

# 2013 Annual Report



Norman D. Park after 2013 Improvements.

## 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 park land, 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 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

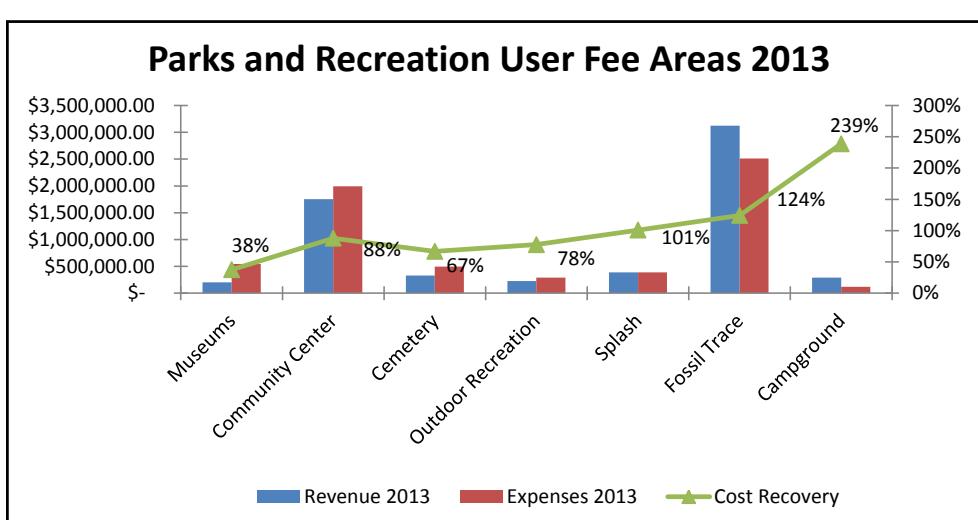
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meet on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month. The third Tuesday is the regular meeting date. These meetings take place in the Golden Community Center, 1470 10th St., Golden, Colorado, 80401, at 7 p.m. For more information and to view meeting minutes, visit [www.cityofgolden.net/government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-advisory-board/](http://www.cityofgolden.net/government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-advisory-board/).

## 2013 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

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



**City of  
Golden**  
PARKS AND RECREATION



# Accomplishments

## Golden Cemetery Offers New Services

A historic cemetery, the Golden Cemetery offers both traditional and modern memorials at an affordable cost. In 2013, the Cemetery worked towards its new vision, to be the best cemetery in Colorado. While offering traditional headstones and memorial services, the Cemetery also added new lower cost options including a Cremation Garden and Memorial Wall.

The Memorial Wall inscription and record-keeping service provides a form of remembrance and memorial for those who choose to cremate and, for a number of reasons, not inter the ashes into a cemetery. It is to provide a place for the life of the deceased to be remembered for generations to come. Genealogy is a large part of today's society and the City of Golden will be able to maintain these records forever. The Golden Cemetery will also engrave the name and dates of the deceased on the Memorial Wall. The new Cremation Garden features a waterfall, walkways, and planter beds filled with colorful flowers in season.

The Golden Cemetery offers single and double in-ground plots as well as columbarium niches for cremated remains. Like the Memorial Wall, records will be maintained just as they are with traditional burials.

## 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 2013 this data was gathered and managed by a software program called Cartograph, 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.

## Clear Creek South Side Trail Completion

The long awaited south side of Clear Creek Trail opened in 2013 connecting the 6th Avenue Trail to downtown Golden and creating the integral loop around Clear Creek. The trail is concrete with an adjacent soft surface path for runners, and benches to enjoy the view.

## Clear Creek Corridor Management Plan

The Clear Creek Management Plan process began with an Open



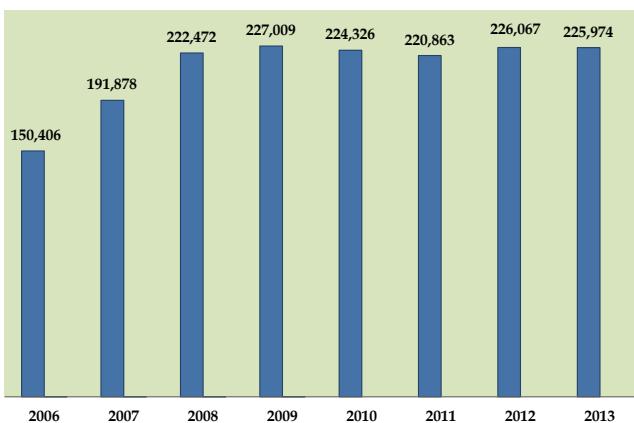
Golden Cemetery's new Cremation Garden.

House in early 2013. Staff partnered 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 with preservation of the natural resource. Management strategies were put in place for summer 2013 including prohibition of alcohol, open containers, smoking, dogs off leash, etc. Other mitigation strategies included signage, a communications campaign, increased enforcement by new Park Ranger staff, widening of the trail at critical points and fencing. The summer season was successful and the Draft Clear Creek Management Plan was completed incorporating future potential strategies including parking permits and modification to existing parking, as well as new access points and hardscaping to protect sensitive areas while still providing access to fun in the creek. Staff anticipates Council review of the Draft plan in early 2014.

## Norman D. Park Improvements

Following the successful sale in 2013 of one of the city-owned lots in the Norman D. Park area, the City had funding available to make improvements to its oldest playground at Norman D. Park. A public engagement process and survey helped staff determine the needs of the surrounding residents in their neighborhood park. Today, Norman D. Park is a happening spot, with a modern playground in a larger footprint, three safety surfaces, a balance beam, spin buckets, swings, a bike path, a climbing boulder and its original open grassy areas to accommodate the growing neighborhood. Construction was completed in early 2014, with a grand opening to be held summer 2014.

### Golden Community Center Admissions



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

### Parks and Recreation Facts

- 10,000 trees maintained
- 24 miles of trails
- 253 acres of park land
- 402 acres of open space
- 14 acres of park land per 1,000 population, meeting Gold Medal Community standards of 12 acres.
- Number of Part-time/Seasonal = 300
- Number of Full-time Employees = 45



Golden History Center's "Face to Face" Exhibit.

## Vanover Park Improvements

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 the Vanover Park. The east side of Vanover Park was intended to remain quiet and contemplative, a nice place to enjoy lunch. The unused west side now features a tree-themed playground with a climbing structure, boulders, and nature play features such as log walks and tunnels. Construction was completed in 2013 after several public meetings at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to determine its new look. It has proven a unique and fun place to play!

## Golden History Center Exhibits

To commemorate GHM's 75th Anniversary in 2013, the Golden History Center opened the new exhibit, "Face to Face: Contemporary Portraits of Legendary Locals" by artist Rick Souders. Inspired by a set of portraits of early Golden pioneers that were painted for the Museum's opening in 1938, the contemporary photography show celebrates 15 living locals who've made a significant impact on Golden's civic, spiritual, educational and cultural landscape. The biographies and photographs are now part of GHM's permanent collection.



Golden Music Festival.

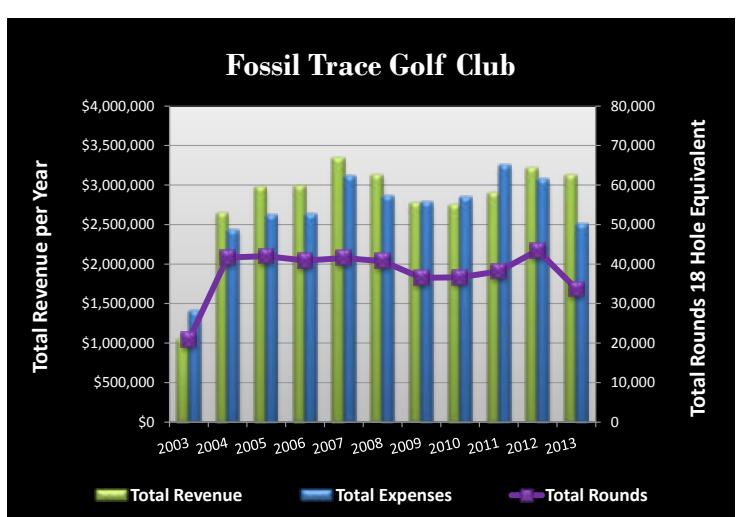
In October, GHC opened the exhibit "Made in Golden: Where Innovation Lives." The exhibit marks the completion of the last gallery to be reinstalled since the History Center's transfer to City operations in 2010. "Made in Golden" explores the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our city. Beginning with the advent of the aluminum can by Coors in 1959; the exhibit examines more recent Golden history and features such Golden inventions as Spyderco knives, CoorsTek Porcelain, KONG dog toys and Boppy nursing pillows. Hands-on activity stations, multi-media components, gallery demonstrations and a family-centered "Innovation Lab" are hallmarks of the History Center's new approach to engaging exhibits.

## Golden Music Festival a Huge Success

After successive years of growth, the newly renamed Golden Music Festival expanded in 2013 from a single-day to a three-day bluegrass concert. More than 1,800 people gathered for what is now Golden's largest outdoor concert event. Golden Music Festival strives to be the Denver Metro area's largest and best bluegrass concert and highlight the most talented, upcoming musicians from the Front Range. Golden Music Festival is presented by the Friends of Golden History Museums and earned more than \$20,000 to support the Museums' collections and programs in 2013.

## 2013 Parks and Recreation Department Awards

- Tree City USA for 23 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 was voted by *5280 Magazine*, "Top of the Town."
- Fossil Trace was voted by readers of *Colorado Avid Golfer Magazine*, "Best Front Range Course," "Best Service" and "Best Charity Tournament Venue."
- Fossil Trace was voted by Denver A-List, "Best Golf Course in Denver."
- Fossil Trace was voted by *Golf Digest Magazine*, "Top 50 Courses for Women" and "4½ Stars Places to Play."



## Accomplishments *(continued)*

### Recreation Invests in Infrastructure and User Experience

2013 was a year of investing in current infrastructure and improving the user experience in the Recreation Division. The Golden Community Center has replaced all of the carpeting in the lower level and updated all of the drinking fountains to be refill friendly, green and ADA accessible. Swim lessons had a five year high both in revenue and participation. For the first time, full time staff work seven days a week at the center providing better customer service. Technology was also a focus in 2013 with several new features added to WebTrac, the online recreation software, including facility reservations and online pass management capabilities.

In the area of athletics, an investment was made to improve the infields at Ulysses Park and outfield maintenance at Tony Grampsas Park.

The Splash Aquatic Park had another successful operational year recovering 100% of operational costs and replacing equipment such as umbrellas, tables and chairs. A significant vendor change from Pepsi to Coke provided a new level of marketing equipment in the concessions service. The culture of safety and teamwork resonated through the lifeguard staff as they earned 3rd place at the Annual Life Guard Games event. Splash will host the summer swimming state championships in 2014, the third time in five years.

### Looking Ahead, the Future of Parks

#### Golden Heights and Beverly Heights Park to Receive a New Look

One of the top priorities of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and department staff is to invest in existing infrastructure. The City of Golden has several playgrounds over 20 years old, many of which are no longer supported by their manufacturer. Following successful revitalization of two playgrounds in 2013 (Norman D. Park and Vanover Park), Parks and Recreation staff will tackle two additional neighborhood playgrounds in 2014. Each is unique, and an extensive public process will take place with the surrounding neighbors to determine what playground equipment will be selected for each location. Staff anticipates construction of both playgrounds in summer of 2014.



*The Splash Aquatic Park.*

#### Clear Creek RV Park, the Place to Stay in Downtown Golden

2013 was a very successful year for the Clear Creek RV Park with the park exceeding its annual revenue projection by \$17,371.04 for a net profit of \$167,035.56!

Visitors renting sites was consistent with previous years with 11,015 sites rented. Unfortunately two evacuations occurred due to high water on the creek which reduced additional rentals. These are the first evacuations the Clear Creek RV Park has experienced in the last 15 years. The Park has many repeat visitors coming from various parts of the United States as well as foreign countries.

Capital Plans for 2014 include a new heating system for the bath house and an upgrade of the water system for the full hookup sites.

### New Parks and Recreation Amenities in the Last 10 Years:

- Trails at Washington Street Bridge (2003)
- Fossil Trace Golf Club (2003)
- Trail from Johnson Road to Splash (2004)
- Discovery Park (2006)
- Tony Grampsas Gym Remodel (2006)
- Rooney Road Sports Complex (2007)
- Golden Community Center Expansion & Remodel (2007)
- Illinois Street Trail from Fossil Trace to 6th Avenue (2008)
- Playground resurfacing at Lions Park, Parfet Park and Tony Grampsas 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)
- Vanover Park Remodel (2013)
- Norman D. Park Remodel (2013)
- Golden Cemetery Cremation Garden and Memorial Ledger (2013)

#### Clear Creek Improvements

Following an Ecological Assessment of the health of Clear Creek, and completion of the Clear Creek Management Plan, funding was budgeted to create 10 new access points while continuing to restrict access to sensitive areas along the creek banks. One new access will include bank stabilization behind the Golden Library including a nice viewing area and contemplative spaces to enjoy the creek surroundings.

#### Outdoor Exercise Equipment

The Parks and Recreation Department will also replace the outdated exercise equipment along the north side of Clear Creek Trail in the summer of 2014 with new equipment suitable for CrossFit style workouts and body resistance training as a part of the Clear Creek Management Plan project to continue to provide places for residents and visitors to recreate.



National Gold  
Medal Winner



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