



2022

Parks and Recreation **Annual Report**



City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

National Gold Medal Winner





Parks and Recreation

Department Staff

Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks,
Recreation and Golf

Stacy Turner, Parks and Recreation
Executive Assistant/Department Liaison

Becky Richmond, Recreation Manager

Chad Meinert, Parks, Cemetery and
Forestry Manager

JP Palmieri, Facilities Manager

Noy Sparks, Golf Course Superintendent -
Fossil Trace Golf Club

Jim Hajek, PGA Head Golf Professional -
Fossil Trace Golf Club

Nathan Richie, Manager –
Golden History Museum & Park

Department Overview

Mission Statement:

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

Vision Statement:

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

Department Summary:

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 254 acres of parkland, 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.



2010 Gold Medal Award
Recipient, Class V,
Population 25,000 and below



Three-time CAPRA
Accredited Agency
since 2009

Advisory Board

Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board

In order to increase community involvement, a Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board (PRAM) was created in 1982. Board members are appointed by City Council and represent Golden citizens. PRAM consists 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.

PRAM meets on the first and third Thursday evening of each month. The third Thursday is the regular meeting date. These meetings take place at City Hall in Council Chambers, 911 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/agendas.

Mission Statement and Purpose of PRAM

Golden's nationally-recognized parks and recreation system continues to contribute to healthy, active resident lifestyles. PRAM's mission is to advise City Council and assist staff in their goals to promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services to enrich the quality of life for all residents, visitors and future generations.

Advisory Board Meetings

The Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board meet on the first and third Thursday evening of each month. The third Thursday is the regular meeting date. These meetings take place at City Hall in Council Chambers, 911 10th Street, Golden, Colorado, 80401, at 7:00 p.m. For more information and to view meeting minutes or listen to audio of the minutes, visit www.cityofgolden.net then click on the Government Tab and the Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board link.



City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board

Amirah Shahid (Chair)
Pete Erslev (Vice-Chair)
Clare Cragen
Craig Middleton
Kermit Shields
Cynthia Szymanski
Jackie Winterbottom
Michele Minihane - Alternate



Parks & Recreation FACTS



10,000 TREES
Maintained in the Community



25 MILES
of Trails to Encourage Healthy Lifestyles



402 ACRES
of Open Space to Provide Recreational Areas



254 ACRES
of Parkland for Community Members



14 ACRES
of Parkland per 1,000 People, exceeding
the Gold Medal Community Standard



173 PART-TIME & 46 FULL-TIME
Staff Members in the Parks & Recreation Department



115 Volunteers & 4727 Hours of Service
6 Preschool Volunteers & 600+ Hours of Service

Parks & Recreation AWARDS



TREE CITY USA®
32 Consecutive YEARS



FACILITIES
21 Indoor Facilities Maintained
for the Community and Staff



FOSSIL TRACE
Colorado Biz Magazine
Best Golf Course in Colorado

Nick Borgeson, PGA
Operation 36 Golf - Top 50 Coach

Jim Hajek, PGA
Colorado PGA Golf Pro of the Year

Colorado Avid Golfer
Best Denver Region Golf Course
Best Conditions
Best Food

Grants and Donations
\$420,931 in Grant Funds
\$39,843 in Donations

Lubhan Trail Restoration

The sustainability of Lubahn Trail was a discussion item for the Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board. In 2020 The Board conducted a survey to seek feedback on whether to repair, reroute, or close the trail. After public engagement and coordination with Jefferson County Open Space, Lubahn Trail was restored and now connects to the Olivine Trail, which provides access to other JCOS trails on South Table Mountain.

In January of 2022, staff received \$87,000 from the JCOS Trails Partnership Program to support construction costs. Maintenance updates were completed in March. In collaboration with JCOS, the Lubahn Trail improvements were complete in May addressing the old trail obliteration, planting and erosion control, signage, and trailhead improvements.



Lubhan Trailhead

DeLong Park - Ribbon Cutting

On June 7, 2022, DeLong Park formally opened with a ribbon cutting celebration. The park fills a gap in the level of service identified in the 2016 Parks Master Plan. It is located between East Street and Table Heights Drive on 23rd Street and serves as the city's first organic/pesticide free park pilot project. This means there is only natural, organic products for all plants and grasses. No synthetic chemicals are used for maintenance practices.

Amenities include play features, a picnic shelter, tables and benches, an open turf area, a pollinator garden and native grass areas.

The Weedbusters, a community group of approximately 10-15 volunteers, formed and met weekly throughout the 2022 growing season for two hours each Thursday to remove invasive species. The Weedbusters contributed over 50 hours of their time with a labor cost equivalent to \$1,243



DeLong Park Playground



DeLong Park Weed Busters

Open Space Master Plan

For several years The Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board discussed the need for a formal definition of open space. Citizens requested the board create an open space master plan to help with policy, administration, and management of open space areas. During 2022 Phase 1 of the master plan created framework to move forward with a vision, mission and definition and was adopted by City Council in November. The process included engagement with stakeholders, staff, and public input.

An Open Space Master Plan Phase 2 will begin in 2023 and will provide a clear and concise policy for open spaces within the City of Golden. A classification system with considerations for open space preservation and protection, development, re-development, maintenance, enhancement, and future acquisitions will also be included.



Photo Courtesy of Chad Chisholm

Golden's Parks and Recreation Opportunities are Highly Valued By Residents

The 2022 National Community Survey was administered by the National Research Center at Polco, a publishing company that provides reliable community insights to government leaders about the livability of Golden and over 600 participating communities around the Country. The statistically valid survey is conducted every three years and provides benchmarks and trends from the last five years. Ten central facets of communities are surveyed, Parks and Recreation being one of them. Below are highlights directly from the report.

Highlights of the results gave strong ratings to both the importance and quality of the city's overall parks and recreational opportunities, indicating that Parks and Recreation as a community facet is highly valued. Evaluations for almost all survey items relating to Parks and Recreation were higher than in other communities that were benchmarked. The study further showed at least 9 in 10 residents were pleased with the availability of paths and walking trails, recreational opportunities, fitness opportunities, and city parks. About 8 in 10 also gave high marks to Golden's recreation centers or facilities. All scored more favorably than the national averages. A full report can be found on the City of Golden Website.



Recreational Softball League

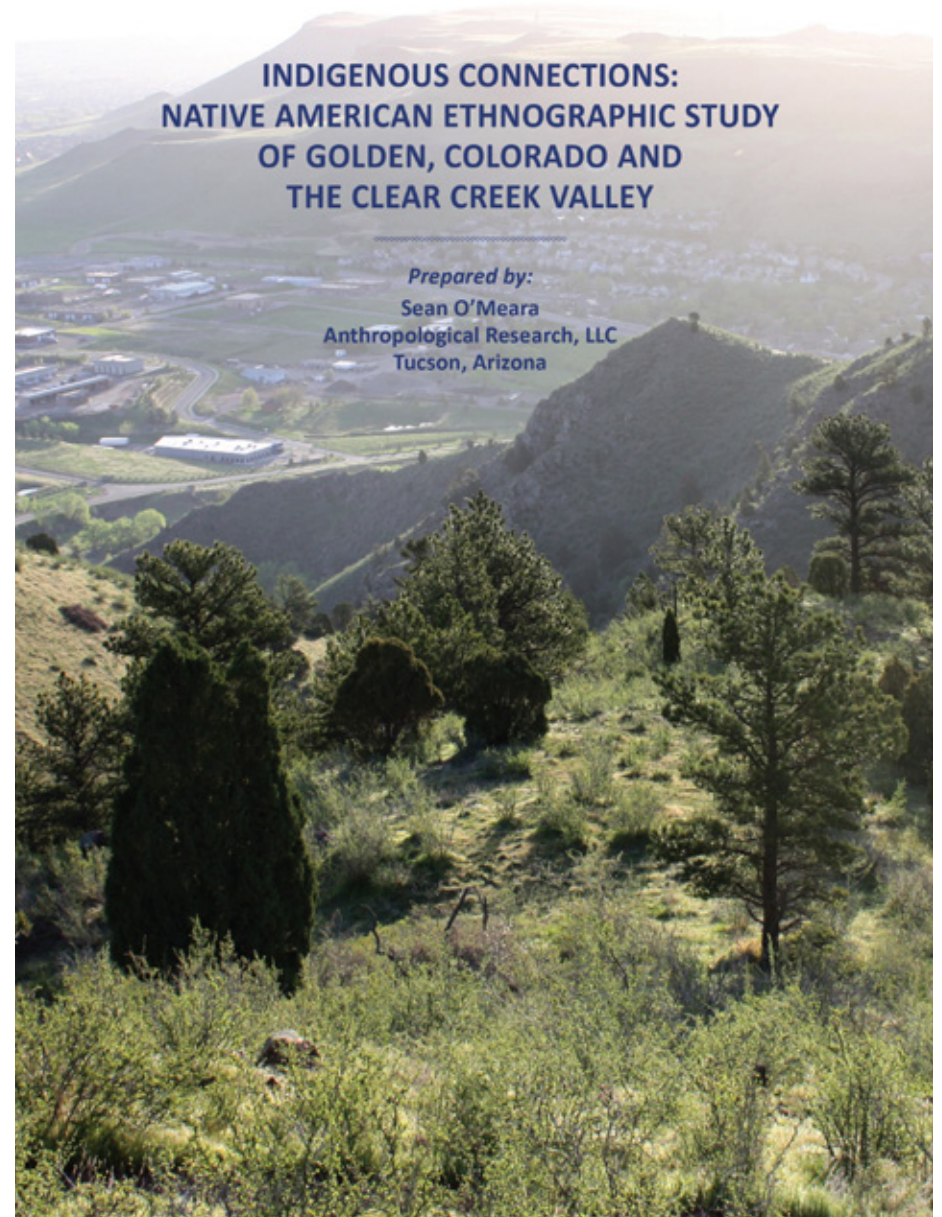
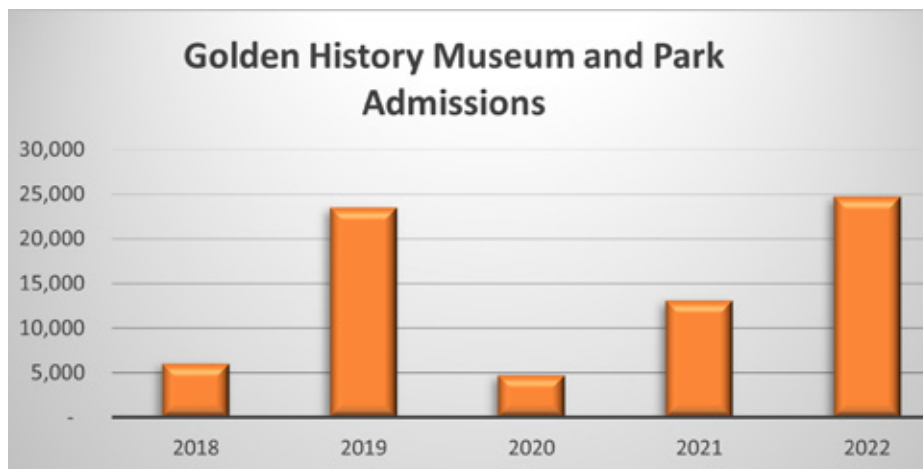


Mahjong at the Front Porch

Golden History Museum Ethnography

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Cover of the Ethnographic Study

Recreation

Recreation services and programs continued to rebuild post-covid. Even as pandemic restrictions eased, staffing shortages persisted and restricted a return to full capacity.

At-home fitness trends remained popular in 2022 and outdoor personal recreation opportunities for Golden residents and visitors were often a preferred choice over indoor public exercise options.

Visits from guests utilizing a qualifying Medicare supplemental insurance program (SilverSneakers and Renew Active) remain 50% below pre-pandemic levels. Still, the Golden Community Center saw a 49% year over year increase in paid daily admissions in 2022. Registrations for Licensed Childcare programs were particularly strong as area private childcare options became more limited with closures and staffing shortages in many surrounding communities. Golden Community Center licensed childcare programs actually expanded licensed capacity in 2022 with the support of the Childcare Operations Stabilization and Workforce Sustainability Grants. City of Golden Licensed Childcare programs received \$214,573 from these grants. Aquatics operations also benefitted from grant funds, receiving \$7,000 in summer of 2022 for lifeguard recruitment and retention efforts. A tight labor market continues to put pressure on staff recruitment although overall staffing levels improved significantly through the year.



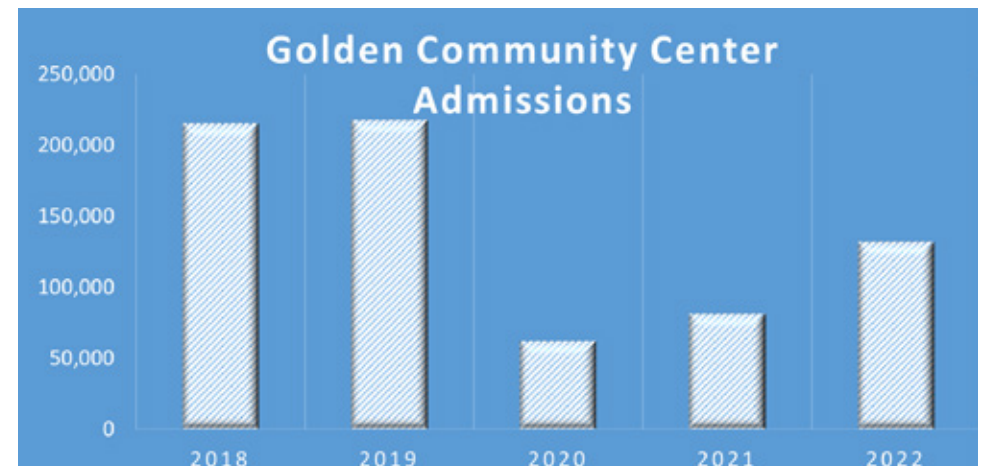
Group of people hiking Lubhan Trail. Photo courtesy of Chad Chisholm.



Family at the Golden History Museum.



Swimming class at the GCC.



2022 Highlights

RECREATION

- **The lap pool at Splash received a new plaster surface.** Aquatics staff are excited to have a nice, new, smooth pool surface for guests this summer!
- **The Golden Community Center partnered with Golden High School for their After Prom Celebration.** GHS students celebrated safely from 11pm-2:30am with a variety of activities.
- **The Golden Community Center Preschool was awarded \$30,044 from the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant program.** Part of Colorado HB20B-1002, the program supports licensed childcare programs in sustaining and expanding access to Child Care. This funding is in response to GCC Preschool having expanded capacity during the pandemic to address quality Child Care shortages and is being used to cover the cost of materials, supplies, professional development for educators and other program needs.
- **Aquatics staff trained and hired over 40 new lifeguards for the second summer in a row.**
- **Recreation received a \$7,000 Pools Special Initiative grant from the State.** The funds supported a variety of initiatives that encouraged lifeguard staff to work more.



Lifeguard at the Splash.



Lap Pool getting new plaster surface.



Preschool fun.

2022 Highlights

PARKS

- The Parks Division installed a new gate at the Golden Cliffs overflow parking lot at North Table Mountain Park to help manage traffic and hours of operation.
- Vanover Park received a makeover at the creek take out area. The surface was hardened with concrete and expanded to provide a safe exit ramp from the water and connects to the existing sidewalk.
- Parks staff collaborated with Jefferson County Open Space on National Public Lands Day to work along Clear Creek in September. Along with 30 volunteers, they planted trees, removed noxious weeds, and picked up trash.
- The annual Community Pride Days event saw over 900 vehicles. This free service, hosted by Parks staff, allows residents to dispose of trash, recyclable metal, and electronics.
- The demand for park pavilions continues to be strong. Staff rented them 149 times.
- Progress on multi-use fields began in 2022 at Ulysses Park as an alternative to Rooney Road Sports Complex. The Park will see much needed infrastructure upgrades and reconfiguration of fields to include two multi-purpose options.

FORESTRY

- Parks and horticulture staff planted over 8500 spring flower bulbs.
- The Forestry Division worked with approximately 15 students from Bell Middle School to plant two new trees at Ulysses Park in celebration of Arbor Day.



Bell Middle School students planting trees on Arbor Day.



Vanover Park sign.

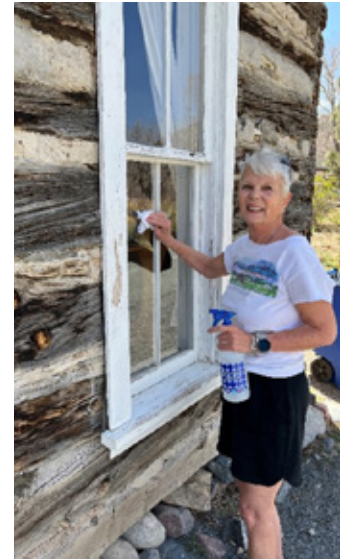


Tulips planted in the spring.

2022 Highlights

GOLDEN HISTORY MUSEUM & PARK

- **Golden History Museum staff and stakeholders completed a new strategic plan aligning goals directly to the Parks and Recreation Department and city-wide strategic plans.**
- **In 2022, 58 volunteers gave 3,182 hours to staff the front desk, care for chickens, and help with special events.**
- Outreach programs to local elementary schools continued to rebound in 2022. **GHM&P instructors taught 10,367 students in 433 classes in 2022, far exceeding 2021 numbers.** Also, in collaboration with History Colorado, GHM&P added a new outreach program, Ute Knowledge: STEM Kit, to our offerings for fall 2022.
- After scanning and digitizing thousands of historic photos, the museum's ten-year-old scanner reached the end of its life. **GHM&P received a \$4500 grant from the Golden Civic Foundation to purchase a new photo scanner!**
- **Autumn Fest experienced a second successful year with more than 2,000 in attendance.**
- **Volunteers and staff pitched in for a great Spring Clean Up day at the Golden History Park in April.** Together they added new crusher fines on the trails, mulched the barn and chicken coop, picked up trash, added chink-and-daub to repair cabins, and cleaned each building.



Volunteers during spring clean up.



Autumnfest - Photo courtesy of Povy Kendal Atchsion.

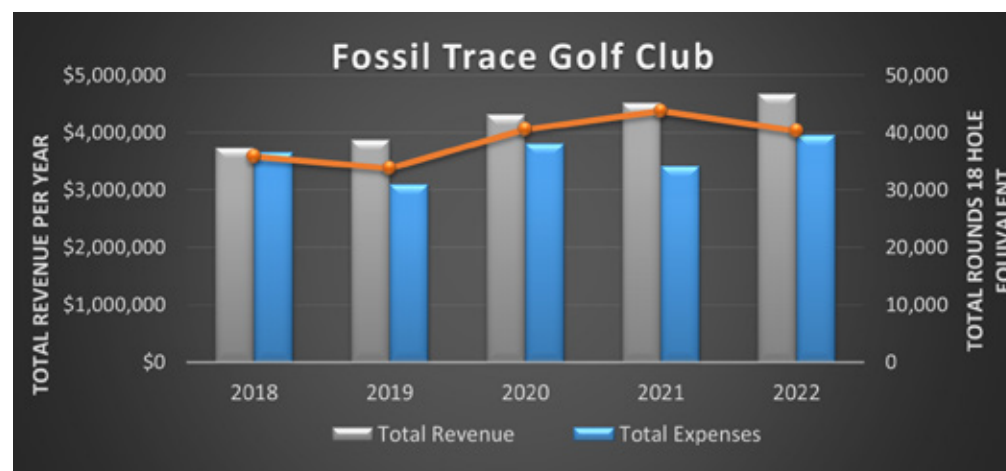
- The first full year of free admission to Golden History Museum was 2019. Since that time, growth has been steady, but 2022 exceeded expectations with 24,727 visitors to the museum in 223 open days. That's an increase of 33 days over 2021, with a 78% increase in visitation.

2022 Highlights

FOSSIL TRACE GOLF CLUB

Golf continues to demonstrate impressive trends for the City. 2022 was the 9th consecutive year for revenue growth, year over year. Golf fees, cart rentals, range, merchandise and food and beverage sales all out-performed 2021. The cost of doing business continues to increase as reflected in year-end expenses.

- **The “Ready for 6/9/More” leagues capped at 290 participants.**
- **Player development programs filled at capacity.**
- **Food and beverage operations hit new records in the dining room, on the course and with private bookings.**
- **Course improvements included:**
 - Bunker renovations on holes 3 and 8
 - Tee Stone Enhancements
 - Tree plantings
- **Mainline valve installation on 2nd hole created an opportunity for isolation from the rest of the system addressing flooding.**
- **Storage bins were enlarged and covered to manage increased demand and volume of sand for operations.**
- **Staff implemented a new topdressing strategy which cut normal sand rates in half. It also eliminated the need to block off tee-times in the morning.**



2022 Highlights

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- **The Golden Community Center closed for its Annual Maintenance Week in August. During the closure, staff accomplished the following:**
 - Deep cleaning and dusting high areas in the building.
 - Repair and refinished hardwood floors.
 - Painted throughout the building.
 - Cleaned carpet.
 - Repaired plumbing fixtures.
 - Equipment repair and replacements.
 - Changed bulbs and light fixture to LED.
- **The Division completed 1,774 work orders on all municipal facilities to ensure buildings were maintained at a high level of performance.** Staff also spent a significant number of hours on the Preventative Maintenance Plan.
- **Over 85% of the city's buildings addressed HVAC updates replacing controls, software and servers.** The system will greatly improve staff's ability to monitor, service and adjust heating and cooling systems to better reach sustainability goals.
- **The roofs at both Fossil Trace Golf Course and the Golden Community Center were resealed as part of the preventative maintenance program ensuring integrity of the structures.**

