



Castle Rock  
**PARKS &  
RECREATION**  
September 2023  
Monthly Report





# UPCOMING Events

View up-to-date information at [CRgov.com/Events](https://CRgov.com/Events).

OCTOBER  
**14**  
**COLORADO FRONT RANGE TRAIL  
RIBBON CUTTING & 5K**  
9 to 11 a.m.  
Cobblestone Ranch Park

NOVEMBER  
**4**  
**PIE BAKE OFF**  
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

OCTOBER  
**21**  
**SPOOKTACULAR**  
1 to 4 p.m.  
Philip S. Miller Park

NOVEMBER  
**18**  
**STARLIGHTING**  
2 to 6 p.m.  
Downtown Castle Rock and Festival Park

OCTOBER  
**22**  
**FALL FESTIVAL FEAT. CREEPY  
CRAWLIES AROUND THE ROCK**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Festival Park

Join us for the Festival Park Farmers Market, recurring through Oct. 22.



# CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

## *Parks, Open Space & Trails*



### COLORADO FRONT RANGE TRAIL THROUGH CASTLE ROCK

Concrete placement was completed and backfill and seeding commenced. A grand opening event will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Cobblestone Ranch Park. All are welcome to mark this significant milestone with a ribbon-cutting, free 5K run, complimentary refreshments and giveaways, an Agents of Discovery mission hosted by the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation and hunting for newly placed geocaches along the trail. Staff will also soon seek Town Council support to finalize the \$2 million grant award through an agreement with Great Outdoors Colorado, marking the completion of the project. Learn more at [CRgov.com/FrontRangeTrail](https://CRgov.com/FrontRangeTrail).



### INDUSTRIAL TRIBUTARY TRAIL

Town Council approved an agreement with Wilson & Company, Inc., Engineering and Architects to design the Town's portion of the Industrial Tributary Trail. The project will link Philip S. Miller Park at Plum Creek Parkway to Downtown Castle Rock. The Town's portion will construct .3 miles of 10-foot-wide paved trail under Prairie Hawk Drive and the BNSF railroad, and link users to the existing East Plum Creek Trail via a pedestrian bridge over the creek. The Miller's Landing and Brickyard developments will separately fund and construct the first .7 miles of trail from the underpass at Plum Creek Parkway to Prairie Hawk Drive. Design engineering is expected to be completed in fall 2024, with construction commencing and concluding in 2025.

# CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

## *Parks, Open Space & Trails*



### **MITCHELL GULCH PARK RENOVATION PROJECT**

Parking lot and entry drive paving were completed while shelter installation and site grading continues. Post tension concrete slabs will soon be placed for the tennis courts.



### **PLUM CREEK NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

Demolition of the existing amenities commenced and Russian olive mitigation was underway. The project contractor is also obtaining pricing on removing and replacing the existing parking lot, as opposed to milling over the lot, due to the extensiveness of damage present.



### **LIGHTING UPGRADES**

Solar-powered LED lights were recently installed in the parking lots of Metzler Family and Gateway Mesa open spaces, as well as at Rock Park. The lights will improve visitor safety while simultaneously maximizing energy efficiency.



# SEPTEMBER OPERATIONS

## By the Numbers

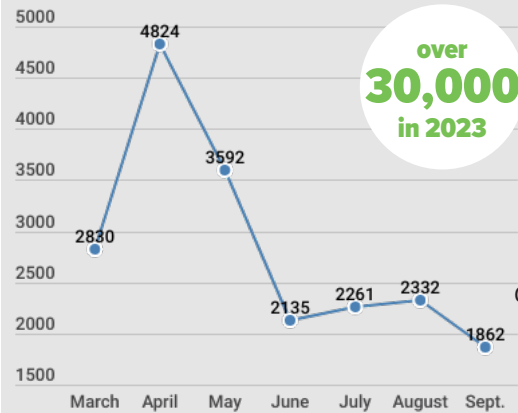
### Parks Maintenance and Operations

This month the Parks Maintenance and Operations division spent

- 216 hours on field maintenance;
- 74 hours on construction and special projects; and
- 150 hours on irrigation maintenance.

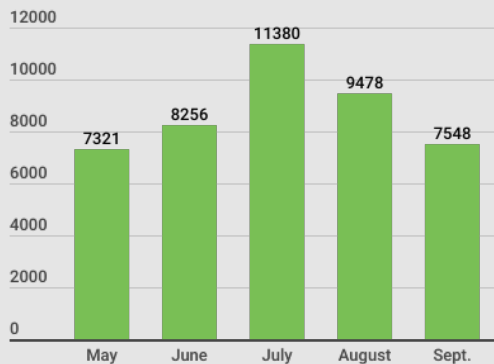


### RockREC Registrations



This data represents the number of online program registrations completed via the RockREC app or the desktop version of the site, Recreation.CRgov.com

### Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course



### POST Partners Volunteer Program



**123** volunteers



**1,722** volunteer hours



**7** events



**42** trash bags collected

### Facility Operations



increase in birthday parties hosted at the MAC and Rec Center over September 2022



increase in membership monthly billing over Sept. 1, 2022



Programming at Cantril kicked off Sept. 5 with Dance Exploration classes and a sold out KidStage session

### 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.

**11** trolley rentals



Pavilions at Town parks are also available for rent throughout the year, with the rest being available on a first-come, first-served basis. Rental numbers for both assets typically rise with warmer weather.

**90** pavilion rentals





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Summary

### TRI THE ROCK 09.08

Over 230 youth triathletes ages 5 to 18 competed in Tri the Rock, the Town's annual race held at Butterfield Park and Pool! The event encourages kids to get active and try something new. For the second year, an additional bracket for participants with physical and intellectual disabilities wrapped up the event.



### 09.12 ANIMALS AROUND THE ROCK: BATTY ABOUT CASTLE ROCK

Roughly 60 guests came to the Millhouse to learn about local bats, adaptations and the benefits they bring to Castle Rock. The free event was a collaboration between the Town, Denver Audubon and the Douglas Land Conservancy, and was the third in a series of four Animal Around the Rock events.

### TUNES FOR TRAILS FEAT. 5TH GEAR FUNK 09.21

Fans watched 5th Gear Funk jam to the dance hits of the 1970s and 1980s, along with contemporary sounds. The September event wrapped up the Tunes for Trails, Perks for Parks free concert series.



### 09.22 GLOW DANCE PARTY

Dancers and workout enthusiasts clad in neon joined forces in the Amphitheater to raise funds for the Town's Therapeutic Recreation program. Participants enjoyed upbeat music, energetic workouts, dancing, prizes and more! Over \$5,000 was raised through 327 registrations and a donation from sponsor Developmental Pathways!



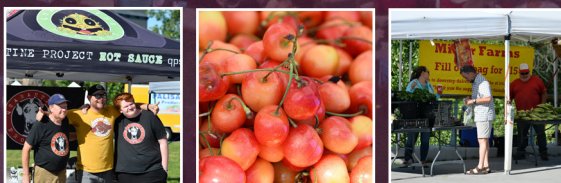
### FIRST RESPONDERS PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT 09.23- 09.24

The second annual First Responders Pickleball Tournament was held at Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park. Eighty-six participants competed across three levels of play, with 8 teams representing the first responder community!



### SUNDAYS FESTIVAL PARK FARMERS MARKET

Festival Park continues to host the weekly Farmers Market, which features locally raised meats, fresh produce, baked goods and artisan-made products. The summer series wraps up on Sunday, Oct. 22.





# PROGRAM IMPACT

## Summary



**47**

Middle School  
Madness  
participants

**15**

MAC Adventure Days  
camp  
participants



**141**

adults enrolled  
in pottery, dance or  
Spanish



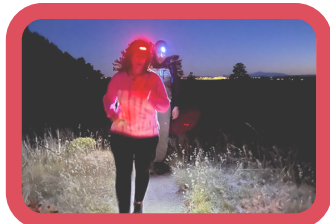
**114**

youth enrolled  
in dance, KidzArt,  
KidStage or fencing



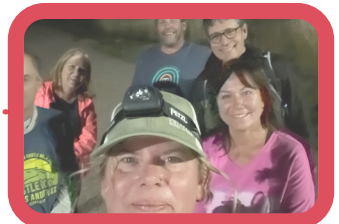
**13**

enrolled in  
Toddler  
Time



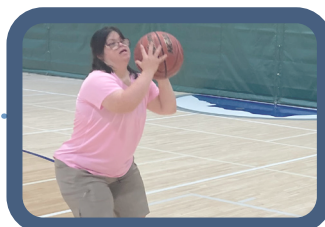
**4**

hikes throughout  
the month with 10  
participants



**6**

Therapeutic Rec  
Sports Sampler  
participants



**12**

Therapeutic Rec  
Pickleball  
participants



**1,921**

group fitness  
program  
attendees

**66**

personal  
training  
sessions



# PROGRAM IMPACT

## Summary

### September Events and Program Summary

#### THERAPEUTIC RECREATION ZUMBA DANCE CREW

In preparation for the Glow Dance Party this month, Therapeutic Rec participants were invited to learn a Zumba program. Eleven participants showcased their new skills on the Amphitheater stage to kick off the fundraising event!

The Glow Dance Party raised over \$5,000 for the Therapeutic Recreation program through registrations and sponsorships.

#### What participants said

- “Loved everything about this event, well organized and awesome volunteers!”
- “The staff and dance instructors were amazing in helping my daughter and her friends have a great time each week practicing and then during the actual Glow Party!”
- “The dancers are awesome! Great location.”
- “Love this event and supporting an amazing cause!”

#### FITNESS PROGRAMMING UPDATES

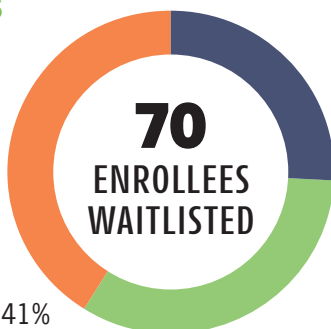
The Fitness and Wellness division kicked off the month with a new class for teens and tweens, Building Body Image. The class provided participants with personalized support, education and tools to improve confidence and begin the journey of body acceptance. Using a non-diet, body-positive approach, participants learned to fuel their bodies and find exercise they love.

Two new instructors joined the group fitness family in September! Stephanie teaches X-Train and Tread-n-Shred, and Allison teaches Strength Circuit. Check out the [Group Fitness Schedule](#) to take one of their classes.

#### WAITLISTED PROGRAMS

Due to space limitations, 70 enrollees were waitlisted for Arts and Enrichment programs in September.

- KidStage: 26%
- Adult Pottery: 33%
- Adventure Club Preschool: 41%





# BLUEBIRD PROJECT

## Summary

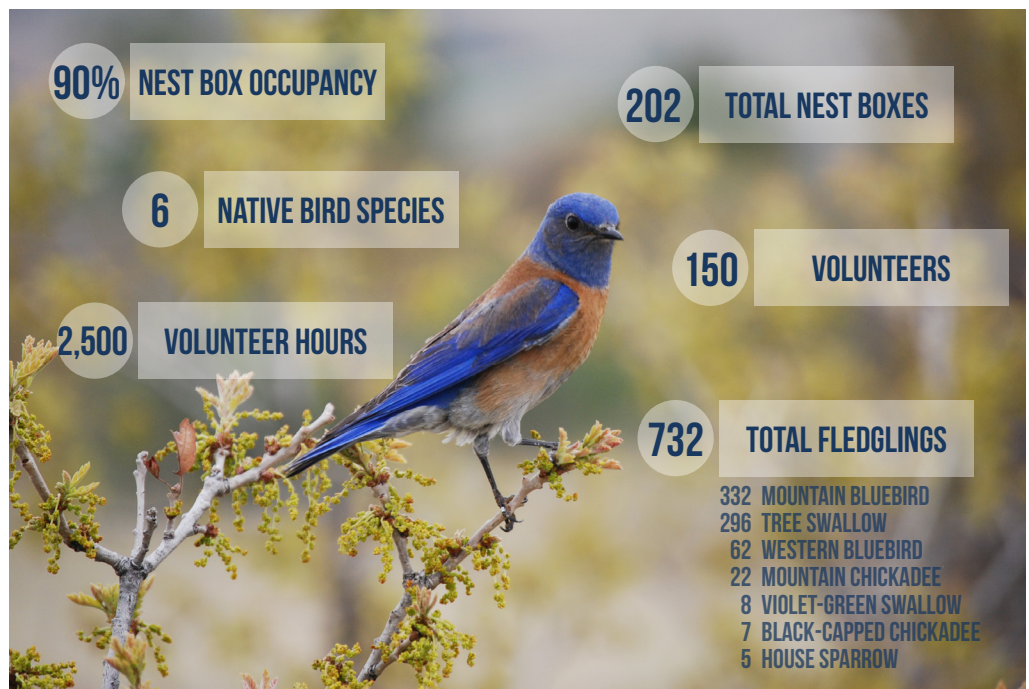
### 2023 Colorado Bluebird Project

#### ANNUAL VOLUNTEER EFFORT WRAPS UP

Each year, volunteers monitor bluebird populations through the Town's Post Partners Volunteer Program under the guidance of the Denver Audubon Society. The mission of the Colorado Bluebird Project is to improve the vitality of bluebirds throughout the state and to inform and education the public.

Bluebirds are social migratory songbirds, and, as second cavity nesters, rely on other species' used nest cavities or artificial nest boxes during their annual mating season. The POST Partners volunteer program managed 202 artificial boxes at 34 school, park, open space, cemetery and church sites in Castle Rock this year. Volunteers of all ages assist with annual maintenance and repair, as well as monitor fledgling success rates from April through August.

The 2023 season wrapped up in August. Six native bird species used Castle Rock's nest boxes including Mountain and Western Bluebirds; Violet-green, Tree Swallows, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees.



In its 17th year of data collection, bird activity saw a rebound from the last few years with 732 total fledglings. 2022 saw 665 total fledglings and 2021 saw 531 total fledglings. Of note, Castle Rock saw its highest number of Violet-green Swallow nests since 2019, one at Metzler Family Open Space and one at Matney Park.

A few factors contributed to a challenging year for some of the young. One hundred and ten eggs went unhatched, likely a result of cold, wet weather in May and June. There were 809 total young, but only 732 fledged, so there was a loss of 77 chicks that hatched but never fledged likely due to predation, disappearance for unknown reasons or inability to survive cold, wet spring weather. Lastly, two House Sparrow nests were confirmed, one at Butterfield Park and one at Matney Park. House Sparrows are non-native and aggressive, competitive species to bluebirds. They have infrequently nested in Castle Rock boxes over the years.

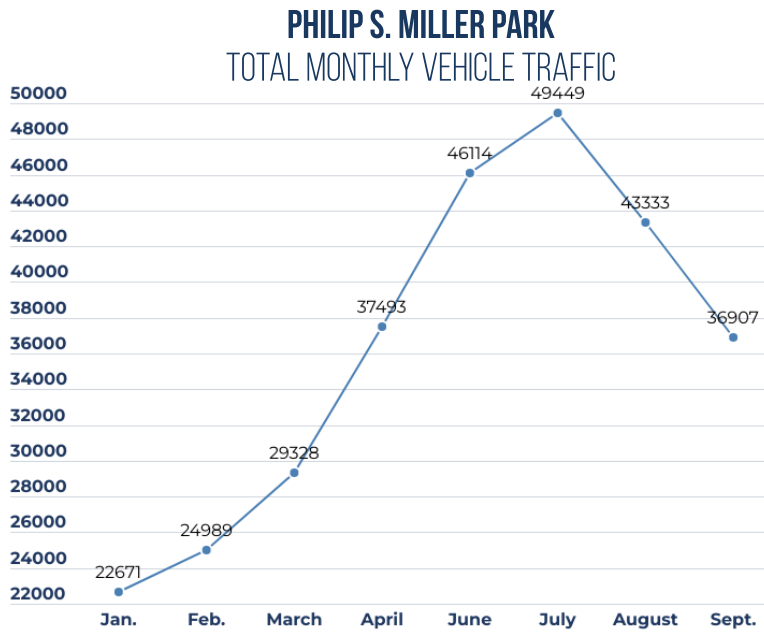
Visit [CRgov.com/Bluebird](https://www.crgov.com/bluebird) to learn more about Castle Rock's Colorado Bluebird Project. This webpage contains the 2023 summary presentation and slideshow, volunteer photos and future volunteer opportunity information.

# VEHICLE COUNTER

## Summary

### SEPTEMBER VISITATION DATA

The data below is collected through TRAFX, a state-of-the-art vehicle counter collection software. A new vehicle traffic counter was installed in June at Metzler Family Open Space, therefore historical data is limited to the last three months.



**2,592**

vehicles on  
peak visitation  
day, Sept. 9

**1,196**

average number  
of vehicles  
per day this month

**5 - 6 p.m.**

proved to be the  
busiest time of day in  
September



**96**

vehicles on  
peak visitation  
day, Sept. 23

**68**

average number  
of vehicles  
per day this month

**1,872**

total vehicles  
in  
September