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**Climbing Wall at Ridge Recreation Center to close; Spook Splash cancelled**

Effective Sept. 1, 2007, the Climbing Wall at the Foothills Park & Recreation District Ridge Recreation Center will close for funding reasons. Closing the Climbing Wall will save the District an estimated \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year, said Lori Hoffner, Chairman of the Foothills Board of Directors. Additionally, the Spook Splash event scheduled for Oct. 26, at the Lilley Gulch Recreation Center will not be held.

Foothills Park & Recreation District is facing reductions in service in 2007 and 2008 for several reasons, including rising costs for such things as utilities and park maintenance and the fact that the mill levy has not increased since 2001.

“Foothills has served the people of south Jefferson County for nearly 50 years and service reductions are a tough issue for both the Board and staff,” Hoffner said.

Foothills Park & Recreation District receives about 70 percent of its current revenues from fees, admissions and rentals and about 30 percent is from taxes. Tax revenues help support parks and trails and helps subsidize community events. Programs such as golf, fitness and the ice arena are completely supported by fees.

Additional reductions in service and community events are being carefully considered by the Foothills Board and staff to minimize the disruption to residents and customers and to preserve the value of District assets, Hoffner added.

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*Foothills Park & Recreation district, founded in 1959, serves a 28 square mile area of unincorporated Jefferson County generally bounded by Hampden Avenue south to C-470 from Sheridan Boulevard west to the Dakota Hogback. The District operates the Ridge Recreation Center, the Edge Ice Arena, Lilley Gulch Recreation Center, the Peak Community and Wellness Center, four outdoor swimming pools, Indoor Sports Arena, Foothills Golf Course complex, Meadows Golf Course, and 69 park sites totaling more than 2,410 acres and including four regional parks, 42 neighborhood and community parks and 24 greenbelts. In addition Foothills manages six regional trail corridors for public use, which, combined with park trails, total more than 31 miles. For more information visit [www.ifoohills.org](http://www.ifoohills.org) , or call (303) 409-2100.*