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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MAY 5, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Rapids in Whitewater Park

Durango, CO: The City of Durango would like to caution river users with the increasing flows in the Animas River. The City recently completed significant in-stream improvements for the Santa Rita intake which is located immediately upstream of the Whitewater Park. The Santa Rita intake improvements shifted the flow of the Animas River to river left toward the City's water intake structure.

The new rapid at the Santa Rita intake has significantly more gradient than before. It is highly recommended that all river users who are not familiar with the current river dynamics at the Santa Rita intake stop upstream, portage on river left and scout the area. There are multiple enhanced eddies and an improved trail for public use that are located above the rapid.

Beginners and those river users that are inexperienced are encouraged to enjoy this section of the Animas River under the guidance of a professional rafting or kayaking outfitter. This section of the river is not recommended for inner tubes or other single chamber inflatables.

River users are encouraged to use proper river gear including a Type III or Type V United States Coast Guard approved flotation device appropriate for whitewater uses, a helmet, and proper cold water clothing such as drysuits, wetsuits, and insulating layers.

For additional information, contact Durango Parks and Recreation Department at (970) 375-7321 or by email at rec@durangogov.org

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