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We have some great public gardens to enjoy,
without any of the weeding.

BY SEARCH CASTLE ROCK STAFF

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ON THE COVER

Hanna watering the garden



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Search Castle Rock is published by
Tueller Publishing, LLC

IDEAS & SUBMISSIONS
contribute@tuellers.com

NO 268 | **APRIL 2026**

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Hummingbirds are unique and lovely creatures that awe us with their quickly beating wings and hovering capabilities. I have made it my mission the last few summers to attract hummingbirds to our yard. I finally had great success last year! Here are a few things I learned about welcoming hummingbirds back to Colorado.

It took me several attempts to find the right spot to hang hummingbird feeders. I tried them in the backyard because I thought it would be peaceful and feel safe. I was concerned about cars, people, and dogs passing by our front sidewalk. But in the end, our large shade tree in the front yard turned out to be the best place for them.

1 - Find a spot to hang the feeders where hummingbirds will see them and that also provides a nearby place for them to land and hide in between feedings. Begin putting feeders out in mid-April to welcome hummingbirds back from their southern migration.

2 - Hanging two or three feeders in the same tree can help to attract more birds. Hummingbirds are territorial, so they will defend their food source if it's the only option.

3 - Keep the feeder washed inside and out to attract hummingbirds and to keep them safe from mold or germs. I prefer the simply shaped feeders with little adornment to make the cleaning process easier.

4 - Change out the sugar water at least every week. Hanging a feeder in the shade will keep the liquid from heating up and spoiling too quickly.

5 - Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red. Hanging a red feeder is a good idea and planting red flowers nearby will attract them to the area. Do not use red dye in the sugar water as it can be harmful to a hummingbird.

6 - If you have the problem of attracting bees, move the feeder about three or four feet. The bees will lose track of the feeder, but the hummingbirds will still be able to find it.

HUMMINGBIRD FUN FACTS

3-5" long

weigh 3 grams
(roughly the weight
of a penny)

Can beat their wings
up to 200 beats
per second.

It is the only bird
that can fly in
any direction
or remain
suspended in air.

Our large tree created a little haven for hummingbirds to feed, rest, and nest! It was a beautiful sight to see them living near us and even see an incredible little nest not much bigger than a large marshmallow made of down, fibers, and feathers. I loved to step outside and hear their distinctive, high-pitched twitter and the hum or whistle of their wings. To watch them perch or hover around the feeders and chase each other was fascinating.

Syrup Recipe -

Mix 1 part refined white sugar with 4 parts hot water and stir until sugar is dissolved. Let the syrup cool before placing in feeder. Extra syrup can be stored in the refrigerator.

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PLANTING CALENDAR

The experts at Tagawa Gardens give us tips and timing for our gardening success

Early April

- Cut back late summer-flowering plants like Russian sage, blue mist spirea, and butterfly bush to encourage lush growth. These plants bloom on this year's growth, and this will encourage new growth.
- Remove all tree wrap around the middle to the end of March to prevent insects and disease.
- Start these seeds indoors: peppers, New Zealand spinach, collards, beets, and eggplant
- Start these seeds outdoors: carrots, kohlrabi, peas, radishes, sage, spinach (not New Zealand), and turnips. Also from plants and roots: Chinese cabbage, parsley, spinach, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, potatoes, onion sets, and asparagus roots.

Mid-April

- Start these seeds indoors: celery, leeks, onions, lima beans, endive, and escarole
- Start these seeds outdoors: parsnip, beet, carrot, endive, escarole, lettuce, pea, parsnip, and turnips. From plants: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, collards, and kale.

Late April

- Outdoors: Plant spring bulbs and roots: ixia, lily of the valley, anemone, lilies, freesia, gladiolus, dahlia, canna, and peonies. Plant acclimated perennials.
- When active growth appears on roses, fertilize with a rose food according to the label.
- Prune roses back to appr. 1-2 feet above the ground or to live wood. Don't prune climbers except to shape or remove dead canes.
- Fertilize all established plants with new growth using a 5-10-5 or similar fertilizer.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs.
- As weeds begin to actively grow, spray with weed control according to container instructions.
- Apply borer control only if you find evidence of borers and you did not apply in March.
- Spread out mulch mounds around perennials and roses.
- Remove tree wrap if you haven't already, as it's an excellent incubation area for insects and diseases.

Early May

- Plant these outdoors: broccoli, peas, beets, Brussels sprouts, carrots, collards, kale, radishes, spinach, tomatoes with Wall o' Water only, sage, pansies, all potted perennials, summer flowering bulbs. Make sure to "harden" (slowly acclimate) the plants before planting them in the ground.
- Prune roses back to approximately 1-2 feet above the ground or to live wood. Don't prune climbers except to shape or remove dead canes.

Mid-May

- Start these seeds outdoors: corn, snap beans, mustard, pumpkin, summer & winter squash.
- Plant these outdoors: anything already listed in early May, plus lemon balm, New Zealand and Malabar spinach, all herbs, annual flowers, dahlia tubers, gladiola corms, and all potted perennials (hardened off).

Late May

- Plant these outdoors: anything already listed in early and mid-May, plus cucumbers, pumpkins, summer & winter squash, basil, lima beans, peppers, corn, and tomatoes.



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PHOTO: HUDSON GARDENS

Stop & Smell The Roses

With temperatures rising and spring in the air, we're ready to get outside! Studies show that spending time outside helps to improve your mood, reduce stress, and maintain mental wellness. Consider these public gardens within a 30-minute drive to find some peace and appreciate nature.

Castle Rock Community Garden at Glover's Park 534 S Gilbert St, Castle Rock

Castle Rock residents who love to garden organically or simply want to give it a try have an opportunity close to home. In 2012, the first public community garden opened in Town - the Castle Rock Community Garden at Glover Park. The Town of Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department supports this project, but it is a community-based and community-run effort.

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Farms 8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton

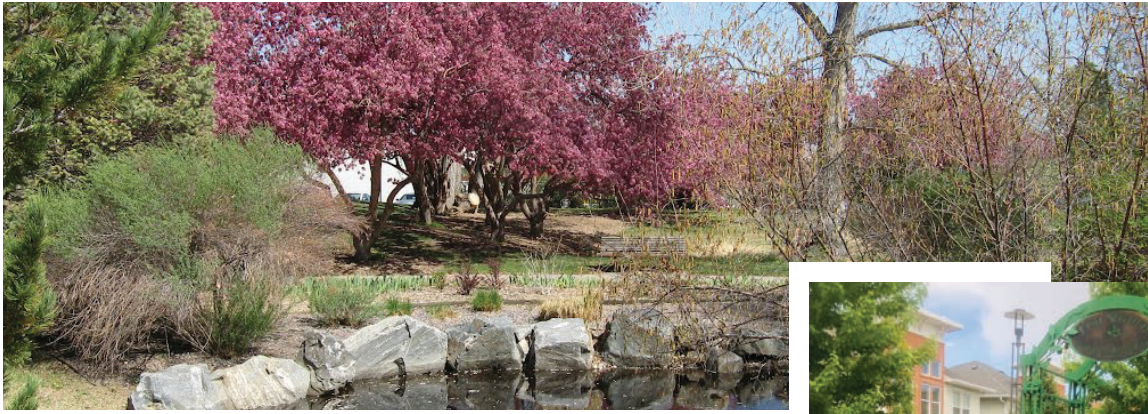
Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge and working farm located along the banks of Deer Creek. Chatfield Farms is home to historical buildings dating back to the 1800s, 2.5 miles of nature trails, and numerous wildflower gardens. Bring your binoculars and wander the many trails. Entry fees will apply.

Douglas County Public Gardens Along 3rd Street and Wilcox Street, Castle Rock

The Douglas County Public Gardens are a point of pride for the CMG program and the City of Castle Rock. Nestled among three Douglas County buildings in the heart of downtown Castle Rock are ten beds of annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, and shrubs, many of which are from the Plant Select® program. Beds also showcase the clock tower and Veteran's Monument Bed.



PHOTO: BOTANIC GARDENS AT CHATFIELD FARMS



Gallup Gardens
6015 S Gallup St, Littleton

North of Gallup Park and next door to Bemis Public Library, this beautiful botanical garden is nestled near the park and Gallup Reservoir. Winding paths are laid out and shaded spots to rest are provided. The garden is filled with beautiful flowers and trees.

Hudson Gardens
6115 S. Santa Fe Drive, Littleton

The Hudson Gardens & Event Center is a nonprofit organization encompassing thirty acres of garden exhibits, trails, open spaces, and event venues only minutes from downtown Littleton. These spaces become scenic backdrops for community events and private occasions. We also provide membership experiences and free, daily admission for self-directed exploration.

Memorial Rose Garden on Havana
1250 S Ironston St., Aurora

Stop by and enjoy our wonderful Rose Garden at the Gardens on Havana. This little garden is located near Maurice's and the Xfinity store. The Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden is a hidden gem in this shopping center. Stop by and smell the roses!

Sedalia Museum and Plant Select Demonstration Garden
4037 N. Platte Avenue, Sedalia

Sedalia Museum offers local historical buildings and artifacts and is open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from May to September. The museum grounds serve as a demonstration garden for Plant Select plants. Plant Select® is a nonprofit collaboration of CSU, Denver Botanic Gardens, and professional horticulturists. They seek out and distribute the very best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region suited for Colorado weather and moisture.

Twenty Mile Historic Park
18999.5 E. Mainstreet, Parker

The historic Twenty Mile House building is restored and preserved as the Pine Grove Post Office and memorialized in 20-Mile Historical Park. The Town of Parker maintains the building and surrounding garden area that offers a mini oasis in the middle of a bustling Mainstreet area.



THE GUIDE

THE BEST PLACES TO DINE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

In the interest of providing the 50 best dining options in Douglas County, we must be able to personally recommend each listing. The guide is subject to change. If you have a suggestion for inclusion on the list, email us at contribute@tuellers.com.

KEY

Based on a typical dinner for one person, excluding drinks, tax or tip.

\$ Under \$15
\$\$ \$15-\$25
\$\$\$ Over \$25
(EC) Editors Choice
(N) New

ASIAN FUSION

DANCING NOODLE

A small, family owned, dine-in and take-out restaurant that serves authentic homestyle Thai food.

10841 S. Crossroads Dr., Suite 10, Parker
303-805-3880 \$\$

INDOCHINE

A local go-to for quality home-style cuisine. This Parker fixture is known for a fresh, creative menu.

19751 E Mainstreet, Parker
720-851-8559 \$\$

ITO SUSHI ASIAN BISTRO

Asian fusion restaurant known for quality ingredients and fresh fish daily.

2240 Mercantile St #100, Castle Rock
720-749-6777 \$\$ (N)

JOHN HOLLY'S

Chinese and Thai dishes that are nothing less than the culinary equivalent of an exotic adventure.

9232 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree
303-768-9088 \$\$



PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast and lunch, Pegasus has something for everyone. They have served an eclectic menu in a comfortable setting for the past 31 years. While you're there, go see the giant riverboat roulette wheel behind the bar!

JUNZ

A favorite sushi place in town with a unique blend of Japanese and French at its very best.

11211 S. Dransfeldt Rd., Parker
720-851-1005 \$\$

BAKERY/DESSERTS

LA PETITE CREPERIE

The locals favorite spot to grab made-to-order crepes. Sweet or savory, you can't go wrong. Proudly serving farm to table fresh.

19751 Mainstreet, Parker
720-638-9722 \$ (EC)

PARIS BAGUETTE

Popular Korean chain that brings expertly crafted baked goods through a warm and welcoming bakery cafe' experience that delivers joy to everyone.

18374 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
720-500-5555 \$ (N)

POULETTE BAKESHOP

New artisan bakers taking Parker by storm. Order early, they sell out every day!

19585 Hess Road, Parker
303-955-5647 \$ (N)

BARBEQUE

BIG JIMS

Don't be fooled by this being a food truck; if you like southern BBQ, this is your place. **Corner of Parker Rd and Longs Way, Parker** \$\$\$

GQUE BBQ

Award-winning food. Try the wood-smoked ribs, brisket, pork, or garlic potatoes.

8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Suite 143B, Lone Tree
303-729-2506 \$\$

HICKORY HOUSE

The Parker tradition. Known for their baby back ribs, but don't miss the pulled pork and barbeque chicken.

10335 S Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-9742 \$\$

OLD WEST BBQ

A hidden gem with family-friendly pricing. Don't miss out on their breakfast burritos. **107 Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock**
303-660-6340 \$

BREW PUB

20 MILE TAP HOUSE

Best known for their burgers and wings. Make sure to catch Trivia Tuesdays.

12543 N Hwy 83, Parker
303-841-6782 \$\$

GREAT DIVIDE BREWERY & ROADHOUSE

Destination locale with an informal ambiance offering hearty comfort classics

215 Wilcox St Suite G, Castle Rock
303-955-5788 \$\$ - \$\$\$ (N)

ROCKYARD BREWING CO.

Douglas County's longest running brew pub. Steaks, burgers, pizza and soup!
880 Castleton Rd, Castle Rock
303-814-9273 \$\$

TAILGATE TAVERN & GRILL

Your neighborhood tavern for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sports bar with live music not to miss on the weekends. **19552 E. Mainstreet, Parker** 303-841-7179 \$\$

THE LIBRARY CO. BAR & KITCHEN

Offering great food & amazing drinks in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Clear and simple menu options. **3911 Ambrosia St., Suite 101, Castle Rock** 720-389-5986 \$\$

ITALIAN

CRANELLI'S

Comfort Italian food in a rustic, cozy, casual family-oriented format. **10047 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree** 303-799-3661 \$\$

DANIELLE'S SCRATCH KITCHEN

Stylish, energetic eatery offering elevated Italian fare with an emphasis on great customer service. **872 Happy Canyon Rd. Suite 100, Castle Rock** 303-524-9788 \$\$\$

PORTOFINO

Authentic Italian eatery featuring pizza, pasta, calzones and heros. The local "go-to" for fresh Italian. **10920 S Parker Rd, Parker** 303-841-9900 \$\$

SCILEPPI'S

A modern Italian restaurant focused on family recipes and premium ingredients. **210 Third St., Castle Rock** 303-688-9000 \$\$

VIA BACI

Neapolitan pizzas join modern Italian fare at this casual eatery featuring a full bar & patio. **10005 Commons St, Lone Tree** 303-790-0828 \$\$

MEXICAN

ADRIANNA'S

Intimate Mexican eatery for authentic cuisine in a relaxed ambiance. Great for parties. **7272 E Hwy 86, Franktown** 303-663-7800 \$\$

CASA MARIACHI

Unassuming local joint serving up straight-forward Mexican plates. **9771 S Parker Rd, Parker** 720-842-5105 \$\$

LA LOMA

Upscale-rustic atmosphere known for traditional Mexican meals. **6361 Promenade Pkw, Castle Rock** 303-632-9900 \$\$ (N)

LAS POTRANCES

Casual Mexican restaurant full of real Mexican culture, Mexican Food, Fresh Drinks, and Friendly Hospitality. **19600 Solar Cir, Parker** 303-840-0325 \$\$ (N)

LOS DOS POTRILLOS

Elegant family-owned eatery. There's a combo dish to please everyone. **6370 Promenade Pkwy., Castle Rock** 720-769-5474 \$\$

LOS VOLCANES

Don't miss the Carnitas! And bring your appetite for the large portions. **10471 S. Parker Rd., Parker** 303-841-0160 \$\$

NEW AMERICAN

CASTLE CAFE

Set in a former 1890s hotel. Plating hearty American fare like pan-fried chicken & burgers. **403 Wilcox St, Castle Rock** 303-814-2233 \$\$

VALERIE'S BREWHOUSE

Uniquely fun sports bar with a creative menu of brats and dogs. **971 Park St., Castle Rock** 303-660-2399 \$

CRAVE

A favorite gourmet burger joint. Imaginative menu with amazing handcrafted shakes. **3982 Limelight Ave, Castle Rock** 303-814-2829 \$\$

DOUG'S DAY DINER

American breakfast cafe where everything is made from scratch. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-476-7162 \$\$

MANNA

A casual sit-down destination with a menu that reflects Colorado's growing season. **2350 Meadows Blvd., Castle Rock** 720-455-3664 \$

PARKER GARAGE

The Parker landmark located right downtown offers a locally-sourced menu. Great service and large portions. **19420 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-389-8105 \$\$ (EC)

PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast or lunch. American, Greek or Mexican dishes. **313 Jerry St., Castle Rock** 303-688-6746 \$\$

RORY'S

Comfort food and baked goods at their finest. Don't see it on the menu? Ask for it! **11020 S Pikes Peak Dr., Parker** 720-708-2889 \$\$

SIERRA

High-end, wood-fired kitchen with a warm ambiance, preparing select American dishes. **10680 Cabela Dr., Lone Tree** 303-662-8800 \$\$

TRIBE AT RIVERWALK

Upscale, yet casual dining experience with a one-of-a-kind menu. Don't miss the brunch. **115 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock** 303-362-0904 \$\$\$ (N)

WEST MAIN TAPROOM

A modern and open venue that boasts thoughtful and honest cuisine. A haven for the gluten-free crowd. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-826-3689 \$\$

PIZZA

ANTONIO'S

A traditional family-style Italian pizza restaurant with a Brooklyn flair. **12947 S Parker Rd., Parker** 720-851-5300 \$

ARTISAN

Delicious Neapolitan-style pizza that makes each dish an individual work of art! And don't forget dessert. **12311 Pine Bluffs Way, Parker** 303-840-0518 \$

COLORADOUGH

A refreshing take on made-from-scratch pizza. So fresh they don't even have a freezer! **17860 Cottonwood Dr., Parker** 303-386-3333 \$\$

LIL' RICCI'S

New York pizzas & other red sauce staples in a low-key setting. Can't miss the garlic knots. **16526 Keystone Blvd, Parker** 303-220-7422 \$\$

PARRY'S

NY-style pizza, wings, & casual Italian eats, in kid-friendly quarters. **5650 Allen Way, Castle Rock** 303-814-8686 \$\$





RAEMIRUE
photography

STEAKHOUSE

DUKE'S

Rustic restaurant featuring beef & seafood dishes, plus a sports tavern with an Irish vibe.

**363 Village Square Lane,
Castle Pines**
303-814-2487 \$\$\$

FOGO DE CHAO

Upscale Brazilian steakhouse with all-you-can-eat meat carved tableside. Guaraná is a must, and try the Creme de Papaya. **8419 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-481-4001 \$\$\$ (EC)

PERRY'S

Chops, seafood, wine, & cocktails served in an upscale setting with a lounge & live jazz. **8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-792-2571 \$\$\$

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Texas-themed steakhouse with a great menu and wonderful atmosphere.

**11205 S. Parker Rd,
Parker**
303-805-5848 \$\$

TRAPPER'S CHOP HOUSE

Upscale hideaway local favorite featuring their signature Volcanic Hot Rock sear-it-yourself experience.

**19308 Cottonwood Dr.,
Parker**
303-248-2132 \$\$\$

UNIQUE

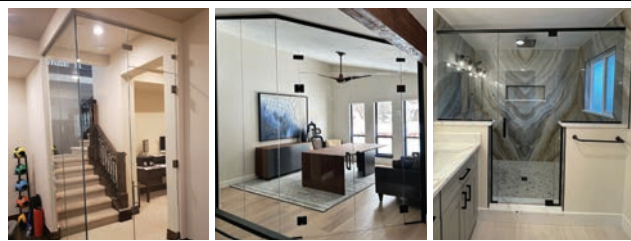
VISTAVINO MODERN

Quaint Tuscan grill made fresh from local fare. Every dish is a winner!

611 Wilcox St., Castle Rock
303-814-2487 \$\$



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MONDAY, MAY 4

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