



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY 2018

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UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Ridgeline Wranglers Kick-off Informational Meeting**
 - 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 at The Grange in The Meadows, 3692 Meadows Blvd.
- **Rhyolite Dirt Crew Informational Meeting**
 - 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 at the Philip S. Miller Library
- **Earth Day Willow Planting**
 - 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 14 – meet at Memmen Ridge Open Space/end at Festival Park
- **Wild in Our Town**
 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25 at the Philip S. Miller Library
- **Spring Up the Creek**
 - 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 5 at the north parking lot at Douglas County High School
- **Basics of Bird Watching – Part 1**
 - 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 9 at the Philip S. Miller Library
- **Guided Bird Watching – Part 2**
 - 8-10 a.m. Saturday, May 12 at Festival Park
- **REAL Climb4Change**
 - 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 12 at the Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Tri the Rock**
 - 8 a.m.-noon Sunday, May 20 at Butterfield Crossing Park and Pool
- **National Senior Health and Fitness Day**
 - 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, May 30 at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

**Ridgeline
Wranglers**

**RHYOLITE
DIRT CREW**





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PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

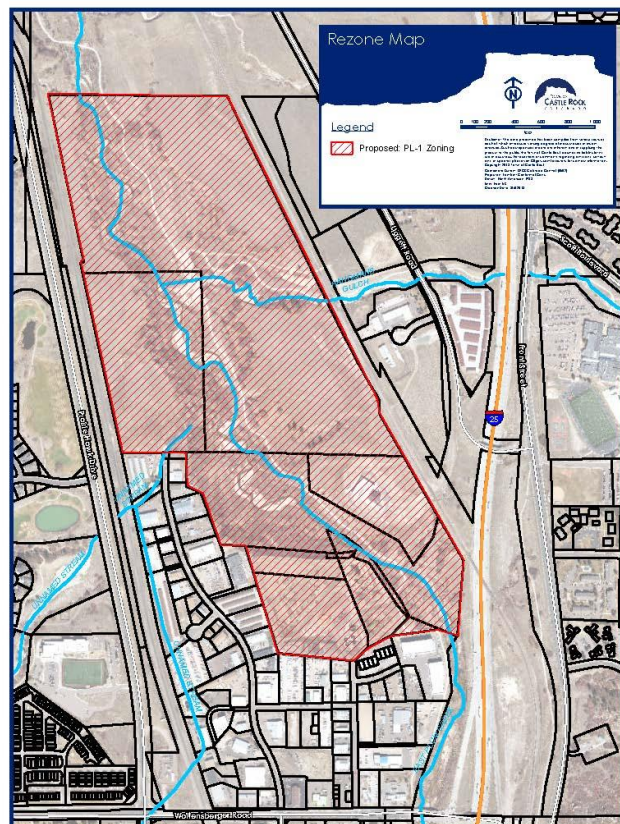
Central Service Center

Planning for the Town's new Central Service Center (CSC) continued throughout February. This 13,000-square-foot building will host both the Town's Parks Maintenance and Facilities divisions, located at the end of Caprice Drive near the former wastewater treatment facility. Building plans include five maintenance bays, indoor storage, a training facility, office space, a break room and a storage yard for equipment and material.

An Invitation for Bid for construction services for the CSC posted on Jan. 31. More than 20 general contractors attended a mandatory pre-bid conference held onsite in February, and staff received six bids Feb. 23. The Town's Parks Planning and Facilities divisions are now evaluating the bids, and will interview the three lowest bidders in the following weeks. Staff anticipate taking a contract to Town Council for approval on Tuesday, April 3.

Department staff also submitted an application with the Town's Development Services division to rezone the future site of the CSC. The site is currently zoned as a POS-1, a district used for parks and municipal facilities, which was repealed in 2016 and reenacted as the PL-1 zone district. The purpose of the application is to update the current zone designation to the PL-1 District. The PL-1 District permits a variety of public land uses, including active and developed parks, recreation center and facilities, restrooms, parking, drives, information kiosks, etc.

A public open house regarding the rezoning application will be held 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 21 in the lobby at the Miller Activity Complex, 1381 W. Plum Creek Parkway, Castle Rock, CO 80109. All interested persons are invited to attend.



Meadows Neighborhood Park

In preparation of development, the Department held a public meeting to garner feedback on the design for the new neighborhood park to be located in The Meadows near Aspen View Academy. On Feb. 5, more than 75 residents attended the open house to have a first-hand look at design options, presented by landscape architect Norris Design.



Concept themes included *Space Exploration*, *Colorado – The Front Range* and *Kaleidoscope*. Attendees voted for their preferred design and favorite and least favorite amenities. An online survey was also posted for residents unable to attend the open house, and 255 responses were collected. 55 percent of people from the open house voted for the *Kaleidoscope* theme; 48 percent of online survey respondents voted for *Colorado – The Front Range*.

For those in attendance, popular amenities included flex court, a native wildflower garden, a picnic area, pathway lighting and restroom enclosures. Unpopular amenities include soccer fields, sand volleyball, a 10-foot wide super slide and glow-in-dark swings. Norris Design will incorporate feedback into a design concept to present at a future public open house scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 at Aspen View Academy Charter School. The concept will then be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Council prior to obtaining construction bids. Construction is scheduled to commence this summer.

Festival Park – Boardwalk Installation

Over the course of two weeks, Parks Maintenance staff constructed the Boardwalk at Festival Park. This new feature will connect the park to the Town Hall parking lot, and will provide residents with convenient access for community events. This large and successful undertaking will save the Town an estimated \$25,000 instead of using a private contractor.



TRAIL PROJECTS

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

Native Legend Trail

As part of The Meadows neighborhood, Castle Rock Development Company continued the construction of 1.3 miles of 8-foot wide concrete trail to connect the Native Legend and the East Plum Creek trails near the Town Center. Crews completed staking and field adjustments to reduce the project's impact on open space. Both Town staff and the Meadows Neighborhood Company reviewed the completed layout. Construction grading will begin in March, and the project is scheduled for completion this spring.



East Plum Creek Trail



The planned 2-mile southern extension of the East Plum Creek Trail will connect South Perry Street to Crystal Valley Parkway. This project will complete the Town's southern portion of the trail, while the Lanterns development will construct the final link to the Castle Rock's southern limits. The trail will eventually connect to a Douglas County planned trail network. In February, staff met with

representatives from both the Lanterns and Douglas County to coordinate future trail development. The Lanterns development is slated to begin their designated portion in 2019.

Recent negotiation with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to gain access through a right-of-way was rejected. The Town will continue to negotiate with the UPRR for access. In the interim, staff established a new trail alignment west of the right-of-way on town and county owned property. If a future crossing agreement is made with the UPRR, then this trail can be used as an access point to a frontage road and takes into consideration the new Crystal Valley Parkway and I-25 interchange. The design consultant, RESPEC, is incorporating the new trail design into construction documents. Construction is planned to begin in August 2018.

OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Colorado Bluebird Project 2018

On Feb. 28 at the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park, residents learned how to make a positive community impact and promote conservation at this year's Colorado Bluebird Project Open House. Despite the project's 2007 inception, volunteer interest remains strong as demonstrated by the 80 individuals who attended. Additional volunteer monitoring training will be provided early March, then, weekly monitoring will begin the first week of April and continue through mid-August. Additional information can be found at CRgov.com/Bluebird.

Students at six schools participating in the Colorado Bluebird Project received training to learn proper identification and monitoring techniques. Training also minimizes the negative impacts that nesting birds may experience. Students will soon clean the boxes on school grounds to prepare for the arrival of the bluebirds, scheduled to arrive late March/early April. The students will also begin weekly monitoring in April, continuing through the end of summer.

HCP Coordination

Habitat Conservation Plans, as part of the Endangered Species Act, provide for partnerships with non-federal parties to conserve the ecosystems upon which listed endangered species depend, ultimately contributing to recovery. The Town of Castle Rock protects the habitat of the endangered Preble's meadow jumping mouse.



2017 information regarding the Town activities conducted under the Douglas County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was compiled and submitted for the HCP Annual Report. The Annual Report gauges the successful implementation of the HCP's mitigation and conservation measures, including protected acreage and restoration activities. The report will collect information from all three permittees - Castle Rock, Parker and Douglas County, and is due for submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 1.

Special Events and Programs

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

Daddy Daughter Ball

Fathers and daughters turned out for "A Night in Paris" on Feb. 9 as Castle Rock hosted its annual Daddy Daughter Ball. The event, held at the Douglas County Events Center, offered a night filled with music, dancing and raffle prizes to the 1,850 who attended. Raffle proceeds benefit the Teen Advisory Group, whose volunteers plan parks and recreation activities for youth of the community.



Special Event Applications

The Special Events Committee received six additional special-event applications ranging from 5k's to farmers markets. Festival Park will now host a Sunday farmers market from June 3 through Labor Day weekend. A variety of vendors will feature fresh, local produce, grass-fed meats, local artisans and more.



Colorado Special Event Alliance

Castle Rock's Special Event division was represented at the Colorado Special Event Alliance's first-ever retreat (CSEA). CSEA, formed in 2017, is a group of Colorado

municipal event-planning professionals. The retreat, hosted by the City of Fort Collins, provided the opportunity to network and discuss the many challenges that event permitting offices face as they forge into somewhat uncharted territory.

Colorado's population growth, beautiful landscapes and amazing weather have given rise to a huge increase in the number of special events around the state. While special events are often regarded as major generators of economic activity, they can also cause disharmony among residents who experience, "event fatigue." Event fatigue can occur when the streets people use are too often shut down, the parks they frequent are perpetually busy or when the event market becomes oversaturated. Topics covered in this session included event costs, participant fees, approval processes, performance measures and more. CSEA members meet quarterly at various host cities.

Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS / WELLNESS SUPERVISOR

Over 100 group-fitness classes are offered weekly at the Recreation Center, and are included with daily admission, punch card or pass. Programs include Body Pump, Barre, Zumba, Restorative Yoga and many more. In February alone, over 6,100 participants took advantage of these popular classes.

In response to customer feedback and fitness surveys, several new classes were added to the group fitness schedule including a weekend HIIT class, a Deep Water Aqua class and an evening cycle class.

The Fitness Division recently placed two new Assault Bikes in the cardio area of the Recreation Center to offer patrons a wider variety of options. Using air resistance, the Assault AirBike scales automatically to how hard the user works – the stronger the user pedals, the greater the resistance the bike provides.



Outdoor

PREPARED BY MATT GASSER, ATHLETICS SUPERVISORS

The Outdoor Division experienced another successful dog-sledding adventure. Through partnering with Good Times Adventure of Breckenridge, six participants experienced the thrill of sledding through snow while being pulled by a pack of huskies.

