



City of
Golden

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1445 10TH ST. GOLDEN, CO 80401

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City Flood Information Services

Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the Golden Public Library. You can also visit the Engineering or Building Divisions at 1445 10th Street, to see if you are in a mapped floodplain. The Engineering Division will review flood information on file and produce a written Floodplain Determination for your property upon request. You can request a FREE Floodplain Determination by:

- Logging on to the City's website at www.cityofgolden.net.
- Call the Golden info line at 303-215-8882, and request item number 2903.
- Visit or call the City's Engineering Division at 303-384-8115.

These services are provided at no cost to you.

For More Information:

www.floodsmart.gov • www.fema.gov

City of
Golden

FLOOD PROTECTION

How To Protect Yourself and Your Property From Floods

Local Flood Hazard

The most serious flooding in the City of Golden has been the result of cloudbursts occurring from May to September. Several severe floods have been recorded in Golden since 1864.

- 1888 – Clear Creek
- 1965 – Tucker Gulch (4.5 inches of rain in one hour)
- 2004 – Arapahoe Gulch, 20th Street

Flood sources in Golden:

- Clear Creek
- Cressman Gulch
- Tucker Gulch
- Kenney Run
- Lena Gulch
- Arapahoe Gulch
- Deadman Gulch
- Various irrigation ditches, such as Church Ditch and Welch Ditch
- Urban street flooding is also a possible hazard.



20th Street in Golden on June 27, 2004.



Welch Ditch overflowing during 2004 storm.

Floods are dangerous. Even though they appear to move slowly, floodwaters only 6 inches deep moving at 3 feet per second can knock a person off his feet. In the 100-year flood, floodwater in all of Golden's drainageways exceeded 3 feet per second in velocity.

Flood Warning System

The Urban Drainage District maintains a flood warning system. Go to <http://alert.udfd.org/> for more details. Additional information about flood watches and warnings can be found by tuning to the following TV and radio stations:

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| KWGN-TV | Denver's WB2 |
| KCNC-TV | News4 |
| KMGH-TV | 7News |
| KUSA-TV | 9News |
| KDVR-TV | Fox 31 |
| 850 AM | KOA radio |

Flood Insurance

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Golden participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy at a 5% discount. This insurance is backed



by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded, and no matter where they are located. Remember that there is a 30-day waiting period before the flood policy becomes effective.

Your property may not have flooded in the past but the next flood could be worse, as not all storms are the same. If your property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, there is a 26% chance that you will experience flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage, and the odds are 96% that your property will be affected by the 10-year flood! For comparison, odds are only 1 to 2% that your house will catch fire during the same 30-year mortgage. Do you have Fire Insurance? Why not Flood Insurance?

Property Protection Measures

There are several different ways to protect property from flood damage:

- Retrofitting
- Grading your yard
- Correcting local drainage problems
- Emergency measures such as moving furniture and sandbagging.

Retrofitting includes elevating buildings above flood levels, floodproofing, and protecting basements from sewer backups.

Grading includes building an earthen berm or a small floodwall.

Many houses, even those not in the floodplain, have sewers that backup into the basement during heavy rains. A plug or standpipe can stop this if the water doesn't get more than one or two feet deep.

Emergency protection measures include shutting off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs. Sandbagging doorways and other wall openings close to the ground may help keep floodwaters at bay.

Always check with the Golden Building Department to see if your proposed improvements require a permit.

Flood Safety

Before a Flood

Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information. Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a flood hazard:

- **Flood Watch:** Flooding is possible.
- **Flash Flood Watch:** Flash flooding is possible.
Be prepared to move to higher ground.
- **Flood Warning:** Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- **Flash Flood Warning:** A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground immediately.

Go to the Stormwater Drainage section of the City's website for more information at <http://www.cityofgolden.net/page.asp?navid=601>.

During a Flood

- Do not walk through flowing water.
- Do not drive through flooded area.
TURN AROUND – DON'T DROWN!
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Report downed power lines to the Xcel Energy or City of Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045.
- Have your electricity turned off.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes.
- Look before you step.
- Stay clear of unstable stream banks.
- Be alert for gas leaks.



After a Flood

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Avoid damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.

Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.

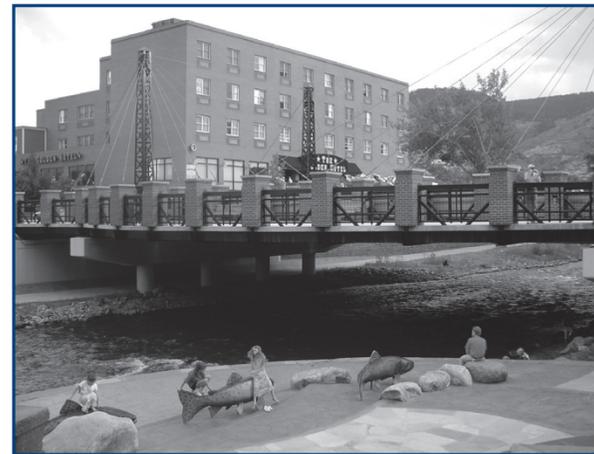
Drainage System Maintenance

The City of Golden has a comprehensive Stormwater Drainage Maintenance Plan to keep pipes and channels clean, but we need your help. Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches or streams. Every piece of trash can contribute to flooding.

If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. The City's maintenance program can help remove major blockages such as downed trees. Please report any dumping or debris in ditches and streams to the City's Code Enforcement Office at 303-384-8048.

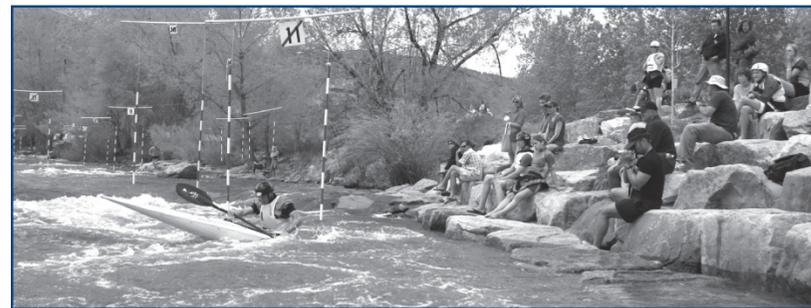
Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Floodplains may sound like the enemy, but they provide beneficial functions. Floodplains help reduce flood damage by allowing water to spread over a large area which reduces the speed of the floodwater. Open space in floodplains provides wildlife habitat and improves water quality.

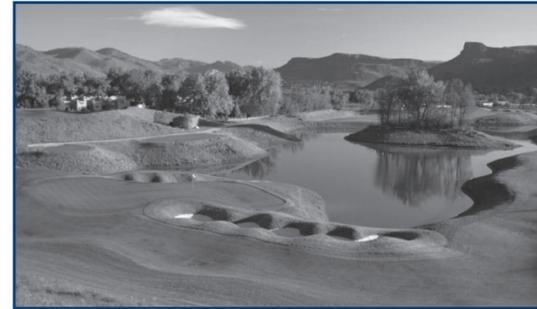


Golden's Washington Avenue Bridge over Clear Creek. Floodplains provide recreational uses for all to enjoy.

Recreation, such as Golden's nationally-acclaimed whitewater kayak course, is a typical floodplain use.



Golden's Fossil Trace Golf Course winds its way around ponds that act to reduce flooding along Kenney Run.



Detention ponds along Kenney Run at Fossil Trace Golf Club.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Before you begin any construction (new development, additions, remodels, filling, grading, etc.) on your property, contact the City of Golden's Engineering Division at 303-384-8115 for specific floodplain requirements.

A City *Floodplain Development Permit* ensures that structures are protected from flood damage and that construction projects do not cause flood problems for surrounding properties. All new residential buildings and additions built in the 100-year floodplain must be elevated at least one-foot above the 100-year water surface elevation. New non-residential buildings must also be either elevated or flood proofed.

The *Substantial Improvement Requirement* dictates that if the cost of remodeling an existing building in the floodplain exceeds 50% of the building's market value, the building must meet the same requirements as a new building being constructed in the floodplain. The City's Building Division (303-384-8147) or Engineering Division (303-384-8115) can help you determine if your project falls under this rule.

Please report any illegal floodplain development to the City's Building Division at 303-384-8147.

