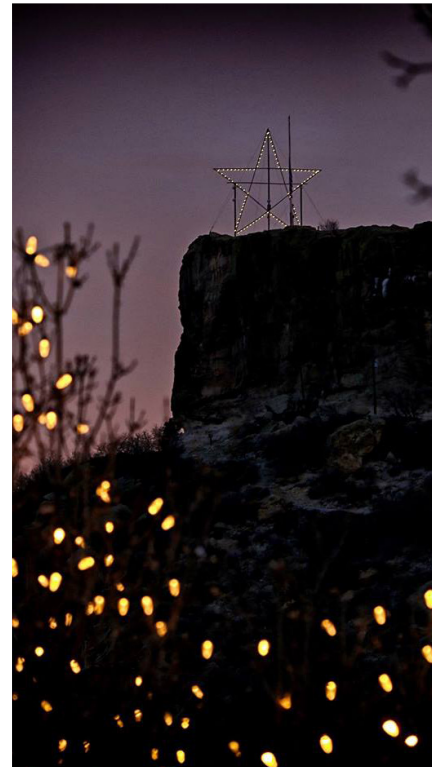




Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
Monthly Report:
November 2020



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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.

DECEMBER 10	WHAT A HOOT! VIRTUAL OWL PRESENTATION WITH NATURE'S EDUCATORS 7 - 7:30 p.m. Virtual - Click here to register	DECEMBER 25	FACILITY CLOSURE Castle Rock Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex
DECEMBER 12	HOLIDAY DRIVE-IN MOVIE FEATURING ELF 5 - 8 p.m. Philip S. Miller Park	DECEMBER 31	MODIFIED FACILITY HOURS 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Miller Activity Complex
DECEMBER 24	MODIFIED FACILITY HOURS 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Miller Activity Complex	DECEMBER 31	MODIFIED FACILITY HOURS 5 a.m. - 2 p.m. Castle Rock Recreation Center
DECEMBER 24	MODIFIED FACILITY HOURS 5 a.m. - 2 p.m. Castle Rock Recreation Center	JANUARY 1	FACILITY CLOSURE Castle Rock Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex

Additionally, the Holiday Light Show will run Dec. 3 through the 19, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5 - 11 p.m. at Philip S. Miller Park. Drive or walk through the park while enjoying holiday decorations. Visit CRgov.com/StarSeason for more information.



Parks and Recreation Department

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SECURED STATUS AMONG ELITE AGENCIES

Castle Rock Parks and Recreation recently retained its ranking among the most elite parks and recreation agencies across the country by earning reaccreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies and the National Recreation and Park Association.

This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the virtual 2020 NRPA Annual Conference in October, recognizing the department's commitment to bolstering community vitality through health and wellness opportunities for all members of the community.

CAPRA is the only national accreditation program for park and recreation agencies, providing a management system of best practices. The department achieved 100 percent compliance with 151 nationally recognized, rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs and safety, demonstrating a strong commitment to offering community members with the highest quality of service.

"This is an honorable moment for our department," said Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Brauer. "This reaccreditation highlights our commitment to the community. Now more than ever, in this time of uncertainty and social distancing, people are turning to parks, open space and trails for respite and relaxation. Over the past few months, we've seen a 40 percent increase in visitation to our outdoor amenities, which reinforces the importance of providing a high level of service to Castle Rock residents."

With this reaccreditation, the Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department will maintain its ranking among the top two percent of parks and recreation agencies in the United States that achieved accreditation, including only eight in Colorado. The department was first accredited in 2015.



"highest level of service"





RECREATION DIVISION RESPONDS TO DIAL LEVEL RED

Effective Friday, Nov. 20, the Colorado Department of Health and Environment transitioned Douglas County to Safer at Home Level Red. Colorado's dial framework standardizes different levels of openness at the county level to limit the spread of COVID-19 based on cumulative incidences, positivity rates and the number of hospitalizations.

The change to red has impacted the Parks and Recreation services provided through the department. Capacities at facilities and in programs have been reduced to 10% and a maximum of no more than 10 people per room. All youth and adult indoor sports have been postponed and will resume when it's safe to do so per public health guidelines.

At the Recreation Center, users are required to reserve a 90-minute workout time slot within designated workout zones. While some amenities have been temporarily closed to ensure the safety of patrons, such as the hot tub and sauna, many amenities remain open on a limited basis by reservation only:

- the lap and leisure pools remain open by reservation only;
- racquetball courts are available for singles-only play; walleyball and challenge play not allowed at this time;
- basketball courts remain available for same-household shoot-arounds; no pick-up games allowed at this time;
- pickleball courts remain open with modified rules for participation and play; and
- select group fitness classes remain available with limited capacities.

The Miller Activity Complex also remains open during select times with limited capacity. Patrons may reserve a designated time period to use the trampolines, open swim, the lap swim lanes, the functional fitness area, drop-in badminton, quick field rentals or open turf, but must stay within the area of their reservation. No walk-ins will be allowed at this time and children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a preregistered adult.



Staff at both facilities continues to follow state and local health department guidelines. Virus mitigation measures include the use of masks, increased fresh air flow, regularly scheduled deep cleanings, regularly scheduled sanitations between use periods, daily temperature and symptom checking of staff and encouraging all staff and patrons to remain socially distanced. It is also asked that patrons stay home if they are exhibiting any symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19 and to wear masks at all times unless entering a pool.

To see all facility reservation options and secure your spot, please visit CRgov.com/Registration.



Parks, Open Space and Trails

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES OPEN AT RUETER-HESS RESERVOIR

A 32-step incline challenge and the Rosie Rueter Trail both opened on Thanksgiving Day at Rueter-Hess Reservoir, providing new amenities in a time when outdoor recreation is essential to health and wellbeing.

Rueter-Hess Reservoir is just minutes from Downtown Castle Rock and sits on Hess Road, one mile east of I-25 at the Castle Pines Parkway exit. The property is owned and managed by the Parker Water and Sanitation District. While the district's top priority is maintaining water quality, it has established the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority to plan future recreational opportunities. The Authority is composed of appointed representatives from the Town of Castle Rock, the Town of Parker, the City of Lone Tree, the City of Castle Pines, Douglas County and the Parker Water and Sanitation District.

The incline users who tackle the 232-feet of elevation gain, will be rewarded with spectacular sweeping views of Longs Peak to the north and Pikes Peak to the south. The loop trail is just over one mile long and connects the incline to the parking lot. The new amenities are open daily from sunrise to sundown, and visitors can park at the parking lot west of the Rueter-Hess Water Purification Facility on Heirloom Parkway.

These additions are part of the first phase of the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority Master Plan. While the reservoir site, which sits just south of the new incline, will remain closed until infrastructure is constructed, the Authority offers a limited variety of tours and recreation opportunities through preregistration during warmer months. Stay up-to-date at RHRecreation.org.

RIDGELINE OPEN SPACE MAP UPDATE

Several years ago, the Parks and Recreation Department installed trailhead kiosks with large maps and smaller directional maps on pedestal posts to help trail users enjoy the network of paved and unpaved trails at Ridgeline Open Space. As new segments were constructed and the signs started to age, staff realized it was time for an update. A total of six new directional maps, also known as wayfinders, were installed in early September; four panels were replacements and two were new markers with panels. These wayfinders were placed at significant intersections along Stewart Trail, as well as the connection point to Philip S. Miller Park at the Wolfensberger pedestrian overpass.

In addition to the wayfinders, the trailhead maps were also updated and replaced in late November. There are now four new trailhead kiosks at major access points, including Avery Way, Clear Sky Way, Bison Park and the main trailhead on Coachline Road. These updates were completed in conjunction with an Eagle Scout Merit Badge project initiated by Stephen Zukowski, who updated the mileage markers found along Stewart Trail earlier this year.



Parks Maintenance and Operations

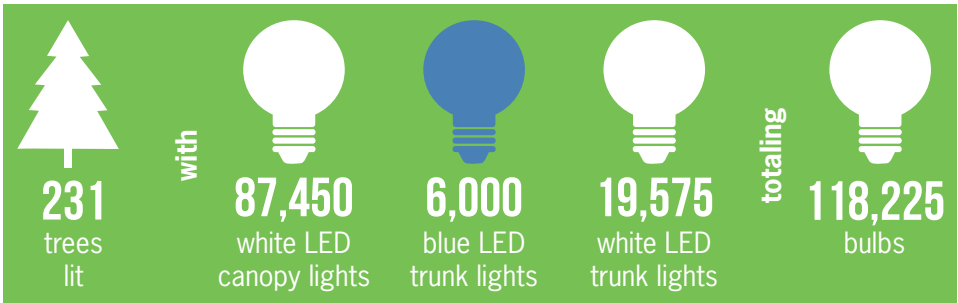
HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Work began in October to deck the halls of Downtown Castle Rock for the holidays. The Town's Park Operations and Maintenance Division placed thousands of feet of garland and strung thousands of LED lights along Wilcox and Perry streets and at Festival Park, Town Hall and police headquarters. Contracted companies completed the 30-foot fully decorated tree at Festival Park and the "blue" tree at the Douglas County building.

Everyone's hard work came together when the lights were turned on for Starlighting, marking the beginning of the holiday season in Castle Rock. This year's ceremony occurred on Saturday, Nov. 21, and families were encouraged to enjoy the festivities in the safety of their cars at designated watching locations.

The installation process was a little different this year, as 2019's canopy lights were left installed. The improved process reduced the total amount of labor hours required to complete the installation, and staff could better prioritize installing trunk lights, repairing canopy bulbs and placing decorations.

While the star that sits atop the Rock has been lit since 1936, the annual community-cherished event has remained a tradition since 1965. Parks and Recreation staff are honored to enhance the event each and every year through the placement of lighting and decoration and will continue to monitor lights to address issues as necessary. The lights will remain on until the completion of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in January.





Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

2020 OVERVIEW OF RED HAWK RIDGE GOLF COURSE

2020 proved to be a very challenging and rewarding year for Red Hawk Ridge as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mandated state restrictions forced the course to modify its operating procedures throughout the golf season.

During the first phase of restrictions, the golf course remained closed for 18 days. During this period, which lasted from March into April, the course fell behind its revenue budget by \$130,000 at the end of April. Once the course was able to reopen, players were limited to walking the course with spaced tee-time intervals of 15 minutes. Eventual phases allowed for single-rider to shared-rider carts, as well as a reduction in the amount of time between tees. Golf staff will continue to adjust offerings based on current public health guidelines to ensure patron safety.

Due to the spring course closure, the maintenance division was able to accelerate several capital improvement project. Staff completed bunker renovations on all holes with the exceptions of six and 17.

COVID restrictions had a significant impact on business operations throughout the summer. Tournament play was reduced by 60% due to gathering restrictions. The loss in tournament play negatively impacted merchandise sales, which were down by 13%, and food and beverage sales, which were down by 6%. Restaurant restrictions also limited or canceled normal peak-season activities such as happy-hours, free concerts and private parties.

Since the demand for outdoor recreation has increased during the pandemic, and since golf is played outdoors, the overall demand for play increased by nearly 20% when compared year-over-year. This demand eventually resulted in record revenue figures for green, cart and driving range fees. Red Hawk Ridge experienced its highest total annual operating revenue since the course opened. Staff project that the course will close the year at \$3.5 million, whereas the previous record was set in 2019 at approximately \$3.2 million. Projections also indicate that the 2020 total operating revenue will exceed the 10-year average by over \$800,000. This demand also bodes well for the industry as a whole as many new people were introduced to the game throughout the pandemic, which may lead to future growth.

In November, the Head Golf Professional resigned to pursue a new career opportunity outside of the golf industry. After successfully operating the course for over a decade, Bob Persichetti will be greatly missed by golf staff and the entire Parks and Recreation Department and Town of Castle Rock. A recruitment process is now underway to find a replacement to carry the achievements of Bob into the future of Red Hawk Ridge.



Community Events

PIE BAKE OFF

The annual Pie Bake Off competition was held on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park. Newly appointed Councilmember Desiree LeFleur, Police Officer Amanda Lane, Special Events Supervisor Jennifer Reinhardt and Parks Specialist Kent Lansville judged each pie for its overall appearance, crust, filling and flavor in two categories, fruit and non-fruit pies.



Just under 50 people came out to watch the event and enjoy free pie. Due to COVID-19, there were a few modifications to abide by state health guidelines. Tables were space 6-feet apart and guests wore masks when entering and moving around the facility. There was also no self-service available and staff served the beverages and the pie.



2020 MILLHOUSE RENTALS

