

News From Around the Rock Your Town Talk

APRIL 2022

GOOD TO KNOW

Wildfire safety and spring landscaping

Castle Rock Fire and Rescue encourages the following landscaping ideas to make your home more wildfire safe:

1. Remove flammable materials, such as firewood and dead leaves. These items should be at least 30 feet from your home.
2. Install hard surfaces, such as concrete, or use non-combustible products, such as rocks, within 5 feet of your home.
3. Remove shrubs and trees within 5 feet of the home. Consider using low-growing herbaceous plants and shrubs. We do not recommend planting juniper or high-oil-content plants, as they are extremely flammable.
4. Keep roofs and gutters free of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.

Visit CRgov.com/WildfireSafety for more information.

Cell phone drive

Have a spare cell phone lying around you no longer need? Consider donating it. Castle Rock Police Department's Victims Assistance team is hosting a cell phone drive for Crime Victims' Rights Week. The phones will be wiped of data, refurbished and redistributed to victims of crime so they may have accessibility to police aid and intervention.

Find the drop box in the CRPD lobby, 100 Perry St., from April 25 to April 29.

Win a front yard makeover

Not only is April Water Conservation Month, it's an opportune time to join in Castle Rock Water's annual front yard makeover contest.

Replacing high-water-use turf with local adaptive plants is one of the most impactful approaches to conserving water while adding beauty to our community.

The ColoradoScape Contest is a chance for residents to win a low-water front yard by submitting a short video via social media about conserving water via landscaping. The Castle Rock Water customer who submits the most educational and entertaining video could win a front yard filled with colorful perennials, vibrant shrubs and hardy trees.

To enter, a residential customer simply needs to record and upload a 30- to 60-second water conservation message. The contest runs April 1 through April 30, and one lucky resident could have a new front yard ColoradoScape to enjoy by June. Contest details, entry tips and previous winners' front yard makeovers can be found at CRconserve.com/Contest.



Fundraising begins for inclusive playground

Imagine feeling alone, isolated and left out. These emotions are what kids with differing abilities experience when they visit a "typical" playground, unable to play and engage inclusively with their peers due to physical barriers.



Learn more

To address the disparities and barriers found at playgrounds, the Town of Castle Rock and the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation are partnering to bring an all-inclusive Possibilities Playground to the community. The universally designed, sensory-rich environment would enable children of all abilities to interact physically, socially and emotionally together at Butterfield Crossing Park, located in The Meadows.

Constructed over 30 years ago, Butterfield Crossing Park is one of several Town parks slated for improvements. Parks and Recreation's Capital Improvement Plan has identified the need for upgrades, and priorities will focus on addressing safety concerns and making life-cycle replacements.

While Parks and Recreation has funds to address basic planned renovations, additional resources are needed to transform the playground with fully inclusive structures instead of just a "replacement" playground. To construct the Possibilities Playground, \$1.3 million is needed.

Seeing the opportunity and value the Possibilities Playground would bring to the community, the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation stepped up to lead the fundraising. The goal is to raise the money by fall 2022. Contributions by businesses and individuals are being solicited, and donations are being accepted through ColoradoGives at coloradogives.org/PossibilitiesPlayground.

For more details, visit CRgov.com/PossibilitiesPlayground.

Help keep Castle Rock's creeks clean at annual event

It's time to spring clean our waterways. The annual Spring Up the Creek event is 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 7, along the creek trails in Castle Rock. Each year, about 200 volunteers of all ages make the commitment to keep our watersheds beautiful and creeks clear of debris.

Like last year, volunteers will sign up for a specific trail and are responsible for getting themselves to that location. Trail escorts will provide bags and gloves (and

some snacks) for the group. A primary focus for water quality along trails continues to be picking up pet waste.

Pet waste bags will be available to take home. Though seemingly a small contributor to water pollution, pet waste can add harmful bacteria and excessive nitrogen to our waterways.

For more information and to register, visit CRgov.com/SpringUp.

Learn about Castle Rock's wild side

How can you protect small pets from coyotes? Are there really rattlesnakes on trails? What do you do if you see a bear in your neighborhood? Get the answers to these questions and more at the upcoming Wild in Our Town program.

See and touch real wildlife displays and learn about local wildlife from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, at Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St.

Natural resource staff and law enforcement representatives from the Town of Castle Rock, Douglas County Open Space and Colorado Parks and Wildlife will provide interesting facts and answer questions about coyotes, bears, deer, mountain lions, bobcats, rattlesnakes, prairie dogs, beavers, turkeys and other native wildlife.

The program is open to all ages, and preregistration is not necessary. Learn more at CRgov.com/WildTown.

Apply now to serve on Town board, commission

Those interested in development, roadwork, water issues and more may wish to apply to serve on one of the Town's boards or commissions.

The groups study the listed issues and more – including historic preservation, parks and recreation, public safety and public art – and make recommendations to Town Council. A full listing is online at CRgov.com/Boards.

Council annually recruits applicants for the volunteer boards, who when appointed typically serve two-year terms. Preference is given to persons who reside in Town followed by those who reside outside Town but within Douglas County.

Applications are due by April 25. Interviews will be held in May, and meetings for those appointed will begin in June.

EVENTS

CRgov.com/Events

April 5, 19: Town Council meetings, 6 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

April 16: Earth Day Willow Harvest and Planting, 9 to 11 a.m., East Plum Creek Trail, CRgov.com/EarthDay.

April 18: Designated truck route open house, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, CRgov.com/TruckRoute.

April 24-30: Cell phone drive, drop box at Castle Rock Police Department lobby, 100 Perry St.

April 27: Wild in Our Town, free wildlife education program, 6 to 7:30 p.m., The Philip S. Miller Library.

April 30: DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, drop off expired or unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medication (no needles) at CRPD lobby, 100 Perry St.

May 1 - June 3: Scavenge the Rock, pick up clue sheets for the scavenger hunt at Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum, castlerockmuseum.org

May 5: Coffee with a Cop, 9 to 10 a.m., Kneaders Bakery & Café, 826 New Memphis Court.

May 7: Spring Up the Creek, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Learn more at CRgov.com/SpringUp.



Water conservation and efficiency tip:
CRconserve.com

Providing each household with a personalized water budget helps you gauge if you're using water efficiently. Water budgets are an effective way to conserve water by giving realistic usage patterns and charging progressively more for each tier of water use. Castle Rock Water takes each customer's indoor water usage during winter months to determine their average winter monthly consumption (AWMC). This determines Tier 1 of your water budget, and it's recalculated each April. It also determines your annually adjusted wastewater charge. Tier 2 outdoor water usage is calculated for the amount of irrigated area on your property. These tiers make up your standard water budget.



Find us online:
CRgov.com

Summer concert lineup coming soon!

Celebrate the sounds of summer with the 2022 Summer Concert Series. The much-anticipated concert lineup will be announced in mid-April! For details about artists, The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park and concert FAQs, visit CRgov.com/PSMConcerts.