

## UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

View the most up-to-date information and sign up for events at [CRgov.com/events](http://CRgov.com/events).

- **Earth Day Willow Harvest and Planting**
  - 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 20  
Festival Park
- **Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex closed**
  - Sunday, April 21
- **Spring Up the Creek**
  - 8-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 4  
Festival Park
- **Basics of Bird Watching Class**
  - 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 8  
Philip S. Miller Library
- **Basics of Bird Watching Free Guided Tour**
  - 8-10 a.m. Saturday, May 18  
Location TBD
- **Climb4Change**
  - 7-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 11  
The Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park
- **Tri the Rock Youth Triathlon**
  - 8 a.m.-noon Sunday, May 19  
Butterfield Crossing Park and Pool
- **Rueter-Hess Paddle Day**
  - 8 a.m.-noon Sunday, May 26  
Rueter-Hess Reservoir




**PADDLE DAYS**  
EXPLORE IT!

**RUETER-HESS RESERVOIR**

**2019**  
7:45 AM - 1:00 PM

The Town of Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to paddle and kayak on the reservoir. The reservoir has not yet opened for public access so these programming opportunities are a great time to explore this scenic reservoir.

Bring your canoes, kayaks or stand-up paddleboards. Leave your dogs, fishing poles and swim gear at home.

All personal watercrafts will be inspected on site.

For more information go to [CRgov.com/RueterHessRec](http://CRgov.com/RueterHessRec)

ATHLETICS & ADVENTURE  
PARKS & RECREATION

### 2019 Paddle Days Announced

Bring your canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards to Rueter-Hess this summer! On select weekends, 14 paddle days will be held at the reservoir. Since the reservoir is not yet fully open to the public outside of programmed events, Paddle Days will provide the general public with a great opportunity to explore the scenery. Personal watercrafts will be inspected on site and pre-registration is required. Visit [CRgov.com/rueterhessrec](http://CRgov.com/rueterhessrec) to view dates or for more information.

Just minutes from Downtown Castle Rock, Rueter-Hess Reservoir sits one mile east of I-25 at the Castle Pines Parkway exit. The property is owned and managed by the Parker Water and Sanitation District. While the District's top priority is maintaining water quality, it has established the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority to plan future recreational opportunities. The Authority is composed of appointed representatives from

the Town of Castle Rock, the Town of Parker, the City of Lone Tree, the City of Castle Pines, Douglas County and the District.

## **PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION**

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

### **Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park**

The construction of the future park near Aspen View Academy is making great progress! The most visible element is the colorful playground installation. When completed, the playground for 5-12 year olds will consist of multiple elevated walkways, several slides, swings, a zip line, climbing elements and more. A separate playground for 2-5 year olds will consist of shorter slides, musical elements and smaller climbing elements.



Project contractor GoodLand Construction, Inc. completed curb and gutter work for the parking lot and installed underground electrical for receptacles and light poles. A sample of the photo-luminescent (glow-in-the-dark) concrete was placed and will proceed for permanent installation near the memorial for Deputy Zack S. Parrish III and the law enforcement profession. In April, playground construction will continue, as will concrete placement; underground irrigation placement will soon commence. The project is scheduled to be complete early summer.

### **TRAILS**

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

### **East Plum Creek Trail Southern Extension**

The southern extension of the East Plum Creek Trail was included as a Town priority in the Council-approved 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The current trail travels along the East Plum Creek corridor, north to south 6 miles from Castle View High School to South Perry Street. This project will add a 2-mile segment, linking South Perry Street to Crystal Valley Parkway.



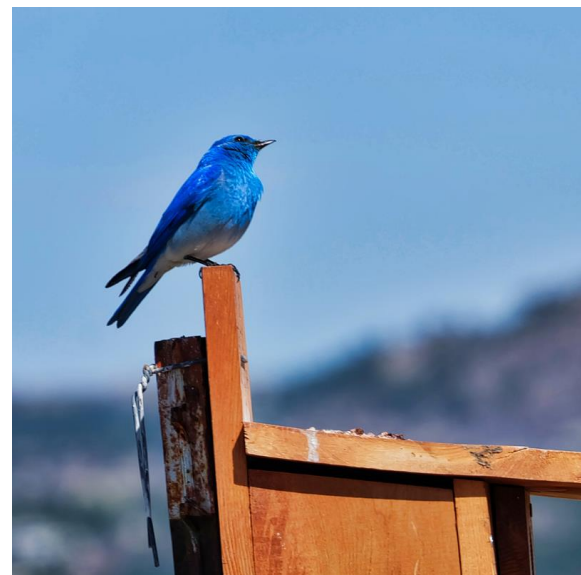
Throughout March, several winter storm events prevented project contractor Hudick Excavating, Inc. (HEI) from working. Once snow melted, HEI prepared one creek crossing for a box culvert, began shaping earth for future footing installation and completed water control measures. Next month, the contractor will temporarily divert the creek drainage to prepare the location of a second trail crossing and to allow the site to dry for construction. Moving forward, HEI will continue to leapfrog the four crossings, keeping the earthwork ahead of the concrete crews. With favorable weather and site conditions, two creek crossings will be completed on the southern portion of the project in April.

### **OPEN SPACE PROJECTS**

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

### **Colorado Bluebird Project**

In 2007, the Town of Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department joined the Colorado Bluebird Project. Under the guidance of the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, the volunteer-run project improves the vitality of native bluebird populations throughout the state and informs and educates the public about this migratory songbird.



As secondary cavity-nesters, bluebirds are dependent on cavities made by other birds or naturally occurring cavities for shelter and raising fledglings. Changes in land-use patterns and the rise of invasive species that increased competition for nesting sites caused a decline in bluebird populations throughout the 1900s. To address this environmental challenge, the Bluebird Project facilitates nesting through the construction and monitoring of nest boxes.



The birds return to Castle Rock in late winter/early spring. In March, time is typically spent finding and claiming nest cavities while breeding activity starts the beginning of April. More and more Mountain Bluebirds have been sighted each day as spring takes over. In fact, in late March, students discovered an incomplete nest in one of the boxes during a spring maintenance inspection, so the bluebirds are ready to begin!

Staff prepared by holding volunteer trainings, performing box maintenance, replacing old boxes, preparing online files for data tracking, creating monitoring schedules and hosting



demonstrations at partnering schools. This year, more than a dozen damaged boxes had to be replaced. Partners include Renaissance, Flagstone, Clear Sky, Castle Rock and Sage Canyon elementary schools and Mesa Middle School. Students, as well as POST Partners volunteers, will be monitoring breeding activity in 190 boxes at 32 sites starting April 1.

Residents are discouraged from disturbing the boxes unless they are registered as monitoring volunteers. Residents are encouraged, however, to enjoy the bird activity around the boxes stationed at local parks, open spaces and schools. Residents are also encouraged to install nest boxes in their own backyard to directly help the birds. With bright blue color, melodic flute-like calls and bug-hunting pounces to the ground, bluebirds are a treat to watch. Visit [CRgov.com/bluebird](http://CRgov.com/bluebird) for more information.

### Environmental Education – Wild In Our Town

The Parks Planning Division and the Castle Rock Police Department partnered with Douglas County Open Space and District Wildlife Managers from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to present a free all-ages public program, Wild In Our Town. The annual event provided an informative presentation on local wildlife including facts, tips to avoid conflicts, pet protection and advice for wildlife viewing. Local residents and surrounding community members viewed displays of different animal mounts for a close-up look. Almost 90 people attended the event held at the Philip S. Miller Library.



### Community Garden at Glovers Park

Applications are now available for plots in the 2019 growing season at this not-for-profit, volunteer-run community garden. Everyone is invited to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs at this public space, which is located at Glovers Park at 534 S. Gilbert St. Individual plots are \$40 per season, and most plots are 5-feet by 8-feet in size. One plot per household will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis. More information is available at [CRgov.com/commgarden](http://CRgov.com/commgarden).



## **POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

PREPARED BY MARCY JONES, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

### **Ridgeline Wranglers**

The Ridgeline Wranglers held their 2019 Season Kick-Off meeting at The Grange with over 20 members in attendance. The Wrangler's largest concern was the number of social trails now on the property. Volunteers also identified areas where the trail has "cupped" from heavy usage and water erosion. General maintenance will be the groups priority for this season.

A new banner was installed at the Coachline trailhead parking lot to encourage new volunteers to join the trail maintenance group.

## **Ridgeline Wranglers**

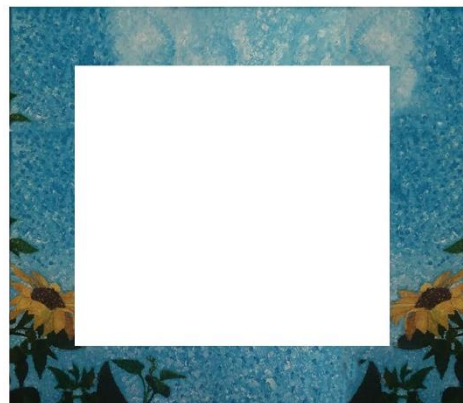


### **Trails Thursday**

March marked the three-year anniversary of the start of the Trails Thursday campaign on Facebook, which serves to educate the public on trail etiquette and use. Past posts have included reminders about poop scooping, advising users to avoid the trails when muddy and notifications on trail closures due to special events or construction. These posts also remind the public to check trail conditions prior to heading out the door for a hike or ride at [CRgov.com/trailconditions](http://CRgov.com/trailconditions).

### **Castle Rock Community Recreation Center Art Frame**

The POST Partners Volunteer program is partnering with Douglas County High School (DCHS) to revive the Art Frame located near the Recreation Center. In March, the Town's Public Art Commission approved the design submitted by DCHS art students. The frame was delivered to the school for the students to begin project. Staff are hoping for an early summer installation.





# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT FROM JEFF BRAUER, DIRECTOR  
MARCH 2019  
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## Recreation Facility Operations

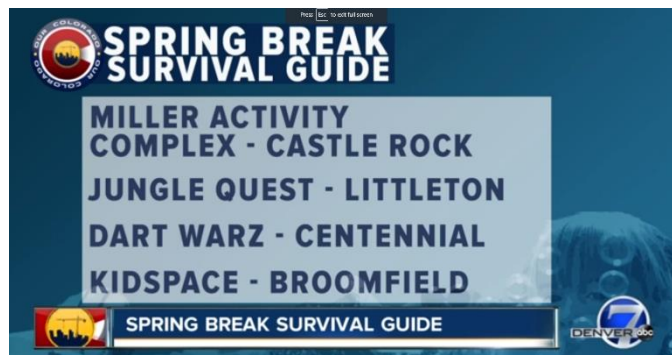
PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR AND JANICE WEED, AQUATICS SUPERVISOR

March is typically the busiest month of the year at the Community Recreation Center (REC). This March was atypical due to the impact of the Bomb Cyclone on March 13 and 14. Due to the two-day Town closure, the REC lost approximately 1,300 daily admissions, lowering year-over-year comparisons by 6 percent. Had the weather event not occurred, March would have again held to be the busiest month of the year with admissions remaining even with 2018.

Despite the Bomb Cyclone closures, admissions at the MAC held a steady trend in month-over-month increases compared to 2018. Gross revenue increased by 31 percent over March 2018.

During the facilities closure, the MAC served as an emergency shelter for approximately 300 motorists rescued from I-25. The MAC was also named by ABC's local channel, thedenverchannel.com, as one of the best options to stay active indoors in the Spring Break Survival Guide.

Facility improvement projects included the installation of a six-lane scoreboard in the REC Lap Pool, as well as the installation of two industrial swimsuit spinners at the REC Lap Pool deck and the MAC Pool deck. Staff began the process on integrating new Department branding at the MAC with the installation of a goal sticker featuring the new logo on the large turf field. The first phase of the MAC North Field improvement project was also completed with the resizing of the existing batting cage and replacement of the netting.





## Youth Programming

PREPARED BY MINDY FORTIN, YOUTH SPECIALIST

A highlight in the Adventure Club classrooms included celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday as National Read Across America Day. Students made paper Dr. Seuss hats and green eggs and ham.

Open Enrollment for Adventure Club's 2019-2020 school year remains strong. All morning Junior Preschool, Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes have reached full capacity with waitlists. Afternoon Preschool has 18 of 30 spots remaining and afternoon Pre-K has just 8 spots left. Enrollment will continue until all classrooms are full. Adventure Club's summer camp enrollment also remains strong at 70 percent capacity.

Adventure Club staff attended the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood conference on March 1, which aims to support and solidify the growing understanding of the importance of investing in early childhood education. The conference offered 150 workshops on topics ranging from classroom practices to community leadership and advocacy, and provided opportunities for teachers, administrators and advocates to learn, share and connect.

Preschool staff received several positive testimonials throughout the month from parents of participants:

*We are seeing HUGE progress at home! I wanted to thank you for taking the time with him, I know it can be difficult at times, but it means a lot to see someone take the time with him! He LOVES school now and talks about it all the time. He wants to come to your class everyday now!*

*Some improvements we are seeing at home:*

*Bigger sentences, asking questions, answering questions.*

*He recognizes numbers 1-3 (this makes us very excited!)*

*He sings the washing hands song and happy birthday!*

*He is sharing and taking turns so well at home with friends and his sister now!*

*He is even trying to teach his sister how to do things such as washing hands and*



*cleaning up (this is huge for him)!*

*He dresses himself and even puts on his own shoes now (this is also a huge step for him)*

*We've also noticed a huge difference in the way he reacts to things.*

*My husband and I really think he is improving so much because of your class! I know he probably does not seem like he does much at school but at home we are seeing huge improvements and we know it is because of your hard work! Thanks again for taking the time with him; it means the world to us!*

*Ms. Cari,*

*I just wanted to take a moment and say thank you! You are a blessing to our family! Thank you for giving me time to breathe and relax because I know my child is safe with you! Thank you for caring! Thank you for everything you do!!*

*Sincerely,*

*Ciera's Mom*

### **Adaptive Recreation**

PREPARED BY REBECCA ERIKSON, ADAPTIVE RECREATION  
COORDINATOR

### **National Sports Center for the Disabled Mini-Camp**

During spring break, the Adaptive Recreation program partnered with the National Sports Center for the Disabled to offer a mini-camp from 9 a.m. – noon. Twelve participants had fun with boxing, soccer, rock climbing, archery, a ninja course and indoor kayaking. "Challenge Yourself" was the theme. The camp proved to be a great week!



### **Family Fun Night**

Family Fund Night at the MAC trampolines was a big success! Ten families registered and a total of 37 parents and siblings participated. Accommodations were provided, which included limiting the use of whistles and providing the ability to lay or sit on the trampolines when breaks were needed.



### Jace's Journey

On Dec. 15, 2017, Jace's life changed forever. This vibrant boy's trip home from a Town of Castle Parks and Recreation basketball practice ended with a head-on collision. Jace and his sister, Haevyn, were both rushed to the hospital. All others involved in the accident walked away with minor injuries.

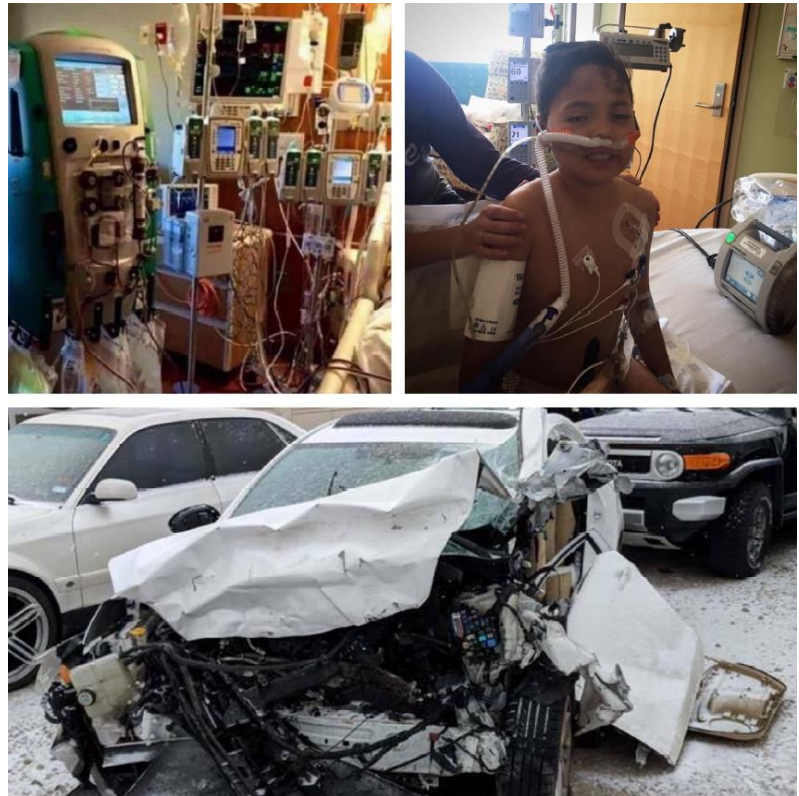
After three nights of observation, Haevyn checked out of the hospital with a fractured collarbone and extensive bruising, but no permanent physical injuries. After multiple MRI's, concerns about spinal injury and the need to correct internal bleeding, Jace was air lifted from Sky Ridge Medical Center to the Children's Hospital Colorado for further, critical treatment by pediatric specialists.

In the days that followed, Jace remained strong through multiple surgeries and the heartbreaking news of paraplegia. Jace was released from the hospital on Feb. 15, 2018 – two short months after the tragic accident. Within the past year, Jace went back to school, received a grant to help with modifications in home, reconnected with the first responders who performed his rescue and skied for the very first time through the Town's Adaptive Recreation Program!

Jace's family provided the following statement:

*Kids are resilient. For the past year, I heard that phrase too many times, yet I've never heard anyone say that adults are resilient. This was the case for me and my family. My son Jace officially became a paraplegic just over a year ago and because we've figured out a way to slightly adjust our day to day activities, we hadn't faced the realization of his disability.*

*Rebecca Erickson reached out to us asking if Jace would be interested in the adaptive ski program and even though my heart was in awe of the graciousness, my mind automatically shut the idea down. There was no way I was about to send my son away*



*for the day. Who would know how to handle his situation? How would they know when he needs assistance? What about reminding him to take his medications?*

*After meeting with Rebecca, and having the reassurance of Jace's safety a top priority, I realized that I had to let him try it. Jace had never skied before, not even before his injury, so we figured this was the perfect opportunity to introduce. Nonetheless, we agreed to send him. After Jace's first day, he said his experience was "okay" but by the second weekend, Jace had made new friendships, cruised down the hill at supersonic speed (his words), and had been exposed to many individuals with his same disability.*



*My family learned about a world that we hardly knew existed. Whether Jace continues to ski or not, his experience has opened our hearts to the adaptive world, their families, and support of a wonderful community. Thank you, Castle Rock Recreation Center!"*

## Fitness and Wellness

PREPARED BY COURTNEY GLASS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS SUPERVISOR

In March, the Fitness and Wellness Division experienced a 60 percent increase in Pilates Reformer training. The Reformer is an exercise machine used to incorporate Pilates techniques for challenging workouts for all abilities levels. The benefits of using a Pilates Reformer include increased muscular endurance, improved core strength and posture, increased flexibility and improved breathing. The Fitness Division staffs one certified Pilates Reformer Instructor and has three machines available in the Mind/Body Studio at the Recreation Center for individualized and buddy training sessions.



## Athletics

PREPARED BY SCOTT SMEETON, ATHLETIC SUPERVISOR

Spring programs have begun! Youth sports include volleyball and soccer; adult sports include volleyball and softball. All current and returning program registration numbers are at previous levels or above. Weather has been a challenge regarding ball field usage for practices and/or games. Fortunately, with creative scheduling, the Men's and Coed Adult Softball leagues will remain on track to finish their seasons on time.



The Adult Pickle Ball program continues to be a huge success for the third consecutive year. Registration for summer programs is filling up quickly. Participants and pickle ball enthusiasts alike are anticipating the opening of Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park, which will include six new tournament-level pickle ball courts. The Athletics Division is hopeful that the courts will be available for play during the second half of Session I. With the seven courts at Founders Park, there will be now thirteen total courts in Castle Rock to help fill the growing demand for this wildly popular sport.



## Community Outreach

PREPARED LISA SORBO, CUSTOMER RELATIONS SPECIALIST

March's big push was the Summer Concert Series line-up announcement, Colorado Bluebird Project training and recruitment and promoting spring break camps, baseball registration and the spring cornhole league. Posts were made on Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor and Twitter.

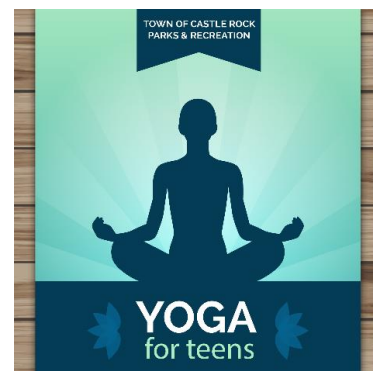
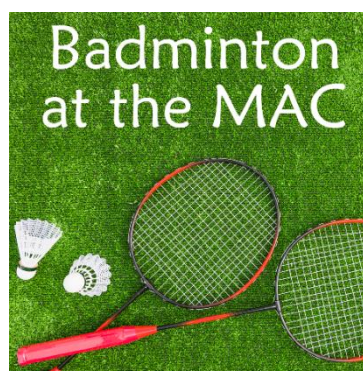


Facebook's largest engagement was 753 likes for the Clay Walker concert post. The second largest engagement came in at 600 likes from the post regarding the MAC being used as a Bomb Cyclone Shelter.



On Instagram, a drone photo of the new synthetic-turf field at Metzler Ranch Community Park received 29 likes on @CRParksandRec and 124 on @CRgov.

The following programs were also featured in social media promotions:







## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

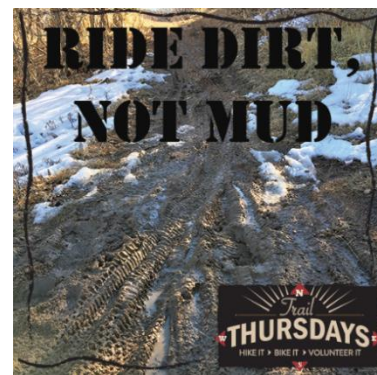
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MARCH 2019

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Staff offered a \$10 discount on all full-day summer camp registrations through the end of March. For families with multiple children or purchasing multiple weeks, this discount can equate to a substantial savings. Between when registration opened on Jan. 21 and April 1, 165 sign ups were received for CSU R.A.M. Camp and 255 for Rock Rec Camp.

This month's Trails Thursday post focused on the wet and muddy conditions caused by melting snow and educating the public to stay off the trails when wet. These posts also serve as a communication tool for people out of the area who might be considering driving to Castle Rock to use the trails.



### Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

PREPARED BY BOB PERSICHETTI, HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

#### Operations

March was another snowy and wet month, which kept the golf course closed for 22 of the 31 days. The precipitation is beneficial during the winter months but has negatively affected revenue. The golf course is \$70,457 behind projections through the first quarter of 2019. Total revenue for the month (\$51,969) was the third lowest total since opening the golf course in 1999 and fell nearly \$35,000 below the 10-year average for March.

While the golf course is in a revenue hole to start the year, staff is optimistic about business levels moving forward. Tournament bookings are trending ahead of prior year and fee increases should help regain some ground as long as weather is favorable.



|                         | <b>Current Month</b> | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Previous Year</b> | <b>Year to Date</b> | <b>Previous Year</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Total Revenue           | \$51,969             | \$103,140     | \$118,458            | \$60,339            | \$171,658            |
| Total Rounds            | 559                  | 1,520         | 1,519                | 637                 | 2,245                |
| Avg. Income/Player      | \$92.97              | \$67.86       | \$77.98              | \$94.72             | \$76.46              |
| Golf Shop Sales         | \$6,861              | \$10,336      | \$11,619             | \$9,710             | \$19,489             |
| Food and Beverage Sales | \$4,984              | \$17,404      | \$17,398             | \$6,506             | \$25,348             |

## Golf Course Maintenance

March proved difficult for maintenance with one of the worst blizzards in recent times. Maintenance crews worked to clear snowdrifts and prepare the course for play as soon as possible. March is typically when staff accomplish the majority of course aeration and button up outstanding projects. Bunker renovation work on the first two holes resumed late in the month and staff completed a significant amount of drainage and sod work. Looking ahead to April, staff is preparing to core cultivate greens and apply amendments to the soil. Fertilizer is being applied to the entire course for the spring growing season and general conditions look very good following a wet winter.

