

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Clear Creek Management Plan Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

April 30, 2013

1. In what ways do you enjoy Clear Creek during the peak season of May through September? -

Answer

splashing with kids

Play w my dog in creek

Watching kayakers!

Ecological Survey Lab with Mines

relaxing, people watching

attending Chamber sponsored functions where parking is impacted

picnicing with the kids in my life

taking photos

Wading

Picnics

Walking the dogs.

As of 2012 I quit kayaking the creek, because it i so overcrowded and the crowd.

slack lining

Slacklining

Slacklining

climbing

HIGHLINING

slacklining/highlining

Climbing

climbing

mental relaxation

climbing, highlining

All of the above

Visiting creekside restaurant

Gold Panning

meditating by the water

knitting

hiking with dogs along trail

Recreational Gold Prospecting

Gold panning

Recreational Gold Prospecting

gold panning

Gold Panning

Gold Prospecting

prospecting

gold prospecting

gold prospecting

Gold Prospecting
gold prospecting
gold prospecting
Gold prospecting
Gold sluicing and panning
gold panning
Gold Prospecting
prospecting
Gold Prospecting
gold prospecting
prospecting/climbing
Gold Panning
gold prospecting
gold panning
Mining
Prospecting
rock climbing and prospecting
Prospecting
small scale mineing
prospecting
prospecting
Gold Prospecting
Gold panning
mining
all the above and others
Gold panning
Prospecting
prospecting
small scale mining/panning
gold panning
prospecting
gold panning
prospecting
prospecting
gold panning
Gold Mining
prospecting
Gold panning and sluicing
gold prospecting
prospecting
prospecting
gold panning/prospecting/dredging
gold panning
Gold Prospecting
Gold panning
Gold panning

Gold Prospecting
Gold prospecting
PROSECTING
Mines Coursework
I only tube once a year in town because of the filth and
crowding
prospecting
Prospecting
Gold Prospecting
Gold panning
gold panning, sluicing, dredging
Gold Prospecting
Gold Prospecting
gold prospecting
Gold panning
Gold Panning

2. What activity do you participate in most often? - Other responses

Answer

Rafting, bicycling, hiking, backpacking
Play w my dog in creek
More than just one!
the creek is not an appropriate place for a young family
Farmer's Market
Wading
Slacklining
Walking to the Farmer's Market
climbing
HIGHLINING
slacklining/highlining
Climbinb
Climbing
Unicycling the Clear Creek Trail
Gold Panning
Gold panning
Recreational Gold
Prospecting
gold panning
Gold Panning
Gold Prospecting
prospecting
gold sluicing and panning

gold mining
Gold Prospecting
prospecting
Gold Prospecting
gold prospecting
prospecting/climbing
Gold Panning
gold prospecting
gold panning
Mining
Prospecting
prospecting and rock
climbing
Prospecting
small scale mineing
gold prospecting
prospecting
Gold Prospecting
Gold panning
mining
all
Gold Panning
Prospecting
prospecting
small scale mining/panning
gold panning
prospecting
prospecting
prospecting
prospecting
panning
Gold Mining
prospecting
Gold panning and sluicing
Gold Prospecting
prospecting
prospecting
gold prospecting
gold panning/dredging
gold panning
Gold Prospecting
Gold panning
Gold Prospecting
Gold panning
Gold panning
Gold Prospecting
Gold prospecting

PROSPECTING
prospecting
Prospecting
Gold Prospecting
gold panning
gold activities
Gold Prospecting
Gold Prospecting
gold prospecting
Gold panning
Gold Panning

4. When does the majority of your river use occur? - Comments

Answer

I work along the creek and enjoy it at lunch as well as the evening
I utilize the creek trail at least twice daily during the work week (M-F). And primarily in the morning on Saturdays and Sundays.
I use the creek path almost daily during the major part of the year. This last summer the trail was so crowded, even in the morning, that I frequently selected a different route for my walk.
morning and afternoon walks with dog
I ride the clear creek trail twice per day.
Different times depending on the time of year and the weather.
Use the area all the time
Throughout the day...we use the creek path as our main avenue for daily activity and entertainment in Golden.
Depends if it is a weekend or weekday
varies
During the day on weekends.
I take the dog for walks at the creek on days when it is too hot for a hike.
I enjoy sitting at creekside, drawing, and sometimes just enjoying the quiet (...not last summer!)
Lunch break at CSM
I wrote the Mayor our thoughts six months ago and didn't even get a notice that the email was received.
The police were to give out tickets. I have been told that they gave out "warnings". On my daily walks, I saw open beer cans, dogs off leash, etc. out of towners don't care! But, I never saw a cop!?? You could get a bunch of us old farts to let you know what we see and report by cell phone! Suggested that in my email!
Try and enjoy before the crowds
meeting a friend and his dog for walks
it usually gets cloudy in the afternoon but that when it's less crowded.
I live in the area and this is a regular walking destination. I generally am there in the afternoon but have visited at other times of day too.
Really just depends on the family's schedule! Sometimes we all go together to play & cool off, or I will take the dogs for a run along the creek.
Evening walks with girlfriend, sitting and relaxing on the creek, connecting to chimney gulch trail on a mountain bike or the regional trail on a road bike.
I actually avoid the creek and path on weekends due to the over-crowding. I feel like I can't even enjoy my community's best asset because it is over-run by visitors.
I walk along the creek 1-3 times a day.
Morning and evening
We live on 8th. Deliberately moved here to bike & walk everywhere as our main source of transportation.
We have 2 kids; 8 & 10. To get downtown, the library, our church, to family, we have to use the creek.

We'd love to protect this lovely environment while encouraging active transportation for the residents do Golden. The creek was dangerous and inappropriate for our kids last summer. Thank you for organizing our community for this to happen!

Varies by day and time of year

After 5 during the week but during the day and evening on the weekends is when I use the creek trail I will not go down to kayak anymore at all, I use to go in the mornings because of the crowds. The park is over run. The kayak features are not good and have not been upgraded or maintained in year. Other parks in the state are much better and maintained. We will not go anywhere near this area on weekends because of the overcrowding and it stinks since we own a house in Golden and this was one of the reasons we bought in Golden.

I frequently walk the trail between the RV Park and City Hall. Last summer was miserable.

Walking my dogs.

Walking with friends n family.

Highlining happens at any time

Evenings on weekdays and every other time on the weekends.

I live in Golden and I use to go often, but the last couple years it's been a zoo and not enjoyable. Lots of people drinking, cussing, smoking and throwing trash. I can't take my son to the creek anymore.

I also use the creek's corridor in winter to look at the stars..and enjoy the solitude

I use the river in the afternoon most often to tube and swim but I go there in the evening and walk my dog.

Sometimes I go all day and play. This is my hangout spot.

Whenever a trip to the creek seems like a good idea. It is my place to think, reflect, and thrive.

We moved to Golden 5 years ago from Boulder, and love living here. One of the main reasons is the Clear Creek corridor. We think the increased usage is a reflection of the wonderful family environment that's been created there through past improvements. Our friends from other towns love visiting, and want to move here! Further sensible development to account for current use and future growth should be a priority. Golden's plans for drawing visitors and new residents is working.

low water, hot days, midday to afternoon

I use the creek path to get to and from work/school.

Varries by day but we have been known to visit at all hours. Majority is probably in the morning

We stay till evening..

Morning for walking/running, midday for tubing!

varies depending on my schedule and the weather

** We would love to have the area west along the unpaved trail for dogs to be off leash so they can enjoy the creek without interfering with kayaks, tubes, etc. **

I usually visit the creek for 2-4 hours at a time to do recreational gold prospecting with a few friends or on my own. Depending on the weather we may start early in the morning when it is cooler or during cooler weather, start at 10am or so to enjoy a sunny day on the creek.

Midday on weekends, evenings on weekdays

It is quiter at this time of the day, I do not interfere with other peoples activities.....

We need to preserve this creek for gold prospecting the oldest recreational sport in the county.

after the sun has come up and warmed up the area a bit.

Most of the time when I'm there is between 11-2, but a lot of the time I get there earlier.

My peak times are 8 AM till 3 PM.

Family rides bikes along this trail to and from school and much of the day when they're out of school I have been forced to use the creek in the early mornings to avoid other river traffic when kayaking.

I try to avoid hiking the trail in the afternoon/early evening due to crowding on the trail.

As soon as the suns out and as soon as the sun leaves I'm there

about 8 am to 4 pm basicly allday

I go to the creek in the morning and basically work in it looking for gold all day.

Get rid of the kayak course.

varies day today depending on time and activity planned

all day on weekends

All day mostly

all day

It varies, but during July last year, I even drove to Boulder to walk Boulder Creek one Sunday when congestion along Clearcreek, two blocks from my home, was too disturbing to deal with. The congestion on summer weekends with disregard for safety and environment is more than I can comfortably observe. In my opinion, the advertising campaign to bring these people to Golden was a travesty to local residents and others who have a healthy respect for the natural environment.

all day long

After work mid-week kayaking.

this is a great resource for the public and i wish other cities had the vision that Golden has.

Last season did not use on weekends, due to the overcrowding and disrespectful out of towners.

They littered, drank openly and were generally rude.

Gold prospecting is an all day activity and occurs all year

Our use depends on the day of the week and the season. As residents of the neighborhood, our use occurs regularly during the week at all times of the day.

It depends on day of week. Weekdays i like to go to the creek in the evenings. Weekends is more midday to afternoon

I will only use it in the morning because of crowding

Usually take "entire day outings", along Clear Creek.

All day; as soon as I can get to the creek and start looking for gold.

All Day

I can spend all day on the creek panning & sluicing...up to 8 hours even.

Gold prospecting is a fun and great adventure, especially for here in Colorado. Family loves it.

5. In the last 5 years, have you noticed an increase in usage of Clear Creek? - Other responses

Answer

as a business on clear creek it effects us

I have noticed see below

Just moved here, haven't noticed

I just moved to Golden 1 year ago

I've only lived here for 1 summer

Have not lived in Golden long enough to say.

I have only been here a year

I have only lived here for 9 months

Increased usage brings more parking issues

Sometimes negative, sometimes positive

See comment below

Yes

See below

Only lived here 3 years

See below

I've noticed, and I have mixed feelings.

below

I have noticed and believe it is a good thing

see below explanation

I've noticed that there are fish at Arapaho City now.

boating/kayaking

I've noticed and it depends on the day
Prospecting helps the creek
I am new to Golden - 1 year
I have not lived here that long
About the same

5. In the last 5 years, have you noticed an increase in usage of Clear Creek? - Comments

Answer

The lack of parking and restrooms on Clear Creek really effects the library. Porta potties would help, as would more available parking in the area. Library patrons often cannot find a place to park in the library parking lot! We spend additional \$ for extra cleaning and for a parking guard, money that we really could use for something else.

I've always enjoyed the diversity and balance of uses on clear creek, as well as a perceived self-regulation and respect among most users. In recent years, I've been concerned that the use is no longer balanced and that the crowding will result in more conflict among users and with neighbors, as well as increased city and natural resource damage. I haven't been personally affected by this, but I don't like where the current trend is heading.

This past summer was really bad. smoking, litter, and really inconsiderate people not sharing the path. A few times I had trouble using the library parking lot to go to the library and saw people going to and from the creek to their cars, which were taking up library spaces. I'm not opposed to some casual drinking, but it was really bad last summer. It was hard to enjoy the creek with my toddler, esp on the weekends.

Yes - most especially last summer. I stayed away from the creek most days during July and August - walking the trail only a couple of days a week. That was a big loss to me, as a 40 year Golden resident.

It is tiresome for neighborhoods to be overrun with people from elsewhere who have no regard for residents: trash everywhere, loud behavior at all hours, vandalism, other illegal activities.

It's fine to advertise and bring guests; however, it is not fine when that impacts the quality of life of the residents.

This is our home, time to stop the problems brought by the transient visitors.

And quit hassling residents who put up cones to keep a parking spot for their car by their house.

I commute and run errands by bike in the summer. I actually change my commute route because I don't feel it's safe to ride along the clear creek trail during peak season due to all the traffic.

Sometimes, too many varied activities at once...bikers, dog walkers, rafters, walkers, joggers, competing for the trail space.

I live on 9th Street and the traffic, parking and some of the disrespectful people that use the creek negatively affects me daily in the summer/peak season.

Last summer weekends and holidays were too much. I stayed away to avoid the people.

I enjoy all the people and activities though I wish people were better about picking up their trash and being considerate.

The bikers ride way too fast and I'm always scared of being hit when I come onto the path between Millstone building. Very poor visibility

My greatest disappointment with use of this resource, is the significant increase in trash throughout the entire area near the creek.

I am fine with tubing in general, but way too crowded on the creek last year. Especially on July 4!

This summer seemed very busy. While I don't want to discourage folks from visiting Golden, the sheer volume of visitors meant that folks were trampling foliage to get to the water and the landscape was degraded.

Hopefully, opening the trail on the other side will help.

re: question 3 above-- I assume by "enjoy," you mean "use" or "attempt to use." There were very very few instances last summer between May and Sept in which I actually "enjoyed" being in or near Clear Creek, but I did attempt to use it multiple times per week

density of traffic on the trail makes it hard to use as a bike trail for my commute home. Also, intimidating to consider bringing the family for tubing when it is so crowded

I think that it's great more people are enjoying the creek.

My response is between "it doesn't bother / impact me" and "it negatively affects my enjoyment of Clear Creek"!

In some ways it is nice to have more people enjoy the area. But that also leads to less personal experience.

With its popularity rising, Clear Creek appears to be getting more anonymous!

It was pretty busy last summer

It's great to have such a large amount of people enjoying the creek, but sometimes it is a bit too busy to enjoy and if it is having negative ecological impacts, then that needs to be addressed.

parking problems related to use of Clear Creek for watersports

Because I'm running, biking, or walking from my house to downtown, it's been irritating that people congregate on the sidewalks with their entire large families, and use the creek like a beach destination, camping there all day, eating and leaving trash around.

I have seen dirty diapers intentionally left on the path. I have seen naked people. I have seen people drinking alcohol. I have seen many, many lost flip flops, hats, punctured tubes, and other assorted trash.

I'm really concerned about the over crowding and am very happy that my town is taking notice and plans to garner community assistance in figuring out how to mitigate the negative effects!

Too crowded during the summer; adversely impacts overall enjoyment and is ruining a key resource that makes Golden unique

Only on very hot weekends or holidays.

Have not been here for 5 years.

have only been here since June 2012 - last summer was our first summer, so we have no basis of comparison I've noticed, and it is negative at times. However, it's great to see families playing together and having fun outdoors. I worry about the degradation of the bank and vegetation, and am concerned about how many rocks are moved around to create dams and swimming holes. It can be a challenge for the kayakers to maneuver around all the swimmers.

I'm a local, grew up in golden, I dont like the tourists and shoebees. It's easier to enjoy the creek when there is actually room to walk and places to park.

The difference between 2012 and prior years was huge and I avoided going to the area over the summer because it was crowded and unpleasant.

I am new to the area

Try to complete my time around the creek early in the morning before the crowds come.

I've lived within 2 blocks of clear creek for the past 7 years and I have never seen it even close as crowded as last year, it felt like Golden was invaded.

I find it hard to believe there is an economic benefit to all this use. Most of the people I observe have brought their food and drinks and park themselves by the water all day. I don't think they are shopping in downtown or going to our restaurants.

Yes. It was like being at a Grateful Dead concert every time we went to the library.

I've noticed and it doesn't bother me as far as my enjoyment; but the environmental concerns worry me.

This last summer 2012 was so crowded and noisy, it was hard to use the creek and the trail without running into people.

It has increased a lot. It is a fine line of impacting my time there. I dont mind the people just the amount of trash. We do not use the park anymore at all on weekends. It stinks that home owners in Golden do not want to use the creek/park in our home town.

Overuse of the creek has severely impacted my enjoyment of it. the path is often too crowded to walk, the people who come are wearing inappropriate clothing and being rude, loud and drinking at the water. they do not respect the neighbors around the creek. They leave trash in the neighborhood, at the end of every street.

Too many dog owners who don't control or pick up after their dogs.

Too many people who don't care about others or the environment.

There are stray flip flops and garbage everywhere, and it is overcrowded.

the increase has not significantly impacted me yet, but I see that this rate of increase likely will

I think people from out of town should be able to enjoy what we have but it has grown out of control.

I live on Clear Creek and the abundance of tourists that have been accumulating the last few years saddens me. They are not residents and many seem to not respect the land at all. I have experienced littering, erosion, ignorance of protected areas, and ignorance of the residents of Golden that pride in the presence

of Clear Creek. I have also experienced multiple trespassing situations onto my property due to the popularity of creek access.

I live in Golden and I use to go often, but the last couple years it's been a zoo and not enjoyable. Lots of people drinking, cussing, smoking and throwing trash. I can't take my son to the creek anymore.

I have noticed it. Sometimes it is bothersome, but I think as more people are looking for cheap entertainment they come here.

Although it affects my enjoyment, I deal with that by avoiding the creek during peak use times and going other times instead.

There are much more tubers than there used to be and they can sometimes cause conflicts with kayakers. Too many people and dogs have really impacted the vegetation. Additionally, it can be almost impossible to get through on the paved trail due to large groups of tubers.

I've seen folks drag out their bbq grills to the creek, is that really legal?

The Kayak area is overcrowded. The section between the police station and the RV camp is un-rideable on a bike. I'm sure its good for businesses, but not very enjoyable for us 40+ year locals

it's a great spectator sport to watch the river during spring run off, and watch the expert kayakers on the water park,

and when the run off is over, I love to fish on the western end of the corridor...but last summer with dogs and under supervised children and smoking and drinking it took the nature of the "river" away, maybe we can charge a user fee a nominal one for residents and a higher one for out of towners...like the state and national parks do..

Need bathroom facilities !!!

I is just so over crowded. Last summer you could walk on the bridge and look out and just see people everywhere. It was so bad you had to wait in line to jump off the rocks into the river.

Last summer took the cake. It seems the majority of users appear to be from other areas and lack sensitivity to the environment and the Golden residents. A change absolutely has to happen. Either charge these folks or make the park less attractive to them. Large groups of drunk idiots ifloating down the creek in not nearly enough clothing with their dogs loose on the bank is not an attractive sight. I want to be able to bring my mother down to the creek without feeling embarrassed!

I'm not down there daily because it is too busy; finding new ways to avoid that area sometimes

What is with that stupid bridge to nowhere?

Some folks i enjoy, then some i don't. What I would hate to see is everyone else having to suffer the consequences of those who do not respect our park.

Curtailing use through the means of additional rules, regulations, and fees is counter-productive and unnecessary. We live within walking distance of the corridor, and we tube on the creek at least one a month in the summer, and walk the path often through-out the year. We frequently picnic in the parks along the creek and take friends and family to enjoy the fun ammenities there, like the jungle gym at Lions Park, history park, and sculptures.

The increase of people seems to have happened in the last 2 years.

There has been a change from users who respect the environment and local neighborhoods, to users who are disrespectful of the environment and locals. A lot of new out of town users.

noticed increase of people on hot, summer days when the water is low last summer. It is a little bit too crowded, but mostly doesn't bother me.

The last two summers have been a nightmare with large groups of people lounging directly on the path.

Litter strewn everywhere, including cigarette butts.

Everyone deserves the right to use the creek, however in the last few years some people's use of the creek has been at the expense of others. This is especially true of daily visitors from outside Golden who don't respect the land or others around them.

Too many tubers.

The path is over crowded and dangerous. There is not enough room for walkers and bikers.

More open canisters of beer and pot smoking..that does bother me..when my children are around...

More people smoking there, thus making the experience less enjoyable.

Inconsiderate tubers don't allow others to pass.

Quit promoting rafting/kayaking events and races

too much trash, too many drunk people

My kids and I regularly clean up the trash (plastic, shoes, cans, cigarettes, etc) left behind. Yuck!

Lots of tubers with little understanding of river safety. Also a level of drunk and urespectfull full behavior.

Other than the risk of finding myself about to be run over by a tubing enthusiast as I run my sluice in the creek, its all good. Most people are quite upbeat and friendly or just leave people to their pursuits. I do think the best times to tube are different from the best times to prospect so it is less of an issue than for other users of the creek.

My wife and I tube Clear Creek in Lions Park and the damage to the riparian zone from tubers is alarming. I don't think it's a numbers issue, but more related to controlling access points to the stream

We should let the gold prospectors have their creek back.

its good to see all forms of enjoyment of the area from the people that are paying for it as public land.

I understand it is a beautiful place and should be shared by many. As a bike rider, I don't expect to race up and down the trail, but like to enjoy it with my kids at a leisurely pace. Everyone must respect the enjoyment of others. There has been an increase of people not showing awareness or respect for others.

It's nice to see more families getting out there panning for gold... great family activity!

Last summer the banks and eddies along the creek became filled with trash and plastic. The bank environment has been seriously compromised by over use.

Its a big creek. I like to talk to as many people as I can. I do not like people walking their dogs and not picking up after them though.

it seems those that like riding the river in inner tubes are often most bothersome. Especially if I'm attempting to gather material. I'm in their way and I'm told so.

The improvement of the area is due to the prospectors making better holding areas for the fish while removing the trash and lead

A person would have to be blind and deaf not to notice how the City of Golden has let the Clear Creek area be destroyed/degraded.

Get rid of the kayak course.

Good to see people outdoors

It is their to enjoy, not look at from a distance!

There are too many people in the creek and around the creek making it difficult for those of us who live here to enjoy the creek and surrounding areas.

We all pay taxes and should have our public lands managed for multiple use. That is how Teddy Roosevelt sold the idea of public lands.

to many, seems it would upset fish spawning

Why don't they just leave prospectors alone everywhere. We were here long before the tree huggers.

I have witnessed increase tuber activity and unsafe practices (no pfd, use of ropes to tie tubes together, foot entrapment potential, etc).

The increase of swimmers and inner tubers, but mostly on very hot days. There is no common ground between boaters and these two groups, but that is both directions. However, many people jump into the river when boaters are in the features and likely do not know that the boaters are trying to stay in the feature. The lack of pfd's and shoes is highly noticed from ages of young child to adults in Swimmers and tubers!

For those of us that OWN homes within blocks of Clear Creek in Golden, and an avid runner- I have been incredibly frustrated with the patrons(majority of which are not even local residents) tearing apart our creek bed (pulling out rocks, trampling the foliage around the river) and SMOKING while runners/bikers go past. The SMOKING and second hand smoke as I run past would be one thing,

but then watching them pitch their cigarettes on OUR recreational space is terrible. The city urgently needs to be proactive if the creekside is to be preserved as it will not tolerate another summer of neglected enforcement by the city to stop the destruction that took place last summer. I have very much noticed the increase in usage and it has definitely affected my experience in a negative way. As usage has increased i have not seen any increase in patrol. It has been in my mind a free for all. there are major trash issues and there needs to be adequate trash cans. So many more issues as well. Parking is a concern and i would be in favor of more parking enforcement, although being a local who does not live near 8th through 12th street, i want specific privileges too. Over the years use goes up and down, often dependent on the weather or economy. Overall, I'd say about the same.

6. Have you experienced or observed any of the following impacts to increased creek use? - Other responses

Answer

To many folks on tubes
Disrespectful behavior!!
You name it, the transient visitors abuse the privilege.
parties in the middle of the creek
Tubes (and trash) thrown on front yard.
trampled land near the water
riparian impact due to trampling, creation of small dams, etc
unattended children
Many dogs off leash
degradation of the banks
Disturbing the rocks in the creek.
Traffic issues (people, boats, bikes, dogs, strollers, walkers, etc)
4th of July was a terrible experience of obvious drinking along the river
degradation of creek banks
soil and vegetation damage
not respecting the power of the water
Erosion of the creek banks
Air pollution-cigarette smoke and marijuana. Totally serious.
Damaging use of the creek, building pools, letting dogs swim
Called about drunks at the park 2 years ago, guy drowned 30minutes after my call
Erosion
Dogs
None, just people enjoying themselves
Need Bathrooms!
Inconsiderate behavior (especially tubers)
Erosion of creek banks from loading/unloading of tubers
bothering birds
Glass!!!!
Trampling, h2o qual, can't enjoy w/ family

Religious Solisitation

Drinking Alcohol

Just typical teenage tubers walking creekside in bathing suits carrying tubes

Open containers (tubers and those on the creek shore/boulders)

riparian impacts

no

Prospectors carry trash out!

Off leash dogs and dog poop on trails

it is used as a public toilet

none to speak of

Noticed nothing bad just enjoyed

None

No Issues Noted

hikers using the woods as a toilet

None of the above

no

Everything is fine as far as I see.

none

None

No, just more people enjoying.

miners remove alot of trash from others

None

no

just to many tubers/ kayakers

need more tables along creek

No

Environmental damage/facilities damage

None

There has not been issues

Nothing of any importance except speeders on Hwy

7. Would you support city regulation aimed at easing overcrowding, and reducing congestion and illegal activity

Answer

Thats the challenge now, isn't it?

I would support thoughtful regulations that are fair and focus on truly problematic behaviors, rather than favoring one type of use over another.

I would need more information/specifications for the regulation.

I guess I'd have to see what the regulations are before I agreed with them. Also, because I'm a Golden resident, I already pay taxes to the city for park amenities and it would feel like a double taxation if I had to pay again to access the creek or Lyons park. Also, I don't live right at the creek, but I do park there sometimes to visit friends and amenities. I'm concerned about a permit system might impact my ability to enjoy the area.

Most definitely!

Legislation that reduces and ultimately prevents the current spate of problems at the creek is welcome.

When people lose the ability to police their own behavior, it's time to have their behavior controlled.

Increase patrols, enforce any and all laws, impose penalties -- do whatever is necessary to stop this madness.

It's a fallacy to think the majority of these visitors come here to spend money. If you want them to spend money in town, make them park there -- use the parking garage.

I would not support legislation limiting the use of bicycles along Clear Creek, if that were proposed.

Minimize restrictions to locals

As long as, as Golden residents, we would still feel that we can use this magnificent source of enjoyment and beauty. Too many rules would not be good. This is our dog and kid walking route YEAR AROUND. Please don't take that away from us! We are responsible dog owners and respect the environment along the Creek. It would be highly disappointing to have restrictions placed on when we can use it.

ABSOLUTELY!

I can't imagine what sort of regulation that could ease overcrowding, so "it depends" on the options.

Children should not be allowed to swim in Clear Creek. As a former lifeguard I'm often terrified when I see small children in the water without an adult.

The banks are eroding from the day-campers. The kayakers use only a few entry points, but the people hanging out in random places are causing a lot of destruction.

Road bikers go far too fast on the creek trail. I've nearly been hit several times. They should dismount on the most popular stretches or use the ROAD for the road bikes.

Not in support of park fees

Lance Armstrong wannabe road bikers doing 45 mph on the walking path.

I do like the open access in principle, but I think some minimal regulations would be helpful. All depends what you come up with.

Having the creek be crowded on a hot day does not bother me. It bothers me when people are smoking or littering.

Not sure what this might look like, but I think regulations are needed.

I would not support restricting access to the creek

I don't want to see use fees implemented, but I agree that a proactive plan needs to be in place.

Clear Creek provides fun and wholesome recreation that is accessible to people in many income brackets.

While I am extremely concerned about environmental damage and the infringement on my ability as a resident of Golden to use this recreational resource, I don't see how regulations would help the situation, or how they would mitigate the overcrowded conditions in a fair way. I'd be open to hearing some ideas, though.

It depends on how the city wanted to address this problem.

Commonsense restrictions might be fine (depending on the exact details). But instead of thinking about limiting access, let's also think of expanding the area of Clear Creek managed for public use. For instance, I really appreciate the upgrades -- new bridges and so on -- to the bicycle path to the west of Washington.

Many people come for the river, but also for the picnic it allows. Perhaps, we can have a section for family and groups with picnic tables a short walk away.

On weekends: Close access to Golden Rec center from the creekside. Move current parking lot away to near police station! Perhaps keep a dropoff at the ball field.

It depends on which suggestions are made to ease overcrowding.

how would this be enforced? How would it limit access to the area?

I definitely believe that some of the issues need to be address, but it is important to maintain it as a relatively open place for members of the community to enjoy.

If it would affect my access to the creek for free, than NO!

I do not believe that it should cost anything to use the creek, especially for the people who live in Golden. I know the creek is one of the reason I moved to Golden. I think people need to be responsible and pick up after themselves and maybe an increase in police to stop the illegal activity. But they will always find a new place to do illegal stuff. You know it happens there, monitor it better.

Would want a description of "regulation", patrol to keep an eye on illegal activity? Sure...But no to any new laws or rules.

A simple widening of the path would help and maybe a few more spots build out along the path for people to hang out. Maybe replace some the parking with extended park and seating

Too many people are parking at Clear Creek for the day and it's too crowded and noisy. It's not the kayakers, walkers, runners, fishers or tubers. It's the families who come use the creek like they're on a beach holiday from Denver. I pay to live in Golden and near to the creek because I enjoy it, and frankly that enjoyment is getting a little spoilt when large families come and rowdy up the creek all day. I don't want my use or anyone elses use for running, biking or walking regulated.

It depends on the details of those regulations.

As long as it was fair and allowed for those who rarely use it along with those who use it regularly, then yes.

I think we need to welcome people to the Creek and find a way for all the groups to co-exist

An open beer or a dog off-leash isn't the end of the world, and I enjoy both of these. However, throngs of drunk people and aggressive dogs are obviously a problem. I think the enforcement of such rules should be based on the degree to which the laws are being broken and not just the fact that they are being broken. Reasonable enforcement is key, and police should not be trying to make examples out of people who are good citizens.

I would not support city regulation if it made it excessively more difficult / inconvenient to use the park. However I find that litter and pet waste is a significant problem.

depends upon the ability to patrol the creek area, and the severity/exclusiveness of the the measures

a parking garage needs to be built to handle all of the visitors to Golden to enjoy all of the activities available

As long as it can be done in ways that don't feel unwelcoming. I witnessed a disturbing scene in which a man very loudly said "we need to build that fence on the border a lot bigger" while walking through a group of Hispanic families. I would hate for Golden, my home town, to be seen as negative towards minorities.

If that means paying to go to the creek then NO. It is also sad to see so many police down there like they don't have anything better to do. I'm not sure how else you would fix these issues.

I think a daily permit system could reduce a lot of problems while generating revenue to pay for increased use.

Daily paper permits could be sold by machine similar to how parking permits are dispensed in some cities (instead of meters). Anyone not able to produce a permit would be fined. Enforcing the possession of a permit would also give law enforcement a reason to contact users before they saw illegal or dangerous activity.

I would like Golden residents to have priority and surrounding towns having some respectful limitations of some sort but have no idea how that can be enforced??? My 2 main concerns are drinking and safety. I have witnessed on many occasions excessive drinking, open containers and drunken behavior along the river. Stiff fines need to be established, posted and ENFORCED.

Crowding wouldn't be such a problem if those people were providing some benefit to local biz. Would hate to discourage people from visiting Golden due to miserable regulations. No more sneaky cop hiding in the bushes. A visible police presence providing education and clarification is more respectful to the public.

I live a block away from clear creek, part of the appeal of living in downtown Golden, and why I pay a premium for housing here, is so that I can enjoy the creek. Last summer I found myself avoiding the creek altogether and felt that an essential part of life here in Golden had been taken from me.

Would love to see reduced overcrowding and reduced noise, the blasting music is horrible. So are the large groups with coolers full of beer that take up the entire bank of the creek.

It depends on the specific methods used to reduce overcrowding and congestion. I feel that during the summer it is expected to have many people enjoying the creek and that is part of it being a public space.

Would love to see something done to reduce the trash, overcrowding and noise. It was sad to see people setting up shade structures in the actual creek and putting lawn chairs in the creek for the entire day obstructing the use of the creek by others

A difficult job. You have to be careful not to alienate anyone. But illegal activity should be managed.

Short of armed response!

Many of the problems are due to too many concurrent users. The number of users MUST be reduced. The best way to do so is by removing parking in the corridor. Residential parking permits would remove the residential spots from the system and help limit number of users. If parking changes can't be implemented in time for 2013 then prohibit all tubing for 2013 as a stop gap.

Enforce the public drinking, and smoking, even if they don't have ID on them, arrest them and put them in Jail.

This will affect the others actions fast. Make this area pay parking, Golden residents free, or Golden Residents \$10 annual pass, and have permit parking in the local residents area. The money raised each day, can pay for a bike cop or walking cop to be there at all times enforcing the laws every single day.

My support would depend on what regulations are being put into effect.

we should definitely limit parking by the creek, and instate resident permit parking. if people want to enjoy the entire 'greenbelt/creek corridor' why not promote parking downtown and walking to the creek. this way they

might actually frequent some businesses on the way to or from the creek for food/water etc.
I am not sure what this entails. But people should be penalized for polluting. However, I think everyone should be able to enjoy the creek any time they want. (except swimmers when it is dangerously high)
Within reason, absolutely.
I think there needs to be discreet regulation. I don't want an officer walking up and down making people feel uncomfortable writing tickets. That's not Golden. Maybe make people pay for parking so locals have an advantage.
Touchy subject when the government will tell people they "can't". I don't like that at all! However, I do think a soft approach, like limited parking access might help. My observation is that the overcrowding and trampling of the creekside isn't from Golden residents.
I recognize there is a fine line here. It was really bad last year, so I would hope that there is focus on enforcement of existing laws and not over reach.
how about spelling out said regulation so I can have an opinion on that?
Illegal activity? Locals should be able to consume contained beverages. With the new marijuana laws, light recreational use should also be allowed.
YES YES YES YES YES YES!
I believe people should have the right to use the area in proper and safe conditions. I do not believe in any illegal activity. I don't like people who either aware or not affect another persons enjoyment of the area (hindering kayakers, blocking bike path etc)
The great thing about golden is the easy living and polite and friendly interaction of the police and citizens. As long as people are respectful and not causing problems they should be left alone.
I am not sure what that kind of regulation would look like so I cannot yet say whether I would be for or against it. If it's a matter of increased visibility of law enforcement, I think that could be really useful.
I can't imagine how regulation would work but if it can be done with common sense I could support it.
The City needs to be able to control the issues by enforcing CURRENT regulations! Not making new ones!
I do not want to see a complicated, convoluted, or otherwise burdensome plan. The best part of clear creek is its ease and simplicity of use
there doesn't seem to be a problem, so why regulate?
I don't see a ton of illegal activity just a lot of people that are unaware of the possible hazards of tubing down a river especially once the water levels rise. Plus some in the winter thinking it's safe to walk on ice with the river flowing right next to them not knowing how deep it is below that sheet of ice.
water patrol modeled after the volunterr program at Jeffco Open Space parks....specially for the mountain bike riders using the trails as single track sport
I would like to enjoy the river since that is where I grew up going. I would hate to have to pay. But maybe making regulations for tourists. I just think its unfair to punish the people who grew up here and have enjoyed coming to the river and Lions park for years.
I think maybe purchasing parking passes at a reasonable price might help or allowing locals to have more of first come first serve.
We have only noticed the park being heavily crowded a few days in the last few summers. Even on those days, we felt that people were, on the whole, respectful and under control. We felt that the police anticipated those days with an appropriate and measured response that was effective without feeling overbearing. We've never had a problem parking and don't see a need for special regulation at this time.
1. I believe there needs to be in increased enforcement of open container laws along the creek.
2. Heavy traffic areas may need designated sitting and standing areas to reduce damage to creek banks\vegetation.
If the regulations were aimed at reducing usage of the creek by tubers and the access points of tubers.
Is the area on the southwest edge of the river (at 6th and new bridge)(below Mines) available for a picnic table area and access to the river. I am thinking that there should be areas available to 'camp/sit' along the river but these should be designated areas that maybe take some time to walk to (to discourage the numbers).
like police patrol,don't like blocking off areas
need to reduce habitat destruction around the trail, but overcrowding in areas intended for multiple-use

does not bother me.

It would be nice to have more focus on kayaking during peak run-off, but not so sure that kayakers really have a "right" to the water. I just happen to be a kayaker. At really high water, banning swimming/tubing, as done a couple years ago seemed to be prudent.

The Religious Solicitors At the Billy Drew Bridge

Ruin the peaceful experience. I am a person of faith, but it is most distressing to have dooms day solicitors at this location. Do we have a right to freedom from this?

Love the way Salida, CO has improved their creek running through town. Everyone enjoys the scene of the creek. Just gorgeous!

Quit promoting the creek for rafting/kayaking

this will be even more important as it will be easier for people seeking relief from the heat to get to Golden on the train this summer.

Having access to clear creek in the summer time really makes Golden an amazing place and I don't think that restricting Golden's resident access to it wouldn't be fair. If there was a way to restrict access to the surrounding towns/city I would be all for that.

I'd like to see what ideas the city has to deal with it before I say I'd support it.

As Golden becomes more popular, visitors bring some unwanted behaviors. Trash, alcohol, profanity and smoking are just a few problems. We would like to see enforcement to prevent or control these issues by more police or safety office presence and fines for non-compliance. The creek used to be family friendly, we are now hesitant to take our children due to the increase in negative behaviors by visitors.

Only if it gives preferential use to those who live in Golden AND in unincorporated JeffCo with a Golden mailing address.

People will always cause problems and do illegal stuff. It'll be easier to section things off, for instance; keep the younger kids in the quieter sections. Tubers and kayakers get along fine, and both need the deep water to float smoothly and safely. Those going to swim should be limited on their areas due to the popularity of the tubing and kayaking.

Do what you need to do to manage the trash and of course any destructive behavior. Please take a light hand so people can continue to relax and enjoy themselves.

I can't speak to illegal activity, I haven't seen any. As far as overcrowding and its effects on riparian impacts, I don't think controlling numbers is the answer but rather controlling access points to the stream. Even though I enjoy tubing, I think tubers and swimmers are creating the most impact compared to others (e.g. anglers, kayakers, gold panners, walkers)

Gold prospecting needs to be permitted by a special use licence

As long as residents do not lose privileges

Yes to illegal activity

I don't want Golden citizens to be denied access to the creek. As far as I'm concerned, anyone who doesn't live here (or isn't visiting someone who lives here) can be banned.

its public land! why take it away from "we the people" that pay for this??

I have no idea how the city plans to regulate overcrowding and congestion, so, I have no comment until there is some discussion as to what is going to be done.

Not sure how to go about this. Maybe residents get some sort of sticker/permit allowing them access. Others may have to purchase this permit - or a day pass. Charging money will keep much of the negative impact from happening. Free entertainment brings out a different element than pay-for entertainment does.

Illegal yes. However I really don't see an issue with 'overcrowding and or congestion' YET!

Maybe a curfew wildlife proof trashcans heavy fines for littering. Prospecting doesn't hurt the environment and its already heavily regulated.

As long as I'm allowed to prospect, sluice, pan, use my motorized highbanker, aims at regulating certain activities are all right.

Illegal stuff, yes. Otherwise, the less government interaction the better.

illegal activities yes

Its unfortunate that government has to regulate people participating in their choice of recreation.

Disrespectful people will still be disrespectful whether they are regulated or not.

I would support more enforcement of littering, and alcohol and drug use, for visitors of the creek. I often find drug paraphernalia, and beer cans / broken bottles while prospecting. I also often recover lost/damaged and discarded kayaking/rafting equipment while using the creek.

I would also support someone from the City of Golden actually doing some enforcement of such existing and new regulations.

Get rid of the kayak course.

We have enough laws to protect us. Government is getting involved in to many times that the people enjoy. Unless a CRIME is committed the government needs to back off. The people are getting feed up with over regulation of our lands and activities.

no to easing overcrowding since there's not to many ways to stop this other than closing down places and that to me is not an option. Yes to reducing congestion and illegal activity.

It should remain public access. Public access means just that, access for all who want to enjoy it.

It seems to go in cycles, 15 years ago it was the same way, then it died back down, now its back up again..

Tell us what's proposed first

I think illegal activity should be curtailed although I've never seen any. I can put up with crowding as I think it's there for everyone, not just a select few activities.

Less government is always best

illegal activity yes. the rest no

It would all depend on what the city had in mind.

leave gold panning alone

Very vague question. Need to know what regulations that are suggested before making decision.

I would support regulations aimed at illegal activities. I believe the overcrowding and congestion will take care of themselves as if people don't want to deal with them they will end up going elsewhere. Going beyond that would hurt the income coming into the area by sending people elsewhere.

We are over regulated as it is.

slow down the tubersand kayakers im sure they are stressing the fish out.

If it was aimed at the tree huggers. Yes

Please elaborate....how do you ease overcrowding? I'm not in favor of fees or restrictions

Depends on the definition of Illegal

I think, we should issue permits for parking for Golden only residents. There could be a fee for the permit and those fees could go to help support the management of Clear Creek

Restriction of access to the water to specific access points

Restriction of alcohol use and containers

not Gold Prospecting

There is no need for regulations. There is no overcrowding, or illegal activity associated with mineral prospecting in the creek.

It's probably difficult, if not impossible, but limiting non-resident users who don't value the same thing that locals may value (trash, pollution, clean air and water, safety, etc) would be an improvement to current conditions.

I would like to see enforcement of current laws and enforcement of PFD requirements for all river running activities.

Whatever best serves the optimal health of the land/water/animals of the natural environment first and the human pleasures second.

The devil is in the details.

I wouldn't want to see ugly fences.

I wouldn't want restrictions on when (unless related to dangerous flow rates), or how many people were allowed to tube.

Yes, The creek is losing its charm as a local and the city has asked for it through misguided marketing and lack of enforcement. As a local, there needs to be certain accommodations Better parking, wider walkways, trash receptacles would help. To keep the area inviting, please, not a lot of rules to follow or authoritative figures policing the creek. Folks are out for a good time, laughter, exercise and fun.

It depends what you call illegal or what you determine would reduce congestion. Given Colorado's history and the history of Clear Creek, gold activities should certainly be allowed.

No. Nothing's broken here. People need access & use as they see fit, be it fishing, picnicking, or gold prospecting.

What is the response going to be??

Does not need it.

8. What are your top concerns about recreational use on the creek? - Comments

Answer

tough to rank. If I could, I would give capacity, environmental impact, and parking/access an equal score. Every single concern is a "5"

Trying to force a ranking is stupid and skews data.

equal

Would be nice to have a license to have dogs off leash in the creek area.

All need balanced but not restricted. I would add trash management and need for people to clean up after their pets and keep their pets on a leash. I also think the camping along the trail west of the bridge at 6th Av., should be restricted. It appears that some people make camp sites their home for the summer.

Again, smoking and littering bother me the most. Parking doesn't matter, because people can walk.

Golden has plenty of parking.

I'm fine with the way it is. I rather tolerate some overcrowding than having new regulations imposed.

I live on the hillside, but I think if I lived nearby then I would be more concerned with that issue.

/they take over parking areas, have loud music, and leave trash everywhere!!!!

inappropriate photography by inappropriate persons is a concern

We must preserve parking for sponsored events i.e. the summer Farmer's Market, Arts Festival etc

need to not disrupt events going on in the city of Golden, tourists are what keep golden alive and thriving

The most disturbing aspect of last summer's high use was seeing babies and children in the creek unattended.

In years of higher flow it would be dangerous. I feel parents have been lulled into thinking the creek as a safe fun alternative to a pool but that it is only a matter of time before a terrible accident occurs.

The biggest concerns to me are that at times (for instance weekends) the mood/experience in the creek corridor is busy and hectic, and that the banks are becoming denuded.

It's important to me that the corridor look and feel well kept and cared for - so that the experience is enjoyable but also that people are more likely to treat the area well.

Sorry to the residents, but when you choose to live in a beautiful location you should expect (and enjoy) tourists/visitors. You don't get to keep it all to yourself.

This was hard to classify as most important as they all are to us!

A bit unfair to say the residents are the least affected. All of the above impact residents.

Pay Parking, Have it free for Golden Residents or a 10 annual pass, I would pay. this is what Boulder does, this will keep the undesirables away. Also permit parking in the nearby residents. Use the money to have a cop there every single day. This problem is not new at all, but nothing has been done to fix it.

i don't like this ranking, these are ALL equally important, if you want to add something that might rank a "1" it might be noise, or trash. but the five listed above are all "5"s to me.

My family has been in Golden since 1873, many of the people that live here now don't realize how many people have lost their lives in Clear Creek.

You have to keep the canyon clean.

My suggestion on a solution would be to have a program where residents were able to receive a free park pass to access the Clear Creek trail, Clear Creek, and the Kayak Park. Non-residents would have to pay a small fee to access these opportunities.

If water levels are high I worry about people getting hurt because they don't realize how powerful the current can be. Capacity is the main reason for the above issues...limit the creek to every other day and it will significantly reduce the other issues,

Illegal activity is the exception, Sheriff Mink had a list of rules and regs including not smoking...I noticed all rules and regs were broken with impunity

It's a matter of manpower and how many man power hours can be effectively and economically employed
Parking and impact to residents is of little concern, as if the illegal activity, capacity and environmental issues are controlled there will not be issues with these other two.

My biggest concern is not being able to attend the creek due to overcapacity.

We support improvements like bank structuring in heavy use areas to prevent erosion and would encourage and support a volunteer program to help ease traffic, parking, and trash issues. Tell the Golden Police to keep up the good work by continuing to anticipate and head off issues in a thoughtful manner. Invest in further smart and tasteful improvements up and down the creek to help spread out use and maintain the environment and habitat.

I recommend using the instantaneous population of the CCC as a measure of the intensity of use.

Various means can be used to measure the population, and at each population level effects on any aspect can be estimated; almost every aspect of concern is affected more by higher population levels. This would provide an obvious metric to discuss overall management: at each population there will be costs to each aspect. For some of these (cont in next text box...). Oh, thanks. No more space. Bye

I am not that aware of how much "illegal" activity there has been. But that should be addressed by default so I don't really think about it as being #1, but it kind of could be if were a big issue.

Bicycles need separate lane on 10th to Rec center and adjacent to RV park.

Institute some safety regulations such as the use of PFDs to minimize the need for costly rescue services and improve safety. This will assist with "drop-in" recreation by requiring that boaters, swimmers, and tubers are safety aware and plan ahead for their recreational use. Educated users are more aware and sensitive to environmental impact, too. Maintain biking routes - these people are not the problem and bikes cut down on traffic and parking problems.

The "trashing" of Clear Creek is upsetting. Visitors often treat the creek as a dumping ground with the attitude that it doesn't matter. As a Golden local, we care about the impact so many visitors have on the creek and the surrounding area. While trying to attract tourism to the town, it brings behaviors that damage the creek and the town's reputation as a family friendly destination.

No one really lives close enough to clear creek to get impacted.

My top concern is encouraging all involved to respect each other and the varied uses of the creek for recreational purposes.

the loss of my access to public land because of someone that thinks they know better!

Restriction of gold prospecting, sluicing, etc.

Public access must be maintained for all to use the creek.

If the City of Golden believes that the mess they have created at Clear Creek adds any significant economic benefit to the City, they should observe what most of the participants do when they are done trashing the place - they leave town.

My first concern would be safety - unsafe wading/tubing, particularly kids.

Government needs to back off on things unless there is a real problem like CRIME. Stay out of our life please.

seems to be working fine as it is

LEAVE IT ALONE

Environmental Harassment my 5 boys and wife enjoy there vacations when we go up there.
none

If I were to fill this out in the manner that makes sense to me I would be allowed to rank several of these items with the same ranking. In fact, most of them would be a 5.

Everyone should strive to minimize our impacts,
All Tree Hugger activity.

I have not noticed anything but some grass needing to be replaced. People leave tracks on these types of ground covering.

Actually, all of those points fall in the 5 category for me.

I think capacity and environmental issues (trash, dog droppings, drug remains, low water damage to the river, fishermen vs boaters vs tubers/swimmers) are the priority. Parking is decent, but could be priorities based on location for what activity. Having the baseball field there doesn't help and damage from the balls is a higher issue in the parking lots. Most residents know of the river use and many move there for it and should be less of an issue.

This is an incorrect format to answer this question. I am equally concerned about most of these issues. If you will conserve the creek the economic pact will continue to be positive. If you allow the creek to continue to decline you lose this resource economic and quality of life

There is no issues accociated with mineral prospecting

The nearby residents of the area (being a homeowner within 2 blocks of lions park) should be able to enjoy the open park space, run without dodging smoking non-residents, not have to look at TENTS in their open space (such as the monstrosities put on in the summer months in front of the rec center), the graffiti problem up clear creek along the old aquafor should be addressed. As a trail runner I am sick of running down with hands full of empty beer cans. The space has been robbed from residents

This is somewhat hard to rank as i feel that as certain issues are dealt with then others will fall into acceptable realms. Example, Parking and capacity will affect environmental integrity.

bottom line is all of the above are important.

9. What are your primary considerations when thinking about how the creek should be managed? - Comments

Answer

[No Responses]