

2014 Annual Report



GCC 20th Anniversary - Largest and loudest Zumba class!

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 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 St., Golden, Colorado, 80401, at 7 p.m. For more information and to view meeting minutes or listen to audio of the minutes, visit www.cityofgolden.net/government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-advisory-board/.

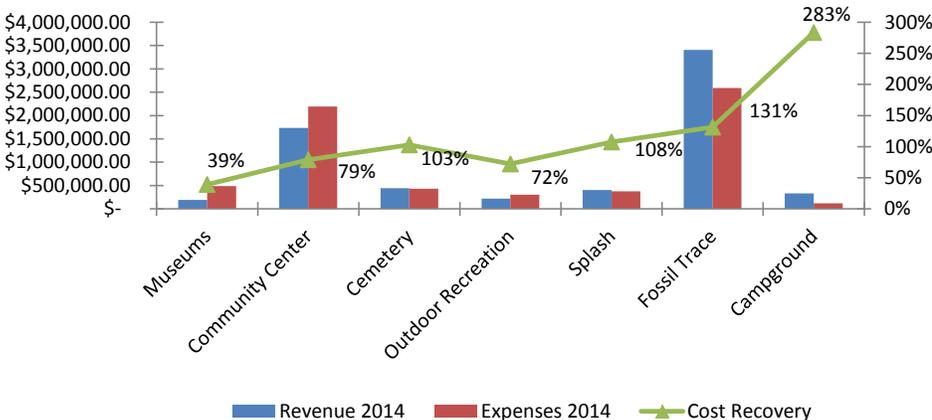
2014 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

- Torsten Lyon - Chair
- Jerry Harcek - Vice Chair
- Pete Gotseff
- Emmy Dimitroff
- Stephanie Sung
- Jerry Hodgden
- Casey Brown
- Craig Middleton - Alternate



City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation User Fee Areas 2014



Accomplishments

Golden Parks and Recreation Achieves Accreditation

Golden Parks and Recreation was accredited for the second time on Oct. 13 and continues to be among the elite park and recreation agencies across the country, earning this distinction through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This accomplishment was awarded during the 2014 National Recreation and Parks Association Congress and Exposition in Charlotte, NC.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

As part of the accreditation process, Golden Parks and Recreation had to demonstrate compliance with 144 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

Golden Heights and Beverly Heights Parks Receive a New Look

Recognizing the value of revitalized play after renovating Vanover Park and Norman D. Park in 2013, funding was budgeted in 2014 to make improvements to two additional neighborhood playgrounds in the city. Golden Heights Park; located at 16401 W. 2nd Place; and Beverly Heights Park; located at 2151 Lookout Mountain Road; received new playgrounds and safety surfaces. An extensive public input process including an online survey and a series of public meetings to review preliminary concepts and gather ideas determined what features the community and neighboring residents would like to see and enjoy. The new parks each boast a three story slide, climbing features and equipment unique to Golden's playground system.

Other improvements to the Golden Parks System in 2014 included a new ADA accessible poured-in-place safety surface at Southridge Park, and a new post tension concrete play surface for basketball at White Ash Mine Basketball Court.



Beverly Heights Ribbon Cutting

Parks and Recreation Saves Lives

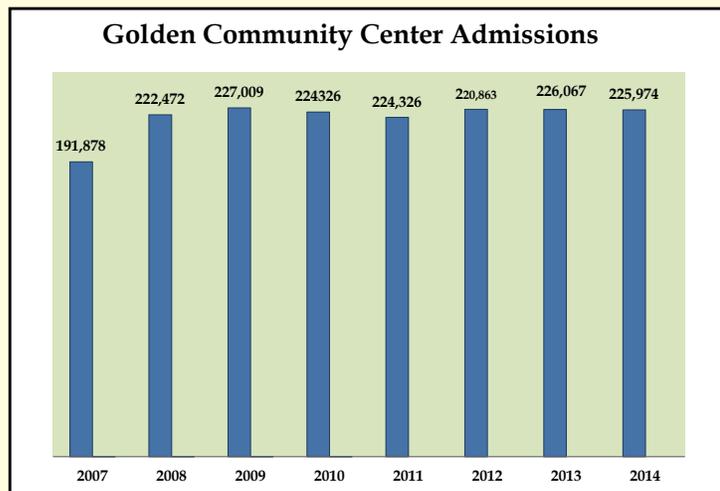
In 2014, parks and recreation staff saved the lives of two participants by acting quickly and working well together. A gentleman was playing basketball at Tony Grampsas Gym in an "Over 50" League. Upon collapsing, an AED was used to restart his heart. He continues to enjoy the Golden basketball leagues today.

The second participant was a toddler pulled from the water at the Splash Aquatic Park, unconscious and not breathing. The child was resuscitated by lifeguard staff and today has no lasting health issues from the traumatic event. In both cases staff has been recognized for their lifesaving efforts and quick action!

History Museums Debuts Golden Frontier Olympics

The Golden History Museums hosted a new competitive event on Saturday, Sept 13, 2014 with a focus on local history. The Golden Frontier Olympics is a series of team events, inspired by real and historic neighborhood activities in nearby Clear Creek Canyon. Events ranged from pie eating to a relay modeled after the Pony Express. Several teams participated by testing their historic skills and knowledge and getting a taste of what it was like for Colorado pioneers.

Another successful Golden History Museums event, the Golden Music Festival, had record attendance in 2014 with over 2,000 people enjoying the performances. The Hands on History youth program also had the highest attendance in its history with over 200 children.



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

Parks and Recreation Facts

- 8,500 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 = 314
- Number of Full-time Employees = 43



Golden Frontier Olympics

Golden Community Center Celebrates 20 Years



community • family • wellness
GOLDEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Golden voters passed a bond issue for the Golden Community Center back in the early 90's by a very small margin... only 11 votes. Since the GCC was built in 1994, Golden has not looked back. The community was invited to join staff at the Golden Community Center Oct. 21-25, 2014 to celebrate individual, family and community wellness with a week of activities including a "Look Back" Video, Zumba and family wellness classes, and daily giveaways including healthy snacks, water bottles and towels. Staff is looking forward to another successful 20 years of recreation at GCC!

Clear Creek RV Park, Specialty Lodges in Downtown Golden

The Clear Creek RV Park ended 2014 as the #2 *Specialty Lodges in Golden* on Trip Advisor! The RV market continues to grow and guests love staying in Golden along the bubbling sounds of Clear Creek. The Clear Creek RV Park exceeded its annual revenue projection by \$13,331 for a net profit of \$215,748. This is surprising after having the center island and 11 full hook up sites shut down for the month of November to bury a water line. Visitors renting sites was consistent with previous years with 10,905 sites rented. The Clear Creek RV Park currently has a 100% occupancy rating.

2014 was also a time of change at the park. Staff worked diligently to convert to a new software program which allows



Fossil Trace Golf Club

for online reservations in 2015 on the park's new website www.clearcreekrvpark.com. New signage was installed, logo and branding created. 2015 will welcome additional changes in fee structure and a refresh of the main office space.

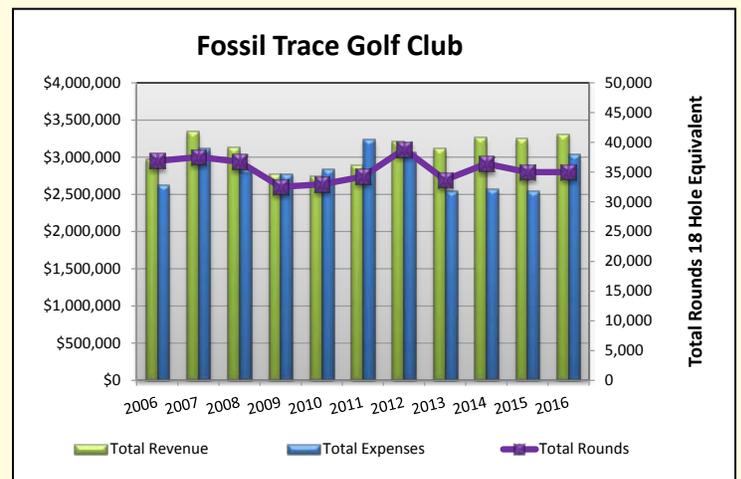
Vending Meets USDA Healthy Snacks in Schools Guidelines

When the urge to snack arrives at City Hall or the Golden Community Center, guests and staff had new healthy vending options to choose from in 2014. New state of the art vending machines provide nutrition information on the food vended, are ADA accessible and have the option to purchase with a credit card. Golden is one of the first municipalities to provide a vending option which meets the USDA Healthy Snacks in Schools guidelines by 100%. Learn more about USDA Healthy Snacks in Schools at www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/allfoods_flyer.pdf. This means foods vended from the new machines meet calorie, fat, sugar, sodium and other healthy requirements.

Staff is pleased to report the machines are being used and the various products merchandized are selling better than anticipated, maintaining the revenue vending machines generated in previous years with less healthy alternatives.

2014 Parks and Recreation Department Awards

- Tree City USA for 24 consecutive years
- Splash Aquatic Park staff, 3rd Place - *Lifeguard Games*
- Clear Creek RV Park, "Green" Campground - *Trailer Life Magazine*
- 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."
- Fossil Trace's Adam Finch named Colorado PGA Assistant of the Year
- Fossil Trace's Jim Hajek named Colorado PGA Merchandiser of the Year-Public



Looking Ahead, the Future of Parks and Recreation

Wonderful projects, new events and programs were debuted in 2014 for the betterment of parks and recreation and 2015 is shaping up to be another exciting year!

Ulysses Skate Park Remodel

Ulysses Skate Park was installed in 1992 and was the first of its kind. The park attracted youth and adults alike from the surrounding region. No longer in its prime, the park has become worn due to use and weather. The future of Ulysses Skate Park is yet to be determined, but City Council has elected to set aside capital funds to replace this important amenity. Two groups of Colorado School of Mines Students have provided engineering drawings and design options. Staff will develop a committee of stake holders in early 2015 to lead a public process to determine the future of the skate park. The new park will likely have modernized play features including bowls, areas for street skate and perhaps even lighting and shelter. It will remain a smaller skate park, around 5,000 square feet, the recommended standard for the size of the Golden community.

Wyoming Circle Park

In 2014, the City of Golden received a donation to turn the former trailhead and parking lot for North Table Mountain into a park space and access area for neighborhood residents. Located on the 500 block of Wyoming Circle, the new park will be built in 2015 and include some parking, a shelter and multi-use park space.

Bachman Property

In 2010, the City of Golden partnered with Jefferson County to purchase the Bachman Property to meet an underserved park need in south west Golden. The property, located at 18300 W. 4th Ave., will be discussed with neighborhood residents through public meetings to determine how it could or should be accessed and utilized by the community.

W. 44th Avenue Trail

The City of Golden partnered with Jefferson County Open Space once again in 2014 to apply for a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado for the development and construction of the W. 44th Avenue Trail connecting Clear Creek Trail and downtown Golden to Tony Grampas Memorial Sports Complex and North Table Mountain. The City has two years to complete this integral connection and is on target to break ground spring of 2015. This Trail is also a priority segment of the Colorado Front Range Trail and has a significant regional impact.

6th and 19th Park

On April 14, 2013, City staff solicited input on design, construction and communication for the Hwy 6 and 19th Street interchange project. The City used that input to develop



Astor House Museum

several preliminary design concepts, which were then presented at a public open house on July 15, 2014 at the Colorado School of Mines Student Center. Input on those concepts was subsequently collected through Aug. 1, 2014. Three park examples with dozens of individual park features and amenities were developed for the lid over the new interchange. A mountain park concept was deemed the favorite during the public process. Parks and Recreation staff will work closely with Public Works during the development of this park beginning in 2015. In addition, the park will include a 12 foot pedestrian/bike trail that will cross Hwy 6.

Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan Update

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by Golden City Council in 2008. Primarily a land use plan, the document is used to define a 15 to 20 year vision for Golden Parks and Recreation. It includes a detailed inventory of park lands and quantifies the level of service for existing and future residents. Master Plans of this nature are typically updated every five years. Staff will be working to update the plan in 2015 by analyzing community needs through surveys and discussion groups, tracking trends in the field, updating areas which have been accomplished in the 2008 plan, developing new goals and objectives as well as an action plan for implementation.

Astor House Stabilization

Golden History Museums received a \$200,000 grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund to complete much needed structural improvements for the nearly 150-year-old Astor House Museum. In 2014, City Council voted to accept and match the grant and construction is slated to begin in late 2015. Treatments intended to strengthen the building's structure include constructing concrete retaining walls in the building's two basements, inserting steel support beams on the second and third floors, and re-grading the backyard drainage away from the foundation. The project should be completed in 2016 with a full reinterpretation of galleries and experiences to follow!

Did You Know...

- Golden History Museums obtained the highest grant amount ever awarded by SCFD in the amount of \$47,707.
- Golden Parks and Recreation is one of 139 agencies nationwide to receive CAPRA Accredited designation. 2014 was the second time Golden was recognized after its initial accreditation in 2009.
- The City has installed solar panels at Tony Grampas Gym, Splash Aquatic Park, Fossil Trace Golf Club and the City Shops.
- Golden History Museums was awarded \$200,000 from the State Historical Fund for the Astor House rehabilitation project.
- Golden Parks and Recreation received a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado for \$210,000 and Jefferson County Open Space for \$400,000 to build the W. 44th Avenue Trail in 2015.
- Golden History Museums had record attendance at the Golden Music Festival with over 2,000 people.
- The Clear Creek RV Park is ranked #2 on Trip Advisor for Places to Stay in Golden, Colorado.
- The new website, www.fossiltrace.com won Davey Awards for Websites - Sports Category and Visual Appeal Category.



**National Gold
Medal Winner**



**CAPRA
Accredited**



**City of
Golden**
PARKS AND RECREATION

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