

Memorandum

Date: August 4, 2025

To: Douglas County Advisory Boards

Through: Douglas J. DeBord, County Manager

From: Nick Giauque, CPRP, Parks Program Manager
Amy Knopp, Manager, Rueter-Hess
Morgan Morehart, LICT CPSI, Parks Operations Manager
Luke Thornton, CPRP, Parks Program Coordinator

CC: Steve Shoultz, Assistant Director of Parks, Trails, and Building Grounds

Subject: **Parks, Trails, and Rueter-Hess Update for July 2025**

OPERATIONS UPDATE

A. CDL Testing

Shane Faulk and Josiah Schmidt successfully passed the testing for their Commercial Drivers License. After several weeks of practice and studying, both attained the Class A License allowing them to drive all of the vehicle combinations the Parks Division uses in daily activities.

B. Outfield Fence Coping

Chain-link is a standard for outfield fences at baseball facilities and the top of the fence can pose a risk for players trying to make a catch on a potential home run. Parks staff recently installed a protective cap to all three fields at Fairgrounds Regional Park to improve the safety of the facility.



C. Parker Hawks

Every August, the Parker Hawks hosts a football scrimmage for the entire organization at Challenger Regional Park. 22 Hawks teams participated with roughly 3000 people in attendance.



PROGRAM UPDATE

A. Volunteer Program Update:

Six events were hosted in July with 32 volunteers providing 64 hours of service.

On July 2nd, one volunteer helped paint the box culvert under Castle Pines Parkway, providing two hours of service. The fresh coat of paint made a huge difference!



American Family Insurance volunteered at Dotts Park on July 8th with 12 volunteers providing 24 hours of service. At Dotts they painted the trash can, pulled weeds, planted wildflower seeds and refilled the playground mulch. This is the second year of partnership with American Family Insurance.



On July 2nd, one volunteer helped paint the box culvert under Parker Road, providing two hours of service.



On July 10th, three volunteers provided six hours of service while pruning trail on the East/West Regional Trail

On July 12th, 14 volunteers helped plant six trees at Fairgrounds Regional Park, providing 28 hours of service.



On July 14th, one volunteer provided two hours of service for the monthly shoreline cleanup event at Bingham Lake.

B. Volunteer Statistics for 2025:

2025	# of Hosted Events	# of Volunteers	Hours of Service	Bags of Trash Collected	Trees Planted	Beds Maintained	Mullein Weeds Eradicated	Culverts Painted	Miles of Trail Maintained
March	2	6	12	5	-	-	-	-	-
April	3	86	243	14	45	-	-	-	-
May	6	16	35	2	3	3	-	-	1
June	7	17	33	2	6	3	4,250	1	1
July	6	32	64	2	6	-	-	2	2
Totals	24	157	387	25	60	6	4,250	3	4

The volunteer program is offering the following events in August:

- 8/6 – Trash Pickup at Challenger Regional Park
- 8/9 – Tree Planting at Bayou Gulch Regional Park
- 8/20 – Shoreline Cleanup at Bingham Lake

A. Counter Update as of July 30, 2025:

Location	2024 totals through July	2025 totals through July
Bayou Gulch Regional Park – Dog Park	11,305	13,200
Bingham Lake	44,979	51,397
Bluffs Regional Park*	86,325	69,744
Cherry Creek Regional Trail – Pinery	14,810	22,186
East/West Regional Trail – Grigs Trailhead	27,384	24,916
East/West Regional Trail – High Point	N/A	23,522
East/West Regional Trail – Monarch Trailhead	10,098	10,932
East/West Regional Trail – Schweiger Ranch	7,712	8,677
East/West Regional Trail – Stepping Stone	18,568	24,037
Fairgrounds Regional Park – Dog Park	29,626	29,399
High Line Canal – East	-	5,877
High Line Canal – West	20,138	24,400
Rueter-Hess Reservoir – Coyote Run Loop	6,055	8,156
Rueter-Hess Reservoir – Incline Trailhead	41,772	42,808
Rueter-Hess Reservoir – Newlin's Gold	617	1,057
Totals	319,389	360,308
*Portions of Bluffs were closed in March and April 2025 for construction, including the counter location.		

RUETER-HESS RESERVOIR UPDATE

Beginning July 1, 2025, Douglas County implemented new recreation rules that improve fishing at Rueter-Hess Reservoir. These new rules allow limited catch-and-keep fishing, marking a key milestone for recreation. Additionally, barbed hooks and scented baits are now allowed. Live bait remains prohibited.

The catch-and-keep fishing limits in effect are:

- Walleye: 16”– 20” with a bag limit of 2 fish per angler
- Largemouth Bass: 14”–18” with a bag limit of 1 fish per angler
- Yellow Perch: Over 6” with a bag limit of 5 fish per angler

A Douglas County resident became the first angler to reach the full catch limit of yellow perch. His haul included fish measuring up to 12.5 inches, a promising sign for the reservoir’s thriving

ecosystem. Rangers help anglers check the size and species to maintain the health of the fishery.

Additionally, trolling electric motors are now allowed when actively engaged in fishing. They must be hand-tilled and rated at no more than 55 pounds of thrust. All watercraft must be launched by hand; trailers are not permitted.

For full fishing guidelines and permit requirements, please visit the official Rueter-Hess recreation site <https://www.douglas.co.us/rueter-hess-recreation/>



RUETER-HESS YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS

Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	2025 Total
Reservoir Visitors	9	14	223	224	544	1719	2292	5,025
Trails Visitors	2894	4338	7571	7626	9230	10395	8964	51,018
Total Visitors	2903	4352	7794	7850	9774	12114	11256	56,043
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	114	189	266	376	1,039
Youth Anglers	0	0	37	26	48	133	155	399
Total Anglers	0	0	131	140	237	399	531	1,438
Total Watercraft Inspections	0	0	0	0	202	830	1242	2,274
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	2025 Total
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0	9	23	8	40