

## Clear Creek Management Plan Workshop #1

March 18, 2013

### **Desired Experience Picnickers/Swimmers/Waders:**

- Picnic place/area by the creek;
- Wade/swim/sunbathe by creek;
- Bring my dog to swim in creek;
- Family--sit by creek and have sack lunch/snacks;
- Area for active sports on land (tag, catch, Frisbee, soccer, baseball, etc.);
- Splash pad;
- Expanded beach area with chairs.

### **Gold Panning (155 Years of Tradition):**

- Today: Recreational gold prospecting is NOT mining;
- One of the fastest growing hobbies;
- Unique/rare: Can only do this in very few spots on earth;
- Kids: Connect to nature-NDD;
- Ecology: Trash, leaded glass;
- Tourism.

Desired: To recognize and preserve recreational gold prospecting for its historical significance, outdoor connection to nature, benefit to tourism, and the economy.

[www.gold-unlimited.com](http://www.gold-unlimited.com)

### **Neighbors' Group:**

- Too congested on weekends. Maintain weekday parking on weekends;
- Ability to park in the neighborhood;
- We want a peaceful, enjoyable creek environment;
- Would like the park to be a community park rather than a regional park;
- We've lost our community—we'd like to re-establish a sense of Golden's community;
- Safe environment for all ages, especially in the summer;
- Sense of feeling trapped/invaded in our own homes during the summer;
- Diversion of traffic to lessen congestion;
- Desire to enjoy quality of life in our front yard;
- Well thought out growth plan. (We didn't see "growth" listed as an issue/concern-8<sup>th</sup> St. new residential Flats @ Clear Creek.);
- Concern over ability to support more events;
- Desire to share events in other parts of Golden (i.e. Mines, golf course, other parks/neighborhoods, etc.).

**VISION STATEMENT:** Peaceful, respectful, enjoyable neighborhood/creek environment.

## **Law Enforcement:**

- Traffic and noise;
- Creek being overused;
- Alcohol use;
- Bikes, skateboards, other wheeled devices on trail;
- Safety for all users-voluntary compliance; reasonable, enforceable, and clear rules.

## Loraxes:

- Nature experience-birds, green, preservation;
- Riparian-good water quality;
- Healthy trees for shade and beauty;
- Worked hard to improve-we must not lose our long term gains in cleaning up the creek;
- Too many people-overwhelms the creek;
- Trail usage;
- Water access;
- Controlled usage;
- Rules followed/enforced;
- Not SOOO crowded-relaxing;
- Make more + than last year;
- Greater appreciation for natural resources-respectful;
- Visitors are educated about environment;
- Protected areas for nature/left untouched;
- No personal use-fish OK-no entry: Example-Breckenridge has no swimming/playing-no recreation;
- No kayaks/tubes, etc.;
- Events along creek are related to natural environment *not* in conflict;
- Boulder creek management.

## **Local Business:**

Desired experience:

- Still be welcoming-not out of control (balanced);
- No environmental destruction;
- Farmer's Market customers to be able to enjoy market as well as creek;
- Farmer's Market customers being able to park close to carry purchases to car;
- Too many restrictions will keep people "away" from businesses;
- Reasonably "close, free" parking;
- Parking to remain free;
- Visitors or locals to have a great experience and leave happy;
- More signage-education of regulars (assist Rangers);
- Close event parking-Example: Fine Arts Festival;
- People to feel "welcome" to our community;
- To ensure there is a positive tie between visiting Golden and Clear Creek-an economic tie to downtown Golden;
- Appropriate and "enough" facilities (toilets/changing areas).

### **Kayakers/Boaters:**

- Segregation of activities;
- Upstream development (increase useable area);
- Slalom course-separate from play features, upgrade gates-H. S. slalom team Tuesday & Thursday;
- Construction of bladder feature (adjustable play boating feature);
- Ability to hold events;
- Parking;
- Safety-pfd requirement, education, free rental program;
- Maintenance of play features (kayak features);
- Swimming hole-near Ford Street;
- Quality of experience-overcrowding;
- River etiquette & river safety informational signage;
- Trash;
- Erosion-dedicated access points and improvement of them;
- Exception for kayakers if river closed due to low water.

## **Cyclists:**

- Retain access to Billy Drew Bridge and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. pedestrian bridges;
- Okay with cycling restrictions when path is congested. Prefer to retain access on south side;
- Single most important issue is carrying capacity of Clear Creek corridor. Behavior/user groups/etc., aside-there are just too many people;
- Provide well marked cycling routes if cycling use is segregated or prohibited. Couple this with physical signs and PR/public information regarding use patterns;
- Desired experience: Smooth merging at trail intersection (both sides of Washington Ave. underpass);
- Desired experience: Use Clear Creek trail as connector to Chimney (mtbr) and Look-Out (Mines/19<sup>th</sup>: road biking);
- Experience-regional signage to connecting trails, directions.

## **Tubers:**

Why?

- Not love Clear Creek to death;
- Good solutions long term;
- All Golden residents;
- Get involved as new resident;

Desired experiences?

- Free and run for everybody;
- Accessible, safe, and enjoy/respect natural experience;
- Prevent stream bank damage (define access/no access points);
- More snow/rain 😊 (spread users out city-wide);
- Keep it family friendly (more law enforcement);
- More knowledge of parking options;
- Some benefit to Golden (financial);
- Be able to spend entire day creek side along a stretch of stream with coolers, chairs, grills, etc.;
- Limit ability of groups to “monopolize” (camp out) the stream bank;
- Be able to put in west of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.;
- Identified and enforced family picnic areas on stream bank.

## **Trail Walkers/Joggers:**

- Walk without bicycle pushing me aside;
- Space to walk safely;
- Other users to be courteous, friendly;
- Enjoy without being “scrutinized” by Rangers;
- Minimal trash on ground;
- People picking up trash;
- Available, abundant doggie bags;
- Clean environment;
- Signage clearly showing “approved access”;
- Uncluttered view at path level;
- Helpful, affirming signage;
- Wooden (attractive) fences/barriers;
- More trash receptacles;
- More friendly enforcement of “dog on leash”;
- Dog “friendly” and responsible atmosphere;
- Dog park area/off-leash area;
- Assurance that young children are safe;
- Respect for “power” of water as dangerous;
- Young children have safe place to play in water;
- “Experience” of walking on path is relaxing;
- Lighting at night;
- I don’t have to worry about safety of other people, especially young children;
- Night lighting-safe but NOT harsh;
- Food truck? Food vendor?;
- More natural sounds (water, birds, etc.);
- Observe people (kayakers, anglers, etc.) enjoying the water;
- Fun, special events on the water (Example: cardboard boat races, etc.);
- Places to stop and relax;
- Share space respectfully;

- Sculptures along the path;
- Trail elongated all the way to Vanover Park;
- Entertainment including “live” music.