



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR

SEPTEMBER 2016

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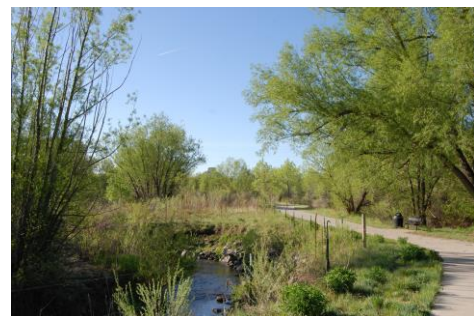
UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS

- **Saturday, October, 15**
 - Relay for Life, Philip S. Miller Park, 11 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., meet at the turf field
 - Harvest Festival, Festival Park, 2 – 8 p.m.
- **October 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29**
 - Castle of Terror haunted house, Fire Department Training Tower, 7 – 10 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Fire and Police Explorers.
- **Saturday, October 29**
 - Spooktacular 2016, enjoy Halloween inspired, family-friendly activities at the Miller Activity Complex (MAC), 1 - 3 p.m.
- **Saturday, November 12**
 - Pie Bake Off, Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park, time TBD
- **Saturday, November 19**
 - Starlighting, Downtown Castle Rock, 2 – 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, November 24**
 - Recreation Center and MAC are closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- **Friday, December 16**
 - Hot Cocoa with Santa, Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park, time TBD



Town of Castle Rock Awarded \$1 Million Grant to Develop Southern Extension of East Plum Creek Trail

On Friday, October 7, the Town of Castle Rock was awarded with a \$1 million grant to fund the southern extension of the Town's most widely used paved trail, the East Plum Creek Trail. The grant is part of Great Outdoor Colorado's Connect Initiative Program, focusing on connecting existing trail gaps and providing increased access to outdoor recreation. Completion of the trail corridor was also included as a priority in the Town's 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



The extension is a planned two mile trail beginning at its current ending at South Perry Street and will continue south to Crystal Valley Parkway. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2 million. The remaining funds

required to complete the project will come from the Annual Trail Improvements fund. Final design will be competed in 2017 with construction planned for 2018.

R.E.A.L. (Recreation, Empowerment & Active Living) Adaptive Recreation Program

PREPARED BY JAMIE EGLSEDER, SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

R.E.A.L. hosted a glow-in-the-dark Zumba Fundraiser at the Philip S. Miller Park Amphitheater on September 16. Nearly 150 dancers braved the cool night and rain to support the adaptive recreation program.

This high energy event raised over \$1,400, and would not have been

successful without the dedication of fantastic volunteers like Heather Wiley, Van Ngo and other Town employees.



The third annual Weekend Adventure was held September 11 at Estes Park. The group participated in team and leadership building activities, learned about the ecology of the area, problem-solved their way through a ropes course and braved a night hike without flashlights. While participants enjoyed the outdoors, their caregivers embraced the opportunity for a weekend to themselves.

On September 30, R.E.A.L. welcomed in the Colorado Avalanche season by attending their pre-season game against the Los Angeles Kings. R.E.A.L staff worked to secure affordable and accessible seats for the group in order to avoid having to climb steep stadium stairs.

The Hot Chocolate 5K is quickly approaching, and participants are getting ready to race on October 3! The miles and paces are ratcheting up as training continues throughout the week.

Special Programs and Events

PREPARED BY HEATHER ROSSITER, SPECIAL PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR

On September 8, the Tunes for Trails, Perks for Parks free concert series ended for the season. FACE, an internationally acclaimed acapella group from Boulder, entertained the park with their high energy and crowd pleasing flare. The band did all of their own arrangements and performed a great mix of classics and new hits. Despite the fact that the performance was on the same night as the Bronco's season opener, FACE managed to draw a crowd of over 350 people.



On September 10, Philip S. Miller Park hosted Intermountain Rural Electric Association's (IREA) company picnic. The IREA enjoyed the Millhouse, bouncy houses, food and drinks and a concert at the Amphitheater. There were nearly 375 attendees and the IREA has already reserved the Millhouse and Amphitheater for use next year.

The eighth annual Ridgeline Rampage was held on September 17. This was the first year the race started at and ended at Philip S. Miller Park instead of Ridgeline Open Space. The course incorporated the 17 miles of trails at both parks while utilizing the Wolfensberger Pedestrian Bridge connection.

Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Patrons are taking advantage of the newly installed workout equipment at the Recreation Center. The premium FlexStrider Trainer has been popular among patrons as it lets exercisers personalize their workouts. In addition, Pilates Reformer Personal Training continues to generate interest with 17 total individual sessions reserved in the month of September.





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Due to the popularity of the FIT Moms program at the MAC, another weekday program was offered. FIT Moms will now be offered on Monday / Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., in addition to the Tuesday / Thursday 8:30 a.m. classes. The response has been positive and many participants have actually registered for both sessions.

Overall, group fitness participation was up 11.8% in September as compared to the previous year:

Group Fitness	Total Attendance
September 2015	5,017
September 2016	5,613

Recreation Center Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

September was a challenging month in regards to the maintenance of the Recreation Center. Originally scheduled to be a two week task, the elevator modernization project took an extra two and a half weeks to complete. In addition, there were three other high impact maintenance projects which had an effect on community participation. The boiler for the spa was down sporadically throughout the month, the roof replacement project was still in progress and a patron shattered a glass wall on one of the racquetball courts.

Overall, daily admissions for the Recreation Center were down 12% when compared to September of 2015. While there was a net decrease for the month, youth admissions remained strong and were up 8% when compared to the same period of 2015.



MAC Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

The positive trend of participation and revenue growth has continued through the month of September. In spite of the beautiful weather and unusually dry conditions, the public has seen the value and opportunity the MAC has to offer. Daily admissions to the MAC, when compared to September 2015, were up 21% and daily trampoline passes were up 45% for the same period.

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Festival Park

Eleven separate building permits were submitted for various project components as part of the Festival Park redesign project, such as the pavilion structure, restrooms and the splash pad. Staff will present the results of the bid process to Town Council on October 18, 2016 for discussion and direction. If Council provides direction to move forward, then a construction contract will be presented to Council for approval on November 2.



Philip S. Miller Park Signage

Park Planning and Construction staff members are exploring the option to provide LED signs within Philip S. Miller Park for the purpose of providing information to park users related to both park and Town events. Potential location for the signs include the restroom building and the Amphitheater. Staff is currently working on pricing estimates, and ideas will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on October 19.



Also, identification signs do not exist for the MAC or the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park. Staff has been working with Divinci Signs to construct a sign that will be installed on the exterior wall near the front entrance of the MAC, while the other sign for the Millhouse will be installed on the exterior stone wall to the east of its front entrance. The signs will be similar to the "badge" located on the monument sign located at the Philip S. Miller Park entry (pictured on left). This work is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Gateway Mesa Green House Demolition

The Gateway Mesa Property contains an abandoned house with outbuildings that are located along the western edge of the property, fronting State Highway 86. The buildings have been on the property since it was purchased. A demolition permit will be issued by the State of Colorado by October 7. Once this is received, the only remaining tasks will be to obtain a permit from the Town of Castle Rock, to remove the power



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lines and to pump and remove the original septic system. The demolition is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2016.

TRAIL PROJECTS

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

Mitchell Creek Trail Connection

Staff continues to work with the Founders District to extend the Mitchell Creek trail west to Ridge Road, as well as completing a trail connection from the Mitchell Creek trail to Tabor Court, both located in Founders Village. Plans have been submitted and approved, and permits have been issued to begin construction on the project. Seven civil contractors were contacted in September to supply proposals for the project. Bid opening is scheduled for October 12, with an award to be announced on October 21, 2016. The project is scheduled to begin in November and be completed in May 2017. Staff will provide project oversight and coordination between the District and the Town.



Sidewalk Capital Improvement Project Warranty Review

In September 2015, staff completed key sidewalk connections identified in the Town's Transportation Master Plan in an effort to improve pedestrian mobility along Founders Blvd, Crowfoot Valley Road and Ridge Road. Staff and the project's contractor, SaBell's Enterprises, walked the project sites to review the one-year warranty. All vegetation is well established and drainage structures and fencing are in good shape. Only minor concrete cracking and spalling were found. These areas were noted and are scheduled for repair and replacement by the end of November.

OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Hike and Help Day

The Town partnered again with the Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) to celebrate National Public Land's Day, a nationwide annual celebration promoting volunteer conservation. Hike and Help Day was held on Saturday, September 24 from 8 a.m. to noon. More than 20 participants were offered a guided geology and local history hike of the Town's first rhyolite quarry, followed by an opportunity to help maintain the trails and control noxious weeds at Quarry Mesa Open Space. This property is protected by a permanent Conservation Easement held by the DLC.

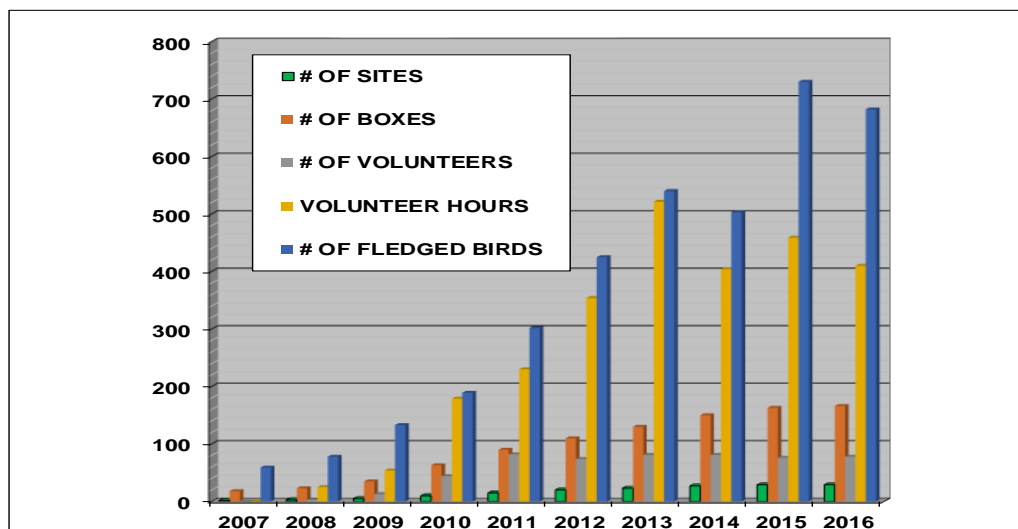


Colorado Bluebird Project

The bluebird breeding data that had been collected by students and volunteers between April and August of 2016 was reviewed, evaluated and added to the national breeding bird database maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Monitoring took place at 166 boxes and indicated that there were 195 total nesting attempts, 913 total eggs laid and 774 total chicks hatched, but only 682 total fledglings that successfully left the boxes. The total number of fledglings is a decrease from last year's total, likely due to high nest failure caused by a Mother's Day snowstorm.



For the first time in nine years, there were five different species using our nest boxes: Mountain Bluebird (265 total), Western Bluebird (115 total), Tree Swallow (289 total), Violet-green Swallow (5 total) and Black-capped Chickadee (5 total). There were also more Tree Swallows fledglings than Mountain Bluebird for the first time. Many bluebirds did not return to nest after the Mother's Day storm, leading swallows to take over their boxes. For the third year in a row, nest box occupancy rate was 94%.



Staff will continue the project next year with an open house, and will offer training for interested volunteers between February and March. Announcements for the programs will be provided in the Winter-Spring Recreation Guide, as well as other Town media sources, including the website for the project: www.crgov.com/bluebird. Staff is looking forward to the 2017 season as the project has now been active in Castle Rock for 10 years, offering a unique opportunity for analysis of any population trends.

POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Boy Scout Troop 260 – For several years now, these scouts have seasonally conducted trash cleanups along Mitchell Creek Trail from Mitchell Gulch Park to Enderud Blvd. 14 scouts and their leaders worked into the twilight hours collecting several bags of trash in the Founders Village neighborhood.



Boy Scout Troop 261 has adopted the paved trail at Memmen Ridge Open Space. During a major rain event, a high amount of sediment was deposited onto the trail. Troop 261 along with Town staff shoveled, swept and collected trash as their final outing for the season.

Castle Rock Christian Academy conducted a trash cleanup at one of the trashiest areas in Town as part of a field trip for their first grade classes. Castle View High School parking lot trash blows into the East Plum Creek Trail, and there is also a high concentration of trash in the underpasses along the trail where students hang out. Many interesting items were found, but the most popular was a dead snake.



Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

PREPARED BY BOB PERSICHETTI, HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL



Operations

The weather was warmer than average this September with very little precipitation, which led to mostly ideal playing conditions and record revenue totals. The \$433,478 in revenue for the month beat the previous record by nearly \$24,000 and exceeded the ten year average by just over \$67,000.

It is encouraging that the average income per golfer is up by \$1.28 YTD over the prior year, considering tournament rounds are slightly down. Golf shop sales are down about 2% to budget and can be largely attributed to the shortfall in tournament rounds.

Overall, considering the impact of the spring snow storms, the golf course revenue is in good shape moving into the fourth quarter. As usual during this time of the year, the fall weather will play a significant role in how the golf course will finish financially.

Staff has worked with the finance department to project revenue and expenditures for the balance of 2016. At this time, revenue is projected to finish slightly below budget and expenditures are projected to fall below budget as well.

	Current Month	Budget	Previous Year	Year to Date	Previous Year
Total Revenue	\$433,478	\$404,131	\$409,837	\$2,534,739	\$2,419,819
Total Rounds	5,578	5,039	5,358	31,382	31,349
Avg. Income/Player	\$77.71	\$80.20	\$76.49	\$80.77	\$79.49
Golf Shop Sales	\$21,654	\$23,940	\$25,476	\$163,787	\$169,440
F&B Sales	\$71,946	\$66,125	\$69,486	\$442,741	\$434,048

Athletics

PREPARED BY SCOTT SMEETON AND MATT GASSER, ATHLETICS SUPERVISORS

Youth Athletics



In September, third through sixth grade youth participated in the coed volleyball program. The fifth and sixth graders are beginning their end of season tournament. Round one took place on September 29 and championships will be played October 8.

Instead of offering a volleyball clinic this fall, individually tailored training sessions were held by a group of advanced high school volleyball players. These girls

worked with teams, coaches and one-on-one with players to focus on technical skill development. The opportunity was very well received by coaches, players and parents alike.

The competitive fall baseball program also neared its final few weeks in September. The league had 47 teams with players ranging from nine to fourteen in age. The success of the league this year has already generated commitments for next season from the various clubs involved.

Adult Athletics

Adult volleyball, softball and soccer took place throughout September. The championship volleyball tournament will be bracketed into two divisions based on end-of-season standings. The results of the tournament will determine league placement

for next season which will help attract more teams to the league and ensure comparative competition levels within season placements.



The Adult Indoor Soccer summer session ended the last week in September. All 35 teams competed in their respective championship playoffs. A total of 169 games were played during the summer session, which is up from 108 compared to the previous year. This marks a 64% increase. The Indoor Fall registration ended in September with 36 teams registering for the upcoming season.

Adult Fall Sports	Total Attendance
Men's Softball	21 teams
Coed Softball	12 teams
Coed Volleyball	12 teams
Indoor Soccer	36 teams

Aquatics

PREPARED BY ZACH MORRIS, AQUATICS SUPERVISOR

The twelfth annual Pooch Plunge fundraiser was held on September 10. This year's event had 160 dogs in attendance and raised \$638.91 for the Buddy Center, a full-service shelter offering adoptions, pet admissions, lost-and-found services and humane education classes.

