

News

Your Recreation

Parks foundation forms in Castle Rock

By Clayton Woullard
YourHub Reporter

While most communities had a parks and trails foundation, Castle Rock did not — and Ernie Fazekas wanted to change that.

Fazekas is president of the board of the newly created Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation, which seeks to raise funds and support what he feels are already great parks and trails. He has lived in Castle Rock for about 30 years, and he and the rest of the board, are really pleased to see what the town has done with the parks and trails in the past six to seven years.

"I think you can always use more community support for any city institution like parks and trails," Fazekas said, "and provide additional services beyond what the town can afford through their budget."

He said the group's first project is to raise funds for the the proposed 225-acre Philip S. Miller Park, which could include an amphitheater, play fields, playgrounds and an indoor recreation facility called the field-house, similar to the Parker Field-house.

There are nine people on the board; Fazekas said they are still in the process of obtaining the organization's nonprofit status through the Internal Revenue Service so it can begin accepting donations.

"Castle Rock is a world-class community and these community leaders understand the importance of a parks and trails foundation," Kristen Trbovich, a business analyst with the town's parks and recreation department, said. "It has enhanced our residents' lives and the businesses here, and everyone benefits when we have superior parks and recreation out here."

Fazekas said he wants to raise funds for the proposed amphitheater in Philip S. Miller Park and any

enhancements needed or desired by the community.

He said overall he wants the foundation's role to be able to fill in the gaps where the town can't afford something in its budget, so other projects could include helping with trails or even something as small as installing park benches.

The group's first fundraising event is a family-friendly, 3.5-mile run called the LiveBIG Color Blast Dash slated for 9:30 a.m. Sept. 21 at Metzler Ranch Park, 4175 Trail Boss Road in Castle Rock. After the run, there will be food, face painting, jump houses and more. To register, or for more information, go to cr.gov.com/livebig.

The run has been held as a 5K race the past four years, a legacy of the Speights family that lived in Castle Rock and set up a parks and trails foundation but moved away a few years ago. Trbovich said 5Ks are common, so they wanted to do something different with a 3.5-mile run.

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