



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

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Events

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Town events have been canceled and postponed to ensure the safety of community members. As ways of addressing the pandemic frequently change, please visit CRgov.com/Events for updates on cancellations and future events.



Responding to COVID-19

The ongoing pandemic has required rapid and continuous action from all Parks and Recreation Department divisions.

PARK PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Employees who are able to work from home are doing so through May 26, per the Shelter-in-place and Safer-at-home orders issued by Governor Polis. Administrative staff continue to work on park renovation projects funded through the Conservation Trust Fund and the Cobblestone Ranch Park project; however, all General Fund projects, such as new trail construction, are presently on hold. Staff continues to look at potential projects and expenses that can be deferred until more information is available related to March, April and May sales tax revenue.

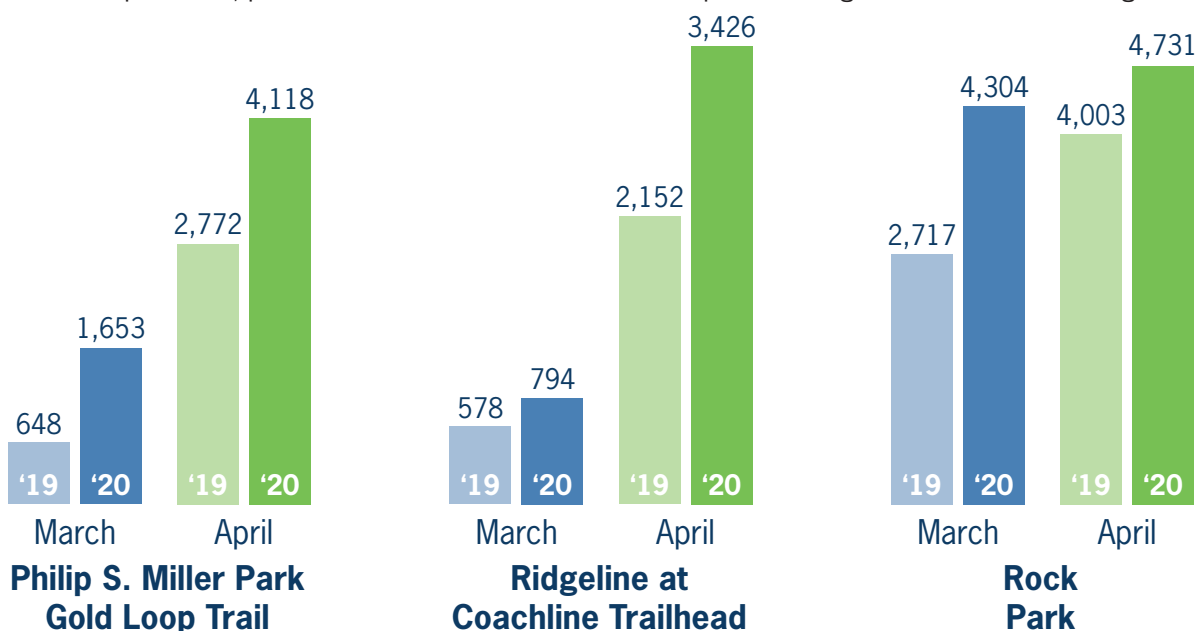
PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Park Operations and Maintenance continues to work in the field and have modified work schedules to four ten-hour days Monday through Friday with overlap on Tuesday through Thursday. Staff members are also assigned on weekends. Lunch schedules are staggered and staff are working independently when possible. Staff is required to wear masks while working in close proximity to others. Seasonal positions were filled with full-time and part-time recreation staff members, who will continue to work in Park Operations and Maintenance indefinitely.

To assist in ensuring public safety, playgrounds, pavilions, the Fit Ground at Philip S. Miller Park and other public gathering areas within parks remain closed. Signs and/or caution tape were installed at these sites, as well as along the East Plum Creek Trail, to remind users of social distancing requirements. The Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park was also signed for one-way travel, which is intended to improve social distancing as users will take the trail down instead of the stairs.

INCREASE IN PARK AND TRAIL USAGE

Staff continue to work hard to serve the residents of Castle Rock during this difficult time. Town parks are extremely important in this crisis as parks and trails are providing one of the few options for residents to get outside to exercise and decompress. Since the start of the pandemic, parks and trails across the Town have experienced significant increases in usage.





GOLF

Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course reopened on Saturday, April 10 after restrictions were lifted for golf courses by Tri-County Health. Reopening the course was determined to be low risk with the implementation of safety measures to minimize the risk of potential transmission. Staggered individual tee times have consistently booked solid since the reopening. Maintenance projects are also underway and the Clubhouse remains open for takeout.

RECREATION

The pandemic has had the greatest impact on the Recreation Division. At this time, 251 part-time employees are furloughed. This total includes lifeguards, front desk staff, childcare staff, sports officials and others. In addition, many private partners - such as Soccer Buddies, MyGym and athletic organizations - are also not able to provide programming to community members.

The Recreation Division will rely heavily on reserves to balance the 2020 budget as revenues from sales tax and user fees are both expected to be down by a significant margin, perhaps as high as 25 percent.

SUMMER CAMPS

The Recreation Division is still planning to operate both the CSU and Rock Rec summer camp programs, which are tentatively scheduled to begin June 1. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) stated that reopening of childcare and camps is crucial in getting parents back to work and is a top priority. CDHS will soon provide updated policy and procedures for operations, which could include social distancing measures, limiting group sizes, not mixing groups of children and limiting travel.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Staff continue to evaluate special events. June events ran by the Town of Castle Rock have been canceled.

FITNESS/WELLNESS

The Fitness/Wellness division has pivoted from in-person to fully virtual formats to help the public cope with facility and program closures. Group Fitness Instructors are holding virtual fitness classes, free to members of the public. On-demand fitness videos are also available online at CRgov.com/VirtualClasses.

ROCKREC!

The new registration and point-of-sale platform, Fusion, is now active allowing staff to eliminate the production and mailing of the 2020 Spring/Summer Recreation Guide, saving nearly \$30,000. The guide will still be available online at CRgov.com and electronic notices will still be sent out to direct residents to register online.





RETURN TO NORMAL

Operations staff have been in contact with peer municipalities, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and additional advisory agencies to collect information to plan a safe reopening of recreation facilities and programs. Staff is consolidating the collected information and creating a draft reopening plan. A working version of the plan is expected to be completed by May 14. At this time, the earliest open date would be May 27, however, staff is considering June 1 to allow time to implement advisory updates from the CDPHE and Governor Polis.

A safe reopening could include some or all of the following procedures. Policies and procedures may also vary to become more or less restrictive as rates of infection grow or reduce. In addition, materials such as masks, disinfectant, splash guards, etc. have already arrived or will arrive shortly for use during the reopening phase.

- Facilities and specific locations will be temporarily repurposed/modified in order to accommodate social distancing or specific usage
- Increased cleaning protocols may be required
- Available staffing may restrict the ability to offer certain programs or offerings
- Staff and patrons may be screened for symptoms prior to entering a facility
- Staff may be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times while working in a given facility or program
- Patrons may be required to utilize PPE at all times in a facility
- Patrons may be required to make an appointment in order to use facilities and services
- An increase in virtual recreation programming is expected, such as virtual group fitness classes or ESports offerings

