



HIGH LINE CANAL

CONSERVANCY

PROGRESS REPORT | November 2016

- › Conservancy connects with over 3,500 people through outreach
- › Press event and bike ride with Gov. John Hickenlooper
- › 70 Local events attended in communities along all 71 miles
- › 22 miles represented by Founding Partners
- › Community-written Vision + Action Plan developed
- › Press coverage, including 5280 magazine and the Denver Post
- › Stormwater demonstration projects underway
- › Expanding Conservancy staff

Dear Friends of the High Line Canal,

Thank you each for your support and engagement in planning for the future of the High Line Canal! Over the past six months of our Public Outreach and Vision Planning, we have talked with thousands of people who are passionate about preserving our historic High Line Canal. It's been gratifying to hear the chorus of voices, representing all 71 miles of the Canal, uniformly say that they want the Canal preserved and enhanced as a natural refuge. While this is no surprise, the consistent passion and commitment to a common vision throughout such diverse communities is incredibly powerful. These citizens have told us that coordinated management and enhancements are needed to protect and preserve a natural and connected Canal. These voices want to ensure the unique landscapes and communities from Green Valley Ranch to Douglas County are celebrated through future planning. And these voices strongly support building a sustainable plan for the long-term stewardship of the Canal.

As the organization entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the development of a vision and master plan for our well-loved Canal, the Conservancy's work is founded on the belief that citizen leadership and philanthropy partnered with public support is critical to ensuring that the Canal thrives and endures forever.

Thank you – we couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,



Harriet Crittenden LaMair
Executive Director



The mission of the Conservancy is to preserve, protect and enhance the 71-mile long Canal -- in partnership with the public.



Programmatic Update

PLANNING INITIATIVE



Phase I of the Conservancy's Planning Initiative is nearly complete. After kicking off the initiative in May with a press event and bike ride with the Governor and local youth, the Conservancy has reached out to communities along all 71 miles of the Canal. Under the leadership of Sasaki Design Associates, the team has taken input from the public over 5 months and developed a draft Vision + Action Plan.

Public Outreach Efforts May – Oct 2016:

- 70 community events, in 11 different jurisdictions
- 12 public open houses with 2,500 attendees
- 50+ engagements with community leaders
- 125 community youth engaged through events and activities
- 35+ press articles/clips, including local and regional outlets

The Conservancy has strengthened its partnerships with elected officials, all 11 jurisdictions along all 71 miles and the Canal's owner, Denver Water and the public.

What's next?

- Winter 2017: Vision + Action Plan document
- Spring 2017: Endorsement of the plan, release of the Vision + Action Plan to the public and announcement of 2017 on-the-ground projects
- Summer 2017: Comprehensive Master Planning

Summer/Fall 2016 Engagement

- » 3,500 people through events
- » 100 Community Leaders
- » 125 Community Youth
- » 500 Online Survey Participants
- » 1,000,000 reached: printed press and television
- » 250,000 reached: Denver Water bill insert
- » 70 Community Events in communities along the 71 miles

Throughout our 12 public open houses we have met with people along all 71 miles of the High Line Canal from Green Valley Ranch to Douglas County and all the varied communities in between. These public open houses, along with additional outreach efforts, have resulted in a consistent message - 'preserve the High Line Canal as a urban refuge'. The themes of the vision are: keep it natural, respect the diverse mosaic of unique communities and landscapes and ensure it is connected and preserved for future generations. The support for this vision for the Canal was overwhelmingly clear with great interest and passion for a real plan for the long-term stewardship of the Canal.

– Harriet Crittenden LaMair, Ex. Director

Visit highlinecanal.org/community for more information on the Conservancy's Planning Initiative.

CANAL INITIATIVES

Economic Development Study

We welcomed the collaboration and work with Alison Redenz who authored a redevelopment analysis and assessment along the High Line Canal through a Capstone project submitted through requirements for the degree of Master of Urban and Regional Planning. This study has helped us better understand the development potential along the Canal and it's positive and negative impacts to the adjacent communities. For more, visit the resources page of our website.

Connecting the Canal

The Conservancy partnered with Walk2Connect to lead a series of 11 walks along all 71 miles of the Canal trail, which received great attendance, including 7 walkers who completed all 71 miles. Another series of walks begins on November 12th.

Historic Survey

In partnership with the Colorado Parks Foundation and Square Moon Consultants, LLC, the Conservancy has completed a preliminary survey of historic resources along the 71-mile Canal corridor. The findings and images are fascinating, which you can view here: highlinecanal.org/historic-survey.

Media + Press

The High Line Canal and the Conservancy have gained tremendous recognition through the press throughout the 5-month outreach process, helping to spread the word of the urgency of our work and engage the public. We're being talked about around town!

Over 20 news articles since May, highlights include:

- 5280 Magazine article
- Denver Post front page article
- 3 TV News spots, including Channel 9 News, and Fox 31
- Local press coverage including The Villager, Littleton Independent and The Highlands Ranch Herald
- Included in the September Denver Water Bill insert (distributed to over 200,000 customers)
- Publicity in local newsletters and e-newsletters
- Successful outreach through partner organization, including GOCO, Denver Water and the 11 jurisdictions
- Social media fan base has grown by over 400%
- Conservancy newsletter now reaches over 2,400 people



Visit highlinecanal.org/walk2connect for more information on the winter "Connecting the Canal" walks.

In the Works

Though the Conservancy continues to focus its efforts on the Planning Initiative, the work of the Arapahoe County formed High Line Canal Working Group, Denver Water and the jurisdictions continues to push through some very important projects.

STORMWATER PROJECTS

Denver Stormwater Project

Denver's stormwater demonstration project entails retrofitting just over 1 mile of the Canal from Skeel Reservoir on Wellshire Golf Course to Interstate I-25, using the Canal as a regional rain garden and water quality facility.

- Status: The project is still in the planning phase with the modeling of the hydrology complete and expected to be constructed in Nov 2017
- Funding: Total Projected Cost of \$750,000 from the City and County of Denver

Greenwood Village Stormwater Project

Greenwood Village entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Urban Drainage Flood Control District (UDFCD) to develop a preliminary design for a 3.3 mile segment of the High Line Canal between Orchard Road and Little Dry Creek for stormwater treatment and conveyance.

- Status: The IGA was approved by GWV City Council on May 2, 2016, allowing the project to move forward. The City and UDFCD are working with RESPEC, the consultant, to complete this study, which is currently less than 30% complete
- Funding: \$40,000 with \$20,000 from GWV and \$20,000 from UDFCD

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Hampden and Colorado Underpass

The City of Denver, Arapahoe County and Cherry Hills Village have come together to create a safe connection where there currently is a gap in the Canal trail. The project is expected to be complete in 2019.

- Location: S. Colorado Blvd and E. Hampden Ave.
- Status: Fully funded, design to start this year
- Cost: \$5.4 Million with \$4.32m coming from Federal Sources and \$1.08m coming from Cherry Hills Village, Arapahoe County and the City and County of Denver

Stormwater in the Canal

- » As the Denver metro area continues to urbanize, stormwater runoff will increase and the Canal can provide suitable land, which is limited.
- » Allowing stormwater could mean the Canal would be wet 100 more days a year, helping to maintain the natural character
- » The Canal could act as a natural, sustainable stormwater treatment system, improving water quality
- » The Canal could serve as a tool to educate about water quality
- » Denver Water and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District are working together with the jurisdictions to consider the viability in certain areas along all 71 miles

Parker and Mississippi Underpass

In partnership with Arapahoe County, the City and County of Denver is funding an underpass at Parker and Mississippi.

- Location: E. Mississippi Ave and S. Parker Road
- Status: Funded, Design anticipated to start 2017
- Cost: \$3.2M Faster Funds, \$400k City and County of Denver, and \$400k Arapahoe County

Quebec Way Trailhead

A new trailhead including a parking lot for vehicles, port-a-potty bathroom, bike racks, kiosk Canal trail map, entrance sign, trash can, landscaping, fencing, lighting and ADA access to Canal trail.

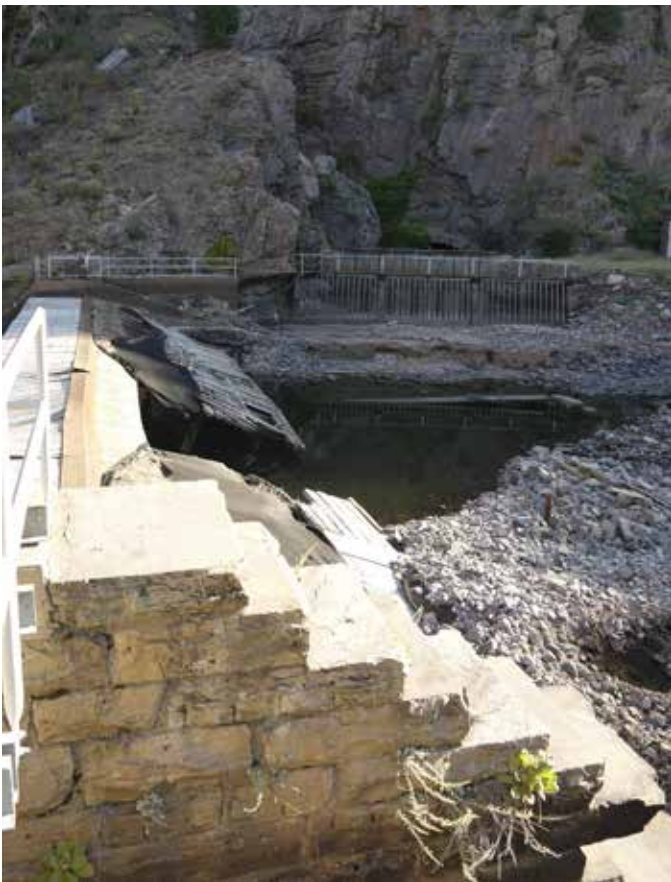
- Location: Quebec Way in Four Square Mile Neighborhood
- Status: Expected completion is Nov. 24, 2016
- Cost: \$714,155



Bridges in SSPRD

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District in partnership with Arapahoe County Open Space and the Cities of Littleton and Centennial, is in the process of replacing three bridges and installing a new bridge along the High Line Canal between County Line Road and Orchard Road. All of the bridges that are being replaced will have updated abutments, railings and decks as well as updated approach slab materials and slope to meet current codes which will provide accessibility to users of all abilities and greater connectivity to neighborhoods and schools. These new bridges will have self-weathering Corten steel railings, concrete decks and concrete approaches ensuring long-term sustainability.

- Bannock Bridge Replacement: Estimated to be complete by December 2016
- deKovend Parking Lot Bridge Replacement: Estimate to be complete by December 2016
- Ice Arena Bridge Replacement (at deKovend Park): Estimated to be complete by February 2017
- Franklin St. New Bridge: Estimated to be complete by May 2017.



Waterton Canyon Diversion Structure

The Canal has not seen a flow of water for over a year now due to delayed repairs to the damaged diversion structure. The diversion structure, located approximately 2 miles up Waterton Canyon and built between 1880 and 1883, was severely damaged in the spring of 2015 due to extremely high run off flows. Since then, Denver Water has been working to repair the historic structure at an estimated cost of \$1m. Repair work started in the spring of 2016, was delayed due to high water flows over the summer and is now complete. During this period Waterton Canyon will be closed Monday through Friday but will be fully open to recreation on Saturday and Sundays.

High Line Canal Tree Inventory

The Conservancy, in partnership with the High Line Canal Working Group, has initiated a comprehensive tree inventory study along all 71 miles with Davey Tree Expert Company. The study is complete and the data is being verified, which will be instrumental in guiding future planning decisions to protect and enhance the Canal's vibrant tree canopy.



Conservancy Staff

Harriet Crittenden LaMair
Executive Director

Suzanna Fry Jones
Director of Marketing + Community Outreach

Josh Ellsworth
Planning + Special Projects Associate

Lindsay Moery
Program + Development Associate

Jacob Stauber [new hire]*
Director of Operations

**Jacob comes to the Conservancy with experience in nonprofit management, administration, strategic planning and project management. Most recently Jacob was the Project Manager overseeing relocation planning, the development of a new operational budget, and the overall construction vision for the soon to be completed Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art. Prior experience includes serving as the Operations Manager for the Kirkland Museum, and the Manager of Annual Giving for Opera Colorado.*

Operational Update

FUNDRAISING

Since its creation, the Conservancy has benefited from tremendous community support. Fundraising milestones:

- Donations to date have totaled over \$340,000
- 89 individuals have made donations to the Conservancy, of which 71 gave in 2016
- 20 In-kind donations
- Founding Partners have committed \$25,000 each for 22 of the 71 miles of the Canal over the next five years
- Membership program to launch in early 2017

ADMINISTRATION

The Conservancy staff is now to 4 full-time employees (see sidebar) with continued contract help and has an expanded office. The expanded capacity of the staff will allow the organization to leave the umbrella of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center by the end of the year and form an official 501c-3 starting January 1, 2017.

What's next in 2017?

- » Connecting the Canal segmented winter walk
- » Final High Line Canal Vision + Action Plan
- » Conservancy Membership Program
- » Initiation of on-the-ground projects
- » Press event on the Canal
- » Fundraising events, including signature event
- » Comprehensive Master Planning

Visit us at our newly expanded offices - 915 S. Pearl Street, Suite 101, Denver, CO 80211

Leadership Team

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Tom Waymire *President, High Line Canal Preservation Assoc.*
Tracy Young *Manager, Planning, Design & Construction,
City of Aurora*
Marty Zeller **Vice Chair**, *President, Conservation Partners*
Nancy Sharpe *Ex Officio, Arapahoe County Commissioner*
Harriet Crittenden LaMair *Ex Officio*

HIGH LINE CANAL WORKING GROUP

Shannon Carter	Jill Repella
Nancy Sharpe	Curt Sloan
Josh Tenneson	Suzanne Moore
Nancy Jackson	Dave Bullock
Sharon Powers	Freda Miklin
Bob LeGare	Mike de Chadenedes
Curtis Bish	Harriet Lamair
Tracy Young	Carrie Ward
Mike Rosser	Tom Waymire
Steven Greer	Bruce Beckman
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Ron Weidmann	Pat Cronenberger
Klasina VanderWerf	Brett Collins
Laura Christman	Pam Eller
Jay Goldie	Rob Hanna
Kendra Black	Ken Brink
Jay Henke	Scott Roush
Brandon Ransom	Tom Morrissey
Melanie Kaknes	Justin Spring
Randy Burkhardt	

HIGH LINE CANAL CORE TEAM

Sarah Anderson	Tom Repp
Randy Burkhardt	Tom Roode
Shannon Carter	Josh Tenneson
Scott Gilmore	Amy Turney
Jay Henke	Tracy Young
Harriet Lamair	Brandon Ransom

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

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Partners



Thank you to our Leadership
Team and Partners for their
continued support!