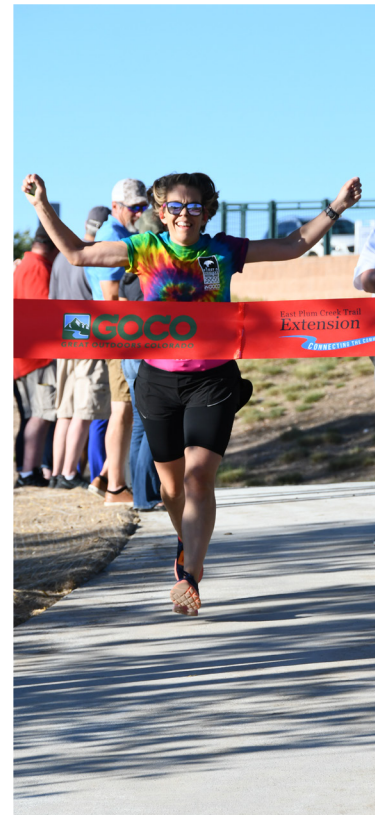




Castle Rock  
**PARKS &  
RECREATION**  
Monthly Report:  
*September 2019*



LEARN MORE



[CRgov.com/ParksandRec](http://CRgov.com/ParksandRec)



[parks@CRgov.com](mailto:parks@CRgov.com)







## Upcoming Events

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

OCTOBER

12

### FALL FESTIVAL FEATURING CREEPY CRAWLIES AROUND THE ROCK

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Festival Park



OCTOBER

26

### SPOOKTACULAR

1 - 4 p.m.  
Miller Activity Complex





## Parks, Open Space and Trails

### GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

On Sept. 27, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) awarded more than \$9.2 million in grants. GOCO invests a portion of annual Colorado Lottery revenues into competitive grants for trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, river corridors and playgrounds.

The majority of the funding, totaling \$8.5 million, was awarded through the final round of GOCO's Connect Initiative. This program aims to increase access to the outdoors in Colorado communities by filling critical trail gaps, building new trails and providing better walkable and bikeable access for youth and families. According to GOCO, more than 80 percent of people in Colorado recreate on trails; closing gaps and increasing connectivity has long been a top priority for the state's residents.

Castle Rock received a \$2 million Connect Initiative award to complete the remaining sections of the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT) through town. Through the leadership of Colorado State Parks and with the support of many communities and stakeholders, CFRT commenced in 2003 with the long-term goal to offer a multi-purpose trail connecting communities along the Front Range from New Mexico to Wyoming.

Castle Rock functions as CFRT's southern crossroad: East Plum Creek, Hangman's Gulch, Woodlands and McMurdo Gulch trails will eventually link travelers with the Cherry Creek Regional Trail to the east, and Denver to the north with Colorado Springs to the south. This project would develop 1.7 miles of paved and soft-surface trail southward along the East Plum Creek and 3.3 miles of paved trail along the McMurdo Gulch.

The trail segments will be completed through a partnership of multiple government agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses to facilitate added funding and incentives to construct segments that otherwise may not be built for many years. Along with the Town of Castle Rock as the primary leading agency, partners include Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources, Douglas Land Conservancy, Colorado Agricultural Leadership Foundation, Starwood Land Ventures, LLC and Toll Brothers, Inc.

Project design development will begin in 2020; completion must occur within three years from the grant award, which is qualification requirement of the Connect Initiative program.







## EAST PLUM CREEK TRAIL SOUTHERN EXTENSION NOW OPEN

The Southern Extension of the East Plum Creek Trail officially opened to the public on Friday, Sept. 20. Following a dedication ceremony featuring speeches from Mayor Jason Gray, Town Councilmember George Teal, Great Outdoors Colorado Board Member Mina Liebert and Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Brauer, racers of the East Plum Creek Trail 10k and Art Run 5k broke through the ceremonial ribbon. Spectators festively cheered on the opening event and runners with cowbell, while kids partook in a geocaching adventure to explore Castle Rock's newest trail segment.

Over the course of nine months, project contractor HEI Civil constructed four low-water creek crossings, 14 reinforced concrete pipe drainage structures, four bench pads and two miles of 10-foot wide concrete trail. 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 trail now travels north to south eight miles from Castle View High School to Crystal Valley Parkway. This project was made possible through grant support from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). In October 2016, the Town was awarded with a \$1 million grant from GOCO through the Connect Initiative Program, which funded approximately half of the project.





## POST Partners

### COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT

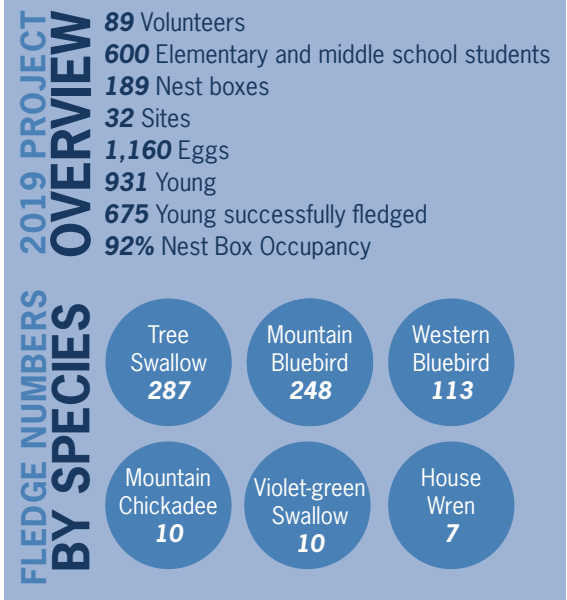
Each year, volunteers monitor bluebird populations with the Town's Post Partners Volunteer Program under the guidance of the Denver Audubon Society. The mission of the Colorado Bluebird Project is to improve the vitality of bluebirds throughout the state and to inform and education the public.

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 program manages 189 artificial boxes at 32 school, park, open space, cemetery and church sites in Castle Rock. Volunteers of all ages assist with annual maintenance and repair, as well as monitor fledgling success rates from April through August.

The 2019 season of the Colorado Bluebird Project ended in September with a potluck celebration for volunteers. Attendees enjoyed a slideshow of photos, followed by a presentation summarizing the breeding activity. Six native bird species used Castle Rock's nest boxes, as well as one nonnative House Sparrow. House Wrens nested in the monitored boxes for the first time as well.

2019 experienced a significant decline in fledged numbers over last year: 857 successful fledglings were tracked in 2018 versus 675 in 2019. This 21.2 percent decrease is likely due to late spring storms that brought eight inches of snow followed by several days with freezing temperatures in May. Overall, Tree Swallows had the highest number of successful fledglings for the second year in a row.

More information on Castle Rock's Colorado Bluebird Project, as well as its volunteer opportunities, can be viewed at [CRgov.com/Bluebird](http://CRgov.com/Bluebird).







## Community Events

### FIRST FRIDAYS AFTER 5

September concluded the last of the Town's newest event series, First Fridays After 5. The inaugural event proved to be just what Castle Rock residents wanted, demonstrated by the strong attendance of thousands of concert goers. On the first Fridays of June through September, artists took the stage at Festival Park. A variety of food trucks and cocktails were on hand to ease attendees into the weekend, while kids enjoyed face painting and arts and crafts. A themed run kicked off three of the four events and an average of 100 racers were encouraged to dress up for prizes.

### FIRST FRIDAYS AFTER 5



Howl at the Moon's  
Dueling Pianos

JUNE

Poker Run  
5k

The Red Not  
Chili Peppers

JULY

Patriotic  
5k

Mike Nash and the  
Southern Drawl Band

AUGUST

Bearded Run  
5k

Artrageous  
Experience

SEPTEMBER

East Plum Creek Trail  
10k and Art Run 5k



### POOCH PLUNGE AND STRUT YOUR MUTT

On Saturday, Sept. 7, over 50 people and furry friends attended the fifteenth annual Pooch Plunge, officially closing Butterfield Pool for the swimming season. This year's event featured an inaugural Strut Your Mutt, an untimed walk around Butterfield Park. Between registrations, donations and sponsorships, over \$800 was raised for the Buddy Center of the Dumb Friends League. The Buddy Center is a full-service animal shelter that offers adoptions, pet admissions, lost-and-found services and humane education classes in Castle Rock.



## Adaptive Recreation

### DOUGLAS COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MILL LEVY GRANT PROGRAM

With the unanimous support of the Board of Douglas County Commissioners, the Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy was placed on the ballot in 2001, which proposed a one-mill property tax dedicated to services for persons with developmental disabilities. Douglas County distributes 94.5 percent of the voter-approved funds to support the County's Community-Centered Board, Developmental Pathways, while 5.5 percent is retained for the Douglas County Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy (DDML) Grant Program.

The DDML was initiated in 2002. Just over \$4.2 million in competitive grants have been awarded to organizations delivering local services supporting Douglas County residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Grants typically range between \$1,000 and \$25,000 and are awarded to projects and services that address unmet needs and demonstrate collaborative efforts and best practices in serving those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

In September, the Town of Castle Rock's Adaptive Recreation and Adaptive Learn to Swim programs were respectively awarded \$10,000 and \$15,000 through the DDML Grant Program. Each applicant was scored on criteria such as quality of application, program management, community impact, unit cost and policies and procedures. Both grant submissions scored in the top three of nearly 30 applicants. Awards will be used to provide scholarships to the variety of recreational and educational opportunities offered through Adaptive Recreation and Adaptive Learn to Swim.

### ZUMBA GLOW DANCE PARTY

On Friday, Sept. 20, 189 people attended the Fourth Annual Zumba Glow Dance Party event, a fitness fundraiser held annually at The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. More than 50 volunteers ensured the evening was successful and nearly \$1,200 was raised for the program's scholarship fund. Zumba is an exercise fitness program that combines upbeat music with popular Latin dances such as the Salsa, Mambo and Samba.



## Birthday Parties

### 2019 PARTIES TO DATE

The Town of Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department offers convenient and affordable birthday party packages at the Miller Activity Complex, Recreation Center and Burgess Pool. Parties include various fun activities, a party room, a party host, balloons and more. In 2018, staff introduced the Key Log Rolling Birthday Party Package, which allowed party goers the opportunity to battle it out lumberjack style on a Keg Log. In 2019, staff introduced the Astro Blaster Turf Party.



### 2019 YTD SUMMARY

# Birthday Parties

530  
parties  
booked

79 parties  
held during  
busiest  
month,  
February

19 parties  
held at  
Burgess  
Outdoor  
Pool

3,906  
balloons  
used

58,590  
minutes  
booked in  
private party  
rooms

400  
parties  
held at  
the MAC





## Red Hawk Ridge

### 2019 GOLF TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

2019 proved to be another good year of tournament play at Red Hawk Ridge. Each year, the course faces the difficult challenge of balancing tournament play so that revenue goals can be met without noticeably or consistently displacing daily public play. Staff has determined that approximately 3,500 annual contracted tournament rounds allows for a comfortable and healthy balance.

In 2019, Red Hawk Ridge hosted 3,542 contracted tournament rounds for a revenue total of \$424,815 (\$119.94/round). This was a nice increase over the 3,105 contracted tournament rounds played in 2018 for a revenue total of \$365,559 (\$117.73/round). Red Hawk Ridge also hosts approximately twenty in-house club tournaments annually for the men's and ladies' clubs.

Red Hawk Ridge takes pride in being one of the best tournament courses on the Front Range. The feedback staff receives from tournament customers is always very positive due to the attention to detail, outstanding customer service and consistent product quality in all areas. The course design lends itself to being "fun" for many tournament formats. For all of these reasons, the majority of the tournaments rebook each year and many have already penciled in dates for the 2020 golf season.





## Parks Maintenance and Operations

### PAVILION RENTALS

Picnic pavilion rentals to date in 2019 have demonstrated a 20.5 percent increase over all 2018 rentals.

Park	Booking Count	Reservation Hours	Event Hours	Estimated Attendance	Alcohol Permits
Bison Pavilion	57	308.5	252	3,599	14
Butterfield Pavilion	44	262	219.75	2,892	10
Centennial Pavilion	83	278.25	196.75	4,781	12
Parrish Park Events - Pavilion	3	16	15	500	2
Festival Park Events	85	627.75	426.25	61,610	45
Founders Pavilion	43	260.5	224.5	4,821	12
Matney Pavilion	42	230.75	190.25	1,908	11
Mosman Pavilion	11	61	50	516	2
Philip S. Miller Park Pavilion #1	89	460.75	377.25	7,672	36
Philip S. Miller Park Pavilion #2	101	383	283	9,925	25
Philip S. Miller Park Pavilion #3	89	483	395	7,806	16
Philip S. Miller Park Pavilion - Core Plaza	91	520	397.5	12,920	18
Rhyolite Pavilion	65	371.5	292	3,124	19
Rock Park Pavilion	12	66	47	240	0
Wrangler Park Pavilion	37	197.75	161.25	1,489	12
Totals	852	4,526.75	3,527.50	123,803	234

### TOWN TROLLEY RENTALS

In 2019, the Trolley ran 51 times through September; 13 additional rentals are scheduled during the remainder of the year. Community members have offered positive feedback and are enjoying seeing and using the trolley during cherished special events. Some Trolley favorites for private rentals are history tours of Castle Rock, brewery tours and weddings. Oktoberfest was a hit with over 250 riders utilizing the Trolley to get from Downtown Castle Rock to parking at the Library, Town Hall and the Douglas County parking garage.

