



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Rebecca Dunn, Chair
Cat Evans, Vice Chair
Robert Coltin
Scott Dowis
Jessica Kallweit
Craig Kinnunen
Melissa Lindsay

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

5:00 PM

Central Service Center
1400 Caprice Drive
Castle Rock, CO 80109

Note: This meeting is open to the public. Three or more Council members may also attend this meeting, during which the items listed herein will be discussed. If you are unable to access any portion of these materials due to a disability as defined under Colorado House Bill 21-1110, please call us at 303-663-4440, email the Town's accessibility team at accessibility@CRgov.com or submit an accommodation request form at CRgov.com/A11yRequest.

TIMES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY BE ADJUSTED DUE TO CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commission Chair Rebecca Dunn called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Staff in attendance included Jeff Brauer, Bob Maloney, Mike Kilman, Jennifer Martin, Brian Peterson and Maia Yates.

Present 5 - Chair Rebecca Dunn, Commissioner Robert Coltin, Commissioner Cat Evans, Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, and Commissioner Craig Kinnunen

Not Present 2 - Commissioner Scott Dowis, and Commissioner Jessica Kallweit

PUBLIC COMMENT

DURING THIS TIME, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION AND STAFF ON ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) MINUTES.

None.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

[PRC 2025-013](#) Approval of the Minutes

Yes: 5 - Chair Dunn, Commissioner Coltin, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Lindsay, and Commissioner Kinnunen

Not Present: 2 - Commissioner Dowis, and Commissioner Kallweit

AGENDA ITEMS

[PRC 2025-014](#) Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space Update

Jeff Brauer, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space (LCROS). He reminded members that the property was purchased in 2024 with financial participation from Great Outdoors Colorado,

Douglas County, the Douglas Land Conservancy and the Conservation Trust Fund. The 681-acre site lies in southeast Castle Rock and is characterized by a deep canyon formed by Willow Creek, steep rugged terrain, Castle Rock conglomerate formations and interspersed grasslands. Preserving this open space aligns with the community's priorities of preserving open space. Earlier this year, the Town completed a master and management plan, both approved by DLC as part of the purchase agreement. With these approvals, the Town is preparing to begin phased implementation with an initial \$2 million to cover trail development, road work, basic trailhead infrastructure and traffic calming measures.

Jeff described the site's natural and cultural significance, noting both its ecological value and archaeological importance. The property contains Willow Creek and seasonal ponds, supports diverse wildlife and holds significant cultural history, including recreational use dating back over 8,000 years. The plans include 15 miles of soft-surface trails designed to minimize environmental impact, with two main trailheads scheduled to open in 2025-Creekside, with about 40 parking spaces, and Cattleman's, with about 120 spaces. Trail names such as Lost Moccasin, Bootleggers Loop, and Echoes of Ancestors reflect the site's history and archaeology. The Commission discussed trail connectivity, with Jeff confirming that networks will interconnect. The master plan designates the property as hiking-only, with no bikes or dogs allowed, based on public input and resource protection.

Rebecca Dunn asked for clarification on funding, and Jeff explained that the \$2 million is included in the upcoming budget to be reviewed by Town Council, with individual contracts to follow for trails, road maintenance, traffic calming and signage. The goal is to open the property to the public in 2026.

Rebecca also asked if the structures on site will remain. Jeff noted that they will be carefully evaluated and confirmed that the caretaker residence had already been removed. While additional development ideas such as a nature center or therapeutic riding facilities have been proposed, they will not be included in the first phase of improvements.

Craig Kinnunen inquired about the potential for expanding use beyond hiking, but Jeff emphasized that the ecological value and community input strongly support restricting to hiking only at this time. He also noted the importance of keeping visitors on designated trails for safety and preservation.

Melissa Lindsay asked about excavation funding, and Jeff noted that while not currently available, the site has already revealed valuable findings. The Commission discussed archaeological protection, including the Franktown Cave site, which will not have a designated trail in order to safeguard resources.

Cat Evans asked about the state park connection trail, which Jeff explained would be a rugged 0.75-mile trail that has been supported verbally by state park leadership. Commission members discussed Council concerns about state park access and traffic impacts, with Jeff noting measures will be put into place to hopefully mitigate these issues.

In closing, Jeff explained that next steps include Town Council's budget approval over the next two months, which will allow phase one work to proceed. Overall, the

update reflected the significant cultural, ecological, and recreational value of Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space and the thoughtful planning being undertaken to ensure it serves both present and future generations.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

During staff updates, Jeff Brauer highlighted several upcoming community events, including town council open houses in different districts and the State of the Town address on September 30 at Cantril School. He noted that full details are available online at CRgov.com/Events.

Brian Peterson reported on several projects in progress. At Emerald Park, construction is underway on two new stairways providing access from Emerald Drive and the bocce area to the park, with natural stone designs. A shade shelter near the pickleball court is planned for installation early next year as well.

In addition, four new outdoor table tennis tables are will be installed this fall, with Rebecca asking about their durability and Cat inquiring about potential leagues. Jeff confirmed that the tables will be made out of metal and that leagues are not currently planned.

Brian also updated the Commission on the Butterfield Park cell tower project with T-Mobile, which will involve a separate structure adjacent to the pool house. Although approval is still pending on T-Mobile's TESC, construction is expected to begin soon and be completed before the next summer pool season. The installation occurs through a lease agreement approved by Town Council that does generate revenue for the department.

Brian further reported that construction had begun on the Sports Development Center, a long-anticipated project that has now reached major excavation milestones. He also shared that work is underway on the new Santa Fe Quarry Trail in Red Hawk, with flagging already started and completion expected by the end of the month so the trail vendor can transition focus to LCROS. Rebecca asked about nearby resident-installed trails, and Jeff confirmed one had been created along the property line.

Bob Maloney reported on progress at Philip S. Miller Park and the Miller Activity Complex, including the installation of a new LED sign, upcoming work scheduled for the parking lot, replacement of the indoor arena's synthetic carpet following base repairs, and landscaping improvements at both the park and in the Plum Creek Parkway islands. He also noted preparations are underway for holiday light displays and the purchase of a new lift to aid in installations. Baldwin Park will soon receive a new playground as well.

Mike Kilman shared updates from the events division, noting that this year's event season achieved the second-highest ticket sales on record, averaging 1,600 attendees per event. The special events committee is preparing to process more than 100 permit requests, and planning is already underway for next year's major milestone celebrations. Remaining events this season include the final Tunes for Trails concert, National Public Lands Day volunteer activities at Metzler Open Space, and the Glow Dance fundraiser at Philip S. Miller Park to support therapeutic recreation programs.

Maia Yates provided an update from the Public Art Commission's Tiny Art Quest program, which features 22 student-created miniature installations displayed in and around Festival Park for a yearlong scavenger-hunt experience for kids.

Maia also shared that Jeff Brauer has been awarded the prestigious Fellow Award from the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA). This recognition honors his outstanding leadership, dedication to the field, mentorship of peers, and significant contributions to advancing parks and recreation in Colorado, reflecting his deep impact on both the profession and the community.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Melissa Lindsay shared that a friend had asked about the playground at Metzler Ranch Community Park and whether there were plans to update the equipment. Bob Maloney responded that while there are no immediate plans for replacement, the playground is regularly maintained, and replacement is generally based on safety assessments and longer-term timelines. New equipment will likely be installed five to ten years out.

Craig Kinnunen noted that the trail on the west side of Quarry Mesa Open Space has become eroded and asked if improvements were planned. Jeff Brauer confirmed that staff would take note of the concern and assess the condition of the trail for potential future action.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.