Reimagining Festival Park

It’s the heartbeat of Downtown Castle Rock. For years, Festival Park has been home to some of the community’s most treasured events. It’s where major holidays have been celebrated, summer nights have been spent and family memories have been made. Now, this beloved treasure is reopening completely reimagined.

 Originally named Triangle Park, Town Council first discussed a vision in 2007 for the plot of land at Second and Perry streets. The newly named Festival Park opened later that year and quickly became a key Downtown feature. But by 2015, hundreds of gatherings and events were being held at the park. The community had outgrown the park into a modern public gathering location. With help from the public and local business owners, a community vision was created. Construction took almost exactly a year, but in those short 365 days, big changes were made.

As you walk around the reimagined Festival Park, check out all the new features. Take a look around. Enjoy the views. Splash in the creek, or spend an afternoon under the pavilion. And, don’t forget to shop Downtown as a thank you to all the businesses owners and unique shops who contributed their property and sales-tax dollars to this one-of-a-kind park. Finally, a special thank you to residents for being patient throughout the construction process. Festival Park has always been an important Downtown feature, and now that tradition can continue for years to come. See inside this brochure for more details about all the new amenities.

Splash Pad

Historically, the railroad and the quarries were instrumental in Castle Rock’s founding and development. Elements in the park celebrate this heritage in their proportions and detailing. The Splash Pad embodies the unique uplifted geology of the region with its backdrop of outcroppings.

During planning stages, residents expressed the desire to focus on Festival Park’s connection to water. This Splash Pad feature will create a play space to inspire children to connect with nature and the outdoors in an urban setting. The feature is composed of sandstone and includes various water streams for kids to enjoy. The nearby restroom facility will provide a changing area for families.

- The Splash Pad promotes conservation by recirculating filtered water.
- The application of chlorine and ozone will sanitize the water to ensure its cleanliness for public usage.
- The splash pad will be open approximately May to September, weather permitting.

Garden Nook and Amphitheater

The garden area offers a natural respite from the bustle of Downtown Castle Rock. Terraced moveable seating allows onlookers to enjoy creekside views while lounging on relaxing arm chairs and hammocks. The site also features a pedestal for public art where a new public art sculpture will be installed on an annual basis. The inclusion of the public art pedestal is part of the partnership with the Public Art Commission whose mission is, “To bring distinctive public art to the community of Castle Rock and serve as stewards of the revolving public art program, creating, planning, overseeing and promoting public art initiatives through collaboration.”

You’ll note that this lounge area also includes a Little Free Library, which was donated by the Guentensberger family in memory of Rylie. A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. They come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share.

Located below the garden is a natural amphitheater and picnic area. Tucked into the landscape, this feature provides views of the creek and scenic surroundings. The terraced sandstone lends stadium-styled seating, creating an outdoor classroom setting for gatherings and presentations.

Gateway and Promenade Plaza

In partnership with the Town, Downtown Development Authority, and Downtown Merchants Association, the goal was to transform Festival Park into a modern Downtown center.

One of the visions for the redesign of the park was making the park more user-friendly for nighttime use. The park now features nighttime LED lighting including suspended cable lighting fixtures across the plaza, a lighted pavilion and the prominent lantern feature, incorporated into the overlook walkway.

The park is also wi-fi capable and contains many outlets that can be used as charging stations for park visitors.

The gateway entrance to the park features railroad tracks supported by decorative concrete columns creating an archway entrance to the park. The use of the railroad tracks in the design creates a throwback image of Castle Rock’s early years and initial source of commerce.

Replacing what was Second Street, the hardscaped promenade plaza now provides a pedestrian friendly space with ample room for setting up community events and markets, while the one-way alley still provides access for merchant deliveries and emergency vehicles.

Reimagine Festival Park

Help celebrate our new park

FUNDING SOURCES
- Downtown Development Authority - $4 million
- Town of Castle Rock - $2.9 million
- Total project - $6.9 million

From the beginning, this project has been a true partnership among the Town, Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Merchants Association. The goal was to enhance the park into a modern public gathering location. With help from the public and local business owners, a community vision was created. Construction took almost exactly a year, but in those short 365 days, big changes were made.

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See inside this brochure for more details about all the new amenities.
**Iconic Lantern and Overlook**

The architectural pieces of the iconic Lantern and Overlook echo the railroad, with the revealed structural members and the combination of steel and wood. Decorative elements have been stripped back, so structural components are celebrated rather than hidden. The iconic Lantern abstractly represents the water tower common to railroad depots, and the overlook underscores the link to the natural area below while mimicking railroad lines.

The canopy-styled Overlook provides users with unique views of the creek below, and the walkway will provide future shaded seating opportunities. These combined features offer a striking icon for Downtown Castle Rock, blending historic roots with contemporary style.

**Open Lawn**

Akin to its name, Festival Park is best known as host for the community’s most cherished events. Popular events include Starlight Movie Nights, Downtown After 5, Western Heritage Welcome, Boots and Brews, Splash in the Park, seasonal festivals, farmers markets and races like the Castle Rock Half Marathon. The park is home to the Town Christmas Tree and a lynchpin location for the annual Starlighting event.

This high-activity area is 14,180 square feet and can accommodate nearly 1,000 people. The open lawn was flattened and expanded for maximum flexibility so that it can accommodate a range of programming including arts, education, fitness and special events for a larger number of people.

For events, stages can be brought in to face the lawn where families can enjoy shows or concerts on blankets and lawn chairs. The electrical power system was enhanced to eliminate the need to run noisy generators during events. Upgraded lighting will lend improved vision to park users in the evening hours.

**The Landing**

Festival Park celebrates the dichotomy between various elements, such as urban vs organic, past vs present, and industrial vs refined. Architecturally, these structures hearken to the rugged relics, rooted in the storied history of Castle Rock.

The Landing contains a warm, welcoming environment through the use of wood, wrapped in a more industrial and durable metal shell. The structural elements in The Landing remain in the forefront, celebrating the thoughtful, mechanical connections between materials. This functional cadence of structure hearkens to the cattle barns and rail depots that once populated the landscape.

The park will maintain its identity as a hub, community gathering place and destination for everyone from employees on lunch breaks to families spending time together. Internet connectivity and electrical charging stations are available. The community-styled farm tables and bleachers offer ample seating for park users and special events under shade.

The fire pit can be enjoyed year-round by all, and convenient bike parking is available nearby.

The Landing will be available for private gathering and reservations, and can accommodate over 100 people.

Additional information coming soon!

**Silva Cells**

The trees and plants planned for the new Festival Park are more than just a pretty face. Trees and plants allow water to filter out pollutants, providing better water quality within the creek. The vegetation also improves erosion control and protects the natural aquatic habitat.

However, the compaction of the soil necessary for building, does not make for healthy trees, nor is it good for stormwater flow. Additionally, root growth and water expansion situations can cause cracking to sidewalks and structures. This is where support structures known as Silva Cells come in.

To accommodate the balance of aesthetics, stormwater and structure, eight Silva Cells were installed in Festival Park. The Silva Cell is a modular suspended pavement system that uses soil volumes to support large tree growth and provide powerful on-site stormwater management through absorption, evapotranspiration and interception.

These cells are a support structure installed around the perimeter of the tree root ball along with lightly compacted soil. The cells capture and clean stormwater runoff onsite. They also allow water to flow more freely to-and-from the root system of established trees. This provides for healthier trees and more stable surrounding infrastructure. The support cells also help prevent infrastructure from buckling or cracking due to compaction and extrusion due to water and root growth.

**Bridges, Sellars Gulch and Creek Crossing**

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