

# 2016 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.



Fossil Trace Golf Club, Hole #12. Fossil Trace was named "2016 Best Golf Course in Denver" by Denver A-List. Photo by Robert Castellino.

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, 25 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

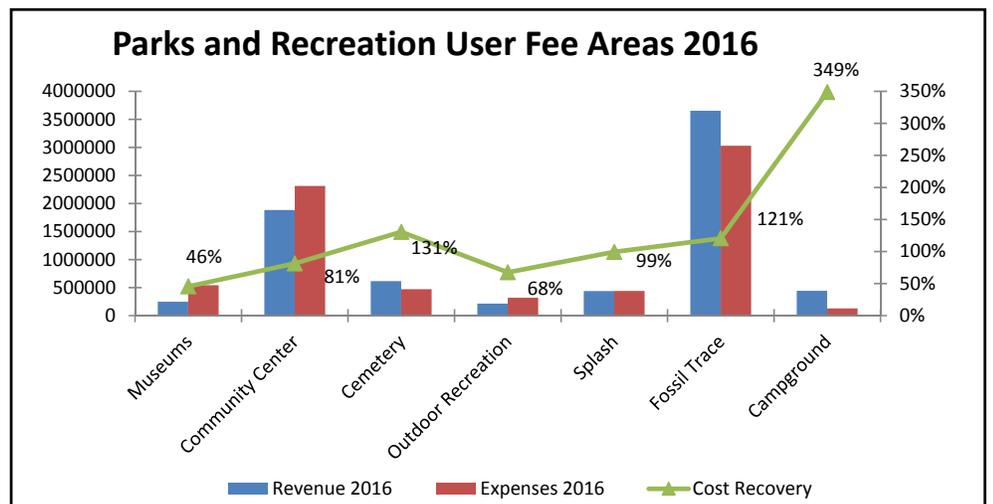
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meet on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. The third Tuesday is the regular meeting date. These meetings take place in the Golden Community Center, 1470 10th Street, Golden, Colorado, 80401, at 7 p.m. For more information and to view meeting minutes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

## 2016 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

- Jennifer Trout - Chair
- Cynthia Szymanski - Vice Chair
- Torsten Lyon
- Jerry Harcek
- Emmy Dimitroff
- Craig Middleton - Alternate
- Bud Rockhill
- Amirah Shahid



City of  
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PARKS AND RECREATION



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Astor House Stands Tall

The Astor House's storied history began a new chapter with the completion of construction to improve its foundation and shore up its supports. City staff and contractors discovered new history disclosed during the process and are looking forward to a productive future for this fabulous structure.

After closing the doors in October 2015, an exhaustive asbestos mitigation project exposed the bones of the building's interior, revealing 150 years' worth of astonishing building practices. Evidence of a nineteenth century roof fire could be seen in the studs and rafters, and randomly sistered joists and wall studs that didn't reach the floor were common. True 2" x 4" studs of rough-sawn lumber (as opposed to modern 1.5" x 3.5" boards) fastened with square nails were found throughout.

Late in the summer, shoring was added in the basement, first and second floors to prepare for new steel structural elements to support the floors and even up the settling that had occurred in the building. Custom joist hangers connected historic joists to new steel beams. New concrete foundations replaced the rock and brick rubble that had supported the building for so long. When the shoring was removed, a spacious, safe structure was left behind, with fewer slanting floors and more space for heating systems in the dual basements.

Finally, late in 2016 the backyard was regraded to drain runoff away from the building and keep the interior dry, with French drains covered in attractive flagstone.



The Astor House with its interior construction exposed after 150 years.

The building is ready for the next chapter in its history. Newly discovered artifacts unearthed from the construction are now on view at the Golden History Center, open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. six days per week. Visit [www.GoldenHistory.org](http://www.GoldenHistory.org) for more details.

## Master Plan Update

The Golden Parks and Recreation Department has a strong commitment to provide the highest quality parks and recreation facilities and recreation programs possible for its citizens. The Department adopted the Master Plan Update on January 12, 2017. The Master Plan Update further integrates the 2008 City of Golden Parks and Recreation Master Plan by combining departmental recommendations with a special focus on public health improvement.

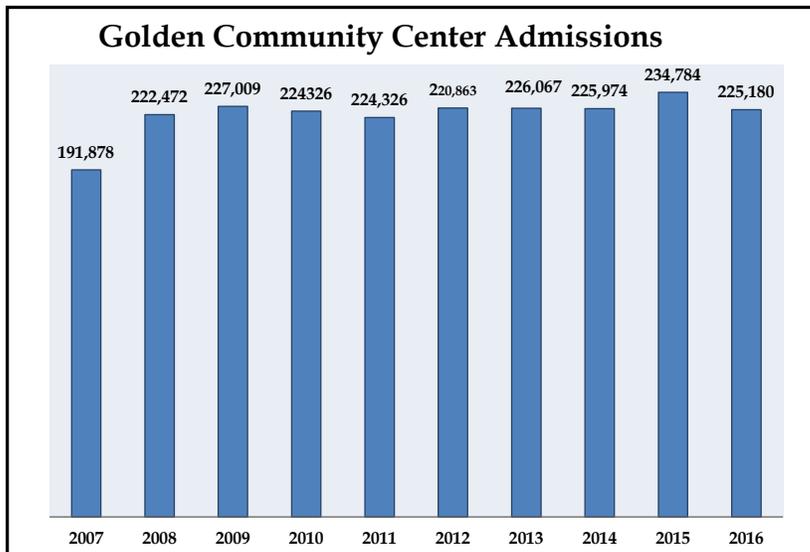
The primary purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is to create a clear and concise set of goals, policies and objectives that will provide direction to City staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

and the City Council for future development, re-development and enhancement of the City's parks system, open space, trails, recreation facilities, recreation programs and services.

Working with consultants, Greenplay LLC, the Department collected and analyzed data, drafted and implemented a citizen survey, and met with city staff and the community stakeholders to update the Golden's Parks and Recreation core planning document. The Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan Update works in conjunction with the Golden Vision 2030 Plan and will serve as an integral, additional component of the 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. For more information, visit [www.cityofgolden.net/government/departments-divisions/parks-and-recreation/master-plans/master-plan-update/](http://www.cityofgolden.net/government/departments-divisions/parks-and-recreation/master-plans/master-plan-update/).

## New Park Rules

The City of Golden offers its residents and visitors one of the most comprehensive park and recreation systems in the country,



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

## Golden Parks and Recreation Facts

- 10,000 trees maintained
- 25 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 = 332
- Number of full-time employees = 43
- Number of volunteers = 180

contributing to the City's reputation as a preferred location for people to live, work and play. Golden has unparalleled parks and open spaces that are well-used throughout the year by people of all ages, and provide a wide menu of different activities for recreation, leisure and sports.

The Parks and Recreation Department created a limited number of guidelines to protect our natural resources for the enjoyment of residents and visitors, and to ensure that those new to Golden are aware of what is required to maintain quality parks and open spaces. These are being provided to enable as many people as possible to enjoy our parks system in accordance with the purpose for which they were created, and to preserve these treasured resources for future generations.

The park rules were developed after receiving public feedback over the course of summer and fall 2016 through various public meetings, online feedback forms, Golden Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings, and park user group discussions. An unabridged version of the new Golden Park Rules can be found online at [www.cityofgolden.net/media/GoldenParkRules.pdf](http://www.cityofgolden.net/media/GoldenParkRules.pdf).

## West 44th Avenue Trail

Golden Parks and Recreation has partnered with Jefferson County Open Space and Parks to fulfill a mutual goal, to provide integral trail connections and safe, convenient access to parks and open space. In 2014 the City and County applied for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Path to Parks Grant to assist with the cost of building the W. 44th Avenue Trail connecting Clear Creek Trail to Salvia Street, Golden to Tony Grampsas and North Table Mountain Parks.



Building the main bowl feature of the award winning Ulysses Skateboard Park.

The W. 44th Avenue Trail Project was awarded the Path to Parks Grant. GOCO funding will be covering approximately 25% of the project, with Jefferson County and the City of Golden sharing the remaining expense.

Construction for the W. 44th Avenue Trail is now in the final stages. The trail will safely connect Tony Grampsas Park to the rest of Golden with a 10-foot concrete trail that is independent of the traffic lanes of W. 44th Ave. Just over three quarters of a mile, the trail connection will begin west of the Hwy 58 overpass at Clear Creek Trail and end at Salvia Street. The City has received overwhelming support for the project.

## Ulysses Skatepark

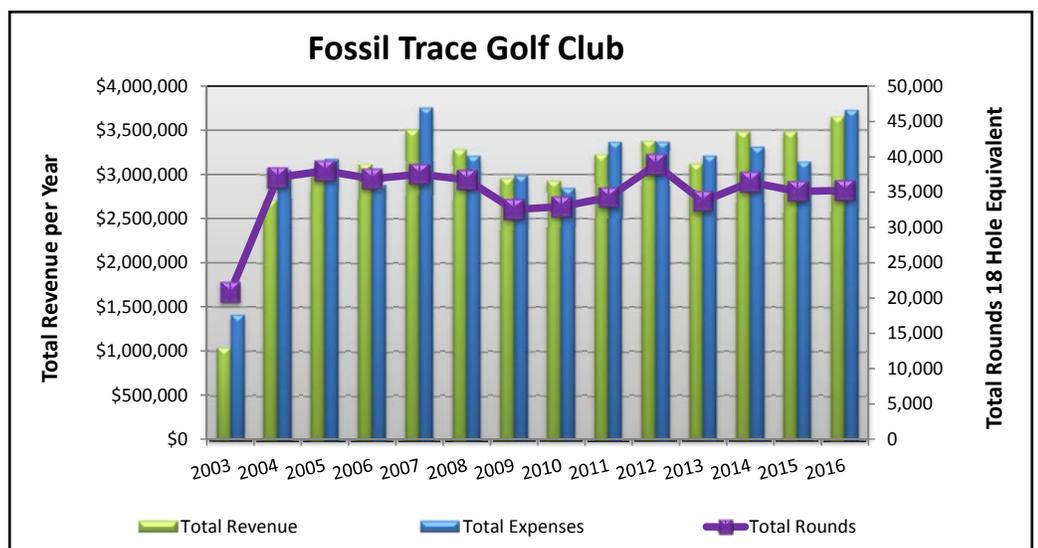
The original skate park at Ulysses Park, which is near South Golden Road, was cutting-edge

when it opened in 1992. However, skaters eventually tended to visit skate parks in neighboring cities that offered more advanced and exciting features. In July 2015, Golden City Council awarded an \$800,000 contract to Team Pain to redesign the skate park into a state-of-the-art facility. And at a September 2015 city council meeting, all seven council members gave a thumbs-up approval of Team Pain's conceptual design.

The designs included a surprise feature. What is now affectionately referred to as the "Big O," is a tunnel with Golden carved into the top, the logo casts the city's name in shadow, tracking the sun. Construction kicked off on May 9, 2016. Skaters began using the park in late fall as the landscaping and irrigation was being installed. The Ribbon Cutting will be on April 22, 2017.

## 2016 Parks and Recreation Department Awards

- Tree City USA for **26** consecutive years
- Fossil Trace Wins 2016 Best Golf Course in Denver - *Denver A-List*
- 2016 Colorado Golf Hall of Fame "Person of the Year" - Jim Hajek, PGA
- Golden Preschool achieved the first and only Colorado Shines 5-star rating in Jefferson County

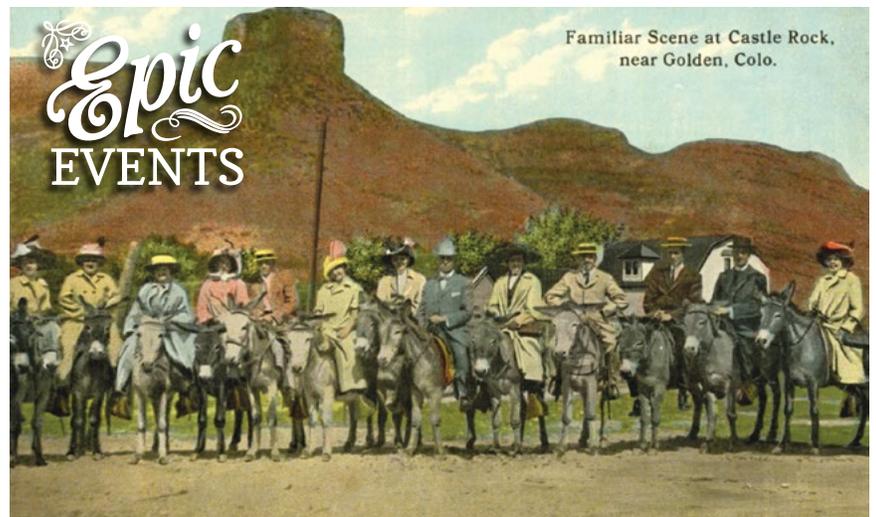


## Did You Know That in 2016...

- New outdoor fitness equipment was installed near Lions Park along Clear Creek
- Preschool and Day Camp programs continue to grow. Golden Preschool achieved the first and only Colorado Shines 5-star rating in Jefferson County.
- Learn to Swim programs served over 1,800 participants.
- Splash hosted the Summer League Swimming Championships, hosting 8,500 - 9,000 visitors throughout the weekend.
- Golden lifeguard staff was awarded 4th place at the 2016 CPRA Lifeguard Games Competition.
- Parks and Recreation participated in the Jefferson County Sip Smart program at Splash promoting healthy drink and menu options at the concessions stands. This resulted in an increase in sales and a reduction in expenses.
- Fossil Trace hosted the PGA National Instruction Day which aired live on the Golf Channel. This event had millions of viewers from around the globe.
- Golden History Museums opened *Epic Events*, a timeline exhibit of Golden's history and Phase I of the Discovery Awaits Campaign.
- Once again, registration for Golden History Museums' classroom outreach program *Building Colorado* boomed! This program visits 3rd and 4th grade classrooms across the Denver-Metro region. Registration increased 246% for Building Colorado in 2016.
- Golden History Museums completed the structural rehabilitation of the Astor House, and developed the Colorado Beer Museum concept as a potential new use of Astor House that is broadly appealing, connects to local history, preserves and honors the structure, and is potentially self-sustaining.
- The Front Porch at the Golden Community Center reached over **2,900** SilverSneakers® registered members.
- Overall, Golden Community Center welcomed over **225,000** patrons in 2016. **Come see us in 2017!**



Staff of the Golden Community Center (GCC) Preschool received their certification as the first licensed preschool program in Jefferson County to receive a perfect score and 5 star rating from Colorado Shines for quality education!



*Epic Events*, an exciting multimedia timeline of the major events and discoveries that shaped Golden, opened at the Golden History Museums.



Swimmer at the Summer League Swimming Championships hosted at The Splash Aquatic Park.



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PARKS AND RECREATION

**Golden Community Center**  
1470 10<sup>TH</sup> ST. GOLDEN, CO 80401  
303-384-8100 • 303-384-8104  
[www.cityofgolden.net/links/ParksandRec](http://www.cityofgolden.net/links/ParksandRec)

