

UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

- **Earth Day Willow Conservation Project**
 - 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
Philip S. Miller Library
- **Spring Up the Creek**
 - 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 5
Festival Park
- **Basics of Bird Watching – Part 1**
 - 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 9
Philip S. Miller Library
- **Guided Bird Watching – Part 2**
 - 8-10 a.m. Saturday, May 12
Festival Park
- **REAL Climb4Change**
 - 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 12
The Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Tri the Rock**
 - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 20
Butterfield Crossing Park and Pool
- **Recreation Center and MAC Holiday Closure**
 - Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day
- **National Senior Health and Fitness Day**
 - 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, May 30
Festival Park



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 new Central Service Center (CSC) continued in March. This 13,000-square-foot building will host the Town's Parks Maintenance and Facilities divisions, located at the end of Caprice Drive near the former wastewater treatment plant.

Building plans include five maintenance bays, indoor storage, a training facility, office space, a break room and a storage yard for equipment and material.

Town staff interviewed the contractors who provided the three lowest bids for construction services – Taylor Kohrs, MW Golden

Constructors and GH Phipps Construction Companies. Taylor Kohrs provided the overall lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$3,673,340. This bid price, along with selected alternates, permit/system development fees, materials testing, contingency and other additional costs will result in a total project cost of \$4,928,442.



On March, 21, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the approval of the construction contract between the Town of Castle Rock and Taylor Kohrs for the Central Service Center Project. Staff anticipate seeking Council approval on Tuesday, April 3.

As part of the project, staff submitted an application with the Town's Development Services division to rezone its site. The property is currently zoned as POS-1, a district used for parks and municipal facilities, which was repealed in 2016 and reenacted as the PL-1 zone district. To update its zoning designation, staff applied to rezone the CSC site as PL-1. 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 was held regarding the rezoning application on Wednesday, March 21 at the Miller Activity Complex at Philip S. Miller Park. Three individuals attended the meeting to receive additional information. The application will now be reviewed by the Town's Planning Commission in April.

Meadows Neighborhood Park

In preparation of development, the Department held a public open house on March 28 to unveil The Meadows Filing No. 18 future neighborhood Park Master Plan. Roughly 40 neighbors and residents attended to speak with designer HB&A and department staff and provide comment.

Three design concepts were presented for the first public process and residents had the opportunity to select the elements and themes for which they were most interested. The consolidated Park Master Plan represents a blend of all themes, focusing on the more popular elements from each concept. The Park Master Plan creates a buffer between the park and adjacent patio homes where some neighbors expressed concern with the proximity of the park to existing homes. In addition, off-street parking was angled to reduce the potential for headlights to shine into nearby homes.



- ① Connection to Existing Trail
- ② Parking Lot (32 Spaces)
- ③ Entry Monument
- ④ Staging / Seating Area
- ⑤ Pickle Ball Courts (4), with Fencing and Striping
- ⑥ Bocce Ball
- ⑦ Permanent Cornhole
- ⑧ Horseshoes
- ⑨ Shelter with Lighting (30' x 60')
- ⑩ Playground (2-5)
- ⑪ Glow-in-the-Dark Path
- ⑫ Pour-in-Place Surfacing with Play Mounds
- ⑬ "Hot Lava" Play Feature
- ⑭ Playground (5-12)
- ⑮ Bike Racks
- ⑯ San-O-Let Enclosure
- ⑰ Wildflower Meadows
- ⑱ Small Shelter (10' x 20')
- ⑲ Hammock and Slack-Line Area
- ⑳ Multi-Use Field
- ㉑ Potential Future Connection to Existing Trail
- ㉒ Existing Drainage Way
- ㉓ Existing Trail
- ㉔ Connection to Aspen View Elementary
- ㉕ Par Course (Exercise Stations)
- ㉖ Loop Walking Trail
- ㉗ Benches
- ㉘ Connection to Existing Parking Lot



Pickleball and other games such as bocce, cornhole and horseshoes were included for family and adult use. A crossing over adjacent drainage is also provided so that a half-mile loop can be incorporated for walking and fitness. While connections were made to the adjacent school site, grading of the interface between the two sites was designed to provide natural separation. As desired by residents, the Plan includes garden and wildflower areas, Par Course exercise stations and play equipment for all ages and

abilities. Shade is provided through picnic shelters, and a hammock and slackline zone is offered for older children and teens. The Plan also includes two natural-turf areas lined with trees for open play.

Minor recommendations were suggested at the recent open house and overall, the feedback provided was positive. Staff anticipate seeking Town Council approval of the Park Master Plan on Tuesday, April 17, prior to obtaining a construction contract. Construction is scheduled to commence this summer.

TRAIL PROJECTS

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

Native Legend Trail

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 Meadows Town Center. Crews began site grading in early March, and placed 2,000 linear feet of concrete trail. Staff will continue to work with the contractor to verify future trail layout prior to its placement. Pending favorable weather conditions, the project will be completed in May.



McMurdo Gulch Trail

The proposed McMurdo Gulch Trail will travel through the Terrain and Cobblestone Ranch neighborhoods, connecting the Woodlands Trail to the west and the Cherry Creek Trail to the east. This trail marks an important step in completing Castle Rock's connection to a larger statewide trail network known as the Colorado Front Range Trail.

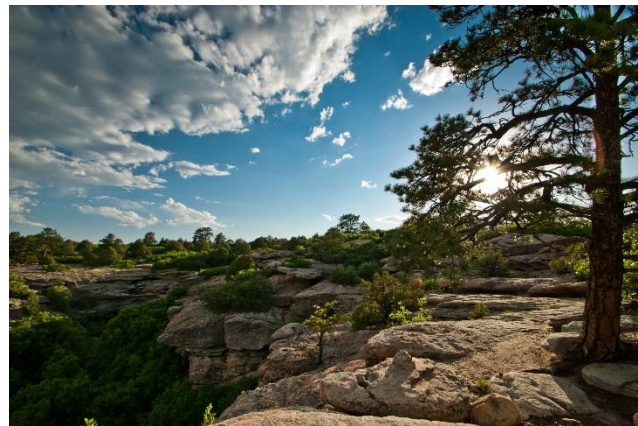
In August 2018, developer Richmond Homes completed a 1-mile stretch to the eastern boundary of the Cobblestone Ranch development. Per their development agreement, Richmond Homes will construct an additional 2-mile stretch as the neighborhood builds out. The Town will need to design and build approximately one additional mile from Cobblestone Ranch to the Cherry Creek Trail.



The Town will also be required to build an additional two miles connecting the Cobblestone and Woodlands neighborhoods. A final one-mile connection stretching northeast to Cobblestone Ranch will be built by the Terrain developer. Throughout March, staff worked closely with the Terrain developer to establish a preliminary alignment. Staff will present the trail plan to the developer in early April and make any necessary changes in preparation for public review and approval.

Gateway Mesa Open Space

Situated between Franktown and Castle Rock sits 276-acre Gateway Mesa Open Space, one of the Town's most cherished open space properties. The land is composed of highly visible bluffs and cliffs in the Cherry Creek Greenway. The southern portion is marked by exposed caprock with hoodoos, while the northern portion consists of a dense Spruce and Fir forest. The bluffs can be seen for more than five miles to the east and south and form a scenic ridgeline entrance into Castle Rock.



Within the property, there currently exists 1.6-miles of native-surface trail, along with a 1.5 mile connection to the Mitchell Creek Canyon Trail on the eastern side of the open space. Now, the town envisions adding a unique 2-mile stacked loop trail with a half-mile spur connection. The future trail will wind through forest and connect to a small proposed trailhead near a former home site adjacent to Highway 86. The spur trail will also provide a future connection to the Hidden Mesa Open Space Trail.

Staff designed the initial trail alignment for the project and will soon verify the design on site to ensure the constructability and sustainability of the proposed trail.

OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Colorado Bluebird Project 2018

The Colorado Bluebird Project operates under the guidance of the Audubon Society of Greater Denver and is offered through POST Partners Volunteers program in Castle Rock. This project aims to improve the vitality of bluebird populations throughout the state. Each year, community members and students volunteer to track and monitor population trends during the breeding season. At the conclusion of the season,

collected data is submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology database for research purposes.

March proved busy for staff preparing for the volunteer season. Throughout the month, staff hosted a public open house; trained volunteers; completed nest box maintenance, repairs and replacement; prepared electronic datasheets; and ran demonstrations for students. Schools who partner with the project include Renaissance, Flagstone, Clear Sky, Castle Rock and Sage Canyon elementary schools, along with Mesa Middle School. Students, as well as POST Partners Volunteers, will begin monitoring boxes in April. This year, monitoring will take place at almost 190 boxes spread throughout 32 sites.



Weekly checks are performed to track the nesting activity inside and around the boxes. Frequent visits, however, may prove disturbing to the birds and can cause nest abandonment. To prevent nest abandonment, the Department requests that the public leave nest boxes unattended unless participating in the volunteer program. Instead, residents are encouraged to simply enjoy watching the birds. The public can also install a nest box in their own backyard. With their bright blue color, melodic flute-like calls and bug-hunting pounces to the ground, bluebirds are a treat. More information about these birds and how residents can assist with the project can be found at CRgov.com/Bluebird.

Hike It! Paddle It!

Staff began planning the annual National Trails Day event to be held 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 2 at the Rueter-Hess Reservoir. A site visit took place in March to plan event logistics and view recent upgrades, including a built entrance gate with guard shed and a proposed new parking lot and boat ramp.

This year, the public will be invited to participate in guided hikes and enjoy paddling activities on the water. Participants will be able to rent or bring their own kayaks, canoes or stand-up paddleboards. A \$5 entrance fee will be charge to all vehicles entering the reservoir. Additional fees will be charged to use personal water vessels. At this point, staff is working on the event



details. More information will come soon regarding site logistics, trail alignments, hiking lengths, booths and sponsorship opportunities. To stay up-to-date visit CRgov.com/TrailsDay.

POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PREPARED BY MARCY JONES, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This year marks the Town's 32nd Anniversary of participating in the Tree City USA program. Tree City USA is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service to recognize that trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in cities, providing environmental and economic



benefits. In March, POST Partners Volunteer Program Coordinator, Marcy Jones, met with students from Castle View and Douglas County high schools to prepare and coordinate logistics for the 2018 Paws for a Cause event. On Friday, April 20, in honor of Arbor Day, student volunteers from both schools will come together for a common cause to plant more than 15 trees at Rhyolite Regional Park.

Trail Maintenance



The Ridgeline Wranglers held their season kick-off meeting at The Grange in The Meadows, with a dozen members and a dozen new interested parties in attendance. The Ridgeline Wranglers is a volunteer group dedicated to maintaining and improving Steward Trail at Ridgeline Open Space. Returning members' largest concern was the number of social trails now in existence on the property. The volunteers also identified areas where the trail has cupped from heavy usage and water erosion. General maintenance will be the group's top priority for the 2018 season.

Volunteer Projects

Volunteer projects made a significant improvement on the character of the community over Spring Break when volunteers completed 25 hours of service. Volunteers picked up 54 bags of trash from behind the Recreation Center towards Hangman's Gulch, behind Castle View High School, at Front Street near Douglas County High School, at Rhyolite



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR

MARCH 2018

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Regional Park, around Sellars Gulch in Festival Park and behind the Garage in The Meadows. Volunteers also completed fence post removal at the Miller Activity Complex (MAC) at Philip S. Miller Park, and cleaned and organized storage at the MAC and in the POST Partners Volunteer program trailer.

Trails Thursday

March marked the two-year anniversary of the start of the Trails Thursday campaign on Facebook. In partnership with the Town of Castle Rock's Community Relations Department, this campaign educates the public about all things "trails." Items discussed include scoop the poop, reminders to stay off of trails when muddy conditions are present, trail etiquette and trail closure updates. In addition, these posts remind the public to check the up-to-date trail conditions map before heading out for a hike or ride. This map is available online at CRgov.com/TailConditions. Analytics show that this is now the third most visited map on the Town's website. March alone experienced 200 visits.



Special Events and Programs

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

March was an exciting month for the Special Events Division, as all of the planning from the winter months finally came to fruition. The Town of Castle Rock announced three of their five summer concerts to be held at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park.

Announcements included The Future Tour featuring Jordan Feliz, Blanca and For All Seasons on May 10, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy on July 14 and the Castle Rock Summer Jam on July 29. For its second year, the Castle Rock Summer Jam is partnering with the Town to bring a well-known, national touring and Colorado-native band to Castle Rock. This big announcement will come in early June, so stay tuned for future updates.





Tickets for the Summer Concert Series are sold through the Denver-based ticketing service provider, Altitude Tickets. With a subscriber base of nearly one million people, Altitude Tickets is also the official ticketing agent of other premier venues in

Colorado such as the Pepsi Center, Dick's Sporting Goods Park, 1stBank Center and more. Ticket Sales more than doubled from the Summer Concert Series' inaugural year in 2016 to its second year in 2017, when the Town began using their services. The Special Events Division is excited to see the potential of the 2018 season with some great performances already scheduled and more big names to be announced.

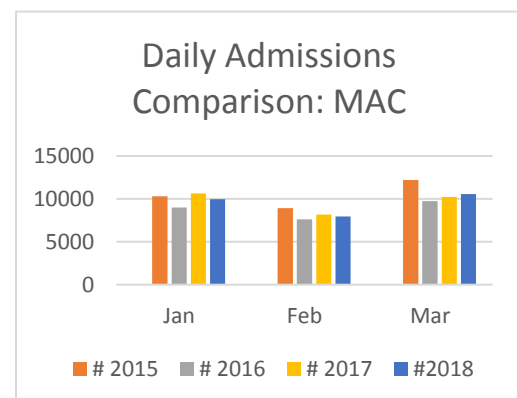
Private event rentals are also gaining momentum for 2018. To date, over 40 weddings are booked at the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park and more are pouring in every day. Wedding formats include ceremony only, reception only and a combination of both ceremonies with receptions. Each wedding will host roughly 50 to 100 attendees. The Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park will also feature other rentals ranging from corporate conferences to birthday parties and everything between. To date, there are more than 121 reservations on the books. 61 additional events, including the Tunes for Trails free concert series, will be held throughout Philip S. Miller Park, each with the potential to host over 1,000 people. 10 races are already booked and ready to go for trail reservations alone. All told, the park has 2,376 hours of events booked to date this year. The Special Events Division is looking forward to the busy year ahead, playing host to many cherished community events.



Miller Activity Complex Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

Traditionally one of the busiest months of the year, the MAC once again proved to be a popular Spring Break destination for the community. Daily admissions increased by 3 percent when compared to March 2017. March was also the busiest month of 2018 to date with an increase of nearly 2,700 people over February. The largest increase in users year-over-year was seniors, growing by 32 percent, followed by youth with a 7 percent increase.



Fitness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS / WELLNESS SUPERVISOR

On Friday March 30, the Fitness Division hosted a Fitness Frenzy. Taking place in each studio at the Recreation Center, this event showcased the variety and quality of classes offered on the fitness schedule. More than 100 patrons enjoyed formats like Strong, Pop Pilates, Rock Bottom and Zumba. Going forward, Fitness Frenzy events will be held quarterly.



The Fitness Division recently entered into a contract with American Specialty Health (ASH) and is excited to accept Silver&Fit members at both the Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex. It works much the same way as Silver Sneakers in that members are eligible through insurance at no out-of-pocket cost. ASH will reimburse the Community Center Fund monthly.

As indicated in the tables below, both Group Fitness and Personal Training participation remained strong throughout March 2018 when compared to 2017 performance. More information on the types of Group Fitness and Personal Training offered, in addition to schedules, can be viewed online at CRgov.com/Fitness.

March Group Fitness

	Total Attendance	Average per class	Average cost for class	Average cost per participant
2017	8,395	17	\$16.37	\$0.95
2018	7,170	14	\$15.56	\$1.10

March Personal Training

March	2017	2018	Percent increase
Individual One Hour Sessions	125	160	+22%
Buddy Training Sessions	19	27	+29%
30-minute Sessions	17	33	+40%
Pilates Reformer Sessions	16	22	+27%

Athletics

PREPARED BY SCOTT SMEETON AND MATT GASSER, ATHLETICS SUPERVISORS

Spring athletic programming has begun, featuring both youth and adult sports. More than 600 youth are participating in volleyball, soccer and flag football. More than 300 adults are participating in the Men's softball league - 21 total teams will play on Monday evenings at Metzler Ranch Park. The adult volleyball league is also underway with 16 teams participating on Monday evenings at the Recreation Center.

The Division is excited to host its first-ever spring league of youth flag football at the Miller Activity Complex. This is the only spring flag football program that is offered for youth indoors in Castle Rock. Parents, coaches and officials alike can take relief in knowing they can play every Saturday, despite unpredictable spring precipitation.



Community Outreach

PREPARED BY LISA SORBO, CUSTOMER RELATIONS PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Throughout March, community outreach focused on informing residents and garnering feedback for the 2018-2020 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan. The draft and an online survey were posted to the Town's website, CRgov.com/ParkPlans.

Over a two-week period, 23 residents submitted detailed responses. Parks and Recreation Staff also hosted open office hours on March 7 and March 14 so residents could ask questions and provide feedback in person. The Strategic Plan draft and the public process period was advertised through a press release, the Department's landing page at CRgov.com/ParksandRec, Facebook posts and direct email. Overall, resident feedback was positive. The plan and feedback results were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, March 21. Commission members unanimously voted in favor of endorsing the plan for approval. Staff will seek Town Council approval of the document in May.

**We want
your
feedback!**
on the
Parks and Recreation
2018 - 2020
Strategic Plan





The Department's presence on the Town of Castle Rock's Facebook page remained consistent. A total of 35 posts featuring everything from trail closures to spring break programs were offered to keep residents up-to-date on programs, parks and trails. The posts generated 322 likes, 123 shares and 94 total comments, indicating positive and strong engagement. Outreach largely focused on increasing registration for spring and summer break camps, and highlighted the Department's new partnership with Colorado State University to bring new day-long summer camps options to residents at Philip S. Miller Park.

Parks Field and Turf Maintenance

PREPARED BY CORY WHITE, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SUPERVISOR

Athletic Fields

Throughout March, staff treated the warning tracks and infields with Pre Emergent to help prevent weed growth for the spring and summer months on baseball and softball fields. Additionally, staff set new base sleeves and installed temporary fence sleeves for the new fences to be used at Metzler Ranch Park. These fences will improve labor efficiency by reducing prep and installation time by approximately 30 minutes.

Three baseball and softball tournaments were held at Metzler Ranch and Paintbrush parks. These tournaments bring in hundreds of spectators each weekend. The amount of hours, energy and maintenance these tournaments require is immense. Staff were able to provide top-notch service for these events, with only two full-time field staff members.

Additionally, staff painted 22 soccer fields in preparation of the spring athletic season. All synthetic fields have now been groomed at least once to maintain turf quality and extend its life.

Staff also designed, built and hung pickle ball boards at Founders Park. These boards can be used for individual practice when someone does not have a partner to play against. The members of the pickle ball community are extremely excited about this new addition.

