



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



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CRgov.com/ParksandRec



parks@CRgov.com



Upcoming Events

In response to COVID-19, many Town events have been modified, postponed or canceled to ensure the safety of community members. View up-to-date information and register for events at CRgov.com/Events.

JULY

16

**TUNES FOR TRAILS FREE CONCERT
FEATURING THAT EIGHTIES BAND**
6:30 - 9 p.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

17

FREE FITNESS FRIDAYS
8 - 9 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

19

FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Festival Park

JULY

19

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK
9 - 10 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

21

RAPTORS OVER THE ROCK
6 - 7 p.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

24

FREE FITNESS FRIDAYS
8 - 9 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

26

FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Festival Park

JULY

26

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK
9 - 10 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

31

FREE FITNESS FRIDAYS
8 - 9 a.m.
The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park

JULY

31

PEDAL THE MOON
7 - 9 p.m.
Castle View High School



Parks, Open Space and Trails

PUBLIC PROCESS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS KICKS OFF IN 2020

The Parks and Recreation 2019-2024 Proposed Capital Improvement Plan prioritizes improvements to existing parks. Butterfield Crossing, Mitchell Gulch and Plum Creek parks are scheduled to receive the first round of upgrades and construction will begin in 2021.

Constructed over 30 years ago, Butterfield Crossing Park is in need of several improvements. The asphalt on the basketball and tennis court surfaces has deteriorated and the Mateflex tiles that were installed to temporarily repair them have reached a max lifespan. The irrigation will require upgrades, the existing playground and synthetic turf field need replacement and park accessibility will be improved. The overall scale of improvements may provide the opportunity to consider relocating and adding to existing amenities.

Mitchell Gulch Park was constructed over 20 years ago and does not have a dedicated parking area or security lighting. The playground is in need of replacement, and the site's undeveloped area may provide an opportunity for additional enhancements.

The Plum Creek area includes two parks and renovations will be planned simultaneously. The 20-year-old park site off of Mount Royal Drive contains a playground, half basketball court and site furniture, all of which will require replacement.

The north site was acquired in 2019 from the Plum Creek Golf Club and contains a community pool, tennis courts, pavilion and walkways. This park is over 20 years old, has not been maintained for several years and the tennis courts, pool and pool house will be removed due to their unsalvageable states. While improvements to the north park were not included in the Capital Improvement Plan, designs for both sites will be completed to complementarity plan how they will serve the neighborhood.

After issuing a request for proposals, staff selected landscape architecture firms DHM Design Corporation and Norris Design for design development. DHM will focus on Mitchell Gulch and Plum Creek area parks, while Norris Design will help plan the changes at Butterfield Crossing Park. Initial site assessments have been completed, and staff have worked with both firms to identify essential maintenance work and propose various enhancements.

In the coming months, public feedback will be gathered through online surveys and open houses or online forums to direct each facility's final renovation design. Postcards were mailed to residents living in the vicinity of each park to encourage participation in online surveys, which will be available through July 30. After responses are reviewed, the design firms will create concept plans and additional input will be sought.

These upgrades will be funded by the Conservation Trust Fund, which is comprised of three sources: Colorado Lottery Funds, Douglas County Shareback and recreation licenses. The Conservation Trust Fund is not generated through sales tax revenue and is designated solely for park and trail maintenance upgrades.

To stay up-to-date on these park improvement projects and to provide your feedback through the online surveys visit CRgov.com/ParkImprovements.





EAST PLUM CREEK TRAIL CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED AT IREA SUBSTATION

Since early 2019, Intermountain Rural Electric Association has been constructing a new substation in The Meadows near Castle View High School to meet electricity demands associated with area growth. As part of this project, an access road and culvert crossing were built, which led to the need to reroute a portion of the East Plum Creek Trail. The new concrete trail alignment was completed late spring and will better prevent stormwater erosion. Native grasses were planted in areas exposed during construction and will be monitored to ensure successful growth.

NEW DOWNTOWN RAMP OPENS POST RIVERWALK CONSTRUCTION

After months of Riverwalk construction, a new ramp will provide users with convenient connections from Wilcox Street to the Sellars Gulch and East Plum Creek trails. The ramp sits adjacent to the Great Divide Brewery. Be sure to get outdoors and stop to enjoy the beauty Festival Park in the heart of Downtown Castle Rock.





POST Partners Volunteer Program

COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT

Weekly monitoring of bluebird nest boxes continued through June. Trained volunteers are now entering the second half of the monitoring season and are reporting many second nesting attempts by bluebirds, as well as first nesting attempts by Tree Swallows. As of July 1, 190 nest boxes had a 94 percent occupancy rate from Mountain Bluebirds, Western Bluebirds, Tree Swallows as well as one Mountain Chickadee.

Monitoring provided a welcome distraction for many volunteers this year during the extended COVID-19 quarantine. These monitoring checks have also offered our volunteers more opportunities to interact with the public than in past years. Several volunteers have reported very positive encounters with local residents:

"The first week I was at Mitchell Gulch Park I had an older gentlemen ask about what I was doing and he was so intrigued that he wound up walking with me the entire box check! He had just moved here from Canada. I had a brochure with me and gave it to him so having our t-shirts and or hats on does peak interest!" - Becky N.

"I too have had encounters with neighboring homes while checking the boxes at Bison Park. Some will come to the fence line and ask questions. It really is a nice experience." – Doris R.

"While I was monitoring during the first week, I too had an encounter with a resident. The gentleman was jogging on the road as I was checking... He stopped and asked about the box and what I was checking, so I told him all about the Bluebird program... he was quite interested and it was fun to pass on the information." – Cindy S.

In addition to the positive encounters, volunteers have heard reports of curious children investigating and opening nest boxes in their neighborhood. If residents notice one of the bluebird boxes in local neighborhoods or parks, they are strongly encouraged to not disturb the boxes unless participating in the program. Each time the boxes are opened, there is an increased stress on the birds as well as an increased risk of nest abandonment. Volunteer monitors are trained and instructed to minimize these risks. Instead, the Department wants folks to just enjoy watching the bird activity around the box and also encourages residents to install boxes to monitor in their own backyards.

With bright blue color, melodic flute-like calls and bug-hunting pounces, bluebirds are a treat to watch. More information about these birds and how you can help them in your own backyard can be found at CRgov.com/Bluebird.

LEGACY TRAIL CLEAN UP EVENT

In June, 10 volunteers hiked the newly constructed Legacy Trail at Gateway Mesa Open Space to remove loose objects around the infamous upside down truck. The old truck is situated a few feet off of the trail. Volunteers carefully picked up surrounding debris and carried it over a quarter of a mile back to the trailhead. Trail users can now enjoy a cleaner space while hiking this beautiful new Town amenity.

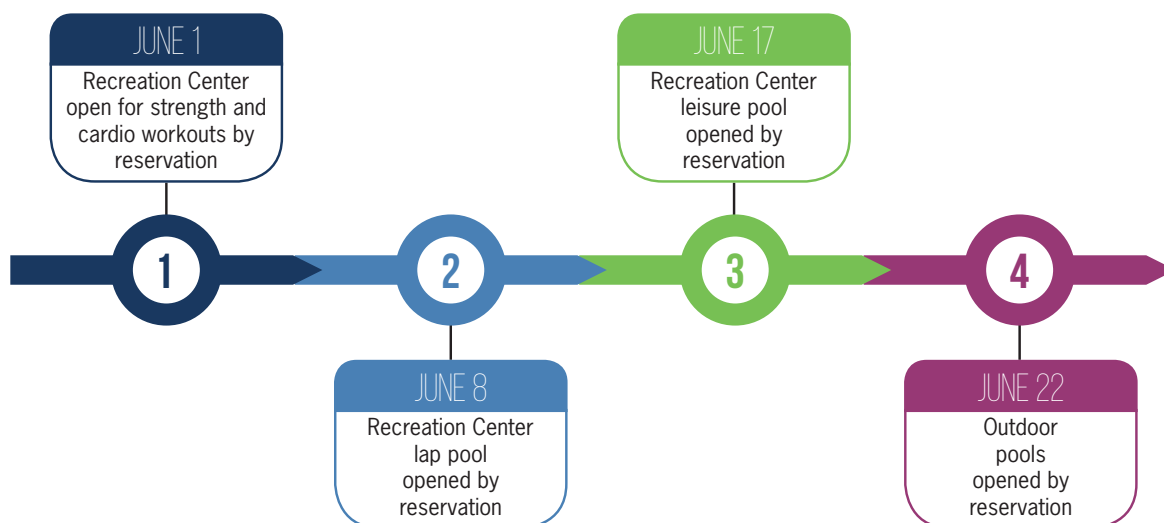
JUNE 2020 JAN - JUNE 2020	→	\$6,688 value of volunteer service	16 volunteer events	125 individual volunteers	263 volunteer hours
	→	\$9,307 value of volunteer service	38 volunteer events	208 individual volunteers	366 volunteer hours



Recreation Facilities

RETURN TO WELLNESS

June marked the beginning of the Return to Wellness opening of the Recreation Center and the outdoor pools to the general public. A staged approach was taken to ensure compliance with current and ever-changing health orders and to reopen services in the safest way possible.



Since the opening of the Recreation Center on June 1, average weekly attendance has increased by 209 percent and remained at a steady rate of increase. The most popular days of the week were Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with a large decrease in participation on Sundays. When June 2020 is compared to June 2019, daily admissions decreased by 73 percent overall for the month due to COVID-19 capacity restrictions.

Select in-person fitness classes resumed at limited capacities, allowing nine participants and one instructor per session. Class reservations were required beforehand and equipment sharing was prohibited between patrons. Due to these restrictions, staff continued to offer online fitness classes free-of-charge to the public, and all classes offered to seniors were held in a fully virtual format. Attendance to virtual group fitness offerings remained steady at an average of 15 participants per class.

All Recreation Center memberships remained on a billing hold for the duration of the month unless a member utilized the facility. Staff extended the hold through the July as amenities and availability are still massively restricted. The Department will continue to review the membership hold policy on a monthly basis to determine if it should continue to be extended.

Outdoor pools opened on June 22 at a reduced capacity of 50 participants per 1.5 hour time period. For the month, Burgess Pool operated at an average of 61 percent of the reduced capacity and at an approximate decrease of around 30 percent compared to the same time period of 2019. Butterfield Crossing Pool saw an increase of around 60 percent compared to the same period of 2019.



Fitness & Wellness

FREE SUMMER FITNESS PROGRAMS

Free outdoor fitness programs resumed in June featuring Fitness Fridays and Yoga in the Park at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. Held from 8-9 a.m. every Friday throughout the summer, Fitness Fridays features a variety of exercise formats week-to-week. All fitness levels are invited to try out classes such as Tabata, Dance and Sculpt, High Intensity Interval Training and more. An all-levels yoga class is held from 9-10 a.m. on Sundays through Inner Connections Yoga. Class sizes will be limited due to COVID-19, so registration for both programs is required. For a complete schedule and to secure your spot visit CRgov.com/SummerFitness.





Athletics & Adventure

ATHLETICS OFFERINGS HELP YOUTH AND ADULTS RETURN TO WELLNESS

Many youth and adult athletic programs resumed in June. To ensure participant safety, a variety of measures are being implemented by staff, including the sanitization of shared equipment and high-use areas, providing new balls for each game, encouraging social distancing amongst spectators, encouraging the use of masks and limiting the number players on fields to 25 participants.

Despite a late start to youth programs, participation numbers in the programs being offered are only down by an average of 25 percent compared to 2019. While baseball and coach pitch are very close to 2019 numbers, t-ball registration decreased by half. The Athletics Division did cancel the Cougar Track Club as the high school track is not available for use. Girls softball was also not offered as it is held in partnership with the Highlands Ranch Metro District, who canceled their program.

Due to staffing limitations, many full-time and part-time employees are working multiple programs and a variety of shifts to successfully offer these sports to the community. Parents and participants have been very grateful, however, for the opportunity to return.

JUNE ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION



ADULT SOFTBALL
29 TEAMS



ADULT INDOOR SOCCER
16 TEAMS



ADULT GRASS
VOLLEYBALL
6 TEAMS



ADULT PICKLEBALL
280 PARTICIPANTS



ADULT CORNHOLE
23 TEAMS



ADULT CUP-IN-HAND
KICKBALL
4 TEAMS



YOUTH BLASTBALL
25 PARTICIPANTS



YOUTH T-BALL
140 PARTICIPANTS



COACH PITCH BASEBALL
120 PARTICIPANTS



MACHINE PITCH
BASEBALL
160 PARTICIPANTS



BASEBALL
210 PARTICIPANTS