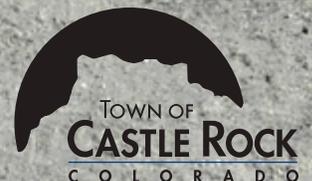


# CASTLE ROCK PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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Produced by: the Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department

Photos by: Barbara Spagnuolo, Mark Sims, Twain Wilkins, Lisa Sorbo, Colin Shreffler and Versatile Marketing



# WELCOME



It is with great pleasure I present to you our 2016 Annual Report. 2016 marked a year of both promising beginnings and flourishing endings for the Parks and Recreation Department. May saw the completion of phase two of Philip S. Miller Park. A community-wide celebration took place within the park's new additions, the Amphitheater, Millhouse and Plaza. Seeing reservations pour in for the Millhouse to be a place of celebrations such as weddings, reunions and graduation parties was truly rewarding, as the community's vision for the park to be a place to revel in life's biggest moments came to fruition.

Our work in other areas within the department saw equal success in 2016. Recreation programming continued to thrive; Butterfield Pool saw an extensive renovation that resulted in increased visitation; Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course saw its highest annual revenue in course history, stemming from multiple capital improvement projects; outdoor education classes continued to grow in popularity; and the POST Partners volunteer program thrived with over 2,900 volunteer hours.

The year ended with closing out the planning phase of our next big project, the reimagining of Festival Park. At the heart of downtown Castle Rock and as the home to some of the community's most treasured events, the planning phase of this project included collaboration with a number of groups, including the Downtown Development Authority. 2017 will see the execution of construction and the completion of this highly anticipated revitalization of downtown Castle Rock.

As we enter 2017, our aspiration as a department will continue to be the heart of Castle Rock. Whether it is a preschooler's first soccer goal at Bison Park, a child learning to ride a bike at Wrangler Park, a teenager stepping off the zip line tower, a family sitting on a blanket sharing a meal during a free concert in the Amphitheater or a 50th wedding anniversary celebration at the Millhouse, we as a department are here to make your journey special.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brauer  
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 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

## 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 7.4 mile native-surface trail network, with 1.2 miles of a paved accessible loop. The Challenge Hill is the park's 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 park 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.

Phase two of Philip S. Miller Park, which commenced in May, features the Plaza, Amphitheater, Millhouse, pond and water feature, additional accessible concrete trails, parking and landscaping.



### Features

#### THE PLAZA

The Plaza is home to picnic pavilions, restrooms, a splash pad, outdoor fire pits, unique play features, scenic landscaping and a public art sculpture.

#### THE AMPHITHEATER

The Amphitheater features intimate outdoor seating in a spectacular outdoor environment and hosts concerts, shows, graduations, church services, weddings, outdoor education programming and other events. The Amphitheater boasts 24 color LED house lights, a state of the art sound system and a fabric stage cover. The state-of-the-art venue attracted national talent during the inaugural concert season.

#### THE MILLHOUSE

The Millhouse is available to rent for meetings, parties, receptions, corporate retreats and other events. The beautiful facility boasts a large great room with floor to ceiling windows, stunning high wooden beams and a walk-around patio featuring an outdoor fireplace, which overlooks the serene pond. The Millhouse provides majestic views of the adjacent pond and waterfalls, and the rugged terrain to the west provides the perfect backdrop for special events.



## Grand Opening Celebration

Phase two construction of Philip S. Miller Park was completed mid-May. A successful grand opening community event was held on May 14 with more than 5,000 people in attendance. Free activities included three concerts, featuring the works of Josh Blackburn, Over the Castle and the Steve Thomas Band. Additionally, there was a family adventure hunt, bump soccer and archery demonstrations, crafts, STEM activities, Police and Fire Department booths, a photo booth, autographs with Queen Elsa, a trackless train and food and beverage sales.

## Signage

Two signs were installed at the park in October. One was placed at the main entrance of the Miller Activity Complex and the other at the main entrance of the Millhouse. The purpose of these signs is to create clear identification for unfamiliar park patrons.

In order to attract visitors, increase regional draw and provide direction to users of the park, the department is pursuing the installation of new signage along Interstate 25. The installation will include a total of four new signs located at Plum Creek Parkway exit 181 on I-25: two large signs for the northbound and southbound directions and two smaller signs for each

exit ramp. New directional signage on I-25 is regulated and coordinated by the Colorado Department of Transportation. Staff submitted and received a Special Use Permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation in late November.

The option to provide an LED sign within Philip S. Miller Park for the purpose of providing information to park users related to both park and Town events is being explored. A two-sided LED sign will be placed adjacent to the restroom building. The project will be complete in June 2017.

## Wayfinder Maps

Town staff worked with the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation to design, fabricate and install wayfinder directional maps at Philip S. Miller Park. The Parks and Trails Foundation, together with IREA, sponsored costs associated with the signs' fabrication. A total of six 18 by 18 inch full color digital laminate wayfinder panels were installed throughout the park in late October. Located at major trail intersections, as well as the Plaza of the park, these informative panels are designed to guide users with trail distance information, trailhead locations and other reference points as they enjoy the more than 10 miles of paved and soft-surface trails that wind around ridges and valleys in the park.





## Public/Private Partnerships

In March 2015, Castle Rock Zip Line Tours opened its zip line course, operating 10 zip lines throughout Philip S. Miller Park. A few short months later, Castle Rock Zip Line Tours then 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, Castle Rock Zip Line Tours wrapped up their 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.

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

Collaboration is underway as part of the intergovernmental agreement that established the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority to establish public/private partnerships for recreation purposes once the reservoir opens to the public. The City of Parker and Town of Castle Rock are working together to plan for recreation programming offerings.

## Philip S. Miller Park Usage

### Challenge Hill

876 average daily trips



**Sunday** was the busiest day of the week

**June** was the busiest month of the year



**9 to 10 a.m.** was the busiest time of day

### Gold Loop Trail

48 average daily trips



**Saturday** was the busiest day of the week

17,702 trips in 2016

### Traffic

1,203 average daily trips into the parking lot



**5 to 6 p.m.** was the busiest time of day

440,313 total cars visited the park in 2016

Estimated to have had over **1,000,000** visitors in the park

# Festival Park



Rendering of conceptual redesign by Design Workshop

Festival Park is the heart of Downtown Castle Rock and is home to some of the community's most treasured events. Soon, this central gathering space will be transformed into a vibrant urban center. This project was planned through a collaborative effort of residents, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Downtown Merchants Association and the Town. The DDA is providing leadership for the project and also serves as the primary funding source of the project, as \$4 million of the total budget is being provided by the DDA through the use of Downtown sales tax. Festival Park is envisioned to serve as a public gathering place and venue for various events. The park looks to boost the vitality of adjacent businesses and provide a safe and clean urban park that promotes active civic life.

## Planning

Throughout the planning process, the Town solicited input from the public to help reimagine Festival Park. The \$6.9 million improvement project will include amenities such as a landing pavilion, splash pad, two fire pits, an open lawn, a creek-side picnic area, market plaza, 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 will be implemented to align with national flood plain regulations and provide public access to the creek.

## Progress

Much progress was seen in the planning and preparation stages of the park's redesign throughout 2016. At the end of 2015, Town Council approved an agreement with Design Workshop for Festival Park preconstruction services. In early 2016, Design Workshop sent design drawings to a third party construction contractor for estimates. Additionally, the project's civil engineering consultant assessed floodplain modeling and stormwater requirements. In May, Design Workshop submitted information to FEMA for the Conditional Letter of Map Revision Process, which was required for the modification of the Sellars Creek floodplain. The bid package was distributed in late summer, and in early November, a construction contract between the Town and M.A. Mortenson Company was approved by Town Council for the redesign of Festival Park. Pre-construction began in December, including the relocation of a gas line, product submittals, surveying and final permit reviews.

Construction is expected to begin early 2017 and is planned to be completed by Starlighting in November.



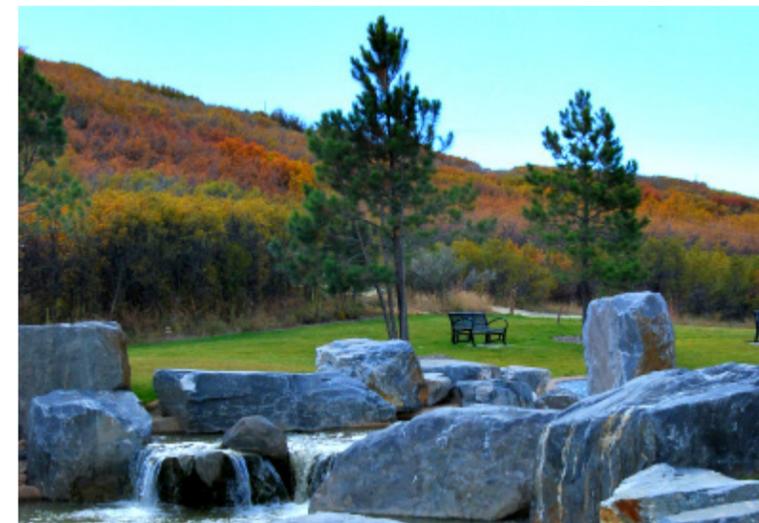
Colin Sheffler  
PHOTOGRAPHY

### Rock Park Scaling Safety Project

During a short period of heavy rainfall in 2015, several large boulders were dislodged at Rock Park. The rock fall did not cause any injury or significant damage to the soft-surface trails at the site, but did raise awareness of the potentially unstable environment presented by the conglomerate geology at Rock Park and steep geography of the site. As a result, Rock Park was closed to public access for three days in early December while a rock fall mitigation company, Geohazard Solutions Inc., conducted rock scaling work. Approximately 30 cubic yards of rock was removed in total. Geohazard Solutions Inc. also installed an extensometer to monitor rock cracks and potential future hazards. The initial rock scaling was a success, but ongoing inspection and potential scaling will be needed.

### Park and Open Space Rezoning

In an effort to update Town park and open space properties to current zoning standards, staff has chosen two areas in most need of updating, Philip S. Miller Park and Rock Park. The remaining properties will be completed when staff time and funding are available. In order to complete the rezoning, Land Survey Plats (LSPs) are required. Staff solicited and received three proposals to complete LSPs for the properties; of those received, Survey Systems provided the lowest proposal at \$9,000. LSPs were completed in November. Staff then presented the rezoning project to Castle Rock's Technical Review Committee in December with no issues or concerns from members. Notices will be mailed out to surrounding residents in early 2017, and a public open house is also scheduled for early 2017 to present the project to interested community members. The project will carry into 2017. Staff is working with the Development Services Department to begin preparing required documents to finalize rezonings at Philip S. Miller Park and Rock Park.



# TRAILS



## East Plum Creek Trail South 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 completed trail sections through Colorado Springs and Fountain.

In February, staff completed the master plan, which identified the conceptual trail alignment, stream crossing, storm drainages, retaining walls and property acquisition needs.

The Town's Stormwater Division of Castle Rock Water has identified erosion issues and will begin the design of storm channel improvements along the Douglas Lane tributary located in the Heckendorf neighborhood in spring 2017. The project will also include the south limit of the EPC Trail from the Union Pacific Railroad to Crystal Valley Parkway. The Parks and Recreation Department and Castle Rock Water have joined efforts on similar projects in the past with great success in cost sharing and time management. Castle Rock Water will take the lead on the project with oversight from Parks staff related to the trail improvements. Design continued through 2016, with construction beginning in 2018. Learn about the \$1 million grant awarded by Great Outdoors Colorado to fund the project on page 36.

## Wolfensberger Pedestrian Bridge

To provide better connectivity to Philip S. Miller Park and its trail system, the Town constructed a 155 foot pedestrian bridge over Wolfensberger Road, linking Philip S. Miller Park with both Ridgeline Open Space and the Meadows community. The bridge creates a continuous 17 mile trail loop on a connected 650 acres of park and open space property. The bridge provides an important link on a future major trail loop through Town, providing opportunities for special events and enhancing the experience of trail users, as well as safety concerns of crossing a major roadway.

Plans were approved in October 2015 and construction began in December, continuing into 2016. In early May, in conjunction with the completion of the second phase of Philip S. Miller Park, the bridge opened to the public.

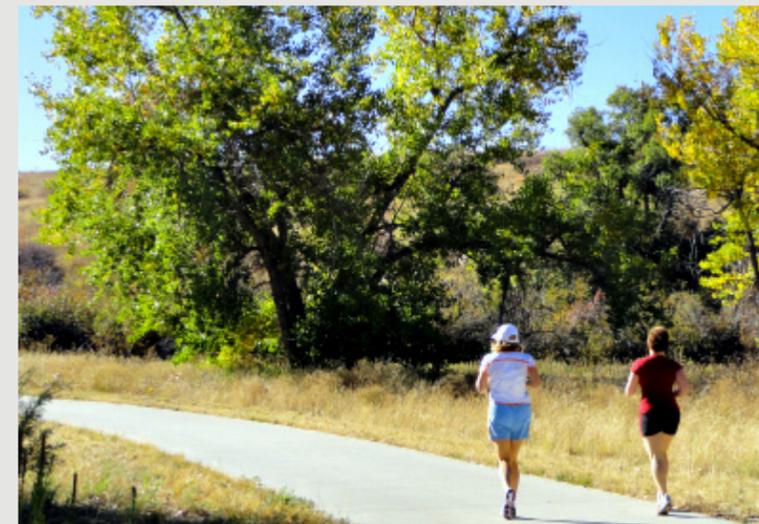
Staff designed and built 1,300 linear feet of soft-surface trail to complete the link.

## Concrete Replacement

In 2015, staff identified damaged and cracking sidewalks within several park sites throughout the Town's park system. Staff prepared quantity and cost estimates to be included in budget years 2016 through 2021. In 2016, Butterfield Park, Founders Park and the Memmen Ridge Trail behind South Elementary School were selected for completion. The contractor began work in July and completed the project ahead of schedule in early August.

The project included the removal and replacement of 1,400 square yards of concrete and 45 square yards of asphalt. To save costs, Parks Maintenance staff completed backfill and revegetation work.

Future concrete repair projects include Metzler Ranch Park, Centennial Park, Matney Park and Gemstone Park.



## Hangman's Gulch Trail

In an effort to provide water quality, improvement protection and maintenance concerns, Castle Rock Water identified the need to complete additional master planned improvements along Hangman's Gulch storm channel 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 the Hangman's Gulch Trail improvements. Final design will be completed in early 2017 with construction beginning spring 2017.

## Mitchell Creek and Tabor Court Trail Connection

Since 2013, staff has worked with the Founders Village Metropolitan District to extend the Mitchell Creek Trail west to Ridge Road and to complete a connection from the Mitchell Creek Trail to Tabor Court in Founders Village. The project was delayed due to potential issues with future planned stormwater structures associated with the Ridge Road trail connection. The stormwater issues were recently resolved and plans have been approved for construction.

The trail connection will be a joint project between the Town and the Founders Village Metropolitan District. The project is scheduled to be completed in late spring 2017.

## Terrain Development Trail System

In an effort to provide support for local development in the design and construction of sustainable soft-surface trails, staff met with the Terrain developer to create a trail plan. A license agreement was established to allow the developer to construct and maintain soft-surface trails on Town-owned open space. One and a half miles of native-surface trail was constructed early 2016.



# OPEN SPACE & *Natural Resources*



## Colorado Bluebird Project

2016 marks the tenth year of participation in the Colorado Bluebird Project, which includes data collection and monitoring of bluebirds and swallows as they nest in artificial nest boxes built by students and volunteers. Beginning with two sites and 18 nest boxes in 2007, the project has grown to 29 sites and 166 nest boxes. The data collected by nearly 100 volunteers between April and August was summarized and reported to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in late September. Over 500 volunteer hours went to monitoring the nest boxes on a weekly basis.

Overall, there were 195 total nesting attempts, indicating double clutches of eggs in the same box, 913 total eggs laid and 774 total chicks hatched. Only 682 total fledglings successfully left the boxes. The total number of fledglings, 682, is a decrease from last year's total, likely due to the high number of nest failures caused by a Mother's Day snowstorm. For the first time in 10 years, there were five different species using the nest boxes in 2016: Mountain Bluebird (265), Western Bluebird (115), Tree Swallow (289), Violet-green Swallow (5) and Black-capped Chickadee (5). For the third year in a row, the nest box occupancy rate was 94 percent. 2016 marks the first time there were more Tree Swallow fledglings than Mountain Bluebird. This is likely the result of the Mother's Day snowstorm that froze many Mountain Bluebird nests that were already active with eggs. Many Mountain Bluebirds in Castle Rock did not return to nest after that storm and Tree Swallows took over their nest boxes. Also, 2016 marked the lowest number of second nesting attempts by Mountain Bluebirds. Also of significance, findings of pink-colored bluebird eggs continued this year, not from a Mountain Bluebird nest as documented annually since 2012, but from a Western Bluebird nest.



## Summer Trails Exploration Program

For the second year in a row, residents were invited to get outdoors during the summer and explore the beautiful parks, well-planned trails and abundant open space with the Summer Trails Exploration Program, or STEP. The program kicked off on American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, June 4, and continued through Labor Day. Residents were invited to spend the summer exploring Castle Rock trails and participants were entered to win an outdoor-themed prize. Every trail hiked equaled one entry into the grand prize drawing, which was held at the end of the summer. There were 16 different hikes of various lengths and difficulty featured in the program, so participants could earn up to 16 entries; the more sites visited provided more chances to win the grand prize. In 2016 the Columbine Award from Colorado Parks and Recreation Association was received for programming of the Summer Trails Exploration Program, based on its creativity, innovation, results, execution, community benefit and overall contribution to the success and value of parks and recreation in the state of Colorado.





### Douglas Land Conservancy Partnership

Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) is a local nonprofit land conservation organization that holds the permanent conservation easements on Woodlands Bowl and Quarry Mesa Open Space. DLC approached Town staff regarding their desire to partner to provide more outreach and community outdoor-themed events to residents. Through this partnership, two new special events were offered in 2016: Raptors Over the Rock and Hike and Help Day. Raptors Over the Rock featured an educational presentation on local raptors from Nature's Educators, a local wildlife educational nonprofit organization that recently relocated to Castle Rock from Aurora. Kids and parents had the opportunity to get up close to four live birds of prey, ranging from a small kestrel to the large golden eagle. More than 250 people attended the successful new program.

The other new program provided through the partnership with DLC was Hike and Help Day, in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Participants were offered a guided geology and local history hike of the Town's first rhyolite quarry, followed by an opportunity to maintain the trails and control noxious weeds at Quarry Mesa Open Space, a property protected by a permanent Conservation Easement held by DLC. More than 20 volunteers with POST braved strong winds atop the mesa that day. Town staff collected hundreds of invasive knapweed plants using a mulcher to reduce the large cumbersome plants to a manageable pile, thus avoiding the use of hundreds of heavy-duty plastic bags to collect the plants.

### 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
- Quarry Mesa Guided Hike
- Bird Watching Class
- Bird Watching Guided Hike
- Arbor Day
- Wild In Our Town special event

# VOLUNTEER POST Partners



POST logged over 2,900 volunteer hours in 2016. For details about specific projects, visit [CRgov.com/POSTPartners](http://CRgov.com/POSTPartners).

## Trail Maintenance

The Parks and Recreation Department could not keep the 35 miles of soft-surface trails in such good condition if it were not for the efforts of regular trail maintenance groups, who contributed a combined total of over 950 hours of trail maintenance to Ridgeline Open Space, Rock Park and the Rhyolite Bike Park. In addition to the dedicated monthly maintenance efforts of the Ridgeline Wranglers, Keepers of the Rock and the Dirt Crew, several businesses also conducted one day teambuilding projects with Town to conduct trail maintenance. Employees from The North Face distributed road base along a boggy part of the trail at Ridgeline Open Space, and Key Bank assisted with weed removal at the Rhyolite Bike Park.



## The Bucket Challenge

Two groups, including both the LDS Church Youth Group and Thriveology, filled the steps of the Challenge Hill as part of annual maintenance work. Generous park visitors looking to enhance their workout carried buckets filled with Sta-Lok, which sits in the timber frames of each step. The volunteers then filled the steps with the material and tamped it into place. Each group filled roughly 100 steps. This process is necessary each year as it prevents precipitation from collecting inside the step frames, creating icy conditions during the colder months.

## Inaugural Paws for a Cause

Two rival high schools came to the Town looking a project they could do simultaneously as a teambuilding exercise to bring the students closer together. Their flagship project was to leave a mark on the greater community by planting a grove of 21 orchard trees at Philip S. Miller Park as part of the Town's annual Arbor Day efforts. The group of over 40 volunteers was made up of student government members and green team members from both Douglas County High School and Castle View High School. The students also donated the cost for one of the apple trees to commemorate their inaugural event.



## Eagle Scout Projects

Two area Boy Scouts secured projects with the Town to build and install split log benches at Philip S. Miller Park as part of their quest to achieve the rank of an Eagle Scout. Tyler Stowell, with help from members of Troop 260, installed two benches along the Green Loop. Blake Polson from Troop 765 constructed and installed three benches along the Gold Loop. The efforts of their volunteers contributed more than 350 hours to enhancing the trails at Philip S. Miller Park. Boy Scout Caleb Dissel also constructed an arbor for the entrance to the Glover Community Garden.

## Special Projects

Two churches coincidentally scheduled days of service on the same day in May. In the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, the volunteers graciously combined efforts to apply and spread out crusher fines along the bottom of the Blue Loop Trail, which leads hikers down from the Challenge Hill. Once this was complete, the 13 volunteers from New Hope Presbyterian Church and the 13 volunteers from Ridgeline Community Church removed barbed wire and t-posts from a newly acquired parcel at the park, opening it up to the public and wildlife. Lastly, the volunteers hauled out debris and building materials from an old shed in the open space.

## Trash Clean-Ups

Many local organizations have adopted a trail or park and conduct regular trash clean-ups in those areas. Their combined efforts accounted for 627 hours of volunteer service through the POST Partners Program, which equates to \$14,772 in labor value. The American Heritage Girls/Troop 8909, Boy Scout Troop 260, Boy Scout Troop 261, Castle Rock Christian Academy, Civitan, Cub Scout Pack 764, Cub Scout Pack 780, the Douglas County High School Huskies Football team, the Kiwanis/Aktion Club at Wellspring, Mesa Middle School's Atlas Bear Team and the Sapphire Pointe Seniors all helped keep the trails in Castle Rock clean and beautiful in 2016.

## Thank You to our Sponsors

**Dog Waste Stations:** Animal Care and Rehab Center, Blue Spruce Animal Clinic, Brooklyn Veterinary Clinic, The Buddy Center/Dumb Friend League, Plum Creek Veterinary Services, Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage, Sit Means Sit, Sparkle Bark Pet Grooming, Tails Up and Wag N' Wash.

**Festival of Trees:** Blue Spruce Animal Clinic, Castle Rock Beer Company, Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum, Castle Rock Martial Arts, Castle Rock 'N' Rollers, Douglas County Temporary Services, Guaranty Bank, JSC Property Maintenance and Wag N' Wash.



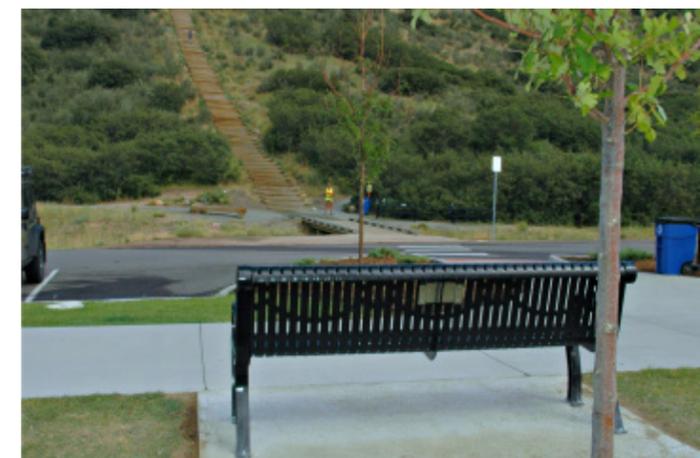
Memorial bench donated in memory of Carol George



Memorial bench donated in memory of Bill Kingery



Memorial bench donated in memory of Amy Malmgren



Memorial bench donated in memory of Patrick Larson



# GOLF



## Operations

In 2016, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course experienced the highest total annual revenue since opening in 1999. Revenue outpaced the previous record by nearly \$200,000 and finished at \$2,950,000. The Food and Beverage division also experienced record-high revenue, generating over \$510,000.

The expansion of the Junior Golf Academy was a primary focus in 2016. The program was extended into July for the first time, which increased total participation over the previous year by 56 percent. Through the nine additional programs that were offered, participation grew from 166 in 2015 to 259 in 2016.

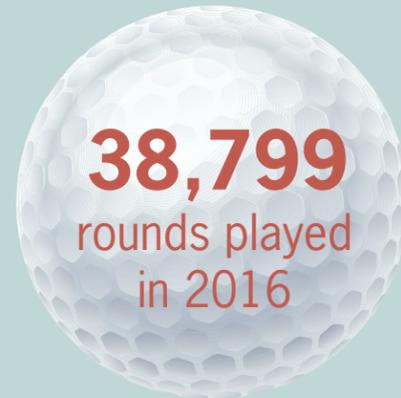
## Course Improvements

Several capital improvement projects were implemented in 2016, providing updates to ensure the golf course stays competitive within the market. Updates included:

- the installation of two permanent on-course restroom facilities;
- the completion of concrete cart paths on nine holes;
- bunker renovations on four holes;
- upgrades to the practice facility, with cart access improvements and the addition of a range ball dispensing machine/building;
- the installation of patio screens on the outdoor patio;
- the replacement of the main entry doors and golf shop entry doors;
- an update to the bar face in the clubhouse;
- the installation of a second walk-in cooler in the kitchen, to accommodate growth in the Food and Beverage division; and
- a fresh coat of paint on the exterior of the clubhouse.



**56%**  
increase in  
Junior Golf  
Academy  
participation



**38,799**  
rounds played  
in 2016

**ROUNDS BY CATEGORY**

<b>13,666</b>	regular 18 holes
<b>6,161</b>	league
<b>5,056</b>	seniors
<b>3,733</b>	tournaments
<b>3,283</b>	twilights
<b>2,534</b>	internet specials
<b>2,478</b>	complimentary
<b>1,888</b>	regular 9 holes



**4.3 out of 5**  
rating on Google



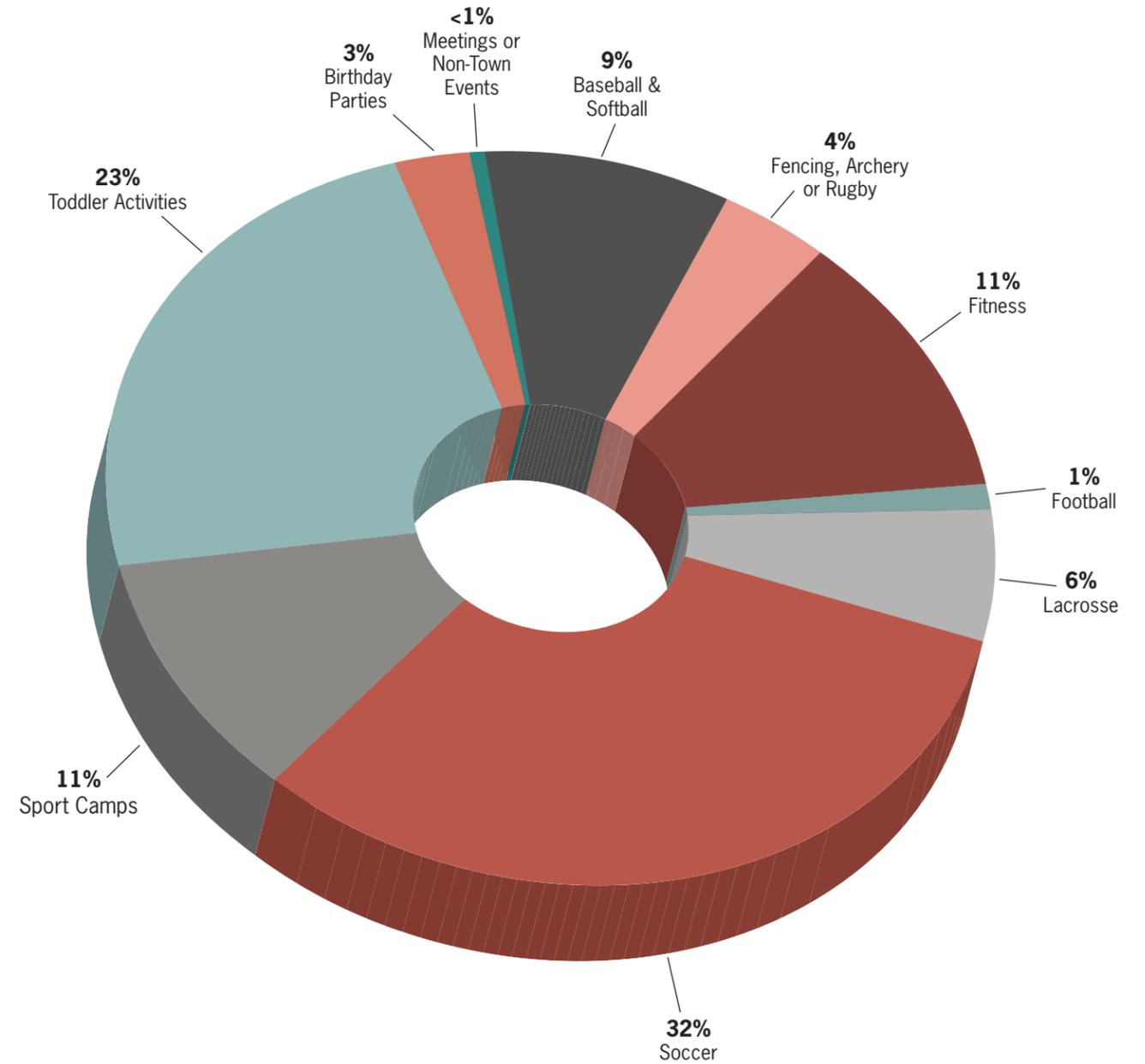
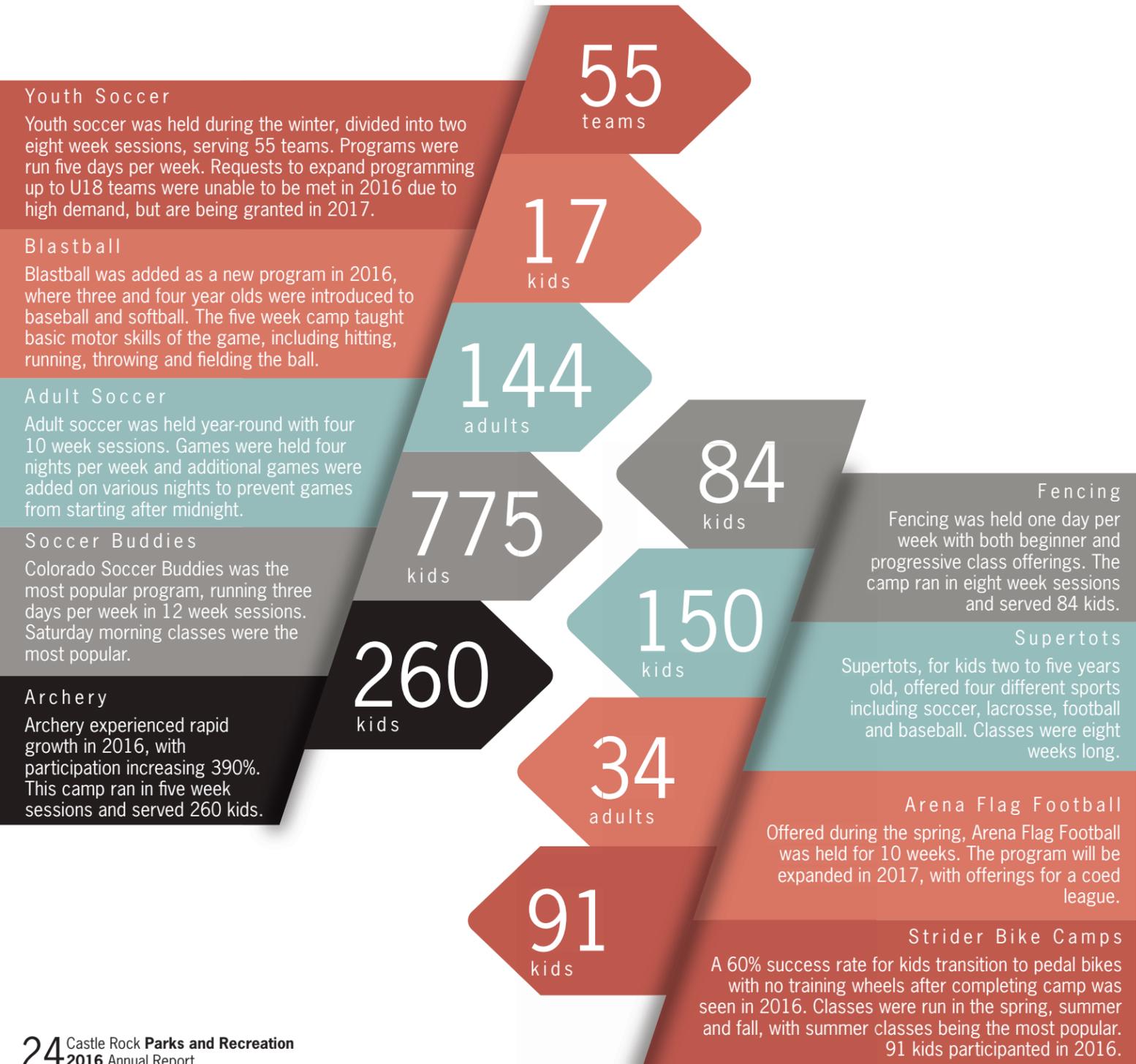
# RECREATION

## Indoor Field Programming

Indoor field rentals at the Miller Activity Complex continued to thrive in 2016. Registration data shows successful implementation of programming for participants of all ages.

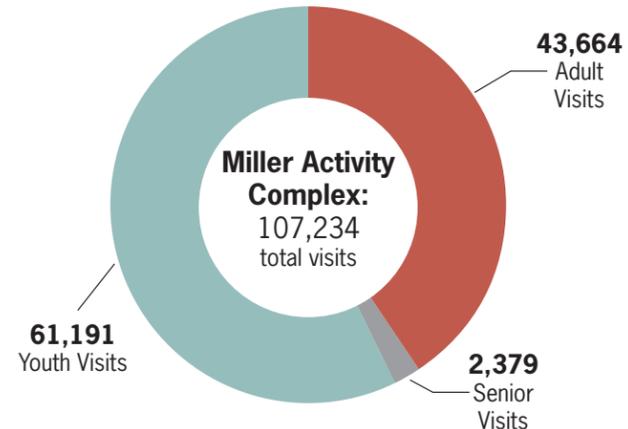
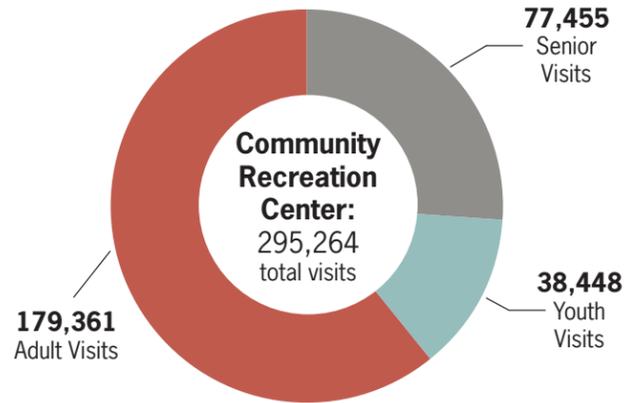
## Indoor Field Rentals

Just over 5,000 hours of playing time were reserved on the indoor fields at the Miller Activity Complex in 2016, with over 80,000 people either playing or spectating various activities.





## Facility Admissions



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

## Facility Focus

In 2016, emphasis was placed on improving different factors at both the Miller Activity Complex and the Community Recreation Center in order to provide guests with a more positive experience. At the MAC, focus was placed on increasing the clarity and consistency of communication through updated policies on signage, along with overall facility cleanliness.

The Community Recreation Center saw a complete roof replacement, the modernization of the elevator, expanded wifi capabilities and lighting and safety upgrades.

## Dasher Board Sponsorships

The dasher sponsorship program provides companies the opportunity to place advertisements along the dasher system of the main indoor field at the Miller Activity Complex. Companies have the opportunity to select two different sizes of advertisements along with a one or two year agreement. Ten local companies are currently under contract with the dasher sponsorship program.

## 2016 Events

### DADDY DAUGHTER BALL

Roughly 1,300 daddies and daughters danced the night away at the annual dance.



### TRI THE ROCK

Over 60 volunteers and staff and 425 participants enjoyed the annual event at Butterfield Park.



### CASTLE ROCK HALF

The fourth annual race drew 195 participants. Runners had the choice of participating in the half marathon, the five mile course or the Rock Challenge.

### REINDEER GAMES

Over 2,000 kids and parents joined in the inaugural winter-themed wonderland to meet Santa and his reindeer, and participate in outdoor games, hay rides and an obstacle course.



### POOCH PLUNGE

The twelfth annual event proved to be a great way for dogs to escape the heat and go for a refreshing swim. Over 160 dogs participated, and over \$630 was raised for the Buddy Center.

### PEDAL THE MOON

The seventh annual bike ride drew over 290 riders, pedaling six miles from Butterfield Park to Festival Park via the East Plum Creek Trail.



### liveBIG RUN

Approximately 260 racers participated in the 5K and 10K races as part of the third annual liveBIG run at Philip S. Miller Park in October. Roughly 120 parents and kids competed in the Family Adventure Run.

### SPOOKTACULAR

Over 1,300 people attended Halloween Spooktacular at the Miller Activity Complex in October.





## Fitness

### EQUIPMENT

In order to provide guests with a positive and productive fitness routine, new cardio equipment was purchased in 2016. In January, new state of the art SciFit upper body exercise machines replaced the older, outdated fluid arm rowers. The SciFit machines are designed for both cardio and pulmonary rehabilitation as well as sports medicine, physical therapy and strength training. With over 190 levels of controlled resistance, these machines are appropriate for patrons of all fitness levels. Feedback has been very positive as the machines are user-friendly. The seat can be removed so the equipment is easily accessible to those in wheelchairs.

In August, during the Community Recreation Center maintenance closure, the fitness area purchased 37 new exercise machines, including 14 treadmills, eight ellipticals, six upright bikes, five recumbent bikes, two flex striders and two power mills. The premium Elevation Series PowerMill Climber uses SureStepSystem Technology and a reliable AC motor to ensure smooth motion and a large range of available speeds. PowerMill has the largest usable step space of any similar product in the industry. The premium Elevation Series FlexStrider Variable-Stride Trainer lets exercisers find the stride that best fits their workout. Its stride length adjustability and biomechanically proven motion makes the FlexStrider Trainer one of the best low-impact, total-body workouts for exercisers.

### PROGRAMMING

2016 saw the introduction of a new weekly fitness event held at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park on Fridays during the summer, called Fitness Fridays. The program, which was free to the community, offered a different workout format each week utilizing the natural features of the Amphitheater, providing participants a challenging workout in a beautiful outdoor setting. Participants enjoyed various programs including Zumba, boot camp and yoga. The series gained in popularity throughout the summer, averaging 30 to 40 participants each week.

Also new in 2016 was the Nuts and Bolts Yoga program, where the instructor emphasized the fundamentals and mechanics of yoga and provides instructions to both those new to the practice as well as those who are proficient. Most sessions reached capacity.

TRX classes continued to prove popular in 2016, with most classes filling up quickly after registration opened. Senior Walk and Weights classes, held outside, were the most popular fitness classes some months. In total, over 120 weekly group fitness classes, which are free with admission to the Community Recreation Center and Miller Activity Complex were offered in 2016.

## Athletics

Changes in programming for the year included modifications to youth basketball, girls softball and T-ball programs. Youth basketball modifications included moving to a four on four formation for second and third graders. These levels being played on smaller courts allowed for better court distribution and less confusion for the players and coaches. For the first time in several years, the girls softball program fielded enough teams to allow all divisions to run independently. Thus, 2016 marked the first year that all games and practices were played in Castle Rock. In T-ball, changing the batting order each inning from one in which the whole team hits to only half increased movement during the game, holding the young players' attention longer.

### PROGRAMMING

Youth fall competitive baseball remained a premier league and one of the largest in the area. Thirteen teams were added in 2016, bringing the total to 47 teams.

Notable increases were seen across various athletics programs in 2016. Boys baseball saw an increase of 25 players, resulting in a revenue increase of \$2,500. Youth flag football saw an increase of 15 players, resulting in a revenue increase of \$1,500.

### OUTDOOR FIELD RENTALS

Field rentals in 2016 continued to rise, resulting in a revenue increase of over five percent. Private organizations utilizing Town fields or facilities include: Storm Soccer, Raptor/Dolphins Baseball and Softball, Real Soccer, Sandlot Baseball, Thunder Softball, Prodigy Softball and Arapahoe Youth League Baseball and Football.

## Teen Advisory Group

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 Climb 4 Change 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. Additionally, one TAG representative sits on the Parks and Recreation Commission as a voting member each year.



## Aquatics

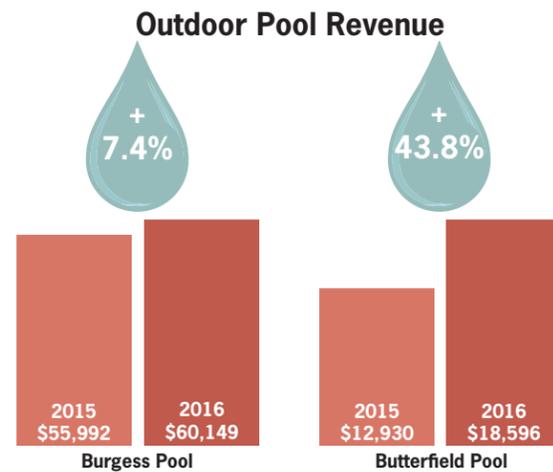
### BUTTERFIELD POOL RENOVATION

A much needed renovation of Butterfield Pool was completed prior to the start of outdoor pool season. The aging wader pool was removed and replaced with a zero depth entry wader pool shaped and painted like a clownfish with geysers, a mushroom spray feature and a clownfish-themed waterslide. A seven-feature splash pad was also added adjacent to the new wader pool. A pergola was constructed, spanning the width of the east end of the pool to provide shade for patrons during open swim and competitors waiting to utilize the dive blocks during swim meets. The main pool was rejuvenated with a fresh Diamond Brite plaster surface. The locker rooms were gutted and all fixtures were replaced; additions include custom granite counter tops, epoxy floor coating, new paint and tile throughout, new bathroom partitions, overhead LED lighting and a fresh coat of hydrostatic paint on the lockers and doors. The office area was also finished with new cabinetry, countertops and fixtures.



### OUTDOOR POOLS

The outdoor pools experienced another year of growth in 2016. Burgess Pool saw a revenue increase of 7.4 percent over 2015. Butterfield Pool earned 43.8 percent higher revenues, largely due to the renovations.



### LEAGUES

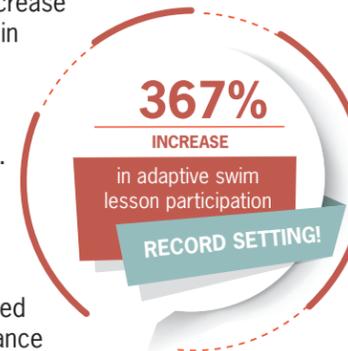
The new year-round dive team has more than doubled in size since its inception in late 2015 from 17 to 36 divers. The team's coach, who has both competed and coached at the collegiate level, brought a new level of expertise to the program. The team competes in local Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics events and has a winning record. Twelve divers recently competed in a meet in Lakewood, resulting in six first place finishes, four second place finishes, and a third and a fourth place finish.



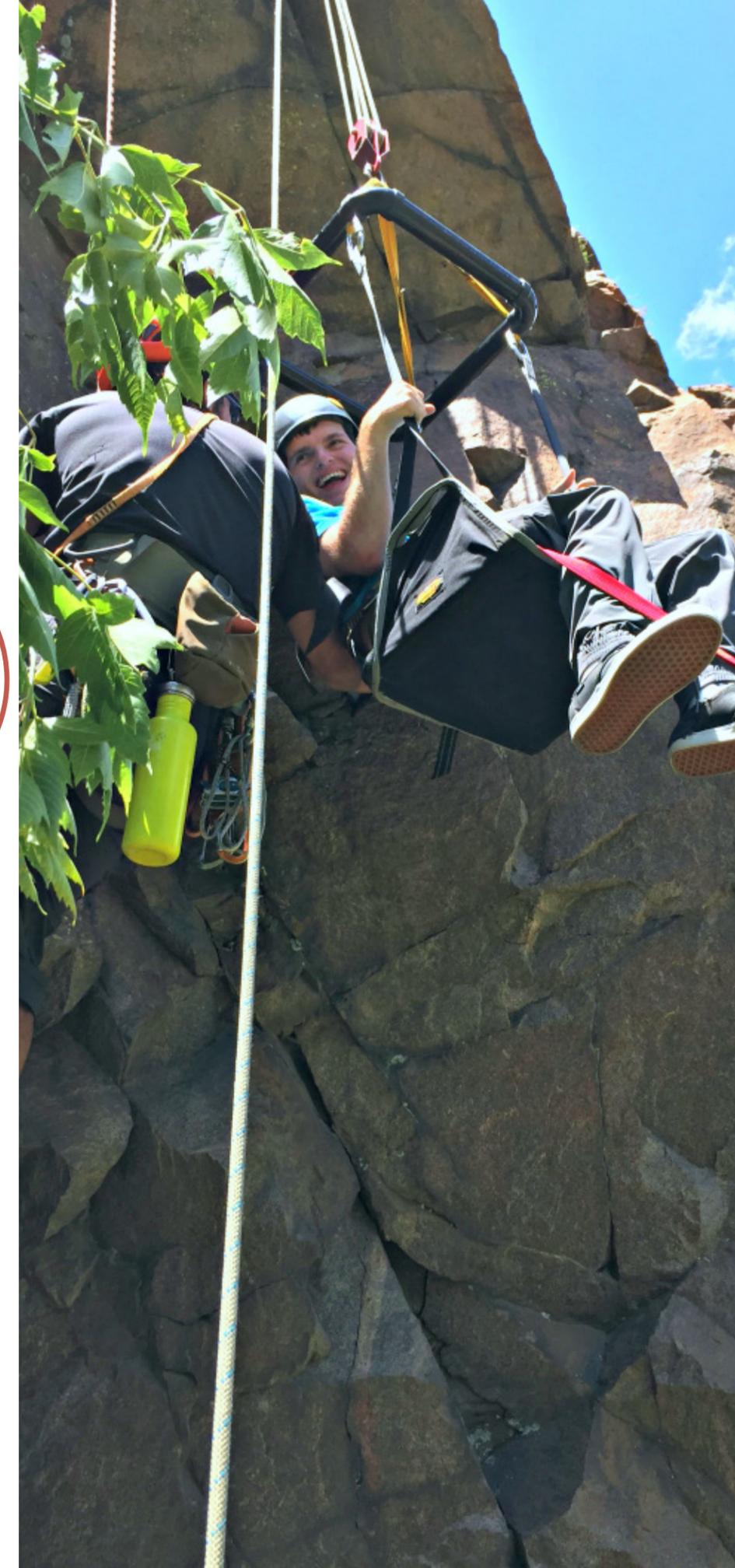
## REAL

Recreational Empowerment and Active Living (REAL), the Town's adaptive recreation program, planned and implemented over 30 exciting events and activities for participants in 2016. Highlights include laser tag, a talent show, attending an Avalanche hockey game, a rock climbing outing, a group fitness class, a camping trip, taking a tour of the Olympic Training Center and a five day ski trip to Winter Park. Over 200 kids participated in REAL programs during 2016. Of note, there was a 70 percent increase in Climb 4 Change participation. Two new Zumba fundraisers were also offered at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park, with more than 240 participants.

REAL's adaptive swim lesson program saw a 367 percent increase in participation in 2016 from 2015, up from nine to 42 participants. Over 40 lessons were offered each week. Thirty students received financial assistance from REAL's scholarship fund, which was backed by the Douglas County Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy grant.



In August, the Children with Challenges Workshop, which coaches professionals working with children with challenges in aquatics, was hosted at the MAC. The workshop is a collaborative effort between the USA Swimming Foundation, USA Swimming, the Starfish Aquatics Institute and the Aquatic Therapy Rehab Institute.





## Youth Programs

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

2016 was an exciting year of growth and innovation for the Adventure Club. Junior preschool continued to run at full capacity. For the first time in four years, additional afternoon instructors were added to meet the expanding program's needs, as enrollment increased in both preschool and pre-kindergarten. Also in 2016, the Adventure Club began working towards a top rating with Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System. The program rates all early childhood education centers on levels one through five, helping parents find the best quality of care for their children. The Adventure Club met all requirements of levels one and two and submitted for a level three quality rating. The Adventure Club will strive

for advancement within the rating system, as it continues to work to achieve a level five rating. The Adventure Club was awarded a \$1,200 grant from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood Education for program supplies in 2016.

## Cultural Arts Division

Participation rose in all cultural arts programs in 2016. Compared to 2015, dance class participation was up 21 percent, pottery class participation increased 20 percent, oil painting class participation increased 165 percent and pallet painting class participation increased 50 percent.

To align with increased interest in pottery, two new pottery wheels were purchased. An Advanced Ceramic Techniques class was also offered in 2016, which helped the program grow in popularity. The fall pottery sale was successful, with a 20 percent increase in profits from 2015.

## Special Events

2016 marked the beginning of an exciting new venture for the Parks and Recreation Department as the Special Programs Division was created. A full time position was added for the Special Programs Supervisor to lead this division in the management of special events, mainly located at Philip S. Miller Park's new Amphitheater and Millhouse.

During the spring, event policies and procedures were finalized. Over 75 special event applications were received for 2016, with over 25 of the events taking place within Philip S. Miller Park. The new division collaborated with a number of Town departments and other agencies to work on various event components, such as food sales, street closures and alcohol sales. The Town-wide Special Event Permit Process was also developed, streamlining the special event planning process for years to come.

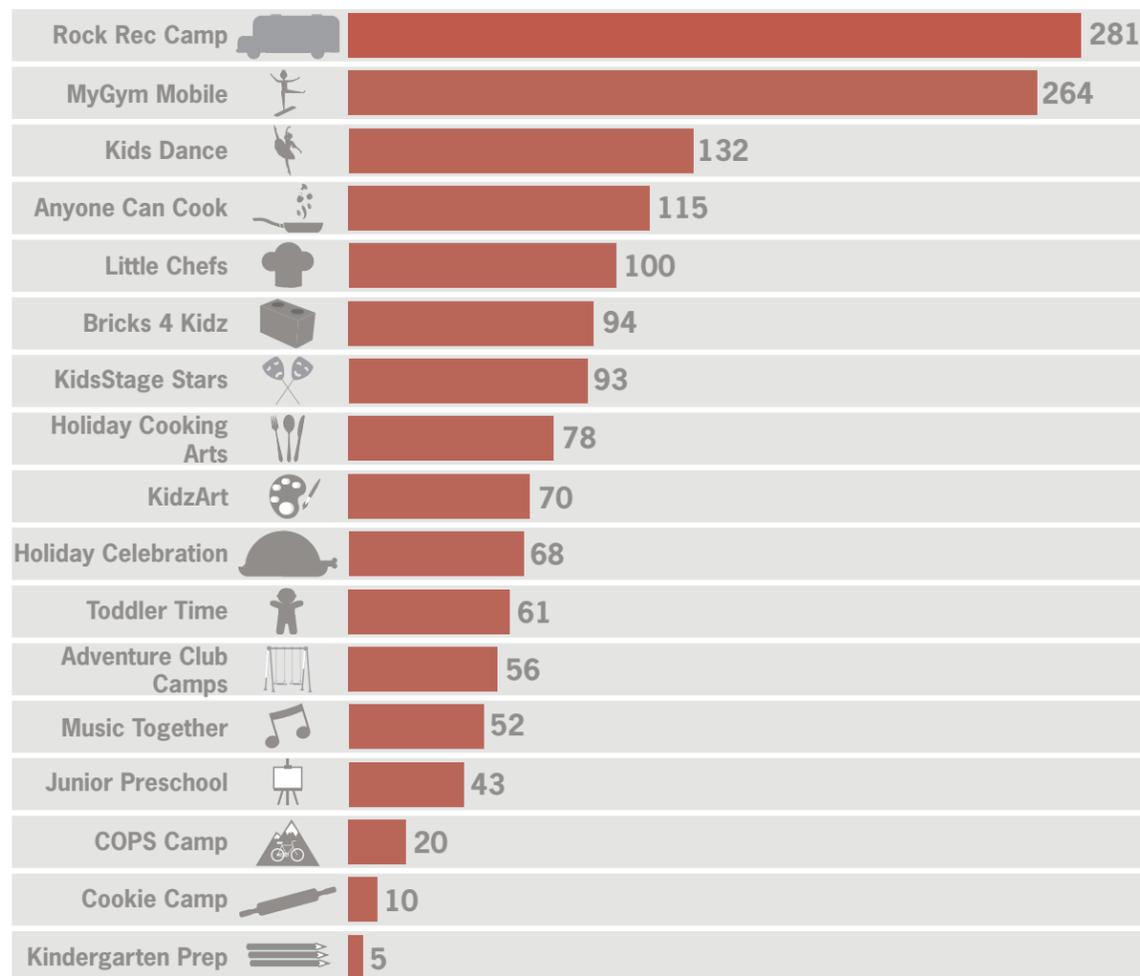
Many of the events managed by the new division in 2016 were festivals, cycling events, trail running races and other

family-friendly activities. Both the Millhouse and Amphitheater also saw much use for private events, including meetings, weddings, graduations, corporate retreats, reunions, church services and other small gatherings.

Tunes for Trails, Perks for Parks, was a series of five concerts held in the Amphitheater throughout the summer that were free to the community. The Celebration Concert Series, featuring six paid shows, also took place in 2016. There were multiple cycling and running races, including ERock Sunrise Sunset Mountain Bike Race, Beti Bike Bash, REI's Singletrack Swarhray, Ridgeline Rampage, Zumba Glow, the liveBIG run and a 50k ultramarathon.

Looking forward, many events have already been booked at Philip S. Miller Park for 2017, including six concerts, over 25 weddings, multiple corporate meetings and graduations. New events in 2017 include a day of play. A notable change to 2017's special events calendar includes the Castle Rock Trail Festival, which will combine the liveBIG Run with the ultramarathon, along with a free concert in the Amphitheater.

YOUTH PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



# OTHER Projects



## 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 50,000 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 2017.



## Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) RUETER-HESS RESERVOIR

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 overall goal of the agreement is to maximize the efficient use of outdoor facilities (pools, multi-purpose fields, baseball and softball fields, rinks, courts, turf fields and parks) and indoor facilities (gymnasiums, classroom, auditoriums, turf fields, cafeterias and pools), owned and operated by each entity.

In early 2016, staff from both the School District and Town worked to come to a mutual agreement to update the contents of the IGA. After review by designated staff members and legal for both parties, a mutually beneficial agreement has been decided upon and the IGA was approved by Town Council.

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 High School 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.



# AWARDS & Recognitions



## East Plum Creek Trail GOCO Grant

The Town of Castle Rock was awarded a \$1 million grant to fund the southern extension of the Town's most widely-used paved trail, the East Plum Creek Trail. The grant is part of Great Outdoor Colorado's Connect Initiative Program, focusing on connecting existing trail gaps and providing increased access to outdoor recreation. This grant marks the largest Great Outdoors Colorado Grant the Town of Castle Rock has ever received. The East Plum Creek Trail is also part of a larger statewide trail system called the Colorado Front Range Trail. This is one of the final portions of the Colorado Front Range Trail within Castle Rock to be completed by the Town.

According to the grant agreement, the Town will have three years from issuance in October 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. The extension is a planned two mile trail beginning at its current ending at South Perry Street and continuing south to Crystal Valley Parkway. 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. Final design will be completed in 2017 with construction planned for 2018.

## ENR Mountain States

In October, Philip S. Miller Park was awarded the Best Project in Landscape/Urban Development by Engineering News-Record, a periodical that provides news and features about projects, products and people in construction and architecture. The award attempts to identify the pinnacle of design and construction achievement among projects completed nationwide, and highlights designs that are the result of the best teamwork, safety, ability to overcome challenges, innovation and quality.

# BY THE NUMBERS



**2,637** Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course user views on Yelp

**35** tons of infield mix were used to address drainage issues in various baseball fields



**2,000+** celebrated the season at the first ever Reindeer Games

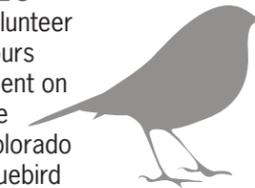


**400** pavilion rentals



**3,195** group swim lesson participants

**410** volunteer hours spent on the Colorado Bluebird Project



over **1,300** couples danced the night away at the Daddy Daughter Ball



**555** square yards of concrete sidewalk were removed and replaced at Butterfield Park and Memmen Ridge Trail

**184** hours were spent reshaping and packing down jumps at Rhyolite Park by the Rhyolite Dirt Crew



**687** hours were volunteered by Keepers of the Rock



**697** birthdays were celebrated at the Miller Activity Complex



**70%** increase in Climb 4 Change participant registrations

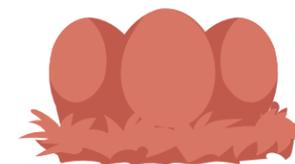


**2,932** volunteer hours were coordinated by POST Partners Volunteer Coordinator

**131** children received Christmas gifts through the Giving Tree program, sponsored by the Teen Advisory Group



**913** eggs were laid by bluebirds being monitored in the Colorado Bluebird Project



**214%** increase in personal training sessions purchased in November 2016 over November 2015

# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2018 Neighborhood Park

Future park planning includes the addition of new community and neighborhood parks in order to maintain current levels of service with population growth. Sites currently available include Meadows Filing #18, Cobblestone Ranch, Terrain, Crystal Valley Ranch and Castlewood Ranch Filing #2. The cost of the project is speculative and will be constructed based on approved funding when the project arises. The process for selecting the 2018 park site will begin in 2017. Wrangler Park was the last neighborhood park, brought online 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. Construction is expected to take place in 2018. Funding is also requested for construction of an additional neighborhood park in 2021, with planning to occur in 2020. The priority for the project site will be based upon community needs and will be determined at a future date.

## Parks Maintenance Facility

Parks Maintenance and Facility Maintenance are 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.

## Preble's Habitat Conservation Plan Renewal

The original Incidental Take Permit associated with the Douglas County Habitat Conservation Plan (DCHCP) for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse expired on May 11, 2016, ten years from initial issuance. The renewal process has been initiated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a 10 year extension of the original permit and mitigation requirements established in the DCHCP. The process includes the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Castle Rock, Town of Parker and the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas for the continued implementation of the DCHCP, as well as the authorization for the application for the renewal of the Incidental Take Permit. These documents were submitted to the USFWS Endangered Species Permit Office before the permit expiration date and the applicants received written confirmation from the USFWS Colorado Field Office that the Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit coverage remain effective throughout the renewal process. With the renewal of the Take Permit and IGA, the Town can proceed with the completion of the remaining list of identified road, bridge, trail and utility projects (known as Covered Activities) within Preble's habitat, such as the Festival Park Project, East Plum Creek Trail phase five and new water and sewer infrastructure for the Utilities Department. Required paperwork has been submitted to the USFWS and is being updated in order for the renewal to be processed.

## East Plum Creek Trail South Extension

Work will continue into 2017 and beyond on the East Plum Creek Trail South Extension. Two easement acquisitions must be closed in order to complete the trail project. RESPEC Inc. is under contract to finalize the design, engineering and construction documents needed for the project. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to work with the Stormwater division to complete final plans and begin construction of the Douglas Lane Tributary project, which is also known as the Crystal Valley segment of the East Plum Creek Trail.

## Cartegraph

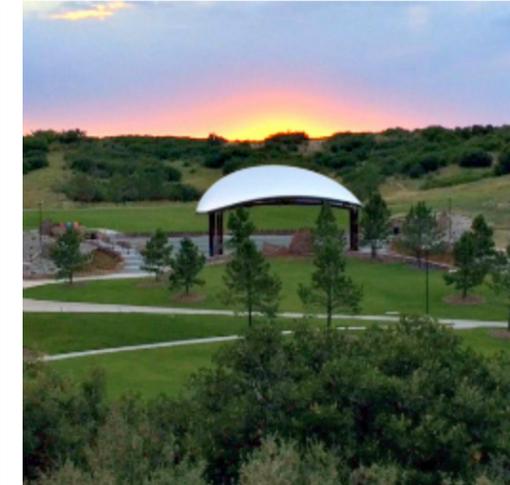
As additional parks, trails and recreation equipment are added to serve the growing community, the Parks and Recreation Department will implement the use of Cartegraph in early 2017. Cartegraph is an operations management system technology, allowing for better management of assets and servicing needs. 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 hopefully allow for increased preventative maintenance and decreased reactive maintenance.



ENHANCING  
QUALITY  
OF LIFE



THROUGH PARK  
AND  
TRAIL  
DEVELOPMENT



OPEN SPACE  
PRESERVATION



AND  
QUALITY  
PROGRAMMING



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