



Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
Monthly Report:
February 2020

LEARN MORE



CRgov.com/ParksandRec



parks@CRgov.com





Upcoming Events

View up-to-date information and register for events at CRgov.com/Events.

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------|---|
| MARCH 10 | COBBLESTONE RANCH PHASE 1 DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING 6:30 - 8 p.m. Sage Canyon Elementary School (CRgov.com/FutureParks) | APRIL 12 | RECREATION CENTER AND MILLER ACTIVITY COMPLEX CLOSURE |
| MARCH 12 | RIDGELINE WRANGLERS & PHILIP S. MILLER TRAIL PARTNERS SEASON KICK-OFF MEETING 6 - 7:30 p.m. Miller Activity Complex | APRIL 25 | EARTH DAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Festival Park |
| APRIL 1 | RHYOLITE BIKE PARK DIRT CREW SEASON KICK-OFF MEETING 6 - 7:30 p.m. Miller Activity Complex | APRIL - MAY 25-3 | ANNUAL POTTERY SALE 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Recreation Center |
| APRIL 2 | WILD IN OUR TOWN 6 - 8 p.m. Philip S. Miller Library | | |



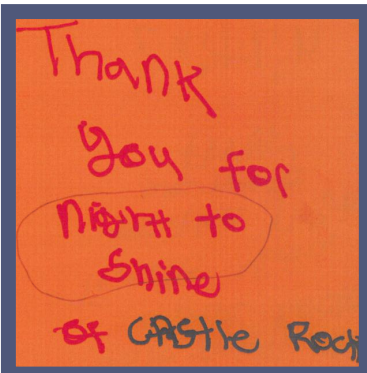
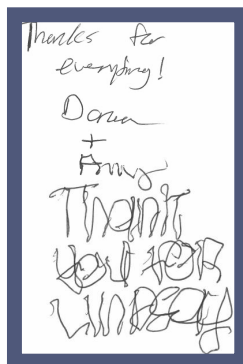
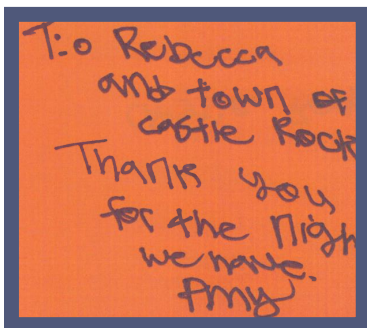
Adaptive Recreation

NIGHT TO SHINE

On Friday, Feb. 7, the Town's Adaptive Recreation Program, in partnership with the Wellspring Community, was privileged to host the first prom night for Castle Rock's special needs community. The night included hair and makeup stations, limo rides, photo-booth fun, a special video message from Tim Tebow - whose foundation sponsored a portion of the event - food from Chick-Fil-A and lots and lots of dancing. All the attendees were crowned king and queen to cap off the evening. With more than 100 attendees and buddies, and over 200 volunteers, the event was a huge success.

The mission of the Tim Tebow Foundation is to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need; the sponsorship amount was \$6,500. The worldwide movement celebrated more than 100,000 honored guests.

To learn more about the Adaptive Recreation program, visit CRgov.com/AdaptiveRecreation.





Community Events

DADDY DAUGHTER BALL

The 2020 Daddy Daughter Ball experienced great success with 1,958 attendees. Daddies and their daughters danced the night away adorned in masks and festive attire, living up to the masquerade theme. Tinkerbell, Elsa, Bella and Rapunzel greeted attendees and proved to be a huge hit – everyone wanted a photo taken with them. New this year, was the Blinks and Winks photo booth. Over 100 pictures were taken in just two hours.

The Teen Advisory Group hosted its annual fundraiser at the event, raising \$1,621 to support their programming throughout the year. These teens plan parks and recreation activities for youth and organize charitable and educational programs on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department.



FREE EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

This April marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. To celebrate, preparations are underway by Parks and Recreation staff to offer free, earth-loving fun at Festival Park on Saturday, April 25.

The Annual Willow Harvest and Planting will kick off the event from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. For nearly a decade, volunteers have helped the Town celebrate Earth Day by restoring disturbed riparian areas. This year, volunteers will harvest willow branches from healthy streamside habitat, then replant the branches along Sellars Gulch downstream of Festival Park. Once established, the willows will offer shelter, nesting sites, food and habitat essential for wildlife. Pre-registration for this volunteer opportunity is required.

Additional festivities will continue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring:

- Food trucks selling locally and seasonally crafted fare;
- Demonstrations by local artists and purveyors using upcycled, zero-waste material;
- A variety of artisans and merchants offering eco-friendly, Colorado-made products;
- Educational presentations covering a wide range of topics, such as bee keeping basics, urban gardening and wildlife living near Castle Rock;
- Yard games, kids crafts and acoustic music;
- Live animal displays from Nature's Educators;
- E-bike demonstrations provided by Castle Rock Bike & Ski Shop; and,
- Locally- and regionally-based environmental organizations who honor Earth Day every day through their hard work and dedication to stewardship.

To help reduce waste from the event, attendees are encouraged to bring water bottles and bike to the event - there are plenty of bike racks available at Festival Park. Volunteers will be on hand to help people recycle properly at the various trash and recycling bins that will be set up around the park. The first 100 attendees to the event will receive a packet of milkweed seeds to help improve the habitat of Monarch butterflies by planting their main food source.

Marked by more than one billion people every year, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world and as a day to inspire positive changes in human behavior.

To learn more about this event or sign up to volunteer, visit CRgov.com/EarthDay.





POST Partners

2020 WORKDAYS ANNOUNCED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTDOOR COLORADO

The Town is again partnering with statewide nonprofit, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), to continue to build the remaining mile of Legacy Trail at Gateway Mesa Open Space.

Gateway Mesa Open Space consists of 276 acres of grassland mesa and a mixed coniferous forest near the eastern boundary of Castle Rock. The existing 1.6-mile Chuck's Loop Trail, which is designated for hiking only, travels around flat open grassland, with sweeping views of Franktown and Mitchell Creek Canyon. Hikers can currently connect to the Mitchell Creek Canyon Trail on the east side of the loop.

Legacy Trail provides users with access to the unique forested portion of the property on the northern side, providing hikers a nice change of scenery. The area is composed of dense mixed mature spruce, fir and Ponderosa pine trees, a few drainage areas, plunge pool wetlands, steep open scrub-covered slopes and interesting rock formations, along with ferns and rare moss vegetation.

Due to the length of this extension and the terrain, this project will occur in two phases. Throughout 2019, 3,380 feet of soft-surface trail was constructed with the hard work and help of 230 volunteers during three work outings. 2020 will feature two outings on Saturday, June 27 and a women's only event on Saturday, Oct. 10. Registration for the June event is already available at VOC.org. Registration for the fall outing will open later in the summer.

Since 1984, VOC has been motivating and enabling people to become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. VOC works with conservation and land agencies and relies on thousands of individuals annually to provide a volunteer workforce for outdoor stewardship projects. These projects take place across Colorado – from city parks to grasslands and alpine meadow peaks.

For additional project information, visit CRgov.com/LegacyTrail.





DENNIS CARNAHAN HONORED WITH BENCH DEDICATION AND CORNERSTONE TRIBUTE AWARD

For more than 16 consecutive years, Dennis Carnahan has and continues to volunteer for the Town of Castle Rock. As a founding member of the Keepers of the Rock volunteer group and Volunteer Project Manager, Dennis consistently dedicates Saturdays between April and October to the trails and natural resources of Rock Park.

Keepers of the Rock is an all-volunteer group that adopted Castle Rock's namesake, Rock Park, in hopes of making significant improvements to the area. The group conducts monthly restoration days in coordination with Castle Rock Teen Court and the Town's POST Partners Volunteer Program. Carnahan leads first-time juvenile offenders who are completing community service through the Teen Court program. Carnahan's positive contribution to the juveniles' skill development helps to decrease the recidivism rates of these youth.

Carnahan's volunteer work at Rock Park has consisted of maintaining 1.4 miles of trail and 62 acres of open space. Dennis has also led several maintenance and construction projects, including developing new trails, installing wooden steps and fencing, revegetating social trails and restoring wildlife habitat.

To celebrate Carnahan's impact and community contributions, the Town honored his efforts through the dedication of a bench at Rock Park in January. Town Council also awarded Carnahan with the prestigious Cornerstone Tribute award in February. A Cornerstone Tribute sign will be installed at the park this spring.

Town Council created the Cornerstone Tribute award in 2007 to recognize individuals and organizations who help the Town reach the four cornerstones of its vision: Town identity, community planning, community service and local economy. Carnahan was presented the award for his commitment to improving the physical quality of the trails, protecting the natural resources and preserving the landscape of the park.

“Dennis embodies the essential goal of the POST Partners Volunteer Program. He's the perfect example of how we're helping build community pride in the Town parks, open space and trail areas. - Marcy Jones, POST Partners Volunteer Coordinator”

“After every work outing, Dennis shakes hands with each volunteer to thank them for coming. These kids are generally not there by choice, but Dennis treats them with respect and is able to create a connection. He teaches them about giving back to the community and why that is important. This really speaks to Dennis' character and his passion for Castle Rock. - Karla McCrimmon, Court Administrator”





Red Hawk Ridge

RED HAWK RECEIVES STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

To celebrate the best in golf throughout the state, Colorado AvidGolfer magazine hosts an annual awards competition. The awards are a readers' choice and staff selection celebration known as the CAGGY Awards. In 2020, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course received top staff picks for both the Best Par 5 and the Best Value. The course was also voted as the runner-up in the Best Ego-Booster category. Since 2002, Colorado AvidGolfer has been the country's premier regional golf lifestyle magazine and ultimate statewide resource for the game.





Athletics and Adventure

WINTER BASKETBALL SEASON ENDS WITH GREAT SUCCESS

Nearly 900 youth and 90 teams participated in the Winter Youth Basketball program for 2nd through 8th grade boys and girls. The Athletics Division utilized seven local elementary schools, both Castle Rock middle schools and the Recreation Center for practices and games.

The season began early November and wrapped up on Saturday, Feb. 15 with the 15th Annual Hoopla event. Hoopla includes skills competitions and three versus three tournaments during the final week of the season. On the concluding Saturday, All-Star teams from the 5th through 8th grade age groups compete in an east versus west game. It is quite an honor to be selected to play in these games as selections are made by votes tallied throughout the season from opposing team coaches, league officials and staff.