take shape.

This work is part of the first phase of improvements identified in the site's Master Plan and Management Plan, which prioritize sustainable public access while protecting ecological and cultural resources. Timberline TrailCraft LLC was selected as the construction contractor due to its expertise in sustainable trail design. The contract includes construction of roughly 15 miles of soft-surface trails with a range of difficulty levels, native stone features, stream crossings, hand-built segments and accessible routes such as the Pronghorn Path ADA trail.

The trail construction contract totals \$781,787.48 with a 10 percent contingency, funded within the \$2 million budget allocated for first-phase improvements. This work will establish the core of the property's trail system in preparation for the planned public opening in 2026. The project reflects strong community support for trail access at Lost Canyon Ranch and reinforces the Town's commitment to sustainable open space stewardship.

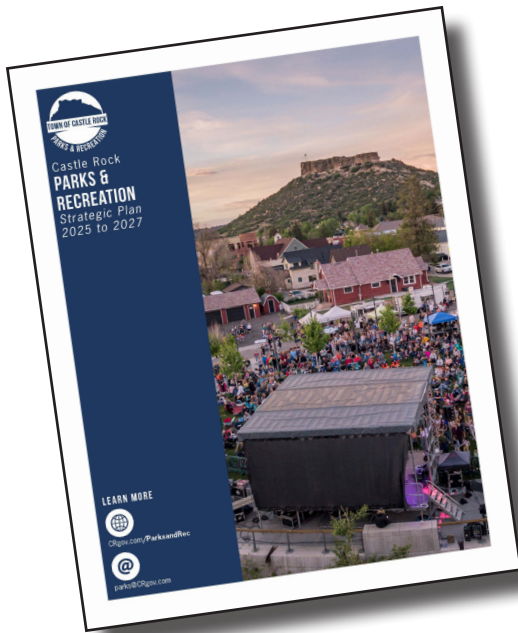
Emerald Park stone step access improvements

Two sets of stone steps were completed this fall at Emerald Park to improve neighborhood access to the park and bocce courts. Beginning in mid to late July, SaBell's Civil & Landscape, LLC installed the stone steps to formalize a social path that had formed along the sidewalk on Emerald Drive as residents began using the new park. The project addressed the need for a sustainable and safe access route for pedestrians entering the park from the neighborhood. This improvement was funded using contingency dollars from the original park construction project and supports long-term durability and accessibility of the site. These enhancements further strengthen Emerald Park as a well-loved and well-connected neighborhood amenity.



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Updates in Parks and Recreation



Parks and Recreation 2025 to 2027 Strategic Plan approved by Town Council

Town Council has formally approved the Parks and Recreation Department's 2025 to 2027 Strategic Plan, which outlines near-term priorities for maintaining and enhancing the Town's system of parks, open space, trails, recreation facilities and Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course. The plan aligns with the Town's 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan and incorporates extensive community feedback gathered through recent surveys and public engagement efforts.

The Strategic Plan establishes a three-year framework focusing on proactive planning, infrastructure investment and community well-being. It provides clear guidance for budget prioritization and resource allocation across operational and capital initiatives, ensuring continued investment supported by sustainable funding sources. The plan highlights significant upcoming projects across divisions, including activation of Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space, construction of the Industrial Tributary Trail connection to Philip S. Miller Park, improvements at the Recreation Center, Miller Activity Complex and Cantril School and facility upgrades at Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course.

The department's recent accomplishments, such as the Emerald Park construction, Butterfield Crossing Park renovation, completion of the Front Range Trail in Castle Rock and ongoing improvements across recreation facilities, demonstrate the organization's readiness to implement the new plan. Approval of the Strategic Plan formalizes a shared vision for the next three years and reinforces the Town's commitment to high-quality parks, recreation programs, open space stewardship and community-focused services.

Holiday card art contest recognition

The Public Art Commission, in partnership with the Town Manager's Office, completed its fourth call for student artwork for the Town's official holiday card. Twenty-seven students from across the community submitted creative and thoughtful entries. This year's winning artist, Kamryn B., a Castle Rock eighth grader, was selected for her colored pencil drawing depicting a snowy Castle Rock.

Kamryn's artwork is now on the cover of the Town's 2025 holiday card and displayed in Town facilities. She received a set of printed cards featuring her design, a \$100 gift card and was formally recognized at a Town Council meeting. Holiday card packs featuring her artwork are available for purchase at Town facilities, with proceeds supporting Castle Rock's ongoing public art initiatives.

The Public Art Commission expressed appreciation for the creativity shown by all participating students and highlighted the program as an engaging way to promote youth involvement in the arts and celebrate the community's talent. Learn more at CRgov.com/HolidayCard.



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Updates in Parks and Recreation

Barbara Spagnuolo honored with Wild Heart Award for leadership in wildlife stewardship

Barbara Spagnuolo, the department's Natural Resource Specialist, was recognized for her exceptional dedication to wildlife conservation with the Wild Heart Award, presented on Nov. 8 during the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance's inaugural gala.

The Wild Heart Award celebrates individuals whose commitment and impact elevate the protection of wildlife and wild places. Recipients embody stewardship that is both heartfelt and influential, qualities that Spagnuolo has demonstrated through her work in Castle Rock and the broader region.

The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance (RMWA), which hosted the event, was founded to strengthen collaboration among wildlife professionals and expand access to ongoing education in the field. Recognizing gaps in professional connections and training opportunities, the organization emerged from a desire to foster community, share expertise and empower those working to protect Colorado's wildlife. Rooted in a deep love of animals and a mission to enlighten the public on conservation and coexistence, RMWA now serves as a regional leader in wildlife education and rehabilitation.

Spagnuolo's connection to RMWA is longstanding and meaningful. RMWA is a partner in two of the Town's signature wildlife-focused programs, Animals Around the Rock and Wild In Our Town, both of which she oversees from concept to completion. RMWA, based in Sedalia on the Cherokee Ranch grounds, works with more than 20 partners across the state, with Castle Rock playing a key role in collaborative education and outreach.

Spagnuolo's leadership, expertise and unwavering advocacy for wildlife have made a lasting impact on Castle Rock's natural resource programming and on the many residents who have learned from her stewardship. The Wild Heart Award underscores not only her professional excellence but also the genuine passion she brings to protecting the natural world.



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Updates in Parks and Recreation



DDML Grants expand access to Therapeutic Recreation services

Therapeutic Recreation was awarded two grants for 2025, with funds to be utilized in 2026. These awards will provide meaningful financial support to ensure more participants can access adaptive swim lessons and Therapeutic Recreation opportunities, specifically supporting Douglas County residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The program received \$5,440 for Adaptive Swim Lesson scholarships and \$13,600 for Therapeutic Recreation program scholarships.

These grants are funded through Douglas County's Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy (DDML), a dedicated one-mill property tax established in 2001 to expand services for individuals with developmental disabilities. A portion of these funds is distributed annually through a competitive grant process that supports programs promoting community access, wellness and independence for the I/DD community. Funding from DDML has historically helped local agencies provide respite care, adaptive recreation and other essential supports, and the 2025 awards will further strengthen the department's ability to deliver inclusive, high-quality services to residents.



Geology education partnership and new public resources

Parks and Recreation staff partnered with geology student Brendan Bialy from Metropolitan State University of Denver to develop new educational tools that highlight the unique geology of Castle Rock. This collaboration produced an educational brochure and a new webpage featuring the three major rock types found in town and the geologic history that shaped the region. The webpage is available at CRgov.com/Geology.



As part of the project, Brendan led a guided geology hike at Rock Park in early November to explore the diverse mix of rock types along the site's trail system. The hike filled quickly, demonstrating strong community interest in local geology. Based on this response, staff are working with Brendan to offer additional guided geology hikes in the future.

The new materials share the story of Castle Rock's landscape, shaped by ancient mountain uplift, volcanic activity and long periods of flooding that deposited the Dawson Arkose Sandstone, Wall Mountain Tuff and Castle Rock Conglomerate. These resources provide residents with an accessible way to learn about the area's deep geologic past while exploring local parks and open spaces.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Updates in Parks and Recreation

Strengthening youth sports through coach development and volunteer support

Youth sports in Castle Rock continue to thrive thanks to the dedication of hundreds of volunteer coaches and the department's growing commitment to supporting them. This year, Parks and Recreation expanded its training, onboarding and recognition efforts to better equip coaches with the tools they need to create positive, developmentally supportive environments for young athletes.

INVESTING IN COACH TRAINING AND GROWTH

On Friday, Nov. 7, a dozen youth athletic coaches participated in an online training delivered by the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). The session focused on how positive coaching builds resilience, confidence and character in young athletes.



Coaches learned strategies for giving effective, specific praise; running practices that are fun, focused and inclusive; strengthening team culture; and partnering successfully with parents. The training was

led by presenters with extensive coaching backgrounds, including PCA's mental performance coach for the Arizona Diamondbacks, bringing professional-level expertise to Castle Rock's volunteer community.

This fall's workshop built on momentum from August, when Parks and Recreation partnered with the Denver Broncos and PCA to host an in-person session titled Developing Competitors and Mental Wellness through Positive Coaching. That event equipped 25 coaches with actionable techniques to "honor the game," coach for character, and foster trust on and off the field.

TRAINING AWARD EXTENDED THROUGH 2026

Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce that the Positive Coaching Alliance training award, initially granted for 2025, has been extended through 2026 with ongoing support from the Denver Broncos. This extension will allow the department to provide additional training opportunities for coaches supporting flag football, volleyball and baseball, delivered either online or in-person based on program needs.

VOLUNTEER COACH SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

Volunteer coaches remain essential to delivering high-quality, affordable youth sports. For the upcoming winter basketball and volleyball season, the department onboarded 117 volunteer coaches. Staff reviewed 585 individual compliance requirements, ensuring 100% completion of background checks, concussion training and abuse-prevention training before the season began. As an added acknowledgment of their service, coaches who uphold the department's Code of Conduct throughout the season will receive a registration credit toward future programs.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Last year, 276 volunteer coaches contributed more than 8,400 hours to youth sports in Castle Rock. Continued investments in training and recognition strengthen the department's ability to support these volunteers, reinforce positive youth development and maintain youth athletics as a cornerstone of community connection.



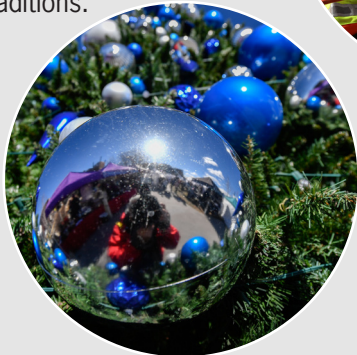
NOVEMBER OPERATIONS

By the Numbers

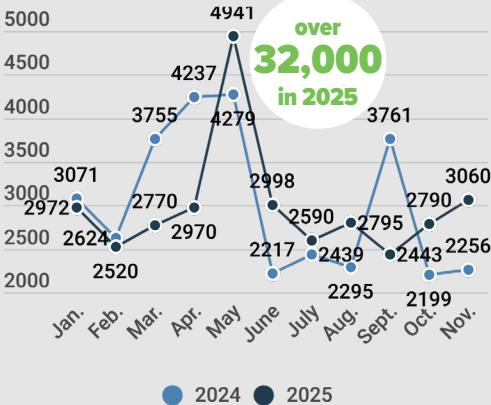
Parks Maintenance and Operations

The Parks Maintenance and Operations team plays a central role in bringing holiday magic to the community each year. Much of the festive lighting seen throughout Downtown Castle Rock, Festival Park and Philip S. Miller Park is made possible by their work behind the scenes.

In preparation for the Season of the Star, the team spent 933 hours in October and November installing holiday lights, decorating the Festival Park tree and ensuring all displays were ready to shine. Their efforts helped set the stage for cherished community traditions.



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



265
volunteers

up from
▲ 42
in Nov. 2024



584
volunteer hours

up from
▲ 84
in Nov. 2024

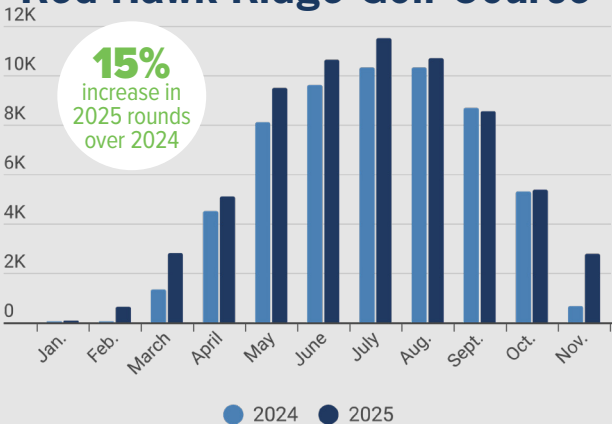


16
events



116
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.

As part of the Season of the Star, free Trolley rides are offered on select days through December. [Learn more about free Trolley rides, offered by the Downtown Castle Rock Alliance.](#)

10

trolley rentals
in November



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Summary



180+

participants in
local & regional guided
hikes year-to-date



18

local or regional
guided hikes
offered year-to-date



482

participants in
Arts and Enrichment
programs this month



27

participants waitlisted
for Arts and Enrichment
programs this month

71

birthday parties held
across three facilities
this month



13.25

average number of
birthday parties per
weekend year-to-date



172

children enrolled in
Adventure Club Preschool
programs this month



37

children waitlisted for
Adventure Club Preschool
programs this month



34

participants or waitlisted
registrants in Therapeutic
Rec programs this month



269

participants in
Therapeutic Rec
programs year-to-date



180

participants in Middle
School Madness this
month



1,476

registrations for
Middle School Madness
year-to-date

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.

Paid content

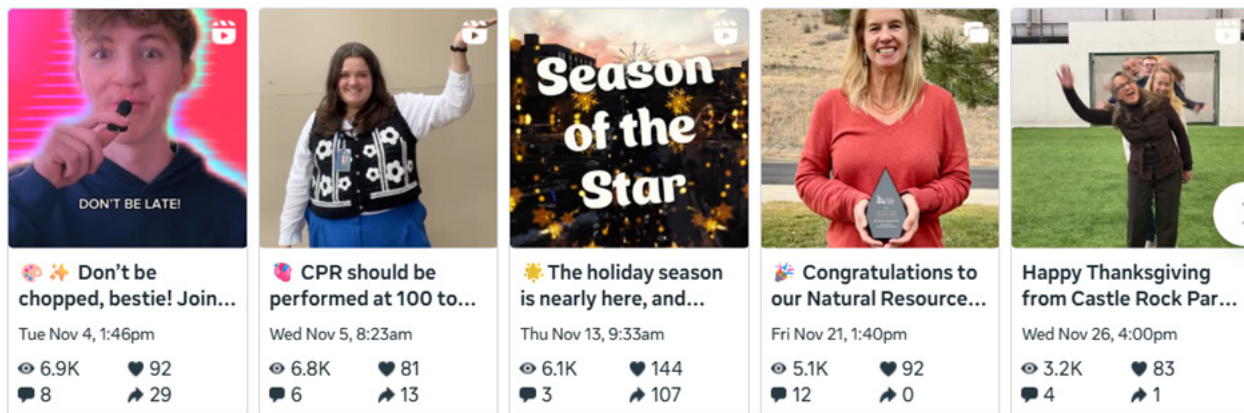
Paid content on Facebook and Instagram continued to play an important role in driving awareness, engagement and program participation throughout 2025. The department ran 106 ads or boosted posts between January and November, with monthly volumes fluctuating seasonally in alignment with major events and peak programming periods. Activity increased during traditionally busy months, mainly March through August. This reflects strategic investment in promoting summer programs, camps, special events and seasonal registration deadlines.

A key indicator of improved performance is the steady reduction in cost per click. The department's year-to-date average CPC is just \$0.35, demonstrating more efficient audience targeting and stronger creative effectiveness across campaigns. This efficiency has allowed the department to extend the reach of its paid content without increasing overall spending.

Paid social media has also served as a meaningful driver of registration and information-seeking behavior. More than 14,000 social media visitors clicked on Parks and Recreation ads or boosted posts this year and were redirected to the department's registration platform. This volume underscores the role paid outreach plays in connecting residents with programs, memberships and events at key decision-making moments. Overall, this year's paid content results show that targeted advertising continues to complement organic social media efforts, effectively broadening reach, reinforcing program visibility and supporting participation across all divisions.

Top performing content

The department's highest-viewed Instagram content in November featured several popular social media trends, which helped drive exceptional engagement. A reel touring Cantril School, hosted by a Castle View High School student using current teen slang such as "67" and "cooked", resonated strongly with younger audiences. Another high-performing reel highlighted the different song beats various generations use as reference points for performing CPR, blending education with humor. A staff Thanksgiving video showcasing employee preferences also performed well, tapping into a widely shared seasonal trend. Together, these posts demonstrate how timely, trend-aligned content can significantly boost organic visibility and broaden audience reach.



Audience growth

Instagram follower growth remained steady throughout 2025, with continued momentum in November. The department gained 101 new followers during the month, bringing the account total to 5,589 followers, up from 3,626 followers this time last year.