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Register early for T-ball, baseball and softball.

Page 14

highlandsranch.org
**Metro District**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The **Metro District** hosts a variety of community events throughout the year. There is something for everyone in Highlands Ranch.

**FEBRUARY**

10 Active Adult Valentines at the Mansion – Highlands Ranch Mansion

**APRIL**

10 Mother’s Day Open Hours – Highlands Ranch Mansion

**MAY**

2 Renew the Ranch – Designated open space areas

4 Landmark Lecture Series – Ladies of the Brown Palace – Highlands Ranch Mansion

10 Mother’s Day Open Hours – Highlands Ranch Mansion

17 Spring Tree Recycling – Redstone Park near Shea Stadium

20 Rockies Skills Challenge – Northridge Park

25 Memorial Day Ceremony – Highlands Ranch Veterans Monument

**JUNE**

6 Kids’ Fishing Day – Fly’n B Park

13 KidFest – Civic Green Park

**JULY**

8 Ice Cream Social – Civic Green Park

**AUGUST**

8 Household Chemical Roundup – Redstone Park

28 Summer’s Sunset Concert – Civic Green Park

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**Meet Your Local Government**

The Highlands Ranch Metro District is responsible for:
- Water and sanitation services through an agreement with Centennial Water and Sanitation District
- Recreation programs and services
- Developing and caring for parks, trails and natural open space areas
- Building community infrastructure, including major roads, traffic signals, and storm drain and stormwater management
- Managing and maintaining landscaping, fence and community entries along major roads
- Street lighting through Xcel Energy
- Community events and volunteer activities
- Managing the Highlands Ranch Mansion

**Metro District Board of Directors**

Jim Worley, Chair
Vicky Stankey, Vice Chair
Allen Dreher, Treasurer
Renee Anderson, Director
Mark Dickerson, Director
Carolyn Schierholz, Director
Nancy Smith, Director

**Local elections on May 5 approaching**

On Tuesday, May 5, local voters will have the opportunity to vote in three elections. Voters can cast ballots for Metro District directors in the following regions. Directors must live or own property in these regions, but will be elected by voters from throughout Highlands Ranch and serve the community at large.

- North Central Region
- Northeast Region
- Southwest Region

These elected seats are for three-year terms.

Metro District Board members represent the people of Highlands Ranch, establishing a vision for the community. Responsibilities of the board include public interaction, setting policy, partnerships with other elected officials who serve our community, and determination of mill levy, rates and fees. The board has oversight of the programs and services provided by the Metro District including management of open space, trails, parks, parkway landscaping and fencing, stormwater, outdoor recreation programs and facilities, operation of the Highlands Ranch Mansion, and construction of capital improvements.

To view a map of all seven director regions, if you are interested in running for the board, and for more information about the May 5 election, please visit highlandsranch.org/vote.

In addition, Centennial Water & Sanitation District, which serves Highlands Ranch, will consider conducting an inclusion election the same day at the same polling location. Read more about this potential inclusion election on Page 5.

The third election on May 5 is for open director districts on the South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) Board of Directors. SMFR serves Highlands Ranch and other local communities. This will be a mail-ballot election. The election is for four of the seven director districts (three seats are currently filled until 2022). Read more about the election on Page 6.

If you have questions about these elections, please send a message to info@highlandsranch.org.

**The value of the Highlands Ranch Metro District for residents**

The Metro District provides value to its residents through facilities, programs, services, financial stewardship, and partnerships with other organizations. Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for the operations. Compared to similar communities in the Denver Metro area, Highlands Ranch continues to have a lower property tax rate.

Staff holds an annual workshop with the board to review and update the priorities and financial position to ensure the Metro District continues to cost effectively meet the needs of the community.

Through this careful planning the Metro District is positioned to enhance the active aging adult program, build a new senior center, and retire the outstanding debt early in 2021 saving more than $700,000 in interest payments.

**FUTURE COVER:**

Sledgliding is a popular activity when the snow falls in Highlands Ranch. This family is enjoying the snowy slopes near Paintbrush Park.

Photo by Courtney Kuhlen

**2019 Mill Levy Compassion Collected in 2020**

- $6.2 million
- $9.4 million
- $10.9 million
- $13.5 million
- $21.4 million
- $10.9 million
- $10.7 million

![Terry Nolen](General Manager, Highlands Ranch Metro District)
Explore Highlands Ranch

Metro District 2020 budget highlights

The Metro District Board of Directors approved the 2020 budget last month. Highlights of the 2020 budget include:

- The mill levy remains the same at 11.205
- Funding for the design of the Highlands Ranch Senior Center
- Continued funding for major repair and replacement of intact water/wastewater lines
- Funding for a new disc golf course in partnership with South Suburban Park and Recreation District
- No increase to the streetlight and stormwater fee
- Reserve funds for early debt retirement in 2021

The full 2020 budget is available to review at highlandsranch.org.

Potential Centennial Water election on May 5, 2020

Centennial Water recently mailed a notification to all property owners in Highlands Ranch for a public hearing to be held Monday, Jan. 27. The Centennial Water Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of a resolution initiating an inclusion election. This election would ask voters to consider including their properties in Highlands Ranch and Mirabelle into Centennial Water’s boundaries. A map of the proposed areas for inclusion and additional information on the potential election can be found at centennialwater.org.

Input from the community is welcomed. Please consider attending the Jan. 27 meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Hendrick Office Building boardroom, at 62 West Plaza Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129, or email info@highlandsranch.org to offer your thoughts.

Increase to 2020 water rates

Last year was the first year of a four-year rate increase. Highlands Ranch customers will see in their water and wastewater rates.

The increases fund the first major infrastructure upgrades made to the wastewater plant since it was originally built. In addition, the increases help Centennial Water comply with new federal and state regulations.

2020 rate changes for a typical single family annual bill are estimated to increase 6% from $968 to $1,026 annually. This graph to the right includes water, wastewater, stormwater, and streetlight fees. Customers can expect to see the changes reflected in their bill for usage periods that begin on or after Jan. 1. Despite the increase, rates for Highlands Ranch customers remain among the lowest in the Denver Metro area.

Visit Open Budget at openbudget.highlandsranch.org

Did you know... the Metro District’s financial information is accessible at your fingertips? Open Budget is a web-based tool that provides budget information through colorful graphs and tables. The information is updated every two weeks. Visit Open Budget at openbudget.highlandsranch.org.
Public Safety

Construction to begin on Fire Station 20 soon

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) is progressing with the new Fire Station 20 in Highlands Ranch. This station, which is expected to be approximately 8,420 square feet, will be located on the corner of Wildcat Reserve and Summit View Parkways. Construction documents for the station are in the plan review and permitting process with Douglas County and SMFR. After the plans are fully approved and permitted, construction is expected to begin this month. SMFR expects the station to open late 2020. This new station is a commitment that SMFR made to Highlands Ranch as part of inclusion, and will help reduce emergency response times to an area of the community that has experienced historically extended response times.

For more information, please visit southmetro.org

Fire district board member boundaries recently updated

New South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) board district lines were recently adopted to adjust to the newly-expanded SMFR boundaries with the inclusions of Highlands Ranch, the City of Littleton, Littleton Fire Protection District and Cunningham Fire Protection District. The SMFR Board of Directors, who represent the citizens, businesses and visitors in the District, will now be composed of seven members. There will be a mail ballot election on May 5 for director districts that are open. The election will call to fill four of the seven director district lines recently updated. For more information about the district boundaries and the August election, please visit smfr.org.

Tips to thwart car thieves

Guest Column by Captain Troy McCarty, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Highlands Ranch Division

With winter in full swing, it’s human nature to try to be as comfortable as possible when dealing with the bone chilling elements winter brings. We all want to get into a warm car from a warm house. Many of us warm up our cars prior to heading to work, taking the kids to school or running errands. This is okay as long as you stay with the vehicle or have a remote start/stop system built into your car. Colorado Revised Statutes under 42-4-1206 Unattended Motor Vehicle require that you not leave a car running unattended unless the use of a remote starter system and adequate security measures are available. The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, as well as other law enforcement agencies, call this puffing Puffer is a term to describe exhaust vapors that come out of a running vehicle’s tailpipe in cold weather. To a thief, these exhaust vapors present an opportunity to take your car.

The three most common types of auto theft in Douglas County are:
- cars left running and unattended, open garage doors with cars inside that have keys left inside, and cars left on the street with keys inside. Here are some things you can do:
  - Don’t leave your keys, key fob or personal items in your car, even parked in the garage.
  - Close your garage door during the day and night.
  - Lock your doors.
  - Don’t leave your car running unattended.
  - Use a steering wheel locking device, available at the Highlands Ranch DCSD Substation.
  - Install an alarm system/remote start system.

Statistics show a car is stolen every 45-seconds. The bottom line is, do something and don’t become a victim.

For additional information and theft prevention tips, visit lockdownyourcar.org.

Get the scoop on local news & updates

Stay up to date on Highlands Ranch news events and projects by connecting to the Metro District through social media.

Two step and waltz at 55+ Valentines dance

Adults ages 55+ are invited to celebrate Valentine’s Day early this year during an open house at the Highlands Ranch Mansion. The Active Adult Valentines at the Mansion event is Monday, Feb. 10 from 1-3:30 p.m. Guests can enjoy music, dancing, coffee, tea, cookies and a self-guided tour of the historic home. There is a $5 suggested donation for the event. No RSVP is required. The event is hosted by the Highlands Ranch Metro District’s Active Adult Programs & Services (AAPS) and sponsored by South Denver Cardiology Associates. For more information about Active Adult Valentines at the Mansion, visit highlandsranch.org or contact AAPS Coordinator, rocks McCarty at 720-354-8452. The Highlands Ranch Mansion is located at 9950 E. Gateway Dr. in Highlands Ranch.

The value of volunteering

Volunteering, community service and community engagement are the name of the game these days. Interest in volunteering may be initially generated by a high school requirement or an employer-driven day of service, but more and more kids and adults are finding the value and reward that comes with getting involved in your community.

More than 10 years ago, the Partnership of Douglas County Governments saw the need to have a resource in the county for volunteers. Volunteer Connect was created as an online community resource that connects volunteers with Douglas County organizations. More than 200 volunteers join the online portal each month.

In addition to traditional volunteer opportunities, local communities are starting to engage citizens as well. The Metro District kicked off its first Citizens Academy in January. The program aims to build the civic capacity of Highlands Ranch residents. This seven-session course exposes participants to key topics and issues in Highlands Ranch and introduces opportunities for civic involvement. Others offering similar programs include the Town of Parker, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Parker Police, 18th Judicial District, and others.

How can you get involved? Find an organization that means something to you, visit Volunteer Connect at VolunteerConnectdc.org and browse the opportunities available, or contact the Metro District and sign up for a park and open space clean up this spring at info@highlandsranch.org. There are many opportunities out there to get involved in your community, you just need to look.

Get the scoop on local news & updates

Stay up to date on Highlands Ranch news events and projects by connecting to the Metro District through social media.

Connection between history and volunteerism have led to beautiful partnership

Legacy Martial Arts, formerly AFA Karate, has been a staple at Highlands Ranch events for many years. You can find them booth and visit with the organization’s students and staff, but if you stop and look around, you will see their students setting up tables, moving trash cans or running an activity at each of the Metro District’s events.

“It is important for everyone to pitch in as a community and I see the value for my students to volunteer as it helps them with their growth and education,” said Jason Strong, chief instructor and founder of Legacy Martial Arts. “I hope that instills that feeling of community early on with all of our students.

“They gain a lot from volunteering and learn they do not always have to be the center of attention. Sometimes it is awesome just to be part of a wonderful community helping others. I have not seen the sense of community like I see in Highlands Ranch in other places I have lived. I truly believe it is because of all the work the Metro District does. We are thankful for the partnership we have.”

Legacy Martial Arts encourages its students to volunteer in their community throughout their training as they work towards a black belt. The relationship between martial arts and volunteering is intertwined in its history. According to Strong, when their Eternal Grandmaster came to America, he was given two gifts from his instructor, soap and a candle. Both gifts were meant to teach the importance of giving of yourself for others. The soap sacrificed itself as the candle to help others. The history is honored in a soap and candle ceremony for black belts, which further reinforces the importance of giving to others while honoring the history of martial arts.

“We are blessed to have developed this wonderful partnership with Jason and Legacy Martial Arts,” said Kari Larsen, community relations coordinator for the Metro District. “It is great to be able to support a local business and to work with the students and families and help foster the appreciation for giving back to your community. I especially enjoy working with students year after year, seeing them grow, mature and take on more and more responsibility with each event.”

The Metro District thanks Strong and Legacy Martial Arts for all that they do in Highlands Ranch.
The Green Page
Green Highlands Ranch Messenger
8

Water used inside our homes is discarded to a wastewater facility for purification. What happens to water from roofs, streets and runoff? This water goes directly into storm drains, with waterways picking up contaminants along the way – including dog waste.

According to the Colorado Stormwater Council, if dog owners don’t clean up after their furry friends, 336 million pounds of poop can wash into our waterways every year in Colorado. Dog waste contains phosphates and nitrates that contribute to algae growth in our streams and lakes. As algae builds up in water storage reservoirs, it uses up oxygen, leading to a decline in quality, which makes water more costly to treat.

So remember, pick up after your pooch. You are saving money.

—GREEN PAGE

Dad Clark channel stabilization project

The Metro District, in partnership with Mile High Flood District, has begun construction on the Dad Clark stabilization project to restore approximately 2,000 feet of stream in the open space west of Sand Creek Park. Construction should be completed in June. The goal of the project is to stabilize and restore a section of Dad Clark Gulch between the tail crossings. The channel is experiencing bank erosion and channel degradation due to stormwater flows. This degradation is impacting vegetation along the gulch and is adding sediment to the stormwater flows.

The project is funded jointly by Mile High Flood District and the Metro District as part of its stormwater program. For more information and project updates, please contact Forrest Dykstra at fdykstra@highlandsranch.org or visit highlandsranch.org/services/public-works/stormwater-management.

—GREEN PAGE

Pick it up and pitch it

Senior Center update

The Highlands Ranch Senior Center planning process continues into 2020.

For more information and to review documents related to the planning process, please visit highlandsranch.org/seniorcenter.

New plan for High Line Canal released to public

Years in the making, a collaborative plan for the High Line Canal lays out clear guidance for repurposing and enhancing the canal for generations to come. The canal stretches from Waterton Canyon in Douglas County to Green Valley Ranch in Northeast Denver, with seven miles running through Highlands Ranch.

With the completion of the plan and input from more than 5,000 community members and all 11 adjacent jurisdictions, the next stage in the High Line Canal Conservancy’s work will focus on:

• Stormwater management
• Landscape management and tree care
• Access and signage
• Safety and crossing enhancements
• Education and stewardship
• Local neighborhood improvements

View the complete plan at highlinecanal.org/plan. The Metro District has been a part of the High Line Canal Working Group since 2010 and has been proud to support the planning process.

—GREEN PAGE

Protect your pets from coyotes

All Front Range communities are home to coyotes, and it is common to see them year-round in Highlands Ranch.

Coyotes range in size from 20 to 50 pounds, and they may travel alone or in groups. Coyotes typically eat rodents, rabbits and fruit, but they will also eat small pets if the opportunity exists.

What are the best ways to keep your pets safe? According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), make sure to:

• Always supervise your pet when outside
• Keep pets on a leash when walking
• Never allow your pets to play with a coyote
• Pick up small pets if confronted by a coyote
• Do what you can to discourage a coyote’s approach – yell, stamp your feet, small rocks or sticks at it
• Don’t leave food or water outside for pets
• Never leave cats or dogs outside after dark
• If you must leave your pet outside, secure it in a fully enclosed kennel
• Keep your pets up-to-date on vaccinations

According to CPW, coyote attacks on humans are very rare and can often be attributed to people feeding them. Adults should teach children to never approach any wildlife. Find more information about preventing conflicts with coyotes at highlandsranch.org/OSIC.

Replacing fences along our parkways

As part of a project that began in the fall, the Metro District will replace approximately 20,000 feet of Metro District-owned parkway fence. The locations include:

• Along both sides of University Boulevard (from Wildcat Reserve Parkway to Crosspointe Drive)
• North side of University Boulevard and west side of Quebec Street (from Crossland Way to Silver Spur Lane)
• South side of Dad Clark Drive (from Broadway to University Boulevard)
• East side of Quebec Street (from north of Wildcat Ridge to East Big Dry Trail)

During this process the original cedar wood fence will be replaced with a more durable composite material called Trex, which is made of recycled plastic and reclaimed sawdust. The fence replacement schedule is typically set at the end of each calendar year.

The fence replacement program is funded through the Metro District’s Major Repair Fund. This fund was established in 2004 to provide a long-term source of funding to replace or repair deteriorating infrastructure, such as park facilities and Metro District buildings.

If you have questions about the Metro District’s fence program, visit highlandsranch.org/fence or send an email to info@highlandsranch.org.

Snow removal in Highlands Ranch

Snow facts

• Highlands Ranch receives an average of 40 inches of snowfall compared to 64 inches in the Denver metro area.
• March is, on average, our snowiest month of the year followed by November and April.
• The greatest daily snowfall amount in the United States was 65.5 feet, which fell in Silver Lake, Colo. on April 15, 1921.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A PROBLEM
Douglas County Public Works staff at 303-660-7480 or douglas.co.us/road-work/snow-and-ice-removal/.
The Highlands Ranch Metro District staff at 303-791-2710 or highlandsranch.org.

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Douglas County Public Works staff at 303-660-7480 or douglas.co.us/road-work/snow-and-ice-removal/.
The Highlands Ranch Metro District staff at 303-791-2710 or highlandsranch.org.

Discord the High Line Canal

Free trail maps from the conservancy are available at both Metro District office buildings:

• 62 Plaza Drive, 80129
• 3280 Redstone Park Circle, 80129

The project is funded jointly by Mile High Flood District and the Highlands Ranch Metro District. For a list of metro district-owned fence, visit highlandsranch.org/fence. The Metro District owns 42 miles of parkway fence along major two-, four- and six-lane roads in Highlands Ranch. For a list of Metro District-owned fence, visit highlandsranch.org/fence.

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

• Residential streets
• Collector roads
• Cul-de-sacs

PRIORITY

• Major arterial roads
• Collector roads (streets connecting major arterial roads to residential streets)
• Residential streets
• Cul-de-sacs

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A PROBLEM
Douglas County Public Works staff at 303-660-7480 or douglas.co.us/road-work/snow-and-ice-removal/.
The Highlands Ranch Metro District staff at 303-791-2710 or highlandsranch.org.

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

• Stormwater management
• Landscape management and tree care
• Access and signage
• Safety and crossing enhancements
• Education and stewardship
• Local neighborhood improvements

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Snow removal in Highlands Ranch

Metro District Board Member Alan Drehen joins jurisdictional leaders and local cheerleaders at Rally for the Canal-ly this past fall.

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The greatest daily snowfall amount in the United States was 65.5 feet, which fell in Silver Lake, Colo. on April 15, 1921.
Stay off thin ice
Seemingly frozen ponds should always be avoided

Keep yourself, your family and your pets safe this winter and think twice about venturing onto icy ponds. Ponds in our community ice over during the winter, but the constant freezing and thawing cycle creates unstable ice conditions that can quickly change. Seemingly solid ice can fracture quickly and may result in tragedy.

• Children should always be supervised around open water sources and educated about the dangers of walking or playing on icy ponds.

• Pets should always be kept on a leash around bodies of water. If you see another person or animal fall through the ice, do not go out onto the ice to help them. People who try to help often become victims themselves. Instead, immediately call 911. You can try to reach the victim from the shore with a ladder, stick, pole or rope, or you can throw them something that floats.

• If you notice into what the animal considers a safe distance, they can become stressed or aggressive. Never try to approach wildlife when they are trying to move away and maintain safe separation.

• When watching wildlife in the open space, follow these tips from CPW:

  - Observe animals from a safe distance—safe for you and safe for the animals. You can get a close-up view by using binoculars, a spotting scope, or a camera with a telephoto lens.

  - Never chase or harass wildlife. Harassment of wildlife is unlawful, and can be extremely harmful.

  - Use the animals’ behavior as a guide: limit the time you spend watching if animals appear to be stressed.

  - Avoid animals that behave unexpectedly or aggressively. They may be ill, injured, or have young nearby.

Watching wildlife responsibly
Catching sight of an elk herd in the open space or a red-tail hawk flying overhead is exciting and one of the best reminders of what makes Colorado such a special place to live. However, a large variety of animals live in close proximity to us, and residents should remember to always respect the wildness of wildlife.

According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), most dangerous and potentially harmful encounters occur because people fail to leave animals alone. Wildlife should not be harassed, captured or domesticated.

If you notice into what the animal considers a safe distance, they can become stressed or aggressive. Never try to approach wildlife when they are trying to move away and maintain safe separation.

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Park shelter reservations
Celebrate at a Highlands Ranch park

How to reserve a park shelter
1. Visit highlandsranch.org/reservations to check the availability calendar. All reservations require a two hour minimum.

2. Make sure the park shelter you would like to reserve will accommodate the size of your party. An event of more than 100 requires special permitting. Additional fees may apply.

Contact the Metro District at 303-791-2710 or submit an online request to Pam Mossey, reservations specialist, at highlandsranch.org/reservations.

Prior to your park reservation, please review the park rules. Remember, glass bottles are not allowed.

Park ranger program protects parks and open space
Metro District park rangers are busy year-round making personal connections between people and the outdoors. For more than 15 years, the park ranger program has benefited residents by responding to community needs.

“We all got into this career because we care about the environment, wildlife and helping people,” said park ranger Mallory Parmar. Four full-time rangers patrol the community and work to keep both animals and people safe. Easily recognizable with their trucks, uniforms and badges, the rangers are approachable and happy to answer any questions from residents. They can offer information about wildlife behavior, resource management and conservation. They also foster environmental stewardship by assisting with wildlife calls and leading Nature Education programs.

Metro District park rangers are commissioned as code enforcement officers by the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office. They assist deputies with issues on Metro District property and enforce both county ordinances and Metro District rules and regulations. By protecting park and open space amenities, they help everyone feel comfortable and safe using public spaces.

To report an emergency in a park or in the open space, please dial 911. For non-emergency issues requiring a park ranger’s attention, please page them during business hours at 303-540-2311.

A team from South Metro Fire Rescue trains for ice rescue. Immediately call 911 if you see another person or animal fall through the ice. Photo courtesy of South Metro Fire Rescue.

Keep yourself, your family and your pets safe this winter and think twice about venturing onto icy ponds. Ponds in our community ice over during the winter, but the constant freezing and thawing cycle creates unstable ice conditions that can quickly change. Seemingly solid ice can fracture quickly and may result in tragedy.

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  - Use the animals’ behavior as a guide: limit the time you spend watching if animals appear to be stressed.

  - Avoid animals that behave unexpectedly or aggressively. They may be ill, injured, or have young nearby.

Common and uncommon — there are a variety of animals you can spot in Highlands Ranch:

- Rabbits
- Geese
- Hawks
- Deer
- Coyotes
- Owls
- Fox
- Raccoons
- Bobcats
- Bears

— see more...
**COMING IN THE MARCH MESSENGER**

**Youth sports and activities:**
- Track & Field
- Rugby
- Baseball/Softball Clinics
- Fall Competitive Baseball
- Rockies Skills Challenge
- Skateboarding Lessons
- Summer Nature Camp
- Horseback Riding Lessons
- Skyhawks Sports Camps

**Adult sports and activities:**
- Softball
- Golf Lessons
- Pickleball
- Bocce Ball

**REGISTRATION & CONTACT INFORMATION**

Program Registrations
All program registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis or until leagues are full in the following ways:

1. Online - highlandsranch.org/signmeup
2. Mail or in person: 3280 Redstone Park Circle, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
3. Fax: 303-470-9516

Waitlists will apply once leagues are full or after the registration deadline.

Late fees - A $15 late fee will apply after the registration deadline.

Waitlists will apply once leagues are full for seven games.

Late fees – A $15 late fee will apply after the registration deadline.

Waitlists will apply once leagues are full in the following ways:

Program Registrations
Program Refunds
Program Registrations
Program Refunds

**RECREATION GUIDE**

**Youth Sports**

**CARA Recreational 7 v 7 Lacrosse Leagues**

**Ages 6 – 14**

Boys teams play in the Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics. This league is designed for beginner lacrosse players or players looking for a more recreational league. Teams will travel for away games and play against other CARA teams. All teams are allowed during the week for this program due to field availability. This league will give players and teams an early season to practice their flag football skills.

Three Saturday practices will be held March 14, 21, 28. Games will be held April 4, 11, 18 & May 2 & 9.

**Fee:** Resident: $86, Nonresident: $99

**Registration deadline:** Friday, Feb. 21

**Current Grade** | **Activity #**
--- | ---
Kindergarten | 401401-1
First | 401402-1
Second | 401403-1
Third | 401404-1
Fourth | 401405-1
Fifth | 401406-1
Sixth | 401407-1
Seventh | 401408-1
Eighth | 401409-1

**are you interested in a great job?**

Working with Metro District recreation programs will take you outdoors in a sports environment. Each year the Metro District hires qualified individuals for these positions. If you are interested, please call the Metro District Recreation Services staff at 303-791-2710.

**Mammoth Lacrosse Clinic**

**Ages 6 – 14**

Colorado Mammoth players will be conducting a players clinic on March 4. Customized to each age level, this up-tempo, high-energy skills-based session will make players better prepared for the season. Included in the fee is a ticket to a Colorado Mammoth home game.

**Activity #401509-A**

Wednesday, March 4
6-7:30 p.m.
Shea Stadium

**Fee:** $50

**Registration deadline:** Friday, Feb. 28

**Spring Introductory Lacrosse Program**

**Ages 6 – 14**

There’s no better way to learn the game and proper use of a lacrosse stick than an introductory Lacrosse Clinic for new players. This is a four-week introductory program. Lacrosse sticks are provided. No additional equipment is required.

**Activity #401508-A**

April 11, 18, 25 & May 2
10-11:30 a.m.
Macy Park

**Fee:** Resident: $55, Nonresident: $65

**Registration deadline:** Monday, April 6

For more program details, please visit highlandsranch.org.

For more program details, please visit highlandsranch.org.
**Summer Youth T-ball, Baseball, & Girls Softball**

**Ages 4 – 14**

**Age:** as of July 31, 2020

Youth T-ball, baseball, and girls softball are sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods.

**Shop Days Coming**

Highlands Ranch Metro District Shop Days at Dick’s Sporting Goods

Look for special shop day information for Metro District participants in the March Messenger. Save on all your baseball or softball needs throughout the store.

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### **T-ball**

(For girls only: T-ball, see girls softball below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Activity #</th>
<th>Type of Play</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>10114-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td>Introduce your child to the basics of baseball in a fun learning environment.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10115-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10116-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10117-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td>Beginning to advanced for ages 4-6.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10118-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td>Coaches pitch for players to try out without the tee. Two years of playing experience recommended.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Baseball**

League standings will be kept in all baseball leagues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Activity #</th>
<th>Type of Play</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10119-1</td>
<td>Coach Pitch</td>
<td>Player/pitchers hit, catch, run, and field in an organized T-ball.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$137</td>
<td>$157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10120-1</td>
<td>Coach Pitch</td>
<td>Beginner to intermediate players and teams.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10121-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td>Beginner to advanced for ages 4-6.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10122-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td>Beginner to advanced for ages 4-6.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10123-1</td>
<td>T-ball</td>
<td>Beginner to advanced for ages 4-6.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Girls Softball**

League standings will be kept in all softball leagues except 5-6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Activity #</th>
<th>Type of Play</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>10124-1</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Players can be from more than one team.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10125-1</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Players can be from more than one team.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10126-1</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Players can be from more than one team.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10127-1</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Players can be from more than one team.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10128-1</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Players can be from more than one team.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Registration deadline:** Wednesday, April 8. Register early.

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Learn skills, game fundamentals and rules with the Metro District’s recreation level T-ball, baseball and softball programs. But most importantly – spend your summer making friends and having fun.

Waitlists will apply once leagues are full or after the registration deadline.

**Late fees:** A $15 late fee will apply after the registration deadline. However, if leagues are full, late registrations will be placed on a waitlist.

Team rosters and team player registrations will be accepted from Saturday, Feb. 8 through Wednesday, April 8. Coaches must submit a team roster form to the Metro District office prior to players registering for their specific team.

Individual registrations will be accepted Saturday, Feb. 8 through Wednesday, April 8. Individual registration does not guarantee placement with friends. We encourage players to coordinate with neighbors or schoolmates and submit a team roster to ensure playing with friends.

**Note:** With our focus on recreational play and skill development, teams conducting tryouts or playing in two or more tournaments are not eligible to play in the summer Metro District leagues.

**Special Registration Day**

**Saturday, Feb. 8**

9 a.m. – noon

Metro District Parks Recreation & Open Space Service Center

3280 Redstone Park Circle

**Baseball & Softball Clinics**

The Metro District is proud to offer a skills and pitching clinic in association with Diamond Club Training. Diamond Club operates its own facility as a national affiliate of America’s Baseball Camps, and is the home of the Colorado Rockies fall scout team.

**Required equipment:** glove, bat, helmet, hat and water bottle.

Players should wear shorts, sweats or baseball pants and cleats.

**Registration deadline:** Monday, April 20

**Skills Clinic**

**Ages 6 – 14**

Clinic features: Defense — outfield and infield play, catching fundamentals, footwork, balance, throwing mechanics, preparation and glove work. Hitting — balance, rhythm, timing, bat speed, power, mental approach and more.

**Fee: Resident $55 Nonresident $63**

**Softball**

**Activity #101130-A**

Sunday, April 26 9 a.m.–noon Redstone Park

**Activity #101131-A**

Sunday, April 26 9 a.m.–noon Redstone Park

**Pitching Clinic**

**Ages 7 – 14**

Clinic features: Developing a repeatable delivery, balance, grip, separation, direction, weight transfer, building arm strength and more.

**Fee: Resident $40 Nonresident $46**

**Baseball**

**Activity #101129-B**

Sunday, April 26 1 p.m. Redstone Park

**Softball**

**Activity #101130-B**

Sunday, April 26 1 p.m. Redstone Park

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**Weekday T-ball League**

**Ages 4 – 6**

(Ages as of July 31, 2020)

If your child is 6 years old by April 8 the registration deadline is set at 6 years old. Please choose the appropriate division for your child. If you have any questions on which division your child should be in, please call the Metro District at 303-791-2710.

**Prices:** For more program details, please visit highlandsranch.org.

**For more program details, please visit highlandsranch.org.**
SuperTots Sports

Since 2002, SuperTots has engaged kids, ages 2-5, in physical activity in a fun, safe and non-competitive environment. SuperTots knows kids are hardwired to learn through play. For that reason, we’ve designed an engaging, skill-building curriculum in which tots learn through a series of fun games. They will acquire athletic skills and fitness while developing a love of sports. Programs are 50 minutes and meet once a week for 6 weeks. All programs include a T-shirt and an award.

Registration deadline: Monday before each class begins.

SoccerTots

SoccerTots is our flagship program. Our classes focus on developing motor skills and self-confidence while also learning balance, dribbling, foot-eye coordination and surviving center. We also introduce an element of light competition.

Location: Plum Creek Academy, 9340 Commerce Center St.

Fee:
Resident: $189
Nonresident: $210

Age Dates Time Activity #
2-3 Monday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15 9-9:15 a.m. 401857-A
3-4 Monday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15 10-10:15 a.m. 401858-A
4-5 Monday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15 11-11:15 a.m. 401859-A

BasketballTots

BasketballTots classes focus on fine and gross motor skills as well as body control. We teach all the T-Ball basics; such as throwing, catching, hitting and running control. We are excited to help these little ones develop a love of the game.

Location: Falcon Park, 9555 Fallbrook Drive

Fee:
Resident: $189
Nonresident: $210

Age Dates Time Activity #
2-3 Monday, April 11-May 16 9:9:15 a.m. 403717-A
3-4 Monday, April 11-May 16 10-10:15 a.m. 403718-A
4-5 Monday, April 11-May 16 11-11:15 a.m. 403719-A

BaseballTots

BaseballTots classes focus on fine and gross motor skills as well as body control. We teach all the T-Ball basics, such as throwing, catching, hitting and running control. We are excited to help these little ones develop a love of the game.

Location: Falcon Park, 9555 Fallbrook Drive

Fee:
Resident: $189
Nonresident: $210

Age Dates Time Activity #
2-3 Monday, April 11-May 16 9:9:15 a.m. 403717-A
3-4 Monday, April 11-May 16 10-10:15 a.m. 403718-A
4-5 Monday, April 11-May 16 11-11:15 a.m. 403719-A

Adult Sports

Adult Softball – Spring Season

Shake off the winter rust by playing spring softball with the Highlands Ranch Metro District. Please visit our league website at quickscores.com/hsmd for detailed information. To register please contact Luke Ruter at 720-240-5912 or lruter@highlandsranch.org.

Leagues begin week of March 15

Register registration deadline: Thursday, March 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Softball</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Men’s D-Rec, Men’s D-Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Men’s D-Rec, Men’s Upper D-Rec</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Men’s D-Rec, Men’s Upper D-Rec</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Men’s D-Rec, Men’s Upper D-Rec</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Men’s D-Rec, Men’s Upper D-Rec</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Leagues may be combined if necessary.
*Teams playing in the spring will have the first opportunity to register for the summer season.

Pickleball

Programs will be held at Tanis Park, 10371 S. Broadway.

Learn to Play
So you’ve heard of pickleball, but don’t know what the fuss is all about? This introductory class will teach you game rules and techniques to help you fall in love with this rapidly growing sport.

Fee: $18

Registration deadline: Friday, April 3

Thursday Doubleheader League

Sign up for our recreation level doubles league as a team or as an individual. Single players will be matched with a partner. League games will start after 5 p.m. at our outdoor courts, and doubleheaders will be played each week.

Fee: $45 per person (five weeks, 10 matches plus a tournament)

Registration deadline: Thursday, April 16

WASA Coed Adult Kickball League

The Western Alternative Sports Association (WASA) brings the fun of kickball to Highlands Ranch. Join the thousands of adults around Denver reliving their playground days. WASA Kickball is fun, laid back and social. Team fees include an eight-week outdoor season, customized team T-shirts, equipment, great special/post game giveaways and a playoff tournament.

Games will be played Thursday nights beginning April 16.

Registration begins in late February at wasasports.com.
Redstone Park at Town Center Drive and Foothills Canyon Boulevard. It features eight lighted public tennis courts available for drop-in use when not scheduled, and is open daily from mid-March to late October.

All classes listed are subject to change and prices listed are for Highlands Ranch residents – nonresident prices are slightly higher. Look for more information and register for all classes and drills at redstone.mytennisclub.net.

Lebsack Tennis Center

**RECREATION GUIDE**

Youth Tennis Programs

Register for all tennis programs at redstone.mytennisclub.net.

**Lebsack Tennis Center**

REDSTONE PARK

HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO

9325 Foothills Canyon Blvd., Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-2348

Lebsack Tennis Center is located on the west side of Redstone Park at Town Center Drive and Foothills Canyon Boulevard. It features eight lighted public tennis courts available for drop-in use when not scheduled, and is open daily from mid-March to late October.

All classes listed are subject to change and prices listed are for Highlands Ranch residents – nonresident prices are slightly higher. Look for more information and register for all classes and drills at redstone.mytennisclub.net.

**SESSION DATES**

Spring 1
April 8 – May 2
Spring 2
May 4 – May 30
Summer 1
June 1 – June 27
Summer 2
July 6 – Aug. 1

**WHY CHOOSE LEBSACK TENNIS CENTER?**

Our tennis professionals are specifically trained in youth instruction and are USPTA and/or USPTA certified with background checks - all of which should be priorities when choosing a tennis program for your child. Be sure to check the programs you are considering for qualified staff.

**USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS (JTT)**

**AGES 8-18**

Tennis is more fun on a team

Plan to be part of the best youth tennis program. Learn about teams, practices, matches and costs at redstone.mytennisclub.net.

**PARENT MEETINGS**

Youth tennis leagues

Please plan to attend one of the following mandatory parent meetings at Lebsack Tennis Center if you would like for your child to participate in one of our junior tennis leagues this summer.

Saturday, April 11
1-1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 18
3:30-4 p.m.

**Youth Tennis Programs**

Register for all tennis programs at redstone.mytennisclub.net.

**Red Ball Classes**

**AGES 4 - 7**

**Fee:** 4-week sessions: $60

**ABC’s**

Agility, Balance and Coordination

Perfect for 4- to 5-year-old beginners

**Wednesday**

4:10-5:15 p.m.

**Saturday**

8:30-9:15 a.m.

**Red 1**

Learn to hit

45-minute classes for beginners

**Wednesday**

4:30-5:15 p.m.

**Saturday**

8:30-9:15 a.m.

**Red 2**

Let’s rally

Learning to rally on their size court

**Monday**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Orange Ball Classes**

**AGES 7 - 10**

**Fee:** 4-week sessions: $72

**Orange 1**

Learn to play

Best for younger players and beginners

**Tuesday**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Friday**

10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Orange 2**

Learn to rally/serve and score

Intermediate players and those not quite ready for Team Tennis

**Tuesday**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Green Ball Classes**

**AGES 11 - 15**

**Fee:** 4-week sessions: $72

**Green 1**

Learn to play

Rally fun

**Thursday**

5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Serve Rally Score**

Learn to rally/serve and score

Intermediate players and those not quite ready for Team Tennis

**Wednesday**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

2:30-4 p.m.

**Junior Development**

**AGES 9 - 17**

Development is best for players starting tennis this year or with one year of team experience.

**Ages 9 - 12**

Monday/Wednesday

5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Ages 10 - 11**

Tuesday/Thursday

5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Ages 9 - 12**

Saturday

1-2 p.m.

**Ages 10 - 11**

Saturday

2-3 p.m.

**Junior Elite**

**AGES 9 - 17**

Elite is for players with two or more years of team tennis experience.

**Ages 9 - 12**

Monday/Wednesday

5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Ages 10 - 11**

Tuesday/Thursday

5:30-6:30 p.m.

**ATTENTION USTA/CTA/ITA CAPTAINS:**

Information for the 2020 league season is posted at redstone.mytennisclub.net. Reservations will be accepted starting Jan. 17.

**Adult Tennis Programs**

Register for all tennis programs at redstone.mytennisclub.net.

**DRILL CLASSES**

All of our drill classes allow you to choose the classes and times each week that fit your schedule, with no long commitment. Register online for the days and times that fit your life.

**Fee:** 90-minute class: $28

Intermediate = 2.5 - 3.0 players

Advanced = 3.5 players and higher

**TEAM PRACTICES**

Top USPTA and USPTR pros are ready to help your teams to victory. Book your weekly reserved times now.

**COURT FEES**

Reserved court fees

$7/hour

Includes balls and a reserved court.

**PRIVATE LESSONS**

1 and a Pro

$65/hour

2 and a Pro

$35/hour per player

3 and a Pro

$25/hour per player

4 and a Pro

$20/hour per player

The above rates are for Highlands Ranch residents. Nonresident fees are slightly higher.

**DRILL CLASSES**

All of our drill classes allow you to choose the classes and times each week that fit your schedule, with no long commitment. Register online for the days and times that fit your life.

**Fee:** 90-minute class: $28

Intermediate = 2.5 - 3.0 players

Advanced = 3.5 players and higher

**TEAM PRACTICES**

Top USPTA and USPTR pros are ready to help your teams to victory. Book your weekly reserved times now.

**COURT FEES**

Reserved court fees

$7/hour

Includes balls and a reserved court.

**PRIVATE LESSONS**

1 and a Pro

$65/hour

2 and a Pro

$35/hour per player

3 and a Pro

$25/hour per player

4 and a Pro

$20/hour per player

The above rates are for Highlands Ranch residents. Nonresident fees are slightly higher.

**TNT (Tennis in No Time)**

Our adult beginner and intermediate classes are a great way to learn a new sport, rekindle an old passion or simply have fun and meet new friends.

**Wednesday (Beginner)**

9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday (Adv. Beg.)**

9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday (Adv. Beg.)**

7:30-8:30 p.m.

**Saturday Power Drills**

Drills and Skills combine cardio style drills with situational games and lots of fun.

**Saturday (Intermediate)**

9-10:30 a.m.

**Saturday (Advanced)**

10:30 a.m.-noon

**Drill and Play**

Instructional drill classes designed to work on a new skill set each week followed by another 45 minutes of round robin match play with the pro on court to work on tactics and strategies.

**Wednesday (Intermediate)**

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Tuesday (Advanced)**

6:30-8 p.m.

**Friday (Intermediate)**

9:30-11 a.m.

**Live Ball**

Drills with instruction and every point counts.

**Tuesday (Intermediate)**

6:30-8 p.m.

**Thursday (Intermediate)**

9:30-11 a.m.

**Monday (Advanced)**

6:30-8 p.m.

**Friday (Advanced)**

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Doubles Strategy**

You know how to play — now let’s get you in the right position with the right tools to make the best possible shot.

**Wednesday (Intermediate)**

10:30 a.m.-noon

**Futures Drills**

Drills and games set up for players not yet ready for league play. Enjoy learning and making new friends.

**Tuesday (Beginner)**

10-11:30 a.m.

**Thursday (Beginner)**

6:30-8 p.m.
Winter Wildlife Walk
All Ages/Families
What should you do if you get caught out in the cold? How do animals survive in the snow? Sip hot cocoa and take a stroll with a park ranger around Fly’n B Park to learn about unique animal adaptations, spot wildlife evidence and get hands-on with pets and fur.
Activity #305303-A
Group Activity #305303-B
Saturday, Feb. 29 10:30 a.m.-noon Fly’n B Park

Hooting Owls and Hot Cocoa
All Ages/Families
Find out what our favorite, feathered friends of Fly’n B Park are up to this time of year. Watch our resident Great Horned Owl nest through a spotting scope and binoculars, and learn about the owl’s distinctive behavior. Dissect pellets and get hands-on with wings, talons and skulls.
Activity #305304-A
Group Activity #305304-B
Saturday, April 4 10:30 a.m.-noon Fly’n B Park

Starry Night Hike
All Ages/Families
Enjoy a night under the stars with a hike up to Highlands Point to view the Lyrid meteor shower, constellations and nocturnal animals. Our park ranger will have a telescope and binoculars to help explore the night sky. Please dress appropriately for the weather and leave your furry friends at home.
Activity #305315-A
Group Activity #305315-B
Tuesday, April 21 7-8:30 p.m. Red-tail Park

Children 5 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

For more program details, please visit highlandsranch.org.
Disc golf course to be built this spring

The Highlands Ranch Metro District, in partnership with South Suburban Parks and Recreation, will add a professionally designed, 18-hole disc golf course to the West Fork Open Space in the spring of 2020. The project includes construction of a new 50-space parking lot, at 10905 S. Broadway, and a new restroom. The trails in the open space will remain open to all users. The 60-acre West Fork Open Space is located between Plaza Drive and Highlands Ranch Parkway west of Broadway. It is ideal because of its size, the minimal impact on surrounding properties and its location — connected to the extensive trail system, proximity to shops and restaurants, and convenient access from C-470.

“This is an opportunity to attract new users by responding to the growing demand for non-traditional sports and facilities,” said Nick Adamson, natural resources manager.

The object of disc golf is similar to golf — to make it from the tee to the hole in as few attempts as possible. Instead of swinging a club at a ball, participants throw a flying disc towards an elevated metal basket.

Construction is expected to begin in January and is anticipated to be completed in May. The course will be available for free, drop-in use. Project updates will be posted to highlandsranch.org.

C-470 Express Lanes project continues

The C-470 Express Lanes Project is located along 12.5 miles of C-470, between I-25 and Wadsworth Boulevard. To stay current on project updates and road closures, visit codot.gov/projects/C470ExpressLanes or call 303-347-0507.

Sign up for an Express Toll account at 303-357-3470 or codot.gov/programs/expresslanes/get-a-pass.

The value of recreation in our community

Parks and recreation are vital to a community’s overall health and wellness. The Metro District recreation services staff is proud to provide programs and facilities for residents of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, recreation has been shown to improve health, reduce stress and increase life expectancy.

"The chance to help people live healthy, active lifestyles is an aspect of my job that not everyone has,” said Dave Parks, Metro District recreation supervisor. "Plus, we get to bring the community together in a lot of fun ways.”

Four dedicated employees in recreation services are committed to providing both youth and adult recreation programs and leagues. If you have questions, please contact recreationinfo@highlandsranch.org.

Interested in a career in recreation?

Invest in yourself and your community by pursuing a career in recreation. Metropolitan State University of Denver is the only accredited program in the state, and it offers a Recreation Professions major with two distinct concentrations. Students can pursue either Recreation Management or Therapeutic Recreation concentrations, which can prepare them for a variety of jobs including:

- Park Ranger
- Recreation Therapist
- Special Event Planner
- Sports Coordinator
- Aquatics Facility Manager
- Outdoor Recreation
- Facility Manager
- Outdoor Recreation Coordinator/Director

For more information about MSU Denver’s program, please visit mu Boulder.edu/hep/recreationprofessions/ or call 303-615-1200.

Youth recreation scholarship fund provides opportunities

With the generous support of the Highlands Ranch Park & Recreation Foundation, the Metro District awards youth recreation scholarships throughout the year. The program was designed to help kids and families experiencing financial challenges participate in sports and recreation programs offered by the Metro District.

Recipients must be Highlands Ranch residents. Scholarships may provide a percentage discount for families, but they will not cover the complete registration cost and do not guarantee a space in an activity. Requests may be submitted at any time during the year, but must be received at least two weeks prior to the start of the program. For more information, email Carolyn Peters at cpeters@highlandsranch.org or call 303-791-2710.

New playground surface & equipment promote inclusivity

After an upgrade last fall, Dad Clark Park has new playground equipment for visitors to explore. From sensory panels to unique climbing elements, the playground offers an engaging place for kids to be active.

The new equipment provides an inclusive play space that encourages social interaction. Some of the new features of the playground include:

- Equipment geared towards children ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Seamless poured-in-place rubber surfacing, which replaced the old wood chips
- Sensory panels with sound
- Four swings, including an accessible swing
- Four slides
- Various climbing elements, including a rotating net climber
- Sand and water table with a shade structure

To help renew aging equipment, the Metro District schedules one playground replacement each year. Staff considers the condition of existing equipment and budget when planning replacements.

If you have questions about this or other Metro District projects, please send an email to info@highlandsranch.org.

Growing connections through community gardening

For more than 25 years, the Metro District has offered the opportunity for residents to make the most of their green thumbs through the community garden program. The 10-by-20-foot plots at each of the three community gardens yield much more than tasty vegetables and pretty plants — they help connect residents to one another and to a healthy lifestyle.

A variety of Highlands Ranch residents take part in the program each year, from first-time gardeners to experienced horticulturists. Some participants enjoy gardening with their young children and introducing them to new vegetables, while others use their experience to grow food for the less fortunate. In the past few years, hundreds of pounds of produce have been donated by gardeners to area food banks.

Each of the gardens at Cheese Ranch Historic & Natural Area, Dad Clark Park and Foothills Park have amended soil, a water source, trash receptacle, an organic waste bin and a fenced area in which to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers between May 1 and Oct. 30.

Interested in joining our wonderful group of gardeners?

Each January the list for 94 spots opens. If you’re a new community gardener and would like a plot, please place your name on the 2020 waitlist now. You will be notified the first week of March if a plot is available. Previous year’s gardeners have first priority, and may reserve the same plot they had last year by Feb. 28.

Sign up for a community garden plot

Plots are available at:
- The Corn Cob at Cheese Ranch Historic & Natural Area
- 22 garden plots
- The Potato Patch at Dad Clark Park – 20 garden plots
- Farmer’s Field at Foothills Park – 46 garden plots

Fee: Resident: $50 Nonresident: $58

For more information, or to add your name to the waitlist, please call the Metro District Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff at 303-791-2710.

Space staff at 303-791-2710.

Requests may be submitted at any time during the year, but must be complete registration cost and do not guarantee a space in an activity. Requests may be submitted at any time during the year, but must be received at least two weeks prior to the start of the program. For more information, email Carolyn Peters at cpeters@highlandsranch.org or call 303-791-2710.

New playground surface & equipment promote inclusivity

After an upgrade last fall, Dad Clark Park has new playground equipment for visitors to explore. From sensory panels to unique climbing elements, the playground offers an engaging place for kids to be active.

The new equipment provides an inclusive play space that encourages social interaction. Some of the new features of the playground include:

- Equipment geared towards children ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Seamless poured-in-place rubber surfacing, which replaced the old wood chips
- Sensory panels with sound
- Four swings, including an accessible swing
- Four slides
- Various climbing elements, including a rotating net climber
- Sand and water table with a shade structure

To help renew aging equipment, the Metro District schedules one playground replacement each year. Staff considers the condition of existing equipment and budget when planning replacements.

If you have questions about this or other Metro District projects, please send an email to info@highlandsranch.org.

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Residential Customer

Share your photos with us on social media. Use #highlandsranchoutdoors to showcase all of the fun activities and natural beauty our community has to offer.

Attend a board meeting

Metro District board meetings are held at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month (dates may change due to holiday schedules) at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. The public is encouraged to attend. Visit highlandsranch.org and click on the Local Government link for a meeting schedule.

Centennial Water and Sanitation District board meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the last Monday of each month (dates may change due to holiday schedules) at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. Visit centennialwater.org to view a meeting schedule.

The Metro District offers free coyote conflict prevention home audits to help educate homeowners about coyote behavior and to point out possible attractants in their yards. Audits are available throughout the year and may be scheduled by calling 720-240-5919 or emailing info@highlandsranch.org. Additional homeowner resources and coyote information is available at highlandsranch.org/OSIC.

2020 U.S. Census: Why does it matter?

Our nation gets just one chance each decade to count its population. The U.S. Census Bureau counts every resident in the United States. Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, it takes place every 10 years. These numbers are used to draw voting districts, determine representation in congress, and how funds are allocated for roads, schools, hospitals and more.

In Colorado the lottery proceeds are distributed to qualifying entities based on population. The Highlands Ranch Metro District and Douglas County receive funding from lottery proceeds to improve parks and open space in Highlands Ranch. Since 2000, the Metro District has received more than $8.5 million in funding for projects like Civic Green Park, the Pronghorn Park synthetic turf field, Redstone Skate Park improvements and Central Park.