

General Public Comments following May 9, 2014 River Access Design Meeting

From: Jodi Deller [mailto:jndeller@mydurango.net]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 2:42 PM

To: Rec

Subject: River Use Management

I am not writing in regards to a specific park or put-in/take-out location, but the overall concept of use management of our town jewel, the Animas. I am personally an avid river user – I raft, kayak, tube, take my dog swimming, or sometimes just relax and hang out. As a resident of Durango for almost 14 years, I have certainly seen the number of people using, or better stated “enjoying”, the river increase every year. This is going to be a continuing issue that will not go away or resolve itself. I’m glad that a management plan is being implemented as there are certainly issues that need to be addressed: the put-in at 33rd Street is overcrowded and unorganized; the park at 29th has little to no parking and boater access crosses the river trail; Santa Rita is just a dirt lot with little visual appeal and no organized flow.

I understand that people in residential neighborhoods do not want commercial buses and parked cars and people urinating in their yards. However, people live in and visit Durango for the Animas. It is, and will continue to be, highly used. Therefore, I believe that the only way to improve the situations around these put-in/take-out areas is with better management, access, and organization. To try and fight the inevitable is a losing battle. People are not going to stop coming to the river by limiting its access points – limiting these areas will only make the problem worse. The purchase of Oxbow Park was presented to the public (along with wildlife and nature preservation) as specifically being an alternate/additional river access point – do not be bullied into revoking this plan as the neighbors are now in protest. Another access point will help decrease the impact on the other 3 areas. I can personally sympathize with people not wanting more development near their homes – I live just around the corner from the 29th street put-in. However, I know that people will continue to come to the river – so let’s make the parks nicer with restrooms, better organization, and better parking – which will all minimize the impact on neighbors. The Animas going to be used - let’s accept the situation and make it better.

Thank you for taking the time to consider comments from the public.

Jodi Deller
