

### **Area 28 Facts**

Area 28 is approximately 400 acres of land within Idaho Springs. The boundaries run roughly north of the Argo Mine & Mill to the Santa Fe Mine Road and the length of town east to west. It is bisected by Virginia Canyon Road. The land was set aside for recreation since held by the BLM. Before the BLM the land was part of the Louisiana Purchase.

(<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/idahospings/area-28-recreation-park> )

### **Who is the Area 28 land manager?**

The land manager is the City of Idaho Springs. The project manager is Alan Tiefenbach, Idaho Springs Community Development Planner. The City is working very closely with the Clear Creek Greenway Authority, whom is also involved with this project as it will connect to their greenway.

### **How was Area 28 named?**

When the BLM transferred ownership to Clear Creek County the parcel was designated "Area 28".

### **What activities are proposed for Area 28?**

Hiking, Mountain Biking, Snowshoeing, Winter Biking, Trail Running. There is some ongoing discussion in regard to whether electric bikes will be allowed in Area 28. This will be determined at a later date as the design goes forward.

### **Why is there renewed interest now, after the last plan in 2006 stalled?**

There are several large development projects under design or being developed in the vicinity of Area 28. This includes redevelopment of the Argo Mill and Mine, development of the Idaho Springs segment of the Clear Creek Greenway, reconstruction of Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park and Colorado Blvd, and construction of new workforce housing. Elements of these projects include new housing units, guest lodging, and multi-modal (more than just cars) connectivity. As all of these projects will impact each other, the City is working closely with all parties involved to plan and develop the entire area cohesively and holistically.

Also, with the impending closure of the Henderson Mine, Clear Creek County and Idaho Springs are seeking to diversify their economy. Recreation is a 13 billion dollar annual industry in Colorado. Idaho Springs is blessed with outstanding mountain topography, and the City believes it has the potential to create a world class recreation destination. Nearby recreational parks have been proven to benefit local businesses, increase property values, and bring in visitors looking for outdoor opportunities near the Denver Metro Area.

### **How will Area 28 be funded?**

The City of Idaho Springs and the Clear Creek Greenway Authority seek to fund this project through grants from such entities as Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The City of Idaho Springs may also donate a small amount of funding for this project. COMBA, Team Evergreen, and Colorowdies will assist in fundraising as necessary.

**What is the goal for Area 28?**

The goal is a world-class, nationally-ranked mountain biking experience within a popular recreation area just a short drive west on I-70 from Denver.

**Is there a push for the shutdown of any trails?**

No. Informal trails have been built and maintained in Area 28 over the years. Most of these trails are on private property. The existing trails found on city property are being considered in the conceptual plan. The goal is to include, legitimize, and maintain these existing trails.

**Is Area 28 a mountain bike park?**

No. Area 28 is city-owned property designated for recreation. Trails in the eastern section of Area 28 (east of Virginia Canyon Road) are suggested to be multi-use; hikers and runners are welcome, but mountain biking is the targeted activity. In some cases the trails are closed to hikers and optimized for bikes with built-up features like jumps, kickers, and high-speed turns. The western section of the property (west of Virginia Canyon Road) is suggested to be reserved for hikers and runners only.

**How were the conceptual trail corridors mapped?**

COMBA volunteers hiked the complete area over several days looking for promising corridors where trails might be built. Some existing trails on city property are included in the concept corridors.

**Will Area 28 connect with the Greenway?**

Yes. Access to Area 28 from the Greenway will be near the Argo Mill and Mine.

**Will Area 28 connect to any other trail system?**

Yes. Area 28 will connect to the Clear Creek County Greenway routed through Idaho Springs. The Barbour Fork area is within riding distance also.

**How will trail management alleviate user conflict?**

To mitigate user conflict the concept suggests some trails be designated for a specific user group and/or direction. There will be multi-use trails where all users will be accommodated and trails that are specific to use and direction, such as bikes only, downhill only, or multi-use bidirectional bikes uphill only. The western section (west of Virginia Canyon Road) is suggested to be designated hiker and runner only to mitigate hiker/runner traffic in the east section where bikes are the target activity. This and other specifics will be decided in the final planning phase.

**Are horses allowed?**

Due to topography, equestrians will probably not be accommodated in Area 28.

**Will shuttling still be allowed?**

There are no plans to either prevent or promote shuttling.

**Will e-Bikes be allowed?**

This will be determined as the master planning and design process moves forward.

**How will the trails be built?**

A professional trail designer will define the trails. A professional builder, using excavators where feasible, will cut the tread and rough-build features. Volunteers, such as the Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA), Colorowdies, and other organizations, have committed to help with the construction.

**Who will maintain the trails?**

The City of Idaho Springs intends to work with the Clear Creek Greenway Authority, Clear Creek County, and volunteer groups such as COMBA to develop a maintenance plan as part of the design process.

**Does the city plan to keep the trail names on the concept plan?**

Trail naming plans have not yet been developed.

**What is the difficulty level of the trails in the concept?**

Intermediate to Difficult (Blue and Black).

**Will there be a fee to use the area?**

This will be determined as the master planning, design and maintenance process moves forward.

**Where are the trailheads and parking?**

Conceptually, the main trailhead and some parking will be near Rosa Gulch above the Argo Mill and Mine. The trailhead is accessible from the Clear Creek County Greenway, so parking in downtown Idaho Springs and riding the greenway to the trailhead is an option. The conceptual plan also adds a trailhead with no parking at the end of the Santa Fe Mine Road.

<https://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/731038/area-28-trail-concept-v2/>

**What is the timeline for design and build?**

Designing the trail system is targeted for Spring 2018, with construction to follow as funding becomes available.

**What/Who is COMBA?**

Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA), a chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), is a non-profit organization dedicated to stewarding more great mountain biking experiences in the Colorado Front Range. COMBA is committed to being an advocacy voice for all mountain bikers, and is involved in building and maintaining trails, teaching proper trail use, working with land managers, and providing mountain bike-related programs.

### **What/Who is Team Evergreen?**

Team Evergreen, founded in 1988, is dedicated to providing access to cyclists on roads and trails throughout Colorado. The largest bike club in the state, TE donates all proceeds from its two events, the Triple Bypass and Bob Cook Memorial Mount Evans Hill Climb, to local non-profits and advocacy organizations. We offer grant match and financial support to trail building projects – in 2017 we helped fund the North Elk Trail, Dakota Ridge South, Peaks to Plains, and the Greenway Trail projects. Team Evergreen supports mountain bike advocacy and bike-optimized trails and is proud to partner with the groups that make it happen, including COMBA, the Giddyup, Colorado Trail Blazers, and the Colorowdies.

### **What/Who are the Colorowdies?**

The Colorowdies Mountain Bike Crew is a group of like-minded riders based in Colorado. We get rowdie on bikes and give back to the MTB Community. We started as a Facebook group in 2014 as way to communicate about mountain biking rides and events with a small group of friends. While The Colorowdies remains a closed group, every member has the ability to add their riding buddies to the group. It was never intended to create a large group but nonetheless we have grown from 10 riders to over 1,000. We are joined by riders from all over Colorado including Denver, Golden, Boulder, Telluride, Crested Butte, and Durango. We identify largely with the enduro race scene and many of us met while racing the Big Mountain Enduro Series over the past several years. We believe in stewardship, community, and progression. We value fun, good vibes, and friendship.

### **How did COMBA become involved with Area 28?**

COMBA is actively working with Clear Creek County, including Idaho Springs and other area municipalities, to identify and develop available recreational areas for mountain biking. Area 28 is a standout opportunity to capitalize on the City's redevelopment plans. With the City's backing and encouragement, COMBA conducted several field recon trips, developed a conceptual trail plan, and presented this concept to the City. The concept was warmly accepted, and we have been directed to proceed with the project by the Mayor, City Council, and City Planning Commission. ( <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/idahosprings/area-28-recreation-park> ). Team Evergreen and the Colorowdies have jumped onboard to bring their resources and expertise to the project as well.

### **How can the public and current users get involved?**

You can contact COMBA via email at [area28@comba.org](mailto:area28@comba.org) to learn more about working with our advocacy teams. There will be opportunities to assist with the trail building during the construction phase, hopefully in 2018.

All upcoming public meetings and events hosted by Idaho Springs will be posted on this website <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/idahosprings/area-28-recreation-park> . You may also email [planner@idahospringsco.com](mailto:planner@idahospringsco.com) with a request to be added to the email list for public meetings hosted by the City of Idaho Springs.

**Will there be an opportunities for public comment?**

Yes. Public Meeting Dates to be announced by the City of Idaho Springs.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/idahosprings/area-28-recreation-park> or Community Outreach meetings hosted by COMBA, TE, and Colorowdies will be announced in email and on Facebook. Sign up for COMBA emails at <http://comba.org/receive-comba-eneews>

**How can the public submit comments?**

Send comments to COMBA at [area28@comba.org](mailto:area28@comba.org) or to Idaho Springs at [planner@idahospringsco.com](mailto:planner@idahospringsco.com) and watch for upcoming Public Meetings <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/idahosprings/area-28-recreation-park>

**How can the public financially support the project?**

Fundraising events will be organized by COMBA, Team Evergreen, and Colorowdies. Stay tuned to Facebook, or sign up for COMBA emails at <http://comba.org/receive-comba-eneews> , and watch [www.comba.org/projects/clear-creek-county](http://www.comba.org/projects/clear-creek-county).