

2012 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 award-winning Golden 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, 402 acres of open space, 24 miles of trails, 10,000 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, Golden Museums Division, Golf Maintenance Division and Golf Clubhouse 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



President Obama waves to a large crowd gathered in Lions Park in Golden in September 2012.

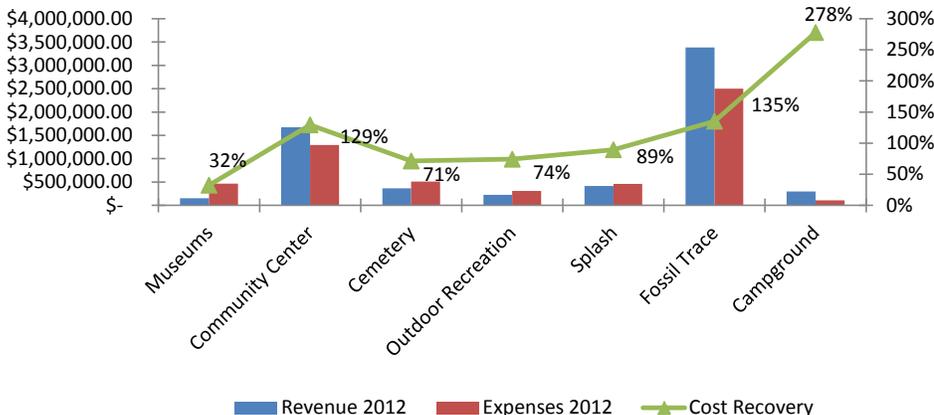
Golden citizens. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, consisting of seven members and one alternate which serve four-year terms, makes suggestions about policies and procedures, fees and charges, acceptance of park land, design of parks and other projects relating to the Parks and Recreation Department.

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/government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-advisory-board/.



Parks and Recreation User Fee Areas 2012



2012 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

- Jerry Hodgden - Chair
- Peter Gotseff - Vice Chair
- Jerry Harcek
- Emmy Dimitroff
- Stephanie Sung
- Torsten Lyon
- Laura Weinberg
- Dylan Grange - Alternate



City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

Accomplishments

A Visit from the Nation's Commander in Chief

It isn't every day the 44th President of the United States pays a visit to your office. On September 13, the Golden Community Center became home to President Obama, his staff and security team, on the campaign trail to his re-election. With front row seats, City of Golden staff and thousands of residents and visitors attended a rally in Lions Park.

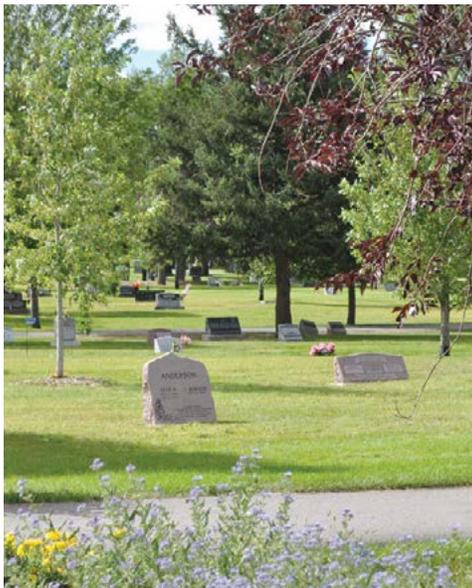
President Barack Obama is only the second President in history to travel inside Golden city limits. The other was Ulysses S. Grant back on April 28, 1873, according to local Golden historian Richard Gardner. That was three years before Colorado became a state, so residents weren't even allowed to vote for the President back then.

All politics aside, Golden was proud to host a President, and the President was impressed by our city. During his speech he said, "You know, this is just too pretty. I don't know how you guys get any work done around here."

City staff proved we can get a lot of work done...and quickly. The City had just four days notice to prepare for the event. It proved to be a great way to give the nation a good taste of all Golden has to offer.

Pond Removed, Lion's Park Play Space Expanded

Just prior to Obama's visit, fresh new sod was laid at Lions Park, replacing what used to be a large pond. After many tests and



The Golden Cemetery is changing with the times, accommodating traditional and more modern memorial methods.



Removing the pond in Lions Park added 63,000 square feet of grass for recreational use.

research, City of Golden officials decided the pond needed to be removed. Many of the concerns about the pond were the quality of the water and potential health concerns.

As crews removed the pond, they found much more than dirty water. There was a 55 gallon drum, two shopping carts, a hibachi grill, dozens of toys, hundreds of plastic plates and cups and several construction cones, just to name a few. There were also six goldfish, who have a new home in a nearby landscape pond.

Once the pond was filled in, Golden's Parks crews put in three new irrigation zones and then laid 63,000 square feet of sod. This is the short term look of Lions Park. Long term plans include a water splash pad feature that uses creek water.

Times Are Changing at the Golden Cemetery

With a new look and Cemetery Office remodel in 2011, the Golden Cemetery was creative in 2012. The current trend is shifting towards cremation over traditional burials. Already home to several columbarium to memorialize those who have passed on and were cremated, the Cemetery now offers a Memorial Ledger for those who are cremated and ashes are spread elsewhere. The ledger provides a memorial home for the deceased and can also be used for genealogy purposes by providing a record of the deceased for future generations.

The Golden Cemetery also received Historic Designation in 2012. Founded in 1873, the Golden Cemetery was nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance for exploration and settlement. It provided a formal burial ground for the growing settlement of Golden, and continues to do so

today nearly 140 years later. The Cemetery has been recognized for the outstanding citizens of the Golden area who are buried there, including Edward Berthoud, George West, George Morrison, John C. Vivian and Roy A. Hartzell.

Parks Embraces Technology

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a space-based satellite navigation system that provides location information. The Parks Division is embracing this system by using it to inventory all parks assets from trees to trash bins. In 2012 this data was gathered and will be managed by a software program called Cartegraph, also utilized by the Public Works Department to manage city assets such as utility lines and signs. GPS is also being used to track the city's noxious weed responsibilities for a more systematic approach to weed management.

Mobile Optimized Parks and Trail Pages

For visitors to Golden planning a day hike or regular users looking for a connection to Jefferson County Open Space Trails, the Parks and Recreation Department has updated the Parks, Trails and Open Space Map and made the parks and trails pages of the website www.cityofgolden.net/play/recreation-attractions/trails, mobile friendly! Printed maps are available at the Golden Chamber, Library and Golden Community Center. In addition, Golden trailheads have been added to Google Maps for easy navigation from anywhere!

Re•Create E-Newsletter Launched

Recreation activities for your entire family delivered to your inbox? How's that for



New Vanover Park Climbing Tree to be installed in 2013.

convenience! Recreation staff has developed a monthly e-newsletter for guests to stay current with new programs as well as be informed when important registration dates are approaching. Recreation enthusiasts will stay in the know by visiting <https://rec.cityofgolden.net> to sign up!

New Look for Splash

In 2010, City Council and staff committed to bringing Splash back to its former glory, to which park users had become accustomed. Prior to the 2011 season, the largest tube slide and several other park amenities were refinished. In addition, with the assistance of a Joint Venture Grant from Jefferson County Open Space, the splash pad received an upgrade to reduce maintenance costs and provide a safer surface for kids to play.

In 2012 the Splash received several additional upgrades including painting and resurfacing another large slide and the kiddie

slide, new chairs, branding and signage throughout the park, a remodel of the sand play area (again with the assistance of a Jefferson County Joint Venture Grant) and new funbrellas!

GHM Launches Online Photo Collection

In October the Golden History Museums launched its online photography collection. The initiative was one of several parts of the Golden Memories Project- an effort to digitize, grow and make accessible the City's photographic record. After more than a year of staff and volunteer efforts to digitize images, conserve photos, input data and merge records, more than 2,000 images were made available publically online.

GHM 2012 Special Events

GHM hosted some spectacular events in 2012. In June GHM hosted its annual concert and fundraiser, the

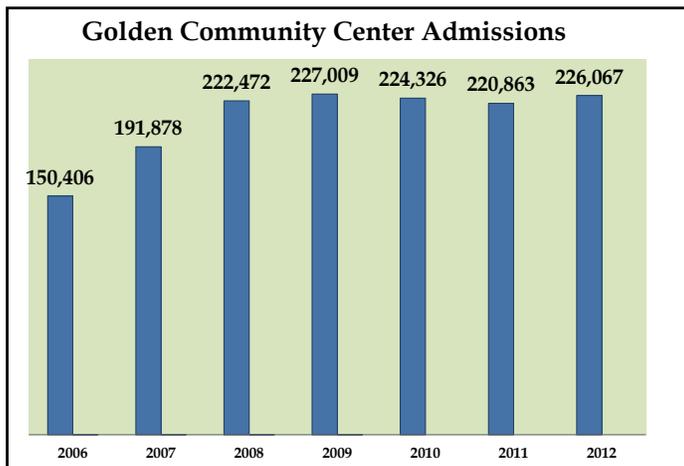
Parks and Recreation Facts

- 10,000 trees maintained
- 24 miles of trails
- 253 acres of parkland
- 402 acres of open space
- 14 acres of parkland per 1,000 population, meeting Gold Medal Community standards of 12 acres.
- Number of Part-time/Seasonal = 315
- Number of Full-time Employees = 41

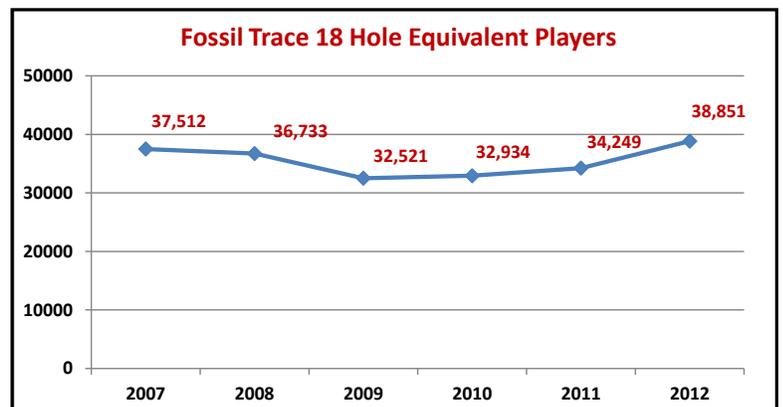
2012 Parks and Recreation Department Awards

- Tree City USA for 22 consecutive years
- Splash Aquatic Park, Top Five Best Places for Families - *Kids Pages Magazine*
- Clear Creek RV Park "Green" Campground - *Trailer Life Magazine*
- Fossil Trace a 4½ Star "Places to Play" 2012, *Golf Digest*
- Fossil Trace - 2012 Top Golf Courses in Colorado, *Colorado Avid Golfer*
- Fossil Trace - 2012 Best Courses in Colorado, *Golf Magazine*
- 2012 PGA Merchandiser of the Year - Public, Jim Hajek

Golden Music Festival, (formally known as the Summer Solstice Music Festival) to a record-breaking crowd of 1,000! A 60% increase over previous years. In October the Golden History Center hosted a new event, Black and White Night. More than 200 were in attendance for a fantastic event of entertainment, cocktails, desserts and music to celebrate and benefit the newly launched digital photography collections. GHM has already begun preparations for a celebration of the museums' 75th Anniversary in 2013!



*Includes Daily Admission, Punch Cards, Annual Passes, and Promotional Passes



Looking Ahead



New, attractive signs help visitors understand the "Golden Rule: Be good to the Creek and it will be good to you!"

Clear Creek South Side Trail Completion

The south side of Clear Creek Trail will be completed in early 2013 connecting the 6th Avenue Trail to downtown Golden and creating the integral loop around Clear Creek. The trail will be concrete with an adjacent soft surface path.

Clear Creek Corridor Management Plan

The Clear Creek Management Plan process will begin with an Open House in early 2013. Staff will be working closely with the National Parks Service to determine how residents and visitors enjoy Clear Creek and discover potential solutions to balance the many desired creek experiences. Management strategies will be put in place for summer 2013 to be evaluated at the season's end. Strategies could include parking permits and modification to existing parking, increased enforcement, signage, fencing to protect sensitive areas and new access points. Staff anticipates user surveys and public engagement through 2013. The results will culminate into a Draft Clear Creek Management Plan to be approved by City Council in 2014.



Norman D. Park

Following the successful sale in 2013 of one of

the city-owned lots in the Norman D. Park area, the City will have funding available to make improvements to its oldest playground at Norman D. Park. A public engagement process and survey will help staff determine the needs of the surrounding residents in their neighborhood park. The park will likely see a larger footprint, new equipment and surfacing to accommodate the growing neighborhood. Construction is anticipated to begin in late summer 2013.

Vanover Park

It all began with a really old tree. The infamous Vanover Tree, also known as the hanging tree, was cut down in 2005 due to interior rot and safety concerns. Reported to be over 150 years old, the tree was the focal point to the new park concept activating the west side of Vanover Park. The east side of the park is intended to remain quiet and contemplative, a nice place to enjoy lunch. The unused west side will feature a tree-themed playground with a climbing structure, musical play, and nature play features such as log walks and tunnels. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a public meeting and approved the concept in 2012. Construction is set to take place in summer 2013.

The Vanover Tree was cut down in 2005 due to interior rot and safety concerns.

New Parks and Recreation Amenities in the Last 10 Years:

- Hockey Stop In-Line Hockey Rink (2001)
- US 6 Bike Trail from C-470 to 19th Street (2002)
- Clear Creek Whitewater Course Expansion (2002)
- Splash Aquatic Park (2002)
- Trails at Washington St Bridge (2003)
- Fossil Trace Golf Club (2003)
- Trail from Johnson Road to Splash (2004)
- Discovery Park (2006)
- Tony Grampas Gym Remodel (2006)
- Rooney Road Sports Complex (2007)
- Golden Community Center Expansion and Remodel (2007)
- Illinois Street Trail from Fossil Trace to 6th Avenue (2008)
- Playground resurfacing at Lions Park, Parfet Park and Tony Grampas Park (2009)
- 6th Avenue Trail from 19th Street to Clear Creek (2010)
- Pedestrian Bridge over Clear Creek (2010)
- Golden History Museums become a Division of the Department (2010)
- Golden Cemetery Office Remodel (2011)
- Splash Remodel (2012)



National Gold Medal Winner



CAPRA Accredited



City of Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

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