

Clear Creek Management Plan

Golden, CO 2014



Acknowledgements

The City of Golden would like to thank all the residents and other stakeholders who contributed their time and ideas to this plan. This document represents the thoughts, concerns and hopes of many stakeholders with a variety of interests and perspectives. All share a strong affinity for Clear Creek as Golden's treasure and have worked together to craft potential strategies for creek management with the intention of valuing all perspectives.



Council Resolution

Table of Contents

1-2	Need for a Clear Creek Management Plan	26	Appendix A – ERC Proposed Corridor Improvements
3	Purpose of this Plan	27	Appendix B – Weekday & Weekend Parking Counts
4	Clear Creek Corridor Master Planning	28	Appendix C – 2013 User Violations and Locations
5	Relationship to Other Plans	29-40	Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey
6	Golden Vision 2030	41-44	Appendix E – 2/12/13 Open House
7	Balancing Uses & Values	45-49	Appendix F – Community Workshop #1
8	Scope of the Clear Creek Master Plan	50-54	Appendix G – Community Workshop #2
9	Planning Process	55-58	Appendix H – 10/1/2013 Public Meeting
10-11	Stakeholders	59-61	Appendix I – User Intercept Surveys
12	Categories of Concern		
13	2013 Clear Creek Management Strategies		
14-15	2013 Evaluation		
16	Management for 2014 and Beyond		
17	Managing Clear Creek Trail Use		
18	Managing Impact to Creek Neighbors		
19	Managing In-Creek Uses		
20	Managing Creek Bank Uses		
21	Managing Messaging		
22	Managing the Economic Big Picture		
23	Managing Parking		
24	Safety & Law Enforcement		



Need for a Clear Creek Management Plan



In the summer of 2012, the City of Golden experienced an unprecedented increase in the number of visitors to the Clear Creek Corridor due to low seasonal run-off resulting in low water flows in Clear Creek coupled with extreme high temperatures. While no objective measurements are available, City staff estimate thousands more people visited Clear Creek in the summer of 2012 than ever before.

Already a popular multi-use area, the corridor was seriously impacted by the influx of people. Concerns were expressed regarding overcrowding, noise, parking, environmental degradation, trash and other impacts. In urban environments, it is particularly challenging to balance resource protection and visitor use.

City of Golden staff reacted immediately to public concerns by conducting an ecosystem assessment, developing a communications campaign about acceptable use in the corridor, and working with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program to conduct a public process to develop a written management plan for use of the Clear Creek Corridor. The intent of the Clear Creek Management Plan is to establish a framework for managing the wide variety of recreational uses while balancing the need to restore and preserve the creek and its banks.

The Clear Creek Management Plan will serve as a guiding document for management of Clear Creek by providing a framework for monitoring creek use and incorporating new management strategies when they are needed to protect the Clear Creek experience. The plan will serve as an Appendix to the Clear Creek Master Plan, along with the Clear Creek Ecosystem Assessment which was also developed to address impacts of use. Each of these three plans provides a complete package to ensure Clear Creek remains a fun, safe place to play while protecting natural resource values.

Need for a Clear Creek Management Plan

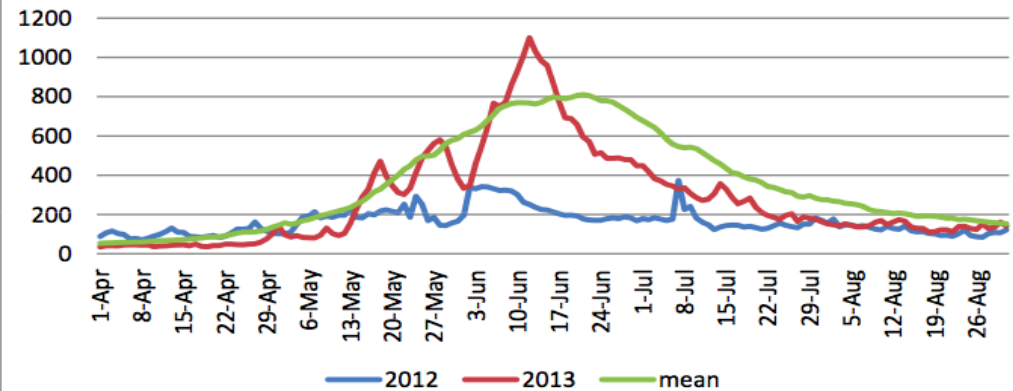
Low flows in Clear Creek coupled with high average daily temperatures contributed to an unprecedented increase in the number of visitors to the Clear Creek Corridor in 2012.

Visitation to the Clear Creek Corridor increases significantly on weekends, during holidays and special events and during months with higher than average temperatures.

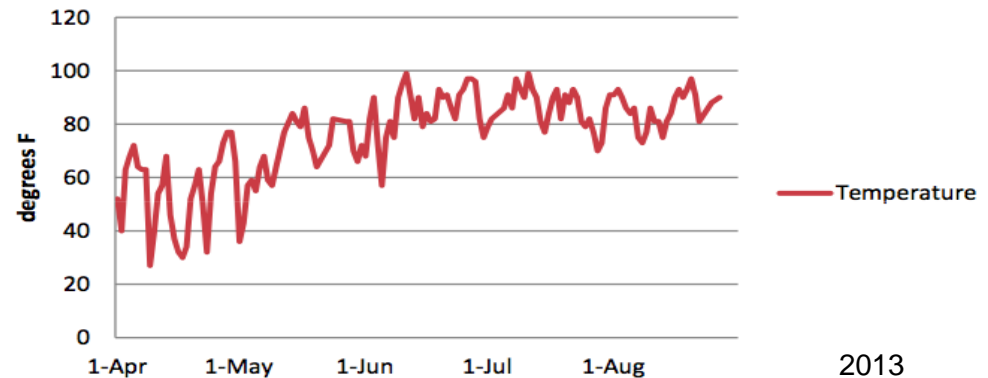
A growing concern has developed along the Clear Creek Corridor that when recreational use is very high, not only do user conflicts and resident impacts increase, but the ecosystem health may also be significantly at risk.



Clear Creek Flows at Golden (cfs)



Daily High Temperature



Purpose of this Plan



Purpose of the Clear Creek Management Plan

- ❑ Understand the public's needs and desires for recreational use of Clear Creek
- ❑ Collaboratively explore possible management strategies with Clear Creek stakeholders
- ❑ Create a Management Plan document to guide the future management of Clear Creek while balancing the desires of users with preservation of the creek.

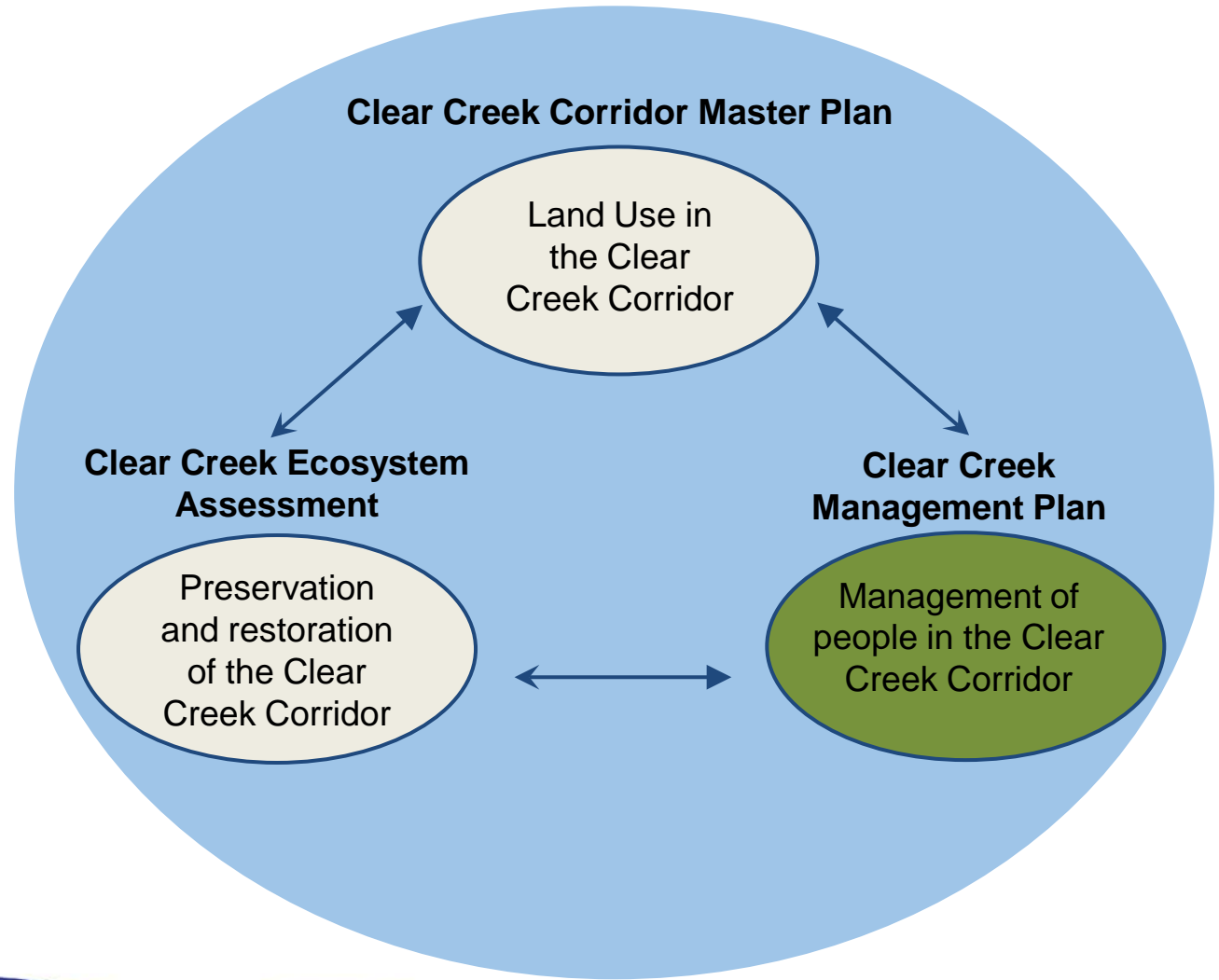
This Plan Will...

- ❑ Identify existing dynamics within the planning area
- ❑ Identify trends in visitation
- ❑ Understand the spectrum of impacts of the multitude of Clear Creek uses
- ❑ Identify management strategies to manage current impacts in the Clear Creek Corridor
- ❑ Identify desired conditions and management strategies for future use and management in the Clear Creek Corridor

Clear Creek Corridor Master Planning

Planning for the Clear Creek Corridor exists in 3 interconnected documents:

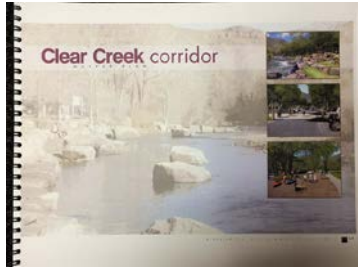
- ★ 2011 Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan
- ★ 2013 Clear Creek Ecosystem Health-Riparian & Aquatic Assessment
- ★ 2014 Clear Creek Management Plan



Relationship to Other Plans

Clear Creek Master Plan

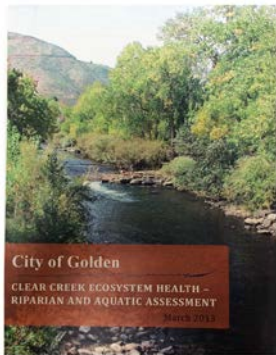
Primarily a land use plan, the 2011 Clear Creek Master Plan sets forth to create a park that minimizes conflicts between different user groups, identifies appropriate elements and organizes the activities based on input from the community, neighborhood, stakeholders and City departments. The Master Plan goals included:



- Improving pedestrian connectivity within the Clear Creek Corridor
- Accommodating diverse user groups
- Identifying optimal vehicular circulation and parking that is convenient to activities and compliments prime locations within the Corridor
- Organizing recreational amenities and park elements
- Providing a balance between regional and local use with an emphasis on the local community

Although there have been changes to the Clear Creek Corridor based on the recommendations of the Clear Creek Master Plan, the plan did not provide guidelines for managing the people using the Clear Creek Corridor.

City of Golden Clear Creek Ecosystem Health – Riparian and Aquatic Assessment



Ecological Resources Consultants, Inc. (ERC) was contracted by The City of Golden in 2013 to conduct an overview assessment of the corridor in the context of riparian and aquatic ecosystem integrity as well as provide potential ecosystem protection and management strategies. Recommendations from that study resulted in creating zones along Clear Creek fenced for preservation, stream bank stabilization, re-vegetation and the creation of formalized terraces and access points. Many of the recommendations from the ERC study have already been completed with additional improvements recommended for 2014.

Golden Vision 2030



Golden Vision 2030

The Golden Vision 2030 project undertaken by the citizens of Golden in 2009 and 2010 demonstrated the community's great commitment to Golden, and a strong consensus about the questions related to "who we are as a community," and "who we intend to be in the future." Golden Vision 2030 is the articulation of community values – the characteristics that make Golden what it is today. It is also a guide to help community members and City officials evaluate the issues and decisions they will face in the coming years. The Values brought forth in the Golden Vision 2030 plan were the launching point for the goals of the Clear Creek Management Plan.



Balancing Uses & Values

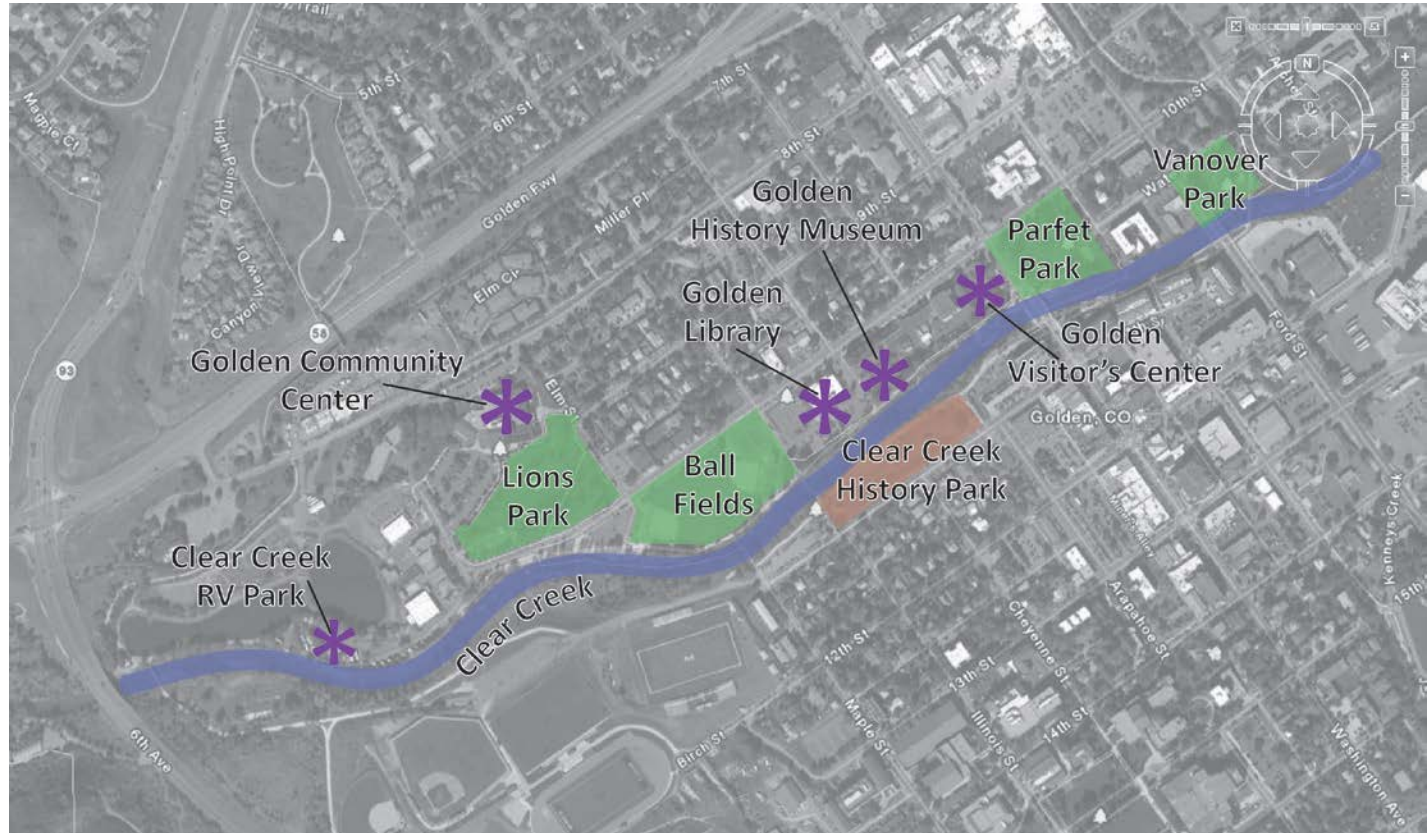
In the Golden Vision 2030 Plan, Golden residents articulated a spectrum of sentiments and desires related to their community. The values they wanted to preserve and protect require careful consideration. The community feedback gathered in that plan, coupled with responses to a 2013 online survey about Clear Creek use and management began to paint a picture of an array of issues that needed to be balanced in the management of Clear Creek, including:

- **Creek Use vs. Protection:** people value the use of Clear Creek for recreational and other purposes and also value protection of the creek as a natural resource
- **Freedom vs. Regulation:** echoing a traditionally “wild west” desire for freedom and self determination, people express an interest in limited regulation and using resources freely yet also recognize the need for limited regulation in the use and protection of collective resources
- **Friendly & Welcoming vs. Sheltered & Protected:** Golden has a sense of itself as a friendly and welcoming place to be yet values the fact that it is separate from urban Denver
- **Connected vs. Removed:** given its location within the Denver metro area and connection to the metro region via transit systems, Golden is within reach of a variety of regional attractions and Golden is geographically and topographically separated from the region
- **Recreation Destination vs. Sustainable Living:** people realize that Golden’s many assets mean that it is not only an attractive place to live and work, but it is also a highly attractive place to visit. People also believe in living sustainably in a way that minimizes impact to the environment
- **Safe, Quiet, Clean, Well-Maintained vs. Self-Policing/Self Directed:** while people value a safe, clean, quiet community, they also prefer to achieve that without heavy regulation or heavy-handed, externally imposed behavioral expectations

Scope of The Clear Creek Management Plan

The Clear Creek Management Plan addresses approximately one linear mile of Clear Creek, the Clear Creek Trail and adjacent public spaces between 6th Avenue on the west side of the plan area and Vanover Park at Ford Street on the east side.

The Clear Creek Corridor is a linear park connecting Lions Park to Vanover Park, downtown Golden to regional trails, and plays host to a kayak course ball fields, museums, businesses, the Farmer's Market, Library and the Golden Community Center.



Planning Process

The City of Golden elected for an open, inclusive, collaborative, community-centered planning process that included an initial online survey, an open house, two public workshops, intercept surveys of creek users and a public meeting. The goals of the planning process included:

- Understand how people are using the creek and how they desire to use the creek
- Create a Clear Creek Management Plan which includes current and future management tools that balance the multitude of uses and preservation of the creek corridor resource
- Field verify staff's understanding of the primary concerns and strategies to alleviate those concerns based on user input
- Develop management strategies that could be employed in the 2013 activity season and understand the impacts
- Provide alterations in the physical environment that promote safe access for creek users and protect sensitive habitat from the impacts of high usage
- Demonstrate the city's actions toward addressing impacts of high volume of use
- Build an understanding amongst creek users about safety and preservation of natural resources
- Effectively communicate expectations about creek corridor use and acceptable behaviors



Stakeholders

Many people use and enjoy the Clear Creek corridor for a variety of active and passive experiences. Each stakeholder group has a unique set of experiences they want to have and protect related to Clear Creek. In public meetings, stakeholders described themselves and their desired experiences in the following ways:

Residents of Adjacent Neighborhoods:

This group includes residents adjacent to the Clear Creek Corridor from 8th Street to 11th Street in Golden. They seek a peaceful, respectful neighborhood creek environment where they can park close to their home, feel safe, and have a strong sense of community and high quality of life. The neighbors would like the Clear Creek Corridor to function more like a community park than a regional draw and would like permit parking and increased parking enforcement on their streets. They would like to explore options to reduce congestion of the corridor, including limiting parking and spreading special events to other parts of town.

Picnickers, Waders, Swimmers: This group of users typically spends the day or a large portion of the day at the creek. They stake a claim on an area, often in a group or family and sometimes with a dog. They would enjoy places for active play (tag, catch, Frisbee) and a place to enjoy their lunch. Picnic areas, beach areas with chairs, and a splash pad would be enjoyed by this user group.

Gold Panners: The typical gold panner in Golden is prospecting, not mining. Gold panning is a fast growing hobby unique to Colorado. Gold panners wish to preserve recreational gold prospecting for its historical significance, connection to nature and benefit to tourism. This group enjoys educating others, especially youth and would like an area along the creek where they could pan for gold undisturbed by other creek users.

City of Golden: The City of Golden includes several city departments responsible for Clear Creek Corridor Management including: Planning and Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police and Fire. The City would like to create a balance between preservation of the creek as a natural resource as well as making it an enjoyable recreation destination for the many stakeholders who love it. Creating the balance includes establishing new access points and removing sensitive areas from use. It includes better communication of rules & regulations as well as the best parking locations.

The City desires voluntary compliance from users to create a safe, fun environment for everyone.

Loraxes: This group of users got its nickname from the Dr. Seuss story of *The Lorax* who is an advocate for the natural world. This group places high value on the natural environment and often visit the Clear Creek Corridor to be close to nature. Loraxes seek trail and water access with controlled usage to protect natural resources, enforced rules and regulations, and events along the creek which are related to the natural environment. They desire a greater appreciation from users of the Clear Creek Corridor and for protected areas to be left untouched.



Stakeholders

Kayakers & Boaters: This group includes creek users who are in a boat or kayak, typically utilizing safety gear and enjoying the creek during times of higher water flows. They enjoy play features and upkeep of the kayak course within Clear Creek. Their needs include nearby parking to unload their gear. Kayakers and boaters have encouraged separation of activities along the creek to maximize enjoyment of distinct creek experiences for distinct user types. They would also enjoy additional features such as an inflatable structure next to Washington Street and a slalom course separate from existing play features.

Fishermen: Fishermen seek to preserve Clear Creek and its natural resources as well as enjoy a designated area where fishing can occur without conflict with other creek users.



Local Businesses: Golden's local businesses seek to welcome visitors. They are concerned too many restrictions will keep people from visiting Golden. They wish to encourage a positive tie between visiting Clear Creek and supporting local businesses. They are in favor of signage and enforcement while ensuring reasonably close free, parking and, most of all, for visitors to Golden to leave happy.

Tubers: Tubers typically spend the day at the creek because it is a free and fun experience. This group wants the creek to be safe and accessible. Many have expressed the need for enforcement to keep Clear Creek "family friendly." They seek more parking options and identified areas to picnic alongside the creek with coolers, chairs, grills, etc. They are not generally opposed to restricted access areas, as long as they are clearly defined, communicated and enforced.

Cyclists: Many cyclists who frequent the Clear Creek Trail are using the trail as a connector to Chimney Gulch and Lookout Mountain. They desire well marked cycling routes coupled with signage. They generally support separated trail uses, such as using the South Side of Clear Creek Trail during congested times of the year. They would like to see additional regional signage connecting trails and better direction for trail users.

Trail Walkers/Joggers: Trail walkers and joggers are one of the biggest user groups of the Clear Creek Corridor. They seek a space to safely enjoy their walk or run without conflicts with other users and their equipment. They enjoy a clean environment, with viewing areas, plenty of trash receptacles, dog friendly (with leash laws enforced) and designated quiet places to connect with nature.

Categories of Concern

Several general themes emerged from public surveys and community conversations about Clear Creek as a host to many users with many different desired experiences. These categories represent the primary concerns reflected by a variety of creek Stakeholders:

Golden's public safety and law enforcement personnel have the responsibility of ensuring public safety and responding to emergencies. High visitation and creek use has public safety and law enforcement impacts.

Periodic influxes of visitors to the Clear Creek Corridor have significant parking ramifications, especially for residents living near Clear Creek. Providing adequate parking for visitors and residents is a delicate balance.

Clear Creek draws many people to Golden. Visitors contribute significantly to Golden's economic vitality.

Educating creek users is an important component of communicating the rules, laws and expectations of using Clear Creek for recreational enjoyment.

A variety of trail users enjoy Clear Creek for walking, biking and other uses. Trail use adjacent to Clear Creek clearly impacts and is impacted by recreational use of Clear Creek.

Impacts to adjacent neighborhoods include trash, lewd behavior, and lack of parking for residents.

Many uses take place *in* Clear Creek, including, kayaking, tubing, wading, fishing, gold panning and more. At times, in-creek uses conflict with each other.

Much of the use and impact on Clear Creek takes place on the banks with people picnicking, sunbathing, people watching and generally enjoying the Clear Creek experience.



2013 Clear Creek Management Strategies

On February 28th, Golden City Council approved the following management strategies for the 2013 summer season. The strategies were developed based on the recommendations of the environmental assessment of Clear Creek and public feedback received from the 2013 Creek User Survey and the February 12th, 2013 Clear Creek Open House. (See Appendix A for more information)

A new position has been created within the Golden Police Department titled “Clear Creek Park Ranger.” Rangers will assist sworn Police Officers with issuing Administrative Citations for prohibited activities such as:



A public campaign was launched in 2013 introducing the “Golden Rule.” The Golden rule asks creek users to be kind to Clear Creek and its neighbors. Signage is prominently displayed along the creek at key access areas reminding users of Golden regulations.

- Pet leash regulations
- Damaging the creek bank or encroaching on restricted areas
- Some alcohol violations
- Smoking violations
- Sanitation or health measures
- Activity by vendors
- Creek closures for safety, environmental protection or other concerns
- Parking regulations

Current Prohibited Activities Include:

- Alcohol possession or open container
- Smoking
- Glass containers of any kind
- Coolers, tents or canopies in the creek bed or on the creek banks
- Dogs off leash, pet waste not being cleaned up after
- Damage or destruction of property
- Traditional disturbing the peace/behavioral issues
- Creek closures and safety equipment requirements during high water periods

2013 Evaluation

Physical improvements and operational measures implemented in 2013 were effective and the 2013 Clear Creek recreational season was considered successful. Early in 2013, staff identified a number of areas where relevant data would be collected in some cases comparing to prior years or pre-summer periods. Measurements taken and data collected over the summer season are included in summary below.

Creek Flow & Air Temperature

Creek flows were well above 2012 levels for much of May and June, then fell below traditional flow rates. Early season temperatures were moderate most days, then increased consistently to exceed 90 degrees for daily high temperatures. As a result, the month of August was a true test of maximum corridor usage and impact. See graphs on page 2.

Vehicle Counts

Vehicle traffic counts were taken in early May and again in August in two locations along 10th Street. A comparison of the two indicates no significant difference in traffic volumes between the two periods. Pedestrian counts were taken by automated trail counters placed in four locations. As expected, the busiest location is the north side of the creek between Illinois Street and the Clear Creek RV Park.

Enforcement of Public Land Regulations & Municipal Code Requirements

The major takeaway after review of the detailed information collected regarding enforcement is the vast majority of violations involve alcohol, dogs off leash and parking. The majority of citations issued have been to Golden area visitors (zip code 80401 and 80403). The Park Ranger Program is quite successful, and recommended to continue. See Appendix C.



Park Ranger Program

The new Park Ranger Program including strict enforcement of regulations related to alcohol, glass containers, smoking and dogs off leash, as well as parking enforcement, has been considered quite successful and helped to create a more calm and inviting atmosphere in comparison to previous years along Clear Creek. Due to the success of the Park Ranger Program, two part time Rangers are retained year round and the program will continue with several full time Rangers in the summer season.

2013 Evaluation

Clear Creek User Survey

One of the most significant aspects of the overall management plan effort was a summer user intercept survey. The surveys took place one weekend per month in June, July and August. Approximately 280 individual intercept surveys were conducted by staff via iPads including a Spanish language version. Over 70% of the survey respondents were running/walking on trails adjacent to the creek or tubing. 35% of users came to Clear Creek because it is convenient or close by with 20% seeking water. Nearly all respondents were receptive to the possibility of creating bike specific lanes along Clear Creek Trail and favored increased enforcement of regulations such as no smoking, dogs off leash or alcohol. 76% of respondents visited downtown Golden in conjunction with their creek visit for shopping or dining. 78% of respondents drove a vehicle to Clear Creek, raising the concern for limited parking in the corridor. In addition just over half of the respondents were unwilling to pay a parking fee to park near the creek. For more detail, see Appendix D.

Weekday and Weekend Parking

Weekday and Weekend parking counts depicted in Appendix B are for 9th Street, the north side of 10th Street, 11th Street and certain downtown areas. The counts were conducted throughout the summer, however, in order to present the most significant data, only June and August data is included for comparison. As expected, weekend counts for August were much higher than June on 10th and 9th Street; however, the actual counts were not that different, except for the weekend of the Fine Arts Festival and Labor Day weekend. There continues to be concern for parking for 9th Street residents which will continue to be monitored with further permit parking discussion for that area.

Capital Investment

In 2013 the city made improvements to stabilize some creek bank areas and installed 9,300 lineal feet of fencing to protect environmentally sensitive areas at the recommendation of the ERC Ecosystem Assessment. Golden City Council also approved funding in the 2014 Capital Improvements Program Budget for several “hardened” access points, with a substantial investment to enhance the north bank adjacent to City Hall, the Library, and the parking lot east of Illinois Street. The design will include access areas, hardscaping, and contemplative spaces to view Clear Creek.

Long term action by City Council regarding operations and capital Investment along the Clear Creek Corridor will be based upon policy and community input. Some of the recommendations in the ERC Assessment can be found in Appendix A.

Management for 2014 and Beyond

The following sections separated and articulated by Primary Categories of Concern: Trail Use, Creek Neighbors, In-Creek Uses, Creek Bank Uses, Messaging, Creek Economics, Parking, and Safety and Law Enforcement. Each category is further broken down as follows:



Primary Concerns: what the community cares about most related to each Primary Category of Concern

Desired Conditions: a reflection of the desired conditions expressed in community workshops

Current Management Strategies: strategies employed in 2013 to address impacts and concerns

Monitoring Tools: suggested methods of tracking whether and to what extent the Desired Conditions are being met

Potential Management Actions: in the event that the Desired Conditions are no longer being met, this set of community-generated Potential Management Actions should be considered for implementation

Managing Clear Creek Trail Use

Trail Use Primary Concerns:

- Congestion on the trail
- Bikes, skateboards and other wheeled devices can cause safety concerns for people using the Clear Creek Trails at slower speeds
- Dogs are off leash and/or not being picked up after
- Insufficient signage communicating rules and regulations of trail and creek use

Desired Conditions

- Space to walk or run safely
- Well marked cycling routes if trail use is segregated by use type
- Signage clearly communicating expectations
- Clean environment with less trash
- Courteous and friendly trail users
- Plenty of places to stop and observe the creek
- Food vendors, but not more than one at a time

Current Management Strategies

- New Golden Rule signage was installed at several locations along the trails
- North side trail was widened from 8ft to 12 ft from Billy Drew Bridge to the Clear Creek RV Park
- Additional trash receptacles were added
- In 2014 funding is in place to add new access areas to the creek, this will also include a large contemplative/observation area behind the library parking lot
- In 2014 the city is partnering with Jefferson County Open Space to create regional trail signage for The Clear Creek Trail in its entirety.



Monitoring Tools

Surveys, trail counters, public input, law enforcement statistics, visitor comments, field observations

Potential Management Actions

- Cyclists use alternative trail routes such as South Side Clear Creek Trail only
- Signs to “Share the Trail”
- Designated bike lanes on trails
- Finish the north side Clear Creek Trail connecting to Vanover Park to ease congestion in other areas

Managing Impact to Creek Neighbors

Creek Neighbors Primary Concerns:

- Lack of parking for neighborhood residents
- Noise levels
- Trash
- Illegal alcohol consumption
- Inappropriate behavior including foul language and loitering on neighborhood streets

Desired Conditions

- Residents' ability to park near their home, most do not have driveways or garages
- Minimized loitering, loud music, alcohol consumption, lewd behavior, smoking and trash on neighborhood streets

Current Management Strategies

- Regular patrol of neighborhood streets near the Clear Creek Corridor during high traffic periods
- Residents reporting of unlawful activity

Monitoring Tools

Police reports, park ranger observations, resident reports and observation, parking counts



Potential Management Actions

- Parking restrictions (permit parking during high traffic periods/times of year)
- Increased enforcement by park rangers and police
- Residents only signage
- Re-configuration of street connectivity (breaking the grid)
- Reduce special events permits issued
- Reduce available parking in corridor

Managing In-Creek Uses

In Creek Uses Primary Concerns:

- Dogs, boogie boards and stand-up paddle boards may not be appropriate in Clear Creek
- Picnicking and rope swings may not be appropriate along the banks of Clear Creek
- Water is congested with many uses including appropriate uses such as fishing, kayaking, gold panning, swimming and tubing
- Creek may not be safe during high flow for tubers, swimmers and waders
- Environmental concerns regarding the creek banks and preservation of the natural habitat

Desired Conditions

- Free, safe and fun for all users
- Clear access and egress points, sensitive areas are protected
- Family friendly environment
- Accommodate all user groups



Current Strategies

- 2014 addition of 10 designated access points along the creek
- Zero tolerance regulations are enforced including no dogs off leash, smoking, or alcohol
- Education and Golden Rule signage installed

Monitoring Tools

Field observations, data collection on usage and flow rates, public input, law enforcement statistics, user surveys

Potential Management Actions

- Separation of activities (designated fishing, boating, tubing, gold panning areas)
- Require personal flotation devices, especially during high flow
- Flow level separation of user groups (ex: no tubing at high flow)
- Spread out activity by spreading recreational use to Vanover Park (example new kayak play feature at Washington Ave)

Managing Creek Bank Uses

Creek Bank Uses Primary Concerns:

- Degradation of the creek bank, preservation of the natural resource
- Congestion, grills, coolers and picnicking along the banks of Clear Creek

Desired Conditions

- Protect sensitive areas, education about preserving the natural creek habitat
- Place to have a picnic by the creek
- Ability to bring dogs to enjoy the creek
- Area for sports and active play by the creek
- Expanded beach area to gather with friends
- Safe areas to sit and observe the creek

Current Strategies

- Installed over 9,000 linear feet of fencing to protect sensitive areas
- 10 new access and egress points will be added in 2014
- Increased enforcement of zero tolerance regulations including no smoking, alcohol, open containers, glass containers, dogs off leash, you must pick up after your pet and no picnicking along the creek banks
- Opened Lions Ball fields to picnicking and active sports adjacent to the creek
- Reduced the number of scheduled athletic events at Lions Ball Fields in June, July & August



Monitoring Tools

Field observations, data collection on usage and flow rates, public input, law enforcement statistics, user surveys

Potential Management Actions

- Increased enforcement of “no picnicking: regulation along the creek banks
- Expanded beach area
- Spread out recreation venues
- Complete north Clear Creek Trail to Vanover Park

Managing Messaging

Overall Message/Creek Culture Primary Concerns:

- City rules and regulations are not clearly communicated
- Courtesy on the creek
- Businesses want to still be welcoming
- Some residents are concerned about too much promotion of a creek that is already overwhelmed with users.

Desired Conditions

- Users know the rules
- Information on Clear Creek is easy to find
- Fun, safe environment



Current Strategies

- The “Golden Rule” communications campaign was launched prior to summer 2013 including several new signs along the creek, educated Park Rangers and information available on the city’s website
- City worked with the Chamber and local businesses to help spread the word about the Golden Rule
- Ongoing marketing welcoming visitors to Golden

Monitoring Tools

Public input, law enforcement statistics, user surveys

Potential Management Actions

.Work with local merchants to communicate to creek users by providing safety information and parking locations

Managing the Economic Big Picture

Creek Economics Primary Concerns:

- There needs to be a balance between welcoming visitors to Clear Creek while maintaining an enjoyable experience for Golden residents
- Too many restrictions and rules could keep people away from local businesses and the Farmer's Market
- Close, free event parking is important to both residents and visitors

Desired Conditions:

- Capitalize on the economic benefits to the City from Clear Creek Users
- Parking information is easily assessable
- Clear Creek is a welcoming environment to both residents and visitors

Current Strategies

- Websites and signage directing visitors to parking
- Farmer's Market Vendors are shuttling in to allow for 200 additional spaces for visitors during market hours

Monitoring Tools

Customer surveys, parking data collection, field observations

Potential Management Actions

- Provide additional signage directing visitors to free parking areas such as the Coors Tech lot
- Provide parking maps at local businesses
- If there was a fee instituted for parking along Clear Creek, have a discount coupon equal to the parking free to use at local participating businesses.



Managing Parking

Parking Primary Concerns:

- 9th Street residents are unable to park near their homes during high use weekends and special events
- Local merchants wish for parking to remain free for their customers
- There is not enough parking along Clear Creek to meet the demand
- The Clear Creek RV Park and Library lots are full, leaving no parking for their customers

Desired Conditions

- Free, accessible parking for residents and visitors
- 9th Street residents have the ability to park next to their homes, most do not have driveways or garages



Current Strategies

- Reconfigured kayak parking lot at Maple Street to provide wider trail space and provide short-term loading/drop off zone
- Increased parking enforcement along neighboring streets including 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Streets
- Additional signage directing visitors to free parking lots downtown and at Coors Tech
- Farmer's Market shuttle vendors to provide for an additional 200 visitor parking spaces during Farmer's Market hours
- City is conducting a parking study for downtown and the Clear Creek Corridor

Monitoring Tools

Regular parking statistics, field observations, resident and visitor user surveys

Potential Management Actions

- Build additional parking garage within Clear Creek Corridor
- Parking brochures and maps available at kiosks, local businesses and on the city website
- Resident-only parking on adjacent neighborhood streets
- Permit only parking hours on 9th Street on the weekends
- Paid parking along Clear Creek with local business voucher
- Create an events calendar and work to spread events to other areas of the community to ease congestion
- Build additional surface lot within Clear Creek Corridor

Safety and Law Enforcement

Safety & Law Enforcement Primary Concerns:

- Clear Creek is congested with many violators smoking, drinking, picnicking, etc
- Safety concerns due to high volume and high flow
- Wheeled devices on the Clear Creek Trails
- Parking violations on streets adjacent to Clear Creek

Desired Conditions

- Safe, family friendly environment for residents and visitors
- Public educated on rules and regulations to allow for reduced violations over time

Current Strategies

- Park Rangers will work year round with increased ranger staff during the summer season
- New administrative rules and regulations including zero tolerance of smoking, alcohol, and dogs off leash
- New “Golden Rule” communications campaign educating creek users
- Increased enforcement of all administrative rules and regulations

Monitoring Tools

Law enforcement statistics, field observations, user surveys, visitor comments, staff reports

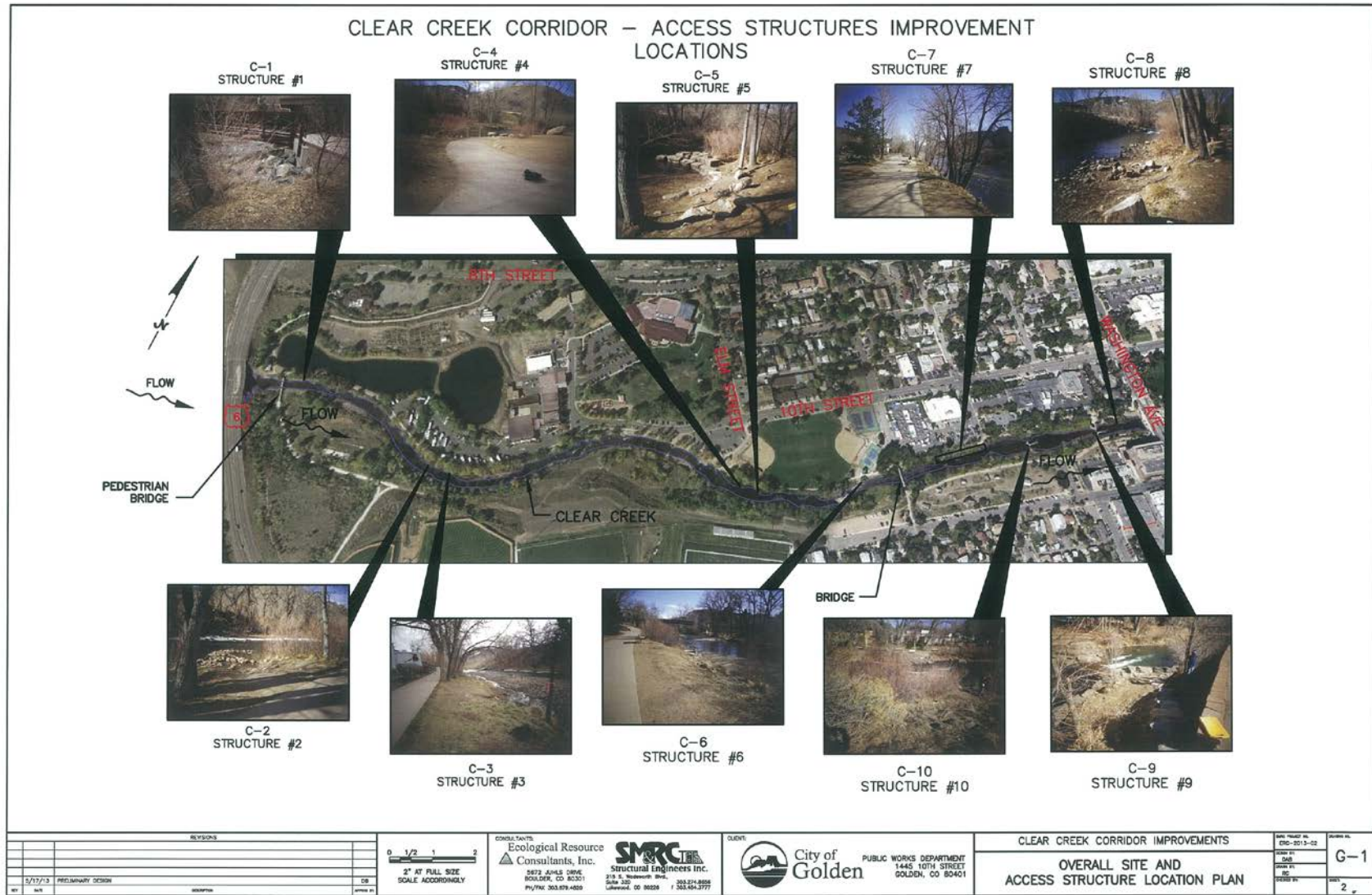
Potential Management Actions

Increase Park Ranger staff, expand or decrease patrol areas as needed



Appendixes

Appendix A - ERC Proposed Corridor Improvements



Appendix B - Weekday & Weekend Parking Counts

Clear Creek Nearby Parking Status – August Results

(and month to month comparison)

9th Street (both sides from Arapahoe to Maple Streets) – Capacity approx 75 cars

- Average Count Weekday – 27
- Average Count Friday – 22
- Average Count Saturday – 50
- Average Count Sunday – 43

	June	August	Difference
Average Count Weekday	29	27	7% decrease
Average Count Friday	26	22	15% decrease
Average Count Saturday	43	50	16% increase
Average Count Sunday	33	43	30% increase

10th Street (North side only from Arapahoe to Maple Streets) – Capacity approx 33 cars

- Average Count Weekday – 9
- Average Count Friday – 15
- Average Count Saturday – 25
- Average Count Sunday – 23

	June	August	Difference
Average Count Weekday	8	9	12% increase
Average Count Friday	7	15	114% increase
Average Count Saturday	16	25	56% increase
Average Count Sunday	12	23	92% increase

11th Street (both sides from Arapahoe to Maple Streets) – Capacity approx 90 cars

- Average Count Weekday – 44
- Average Count Friday – 31
- Average Count Saturday – 39
- Average Count Sunday – 33

	June	August	Difference
Average Count Weekday	33	44	33% increase
Average Count Friday	44	31	30% decrease
Average Count Saturday	41	39	5% decrease
Average Count Sunday	27	23	15% decrease



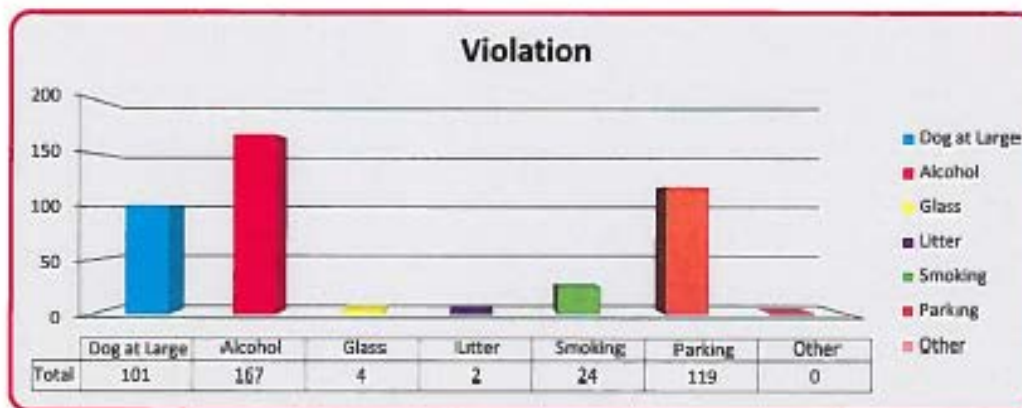
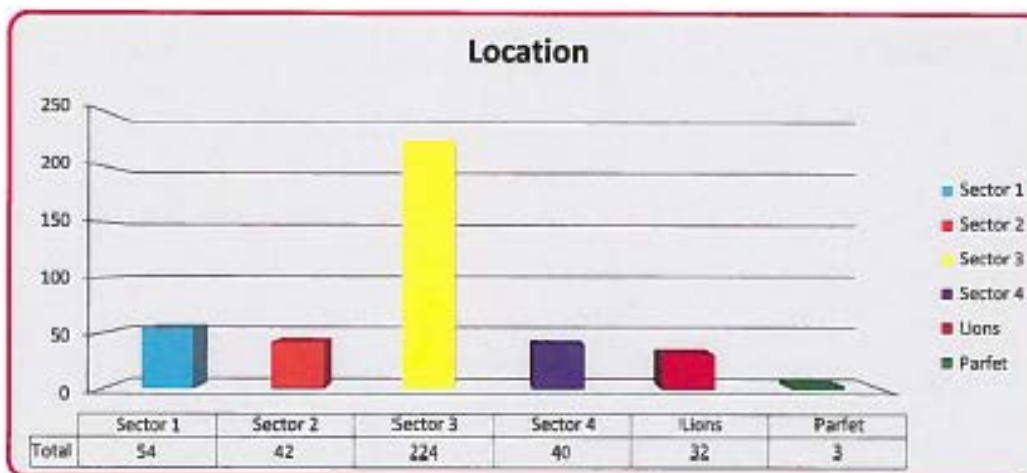
Appendix C - 2013 User Violations and Locations

Location	Total
Sector 1	54
Sector 2	42
Sector 3	224
Sector 4	40
Lions	32
Parfet	3

Sector 1 (Vanover Park to Amphitheater)
 Sector 2 (Amphitheater to Billy Drew Bridge)
 Sector 3 (Billy Drew Bridge to Entrance RV Park)
 Sector 4 (Entrance RV Park to Golden Jurisdiction)

Violation	Total
Dog at Large	101
Alcohol	167
Glass	4
Litter	2
Smoking	24
Parking	119
Other	0

PARK RANGER
DATA CALCULATED FROM 5/14/13 TO 9/2/13



Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

This Clear Creek Management Plan Survey was conducted in February of 2013. 148 responses were received: The responses that follow appear exactly as they were written in the survey.

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

Comments:

- 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
- picnicking with the kids in my life taking photos
- Wading
- Picnics
- Walking the dogs.
- As of 2012 I quit kayaking the creek, because it is so overcrowded and the crowd.

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

Comments:

- 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

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Boating	4	2.7%
Kayaking	17	11.5%
Tubing	46	31.2%
Fishing	12	8.1%
Swimming / Wading	51	34.6%
Walking, Biking, Running the Clear Creek Trail	137	93.1%
I don't use the creek	1	<1%
Other	12	8.1%
Total	147	100%

2. What activity do you participate in most often?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Boating	2	1.3%
Kayaking	4	2.7%
Tubing	2	1.3%
Fishing	1	<1%
Swimming / Wading	4	2.7%
Walking, Biking, Running the Clear Creek Trail	128	86.4%
Other	6	4.0%
No Responses	1	<1%
Total	148	100%

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

3. How often during peak season (May through September) do you enjoy Clear Creek? Water in the creek runs higher and faster during some periods of the year than others, and some years are dryer than others, resulting in what is referred to as 'high water' and 'low water' conditions.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Once or twice per season	10	6.7%
High water only	1	<1%
Low water only	1	<1%
A few times each month	42	28.3%
Several times per week	67	45.2%
Daily	17	11.4%
I don't use the creek	9	6.0%
No Responses	1	<1%
Total	148	100%

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Morning (before 11am)	45	31.9%
Midday (between 11am & 2pm)	49	34.7%
Afternoon (between 2pm & 5pm)	65	46.0%
Evening (after 5pm)	38	26.9%
Total	141	100%
28 Comment(s)		

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

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

- 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
- 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.

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Have not noticed	13	8.7%
I've noticed but it doesn't bother / impact me	34	22.9%
I've noticed and it negatively affects my enjoyment of Clear Creek	86	58.1%
Other	13	8.7%
No Responses	2	1.3%
Total	148	100%
40 Comment(s)		

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

Comments:

- 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 percieved 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!

Appendix D - Clear Creek User Survey

5. In the last 5 years, have you noticed an increase in usage of Clear Creek? (continued)

- 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.

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

- 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 don't 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.

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Overcrowding	115	82.7%
Noise	72	51.7%
Trash	101	72.6%
Illegal activity	48	34.5%
Lewd behavior	46	33.0%
Unsafe behavior	72	51.7%
Trespassing	36	25.8%
Parking issues	75	53.9%
Other	20	14.3%
Total	139	100%

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

- 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

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

7. Would you support city regulation aimed at easing overcrowding, and reducing congestion and illegal activity on or near the creek?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	89	60.1%
No	7	4.7%
It Depends (please elaborate below)	48	32.4%
No Responses	4	2.7%
Total	148	100%
50 Comment(s)		

7. Would you support city regulation aimed at easing overcrowding, and reducing congestion and illegal activity on or near the creek?

- That's 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.
- how would this be enforced? How would it limit access to the area?

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

- 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.
- 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 come 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.

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

- 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.
- 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.

Appendix D - Clear Creek User Survey

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

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Unconcerned				
	1	2	3	4	5
Capacity Issues	19 13%	25 18%	28 20%	41 29%	29 20%
Illegal Activity	44 31%	33 23%	22 15%	20 14%	23 16%
Environmental Integrity	16 11%	13 9%	21 15%	36 25%	56 39%
Impact to nearby residents	21 15%	45 32%	42 30%	18 13%	16 11%
Parking / Access	42 30%	26 18%	29 20%	27 19%	18 13%

19 Comment(s)

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

- 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 to 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 anual 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.

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

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

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Low				
	1	2	3	4	5
Environmental Preservation	12 9%	18 13%	19 13%	27 19%	65 46%
Recreational Opportunities	15 11%	26 18%	44 31%	43 30%	13 9%
Safety Considerations	28 20%	28 20%	36 26%	31 22%	18 13%
Economic Attraction	73 52%	32 23%	11 8%	10 7%	15 11%
Community Amenity	13 9%	37 26%	31 22%	30 21%	30 21%

10. In light of increasing use, Clear Creek needs a Management Plan to establish guidelines for how to balance multiple uses and competing interests.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Strongly Agree	78	52.7%
Agree	55	37.1%
No Opinion	7	4.7%
Disagree	4	2.7%
Strongly Disagree	2	1.3%
No Responses	2	1.3%
Total	148	100%

11. Which of the following Management Strategies would you support? Select all that apply.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Restricted use areas based upon damage or environmental	114	78.0%
Physical alterations to stabilize and protect certain high-use areas	95	65.0%
Creek flow based regulations of various uses and activities (i.e.	93	63.6%
Pet regulations, up to prohibiting pets on certain days or times	50	34.2%
Limits or prohibitions on smoking and alcohol possession	103	70.5%
Parking management	85	58.2%
Bike dismount areas along the Clear Creek Trail or rerouting of bike	78	53.4%
None of the above	4	2.7%
Total	146	100%

Appendix D – Clear Creek User Survey

12. If you are in support of parking management, which of the following would you be in favor of?
Select all that apply.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Seek to secure weekend parking such as in the south half of the	63	46.6%
Institute a traditional residential permit system for weekend days	46	34.0%
Use traditional residential permit system as above, but allow visitors	53	39.2%
Enforce existing regulations, including overnight parking, handicap	76	56.2%
I do not support parking management.	22	16.2%
Total	135	100%

13. How would you like to be involved in the Clear Creek Management Plan process going forward?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Attend and participate in public meetings / focus groups	67	47.1%
Join the conversation and receive updates by joining	67	47.1%
Read updates in the Informer Newsletter and Golden Transcript	95	66.9%
I don't care to participate	10	7.0%
Other	4	2.8%
Total	142	100%

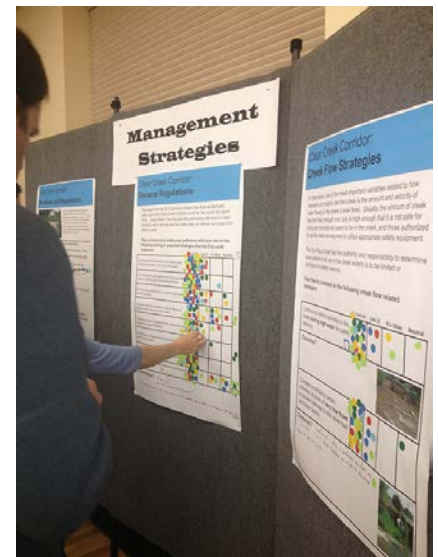
14. Do you reside in:

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Golden City Limits	108	72.9%
Jefferson County	27	18.2%
Out of County	10	6.7%
No Responses	3	2.0%
Total	148	100%

Appendix E - 2/12/13 Open House



130 attendees signed in at the February 12th Open House which was designed for participants to “Learn the what, why, who, when & how” related to the upcoming Clear Creek Corridor Management Planning Process. Participants took the community survey, heard results of environmental assessment and commented on proposed management strategies.



Appendix E - 2/12/13 Open House

Clear Creek Corridor: General Regulations

The lesson from the 2012 summer season was that resident and visitor use of the Clear Creek Corridor could be "too much of a good thing". Going forward, the City and the community will need to make decisions about how we use the creek area, so that we can enjoy it for years to come.

Take a minute and provide your preference with your dot on the following existing or proposed strategies that the City could implement:

	Love It!	Like it	It's Okay	Neutral	DON'T LIKE
Provide specific well marked areas where creek ingress and egress is safe and encouraged.	37	7	0	0	0
Provide specific well marked picnic and assembly areas, including use of the existing ball fields.	27	4	2	0	0
Provide drop off and pick up areas for patrons of remote parking	25	5	1	3	0
Consider requiring pedestrian only or "dismount" areas on the north side of the creek	18	4	7	1	7
Protect damaged or sensitive stream bank areas with fencing and access limitations.	33	2	2	0	0
Prohibit tents, canopies, and structures in the creek and on stream banks.	44	1	1	0	3
Continue to prohibit all glass containers from the corridor.	43	0	0	0	0
Designate bikes and wheeled vehicles for trail use on one side of the creek.	13	2	5	7	15

Comments?

Bike dismount during peak hours only. +1
Bike path on south side of creek does not connect to Hwy 6 trail.

Would the bike/walk side alternate?

This survey has no option for negative voting. All answers are either full support of the idea or neutral. +1
This works well on Platte River Trail. I'd vote for this or widen path with dotted mid-line. Tubers make biking or walking with kids impossible. Our family is pro-bike. We use them as transportation. We live on 8th and Illinois.
Need this access

Clear Creek Corridor: Pet Issues and Regulations



Golden's residents and visitors love their pets, and often want them to be able to enjoy the same activities and attractions as we do. As the size of crowds and amount of activity increases, pet conflicts with other pets increase and the need to manage our pets' behavior becomes more critical to our overall use and enjoyment of City facilities like Clear Creek.

The pet owner's responsibility to clean up and dispose of pet waste is a "non-negotiable" requirement for all residents and visitors, and will be strictly enforced.

Dogs off leash are prohibited in the Clear Creek Corridor (Muni Code: Sec. 7.05.010)

Please answer the following survey questions by placing a dot next to your answer for each question:

1. Are you aware of the number and locations of pet waste bag dispensers and trash receptacles in the corridor?

25→YES: There are a lot and people should use them.
They seem adequate.

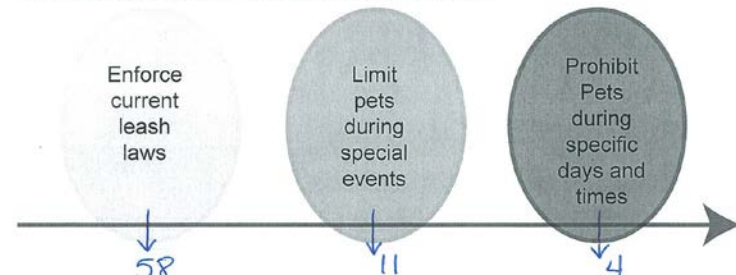
1→NO: Need more especially on s side and need to keep them stocked with bags especially on busy weekends.

2. In 2012, did you find the number and location of trash receptacles to be sufficient?

23→YES:

22→NO:

In terms of physically controlling dogs in the corridor, please indicate your opinion on the below scale of enforcement of leash laws by placing your dot on the scale arrow:



Appendix E – 2/12/13 Open House

Clear Creek Corridor: Alcohol Use and Smoking

Two major areas of concern in 2012 and prior years related to the use of alcohol, and whether smoking should be limited or prohibited in certain or all city parks. The City has already enacted specific regulations for city-owned lands in addition to the laws enforced City-wide.

Alcohol Possession and Use Laws:

Based upon city-wide laws, alcohol may be possessed in public areas by persons over 21 years of age, but "open containers" of alcohol are prohibited in places like city parks, unless by a special event permit. In 2012, the City enacted regulations to further limit alcohol use in the corridor by prohibiting possession of alcohol as well as open containers and glass containers of any kind. *Moving forward, please indicate your opinion on the following questions by identifying where on the scale of enforcement the City should focus by placing your dot along the arrows at your preferred level of enforcement.*

Alcohol Enforcement Scale of Enforcement:



Smoking Scale of Enforcement:

Currently, smoking is not restricted in outdoor privately owned areas except when the Sheriff or Police Chief imposes a fire ban. In 2012, the City prohibited smoking in the creek corridor for fire safety reasons. Currently smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of any playground located in a city park (Muni Code: General Smoking Restrictions Section 5.11.030)



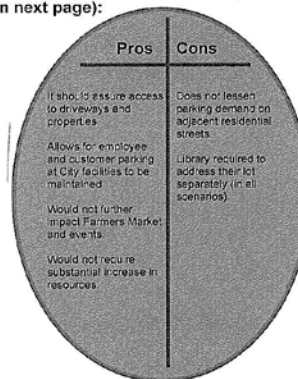
Clear Creek Corridor: Parking Management Strategies

The issue that generated the most discussion and suggestions from nearby neighborhoods in 2012 relates to managing parking by visitors to the corridor. Parking has always been an issue near downtown and the creek corridor, but seemed to escalate with the size of daily crowds last year. Certain uses, like the library and campground had to limit access to their lots to only their customers, and may need to again this year.

Take a few minutes to read the following alternatives and comment; then place your dot on which you support more than others (cont'd on next page):

- 40 → 1. *Enforce existing regulations, including overnight parking, handicap spaces, blocking drives or fire lanes, and parking in restricted city lots (RV Park, city office on weekdays, etc).*

With signage and better enforce – won't need permit system.

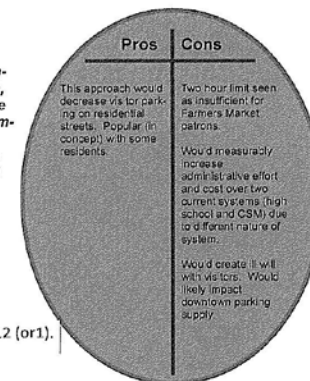


- 25 → 2. *Institute a traditional residential permit system for weekend days (perhaps Friday included) for much or all of 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Streets west of Washington Avenue or Arapahoe Street. In order to address Farmers Market, the system would need to be "Parking by Permit OR 2 Hour Parking" like current systems in place near near 12th and Cheyenne. Enforcement would be layered above the enforcement efforts described above.*

Why are visitors more important than residents.

Add resident satisfaction as a pro.

And connecting cross streets for Farmers Market specify Saturday 8-12 (or 1).



Appendix E - 2/12/13 Open House

Clear Creek Corridor: Parking Management Continued

- 19 → 3. Use traditional residential permit system as in #2, but allow visitors to buy a daily pass at a kiosk, which allows parking in permit areas or lots. Daily pass could be programmed as eligible for a discount at retailers and restaurants.

Pros	Cons
This approach would decrease visitor parking on residential streets, but not as much as above.	Two hour limit still seen as insufficient for Farmers Market patrons.
May be a source of revenue.	Charging longer term Farmers Market patrons.
May encourage local shopping.	Likely opposed by Chamber.
	Kiosk system has up-front costs.
	System administrative costs as above, exact merchant rebate system would require additional staff resources.
	Enforcement somewhat more complex.
	Ongoing Kiosk and sign maintenance costs.

- 7 → 4. Provide shuttle bus service from remote lots. This is the most costly idea by far, and probably less feasible, but is often suggested.

Pay-permit parking in designated lots but NOT in permit-only residential areas. Do NOT provide shuttles. When parking is full then park is full. Only want walk-in at that point.

Pros	Cons
Might accommodate visitors if a permit parking system and very aggressive enforcement campaign is instituted.	Extremely expensive and difficult to manage.
	Costs include bus operation, securing remote parking areas, directing visitors there, coordinating with drop off areas, high peak demand and sporadic demand other times.

Clear Creek Corridor: Parking Management Continued

- 6 → 5. Seek to secure weekend parking such as in the south half of the CoorsTek parking lot at 10th and Jackson. Try to direct corridor users to available parking areas that would not impact other users. Could also allow tube rentals or purchase, compressed air filling stations etc.

or Coors Wellness Center.

in conjunction with #2.

I AM A RESIDENT - I WANT TO PARK ON PUBLIC STREET.

This traffic also directs the foot traffic closer to the shops and businesses in downtown Golden.

Option #2 - Parking @ Ford and 11th. Lot is closer to downtown and the creek paths.

After hours parking @ Library, Museum, Visitors Center allowed?

PARKING STRUCTURE WITH MINES ON SNOW LOT.

Pros	Cons
A good location for the (relatively small) percentage of users that wish to enter the creek to the west and float down to Venover Park.	American Mountaineering Center uses the CoorsTek lot on some weekends.
A good use of parking that is essentially vacant on weekends.	Not convenient for the larger percentage of users that wish to "picnic" in and next to the creek in the prime area west of Maple Street.

General Parking Comments?

- Co-build parking structure with CSM for joint CSM (weekday) and City (weekend) use.
- Expand CSM parking regs to summer!
- *Ditto - Level Clear Creek commons and turn it into a parking lot!
- NOT ON SPECIAL EVENTS.
- Negotiate with CSM for use of 150 space lot on south side of creek.
- Consider tiered parking at Community Center -- perhaps an upper entrance off 8th street.
- Charge non-residents a parking fee.
- Events need free parking to continue to be successful.
- Consider holding some events in new Loveland Mine ark - plenty of parking at Mitchell School.

Appendix F – Community Workshop #1



56 attendees signed in for the first Public Workshop designed to “Share your ideas, issues and concerns with the planning team and other creek users. Hear interests and concerns of other creek users.”

WORKSHOP #1 AGENDA

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- An understanding of what we learned from the survey and at the open house.
- An understanding of the desired experiences of Clear Creek users.

FORMAT

6:30 Welcome and Introductions

6:40 Description of the process for the night and for the project

6:50 Presentation– What we’ve heard so far and what we are trying to balance

7:10 Group brainstorm - kinds of uses on Clear Creek - what we know and ask what we’ve missed.

7:20 Instructions to groups

7:30 Break up into groups based on use. Groups describe their desired experiences.

7:55 Groups report back to the large group.

8:20 Describe next steps

8:30 Adjourn



Appendix F – Community Workshop #1

Notes from Group work re: Desired Experiences of User Groups:

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

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.

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.

Appendix F – Community Workshop #1

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-8th 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.

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).

Appendix F – Community Workshop #1

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;
- Qualify 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.

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 6th Ave.;
- Identified and enforced family picnic areas on stream bank.

Appendix F – Community Workshop #1

Cyclists:

- Retain access to Billy Drew Bridge and 6th 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/19th: road biking);
- Experience-regional signage to connecting trails, directions.

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”;

Trail Walkers/Joggers (continued):

- 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.

Appendix G – Community Workshop #2



40 attendees signed in for the second Public Workshop designed to “Work with other creek users to explore strategies for creek management.”

WORKSHOP #2 AGENDA

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

Group recommendations for management strategies that address a range of interests/desired experiences

FORMAT

6:30 Welcome and Introductions

6:35 Presentation and description of the process for the night

7:10 Instructions to groups – break into groups based on issue (trail use, in-creek use, bank use, safety, creek economics, parking etc.) and develop ideas for management strategies

7:20 Groups propose ideas for how to address various issues

8:05 Groups report back to the large group. Large group has an opportunity to ask questions and propose their own ideas.

8:25 Describe next steps

8:30Adjourn

Appendix G – Community Workshop #2

Each group was asked to answer a question specific to their group. Questions for each group were as follows:

Parking: What are some ways we can address parking issues while addressing the interests of the various user groups / stakeholders?

In Creek Uses: Given the varied interests of the various user groups, how can we manage use to limit conflict, accommodate desired experiences of user groups and balance our priorities?

Trail Uses: Given the varied interests of trail users, what are some ideas for management that will limit conflict, address desired experiences of users and balance priorities?

Creek Banks: Many uses take place on the banks of Clear Creek. What are some potential management strategies for addressing desired user experiences while protecting the resource and balancing priorities?

Safety and Law Enforcement: There are laws and regulations that currently exist that address many of the issues that have come up in this process. There are plans for increased enforcement this year. What else do we need to think about/do related to safety/law enforcement longer term?

Education and Messaging: There are certain interests and expectations that are beginning to emerge about creek use (respectful behavior, clean environment, etc.). What are the messages that need to be conveyed? To whom? How?

Creek-onomics: Economic benefit tied to creek use is a topic that continues to come up. Are there ways to more closely tie economic gain to creek use? Is that what we want? How?



Appendix G – Community Workshop #2

Notes from Group work:

Clear Creek Workshop #2 Outcomes

April 2, 2013

Parking Solutions:

- Long term parking
- Short term parking
- Resident parking (all three designated seasonal)
- Use 3.5 million settlement funds to add a 2nd level parking to the Community Center Lot
- Drop off point for kayakers and tubers (loading zone)
- Creek corridor paid parking with business voucher
- Multilevel parking structure behind Foss Drug Store with paid parking
- Keep all existing multi-level parking structures free
- Good signage and enforcement

Creek-onomics Solutions:

- There are economic benefits to the City with all these users
- Spread the word about free parking in garages downtown
- Work with chamber and businesses to spread the word about creek rules/be welcoming/ positive!
- Survey customers “Why are you in Golden.”

Overall Message Solutions:

- “Courtesy on the Creek”
- Safety – on the water, paths and streets. Emphasis on PFDs, know your limitations
- People need to know the rules in order to follow them
- All users should know the rules
 - Pick up your trash
 - Share the Trail
 - Cyclists warn pedestrians of approach
 - Use appropriate locations to enter and exit the creek
 - Dogs on leash
 - No Smoking and Alcohol, etc
- Disseminate information through:
- Kids at school with newsletters
- Signage on the creek and at restroom areas
- Visit Golden website and social media
- “Ranger Talk” Educational Program at the amphitheater
- Engage available user groups (kayakers and cyclists)
- Creek Ambassadors

Appendix G – Community Workshop #2

Creek Banks Solutions:

- Enforce regulations
- Fencing
- Access points in and out of the creek
- No “go” zones to protect vegetation
- Balance activities? Spread out venues
- Limit permanent encampments on banks or in creek. No picnicking

Trail Use Solutions:

- Limit the people that are coming
- Charge parking to non residents
- Quit advertising the creek
- On weekends direct cyclists to use the South Side Clear Creek Trail
- Encourage cyclists to slow down and give warnings to pedestrians
- Assist cyclists to use alternate trails through signage
- Encourage joggers to use South Side Clear Creek Trail
- Tubers lane, single file? Signs to encourage respect and “Share the Trail.”
- Support rangers in “Zero Tolerance” of dogs off leash, pick up after your dog.

In- Creek Solutions:

Appropriate Uses:

Fishing, kayaking, tubing, gold panning, wading, splashing

Not sure:

Dogs, boogie boards, sups

Inappropriate uses:

picnicking, ropes

- Need clearly identified appropriate creek access points and closure of inappropriate access points
- Identify some places for picnics that can handle the use
- Education, appropriate behavior and safety precautions
- Enforcement of rules
- Require PFD, especially for kids during high flow. Enforce with single access point
- Time zone for separating uses (alternate use days)
- Space zones for separating uses
- Flow rate will somewhat direct user type
- Flow level separation of group
 - Close to tubers when high CFS
 - Use website to communicate and notice at creek
- Community Education
- Schedule special events, may preclude some other users at that time
- Limit parking
 - pay to park
 - permit only
- No grills south of 10th Street

Appendix G – Community Workshop #2

Comment Cards:

Additional changing stations needed

Parking on 10th, encourage residents to use their alleys

Require non-Golden visitor to pay for parking

Relocate Farmers Market away from the creek to another lot elsewhere

Make the city paid parking, including the garages and streets. I think people should have to somehow pay to “use” Golden. Let the residents have permits so they don’t have to pay to park in and around their homes and neighborhoods

Tonight’s meeting was very disappointing, unfortunately. Everything that was covered was discussed at the last meeting. When do we get to hear the plan for next summer and years ahead?

Management would be easier with elimination of the “Two Hour Vacation” promotion

It seems most of our problems are due to overuse of the creek and surrounding area. Stop promoting the city until overuse is mitigated.

Appendix H – 10/1/2013 Public Meeting

Clear Creek Public Meeting Notes – October 1, 2013

Comments, Questions and Answers - Public Discussion about 2013 Management Strategies

How do we know if the visitor's are spending money in Golden?

The Visit Golden does intercept surveys of visitors to Golden. We can compare creek data to other data we have received from other surveys

People are coming in with coolers and bringing their food and drink with them. They are likely not spending the money in town

The survey only shows 278 respondents with 4,000 cars a day coming through. This survey shouldn't be used to create a plan; it touches a small group of people.

We made an effort to get feedback from users on the creek the day of the survey.

What will the survey data be used for?

Rod Tarullo said it is for the purpose and discussion of a meeting like tonight. It could be a snapshot to compare seasons.

Was there a baseline prior to making changes to the creek?

Rod Tarullo said yes, traffic counts but a survey of users no.

Is there a graph on quality of life? Most that have moved to this area of Golden have seen our quality of life go down.

No way to measure at this time.

Parking data in this packet makes it appear there is not a parking issue. If you take the average over an entire day there is a problem. When you walk out your door and see people drinking beer in your lawn because you can't along the creek, there is an issue. It appears the residents are secondary to the city. They are thankful for the data. We don't care about parking spaces on 9th we want to know how many cars are coming down 9th Street. We asked for this data and did not receive it.

Steve Glueck said he didn't ask for traffic counts on 9th though we could definitely do so in the future.

9th Street residents did an informal traffic count a couple years ago. At the time 98% of traffic was going to the Golden Community Center. How many of the 4,000 cars per day are going to the Recreation Center? We need to separate this traffic from creek user traffic.

Staff agreed

Steve Glueck said car count data just shows weekday traffic and weekends are similar. If we are going to be transparent the data may have helped us recognize more problems rather than solutions.

Was there a decrease in violations with the Park Rangers?

Rod Tarullo said we looked at it very closely. The actual number of violations didn't go down but the number of people greatly increased as summer went on. In addition more people from out of Golden were visiting later in the season.

Steve Glueck said the relationships between alcohol and dogs off leash switched later in the summer. More dogs off leash were greater violations early on with alcohol the most violations later in the summer.

Appendix H – 10/1/2013 Public Meeting

The residents of Golden can be trained and started moving to places the Rangers were not. Year-round enforcement of dogs off leash is now in effect. This blanket of rules because of abuse during the busy time and busy areas seems unfair.

Rod Tarullo said there are dog parks at Ulysses Park and Tony Grampsas. We have heard requests for dog parks and haven't made any decisions at this point. If you are a dog owner dog parks are wonderful. Steve said this is a good topic to put to City Council.

Is there any discussion on bike dismount areas?

Rod Tarullo said we have had several discussions regarding use of the trail. We have chosen at this point not to implement any rules of trail use. We could consider restricting uses by certain user groups. Steve Glueck said two ideas that were not popular are dismount areas and one side of Clear Creek for bikes and one side for pedestrians. Perhaps we should start with signage rather than adding any rules. Bike lanes were also suggested.

How many Park Rangers are on staff?

Rod Tarullo said we had 6 this year. The recommendation from staff is to keep two people on board through the end of this year and potentially fund it year round with more staff in the summer months. They have suggested patrolling other parks and trails as well.

Is it allowed to bring grills into the creek?

Rod Tarullo said no, we don't want that!

There were a large number of people on the weekend that came to use Lions Park only. If we do another study we need to be aware of the users of Lions Park. We would love to see a Ranger Station there. Rod said we can also look at the number of pavilion rentals we had. They wanted to thank that we no longer have live bands in the pavilions. Rod said we had a change of staff and discovered that we might want to rent the pavilions differently based on interpretation.

What is the current usage of the ball fields? It seems to be used less than they used to.

Rod Tarullo said we have a handful of groups that love Lions ball fields. We have not encouraged more use on those fields. We have guided new requests to other facilities. Your observation is likely accurate.

Perhaps something regarding parking downtown could be put into place for the field groups. That is a huge impact on the neighborhood.

Rod Tarullo said we took the fencing down on the south side of the ball fields to encourage people to use that grassy area. It was not very successful. It just wasn't used, people like trees and shade.

Appendix H – 10/1/2013 Public Meeting

The caliber of people that came this year were better than 2012, we don't know if that was due to the Park Rangers. It was mostly families and children. The improvements are enjoyable now that everything has died down.

Do you have numbers for use of other parks in town? Tony Grampsas for example?

Rod said as he mentioned we are pushing athletic programs to other parks such as Tony Grampsas. We could tell you rental numbers at Grampsas.

There is parking counts for the Coors Tek parking lot. Is that the lot referred to in the data?

Steve said yes, we wanted people to use that area to park, though we failed to adequately get the word out. The Mountaineering Center also will allow public to park in their lot on the weekends. We hope to get the word out better next season. Steve said the parking data just counts the number of cars it doesn't say which cars whether visitors or residents.

The people who use Lions Park have their coolers and bbq so they want to park close.

Steve said he saw several families exit the creek at Parfet Park this year which would put them closer to their cars if we could encourage them to park downtown.

There was a suggestion of a drop off area.

Rod Tarullo said we did add a drop off area this past season.

Maybe we provide the tubers air supply in a certain area so that they park there?

Steve Glueck agreed it's a great idea that we will try next summer.

How you design facilities should determine who you want to attract. We built the kayak park for kayakers; it is so full of tubers it can't be used for its purpose. Same goes for fishing.

Pinkham's the owners of Golden River Sports said there is a festival in Salida every year. Salida is going through a similar transition as Golden. All over town are signs where you can't park, camp, etc. It was a very volatile environment. The kayakers left in droves because of it and went to Buena Vista. What we are dealing with in Golden is balancing the needs and wants of users. Golden is getting a reputation of not being a welcoming town to whitewater users. The word is out not to go to Golden for recreation.

The biggest gripe is not with kayakers. The tubers are the problem. There are several businesses renting tubes and Golden River Sports has decided not to.

The ultimate question is how we address the quality of life for residents in Golden. The businesses are doing well; can we also consider the needs of the residents?

The problem in the neighborhoods we need to address is the cost to the residents' quality of life to do business. This should be discussed with the businesses and Chamber.

Appendix H – 10/1/2013 Public Meeting

Trash was well handled this season. There were a large number of bins and dumpsters which also helped the problem.

Golden really cleans up well after events. We appreciate that.

Can we spread the usage of the creek? There is the dirt parking lot on the south side along 6th which could provide access to the western most edge of the creek and could help alleviate some of the congestion. Jeffco is making headway developing trails west of Hwy 6th. If we can encourage usage of the creek we can redistribute congestion. Observation is tubing is affecting kayaking. Tubing is driving other users off the creek. The Colorado School of Mines lots could also be an option.

Steve Glueck said that is one of those area where Mines are not allowing parking at this time. They want to control the lot.

Have we directed people where to park when they visit Golden? That came up last fall and we need to make sure we have covered all our basis. Website, social media, two hour vacation, etc. Telling people where to park is part of visiting a town.

Calendar of events should be consolidated city wide between the Chamber, recreation, etc. We don't ever consider the impact of events and overlap.

Steve Glueck said it isn't so much a matter of having events; it's not being willing to say no to people. There needs to be a calendar that includes all events.

It would be interesting year over year are sales tax revenue increasing in the downtown area? Let's start tracking the benefit of increased traffic.

The quality of the experience on the creek improved from the previous summer. Who is left attending these meetings, 90% are residents from the surrounding neighborhoods. The quality of life is seemingly still an issue.

Golden River Sports suggested if you enact a life jacket requirement the number of tubers will decrease. The survey showed they would wear a life jacket

The corridor has always been an activity corridor. Even though we have worked on managing the use of the area, this is always how the corridor was used.

Spreading some of the amenities from Lions Park to other areas of the corridor such as Vanover Park would help.

Rod Tarullo said Parfet and Vanover have both been busier this summer.

There was a suggestion of signage designated use areas.

Rod Tarullo said we are working with Jeffco on a regional signage program which would include way finding and directional signage all along Clear Creek.

Appendix I - User Intercept Surveys

This survey was conducted at Clear Creek on 3 summer weekends:



Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Clear Creek Summer User Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

8/20/2013 12:10 PM MDT

What are your primary activities at Clear Creek today? (mark all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Tubing			61	22.1 %
Swimming			20	7.2 %
Lounging / Wading			35	12.7 %
Boating / Kayaking			9	3.2 %
Fishing			3	1.0 %
Biking			11	4.0 %
Running / Walking			54	19.6 %
Picnicking			12	4.3 %
Event			24	8.7 %
Other			67	24.3 %
Totals			275	100%

Of all the recreational opportunities and outdoor destinations in the Metro area, why did you choose to come to Clear Creek today?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Free Entry			15	5.3 %
Water Access			53	19.0 %
Convenient to get to / live close by			101	36.3 %
Nearby event / businesses			41	14.7 %
Other			65	23.3 %
No Response(s)			3	1.0 %
Totals			278	100%

Rate how the following changes would affect your experience at Clear Creek? Circle the level of effect on the scale below.

1 = Would improve the experience, 2 = Would not change the experience, 3 = Would have a negative effect on the experience

Answer	1	2	3	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Designated bike routes				277	1.5
Increased enforcement of city regulations (no alcohol, smoking, dogs off leash, etc.)				276	1.7
Designated use areas for specific activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, etc.				271	2.2



*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Personal flotation devices (PFD) or life jackets are required in some municipalities for river activities. If a PFD / life jacket was required at Clear Creek, how would it affect your visit to Clear Creek?





Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
It would not affect my visit since I generally do not participate in river activities			83	29.8 %
I would participate in river activities and use a life jacket if I could check one out for free			62	22.3 %
I would bring my own life jacket to participate in river activities if it was required			65	23.3 %
I would come to Clear Creek but not participate in river activities if a life jacket was required			15	5.3 %
I would not come to Clear Creek if a life jacket was required			43	15.4 %
No Response(s)			10	3.5 %
Totals			278	100%

Appendix I - User Intercept Surveys

Did you, or will you, visit Downtown Golden to eat at a restaurant or go shopping today?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			212	76.2 %
No			64	23.0 %
No Response(s)			2	<1 %
Totals			278	100%

What method of transportation did you use to get to Clear Creek today? (mark all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Walk / Ran			48	17.3 %
Bicycle			17	6.1 %
Automobile			218	78.7 %
Motorcycle			4	1.4 %
Light Rail			1	<1 %
Bus			0	0.0 %
Totals			277	100%

If you drove to Clear Creek, where did you park?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Free parking garages	<div><div></div></div>		23	8.2 %
Downtown parking space	<div><div></div></div>		19	6.8 %
10th Street	<div><div></div></div>		61	21.9 %
Neighborhood street	<div><div></div></div>		23	8.2 %
Golden Community Center	<div><div></div></div>		83	29.8 %
Other	<div><div></div></div>		29	10.4 %
No Response(s)	<div><div></div></div>		40	14.3 %
Totals			278	100%







Would you still use Clear Creek if there was a parking fee?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I would still use Clear Creek if there was a parking fee. (If you answer yes, please go to question 9).	<div><div></div></div>		109	39.2 %
No, I would not be willing to pay a parking fee to visit Clear Creek. (If you answer no, please skip to question 10).	<div><div></div></div>		159	57.1 %
No Response(s)	<div><div></div></div>		10	3.5 %
Totals			278	100%

If you answered "yes" to question 8, how much would you be willing to pay for parking?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
\$2 or less				65 23.3 %
\$3 to \$5				45 16.1 %
\$6 to \$10				7 2.5 %
No Response(s)				161 57.9 %
Totals				278 100%

What is your age range?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
10-19			23	8.2 %
20-29			50	17.9 %
30-39			49	17.6 %
40-49			61	21.9 %
50+			92	33.0 %
No Response(s)			3	1.0 %
Totals			278	100%

What is your zip code?

277 Response(s)

Appendix I – User Intercept Surveys

The summer of 2013 User Intercept Surveys were conducted one weekend per month in June, July and August. Approximately 280 individual intercept surveys were conducted over the three survey weekends by staff via iPads including a Spanish language version. Over 70% of the survey respondents were running/walking on trails adjacent to the creek or tubing..

