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A PUBLICATION PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT
Recreation Programs • Youth & Adult Sports • Parks & Open Space Projects • Local Government Updates
Recreation program details have moved online this season: highlandsranch.org/signmeup

Youth Leagues
- Fall Flag Football - Ages 4-14
  Registration deadline: Monday, July 20
- Spirit Team - Ages 4-14
  Registration deadline: Friday, July 24
- Fall Baseball - Ages 7-14
  Registration deadline: Wednesday, July 29
- CARA Fall Lacrosse - Ages 6-14
  Registration deadline: Monday, Aug. 10
- CARA Cross Country - Ages 7-14
  Registration deadline: Friday, Aug. 14
- Fall Rugby - Ages 6-14
  Registration deadline: Monday, Aug. 24

Youth Clinics & Camps
- Skyhawks Sports Camps - Ages 4-12
  Various dates and registration deadlines
- SuperTots Sports Academy - Ages 2-5
  Various dates and registration deadlines
- Introductory Lacrosse Program - Ages 6-14
  Registration deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 8
- SkateStart Lacrosse - Ages 6-14
  Registration deadline: Friday, Sept. 11
- Summer Baseball Camp - Ages 7-14
  Various dates and registration deadlines
- Fall Preseason Flag Football Clinic
  Registration deadline: Friday, July 31

Adult Leagues & Clinics
- Learn to Play Bocce Ball Clinic
  Registration deadline: Friday, July 31
- Get Out & Play Golf Lessons
  Registration deadline: Friday, July 31
- Learn to Play Pickleball Clinic
  Registration deadline: Tuesday, Aug. 4
- Friday Mixed Bocce Ball League
  Registration deadline: Friday, Aug. 7
- Wednesday Mixed Bocce Ball League
  Registration deadline: Friday, Aug. 7
- Adult Softball League
  Registration deadline: Thursday, Aug. 20
- Summer Doubles Pickleball League
  Registration deadline: Friday, Aug. 21

Nature & Outdoors
- Nature Camp - Ages 7-10
  Registration deadline: Monday, July 6
- Cops & Bobs - Ages 6-14
  Registration deadline: Friday, July 24
- Nature EdVentures Programs - various ages
  Various dates and registration deadlines
- Horseback Riding Lessons - Ages 5 to Adult
  Various dates and registration deadlines

Special Events
- Annual Fall Golf Tournament
  Monday, Sept. 28, begins at 12:30 p.m.
  Sponsor deadline: Friday, Sept. 18
  Player registration deadline: Friday, Sept. 25

If program cancellations are necessary, full refunds will be offered.
For more information about program specific health guidelines, please call 303-791-2710 or email recreationinfo@highlandsranch.org.

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
Mark Dickerson, Chair
Allen Deter, Vice Chair
Carolyn Scherholz, Treasurer
Renee Anderson, Director
Andy Jones, Director
Nancy Smith, Director
Jim Wetley, Director

The Comfort of Our Community during this Difficult Period
The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a time unlike any other in recent history. Despite the challenges, the Highlands Ranch Metro District has been working hard to adapt to our new circumstances while maintaining our high level of service to our community. Providing all residents with the municipal services that make our community great is very important during this time. Having the opportunity to be outdoors on our trails and open space, to exercise and connect with nature, is so valuable in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud of our wonderful community, and we all look forward to brighter days ahead.

I also wish to publicly thank Metro District General Manager Terry Nolan for his 24 years of exemplary service leading our organization. Under his guidance, the Metro District has helped to make Highlands Ranch a wonderful place to call home. Terry has done extraordinary work for the Metro District. Much of his work was done behind the scenes, yet his efforts have made many positive impacts. Terry’s tenure at the Metro District has been the very definition of public service, always seeking to do what is best for our community. Terry will be leaving the Metro District later this year. On behalf of the board of directors, I wish Terry the best in his future endeavors.

If you have questions about the Metro District’s programs, activities and services, please contact info@highlandsranch.org.

Mark Dickerson
Chair, Highlands Ranch Metro District Board of Directors

Serving Our Community for 24 Years
Wow! Where have the years gone? I started here as the General Manager on March 11, 1996 after 26 great years in the U.S. Navy. We have come a long way in the 24 years I have been with the Metro District. When I started we had 10 parks. University Boulevard was a half width in some sections and large sections of Wildcat Reserve Parkway did not exist. Redstone Park was only an idea. We had not started offering recreation programs. Look at us now! We have 26 amazing parks, more than 10,000 participants in our outdoor recreation programs, 285 acres of excellent parkway landscaping including 42 miles of fence, more than 2,500 acres of terrific open space with 70 miles of trails, and we own and operate the historic and beautiful Highlands Ranch Mansion. We have completed building the infrastructure that has allowed Highlands Ranch to thrive and never build-out. We are strong financially with a AA+ bond rating and sufficient reserves to maintain our facilities and our high level of service, even during challenging times.

A significant share of the credit for the success of Highlands Ranch goes to the dedicated hard-working men and women of the Metro District staff who I have been blessed to lead, and to the supportive volunteer board members who have given countless hours. Thank you to all the supportive people in our community. It has been an honor to serve Highlands Ranch, my home, for so many years.

Terry Nolan
General Manager, Highlands Ranch Metro District

Leadership Outlook
Summer 2020
Messenger
Metro District finances secure during challenging times

Over the past 39 years, the Highlands Ranch Metro District has responsibly managed its finances to ensure a solid foundation. Good reserves and a careful approach to managing our resources have resulted in a positive financial picture for our organization, which serves the community.

However, based on the current economic conditions, it is anticipated the residential assessment rate will drop, impacting property tax collection in 2022.

The residential assessment rate is directly correlated to the Metro District’s property tax collection. In recent years, the Metro District has seen an increase in property tax revenue due to rising property values. However, a projected drop in the residential assessment rate would reduce the amount homeowners would pay, despite the increase in property values. This is due to calculations outlined in the Gallagher Amendment. The amendment sets forth guidelines in the Colorado Constitution for balancing assessed values statewide for residential and commercial properties.

The projected decrease in the residential assessment rate could reduce the amount paid by a homeowner to the Metro District by as much as 18%. As a result, the Metro District’s Board of Directors has decided to defer new capital projects, while maintaining existing services.

The Metro District fully anticipates protecting our valuable community assets and maintaining the level of services provided to Highlands Ranch residents. If you would like to learn more about the Metro District’s finances, please visit highlandsranch.org/government/financial or contact finance@highlandsranch.org.

Senior Center planning on hold

The Metro District Board’s long-range plan includes expansion of the Metro District’s Active Adult Programs. To accomplish this goal, the budget contemplated design of a Senior Center in 2020 with construction anticipated to start in 2021. At the May 20 Metro District Study Session, staff presented an updated long-range revenue forecast to the board of directors. The updated forecast projects a significant reduction in property tax revenue of 12 to 23% in 2022. Therefore, the Metro District Board of Directors has decided to delay certain new capital expenditures.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Metro District was in the process of continuing the site evaluation of the Highlands Ranch Parkway location for the Senior Center, and an associated public outreach process.

In light of the change to the forecast, the board has directed staff to look into interim solutions within our budgetary constraints.

To learn about the Active Adult Programs and the senior center project, please visit highlandsranch.org.

Groundbreaking held for Fire Station 20

On Thursday, June 4, South Metro Fire Rescue and Adelson & Peterson Construction held a groundbreaking ceremony for the district’s newest fire station. Station 20 is being built near the intersection of Wildcat Range and Summit View Parkway in Highlands Ranch. Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2021.

Participating in the June 4 groundbreaking event for Fire Station 20 are Metro District General Manager Terri Nolan, Metro District Board Vice Chair Allen Dreher, Board Chair Mark Dickerson, and SMFR Board Vice Chair and Metro District Board member Renee Anderson.

Starkey has served community for decades

In 1983, Vicky Starkey and her husband Rick were looking for a community to raise their young family when they read about the New Town of Highlands Ranch, which had broken ground only three years before. Promising a family-oriented community that would be master-planned with great recreation opportunities, excellent schools, municipal services and local government, Mission/Veo Company had an ambitious vision for the 22,000-acre Phipps Ranch. Vicky and Rick bought their first home and early on, Vicky was volunteering with the Activities Committee to help with events such as the Spring Roundup and Fourth of July celebrations. Vicky also became a delegate with the Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA), was elected to the board of directors, and eventually became the chairperson.

As more and more families moved to Highlands Ranch, planning for new schools was an important priority and the rate of school construction and openings was unprecedented in Douglas County. Vicky was elected to the Douglas County School District (DCSD) School Board, serving ten years from 1994-2004. Vicky’s experiences with both the HRCA and DCSD led her to seek a position with Douglas County in 1994 as a facilities manager. At a time of tremendous growth for Douglas County, many new facilities were being built to serve the burgeoning and diverse population of one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. Among the most notable facilities added during Vicky’s 26 years with Douglas County, were county government offices, the Christensen Justice Center, the fairgrounds, the public works operations center and the Douglas/ Arapahoe County Crime Lab.

Always interested in contributing to her community, Vicky served on the Metro District Board of Directors from 2006-2010. In 2010, she was appointed to the Douglas County Board of Equalization. During her tenure, Vicky’s extensive experience and commitment to the community for more than three decades has been a tremendous benefit, helping to lead the Metro District into our vision for the future. As Vicky retires from her service to the Metro District as well as her tenure with Douglas County, the many hallmarks of her involvement in the community will continue to serve our citizens by providing excellent municipal services in Highlands Ranch.

Highlands Ranch to celebrate 40th anniversary in 2021

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of Highlands Ranch. Our community’s first residents called Highlands Ranch home back in 1981. The changes since then are incredible as our community has taken shape and grown to nearly 100,000 people.

Plans are being discussed to commemorate the anniversary. If you have photos or memories of Highlands Ranch over the last four decades, please send them to Sherry Eppers at seppers@highlandsranch.org. Memories and photos may be shared in an upcoming Messenger, at 40th anniversary activities, or on social media.

Andy Jones elected to board of directors

Elected in May 2020, Andy Jones is the newest member of the Highlands Ranch Metro District Board of Directors. A retired Navy Captain, Andy and his wife have three children. He has lived in Highlands Ranch since 1999. He is a pilot and professional instructor with United Airlines.

Andy is a distinguished graduate of the University of Mississippi ROTC program with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political and Naval Science. He studied at the Naval Postgraduate School, achieving the title of Aviation Safety Officer and has extensive crisis management experience. He completed pilot training, carrier qualifications and multiple deployments onboard aircraft carriers during the Cold War and the Global War on Terrorism.

An active community volunteer for 18 years, Andy is serving his third year as a Highlands Ranch Community Association delegate; he served as the Plate River Academy Charter School board president, and he served for three years as Vice-Chair of the Douglas County School District Accountability Committee (DAC). Andy can be reached at ajones@highlandsranch.org.
Projects proceed around our community

Learn more about these upcoming projects at highlandsranch.org.

Cougar Run Park playground

The playground equipment at Cougar Run Park is currently being replaced. New equipment will provide a physically challenging and mentally stimulating inclusive play space that promotes social interaction. Some of the new features of the playground include nature-inspired elements, portions of new seamless poured-in-place rubber surfacing, and numerous elements for climbing, swaying and jumping. Construction is expected to be completed by early September, weather dependent. Cougar Run Park is located at 8810 Venneford Ranch Road.

West Fork Disc Golf Course

Course construction is nearly complete for the new West Fork Disc Golf Course, 19095 S. Broadway. The Metro District is constructing the 18-hole disc golf course and 52-space parking lot with funding partner South Suburban Park and Recreation District. The course will be open for free, drop-in use and will be another way for residents to enjoy the outdoors. The opening date, which is anticipated later this month, will be posted to our website. An opening celebration is planned, but is dependent on future public health orders and social distancing guidelines.

C-470 community monument signs

Two new community monument signs will replace the signs in existing locations along C-470 this fall. One location is south of C-470 and east of S. Broadway, and the other is south of C-470 and west of Colorado Boulevard. This project is a continuation of the enhancements to the community entry signs along the borders of Highlands Ranch several years ago. The new signs will help better represent our vibrant community.

Restroom at Big Dry Creek Park

Late this fall, a new concrete restroom will replace the old, cedar vault restroom at Big Dry Creek Park. The new restroom will be more maintenance friendly and will comply with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act access guidelines. Big Dry Creek Park is located at 9898 Atherton Way.

Park shelter reservations

Park shelter reservations are currently being accepted on a limited basis. Neighborhood park shelters and smaller shelters at community parks are limited to groups of up to 20. Large shelters at community parks can accommodate 30 to 75, depending on the location. Limitations are based on current state and county health orders and will be amended as guidance allows.

How to reserve a park shelter

1. Visit highlandsranch.org/reservations to check the availability calendars. All reservations require a two hour minimum.
2. Reservation numbers are currently restricted due to COVID-19 health orders and updates are posted at highlandsranch.org.
3. Contact the Metro District at 303-791-2710 or submit an online request to a reservations specialist at highlandsranch.org/reservations.

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

2020 fee schedule

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<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Neighborhood park</td>
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<td>$15/hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community park</td>
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<td>$15/hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Event (stage)</td>
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<td>$75/hr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earth Day (Fairs)</td>
<td>$50/hr.</td>
<td>$75/hr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Hour minimum</td>
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Prior to your park reservation, please review park rules. Remember, glass bottles are not allowed.

Sites show parkway landscaping possibilities

In an effort to move to more sustainable maintenance practices, the Metro District is exploring options for converting some areas of bluegrass along the pathway to more drought tolerant, lower maintenance landscaping.

The Metro District maintains more than 285 acres of landscape along the community’s major roads. During the 2019 Community Survey, more than 84% of respondents strongly supported creating more sustainable parkway landscape and converting some bluegrass to native and alternative plants.

Three locations have been approved as demonstration sites and are representative of challenging conditions: narrow strips of landscape, south-facing slopes and other areas of struggling bluegrass. During July and August, these three sites will be aerated, dethatched and resowed with either native grass or alternative xeric grass.

“It’s great to see the first stages of the process get underway,” said Dirk Ambrose, parks and parkways manager. “Although the demonstration sites are well under construction, the finished product may take a little time to achieve. Just like anything else in nature, establishment may require a couple of growing seasons before the landscape becomes fully grown and filled in”.

In upcoming years, once the landscaping has had time to establish feedback from the community will be gathered to determine the next steps of the program. The goals of the parkway landscape conversion program are to:

- Reduce overall water and maintenance needs by providing a more sustainable landscape and irrigation program.
- Maintain and enhance the existing aesthetics and experience of the streetscape.
- Educate the community in the value of landscape conversions.
- Create a realistic phasing plan which prioritizes areas for conversion.

A map of the three demonstration sites and project details are available at highlandsranch.org.

Tips to avoid wildlife conflicts in your yard

Our close proximity to wildlife makes it important to know how to avoid potential conflicts and coexist with wild animals. Nearly 5,000 residential properties are adjacent to open space in Highlands Ranch, and wild animals are spotted throughout the community. Some homeowners unwittingly entice animals into their yards by making food, water and shelter too easily available.

“We are trying to keep wildlife wild and prevent property damage,” said Scott Nelson, open space and park ranger supervisor. According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife, intentional or inadvertent feeding is the major cause of most wildlife problems. Homeowners should follow these preventative measures from CPW:

- Place bird feeders where they are not accessible to other wildlife species.
- Keep pet food and water bowls inside.
- Clean dry barbecue grills.
- Fence gardens and pick up any fruit on the ground that falls from your trees.
- Store garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids and only put trash out when it’s scheduled to be picked up.
- Cover your window wells.
- Close holes around and under the foundation of your home. Bury wire mesh one to two feet deep in places where animals might gain access.
- Seal all cracks and holes larger than a one-quarter inch in diameter to keep out rats, mice, bats, and snakes.

Home audits available

In addition to coyote conflict prevention home audits, Metro District park rangers can also advise you of general wildlife attractants in your yard while walking your property line with you. Contact the Metro District at 303-791-2710 to schedule a home audit.

Front Range trees hit by several damaging freezes

After two drastic temperature drops during fall 2019 and a significant spring freeze this year, many trees in Highlands Ranch and the rest of the Front Range are struggling or dead. Ash, elm, cottonwood, maple, pine and spruce trees were especially affected. After taking inventory of these trees and waiting through the spring to see if they would leaf out again, Metro District forestry staff is removing unhealthy and dead trees as necessary. The process is expected to last through the 2020 growing season.

More information, including tips for homeowners dealing with trees on their own properties, is available at highlandsranch.org.

Keep an eye on your water budget

Water use in the summer typically rises as homeowners fend off warmer temperatures by watering their lawn, garden and flowerbeds. Centennial Water & Sanitation District customers’ bi-monthly water budget is intended to provide enough water to maintain a healthy landscape while encouraging conservation.

During the warm summer months, Centennial Water recommends residents carefully watch their water usage. Increased usage, especially if you exceed your water budget, will increase your water bill. Your water budget was identified based on your individual lot size and varies by billing period during the irrigation season. Water budget information can be found on your water bill.

For more information about water budgets, visit centennialwater.org...

Lebsack Tennis Center

Lebsack Tennis Center is hosting all your favorite programs.

- 10 & Under Tennis (ages 4-10)
- Junior Classes (ages 7-15)
- Adult Drills & Clinics
- Fall Tennis Camps

For program details and court reservations visit our website at Redstone.mytennisclub.net.
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, trail usage has significantly increased. Getting physical activity and connecting to the outdoors and green space can reduce stress and improve mental health, which is particularly important during this time.

Learn about RTD’s service changes, COVID-19-related impacts and more by visiting rtd-denver.com

C-470 Express Lanes are now open. Learn more about this Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) project at codot.gov/programs/expresslanes/c-470-express-lanes

If you haven’t been counted yet in Census 2020, it’s time. The census is more than just a head count. It provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps to see how communities have changed over time.

Online at my2020census.gov | By phone at 844-330-2020

By mail, if you did not respond by phone or online, a paper questionnaire would have been mailed to you in mid-April

For more information about Census 2020, visit 2020census.gov

The Metro District recently launched a new Highlands Ranch Veterans Monument website. The redesigned site features an updated homepage, easier navigation, veteran biographies, improved search function and a streamlined application for residents who wish to purchase a dedication tile. Visit the new website at hrvets.org.

Tax-deductible dedication tiles are available for purchase to honor loved ones at the monument. Please contact Emmalyn White at 720-240-4931 or at ewhite@highlandsranch.org, or visit hrvets.org for more information, to purchase a dedication tile, or to make a tax-deductible contribution.

Metro District board meetings are held at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month (with rare exceptions due to holiday schedules) at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. Board study sessions are held the Wednesday prior to board meetings at 6 p.m. at the same location. The public is encouraged to attend. Visit highlandsranch.org and click on the Local Government link for a meeting schedule and COVID-19 related details.

Centennial Water and Sanitation District board meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the last Monday of each month (with rare exceptions due to holiday schedules) at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. Board study sessions are held the Wednesday prior to board meetings, also at 6 p.m. Visit centennialwater.org to view a meeting schedule.