



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

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## Upcoming Events

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

DEC - JAN

26-31

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Douglas County Fairgrounds and Founders,  
Metzler Ranch and Paintbrush parks

FEBRUARY

20

### COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

7 - 8 p.m.  
The Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

JANUARY

11

### FAT BIKE BY THE FULL MOON

2:30 - 10 p.m.  
Breckenridge (depart the  
Miller Activity Complex at 2:30 p.m.)

MARCH

4

### COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT NEST BOX MONITOR TRAINING

6:30 - 8 p.m.  
The Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

FEBRUARY

8

### DADDY DAUGHTER BALL

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Douglas County Fairgrounds



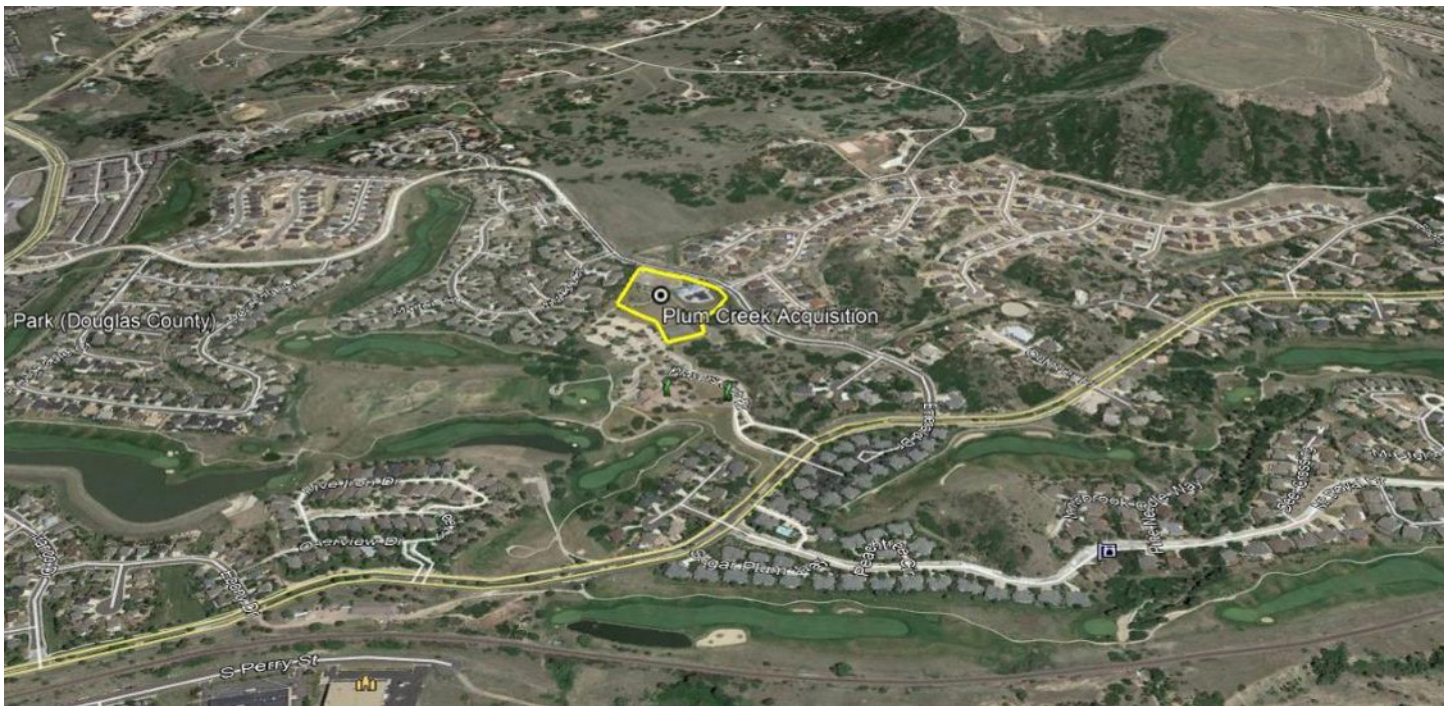


## Parks, Open Space and Trails

### PLUM CREEK PARK SITE ACQUISITION

Inquiries were initiated in 2018 regarding a potential acquisition of non-course land from the Plum Creek Golf Club for the purpose of future park development. Town staff met with the ownership group to discuss the possibility of an agreement and commissioned an independent property appraisal. Town Council then held several executive sessions to review progress concerning the potential purchase, identified an appropriate funding source and provided opportunity for public input at meetings.

In late 2019, Town Council approved a resolution for the acquisition of 7.6 acres. The site, located on the north side of Emerald Drive, contains a run-down pool, pump house and tennis courts. The removal of existing amenities will occur later and future improvements will happen when budgeted funds are available. In 2020, Parks and Recreation Department staff will engage conversations with the public to design a master plan for the future neighborhood park.







## Community Events

### SEASON OF THE STAR

Castle Rock is a magical winter wonderland every year during the Season of the Star, marking a weeks-long celebration of lights, holiday festivities and attractions throughout Downtown. The Starlighting ceremony kicks off the season with Santa, live entertainment, fireworks and the lighting of the star atop the Rock. Families flock to see the giant tree in Festival Park and capture many holiday memories, while ice skating enthusiasts enjoy the outdoor rink.

The events continue into December with Storytellers and S'mores. On the first Saturday of the month, families bundle up to listen to stories read from the giant storyteller chair in Festival Park. Favorites such as Elsa and Anna from Frozen, Tinkerbell, the Grinch, Buddy the Elf, Santa and Mrs. Claus add to the small-town charm, as many children visit and take pictures with the characters. The Mayor and members of Castle Rock Fire and Police join in the fun, as marshmallows are toasted, letters to Santa are collected and handmade ornaments are crafted. Attendees can hop on the Town Trolley for a short tour of the beautifully lit Downtown.

During the season, thousands visit the heart of Castle Rock to dine at favorite restaurants, catch a horse-drawn carriage ride and shop the eclectic boutiques, all surrounded by twinkling holiday lights. Several local churches host events such as the Lighting of the Menorah and the Christmas Eve Candlelighting.

All of the Season of the Star events are free or low cost, foster community spirit and are a wonderful way to spend time with family and friends during the cherished holiday season.

### REINDEER GAMES

The third annual Reindeer Games continued to be a family favorite. Over 2,500 families visited Philip S. Miller Park to see live reindeer, meet Santa, create holiday crafts and ride festive trains on Friday, Dec. 13. Attendees warmed up with hot chocolate and roasted s'mores before braving the outdoor obstacle course. This year, two adorable donkeys joined in the reindeer fun and the Grinch took over the dance floor. The event proved to be a magically fun evening for all.





## Community Outreach

### 12 DAYS OF WELLNESS RECAP

To raise public awareness of the depth of programming offered through the Recreation Center, staff ran a unique 12 Days of Wellness campaign on Castle Rock's social media pages. A new promotion was featured daily beginning Dec. 1 and followers were encouraged to tune in each evening to see what

was in store. The campaign generated over 30,000 impressions over the course of nearly two weeks.



On the first day of wellness, staff offered the purchase of \$100 gift card for a discounted \$90. The second day featured free log rolling in the pool with a day pass. The third day included fun, hands-on activities for youth and a visit from princess Elsa. The following days offered Red Cross and first aid sampler classes, preschool tours, drop-in wallyball and

cornhole, a Santa letter-writing campaign leading up to the Storytellers and S'mores event, a youth camp sampler, free Functional Threshold Power tests for cycling enthusiasts, a 10 percent discount at the Recreation Center store and a free Zumba class. The final and twelfth day featured complimentary fitness assessments and patrons could receive two free personal training sessions with the purchase of 10 or one free session with the purchase of 12.





## Arts and Enrichment

### NEW PERMANENT SCULPTURE INSTALLED AT PHILIP S. MILLER PARK

The Town's newest addition to the permanent public art collection, Tree of Wings, was installed in December. The kinetic sculpture was created by Colorado artists Mary Williams and John King for Philip S. Miller Park. The artists, who combined have over 30 years of experience in public art, have installed artwork across the Front Range and nation. After visiting the park, Williams and King wanted to produce a piece representational of its active and moving nature. The sculpture offers onlookers a mesmerizing visual with gliding wings and vibrant color near the park's pavilions and splash pad.

This artwork was commissioned by the Town's Public Art Commission (PAC). The mission of PAC is to bring distinctive public art to the community and serve as the stewards of the public art program, creating, planning, overseeing and promoting public art initiatives through collaboration. A key goal identified in PAC's Public Art Plan was to enlist an art project for Philip S. Miller Park to deepen visitor experience. More information about public art in Castle Rock can be found at [CRgov.com/PublicArt](http://CRgov.com/PublicArt).





## Fitness and Wellness

### YEAR-END GROUP FITNESS SURVEY RESULTS

The Fitness and Wellness Division conducts an annual group fitness survey to assess how well the current schedule and offerings meet participants' needs. Fifty-four responses were received. Ninety-eight percent of survey respondents were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the current schedule. The survey also asks respondents to rate instructors on their preparedness for class; knowledge and professionalism; and their ability to make classes enjoyable, challenging and motivating. Overall, instructors were rated 4.92 out of 5, 4.84 out of 5 and 4.85 out of 5, respectively.







## Education

### SUCCESSFUL CAMPS HELD OVER WINTER BREAK

The Education Division's Rock Rec Camp had a fun holiday break hosting 34 total campers. Participants enjoyed field trips to the Downtown Aquarium and the Gaylord Hotel's ICE! exhibit featuring Rudolph and a variety of interactive scenes.

Inspire to Learn and Imagine STEMplicity offered campers science and engineering programming with the theme of gadgets and gizmos. Attendees became inventors and worked in teams to create Lego gadgets, such as alarm clocks, robotic cars and marshmallow shooters.

The Dungeons & Dragons camp filled up quickly and students role played as unique characters of their own creation. This camp enhances social skills and creative thinking as participants solve challenging puzzles and battle dragons and enemies. Many of the campers enrolled for the January program due to their enjoyment.







## POST Partners

### FESTIVAL OF TREES

As part of the annual Season of the Star event series, the POST Partners Volunteer Program provides live trees in Festival Park for merchants to sponsor and decorate. A more sustainable option, the lit trees are planted within Town parks and open space areas after the holiday season. The 2019 program featured more trees than ever; 26 businesses sponsored 27 trees totaling \$3,375 of donations.

### 2019 EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Castle Rock's POST Partners Volunteer Program offers project opportunities to Boy Scouts wishing to work toward the rank of Eagle or Life Scout. These ranks require the successful completion of a project for community benefit. Interested individuals must complete an application and be at least 15 years old. Since 2006, the Town has successfully worked with over 70 Boy Scouts. 2019 projects included:

- Sean Sullivan constructed and installed landscaping steps at the Public Safety Training Facility.
- David Mekelburg constructed and installed two American Kestrel nest boxes at Memmen Ridge Open Space and the Recreation Center.
- Skyler Call constructed and installed two bat boxes at Paintbrush Park.
- Stephen Zukowski prepared for and began the installation of new plaques and flexible marker posts to color code the soft-surface trail loops at Ridgeline Open Space. Project implementation will continue into the beginning of 2020. At its completion, the Stewart Trail will feature 50 new directional plaques installed on 14 wayfinding posts at major junctions, in addition to 32 new flexible marker posts installed along the 9.5 miles of trail. The Parks and Recreation Department will also install six new wayfinder signs and four new kiosk maps in 2020 to reflect the updated color-coding.





## Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

### 2019 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

With nearly 39,000 rounds of golf played in 2019, Red Hawk is celebrating its best year in revenue for both golf operations and the Clubhouse Grill.

Despite unfavorable weather in the shoulder seasons, the golf fund fared well for the year. Contributing to a successful year was the new golf fleet, which arrived in April, bringing 80 new golf carts equipped with Visage GPS systems. The carts assist golfers in navigating the course more effectively and enable staff to track carts to better manage pace of play.

Also contributing to a successful year was the Food and Beverage team in the Clubhouse Grill. Revenue saw a nearly 7 percent increase over 2018. The Food and Beverage team has done a great job of improving food quality over the past few years and the revenue up-tick is indicative of this.

