jeffco.us/parks **News Release**

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Hazardous Conditions Require Closure of Frequently Used Irrigation Ditch

At the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon, the Welch Ditch historically moved water from higher elevations to the thirsty plains and agricultural lands of the metro area. In recent years, water has not been conveyed through the ditch and has been used unofficially for hiking and recreation.

Earlier this year, Jefferson County Open Space acquired ownership of this ditch through a quit claim deed. Following the County's inspection, significant stretches of the ditch were found to pose hazards to the public until fully mitigated. Jefferson County Open Space intends to create a safe and sustainable trail experience at Clear Creek Canyon Park using the ditch. These hazard areas will be closed to public use until appropriate trail infrastructure work has been completed to provide clear, safe passage.

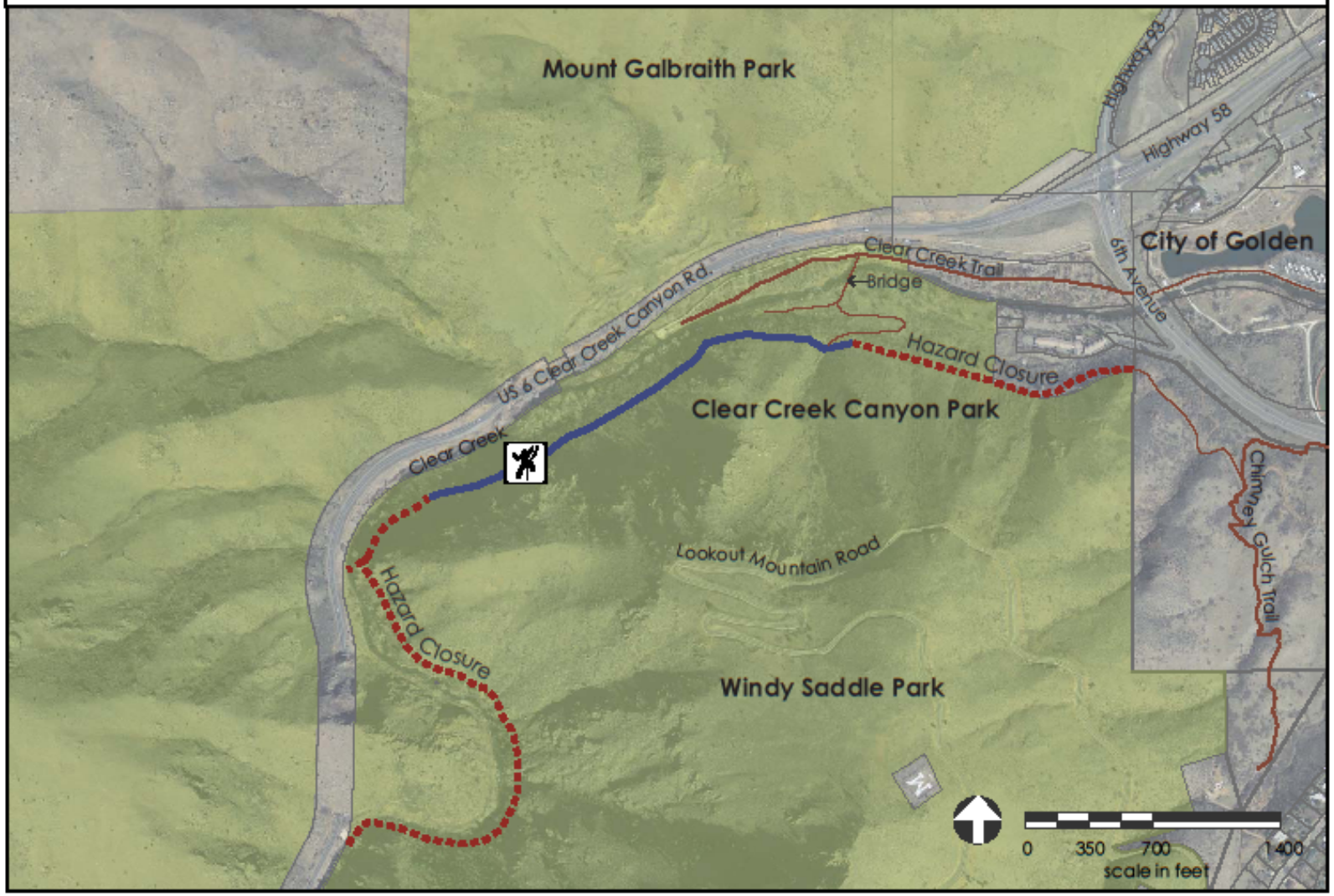
JCOS asks that the public refrain from attempting to travel on the closed portion of the Welch Ditch as indicated on the attached map. Specifically, please refrain from using the Chimney Gulch Trail on Colorado School of Mines property to enter the closure area. JCOS has enlisted the support of Mines to post the safety closure.

Public Permitted: A portion of the Welch Ditch will remain open to provide an out-and-back trail experience as well as access to an established climbing area within Clear Creek Canyon Park called "The Canal Zone." Please see map with areas available for recreation use and observe closures for your safety and the safety of others.

Area map attached/on reverse.

WELCH DITCH
PUBLIC SAFETY CLOSURES

Legend

- Welch Ditch
- Trails
- Hazard Closure
- Jeffco Open Space
- Climbing Area

Jefferson County Open Space
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