North Mountains Community Plan Update

Kick-off Meeting Notes

Golden Gate Grange September 20, 2012

Attendees were broken into five groups of 5-10 people and answers to the following questions were recorded. When an answer was repeated by several groups a number is next to the response. This is the total number of groups that responded with that answer. If no total is given, only one group responded with that answer. Responses that were similar, but not exactly the same are grouped together.

What is unique about your community?

- No commercial properties or uses (5)
 - o Including signs (1)
- Wildlife (4)
- Open Space (3)
- Three large Jefferson County Open Space parks
 - o Mt. Galbraith
 - o Centennial Cone
 - o White Ranch
 - o Plus Golden Gate Canyon State Park
- Public lands attract many users from outside the area
- Grange as a community center for Canyon residents (3)
- Sense of community, especially with the Grange
- Active community groups
- A lot of public involvement
- Neighborhood network is very accessible
- Wonderful people warm, but not intrusive
- The quiet (3)
- No highways can't hear traffic
- Beauty (2)
- Natural beauty and resources
- Agricultural and Residential uses are prevalent (2)
- Residents and visitors escape the urban environment on a beautiful mountain road

- Undeveloped Area close to the cities
- Golden Gate is one of the few canyons left that is not over-commercialized and still preserved (not overrun by tourists)
- Rural character
- Eclectic area i.e. housing, people, farms, animals
- Limited housing adjacent to roads
- Not built up beautiful drive
- Can come up the canyon and not see a house
- Not a lot of houses very low density
- Don't want to see Mount Tom and North and South Centralia (next to Mt Tom and adjacent to state park) developed
- Large lots
- North Ranch and School House neighborhoods
- A-35 volunteered majority
- A-35 acre zoning (low density) in several areas
- Active Ranches and agricultural heritage
 - o Pearce Centennial Ranch
 - o Baughman Centennial Ranch
 - o Homesteaders are still here
- Several homesteads or foundations still existing
- Agricultural activities
- Winding road naturally slows traffic on Golden Gate Canyon Road
- Very windy road as a major public access
- Not a recreational corridor
- Developed later than other communities
 - o Golden Gate Canyon Road was terrible into the 60's
- People can still hunt
- Lack of surface water
- Area to breathe
- Privacy
- Topographic variations
- Geological landscape
- Geologic phenomenon
- Douglas Mountain the most recognizable peak in this area of the Front Range.
- Mountains and meadows
- Golden Gate Canyon is the Gregory Toll Road
- Old-timers remain a force in the community
- Mining is part of the history

- Closest mountain area to downtown Denver
- Easy access to everything you need
- Proximity to more populous area
- Most people do a good job of sharing the road
- Goltra
- Fewer homes are in the fire danger due to houses in the valleys (vs. the center of lots of trees)
- Great Walking/hiking trails
- Respectful of horses
- Pride of ownership, maintain yards

What improvements could be made to your community?

- Open space connectivity opportunities
- Road improvements not widening of travel lanes that accommodate horseback riders, bikes, recreation
- No sight distance on guy Hill
- Need guard rail along Grange property
- Remove barriers along the first turn going east on Golden Gate Canyon Road or put them on the outside of the road and a screen on the rocks.
- Douglas Mountain road paved
- Gravel on road
- Improvements on road systems blind curves visibility
 - o Night Hawk Pass Road and Guy Hill Road
 - O Curve at mile marker 15.8 and 15.9 needs to be cut back for view maybe even straightened
- Pave Drew Hill Road from Crawford Gulch to Golden Gate Park.
- The road at the top of Golden Gate Canyon by mailboxes
 - Dangerous getting onto main road because of curves and immediate drop down hill.
 - o No visibility have to roll window down and listen before pulling out of our road onto main road
- Retain dirt shoulders for equestrian use
- Stop widening roads
- Stop paving roads
- No commercialization keep it how it is
- No commercial
- Enforcement of regulations
 - o Junk, trash, debris

- o Clean it up per regulations
- o Uniform trash pickup/containers
- Removal of junk yards that are growing along side roads
- Mileage posts/directional signs
 - o Large ones
- Save historic buildings
- Historic preservation for grange building and site
- Horse/pedestrian/bicycle trails
 - o Add a shoulder for cyclists' safety (2)
 - o Create a bike path separate from Golden Gate Canyon Road (3)
 - Especially along county roads with lots of homes, e.g. Douglas Mountain Road, Robinson Hill Road
 - o Get kids on bikes and horses off the pavement
- Better lane markings for bicyclists/motorists no signs should be clear where the bicyclists should be.
- Restrict bicycles or put in bike paths/not on roads
- Overall density restriction
- Retain low density
- No more small acre subdivisions (water issue)
- Keep acreage grandfathered but reduce subdivision water problem
- We have the Grange as a community center
- Access to cell phone and internet
- Internet
- Cell towers need more make them blend in, such as monopines
- Forest Management financial hardship of managing forest well
- Fire mitigation through major fuel breaks thinning is not sufficient
- Fire protection and emergency response could be improved
- There should be monetary contributions from open space and state park lands for fire safety to help pay for fire protection, etc.
- Better fire services wildlife mitigation
- Fire issues
- More assistance to Fire Department
- Weed control Russian thistle and other invasive species
- Water management
- Add water cisterns in this area, like the one on Centennial Cone
- Put a USPS blue drop box in front of the Grange
- Cluster commercial development
- Increase parking for Mt. Galbraith OS park
- School of mines could mark the geologic points of interest

- Allow proper names for roads
- Enforcement of speed limit?
- Covenants?

Anything else you want us to know?

- Watch water consumption/well permits
 - Water table
 - o Radioactivity
- Need to be careful with the number of wells permitted relatively dry area
- Golden Gate is a secret! Don't tell anyone!
- Golden Gate is what we want. Coal Creek is what we don't want it's overdeveloped and unplanned development
- More like US Hwy 6 than Coal Creek
- Don't want quarry activity noise/dust Goltra property.
- Fire Department is voluntary Low tax base due to low density
- What happened to Forest Rangers and posts on high mountains?
- No commercial development