2010 Annual Report

Vision:
“Golden will be recognized as a national leader in the provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation facilities.”

Mission:
“To promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services that will enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors.”

Parks and recreation facilities and the programs, activities, and services that occur within them, contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Golden. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining open spaces, for providing a quality system of parks and recreational facilities and for providing positive leisure opportunities for the community. Golden is home to many unique recreational amenities for a town of its size including 253 acres of parkland, 377 acres of open space, 24 miles of trails, 7,904 trees, Fossil Trace Golf Club, Splash Aquatic Park, Golden History Museums and the Golden Community Center. The Parks and Recreation Department includes the Municipal Facilities Division, Recreation Division, Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery Division, Golf Maintenance Division, Golf Clubhouse Division, and Museums Division.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
In order to increase community involvement, a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was created in 1982. Board members are appointed by City Council and represent Golden citizens. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, consisting of seven members and one alternate which service four-year terms, makes suggestions about policies and procedures, fees and charges, acceptance of park land, design of parks and other projects relating to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Advisory Board Meetings
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. The third Tuesday is the regular meeting date. These meetings take place in the Golden Community Center, 1470 10th Street, Golden, Colorado, 80401, at 7 p.m. For more information and to view meeting minutes, visit www.cityofgolden.net then click on the Boards and Commissions Link.

Cultural Services and Museum Advisory Board
The Cultural Services and Museum Advisory Board was established on May 13, 2010 to promote cultural preservation, to advise the City Council concerning museum programming and to recommend and plan events for the Golden community that promote an interest in and appreciation for the preservation of Golden’s history and culture.

The Cultural Services and Museum Advisory Board consist of five members appointed by the Mayor, with approval of a majority of City Council. The members of the board shall serve terms that expire on December 31, 2011. The Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every other month in the Council Chambers, 911 10th Street.

Parks and Recreation User Fee Areas 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Revenue 2010</th>
<th>Expenses 2010</th>
<th>Cost Recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>$86%</td>
<td>$39%</td>
<td>$104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>$83%</td>
<td>$103%</td>
<td>$2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Recreation</td>
<td>$87%</td>
<td>$106%</td>
<td>$1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash</td>
<td>$106%</td>
<td>$139%</td>
<td>$33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossil Trace</td>
<td>$286%</td>
<td>$300%</td>
<td>$150%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>$0%</td>
<td>$50%</td>
<td>$100%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department the Grand Plaque Recipient of the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management. The award was announced live during NRPA’s Annual Congress and Exposition in Minneapolis, MN. Golden was nominated as a finalist for the award for the second consecutive year.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

“The Golden Medal Award recognizes the department as one of the top national leaders in the provision of high quality parks and recreation, the highest honor in the parks and recreation profession,” said Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf.

A requirement for finalists, the Golden Parks and Recreation Department submitted a video demonstrating parks and recreation in Golden. View “Golden in Golden” at www.cityofgolden.net/parksandrec.

Golden competed for the Gold Medal Award with three other finalists in population category 25,000 and below including the City of Green River Parks and Recreation Department, Wyo., the City of Fairfax, Va. and the City of Cullman Parks and Recreation, Ala.

Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan
The City of Golden, retained Wenk Associates in February 2010 to develop and prepare a Master Plan for the Clear Creek Corridor with a goal to create a unified park experience along Clear Creek through downtown Golden. The Clear Creek Corridor project area incorporated Lions, History, Parfet, and Vanover Parks, and the areas between these parks along the creek. The Clear Creek Corridor should seamlessly mesh with adjacent and complementary land uses in the area, providing residents with a truly unique multi-use area in which to recreate, shop and work; one that promotes synergy with the downtown environment and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan will go before City Council in April after over a year of extensive public process including an advisory committee of community stakeholders, user and web surveys, public workshops and meetings. The plan will provide direction to City staff, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Golden City Council for future development, redevelopment, and enhancement of the health and vibrancy of the Clear Creek Corridor and City of Golden for the next 20 to 30 years. Learn more at www.clearcreekplan.net.

Golden History Museums
Effective July 1, 2010 Golden History Museums became a division of the City of Golden under the Parks and Recreation Department. This agreement came after months of due diligence and discussion amongst GHM, the City and the many stakeholders of the museums.

Golden History Museums, a non-profit corporation, had been under contract with the City of Golden to manage and operate three historic sites in Golden – Astor House,
Clear Creek History Park, and the Golden History Center (formerly called the Pioneer Museum) since 2009. Prior to 2009, GHM was known as Friends of Astor House/Clear Creek History Park which managed those two properties for many years.

As part of this agreement, the staff of Golden History Museums stayed with the organization and became City employees, continuing their exceptional oversight of the museums. The new agreement also created more opportunities for citizens to be involved in the City’s museums through participation with a new Friends of GHM organization and through a new Cultural Services and Museums Advisory Board.

The Golden History Center is located at 923 10th St. Astor House Museum is located at 822 12th St. Clear Creek History Museum is along Clear Creek southwest of Washington Avenue. These three museums make up the Golden History Museums. For more information, visit www.goldenhistorymuseums.org.

**New Online Registration Software**

The City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department launched a new online registration website in May 2010, rec.cityofgolden.net. The new site has many exciting features to make for an easier and enjoyable online registration experience. Guests are able to create a new account, add and remove family members, change their login name, set passwords and reprint receipts online. Parents can retrieve childcare statements securely at their convenience. Pass holders can view the number of visits remaining on a Golden Community Center Pass.

**Golden Bike Park**

On October 30, 2010 an estimated 300 people gathered at Tony Grampas Park in Golden to inaugurate and ride Golden Bike Park for the very first time.

Golden Bike Park contains the first purpose-built, mountain bike only trails in Golden. Ride options include a downhill flow trail, bi-directional access trail, skills area and beginner pump track. The gravity-fed flow park features rollers, berm turns and table-top jumps that are suitable for beginners and offer options for advanced riders to launch their bikes.

On average, the park has 15 to 20 riders per day including several non-residents. The park will offer training days for beginners and events in upcoming months including professional riders and racing teams.

Golden Bike Park was developed through a partnership between the City of Golden, Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA) and a group of dedicated local volunteers, the Golden Bike Park Group. There was no paid labor during the building of the park. The Golden Bike Park Group will kick off volunteer maintenance days the first Saturday of every month from 9a.m. to 12p.m. beginning in March. The Golden Bike Park is always looking for volunteers, visit www.goldenbikepark.com for upcoming training, events and to volunteer.

**2010 Parks and Recreation Department Awards**

- National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Winner
- Clear Creek Whitewater Course Starburst Award Winner for excellent use of Colorado Lottery Funds
- Tree City USA for the 20th consecutive year
- Golden Preschool, as a part of PLAY, received the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association “Organizational Citation” Columbine Award for providing creative training opportunities for preschool instructors.
- Splash Aquatic Park, 2nd Best Places for Families - Kids Pages Magazine
- Clear Creek RV Park, “Green” Campground - Trailer Life Magazine
- Fossil Trace, Best Golf Course in Denver - Westword
- Fossil Trace, Golf Digest Magazine, 4½ Stars Best Places to Play from 2006 thru 2010.
- Fossil Trace voted Best Golf Course in Denver by ESPN.com
Several exciting parks and recreation projects will commence in 2011. Preliminary design work is complete and construction for the renovation of the Golden Cemetery Office will begin in early 2010. The Cemetery Office was built in the 1930s and accessibility is difficult for the elderly and handicapped. The renovation will maintain the historic character of the building while providing better access and energy efficiencies.

The department was awarded joint venture grants from Jefferson County Open Space for two projects including a Vanover Tree Memorial at Vanover Park and a new splash pad surface at the Splash Aquatic Park. The Vanover Tree watched over the City of Golden for nearly 200 years. The tree had great historic significance to the community. During Golden’s earlier days, it was said that a Mr. Vanover was lynched at this tree by the local populace without a trial along with several others. The tree was honored in a memorial ceremony August 13, 2006. The Golden Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Golden Landmarks Association planned the event to give the community an opportunity to say goodbye to the tree before it was removed due to extensive rot of its 8-foot diameter trunk.

Portions of the Vanover Tree have remained in Vanover Park, enduring the elements Colorado weather brings. The Golden Landmarks Association has worked with a chronologist and partnered with the City of Golden to memorialize the Vanover Tree. The memorial will tell the “History of Golden” on a slab cut from the stump. The site plan provides for a shelter over the 8 ft diameter slab, a small playground, an additional shelter and picnic tables. The intent is to provide space for residents and visitors to enjoy Clear Creek and learn local history through the preserved and documented tree slab.

The Splash Aquatic Park is a 10 acre regional park facility drawing approximately 50,000 guests per year. Built in 2002, the park offers an activity pool with play features and a dump bucket, 2 large water slides, a lap pool, a beach area and splash pad. Over the last several seasons, maintenance costs have increased due to the aging facility. Golden City Council has requested staff look into making improvements to the Splash Aquatic Park to ensure it remains a regional park residents can be proud of.

The current Splash Pad feature has a soft surface which is not adhering to the deck. The last three seasons, the surface has been patched at the cost of approximately $3,000 each season. After investigation, staff is recommending replacement of the current soft surface with a Diamond Bright concrete River Rock surface. This new surface has greater longevity, won’t scratch little feet and is not slippery when wet. It can withstand the large amounts of water and chemical treatments season to season.

The Parks and Recreation Department will focus on existing infrastructure in 2011 including updating benches, tables and playground equipment throughout the parks system.