

## UPCOMING EVENTS

View the most up-to-date information and sign up for events at [CRgov.com/events](http://CRgov.com/events).

- **Christmas Tree Recycling at Founders, Metzler and Paintbrush parks and Douglas County Fairgrounds**
  - Wednesday, Dec. 26-Thursdays, Jan. 31
- **Snowshoe Adventure**
  - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 13
  - Meet at the MAC at 7 a.m. for transportation to the outing
- **Dog Sledding Excursion**
  - 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3
  - Meet at the MAC for transportation to the outing
- **Day Ski Trip to Echo Mountain**
  - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9
  - Meet at the MAC for transportation to the outing
- **Daddy Daughter Ball**
  - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9
  - Douglas County Events Center
- **Colorado Bluebird Project Open House**
  - 7- 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21
  - The Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park



## PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS – PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

PREPARED BY BRIAN PETERSON, MANAGER OF PARK PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

### **Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park**

Despite chilly weather, construction operations continued for the future neighborhood park. Project contractor GoodLand Construction, Inc. finished a good portion of the concrete trail around the perimeter of the park and nearly all of the soil export. The soil that remained on site continued to be moved to reshape the site's topography. Crews also placed drainage pipes below the area of the future playground to help control water runoff. In the coming months, the sewer and water lines will be installed. Staff will also hold meetings with the playground manufacturer and installer to ensure all appropriate safety regulations are followed during construction.

The park, at the intersection of Low Meadow Boulevard and Red Hawk Drive, is planned to include infrastructure for bocce ball, cornhole, horseshoes, picnic shelters, a walking path, a playground and a multi-use athletic field.

Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park is scheduled to open in summer 2019.

## Central Service Center

The Department's Parks Maintenance division is currently located at the Castle Rock Service Center on Castleton Drive, having shared space with the Public Works Department for nearly 20 years. Personnel growth and an increase in equipment requirements have created the need for a new building. In early 2019, the Central Service Center will become the home to the Town's Parks Maintenance and Facilities divisions. The building will include five maintenance bays, indoor storage, a training facility, office space, a break room and a storage yard for equipment and material.



The 13,000-square-foot building, located at the end of Caprice Drive, continued to take shape in December. As the exterior site work wrapped up, crews focused on the interior. The office-area walls received a finishing coat of drywall compound and were primed; the insulation was completed below the roof; the mechanical systems were mounted and are now awaiting the acoustical ceiling tile grid; lighting and gas heating was installed for the bays; and, the air handler unit was also set.

In the coming month, the interior finishes will start to wrap up - painting, carpet, ceilings, mechanical, and life safety systems are on schedule to be completed. Furniture set up and the moving-in process are on the near horizon.

## TRAILS

PREPARED BY RICH HAVEL, TRAILS PLANNER

## East Plum Creek Trail Southern Extension Project

Abundant trails and well-planned open space make Castle Rock a great place to get outdoors. Now, the Town's most popular paved trail will soon be extended.



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The current trail travels along the East Plum Creek corridor, north to south 6 miles from Castle View High School to South Perry Street. In addition to daily recreation and commuting, the trail is used for many special events. The project is also a part of a larger statewide network - the Colorado Front Range Trail, which will eventually link communities along the Front Range from Wyoming to New Mexico.



The southern extension of the East Plum Creek Trail was included as a Town priority in the Council-approved 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A \$1 million Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

Connect Initiative Grant will be awarded upon project completion. The grant will require the Town to fund the additional \$1.1 million of anticipated costs.

GOCO invests a portion of annual Colorado Lottery revenues into trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, river corridors, playgrounds and Youth Corps projects throughout the state. GOCO's Connect Initiative focuses on connecting existing trail gaps, constructing new, highly demanded trail systems and providing increased access for youth and families to existing parks, open spaces, natural areas and environmental education opportunities.

On Dec. 13, Town staff hosted a groundbreaking event to kick off the project. Representatives from Town Council, Great Outdoors Colorado, Douglas County Open Space, the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Commission attended the event. HEI Civil, the project's general contractor, and RESPEC, the project's design consultant, were also present.



Construction and Grading Erosion and Sediment Control plans have been approved and permits issued. A preconstruction meeting will be held on Jan. 7, 2019 and construction will commence soon after. The trail will be complete by fall 2019.

## **OPEN SPACE PROJECTS**

PREPARED BY BARBARA SPAGNUOLO, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

### **Helping Local Wildlife**

On Thursday, Dec. 17, Parks Maintenance employees discovered an injured Great Horned Owl on the ground in the Town-owned storage yard facility on Justice Way near the Service Center. The owl was unable to move or fly, indicating a possible wing or head injury.

Staff collected the owl and took the injured bird to the Birds of Prey Foundation in Broomfield. Trained technicians at the facility noticed that the owl had a sore right wing, swelling on the right side of its head and noticeably different-sized pupils. X-rays taken on Jan. 1 showed inflammation and trauma in the right elbow and a soft tissue injury in the left knee. The bird is slowly improving, but time will tell if it is releasable back to the wild.



The Birds of Prey Foundation is a non-profit organization that rescues injured raptors found along the Front Range and throughout Colorado. The foundation's goal is to rehabilitate and release as many birds as possible. Just last year, the nonprofit took in almost 800 injured, diseased or poisoned eagles, hawks, owls, falcons and ospreys; the foundation has cared for over 16,000 birds since its inception in 1981.

## **POST PARTNERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

PREPARED BY MARCY JONES, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

### **End of Year Thank You Gift**

A team of Park and Recreation staff members collaborated to design the second annual Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department calendar featuring photos from throughout the year. Staff printed 550 calendars to mail to POST Partner and special event volunteers as thank you gifts for their time, commitment and contributions in 2018.





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## Special Programs and Events

PREPARED BY JENNIFER REINHARDT, EVENTS SPECIALIST AND HEATHER ROSSITER, SPECIAL PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR

Known by locals as Season of the Star, December in Castle Rock is truly magical. Starlighting kicks off this event season in November, and beautiful lights and festive, family-friendly activities keep the holiday spirit alive through the end of the year.

On Dec. 8, hundreds came out to snap a picture with Santa and the Grinch at Storytellers and S'mores. The eyes of little ones lit up upon seeing the characters from their favorite books and movies in real life. Mayor Gray and Fire Chief Croom stopped by to read from the giant storytellers chair, roast marshmallows and more.



On Dec. 14, over 2,500 people attended the 2018 Reindeer Games at Philip S. Miller Park. With live reindeer, a winter-themed obstacle course, hot chocolate, Santa, crafts, s'more roasting and trains, the park was transformed into a winter wonderland filled with activities to entertain families. One highlight was the five-level obstacle course built by Parks and Recreation staff. Children climbed, crawled, bounced and ran through several challenging obstacles. Those who completed the course received a prize. Inside the Millhouse, Santa listened to Christmas wishes from a cheery line of boys and girls.



One attendee contacted staff stating, "I just want to tell you how wonderful the Reindeer Games were yesterday. This is the second year we've attended, and I have to say it's one of my favorite holiday events."



## Recreation Facility Operations

PREPARED BY DAN WAHL, RECREATION FACILITIES SUPERVISOR AND JANICE WEED, AQUATICS SUPERVISOR

The Facility Operations Division serves as the customer service point of the Recreation Department. With over 300,000 visitors entering the doors at both the Miller Activity Complex (MAC) and the Community Recreation Center (REC) annually, the recreation facilities are an integral part of the Castle Rock community. In addition to serving as customer service centers for recreation programming, the MAC and REC are the service providers for indoor informal recreation for the Town. In 2018 the demand for informal



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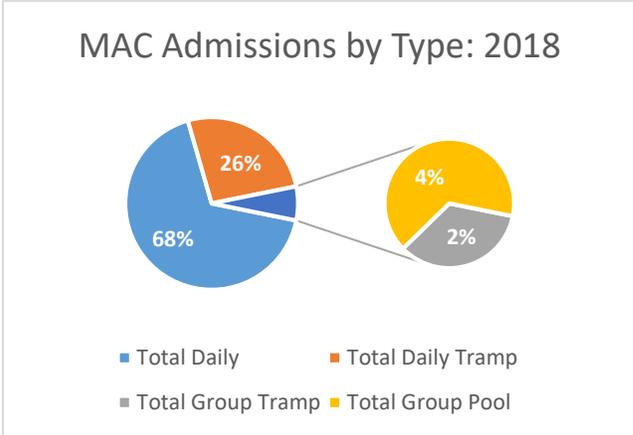
recreation at the MAC had a record year with 109,706 paid admissions; the REC reported 252,000 paid admissions.

## MAC Top 5 Single-Day Admissions of 2018

1. Dec. 28: 926\*
2. Dec. 27: 854
3. Feb. 19: 809
4. Jan. 5: 804
5. May 19: 769

*\* Highest single-day admission since the facility opened in 2014*

December was a strong month at the MAC with a 33 percent increase in daily admissions compared to December 2017. Adult and Youth admissions increased by 28 and 44 percent respectively over the previous year.



## Youth Programming

PREPARED BY MINDY FORTIN, YOUTH SPECIALIST

### **Adventure Club Preschool**



The annual Pre-K Holiday Program was held on Friday, Dec. 21 in Panorama Hall. All of the children’s parents, grandparents and siblings were invited. Over 200 people attended to hear the participants sing songs, and, at the end of the program, Santa surprised the children with a visit.

Adventure Club also hosted its second Scholastic Book Fair with huge success! Sales totaled \$2,165.50, compared to last year’s total of \$1,923.34. Teachers will use the revenue generated from the fair to shop for needed educational items and resources throughout the year.

## Adaptive Recreation

PREPARED BY REBECCA ERIKSON

### **Rapids Soccer Ability Clinic**

The Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Association provided a 2-day ability clinic for nine Adaptive Recreation participants. Attendees learned the



importance of teamwork and the basics of soccer through fun and interactive games. Coaches donated their time with the help of six student volunteers – fun was experienced by all.

## Horseback Riding

December concluded the 5-week horseback riding program offered through Colorado Horsepower. The mission of this non-profit organization is to provide a place for students to gain a sense of freedom and independence, experience accomplishments, interact socially and learn new skills in a pleasurable environment to empower the life of the student and support the entire family.



Four participants benefitted from therapeutic one-on-one time with assigned horses, and Brody was the success story! Brody had anxiety near the horses at the beginning of the program but was able to ride on the last day.

## Open-Gym Gymnastics

Chameleon Gymnastics is offering monthly open-gym gymnastic time to the Department's Adaptive Recreation participants. In December, 25 individuals attended two open-gym sessions and enjoyed balance beams, foam pits, a jumping castle and many other activities.

## Parks Maintenance

PREPARED BY BOB MALONEY, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Parks Maintenance Division is encouraging residents to recycle Christmas trees. Live trees can be taken to one of four participating locations from Wednesday, Dec. 26 through Thursday, Jan. 31. Locations include Douglas County Fairgrounds and Founders, Metzler Ranch Community and Paintbrush parks. Trees will be turned into mulch that will be available to the public at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and at Metzler Ranch Park while supplies last. Only live Christmas trees will be accepted – not wreaths or garlands; yard clippings are also not allowed. Lights, ornaments and tree stands should be removed prior to drop-off.

