



Chapter Two

Existing Parks and Recreation Resources, Standards and Level of Service

This chapter documents the parks, trails, and recreation facilities currently owned and maintained by the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department. It also includes information on facilities not owned by the city, but used regularly for recreational programming by the recreation department. Definitions of each park type are included, as well as standards for the desired level of service (acres per 1,000 population) and types of facilities that should be included within the parks. Neighborhoods in Golden that are served by local parks are identified, as well as the amount of parkland that is available to them. During this process, areas were identified that currently do not have adequate access to parks. The inventory of parkland is followed by a brief description of existing trails in the community.

A. Park and Open Space Inventory

The City of Golden has several types of existing parklands and open space. The classifications and a brief description of each are listed below. Detailed definitions follow this section.

Neighborhood Parks

- **Neighborhood Parks** – neighborhood-scale parks that are intended to serve residents in the neighborhoods surrounding the park.
- **Pocket Parks** – smaller versions of neighborhood parks with fewer amenities, serving a smaller radius of homes.

Community Parks

- **Community Parks** – larger multipurpose parks that serve the entire community.
- **Sports Complexes** – parks dedicated to specialized sports that serve the entire community, often associated with community parks.

Other Parks

- **Special Purpose Parks** – parks that serve a single or focused community need, such as an environmental education center, historic park or visual enhancement, such as community gateways.
- **Undeveloped Parkland** – land that is owned by the city and reserved for future park development.

Open Space

- **Natural Areas** – lands that place emphasis on protection of natural values.
- **Regional Open Space** – lands that protect large areas with natural resource values of communitywide significance, and provide opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation.

Parks are classified based on their existing amenities, location within the community, size, and proximity to residential areas. Each classification of parkland is accompanied by standards that describe their characteristics and desired level of service. These classifications and standards provide guidance in the development of a parkland system that offers consistent service to city residents. Map 1 shows the locations of various parklands, recreation facilities, and trails within the City of Golden. Table 2.1 is a summary of the types of parks in the community. A detailed inventory of those lands, and the facilities and amenities they contain, is provided in Appendix A.

Table 2.1. City of Golden Park and Open Space Inventory Summary

Classification	Total Acres	Developed Park Sites
Pocket Park	8.4	4
Neighborhood Park	57.1	9
Community Park	8.8	1
Sports Complexes	141.10	3
Special Purpose Parks	6.8	3
Natural Areas	0.5	1
Regional Open Space	4,738.00	6
Recreation Center Properties	6.7	1
Aquatics Park	10.0	1
Golf Course	202.00	1
Total Parkland and Open Space	5,179.40	30

Parks are classified based on their existing amenities, location within the community, size, and proximity to residential areas. Each classification of parkland is accompanied by standards that describe their characteristics and desired level of service. These classifications and standards provide guidance in the development of a parkland system that offers consistent service to city residents. Map 1, Existing Park and Recreation Resources, shows the locations of various parklands, open space, recreation facilities, and primary trails within the City of Golden. Table 2.1 is a summary of the types of parks in the community. A detailed inventory of those lands, and the facilities and amenities they contain, is provided in Appendix A.

Within or adjacent to the City of Golden, there are a total of 30 sites that are parks, open space, recreation centers, or other recreation areas totaling approximately 5,179.40 acres. Of this, nine sites are neighborhood parks (57.1 acres), four sites are pocket parks (8.4 acres), and four park sites are community parks (149.9 acres), three of which are classified as sports complexes. The community parks also serve as neighborhood parks for residents living nearby, which is generally considered within a 0.5-mile radius. There are also three special purpose parks (6.8 acres), one natural area (0.5 acre), and six regional open space areas (4,738 acres). Additionally, there is one aquatics park in Golden – Splash (10 acres), one golf course – Fossil Trace (202 acres), and one community center (6.7 acres). Other resources used by the city for recreational programming include Bell Middle School and Golden High School.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are parks that serve a residential neighborhood. They may be either full-size neighborhood parks or smaller pocket parks. They are typically the backbone of a parks system, and serve as critical elements of healthy neighborhoods and places that provide relief from the built environment. They are located primarily in developed residential areas, and typically have landscaping and walking surfaces that can withstand high levels of use. They are spaces where neighbors can gather, children can play, and people can socialize as well as engage in recreational activities. Overall, neighborhood parks provided by the City of Golden are in good condition; however, some may require minor improvements, including updated facilities, additional amenities, and landscaping enhancements.



Map 1. Existing Park and Recreation Resources







Beverly Heights Park

Beverly Heights Park

Beverly Heights Park is located at 19th Street and Goldenvue Drive near the gateway to the Denver Mountain Parks drive at the foot of Mount Zion. The park is owned by the Colorado School of Mines and leased to the city. It is 3.2 acres in size and was built in 1984. Beverly Heights contains a playground, picnic shelter, and portable toilet. There is a concrete walk that connects the parking area to the shelter and playground. A grassy, multiuse field is located between the parking lot and picnic area. A number of mature trees provide shade to the park. The park is ADA accessible, including the playground. The park also offers beautiful views of the Golden valley.



Discovery Park

Discovery Park

Discovery Park is the newest park in Golden, built in 2006. Discovery Park is an interactive park located at 23rd and Illinois Streets adjacent to Fossil Trace Golf Course. The park sits on a 2.5-acre parcel, although the developed portion is less than 0.5 acre. The remainder is in a natural state and is viewed from the picnic shelter toward the golf course. In addition to a small, multiuse green and picnic shelter, this linear park has a number of unique features. There is a maze of ornamental grasses, a low climbing wall, climbable turtle and dinosaur skeleton play structures, and a sandpit with “fossils” to uncover. Adjacent to the park is a drainage that acts as a buffer between the park and adjacent homes. The park has been designed to meet current ADA guidelines, including rubberized surfacing beneath play structures and access to all areas of the park. Being a new park, it is in good condition. The parking for the park is on-street and may prove inadequate if the park becomes highly popular and attracts people from other areas of Golden. There are no restroom facilities in Discovery Park.





Golden Heights Park

Golden Heights Park

Golden Heights Park is located on West 2nd Place and Quaker Street south of I-70, and is just over 5 acres in size. Built in 1986, Golden Heights contains a large, multiuse field, a baseball field with backstop, playground, picnic shelter, vault toilet, basketball court, small skatepark, and horseshoe pits. The fields are used for programmed league soccer games, and can accommodate eight youth-sized soccer fields. The picnic shelter is available for reservation.

The adjacency to I-70 creates some noise disturbance within the park. An off-street parking lot near the skatepark provides ample parking for users. While there is a fair amount of planting, the park could benefit from additional tree planting to buffer highway noise and visibility, and additional trees along the perimeter near the privacy fence for the adjacent homes. Although the park is generally in good condition, the benches and picnic tables are old and need to be upgraded. The parking lot could also be enhanced with shade trees.



Heritage Dells Park

Heritage Dells

Heritage Dells Park, built in 1987, is located at Crawford Circle and Kimball Avenue, and is 4.75 acres in size. Shelton Elementary School is adjacent to the park. It has a basketball court, playground, and portable toilet. The park is set on very steep topography, with no clear ADA-compliant accessible route to the park. Kinney Run Trail goes through the park. Steep trails and stairs provide access from the neighborhood into the park. There are multipurpose greens, which are primarily used for passive recreation, as the steep slopes do not allow for most ball sports. A rock-lined drainage bisects the park. Parking is poor, with cars parking on the street or at the neighboring school. The landscaping is mature and attractive. While, overall, the park is in good condition, improvements could be made to improve accessibility to the park and upgrade the old benches and picnic tables.



New Loveland Mine Park

New Loveland Mine Park is located at 1309 5th Street and Rubey Drive. This park, constructed in 1996, is 7 acres and contains a playground, picnic shelter, small turf area, off-street parking, and portable toilet. A large portion of the park has an attractive natural character with rolling topography; it is not appropriate for active recreation use. The playground and looping concrete trail provide ADA access to the interior of the park, but the trail that continues to the off-street trail along Highway 93 appears too steep for ADA access. One of the biggest functions of this park is trail access, with the trail continuing south toward Lions Park and connecting with the Lions Park trail system along Clear Creek. The park offers excellent views of the surrounding mountains and paragliders from Lookout Mountain. While the park is newer and in overall good condition, it could use some upgrades in landscaping to improve aesthetics. The availability of space at this park might allow for development of additional minor recreational amenities to serve north Golden residents.



New Loveland Mine Park

Norman D. Park

Norman D. Park is roughly 10.7 acres and is located at North Ford Street and Mesa Drive. Norman D. is an older park, built in 1978. It contains two picnic shelters, a port-o-let, playground, and off-street parking. Norman D. is a linear park, with the narrow end meeting the street and parking lot. The park runs parallel to Tucker Gulch to the west, extending both north and south of Golden Gate Drive, along Highway 93. The park also encompasses the Tucker Gulch Trail on the north side of the park adjacent to the gulch. At the center of the park is a depression with concrete pipe in it, which appears to have no purpose and should be removed. The majority of the park has multipurpose lawn, which is used for passive recreation or pick-up games. The benches are old and should be updated. The park is in overall good condition, with the exception of the edges of the trail in the central part of the park where the grass has been worn away. The trail may need to be widened to accommodate more users and limit the damage to the turf.



Norman D. Park



Parfet Park

Parfet Park is located in downtown Golden at 10th Street and Washington Avenue. It is the community's oldest park, built in the early 1900s. Parfet Park is just under 2.5 acres, and contains a sand volleyball court, restroom, play structure, public art, off-street parking, and has access to Clear Creek. The park is very popular with the community and sustains heavy use from public events – including Buffalo Bill Days – and concerts and private day use. The open, multiuse turf area is often in poor condition from heavy foot traffic. There is limited ADA access into the park and no continuous paved trail through the site. The park is in two levels, with the upper at street level and lower at river level. A plaza provides river access along with climbable fish sculptures, terraced planting, and a slide from the upper to lower level.

The park itself is attractive with mature trees and the river's edge, but the east side, adjacent to the Gold Apartments, is cluttered and unkempt. The sand volleyball court is located at a low point in the park and there appears to be drainage problems. The benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables are old and need updating. Although centrally located, Parfet Park is somewhat disconnected from the other public spaces in the downtown area. There is no direct access to Vanover Park. Wayfinding to and from the Clear Creek Trail is also difficult. The only access is via a park walk that winds down to the creek edge. Those traveling east on Clear Creek cannot follow the trail further east to Vanover Park.



Parfet Park

Southridge Park

Southridge Park is located at 16th and Violet Streets and is 3.5 acres in size. The park was built in 1980 and contains a multiuse field, basketball court, two tennis courts, a playground, port-o-let, and off-street parking. Southridge Park is a popular spot for daytime use. The park has a loop paved trail and is ADA accessible, including the playground. The park is in good condition, and construction of a picnic shelter is planned in the near future. This park is adjacent to Hockeystop Park.



Southridge Park



White Ash Mine Park

White Ash Mine Park, built in 1998, is located at 1400 Iowa Street. This park is 18.1 acres and contains a large playground, portable toilet, picnic shelter, basketball court, two off-street parking lots and a trail along the west-side of Highway 93. There is a large, multiuse turf area with backstop that is used for practice only. White Ash Mine Park is popular and sees a high level of use. Due to its location, it also provides wonderful views of Golden. At one end of the central portion of the park is a large berm that was installed as a sound barrier to the road below. The berm is not landscaped and is unattractive. The park has paved trails through portions, providing ADA access. The playground is ADA accessible and separates users by age group. The picnic shelter is located on a small plaza adjacent to the playground, providing ample room for picnics.



White Ash Mine Park

Pocket Parks

Cressman Park

Cressman Park is located at Wyoming Street and Mesa Court along Cressman Gulch Trail, and is 6.3 acres in size. The park is linear in nature and runs from Pine Ridge Road on the north to Mesa Drive on the south. This park contains a paved walking trail and small ADA accessible playground. It can be accessed by bicycle or walking from Wyoming Street, or from the Tucker Gulch Trail. The park is generally in good condition.



Cressman Park



Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Park is a small 0.6-acre park located in a residential neighborhood on the corner of Ridge Road and Cressman Court. This park appears as though it is a part of the adjacent residential lot with a manicured lawn and corner planting. There is also a bench for sitting. Maintenance is good, but this small park does not receive much use due to its size.



Neighborhood Park

Rimrock Park

Rimrock Park is located on the corner of West 17th Place and Utah Street. The park is slightly less than 0.25 acre in size – approximately the same size as the surrounding residential lots. Rimrock Park contains picnic tables and a trash receptacle, and gives the appearance that it is part of the adjacent neighbor's yard. This park is well maintained, yet does not receive much use.



Rimrock Park

Vanover Park

Vanover Park, built in 1990, is located in downtown Golden along Clear Creek at Ford and Water Streets. It is 1.25 acres in size and contains a paved walking trail and off-street parking. Vanover Park is the end of the line for the Clear Creek Trail and is just west of the water take-in for the Coors Brewing facility. The park is designed as a kayak take-out spot but is not used in this manner, as most boats pull out sooner upriver. A very large, 150-year old cottonwood tree was recently cut down, leaving a large stump that has become popular to climb on. The park is popular for passive daytime use, but could use improvements to attract additional users, as the park is located along the Clear Creek Trail. Additionally, there is a large area of the park east of the footbridge across Clear Creek that is in an undeveloped naturalized state. Due to the landscaping near the bridge, most people do not know this is part of the park. This portion could be used for other purposes, such as a playground.

Access into the park from the parking lot is difficult because of a dense hedge planted along the edge. Two trail connections lead into the park – from the east from Coors and south across a bridge. An internal trail stops at the riverbank near the road bridge but does not continue on. Also, while Parfet Park is nearby to the west, the physical connection is difficult. A midblock crossing on Ford Street with a trail and streetscape improvements could better connect the two parks.



Vanover Park



Neighborhood Park Standards

Neighborhood parks are ideally a minimum of 3 acres and should be adequately sized to provide space for a variety of activities. They should be centrally located within the residential area they serve and are often located adjacent to an elementary or middle school.

Neighborhood parks can be active or passive in nature, but most commonly provide a combination of both. Programmed sports activities in neighborhood parks should normally be limited to practices, as the need to be compatible with surrounding residential land uses limits the intensity of use. Exceptions may be necessary if no other facilities exist or if the use is not detrimental to the neighborhood.

While pocket parks supplement the neighborhood park system and provide visual relief within the urban landscape, they are not substitutes for adequately sized neighborhood parks. They are typically similar to neighborhood parks and may offer only a few neighborhood park amenities due to their limited size. In Golden, pocket parks are usually 1 to 2 acres in size and are primarily located in residential neighborhoods, which often make them more of an amenity to the immediate neighbors rather than the larger neighborhood. Since the parcels are small, they have limited use for larger neighborhood gatherings, youth sports practices, self-directed activities such as kite-flying, and other activities that require larger open areas. Table 2.2 lists the specific standards for neighborhood parks.



Table 2.2. Neighborhood Park Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
PARKS				
Community Parks				
Neighborhood Park	3 -10 acres; slightly smaller size may be acceptable if adjacent to other parkland/natural areas or greenway parks, while also accommodating larger neighborhood park purposes/functions.	<p>Provides nearby recreation and leisure opportunities within walking distance (one-half mile) of residential areas. Should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize and play.</p> <p>Typically would include a paved, multi-purpose area for court games/in-line skating or tennis courts, a multipurpose play field with backstop, play equipment, ADA accessible trails and shaded areas for picnics and sitting within a landscaped setting that is a blend of full irrigation for active uses and xeriscape. Features such as interpretive signs, water bodies, and areas of natural vegetation may also be included where appropriate. In most cases, programmed sports activities should be limited to practices. On-street parking is typically adequate, and separate parking lots are discouraged.</p> <p>School/park facilities include many of the same neighborhood standards, except that school/parks should include: game fields (preferably two), off-street parking that is situated for school and park purposes, and a playground designed for age groups not served by school playgrounds.</p>	<p>Locate adjacent to greenway, open space, elementary or junior high schools when possible.</p> <p>Centrally locate within area served.</p> <p>Accessible via walkway or urban trail.</p> <p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development.</p> <p>At least half of the park, two sides, shall be bordered by a street in order to provide easy public access, visual surveillance and parking. Surrounding the site with the back property lines of houses is strongly discouraged.</p> <p>Site should not be encumbered with constraints that preclude development of the site for desired uses.</p>	3.5 acres/ 1,000 pop.
Pocket Park	2 acres or less	<p>From a communitywide standpoint, serves a neighborhood only where opportunities for a larger park site are unavailable. Typically considered to serve residents within 0.25 mile of the park. Due to limited size, may only contain a few of the elements typical of a standard neighborhood park. Not a substitute for adequately-sized, neighborhood park. Developments may include pocket parks as amenities to residents, but they do not fulfill the requirements for providing neighborhood parks.</p>	<p>Same as those required for neighborhood park.</p>	Not applicable.



Neighborhood Park Level of Service

The City of Golden has a total of 13 neighborhood parks, four of which are pocket parks. The current population in Golden is 17,895. Combined, the parks total approximately 65 acres, providing a level of service of approximately 3.7 acres per 1,000 people (Table 2.3). The calculated level of service includes only parkland that is officially classified as neighborhood park acreage. The level of service for neighborhood parkland exceeds the existing standard provided in the 1986 master plan of 2.5 acres per 1,000 people.

Table 2.3. Existing Neighborhood Park Level of Service

Neighborhood/ Pocket Parks	Effective Level of Service 2007
Population*	17,895
Existing Neighborhood/Pocket Parkland (acres)	65.5
Level of Service	3.66 acres/1,000 population
Effective Level of Service**	4.50 acres/1,000 population

* 2007 population 17,895; City of Golden Planning and Development Department.

** Effective level of service is calculated by factoring in 5 acres each for Lions, Tony Grampsas, and Ulysses Parks, which provide neighborhood park functions to residents within 0.5-mile radius. Actual neighborhood park acreage does not increase, and acreage is not double-counted between neighborhood and community parks.

For analysis purposes, 5 acres each for Lions, Tony Grampsas, and Ulysses Parks were included in the level of service analysis for the role that these parks play as neighborhood parks for residents living within 0.5-mile of each park. If the acreage for these parks is factored in, the effective level of service for neighborhood parkland in Golden would increase to 4.50 acres per 1,000 people, compared to 3.66 acres if it were not included.

Map 2, Existing Park Service Areas for Neighborhood and Pocket Parks, shows the 0.5-mile and 0.25-mile service areas associated with each developed neighborhood and pocket park. Service areas around community parks that can be considered to function as the adjacent residence's neighborhood park are also shown. The service areas on Map 2 represent the immediate neighborhood that has access to that park without crossing an arterial roadway, active rail line, river or other barrier, which prevents easy access via walking or by bicycle. The extent of existing residential development is also generally shown.

Although Golden is relatively well covered by the distribution of neighborhood parks, there are a few residential areas that are currently not served by neighborhood or pocket parks. These are particularly notable in the following neighborhoods: the area north of Highway 58, east of North Ford Street, and south of 1st Street; the area east of Ford Street, north of Sunset Drive, and south of 17th Street; and the area south of Highway 6, north of Highway 40, east of County Road 93, and west of Johnson Road. Map 4 illustrates these areas. In addition to providing added parkland in underserved areas, access to existing neighborhood parks could also be improved by enhancing pedestrian and bicyclist connections across existing barriers.

A few existing developed areas of Golden may experience redevelopment and infill in the future, with new residential units being constructed in key strategic locations throughout the city. The city should ensure that any new residential developments, particularly those with high densities in the downtown area, are accommodated with parkland or adequate access to nearby parkland.





Map 2: Existing Park Service Areas for Neighborhood and Pocket Parks





Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that serve the entire community. They should be equitably distributed throughout the city and easily accessible by all residents. Ideally, they should also be connected via the core commuter, off-street trail system to reduce the need to drive to the park. Sports complexes are also often associated with community parks, or can serve as community parks themselves if they contain sufficient amenities beyond just sports facilities. These are typically parks or areas of community parks that have dedicated sport facilities available for use to the entire community. While many community parks contain sports complexes, not all sports complexes are a part of a community park or contain parklike facilities. Within the City of Golden, each existing community park has a different and unique character. For example, Lions Park is centrally located and identifiable as the crown jewel of the parks system in Golden. Ulysses Park has several park features, but serves primarily as a baseball complex with fields and a batting cage. Tony Gramsas Park on the other hand, is located on the edge of the city, is more naturalized, and has unique recreation amenities such as an archery range.

Lions Park and Ballfields

Lions Park is a major public gathering spot in downtown Golden along Clear Creek. It is located at 1300 10th Street and the park itself is 3.75 acres in size; the ballfields occupy approximately 5 acres of area. This park was built in the 1960s by the local Lions Club. It contains a sand volleyball court, accessible playground, two picnic shelters, a community recreation center, “fishing” pond, fitness course, kayak course in Clear Creek, and off-street parking. The ballfields area consists of two youth-sized softball fields that have overlapping outfields (or very short outfields when temporary fencing is installed), three tennis courts, and a restroom facility. The ballfields are used by Golden girl's softball and women's adult softball. The fields are not used for softball leagues or tournaments, due to the issue of balls being hit outside the field and hitting cars. The exception is the women's

softball league, which plays on Thursdays. During the fall season, the fence is removed between the two fields and Golden Applewood Youth Football uses the fields for practice. The ballfields are popular within the community, but significantly impact the width of the trail corridor. The fields and tennis courts are close to the riverbanks and create a pinch point where user conflicts occur. Two of the tennis courts are lighted, and one is ADA accessible.

Water recreation is a big draw for this park – kayaking, tubing, swimming, and fishing all are very popular activities along Clear Creek. The kayakers also use the “fishing” pond to practice “rolls.” Although recent water tests show that water quality is acceptable, the pond water quality is often a concern with park users because of the many geese that congregate around the pond. Connecting the pond hydraulically with the creek may improve the overall pond aeration.

The popularity of Lions Park and the area along Clear Creek, and diversity of uses sometimes leads to conflicts between user groups. Lions Park is also popular for special events, such as international kayak competitions. These types of events require large staging areas for the competition, which are limited with the current configuration of Lions Park. With the number of other uses occurring at this park at any given time, there are space limitations for regular park use and special events to occur at the same time. There is also not an adequate place for overnight camping to accommodate the users of these multiday events.

Areas along the creek show signs of degradation from high use due to the area's popularity, exhibiting streambank erosion and a lack of vegetation. Fish habitat is found upstream of the kayak course. The shelters are often reserved, and the park could use additional picnic shelters.

The Clear Creek Whitewater Park is part of Lions Park. The course is more than 800 feet with a variety of drops and pools for kayakers. The Golden Community Center is located at the



heart of Lions Park. The center underwent a major renovation in 2006-07, and offers a wide variety of recreation and fitness programs.

ADA accessibility within the park as a whole is marginal, including the playground. The trail is heavily used by bicyclists, walkers, joggers, and creek users. There are multiple areas that have user conflicts where the trail is narrow and pinched by adjacent uses. The Billy Drew Bridge, located near the History Park, is the furthest west bridge along Clear Creek. The trail on the south side of the creek begins at the bridge and continues east, connecting to Vanover Park near Coors. A trail extension on the south side of the creek could be considered to relieve pressure on the north side trail, and provide an alternative route for trail users who want to travel at higher speeds.

10th Street enters the park from the east and loops north to the Community Center parking lot. The road is heavily used for park access, but creates conflicts with pedestrians who are crossing from the park to Clear Creek. This is also the only access to the Clear Creek campground and RV park just west of Lions Park. Alternatives for creating a more pedestrian-friendly road should be explored.

The existing upper maintenance shops are going to be relocated, which will provide an opportunity to redevelop the area, potentially with new or expanded recreational opportunities. Below the shops area are two water treatment ponds and structures associated with water treatment and operations. The water treatment pond edge is unkempt; it should be cleaned up and an attractive fence installed around the perimeter to protect the ponds.



Lions Park



Lions Ballfields

Sports Complexes

Rooney Road Sports Complex

Rooney Road Sports Complex is located on Rooney Road in south Golden, adjacent to I-70. This new sports complex sits atop a former landfill and was completed in the fall of 2007. The 40-acre sports complex has five multiuse artificial turf fields, which are primarily intended for soccer. No typical park amenities have been included in this project. Rooney Road is a joint project between the City of Golden, Jefferson County, and the Table Mountain Soccer Association. As the Table Mountain Soccer Association invested approximately 1/6th of the money required for construction, they will have scheduling priority for the complex.



Tony Grampsas Memorial Sports Complex

Tony Grampsas Memorial Sports Complex is located at 4471 Salvia Street on the east side of Table Mountain, and was originally built by Coors Brewing Company for their employees. The city obtained the park in 1999. Although called a sports complex, Tony Grampsas functions as a community park. The 66-acre park contains three baseball fields (two lighted fields and one unlighted), multiuse turf areas, two volleyball courts, a playground, two picnic shelters, an indoor gymnasium, two vault toilets, horseshoe pits, 3-acre dog park, archery range, and off-street parking. This large park is heavily used for public and private events. Of the 66 acres, only 35 are developed, with the remainder in a natural state. The parking lot is unpaved and is also used as a trailhead for Arvada Reservoir and Table Mountain.

The north and south ballfields are too short for outfield dimensions by today's standards. Generally, a minimum of 300-foot fences are required for softball. The lighting on these fields is inadequate, with no shields on the bulbs. The backstops on all three fields are also inadequate by current standards. Women's adult softball does not like to use Grampsas for games, preferring the Lions Park ballfields.

The indoor gymnasium is metal-sided and used for programmed activities, with no drop-in uses. The adjacent Montessori School uses it for their physical education classes. The HVAC system was recently upgraded.

The picnic shelters can be reserved; sand volleyball, horseshoes, a playground, access to water, limited electricity, and BBQ grills are also available.

Areas of the park have drainage problems from seepage from the irrigation canal that runs through the site. Overall, the park is in marginal condition and could be substantially upgraded. The unique features of this park are popular with the community, such as the archery range, dog park, and natural setting; these should

remain in some form if the park is renovated. The park also has marginal ADA accessibility.

User groups at Grampsas Park include Golden Junior Baseball, Golden Girl's Softball, City of Golden Adult Softball, Golden High School Girl's Softball, and Westside Lacrosse.



Tony Grampsas Park

Ulysses Park

Ulysses Park is located next to Bell Middle School at 1205 Ulysses Street. Although classified as a sports complex, Ulysses Park functions as a community park in this area of the city. It is just over 35 acres and contains five ballfields, batting cages, concessions and restroom building, picnic shelters, playground, skatepark, small dog park, large multiuse turf area, and off-street parking. It is located at a high point within Golden and overlooks much of the area.

Of the ballfields, four are lighted and one is not; lighting was upgraded in 2006. The unlit field is primarily used by players age 11 and under. It does not have contemporary outfield distances; but because of the current age of the users, this is not a problem. Currently, Ulysses is the only park in Golden with a regulation pitching mound. The field has fences with distances of 300 feet, which are too short by today's standards. Currently the players at this field are youth, age 15-18. Options to expand the outfield distances on the four lit ballfields should be explored to get the fields into current playing standards. During the fall, the fields are rented to ultimate frisbee teams.



The concessions/restroom is dated and could use updating; it is not ADA accessible. Access to the fields from the parking lot is not accessible and should be redesigned to provide better access into the park.

User groups include Golden Junior Baseball, City of Golden Adult Softball, Adult Frisbee Rental Groups, and Colorado Ice Soccer Club.

Community Park Standards

Community parks should be adequately sized to accommodate a variety of diverse activities, including passive uses. Table 2.4 lists the specific standards for community parks. Community parks are ideally 25 to 100 acres, and often combine developed parkland for self-directed or programmed activities (festivals, performances, fitness trails, sports fields and courts, picnic shelters, etc.) with natural areas or other interesting elements (water features, forests, or gardens). They should be accessible to everyone in the community and most often are centrally located. An off-street trail system should also be connected to community parks, allowing for access not reliant on automobiles.

Community Park Level of Service

Golden has a total of four community parks, three of which are classified as sports complexes. Combined, these parks total approximately 150 acres and provide a level of service of 8.38 acres per 1,000 people based on a current population of 17,895 (Table 2.5). Each of the four community parks within the City of Golden, except one, meets the 25-acre desirable minimum standard. Lions Park and ballfields is only 8.75 acres in size; however, its location and the larger role it serves in the community make it function more as a community park rather than a neighborhood park. Map 3, Existing Park Service Areas Community Parks, shows a 1.5-mile service area for each developed community park, which illustrates their relatively even distribution throughout the city.



Table 2.4. Community Park Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
PARKS				
Community Parks				
Community Park	25-100 acres	<p>Provides opportunities for community-wide activities and facilities. Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas, such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, plazas, etc., and have features that appeal to the broader community.</p> <p>Sports complexes are not complete community parks as they are very special-purpose. However, they contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. See definition below.</p> <p>Community parks should generally be located to provide all residents access to a community park within 1-2 miles of their home. Community parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within ½ mile.</p>	<p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Special site features such as streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites and other interesting elements may add to the unique character of the park.</p> <p>Ideally, will have good access from a collector or arterial street.</p> <p>Direct access to primary community trail system desirable.</p> <p>Site should not be encumbered with constraints that preclude development of the site for desired uses.</p>	5.5 acres/ 1,000 pop.
Sports Complex	Varies	<p>Provides opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports such as: baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding in higher intensity use facilities. Limited areas for passive recreation uses and other features that appeal to the broader community. Strategically locate to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities.</p>	<p>Majority of site should be relatively flat to accommodate sports fields.</p> <p>Locate away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light and noise conflicts.</p>	Part of community park level of service standard.
Special Purpose Parks				
Special Purpose Park	Varies	<p>Serves a singular or very focused community need, such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, working farm, performance area, festival area, fairgrounds, urban plaza, visual green space, gateways, equestrian center and civic park.</p>	Varies	Not applicable. Part of neighborhood or community park level of service if site contributes to these types of needs.



Because community parks are considered citywide destinations, the service areas span arterial roadways and other barriers. However, providing easy pedestrian and bicycle access is strongly encouraged, and the City of Golden should continually work to improve off-street and on-street trail links to community parks.

Table 2.5. Existing Community Park Level of Service

Community Parks	Effective Level of Service 2007
Population*	17,895
Existing Community Parkland (acres)	149.9
Level of Service	8.38 acres/ 1,000 population

* 2007 population 17,895; City of Golden Planning and Development Department.

Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks are those that tend to serve a singular, or very focused purpose or community need. Examples of special purpose parks include environmental education centers, horticulture centers, working farms, performance areas, festival areas, fairgrounds, urban plazas, equestrian centers, or other parks that serve a specific purpose or need within a community. As these parks vary greatly in nature, they do not have typical characteristics. Additionally, they do not have an identified level of service unless they specifically contribute to meeting neighborhood or community park needs.

Clear Creek Campground

The 3-acre Clear Creek Campground is adjacent to Lions Park along Clear Creek. The campground is primarily used from May to October, with two-week stays allowed. Some people stay through the winter, where month-long rentals are accepted. The campground is primarily for RVs, with 33 sites containing electric, sewer, and water hookups, but there are a few tent spots as well. Eight of the RV sites are open year-round. The campground contains laundry, showers, and a manager’s

building. There is need for additional tent spots in the vicinity of Clear Creek, especially for use during special events such as kayak tournaments.



Clear Creek Campground

Clear Creek History Park

Clear Creek History Park is located across Clear Creek from Lions Park. It is 3 acres in size and is an educational and interpretive area representing Golden’s early years. It contains a collection of log buildings connected by an informal, unpaved trail. School groups visit the park throughout the year and are taught by people in period clothing, demonstrating various chores and tasks that were done during the pioneer era. Adjacent to History Park is an underutilized lot that is occasionally used for overflow parking or snow removal.



Clear Creek History Park



Map 3: Existing Community Park Service Areas





Hockeystop Park

Hockeystop Park is located adjacent to Southridge Park at 17533 South Golden Road; it is 0.75 acre in size. It was built in 2001 and contains a full-sized, unlit, outdoor in-line skating rink and off-street parking. A port-o-let is located in the parking lot. The park is regularly scheduled for league games and is often used for adult pick-up games.



Hockeystop Park

Clear Creek Whitewater Park

Located at the west end of 10th Street, adjacent to Lions Park, the Clear Creek Whitewater Park is one of Golden's most unique recreational attractions. Built for recreational canoeing and kayaking, the course runs right through Downtown Golden.

The original course was 800 feet in length, built with natural boulders, and divided into sections. The upper portion is a series of drops and pools of different experience levels and with fast eddies. The middle portion consists of flat, broad, shallow surf waves with huge random boulders. The course gates are located in the middle section. The bottom section entertains paddlers with more extreme surf and wave drops. Vanover Park is also available for parking and provides a take-out site for those continuing downstream after maneuvering the course.

In 2002 six additional drop structures were constructed, significantly lengthening the

course. These structures are located downstream from the competitive course behind City Hall and on either side of the Washington Street Bridge. There is also a small amphitheater located near the visitors center along this section. With this expansion, Golden provides seven city blocks of white water activity on Clear Creek.

The high popularity of the course has led to a few issues. Some streambank erosion has begun to occur in popular put-in and take-out areas that have not been formalized. Conflicts along the Clear Creek Trail occasionally occur between competing uses. There is no staging area for kayakers and often boats block through-traffic on the trail. Additionally, Clear Creek is open to multiple uses, such as swimmers, tubers, and anglers. Sometimes their use of the creek conflicts with white water use of the course

Open Space Areas

Open space areas and corridors protect natural values and provide opportunities for trail and habitat connections. The degree to which each area is "natural" depends upon its size, configuration, location, and level of use, all of which influence its ability to function in a native state. Open space areas and corridors are frequently located along stream corridors and provide opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation. They often contain a multipurpose trail or segment of a trail system that connects with trails in adjoining parks or open space properties.

Open Space Classifications

Table 2.6 lists classifications and characteristics of three different types of open space. Regional open spaces are typically 100 acres or greater in size and protect large areas containing natural resource values of communitywide significance. Regional open spaces also provide opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation. They typically place an emphasis on achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use. As regional open space never has



identical characteristics in two locations, there are no set standards for level of service. Natural areas, linear parks, and greenways are other types of open space, with limited public access and management emphasis placed on habitat and natural resource protection. These properties may be in a narrow corridor configuration or exist as larger pieces of land. There are no set site characteristics of natural areas and corridors; however, limited areas of the site can be dedicated to leisure and outdoor-oriented recreation uses and contain recreation amenities such as trails, benches, picnic sites, and environmental interpretation and education areas. As natural areas and corridors are usually provided when available and do not specifically serve park functions, there is no set level of service.

Sensitive or special resource areas and conservation lands protect areas with important cultural, natural, and other community values. These may include areas of significant vegetation, important and sensitive habitats, scenic areas, wetlands, or areas that contribute to the urban shaping and buffering goals of the community. Conservation lands are distinctly different from urban parks and cannot be considered a substitute for the intensively used parks that are needed within urban settings. Conservation lands are different from urban parks because their emphasis is on preserving or enhancing the natural environment rather than providing lands for active use. Their character is defined by their inherent natural, ecological, historic, and scenic values.

Table 2.6. Open Space Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
OPEN SPACE				
Regional Open Space/Park				
Regional Open Space/Park	100 acres or greater	Protects large areas with natural resource values of community-wide significance. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation.	Emphasis on achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use.	No LOS standard.
Natural Area/Natural Corridor				
Natural Area/ Natural Corridor	Varies, but typically 8 acres or greater	Protects natural values on smaller parcels. Often located along stream corridors. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails.	Emphasis on resource protection or preservation with some public access provided. Limited site area can be dedicated to leisure and nature-oriented recreation uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, and visitor support facilities.	No LOS standard.
Special Resources				
Special Resource Area	Varies	Protects areas with important cultural, natural, and other community values. These may include areas of significant vegetation, important and sensitive habitats, scenic areas, or areas that contribute to the urban shaping and buffering goals of the community.	Emphasis is on resource protection rather than recreation. If public access is not desirable or needed, conservation easements may be a suitable preservation tool.	No LOS standard.



Open Space Properties

The presence and accessibility of open space surrounding Golden is one of the most attractive features of the community. There is an abundance of open space and protected land that surrounds the city in virtually every direction. The vast majority of this land is owned and managed by the Jefferson County Open Space Department (JCOS). The City of Golden owns and maintains open space on both the south and north sides of Table Mountain.

Illinois Street Park South

Illinois Street Park South is located on Illinois Street in south Golden, adjacent to Fossil Trace Golf Club. This small 0.5-acre parcel, owned by the City of Golden, has been kept in a native state and contains no amenities.

Apex Park

Apex Park is a 661-acre JCOS property, located in south Golden adjacent to Heritage Square. West access to the property is via the Apex Trail from the parking area at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center. East access is on the northeast corner of the Heritage Square parking lot (Highway 40 at County Road 93). This property is very popular with mountain bikers, and also offers a wide range of scenic and historic features. Its location in the foothills above the city provides seclusion that is readily accessible to the urbanized area of Golden below. The Apex Trail follows Apex Gulch, where a perennial stream flows for most of the year.

Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve

The Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve is located on Lookout Mountain, west of Golden. This 110-acre park provides a comprehensive nature center built in 1997, with the most cutting edge, sustainable building practices at the time. The mission of the Lookout Mountain Nature Center is to create awareness, understanding, and conservation of Jefferson County's open spaces through year-round educational programs and exhibits. It contains interactive exhibits, a gift shop, and classrooms for lectures, speeches, and class

activities. Outside there are several trails winding through ponderosa pines and montane meadows. It is also a thriving wildlife habitat, home to Abert's squirrels, deer, songbirds, and others. Mount Zion, adjacent to Lookout Mountain, is widely considered one of the best hang gliding and paragliding take off areas in the state.

Mount Galbraith Park

This 871-acre park is located west of Golden on Golden Gate Canyon Road. Mount Galbraith has extremely steep terrain with great views of both the mountains and plains. It also has a large elk herd of more than 300. The park is hiker only and does not allow bikes or horses.

North Table Mountain Park

North Table Mountain Park is located just northeast of the City of Golden. The park is currently undeveloped and consists of approximately 1,945 acres. North Table Mountain is a flat-topped mountain that rises almost 1,000 feet above the surrounding plains with very steep side slopes. North Table Mountain is primarily undeveloped; however, it contains a 1.5-mile trail. There is a trailhead maintained by the City of Golden located at the end of Peery Drive, which provides the only access to the top of the mountain. This trailhead also provides access to the Golden Cliffs Preserve, a popular climbing spot. There is abundant wildlife on the mountain, including deer, coyote, fox, golden eagle, magpie, canyon wren, rattlesnake, and mountain lion. A comprehensive management plan is currently under development for this property.

South Table Mountain Park

South Table Mountain Park is located east of the City of Golden. Until recently, only a small portion of the mesa on the east side was owned and managed by JCOS. Conservation easements acquired from the State of Colorado and the US Department of Energy have allowed for trail connections, expanding the usable area of the mountain. In 2004, JCOS worked in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land to acquire Coors Brewing Company holdings; however, an estimated 400 acres remain in private ownership. A park management plan



incorporating the former Coors Brewing Company property is currently being updated. There are several access points to the properties, however, the only formalized trailhead is located at the west terminus of Foothills Circle and provides access to the mesa top.

Windy Saddle Park

Windy Saddle Park is located west of Golden, south of Mount Galbraith. Windy Saddle can be accessed from several points in the Golden area. Chimney Gulch Trail runs southwest from 6th Avenue near Clear Creek and intersects with Beaver Brook Trail near the Windy Saddle parking lot. The Windy Saddle Parking lot is located along Lookout Mountain Road. Trail users can continue along the Beaver Brook Trail to the Stapleton Drive Trailhead in Genesee Park, or they can travel the Lookout Mountain Trail to the summit and the Lookout Mountain Nature Center. Parking lots for trail access are found at Windy Saddle (off Lariat Loop Road), the Lookout Mountain Nature Center, and Genesee Park. Additional parking can also be found on road rights-of-way where allowed. Windy Saddle is also very popular for hang gliding and paragliding, and is widely considered one of the best locations in the state. The primary landing zone is a 400 yard X 200 yard area located on Colorado School of Mines property adjacent to Highway 6.

Other Park and Recreation Resources

Beyond parks and open space areas, there are several other recreation resources in the community provided by the City of Golden. Each of these resources is described below.

Golden Community Center

The Golden Community Center is located on 10th Street in downtown and occupies a 6.65-acre site. This 71,483-square-foot multifunction facility offers a variety of recreation and leisure programs and amenities for all ages. The facility contains lap, leisure, and therapy pools; fitness and dance areas; a gymnasium with two courts; elevated running track; community, meeting and craft rooms; a climbing wall, and tot and youth areas. The Community Center is also

home to the parks and recreation department offices.

Splash Aquatics Park

The 10-acre Splash Aquatics Park is located on Illinois Street in central Golden adjacent to Fossil Trace Golf Club. This multipurpose facility offers two water slides; an activity leisure pool with interactive features, including fountains, a jungle gym, and smaller slides; a beach area; a gentle spray fountain for younger children; lawn chairs; and picnic areas. This highly popular recreation facility is only open during summer months, May through Labor Day.

Fossil Trace Golf Club

Fossil Trace Golf Club is a highly acclaimed municipal course owned and operated by the City of Golden. This 202-acre course is located in central Golden on Illinois Street, adjacent to Splash Aquatics Park. Operated as a separate enterprise fund, Fossil Trace was ranked as one of the top 10 new golf courses in the country in 2003 by both *Golf Digest* and *Golf Magazine*. The course was designed by Jim Engh, one of the foremost golf course designers in the country. The par 72 course plays at 6,831 yards from the professional tees. The highlight of the course is how it showcases unique prehistoric dinosaur fossils, such as Triceratops footprints. Also located just inside the main doors is an exhibit that details the rich history of the property, and shares information about the dinosaur tracks and other important fossils uncovered on the site. The course clubhouse is home to the Three Tomatoes Restaurant. This facility is popular to rent for various banquets and weddings as well.

Golden Cemetery

The Golden Cemetery is located at 755 Ulysses Street and has been owned and operated by the City of Golden since 1873. The cemetery maintains the character of Golden's rich history. Historic notables buried here include Capt. George West, one of the founders of Golden; Seth Lake, builder of the Astor House Hotel, which now operates as Astor House Museum; and Captain E. L. Berthoud who, with famed mountain man Jim Bridger as his guide,



discovered "Berthoud Pass" in 1861. Many other pioneers and characters of the early west are also at rest in Golden Cemetery.

Colorado School of Mines (CSM)

The Colorado School of Mines is located in Golden and offers diverse recreation opportunities to students and faculty. CSM also owns several undeveloped properties throughout the community, some of which lie adjacent to Jefferson County Open Space property. The primary landing area for hang gliders and paragliders is also located on CSM property at the base of Lookout Mountain along Highway 6. This is an important community recreation area with parking and viewing areas. Hang gliding and paragliding in Golden are widely considered some of the best in the State of Colorado. This landing area is a unique recreation resource in Golden and should be preserved.

Undeveloped Parkland

The City of Golden owns three parcels of land that have tentatively been identified for park development. The first is a small parcel located at the corner of Zeta Road and Colfax Avenue. This site sits on the corner of a busy intersection and is linear in nature. Although there is need for additional parkland in this area of the city, the location and size of this parcel do not make it ideal for park development. The second parcel is located adjacent to Norma D. Park, directly north of the gulch that bisects Norman D. Park. Currently there is no need to expand Norma D. Park, and this parcel provides a pleasant native element to the existing park site. The third parcel is in a native state and located at the south end of New Loveland Mine Park. Currently there is no need to expand this park, and this parcel provides a pleasant native element to the park and a good buffer from nearby Highway 6.

B. Trails Inventory

Golden Trails

The City of Golden adopted a bicycle master plan in 2003 that describes the 10-year vision to guide the city in developing a citywide bicycle system that links surrounding areas. Beyond existing on and off-street trails in the city, there are also numerous paved and soft surface trails in parks and neighboring open space areas. Following is a brief description of the existing trails in Golden.

Apex Trail

This trail is in the JCOS trail system, and the eastern access is in the City of Golden. The trail is 2.3 miles long between Heritage Square and Lookout Mountain Drive, gaining 1,500 feet elevation. This is a moderate hiking trail and a popular mountain bike area. Wildlife includes elk, deer, black bear, coyote, fox, rattlesnake, and raptors. The access point to this trail is at the Lower Heritage Square parking lot off Heritage Road (Highway 93).

Clear Creek Trail

This is a group of trails that connect nearby neighborhoods to schools, the Community Center, and the downtown area. A pedestrian overpass is provided over Highway 93 to keep trail use safe for all. These trails also connect the Community Center to New Loveland Mine and White Ash Mine Parks. The trail is 0.9 mile in length along this section. The trail then travels to the eastern city limits where it continues in Wheat Ridge and eventually connects with other trails in the Denver Metro area.

Chimney Gulch Trail

This trail is in the JCOS trail system and is connected to the Windy Gap Trail and Park. The trail climbs 2,000 feet in 2.5 miles from Highway 6 to the summit at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center. The trail is moderate to advanced and passes through grass prairie and pine forest, crossing streams at several places. The trail is popular among hikers and mountain bikers. The access point to this trail is at Lookout Mountain Road west of Highway 6;



and roadside parking is on Highway 6, eastbound from Highway 58.

Cressman Gulch Trail

This trail begins at Ford Street and Mesa Drive, across the street from Norman D. Park. It is a steady climb to the intersection of Ford Street and Highway 93. There is a quiet neighborhood playground located on the trail, maintained by volunteers. It is easy to continue south to the downtown area by crossing the bridge and continuing on the Tucker Gulch Trail, which also connects with the Clear Creek Trail. The trail is 0.6 mile in length.

Golden Cliffs Trail at North Table Mountain

The Access Fund, a nonprofit climber's association, completed an adjacent trail, Golden Cliffs. The trail to the Golden Cliffs is advanced with grades exceeding 25%; biking is prohibited. Hikers must yield to climbers and to climbing activities along the cliffs. There is a restroom available at the parking area. The access point to this trail is at the south end of Peery Drive.

Grant Terry Trail

The trail is compact dirt, 15-foot wide, and is adjacent to Clear Creek for 0.7 mile up the canyon. There is abundant vegetation, including poison ivy. This is an excellent pedestrian trail in the hot summer months, as there always seems to be a cool breeze. In the winter, the trail receives little if any sunshine and can be very icy. The access point for this trail is the Clear Creek Trail west of Clear Creek RV Park.

Kinney Run Trail

This 0.75-mile taxing trail begins at the Heritage Square parking lot off Highway 40 and runs north to the Tripp Ranch property. A short climb to the highest point offers a superb view of the Denver/South Platte Valley. Then, it's all downhill through Heritage Dells Park to Tripp Street. Future plans call for the trail corridor to continue under Highway 6 and connect with the existing trail and eventually to Clear Creek Trail, to give walking access to the downtown area.

Lubahn Trail

This 2.5-mile trail loop is in the gully below and south of Castle Rock on South Table Mountain. The trail climbs about 400 feet to the base of the cliffs. There is access to the top of South Table from the south extent of the trail; however, private property exists above the trail. Professor Jack Lubahn, a professor at Colorado School of Mines, built the trail in the 1960s. He took beginning geology students on the mesa to show them examples of stream deposits underlying the basalt caprock, and thus introduced them to Colorado geology. The trail has been extended to create a loop hike of moderate difficulty, and is an excellent one-hour excursion. The trail receives an abundance of sun year-round. Volunteers from the Table Mountain Conservation Fund have adopted the trail, maintaining it and improving it as needed. Access to this trail is at Belvedere Drive and 19th Street.

Magpie Gulch Trail at Canyon Point

This is a group of trails that connect one of Golden's newest developments along Highway 93 to neighborhood schools, Community Center, and the downtown area. A pedestrian overpass is provided over Highway 93 to keep trail use safe for all. These trails connect the Community Center to New Loveland Mine and White Ash Mine Parks. The concrete is "saw cut" to make it great for in-line skating.

Nightbird Gulch Trail

This trail is in the JCOS trail system, providing access to Mount Galbraith Park. The trail is moderate to advanced difficulty, and accesses the Front Range Foothills. The trail is rough, with many rock steps and ledges. Bikes and horses are prohibited, which makes this a premier hiking trail in the region. Wildlife mammals include elk, moose, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, coyote, fox, and mountain lion. Plants include several endangered species, and some areas are off limits to unguided traffic. This park is restricted to foot traffic only. Access to the trail is at Valley View Court and Canyon Point Circle.



Northeast Corporate Center Trail

This 0.5-mile greenbelt trail corridor is aligned with McIntyre and West 50th Avenue. The trail has minimal development and provides an opportunity for a walk away from the workplace of the Coors Technology Center. There is light equestrian use on this trail. Trail access with parking is located on West 50th Avenue.

North Table Mountain Trail

This 1.5-mile trail traverses the southwest side of North Table Mountain below the cliff band. There are excellent views of the Golden Valley. The trail is moderate to advanced difficulty, with about 300 feet elevation gain from the north and 400 feet gain from the south. The trail has three sections with different qualities. The north section is an old bull-dozed bench and contours below the cliffs. The middle section is hand-built by volunteers led by the Table Mountain Conservation Fund, and links the cliff section to street access. The south section, built in the 1950s, is a single track, rough trail that contours behind private property. There is one very rough access to the top of North Table Mountain, which is presently 75% open space. The middle access is at the intersection of Ptarmigan and Peery Drives. The south access is on the extension of Peery Drive toward the Golden Cliffs, near the deer pond just west of the upper dirt parking lot.

Tony Grampsas Memorial Sports Complex Trail

This 1.3-mile trail was originally constructed and maintained by JCOS. The crusher fine trail follows the west side of Tony Grampsas Park, often following the Church Ditch, and terminates at the north end of the park. Access points to the trail are a trailhead east of Tony Grampsas gym on Salvia Street; a trailhead on Easley Road; and a trailhead at West 50th Avenue and Quaker Lane.

Tucker Gulch

This uphill 1.10-mile trail begins at Vanover Park at the end of Clear Creek Trail and travels up the Tucker Gulch drainage to Norman D. Park on Ford Street. It provides a steady climb along an abandoned railroad bed.

Other Trails in Golden

Beyond the trails identified above, there are several other trails and recreational corridors in Golden that allow pedestrian and bicycle connectivity as well as recreational opportunities.

Highway 6 Trail

One trail that provides critical north-south access in the community is along Highway 6, generally from Johnson Road in the south to 19th Street in central Golden. The trail ends at 19th Street, but the long-range vision plans for the trail to connect with the Clear Creek Trail in the north. At 19th Street, trail users can continue on on-street bike routes. This trail is approximately 2.5 miles in length.

19th Street/Lookout Mountain, from CSM to Lookout Mountain

19th Street west of Highway 6 turns into Lookout Mountain Road. This is a designated bike route for approximately 2 miles. It is an extremely high use travel way for several types of recreationists, including bikers, walkers, hikers, long-boarders, and those travelling to the hang gliding and paragliding launch site on Lookout Mountain. There is also a large amount of student housing located in the neighborhoods in this area. As such, easy, safe and direct access along this roadway is critical. The City of Golden has proposed an improved intersection at 19th Street and Highway 6 with a roundabout and generous walkways and bike lanes above the highway to ensure this route stays safe and accessible for all users.

Johnson Road Trail

The Johnson Road Trail starts at the intersection of South Golden Road and Ford Street, and travels south along South Golden Road where it intersects with the Highway 6 Trail. The trail is approximately 2 miles in length.



Highway 93 Trail

As new residential development occurs in north Golden along Highway 93, more and more portions of this trail are completed. Currently, the trail is continuous on the east side of Highway 93 from Iowa Street north to Tucker Gulch, where it intersects with the Tucker Gulch Trail. It also extends south to a point where it intersects with a trail leading out of New Loveland Mine Park. An on-street connection to the Magpie Gulch Trail is also possible on this trail.

