



Castle Rock Parks & Recreation 2017 Annual Report



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Produced by: the Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department

Photos by: Shreffler Photography, Nick Lucey, Barbara Spagnuolo, Dick Vogel, Liberty Pro Imaging and Versatility Creative Group



WELCOME



In 2017, our department tasked itself with defining a theme that encompasses why we do what we do and how it impacts the residents of Castle Rock. After careful debate and consideration, the theme *What Moves You* struck a chord with us.

The theme applies beyond the obvious objectives parks and recreation agencies work to fulfill. We certainly strive to ensure the community desires of staying fit, healthy and active are paramount, but we recognized *What Moves You* had deeper application in our community. Some residents are moved by Castle Rock's small town charm. Others by our community's ability to come together to celebrate as one – whether it be at Starlighting, a movie night at Festival Park or at the finish line of the Castle Rock Half Marathon. Still others are moved by the constant, ever-present backdrop our department plays in life's moments. We're the park where your child learned to ride a bike. We're the scenic setting of your upcoming wedding. We're the busy backdrop of your child's 10th birthday party.

One thing is certain in regard to *What Moves You*. Each resident of Castle Rock is moved by something different, and each of those things is *what moves us*.

I'm proud to present the Castle Rock Parks and Recreation 2017 Annual Report driven solely by *what moves you*. This report details successes through 2017, a number of which are outlined in the following pages. I encourage you to pour through each page to discover what moves you, and what awaits you in one of our parks, our trails, our programs or our facilities.

Jeff Brauer
PLA, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation

Mission Statement

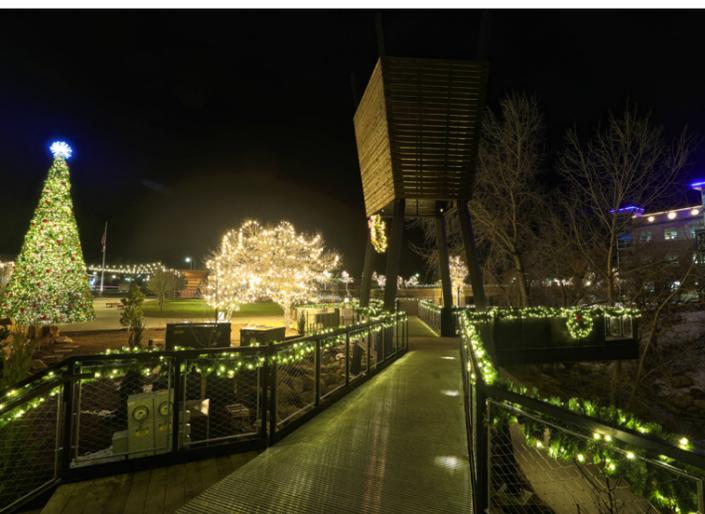
To enhance the quality of life and well-being of the residents of Castle Rock by acquiring and developing parks and trails and preserving open space and offering quality recreation programs and facilities designated to meet the needs of our community.

Vision Statement

As the Town of Castle Rock's population continues to grow, so does the demand for more parks, recreation programs and facilities, golf opportunities, interconnected trails and a need to set aside a greater amount of open space. To address these challenges, the department will make the public a partner; streamline operations to become more efficient and service-oriented; maximize the use of alternative funding sources; and place an increased emphasis on seeking opportunities for regional and local cooperation.

PARKS

Festival Park



Home to some of the community's most treasured events, Festival Park has a deep history serving as the heart of Downtown Castle Rock. This central gathering place has been transformed into a vibrant urban center, through collaborative effort of residents, the Downtown Development Authority, Downtown Merchants Association and the Town of Castle Rock.

In November 2016, a construction contract between the Town and M.A. Mortenson Company was approved by the Castle Rock Town Council to redevelop Festival Park, with the goals of enhancing the park, boosting the success of the adjacent downtown business district and creating an active public gathering space for both work and relaxation.

Through the planning process, the Town solicited input from the public to help reimagine the park. The \$6.9-million park improvement project included amenities such as a landing pavilion, splash pad, a fire pit, an open lawn, a creek-side picnic area, bridge connections to Town Hall parking, improved lighting and seating, an overlook walkway with an iconic lantern feature and a water play area in Sellars Gulch. In addition to the amenities, stormwater improvements along Sellars Gulch were made to align with national flood plain regulations and provide public access to the creek.

For nearly a year, Castle Rock's beloved Festival Park underwent a transformation, wrapping up in November. The holiday spirit began in Downtown Castle Rock with the opening of Festival Park during the 81st annual Starlighting. Excited residents filled the park to celebrate the highly anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony. Children skipped across the stepping stones through Sellars Gulch, ran across the open lawn and climbed on the splash pad wall, while families gathered by the historic Christmas tree taking photos, warming up by the fire and curiously walking the scenic bridges. The park offers residents a festive community gathering place, bringing families and friends together for Starlighting, as well as many treasured community events and future life moments.



 <p>Downtown Castle Rock businesses voted to increase property taxes to help pay for downtown improvement projects through a tax incremental financing fund.</p>	 <p>Town Council approved the final design concept and funding as part of the 2016 budget.</p>	 <p>A public engagement process took place to garner resident feedback and Town Council approved the construction contract.</p>	 <p>Construction began and was completed within roughly one year, with a ribbon cutting ceremony taking place during Starlighting.</p>
<p>2008</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>2</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>3</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>4</p>

2018 Neighborhood Park



Rendering of conceptual design by design consultant Norris Design

Future park planning includes the addition of new community and neighborhood parks to maintain current levels of service with population growth. Wrangler Park was the last neighborhood park opened in 2012. Construction on Philip S. Miller Park occurred from 2013 through 2016, and serves all Town residents and visitors. As the Town of Castle Rock continues to grow, so will the need for additional neighborhood parks.

In August 2017, public meetings were held to share information with residents and gather feedback regarding the selection process for the next neighborhood park site. An online survey was also available for residents unable to attend the meetings. Nearly 600 residents offered input through the online survey. The five sites available for construction included Meadows Filing No. 18, Cobblestone Ranch, Terrain, Crystal Valley Ranch and Castlewood Ranch Filing No. 2. These potential sites were identified by seven key criteria including existing nearby public and private recreation amenities, existing nearby access to open space and trails, anticipated cost of development, recreation programming potential, the current population density and projected rate of growth for each site's surrounding area and each site's operational budget impact. After careful consideration, Meadows Filing No. 18 was selected as the next neighborhood park site.

Following approval by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Council, Parks and Recreation staff issued a request for proposal, resulting in the hiring of Norris Design. Norris Design created three design concepts in preparation for a public meeting held in early 2018. Concept themes included *Space Exploration*, *Colorado – The Front Range* and *Kaleidoscope*. Each concept provides different amenity options and architectural layouts so residents can visualize a variety of selections while providing input on desired park elements. An online survey to collect additional public feedback was posted online. In spring 2018, Norris Design finalized a concept to present at a future public meeting. The final design will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Council. Construction is expected to take place in 2018. The Town anticipates developing five to eight acres of parkland within an allotted \$2 million budget.

Funding for construction of an additional neighborhood park in 2021 is also requested, with planning to occur in 2020. The priority for the project site will be based on community needs and determined at a future date. Important to note is that funding sources for the construction of new parks is different than funding sources for renovation and maintenance of existing park properties. Revenue for new park development is generated through Town impact fees. These fees, by state statute, can be used only for development attributed to community growth.

Philip S. Miller Park

Castle Rock's largest park project was completed in 2016. Phase one of Philip S. Miller Park, completed in 2014, features a 8-mile native-surface trail network, with 1 mile of a paved accessible loop. The Challenge Hill is the trail system's highlight, with 200 steps leading to a spectacular view of the Town. The 2.5-acre Adventure Playground features a 40-foot-long slide along with many other unique play options that blend in with the natural terrain. Additionally, a large synthetic-turf field is home to youth sports' practices and games, adult programming and space for leisurely visitors to enjoy the park's tranquility. The Miller Activity Complex, the cornerstone of phase one, is a 64,000-square-foot facility featuring indoor pools, a trampoline play area, a children's play structure, batting cages, birthday party rooms, a golf simulator, and both a full- and half-sized synthetic turf field. In 2016, the Plaza, Amphitheater, Millhouse, pond and water feature, additional accessible concrete trails, parking and landscaping were added.

Park Enhancements

In 2017, additional enhancements were made at Philip S. Miller Park. In March, electrical capabilities were expanded along the Amphitheater. The supplemental lighting improved illumination for pedestrians and at special events. In July, an LED sign was installed in Philip S. Miller Park with the purpose of displaying information and notifications for park patrons such as upcoming concerts, special events, trail closures, races and more. The sign was designed to aesthetically match surrounding architecture, and scaled appropriately for park users.

Trail Connectivity

As part of a development agreement with the Park Preserve neighborhood just north of Philip S. Miller Park, a trail connection was constructed to Wood Thrush Way. To initialize the project, staff competitively bid and awarded Tony Boone Trails the 1,500-linear-foot native surface trail project. Design and construction were completed in April. The Town also contracted with Tony Boone Trails to extend a switchback on the Blue Loop near the Challenge Hill to provide a midway connection. This connection provides users another descent option and decreases the grade of the existing trail to improve its walkability and safety. The contractor used the services of the New Mexico Youth Corps Ecoservants to provide vegetation restoration assistance. The workers replanted native grasses, plants and shrubs and provided trail users safe access around the work site. The project was completed ahead of schedule.

Signage

When Philip S. Miller Park was opened to the public in 2014, there was existing park and recreational directional signage on Interstate 25 at the Plum Creek Parkway exit, but the signage referenced the Douglas County Fairgrounds and Event Center only. Parks and Recreation staff contracted for the construction and installation of new directional signage to provide accurate park information to visitors traveling from the interstate. In April, just before the 2017 special event season began at the park, new highway signs were installed at Exit 181 northbound and southbound, as well as the respective exit ramps.





Public/Private Partnership

In 2015, Castle Rock Zip Line Tours (CRZLT) opened its zip line course, operating 10 zip lines throughout Philip S. Miller Park. A few months later, CRZLT added another feature, the Epic Adventure Tower. Standing 70 feet tall, the tower allows users to scale a 40-foot climbing wall, zip and jump from a 40-foot platform or choose to free fall from a 70-foot platform while protected by state-of-the-art auto belay devices. In 2016, CRZLT wrapped up construction at Philip S. Miller Park with the addition of the Epic Sky Trek, an aerial trekking course with three levels, featuring over 110 challenging elements.

CRZLT had its best year yet with over 25,000 visitors in 2017. With the newest addition of a Ninja Warrior experience, CRZLT has expanded far beyond zip lining. Nearly 4,500 residents and dozens of local businesses used the park for team building events.

Each of these structures is made possible through a public/private partnership between the Town of Castle Rock and Castle Rock Zip Line Tours.

Philip S. Miller Park Usage

Challenge Hill



- ✓ 777 average daily trips
- ✓ July was the busiest month of the year
- ✓ Sunday was the busiest day of the week

Gold Loop Trail



- ✓ 54 average daily trips
- ✓ October was the busiest month of the year
- ✓ Saturday was the busiest day of the week

Traffic



- ✓ 1,465 average daily trips into the parking lot
- ✓ 5 to 6 p.m. was the busiest time of day
- ✓ July was the busiest month of the year
- ✓ Estimated to have had over 1,000,000 visitors in the park



TRAILS



Mitchell Creek and Tabor Court Trail Connection

Collaboration efforts have been underway with the Founders Village Metropolitan District to extend the Mitchell Creek Trail west to Ridge Road and complete a connection from the Mitchell Creek Trail to Tabor Court in Founders Village. Careful planning took place throughout 2016 in order to ensure the project will not interfere with future planned stormwater structures associated with the Ridge Road trail connection. The project was completed in October 2017.

Trail Conditions Webpage

A new trail conditions webpage was added to the Town's website at CRgov.com/TrailConditions. The page includes a link to an interactive GIS trail condition map, as well as a blog where residents can post updates about changing trail conditions. This feedback has provided nuanced information such as the location of muddy spots or ice, and this timely information serves to then inform other trail users. Analytics indicated strong use of the webpage year-round. Data for the month of March, for example, showed that the Trails Condition page was the third most visited map on the Town's website.

Terrain Trail System

Pipeline construction through portions of Town-owned open space in the Terrain neighborhood was recently completed as part of the Town's WISE (Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency) project. The work impacted sections of the existing soft-surface trail system, so the trails planner worked closely with the contractor to fix impacted areas. During the last two weeks of November, 1,600 linear feet of trail were constructed.





Castlewood Ranch Neighborhood Connection

The Town of Castle Rock working in partnership with the Castlewood Ranch Metropolitan District completed a neighborhood connection from Mitchell Street to Peabody and Ardmore streets through an existing open space tract. The open space was previously used by Mesa Middle School students to travel to and from school. The completed project provides improved access for the local neighborhood and a safer commute for students. The Town managed the project while the District provided funding.

Hangman's Gulch Trail Drainage Improvements

Castle Rock Water identified the need to complete master planned stormwater improvements along Hangman's Gulch from Liggett Road to the confluence of East Plum Creek. Improvements will include additional drop structures and check dams to reduce the amount of erosion caused during major storms. The project will be managed by the Stormwater Division, with oversight from the Parks and Recreation Department related to Hangman's Gulch Trail.

Improvements will also include expansion of the outfall structure at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing and an upsize of the culvert crossing on the East Plum Creek Trail. Castle Rock general contractor HEI Civil is scheduled to complete the work in the fall of 2018.



OPEN SPACE & Natural Resources



Colorado Bluebird Project

For 11 years, the Town has participated in the Colorado Bluebird Project, a state-wide citizen-science program that provides artificial nest boxes for native bluebirds and swallows. In 2017, 80 volunteers (and hundreds of students from six schools) monitored 188 boxes at 32 sites that included open space areas, parks, trails, schools, a church and a cemetery site around Castle Rock. The data collected by trained volunteers between April and August was summarized and reported to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in late September. Overall, there were 244 total nesting attempts, 1,103 total eggs laid and 843 total chicks hatched, but only 745 total fledglings successfully left the boxes. This reflects failures due to nest predation or the multiple late spring snowstorms. There were four different species of cavity-nesting birds using the nest boxes in 2017: Mountain Bluebird, Western Bluebird, Tree Swallow and Mountain Chickadee (one successful nest). Overall, since the Town began offering nest boxes, 4,387 birds have successfully fledged.



National Trails Day

The National Trails Day event was held in early June at Rueter-Hess Reservoir. This event, sponsored by American Hiking Society, is part of a nationally recognized trail awareness program that occurs annually on the first Saturday in June. The program is intended to inspire the public to discover, learn about and celebrate trails. The public was invited to be among the first to visit and explore the future recreational possibilities at the reservoir by participating in five different guided hikes that began at the boat ramp and followed around the southeast shoreline of the reservoir. There were more than 220 people of all ages in attendance, with the majority of participants from Castle Rock, but many from Lone Tree, Castle Pines and Parker as well.





DLC Partnership

Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) is a local non-profit land conservation organization that holds permanent conservation easements on Woodlands Bowl and Quarry Mesa open spaces. Collaboration efforts began with DLC in 2016 to provide more outreach and community outdoor-themed environmental education events to Castle Rock residents.

Through this partnership, three special events were offered in 2017: Raptors Over the Rock, Animals of Pokémon and the National Public Lands Day celebration. Raptors Over the Rock featured an educational presentation on local raptors from Nature's Educators, a local wildlife educational non-profit organization, followed by an opportunity for kids and parents to get up close to four live birds of prey, ranging from a small owl to a large Golden Eagle. More than 300 people attended the successful program, up from 250 last year. Nature's Educators returned for the Animals of Pokémon event featuring various live animals outside at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park.

The third program provided through the DLC partnership was a celebration of National Public Lands Day. This is a nationwide event promotes both enjoyment and volunteer conservation of public lands. Woodlands Bowl Open Space was chosen as the location for the 2017 event to highlight the value of the area as public open space land permanently protected through two conservation easements held by DLC. The day kicked off with the unveiling and installation of a new interpretive sign, which details the site's conservation history, at the entrance. Participants enjoyed a guided nature-preserve hike along the scenic paved trail while learning about the terrain of the area, wildlife habitat and the open space's history. The group stopped along the way and helped unveil two additional interpretive signs that outline the habitat and wildlife found on the property.

Environmental Education Programs

Staff continued to offer free environmental education programs and guided hikes to the general public, local organizations, schools and scout troops. Program topics varied from indoor presentations on ecosystems to guided hikes showcasing the history of rhyolite quarrying in Castle Rock. Other program topics included:

- Bluebird Conservation
- Bird Watching Class
- Bird Watching Guided Hike
- Colorado State of Mind Expo
- Riparian Habitat Importance and Restoration
- Career Planning for the Douglas County Education Foundation
- Outdoor Summer Safety with the Castle Rock Fire Department
- Gateway Mesa Open Space Guided Hike for Colorado Open Lands staff and supporters
- Quarry Mesa and Santa Fe Mesa Guided Hike with the Castle Rock Museum



POST PARTNERS

Volunteer Program



2017 Highlights

2017 marks the 10th anniversary for the POST Partners Program. In 2017 alone, over 1,300 volunteers helped with trail maintenance, trash clean-ups, Eagle Scout projects, neighborhood landscaping, bluebird nest-box monitoring, noxious weed mitigation and more. This year's 4,510 volunteer hours equate to nearly \$110,000 of donated labor.

Volunteer Spotlight

KEEPERS OF THE ROCK

Volunteer group Keepers of the Rock earned the Community Champion award from the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association. The award celebrates effort to influence and improve the quality of community through parks, recreation and community services. Keepers of the Rock partnered with community service volunteers from Teen Court to successfully maintain very good to excellent conditions for all designated trails in 2017. Eleven loads of crusher fines were used to cover 1,400 feet of trail. Visitor counts at Rock Park increased to over 50,000 in 2017, creating the need for additional maintenance. With support from Teen Court volunteers, Keepers of the Rock completed eight work days on 10 project segments for a total of 781 volunteer hours. Given the current dollar value of volunteer labor hours, that effort equates to \$18,853.

CRAIG AND GOULD

Members from the Church of Latter-day Saints partnered with the Town to beautify the historic Craig and Gould neighborhood through the improvement of landscaping located in the areas between the sidewalk and curb. Before shovels hit the ground, community outreach efforts were carried out to engage with residents regarding proposed landscaping changes. On the day of the event, volunteers worked to remove vegetation, lay down weed barrier and cover landscaping areas with eight semi-truck loads or 200-tons of rock. So much rock was used, that the local quarry ran out. The project was completed in partnership with Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff when the necessary rock was restocked.

EARTH DAY WILLOW CONSERVATION PROJECT

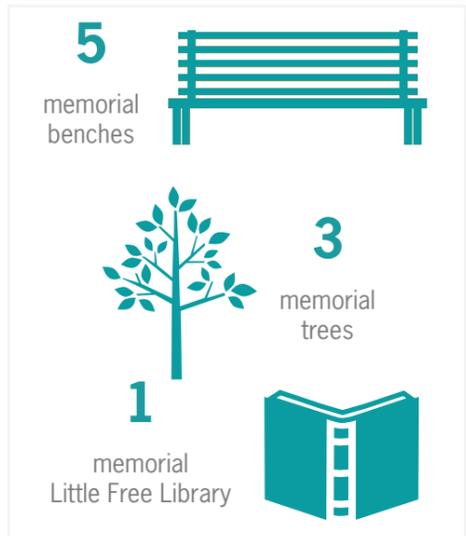
Nearly 50 boy and girl scouts, families and local teenagers attended the annual Earth Day Willow Conservation Project. Volunteers harvested mature willow stakes from healthy riparian habitat at Memmen Ridge Open Space. The willows were then transplanted to a barren, newly constructed drainage area at Philip S. Miller Park between the Millhouse and Plaza. Almost 1,000 willow stakes were planted in the park, which will regrow to establish shrubs along the drainage. Volunteers also collected trash and debris at Memmen Ridge Open Space.

Animal Care & Rehab Center • Blue Spruce Animal Clinic • Brooklyn Veterinary Clinic • Buddy Center/ Dumb Friends League • Castle Rock Water • Chatfield Watershed Authority/ Castle Rock Stormwater • Plum Creek Veterinary Services • Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure & Massage • Sit Means Sit • Sparkle Bark Pet Grooming • Tails Up • Wag N' Wash

Dog Waste Station Sponsors

Blue Spruce Animal Clinic • Castle Rock History Museum • Castle Rock Martial Arts • Castle Rock 'n' Rollers • Design Workshop • Lowry Allstate Insurance • Mortenson Construction • Plum Creek Veterinary Services • Wag N' Wash

Festival of Trees Sponsors



Memorials

Eagle Scout Projects

Five Boy Scouts completed projects with the Town as part of their journey to achieve the rank of an Eagle Scout. Diverse projects and invaluable volunteers added amenities through planning, leadership, fundraising and volunteer coordination. This year's projects included split log benches constructed and installed at the top of the Challenge Hill and along the Purple Loop at Philip S. Miller Park; bluebird boxes constructed and installed in the open space surrounding Rock Church; completion of a trail loop behind Castle Rock Elementary School; and construction of a bridge along the cyclocross course at Rhyolite Regional Park. Congratulations to Ryan Goodman, Evan Molnar, Bryson Lindsey, Mark Weiss and David Munro on the successful achievement of Eagle Scout rank.



POST Partner Adoptive Groups



Civitan
81 hours
Centennial and Triangle parks



King Soopers Cultural Council
10 hours
Philip S. Miller Park



Cub Scout Pack 780
38 hours
Butterfield Park



DCHS Football Team
13 hours
Hangman's Gulch Trail



Girl Scout Troop 2240
26 hours
Memmen Ridge Open Space

Episodic Volunteer Hours by Group

- 49 Castle Rock Zip Line Tours
- 221 Cross Point Church/Front Range Christian Church
- 22 Cub Scout Pack 260
- 132 CVHS/DCHS Paws for a Cause Arbor Day Event
- 6 Faith Lutheran Church
- 60 Elizabeth High School Big Help Day
- 51 Latter-day Saints Church Youth Group
- 338 Mesa Middle School Atlas Bear Team
- 19 New Hope Presbyterian Church
- 6 Ridgeline Community Church
- 68 Rockyard Brewing Company
- 237 Sedalia Elementary School
- 380 Timber Trail Elementary School

RED HAWK RIDGE Golf Course



Operations

Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course saw its highest total annual operative revenue in course history, finishing at \$3,050,000. Multiple capital improvement projects implemented throughout the year attributed to the record, including the completion of concrete cart paths on all 18 holes, turnaround improvements on two holes, bunker renovations on four holes and the design and installation of new tee markers.

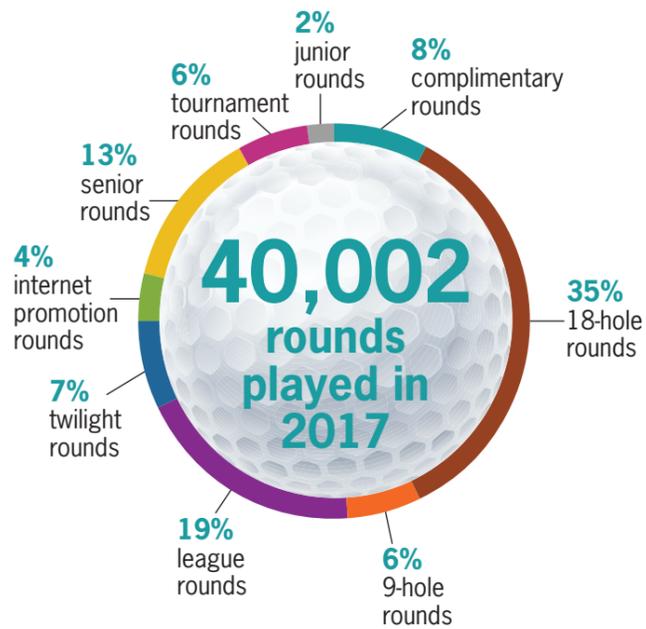
Focused expansion of the Junior Golf Academy resulted in revenue growth of 26 percent in youth rounds, while also increasing the number of youth engaged in the sport.

Clubhouse Grill

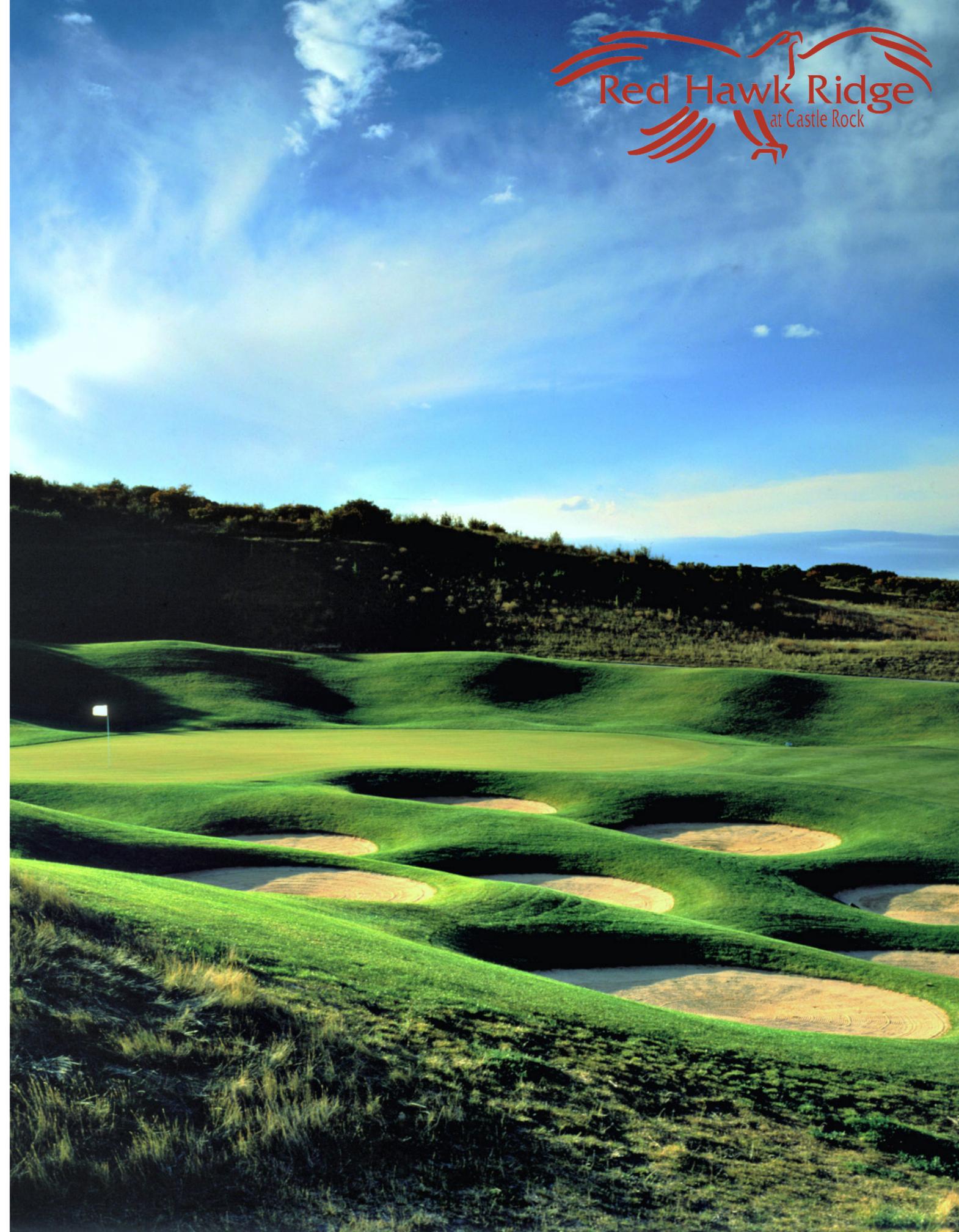
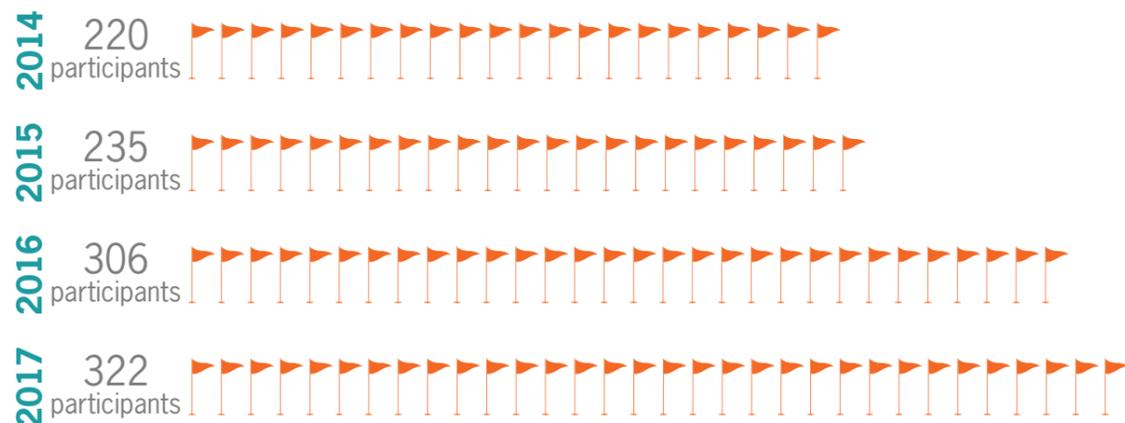
The Food and Beverage division also experienced record-high revenue, generating \$514,000 through the Clubhouse Grill. A new Assistant Food and Beverage Manager was brought on staff, bringing increased stability to the division. Both food quality and presentation for dining room customers and tournaments and events received positive feedback. The addition of live bands and happy hour events throughout the summer resulted in increased visits to the Clubhouse, with much positive feedback regarding the atmosphere.

Audubon Sanctuary

Red Hawk has been a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program since 2014. Staff recertified the course this spring by demonstrating a high degree of environmental stewardship in a number of areas including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and water quality management. Red Hawk Ridge is one of 44 courses in Colorado and 893 courses in the world to hold this honor.



Junior Golf Academy Participation

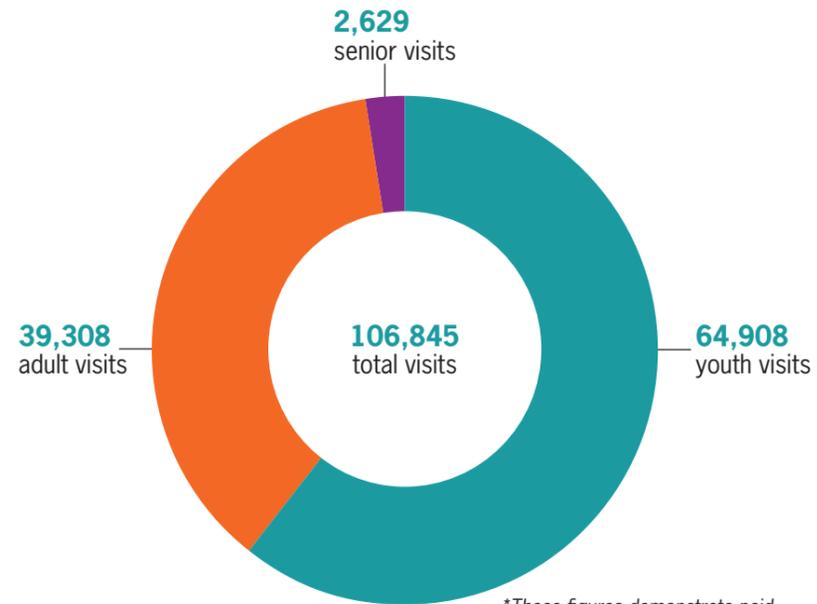


RECREATION

Miller Activity Complex



Facility Admissions



*These figures demonstrate paid recreational use only and do not include team or programming usage.

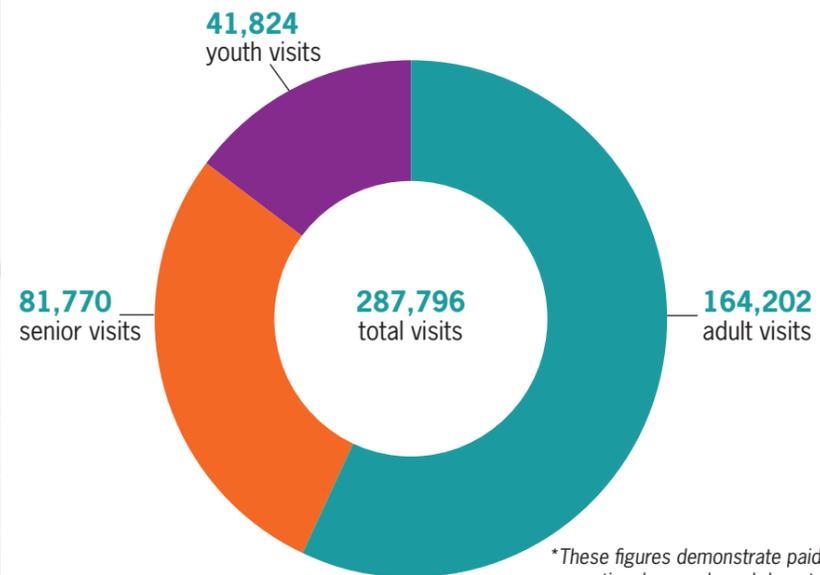
Top 5 Single Day Admissions of 2017



Community Recreation Center



Facility Admissions



**These figures demonstrate paid recreational use only and do not include team or programming usage.*

Facility Focus

The Castle Rock Community Recreation Center underwent a number of upgrades in 2017 to modernize the facility. In addition to the annual deep clean, Town staff coordinated projects to improve the atmosphere through HVAC improvements, brighten up areas by changing color schemes and update old entrance landscapes. Feedback from the public was overwhelmingly positive. Improvements included:

- locker room shower upgrade;
- installation of a new ADA compliant ramp on the Recreation Center's mobile structure;
- application of new paint in various areas throughout the facility;
- installation of diamond plating in the strength training area;
- installation of a new air-conditioning unit for the spin studio; and
- the most significant improvement was making the hot tub ADA accessible with a transfer wall. The Recreation Center is now the first pool facility in Castle Rock to provide direct ADA access to every body of water.

New to the Recreation Center Lobby is the Weigh and Win Kiosk. The kiosk is a partnership with incentaHEALTH, Castle Rock Adventist Hospital and the Town of Castle Rock to incentivize living a healthy lifestyle with encouragement, coaching and rewards. Kiosks participating in this program are part of a statewide network. After patrons complete an initial weigh-in, users receive personalized coaching and tools to promote healthy eating and an active lifestyle. If users weigh-in at least once every 90 days, they will qualify for cash rewards.



Fitness

New programs, events and equipment were added in 2017 to address the demands of a growing population and increased competition in the fitness market.



Equipment

Two new fitness machines called Ski Ergs were purchased at the beginning of the year and placed in the cardio area of the Recreation Center. Manufactured by Concept 2, they provide a total body aerobic and strength workout in an efficient, rhythmic motion, similar to skiing. Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels, each user can create individualized resistance. To continue to provide quality fitness programs, the division purchased and installed a new state-of-the-art sound system for use in the Aerobics Studio. Group fitness class participants now enjoy uninterrupted sound, while instructors appreciate its ease of use and reliability. New strength training equipment was also added in 2017. After a decade of use, the equipment was traded in for a new top-of-the-line series.

Events

In early May, the Fitness and Wellness Division participated in Castle Rock Water's annual Spring Up The Creek event. With nearly 175 participants, a fitness instructor led a bootcamp style workout that can be done anywhere without the use of equipment. Next, National Senior Health and Fitness Day was held in late May. After a two-mile walk, participants enjoyed snacks and refreshments.

In early December, the Fitness and Wellness Division hosted the fundraiser, "SWEAT for Puerto Rico," to raise funds for the Puerto Rico Children's Hospital after the devastating hurricane. Over 100 participants enjoyed multiple class formats and raised \$1,000. The event was also featured in an article in Your Hub.

Programming

The outdoor Summer Fitness Series experienced huge success with record-breaking attendance all season long. Expanded from 2016, the Summer Fitness Series included both Kid's Yoga and Yoga in the Park. These offerings were in addition to Fitness Fridays, which were free outdoor fitness classes held every Friday morning Memorial Day through Labor Day. Kids Yoga proved so popular during the Summer Fitness Series that it was added to the fall schedule at the Recreation Center. SILVERSNEAKERS® Yoga was also added in 2017, taking participants through a complete series of seated and standing poses. Additionally, SILVERSNEAKERS® programs were expanded to the Miller Activity Complex. Lastly, several brand new class formats were added to the schedule in the fall, including Restorative Yoga, Strong by Zumba and Total Body Fit.



Aquatics



Learn to Swim Programming

Changes were made to Learn to Swim classes in 2017 to improve customer experiences and enhance learning opportunities. Session lengths were extended, providing swimmers longer series to better develop new skills. A priority registration period was added to allow currently registered swimmers first access to continue their current progression of skills. Lastly, the participant/instructor ratio was lowered to 4:1 for all preschool, Youth 1 and 2 levels. As a result, gross revenue increased 32 percent over 2016.

Leagues

The Cruisers outdoor swim team had 446 participants this year compared to 345 swimmers last year. This marks a record high in Cruiser participation and a 29 percent increase over 2016; the previous high occurred in 2015 with 361 swimmers. Participants swam strong to end the season. Out of six teams in the Mountain Hi Swim League Division C Championships, Cruisers East and West finished second and third respectively. Between the two teams, 52 participants qualified as All-Stars. In June, the Cruisers hosted a swim clinic instructed by four-time Olympic gold medalist, Jason Lezak. Participants provided positive feedback and Jason expressed interest in returning in 2018.

The Castle Rock Rippers Dive Team had two high-school-aged divers nominated as National All-Americans, placing them in the top 100 in the country. There were only three divers from the entire state of Colorado selected for the honors. The Castle Rock Rippers also brought home three gold medals after competing regionally in Wyoming. The Castle Rock Rippers dive team competed in the Rocky Mountain State Games at Colorado College in July. All 10 of the competing Castle Rock divers placed, bringing home four gold medals, four silver medals, one bronze medal and a fourth place finish.



Athletics



Events

The 11th annual Hoopla youth basketball tournament was held in January, featuring nearly 800 players who demonstrated the skills they'd learned during winter indoor basketball. End-of-season survey results explained the program's high retention rate: 90 percent of parents were satisfied with coaching, and 97 percent of parents were satisfied with the overall program.

Programming

In the fall, the Little Tykes soccer program concluded with over 250 participants. Youth Flag Football also wrapped up with over 300 participants.

New programs offered during the spring and summer included Machine Pitch Baseball and Youth Lacrosse. Machine Pitch baseball replaced the Coach Pitch program for second grades and older to foster consistency and speed up action on the field. All players had increased training opportunities for defensive and offensive plays. The decision to alter the program was reached through parent surveys performed at the conclusion of the 2016 season. To develop the new lacrosse program, the Athletics Division partnered with two local lacrosse clubs to utilize experienced coaches to train both officials and staff.

A new outdoor adult Pickleball league began in early summer, held weekdays at the newly constructed courts at Founders Park. The redeveloped courts were completed mid-June with much anticipation from the community. Two sessions were offered this summer and housed 75 participants. Similar play will continue for participants at the Recreation Center during the colder months.

Outdoor Field Rentals

Field reservations were made by private organizations including the DC Dolphins, Arapahoe Youth League, Storm Soccer and Pirate Rugby. Town-owned outdoor fields are fully utilized by external organizations in March through April, before the department's spring baseball and softball programs begin. In late April, external organizations then have to rely more heavily on school district facilities. With consistent community growth, the heightened demand for facilities is increasingly apparent.

Nearly 100 youth teams, equating to 1,300 participants, and over 50 adult teams, equating to 1,000 participants, utilized the following facilities for athletics programming: Metzler Ranch, Butterfield Crossing, Paintbrush, Centennial, Founders, Bison, and Mitchell Gulch parks and the Castle Rock Community Recreation Center. Additionally, through the intergovernmental agreement with Douglas County School District, the following schools are used for youth athletics programming: Castle Rock Middle School, Mesa Middle, Flagstone Elementary, Meadow View Elementary, Sage Canyon Elementary and Castle Rock Elementary. Additionally, private organizations such as Raptors Football, Storm Soccer and Sandlot Baseball permit these same Town-managed fields for times they're not being used for Town-run athletics programming. Town-run athletic programs and private organizations together place nearly 3,000 youth on Town facilities in the fall season alone. As a result, many outdoor fields, run both by the Town and school district, are at capacity.



Highlights

 An additional **7 coed and men's teams** participated in fall adult softball as compared to 2016, bringing the total to **43 teams**

 Nearly **300 children** participated in the fall Little Tykes Soccer program

 Over **300 local youth** participated in the Cougar Track Club in the summer

 **145 players** participated in the first of two youth indoor soccer sessions

Youth, Toddler & Teen



Adventure Club Preschool

The state-licensed Adventure Club Preschool and pre-kindergarten programs offer a secure, enriching and nurturing environment where children are able to establish solid educational foundations needed to be successful in future academic and social endeavors.

In February, Adventure Club partnered with Read to Me, a nonprofit organization that sponsors read-a-thons to provide books to underprivileged families in birth units at hospitals. Chick-Fil-A of Castle Rock sponsored the read-a-thon by providing free meal vouchers to all participants. Adding to the excitement, the Chick-Fil-A mascot visited all of the classrooms. Adventure Club successfully raised \$130 for books for underprivileged families.

The Adventure Club Preschool held a ceremony for its graduates in May at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. This was the first time the division hosted the event at the Amphitheater, and the response from the families was positive. Two hundred guests watched 65 children walk across the stage.

Back to School night was held for the 2017 – 2018 school year in late August for Adventure Club Preschool. Students and their families were invited to come in pajamas for story time, milk and cookies and to meet their new teachers. There was a strong turnout with over 220 parents and children attending.

Adaptive Recreation

Recreational Empowerment and Active Living (REAL), the Town's adaptive recreation program, planned and implemented over 30 exciting events and activities for participants in 2017. Highlights included ski trips to Winter Park, walleyball, BOOM soccer classes, sensory-friendly swimming classes, a Valentine's Day dinner, the Tuesday Night Club and a dance. The second annual Zumba Glow adaptive recreation fundraiser, held at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park, was remarkably successful with an 82 percent increase in participation. This year's event featured 251 paid participants, as well as over 30 Zumba instructors, and nearly 30 children under the age of 12. The 2017 event raised over \$2,500 with people from all over the Front Range supporting REAL.



Teen Advisory Group (TAG)

TAG is a group of teenagers in seventh through twelfth grade who take an active role in the Town's Parks and Recreation Department by helping with various races, park openings and events. They also help families in the community who are in need at Christmas-time, ensuring they receive gifts or monetary help to lessen holiday stress. The teens help with the Daddy Daughter Ball each February, the Climb4Change and Tri the Rock each May and Spooktacular each October. Additionally, they volunteer with REAL, the Town's adaptive recreation program, and the Senior Center. The group of teens has become known throughout the community for its random acts of kindness. The kids enjoy one another's company and helping their community, seeing the difference they are able to make.

TAG raised over \$1,600 through the annual raffle at the Daddy Daughter Ball to benefit its work in the community throughout the year. In April, the group partnered with Facing Homelessness Denver, assembling packs to distribute to the homeless in downtown Denver. Later, TAG members organized the First Annual Apple Giving Tree. The teens placed trees in the lobbies at the Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex. Patrons at the facilities collected an "apple," or card that represents a family, to provide gift-cards to help families in need to purchase back-to-school clothes. Likewise, the group held their annual Giving Tree program in December. Between the Apple Giving Tree in the summer and the Giving Tree in December, 75 gifts were given.

Rock Rec Camp

Rock Rec Camp was expanded upon in 2017, staying open during spring, summer, fall and winter traditional school breaks. The camp is known throughout the region for keeping kids busy and active during what is otherwise a down period for kids. Traditionally, kids take two or three field trips to local attractions per week, and spend the remaining days swimming and playing at both the Miller Activity Complex and Recreation Center.

Hundreds of children participated in Rock Rec Camp throughout the year. Summer camp season kicked off with strong participation. Popular camps included LEGO, Mad Science, KidzArt and Mexican Cooking. The last week of the season was a favorite, where the theme was "X-treme Challenge Arena." The group went to Sky Zone, the Ice Center at the Promenade and swam at the MAC and Recreation Center.



Special Events

At the beginning of 2017, the Town's Special Events Division moved under the umbrella of the Parks and Recreation Department to streamline the special events offered throughout Castle Rock.

April 16



For the second year in a row, the Easter Sunrise Service was the season opener at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. Hundreds came out for the Easter Celebration hosted by Calvary Church.

May 21



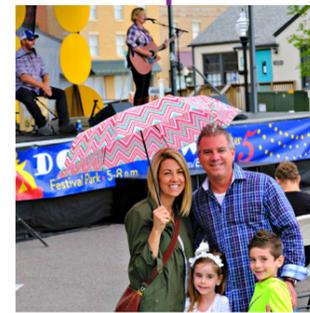
This year's annual youth triathlon, Tri the Rock took place despite the cold temperatures and snow that occurred the days leading up to the race. Nearly 450 youth participated in the event. New this year, the Town offered a clinic for first-time racers. The clinic was well-received with 60 total participants.

May 27



The 2017 Summer Concert Series kicked off on Memorial Day weekend with Super Diamond. Despite the rain that threatened a delay, the first concert went on as planned. Over 400 people braved the chilly temperatures and enjoyed the Neil Diamond tribute band.

June 3



A few hundred people came out to enjoy the flannel-themed happy hour with lumberjack jousting, craft beer, live animal presentations and local vendors at Downtown After 5. Castle Rock musicians Sarah P. and the Dirty Logger had the crowd singing favorites such as "Nothing Compares to You."

June 10



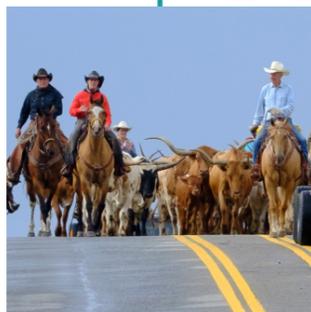
Nashville recording artists Thompson Square and Hudson Moore drew a crowd of more than 800 to the Amphitheater to enjoy country music. Opener Hudson Moore, recently named Rolling Stone's, "Top Ten Artists to Watch," warmed up the crowd before Thompson Square hit the stage to cap off the perfect evening.

July 2



July kicked off with a patriotic performance from the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. This 60-piece ensemble performed for over 600 people over Independence Day weekend with special guest, the Liberty Belles.

July 28



Western Heritage Welcome ended the month with a Texas Longhorn steer drive through Downtown Castle Rock. Hundreds of people lined the streets as a team of cowhands drove a few dozen steer from Rock Park down Perry Street. Residents then enjoyed western-themed food at the chuck wagon.

August 1



Castle Rock's National Night Out, hosted by the Castle Rock Police Department at Philip S. Miller Park, saw 500 people in attendance. The successful event featured K-9 demonstrations, tours of police and fire vehicles and educational series on SWAT teams and investigations. Residents also enjoyed free food, free popcorn and an outdoor screening of "Zootopia."

August 3



Paizley Park took the stage at the Amphitheater. Despite the threat of rain, over 700 people came out to enjoy the Prince tribute band. Attendees enjoyed free music and games.

August 6



Xterra Colorado Trail Race held the second annual XTerra trail run in Castle Rock. At an altitude of 6,200 feet, this trail run invigorated participants and highlighted the soft surface trails at Philip S. Miller Park.

August 26



The Amphitheater hosted its first sell out concert when John Ford Coley and the Little River Band hit the stage. 1,800 people watched the Grammy nominated singers of "Lonesome Loser" and "Cool Change."

September 9



The Amphitheater hosted a Tunes for Trails, Perks for Parks free concert, Hip Pocket. The band rocked with fantastic harmonies, playing a dynamic combination of dance, funk, pop and rock music. It was a fun and energetic way to wrap up the month.

September 8



The inaugural Castle Rock Brew Fest Under the Stars was held at the Millhouse and Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. The Millhouse proved a wonderful setting for an evening out, with visitors tasting award winning local craft brews and delicious local food. Best of all, guests enjoyed the experience under the stars, mingling around the beautiful pond or cozying up to the crackling fire at the Millhouse. With over 700 people in attendance, the event was a huge success.

September 9



This year's Pooch Plunge saw 189 dogs in attendance and raised over \$450 for the Dumb Friends League Buddy Center.

September



The 2017 Summer Concert Series wrapped up in September with two memorable performances. Grammy nominated artist Matt Maher hit the Amphitheater stage on Labor Day weekend with over 700 fans in attendance. Then on September 22, the Academy of Country Music nominated Duo of the Year Halfway to Hazard braved the rain and cold and wrapped up a summer of music in Castle Rock.

October 7



Philip S. Miller Park successfully hosted the inaugural Castle Rock Trails Festival. The event combined the much loved liveBIG family adventure run with the Ridgeline Trail Races. The festival included an ultramarathon, marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K and a family adventure run. Over 750 people raced, while hundreds more attended for the pre- and post-race festivities, including a John Denver tribute concert featuring John Adams. It was a full day of running, music and fun.

October 28



Fall was unquestionably in the air when the Amphitheater was transformed into a giant pumpkin patch. Hundreds of families came out to the Town's Harvest Festival to find the perfect pumpkin. Attendees carved pumpkins for the Great Pumpkin Wall, while little ones got their faces painted, bobbed for apples, wandered through the mini straw maze and took hay rides through the park. The Great Pumpkin Wall was lit once the sun went down and families gathered to watch seasonal classics, "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" and "The Goonies."

October 28



The ninth annual Spooktacular was the largest yet with over 2,300 attendees. Children and parents tried their luck with activities such as the cake walk, ring-a-ghost, bowl-for-mummies and the pumpkin can toss. Face painters did an excellent job helping families look the part.

November 4



The inaugural Pie Bake Off event was held as pies were judged on overall look, smell, crust, pastry and filling quality. An Apple Bavarian Pie took first place.

December 2



The 2018 Season of the Star event series kicked off in December with Winterfest to celebrate those who continue to stay active during colder months. Hundreds of participants and spectators came out for the 5K race produced by Stridemob, and enjoyed live music from Sarah P. and the Dirty Logger, food from local vendors and carriage rides under the beautiful Downtown lights.

December 9



The celebrations continued as Festival Park was transformed into a winter wonderland for Storytellers and S'mores. Santa and a few of his friends dropped by to roast marshmallows and tell stories to families.

December 13



The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park hosted a community menorah lighting. Blue lights illuminated a crowd gathered on stage, as they sang in celebration of Hanukkah. Rabbi Avraham Mintz, of the Chabad Jewish Center of South Metro Denver, led the event. "Hanukkah is a universal message for people of all backgrounds," he said following the menorah lighting. "Goodness, kindness and light always outshine darkness."

December 15



The second annual Reindeer Games offered something for everyone with live reindeer, hot chocolate, visits with Santa, crafts, s'more roasting and train rides. Over 2,000 people attended the event at Philip S. Miller Park. Another highlight was the five-level obstacle course built by staff on the Amphitheater. Children climbed, crawled, bounced and ran through challenging obstacles to claim a prize at the end.

December 24



The Season of the Star event series wrapped up with the Candlelight Service hosted by the Calvary Chapel church on Christmas Eve. Families joined in singing traditional Christmas hymns and learning about the origins of the songs. The candle lighting ceremony concludes the program every year and marks a festive way to enjoy time with family in the heart of Downtown Castle Rock at Festival Park.

OTHER Projects



Cartegraph

The Parks and Recreation Department implemented Cartegraph Operations Management Software (OMS) – a comprehensive cloud-based work, asset and operations management platform. The new software will result in improved organization and strategy in tracking assets, including trees, park benches, fitness equipment and trail surfaces, amongst hundreds of thousands of other items. Cartegraph also allows for better preventative maintenance on resources such as baseball fields and tennis courts. The software will assist staff in tracking assets and ultimately developing servicing schedules, which will allow for increased preventative maintenance and decreased reactive maintenance. Staff is actively monitoring real-time data to identify opportunities for efficiency gains. Assets will be tracked for installation, warranty and repair dates as well as associated costs. The department will be equipped to make accurate budget assumptions for future planning. All associated utility bills will be mapped and tracked per facility to fine tune monthly billing costs and forecast for future facilities. Service schedules have been automated.



Holiday Lighting

Downtown Castle Rock was filled with holiday cheer as over 130 trees were lit as part of the Town of Castle Rock's 80th annual Starlighting event. Over 60,000 lights were installed throughout Town along Perry and Wilcox streets. An additional 38 trees were lit at the Millhouse and Amphitheater within Philip S. Miller Park, and six, six-foot wreaths were hung on the exterior of the Miller Activity Complex.

Citizen Academy

The Town of Castle Rock hosted a Civic Academy to provide information to residents about the core functions of the Town of Castle Rock. Parks and Recreation hosted one of the training sessions. Thirty residents were selected to attend. Topics covered included the Town's exaction requirements for parks, open space and trails, future planning efforts, recreation facilities and programming, budgeting and revenue sources, the POST Partners volunteer program, special revenue funds, the golf enterprise and maintenance and operations. Positive feedback was received following the Civic Academy, and due to high demand, Parks and Recreation staff are working with the Town's five other departments to prepare for the Civic Academy in 2018.



CivicSend Updates

In response to the need identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission to improve the Department's communication with residents, Parks and Recreation staff worked with the Community Relations Division to create email newsletters. Through a mass email marketing tool called Civic Send, staff will be able to write and send emails to residents who have previously participated in Recreation programming.

Parks and Recreation staff identified the need for seven different newsletter types. A general newsletter will be sent to all contacts and will include information pertaining to all residents such as events, important and new programs, etc. More tailored newsletters will be sent to contacts based on interest and participation in past programs including Adaptive Recreation, Athletics, Cultural Arts, Fitness and Wellness, Youth and POST Partners Volunteers. Staff have created an annual communication schedule to prevent residents from getting oversaturated with communication from the Department.

Civic Send is a part of the Town's website platform Civic Plus. This enables residents to opt in to receiving emails within the aforementioned categories through the Town's website at CRgov.com/NotifyMe. The first newsletter was emailed in February.

Rec App

A new online registration portal went live in April after months of coordination and collaboration between the Recreation administrative staff and the Rec App software developer. The launch was timed to coincide with the delivery of the Spring Summer Recreation Guide and the opening of program registration.

The new software allows for an improved mobile-friendly experience and an intuitive listing of program offerings. Feedback from patrons is positive and the department is excited to offer such a significant improvement in service.

In the past, online registrations accounted for 63 percent of all program signups. Since the new software was implemented, online registrations increased to 79 percent. The increase reduces the amount of time staff spend on the phone, while increasing overall convenience for customers.

CRPT Foundation

The Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation was established to enhance the spaces that make Castle Rock unique, with focus on advocating for the parks and trails in Town as well as raising funds for parks and trail projects. The Foundation manages the Legacy Brick Program at Philip S. Miller Park, where engraved bricks are made available for purchase with proceeds benefiting the Parks and Trails Foundation. The Foundation created the Family Trail Guide this past year, which introduced self-directed outdoor recreation opportunities for families while instilling trail etiquette practices. Partnership continues with the Foundation.





Intergovernmental Agreements

RUETER-HESS

In 2015, Town Council voted unanimously to support a cooperative agreement with the Parker Water and Sanitation District, the Town of Parker, the Town of Castle Rock, Douglas County, the City of Lone Tree and the City of Castle Pines to bring water-based recreation opportunities to the Rueter-Hess Reservoir. This intergovernmental agreement (IGA) created the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority. Each of the partner agencies maintain a position on the Authority Board of Directors. The primary purpose of Rueter-Hess Reservoir is to provide drinking water and water storage to serve the District's customers. All recreation planning and improvements by the Authority are subordinate to that primary purpose to maintain high quality drinking water. Rueter-Hess Reservoir is located on Hess Road, one mile east of Interstate 25, at the Castle Pines Parkway exit 188. The property encompasses over 1,170 acres. At 109-feet deep, the reservoir currently contains 28,560 acre feet of the projected 75,000 acre feet of water at capacity. The property is a 15-minute drive from Downtown Castle Rock, and will serve as a unique recreational destination. Each of the partner agencies contributed \$25,000 to the Professional Services Agreement to develop a master plan for the property. Outstanding local participation in the reservoir's recreation master planning process has resulted in a preferred concept for the property's outdoor recreational and educational opportunities.



DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Douglas County School District and the Town of Castle Rock have had an IGA for the joint use of facilities since 2002. The goal of the agreement is to maximize the efficient use of outdoor (pools, multi-purpose fields, baseball and softball fields, rinks, courts, turf fields and parks) and indoor facilities (gymnasiums, classrooms, auditoriums, turf fields, cafeterias and pools), owned and operated by each entity.

The common cooperation between the School District and Town in regards to operating and maintaining, as well as planning and developing common use facilities has been extremely beneficial to both parties. For example, the Parks and Recreation Department would not be able to offer and run their youth basketball or volleyball programs if they did not have the gymnasium space that the schools in Castle Rock within the District provide. This would negatively impact over 1,620 youth in Castle Rock. In turn, without the use of the Community Recreation Center pool, both Douglas County and Castle View high school swim programs would most likely not exist. The contents of the IGA will continue to be reviewed annually by both Douglas County School District and the Town of Castle Rock to ensure both parties are in compliance, that the agreement is up to date and that all needs are being met.



LOOKING *Ahead*



Neighborhood Park Improvements

The upkeep of parks and open space requires continual investment to maintain high levels of service. Playground equipment and other park amenities deteriorate with standard wear patterns and have an average life expectancy of 15 to 20 years. Funds are set aside each year for life cycle repair and replacement projects throughout Castle Rock, which include items such as playground replacements and game court, athletic field and pavilion improvements.

Staff will request funds annually through the Douglas County Shareback and receive annual funds from the Colorado Lottery distribution through 2023 to complete design work and assessment and capital improvements as necessary for each property as learned through the annual assessment process. Parks that will be considered include but are not limited to: Mitchell Gulch, Plum Creek, Butterfield, Metzler Ranch, Paintbrush, Founders, Castle Highlands, Baldwin, Bison and Philip S. Miller parks.

Branding

With increased population comes increased demand for information and desire for input. Additional means of public outreach and notification must be identified and incorporated to define how renovations and other changes to parks and facilities are publicly processed. Additionally, in order to expand public engagement, efforts are underway to begin refining communication strategies.

Operations and Maintenance Facility

Parks Maintenance is currently located at the Castle Rock Service Center on Castleton Drive. The space has been shared with the Public Works Department for nearly 20 years. Personnel and equipment growth have created the need for additional space. Park staff will need to move into a new space in 2018 and the planning process is beginning to move the project forward. The location selected is the old wastewater treatment facility located at 1400 Caprice Drive. The Town owns this parcel, which is currently used for slash mulch recycling and snow storage. Building plans include five maintenance bays, indoor storage, a training facility, office space, a break room and a storage yard for equipment and material.

Planning began in 2017, and has required coordination and design efforts by both the Parks Maintenance and Facilities divisions. Construction began in May.

East Plum Creek Trail Southern Extension

The East Plum Creek Trail is the Town's main north-south spine trail which travels through the riparian corridor of the East Plum Creek. The 10-foot wide concrete trail is not only the most widely-used trail connecting The Meadows community to Downtown Castle Rock and south, it is also part of the larger trail system known as the Colorado Front Range Trail, which will eventually connect communities along the Front Range from Wyoming to New Mexico.

Currently, the EPC trail travels six miles from Castle View High School to south Perry Street. The final southern segment to be constructed by the Town is a two-mile stretch from South Perry Street to Crystal Valley Parkway, where it will connect to the Lanterns development, the Douglas County trail systems and beyond to complete trail sections through Colorado Springs and Fountain, Colorado.

The Town of Castle Rock was awarded a \$1 million grant to fund the southern extension as part of Great Outdoor Colorado's Connect Initiative Program, focusing on connecting existing trail gaps and providing increased access to outdoor recreation. This grant marked the largest Great Outdoors Colorado Grant the Town of Castle Rock has ever received. According to the grant agreement, the Town will have three years from issuance in October 2016 to complete the trail project. Completion of the trail corridor was also included as a priority in the Town's 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Town's Parks and Recreation 2018 – 2020 Strategic Plan. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2 million. The remaining funds required to complete the project will come from the Annual Trail Improvements fund.

2017 saw much progress on the project. Estimates and proposals were received in January from two firms, with the contract awarded to design consultant RESPEC Inc. Collaboration took place with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the spring. In July, project design reached 90 percent completion and engineer cost estimates were submitted to Town staff for review. In September, the Town successfully completed the purchase of two sections of private property that are needed to complete the trail, allowing the Town to move forward on the project.

In October, Parks and Recreation Commission members and staff led a guided hike along the future trail alignment. Thirty residents attended this special preview event to get a sneak peek of the two-mile stretch prior to construction commencement. Additionally, the new trail alignment will take into consideration the new Crystal Valley Interstate 25 interchange. Construction is planned to begin in late summer 2018.





Accreditation

Currently, the Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department ranks among the top 166 parks and recreation agencies in the United States and is one of eight in Colorado to be accredited by the Commission of Parks and Recreation Agencies. To maintain accreditation, the department must uphold the accreditation standards of excellence and apply for renewal in 2020. Significant resources are committed to this effort, as reaccreditation is a key priority. The final application must be submitted by November 2019. To achieve this goal, staff must review, modify and implement new policies and procedures as needed; consider accreditation software to update and track policies, reviews and attachments; and develop an overarching department policy and procedure manual that includes new standards.

Gold Medal

The National Recreation and Park Association's National Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. The Town first won the award in 2012, and looks to reapply in 2018. The Parks and Recreation Department must continue to demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resources management and innovative approaches to delivering superb parks and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. If selected as a finalist, the department must also create and submit a five-minute video in the spring.

Strategic Plan Update

The fast growth Castle Rock is experiencing presents a challenge for the Parks and Recreation Department to adapt to change while maintaining a world-class community with small-town character. Accordingly, the Town prioritizes strong planning. The Parks and Recreation Department has developed its 2018 – 2020 Strategic Plan, which will serve as the department's guiding document, reinforcing efforts to enhance the quality of life and well-being of residents. Each division, including golf, administration, recreation and parks maintenance and operations, will identify unique challenges, goals and objectives to address in the coming three years.

Colorado State University Partnership

To increase summer recreation options for local children, the department has partnered with Colorado State University in 2018. Four types of summer camps will be offered through the partnership, including an Outdoor Adventure Camp, Multi-Sports Camp, Fun Life Camp and Music and Movement Camp. The partnership offers options for older ages as well.



RESIDENT Feedback

"Thank you so much for your Birdwatching Class, it was great. This is was the second time I had attended and I learned so much. Within a couple of days after the class I visited Wild Birds Unlimited so now there a few more backyard birds with seed. I hadn't known about the shop until you mentioned it in your class, the people there were very helpful and nice! I also stopped at the Rec Center and picked up info on trails, parks, etc. and am looking forward to some enjoyable time birding in the near future." - Meredy L.

Birdwatching 101 Class

"Thanks, this has been such a fun activity and we cannot wait until next year!" - Laura P.

Colorado Bluebird Project

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate all you've done for my boys. Jonathan is a typical, kind of crazy 7 year old but Eric has had a rough road. We started cooking with you because he needs life skills. He has so many disabilities. We know he's not easy. We know he's hard to teach, but he has a good heart. I truly appreciate you helping him. He loves you guys and you've made him feel welcome and comfortable. It does my heart good to know he can read a recipe when one year ago he could not." - Stacy B.

Youth Cooking Class



**Red Hawk Ridge
Golf Course**
4.4 stars on Google

"This is the best park that I've been to in Colorado (never mind that it's 25 minutes from my house). The native surface rolling hills is ideal for both hiking and biking. I've also used the 200 step stairs for a great cardio workout. OBW, the other facilities are also popular and widely used." - Antonio S.

Philip S. Miller Park

"Great place to take the kids on a rainy day! Actually, given the incredible playground, on ANY day! Super affordable, and offers lots of activities for the kids (and adults!), including trampolines, the indoor soft structure playground (similar to Monkey Bizness), and the playing fields. Easy to get to, and love that it's also located next to many trails!" - Tarrah T.

Miller Activity Complex

"We want to thank you for everything you did for our boys this summer. They have grown leaps and bounds in your care. I do not know how to express in words what it meant to our family to have a place where our boys could come and have a positive experience in school. Our family will never forget your kindness and patience. We have watched the boys grow and learn in ways we never thought were possible. You have given us a new hope in the school process working for our children." - Miranda C.

Rock Rec Camp



**Miller Activity
Complex**
4.5 stars on Google

"My sweet girl has gained tremendous confidence in the water!! This picture is priceless. I can't thank you wonderful ladies enough for all of the love, encouragement and commitment to what you do. Kenadie is having the best success with swimming that she has ever had and that is because you are giving her the proper tools to be an awesome swimmer." - Sheila T.

Adaptive Swim Lessons

"On the short list for Best Park in America. Deservingly!" - Bryan C.

Philip S. Miller Park

"I have played here once and I thought it was a beautiful course all around. This place is definitely on my top 10 list of Colorado golf courses. The elevation changes were remarkable, and you get a great round of golf for the price. I can't wait to play here again in the upcoming weekend!" - Unknown

Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course

"My wife and I attended your bird watching 101 class last week and enjoyed it immensely!! I really appreciate your enthusiasm and knowledge on the subject. I am much more aware of the birds in my yard and when I take my daily walk." - Mike C.

Birdwatching 101 Class



**Philip S. Miller
Park**
4.8 stars on Google

BY THE Numbers

863

pounds documented lost at Weigh and Win kiosk since installation in May



100

average number of group fitness classes offered weekly at the Recreation Center



2,756

total number of minutes spent running during Tri the Rock



681

total number of minutes spent swimming during Tri the Rock



8,139

total number of minutes spent biking during Tri the Rock



33%

increase in Cultural Arts program registrations from February 2016 to February 2017



42%

Daddy Daughter Ball gross revenue increase over 2016



163,241

vehicles entered Butterfield Park in 2017



82%

increase in Zumba Glow participation over 2016



6,400

average monthly free group fitness class participants



121

families received recreation programming scholarships in 2017



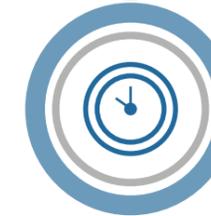
504

pavilion rentals in 2017



1,103

eggs laid by monitored bluebirds in Colorado Bluebird Project



10:00

in the morning is busiest hour at the Recreation Center



26%

increase in pottery programming participation over 2016



13%

increase in youth and teen programming participation over 2016



Castle Rock
Parks and Recreation
1375 W. Plum Creek Parkway
Castle Rock, CO 8010-9
303-814-7444
CRgov.com/ParksandRec