



Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
September 2021



LEARN MORE



CRgov.com/ParksandRec



parks@CRgov.com



Upcoming Events

View up-to-date information at CRgov.com/Events.

OCTOBER

16

**RIDGELINE WRANGLERS TRAIL
MAINTENANCE EVENT & END OF
SEASON PARTY**
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Ridgeline Open Space at Coachline

OCTOBER

16

**FALL FESTIVAL FEAT. CREEPY
CRAWLIES AROUND THE ROCK**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Festival Park

OCTOBER

23

SPOOKTACULAR
1 - 4 p.m.
Philip S. Miller Park

OCTOBER

29

**PARKING LIGHTS AND MOVIE NIGHTS
FEAT. HOCUS POCUS**
6 - 8 p.m.
Event Pad at Philip S. Miller Park

OCTOBER

30

**PARKING LIGHTS AND MOVIE NIGHTS
FEAT. MONSTER HOUSE**
6 - 8 p.m.
Event Pad at Philip S. Miller Park

NOVEMBER

6

PIE BAKE OFF
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park

NOVEMBER

20

STARLIGHTING
2 - 6 p.m.
Downtown Castle Rock

NOVEMBER

25

FACILITY CLOSURE
Thanksgiving Holiday
Recreation Center and
Philip S. Miller Park



Open Space & Trails

COBBLESTONE RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

This future 168-acre park site is located in eastern Castle Rock, near Castle Oaks and Arabella drives. Ultimately, the property will serve as a regional destination for the entire community. The first phase of the project will develop approximately 12 acres and will include an entry road, off-street parking, picnic pavilions, playground areas, a pump track for biking, a half-court for basketball, a lawn area, concrete sidewalks and landscaping. Six pickleball courts and a plumbed restroom will also be included in the park's first development phase.

Construction commenced in June. To date, the following progress has occurred:

- Mass grading completed
- All underground wet utilities (storm, water, sanitary sewer) installed
- A large planter wall placed
- 90% of curb and gutter completed with a fully automated GPS curb and gutter machine
- The pickleball subgrade prepped
- The restroom foundation and underground plumbing completed

The park is anticipated to open in summer 2022. Stay up-to-date with project updates online at CRgov.com/FutureParks.



POST Partners Volunteer Program

COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT

Each year, volunteers monitor bluebird populations through the Town's Post Partners Volunteer Program under the guidance of the Denver Audubon Society. The mission of the Colorado Bluebird Project is to improve the vitality of bluebirds throughout the state and to inform and education the public.

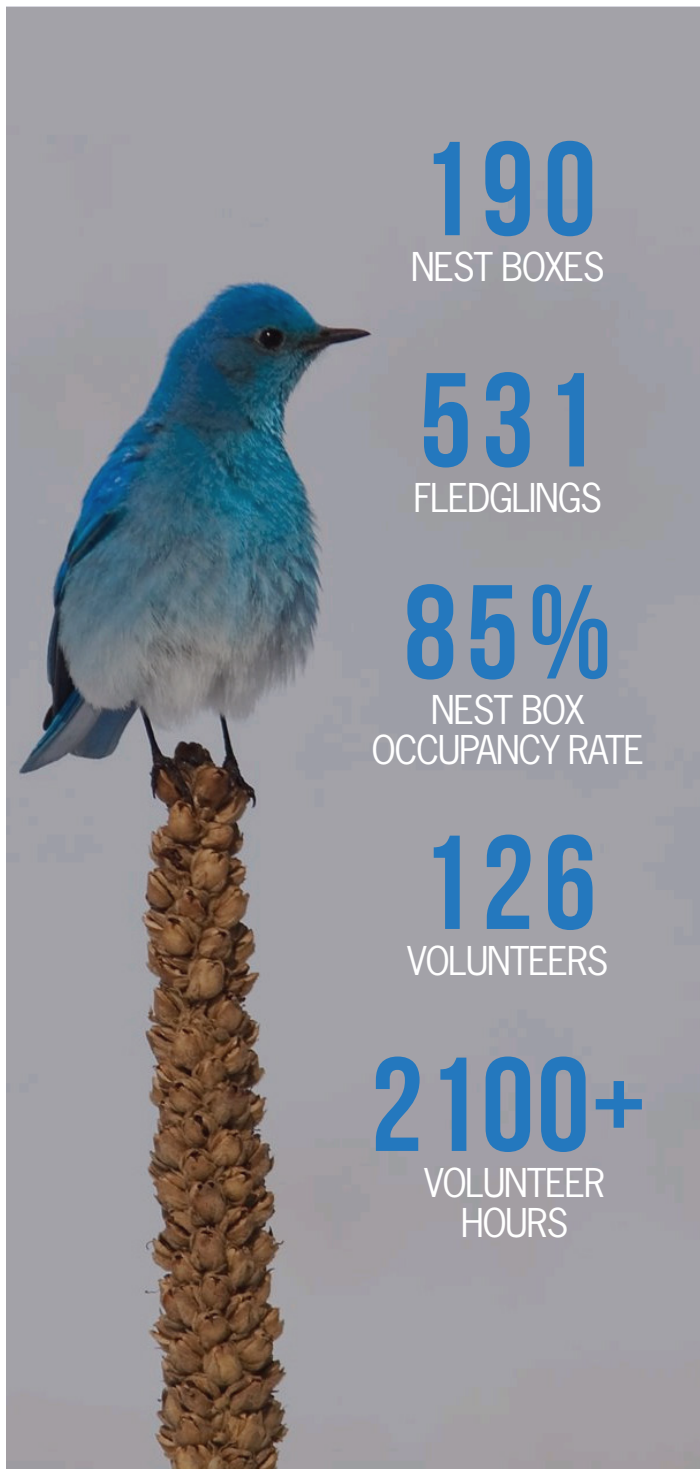
Bluebirds are social migratory songbirds, and, as second cavity nesters, rely on other species' used nest cavities or artificial nest boxes during their annual mating season. The POST Partners program manages 190 artificial boxes at 32 school, park, open space, cemetery and church sites in Castle Rock. Volunteers of all ages assist with annual maintenance and repair, as well as monitor fledgling success rates from April through August.

The 2021 season ended in September with a potluck celebration for volunteers. Attendees enjoyed a slideshow of photos, followed by a presentation summarizing breeding activity. Five native bird species used Castle Rock's nest boxes including Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Violet-green and Tree Swallows and Mountain Chickadees.

2021 did experience a general lack of bird activity with only 531 total fledglings. This number marks a significant decline compared to 2020, which hosted 739 fledglings and a 92% nest box occupancy rate. The drop off is likely a result of several factors, including the massive wildfires affecting the west last summer and fall, just as the birds were migrating south, extreme weather and now possibly due to a lack of insect activity from the extreme air pollution. While scientists complete ongoing research to study the experienced die-off, we know that bluebirds are resilient and their numbers will rebound, as long as we continue helping them!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch app was utilized by volunteers at 18 sites this year to directly record monitoring data. In past years, volunteers have entered data into a Google Doc, which is transferred to [NestWatch.org](https://nestwatch.org) at the season's conclusion. Volunteer feedback was positive, which may help reduce data entering and transferring in future years if adopted for all sites.

More information on Castle Rock's Colorado Bluebird Project, as well as its volunteer opportunities, can be viewed at CRgov.com/Bluebird.





Community Events

TUNES FOR TRAILS FREE CONCERT SERIES HOSTS SUCCESSFUL ENDING

The Tunes for Trails free concert series at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park wrapped up in September. This year's extremely successful series featured popular bands, delicious food trucks, refreshing beverages and yard games and fun activities for the entire family.

The June concert hosted Woodland Park, who brought a wide array of musical influences to a crowd of nearly 2,000 excited fans. July hosted That Eighties Band and was the largest concert of the season with over 2,000 in attendance. FACE Vocal Band returned to the stage in August, captivating 500 listeners with infectious energy and an endearing love of performance. September closed the series with The Long Run Band, "Colorado's Tribute to the Eagles," who played to 1,500 eager spectators.

At these free concerts, the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation raises money through alcohol sales and accepts donations to support their non-profit efforts. This year's fundraising totaled \$15,969. The amount fundraised increased by one third since 2019, and a total of 19 volunteers contributed 42 hours to help. The Foundation is excited for the fresh events coming in 2022, which will help bring added value to Castle Rock's recreational and park and trail experiences!

Established in 2012, the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation is a resident-led non-profit foundation. The mission of the foundation is to maximize the recreational experiences of the community by creating educational opportunities, cultivation local partnerships, providing a unique and user-friendly digital platform for these experiences and by spearheading fundraising projects for park and trail engagement and development. More information is available at GetOutdoorsCastleRock.org.

TRI THE ROCK

On Sunday, Sept. 12, 256 youth triathletes ages 5 to 18 competed at Tri the Rock, the Town's annual race held at Butterfield Park and Pool. Tri the Rock encourages kids to get active and try something new. For the first time, the department partnered with Unified Sports to provide an additional bracket for participants with physical and intellectual disabilities. A total of seven racers competed in this bracket and the Town looks forward to growing it in future years. Unified Sports is a part of Special Olympics who promotes social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences.





Adaptive Recreation

FITNESS GLOW DANCE PARTY FUNDRAISER

On September 17, folks took the work out of working out and helped a great cause at the Fitness Glow Dance Party Fundraiser, benefiting the Town's Adaptive Recreation program. Participants enjoyed great music, dancing, prizes and more at this fundraising event, held from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park.

Participants were encouraged to wear their best "glow" gear and light-up accessories while testing out some of today's hottest fitness formats, including Zumba, Rebel, Groove, D2G Soca Fit, WerQ and Mixxed Fit. Registration was \$10 per person and glow sticks and necklaces were provided.

The Town's Adaptive Recreation program supports members of the community who have cognitive and physical disabilities, along with their families. The program promotes an active lifestyle and fosters positive social experiences for the participants and volunteers alike. This year's event raised over \$2,000 and will be used to provide scholarships and purchase adaptive equipment.

A huge shout out and thank you is due to all who were involved to make the event possible for the 214 participants – including Town staff, amazing volunteers and the high-energy fitness instructors. The event not only raised funding support, but provided a unique and fun opportunity to expand awareness for the Adaptive Recreation program and the people and community it serves.





Community Outreach

PARKS AND RECREATION UNVEILS NEW LANDING PAGE

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce that the landing page of its website – CRgov.com/ParksandRec – has been streamlined to enhance the community's experience. From user data, staff created a new map and engineered quick links so users can easily find the information they most often search for through the click of a button.

The new page features:

- An embedded interactive map with updated, easy-to-reference graphics
- Quick links to facilities, including the Recreation Center, Miller Activity Complex and general parks and open space and trails pages
- Quick links to the most sought-after programming, including athletics, camps, clinics, educational opportunities and virtual programming
- Quick links to high-use schedules, including the lap pools at the Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex, group fitness classes and athletic leagues
- Quick links to upcoming events and opportunities such as open houses and volunteerism

The page will be updated frequently to reflect changes in programming and patron demands and usage patterns. The Department also has plans to update additional webpages and provide enhanced mapping capabilities so stay tuned for future updates.

FALL/WINTER REC GUIDE

The Fall/Winter 2021 Rec Guide was delivered to over 37,000 resident mailboxes in September! Inside, the guide featured classes for all ages, youth camps, personalized wellness programs, community events and more. Exciting new programs being offered include Adult Spikeball and the Youth Division's MAC Adventure Days, which will provide day camps on any and all days that the Douglas County School District does not provide student instruction. A digital version is available online at CRgov.com/RecGuide.

