

# Adventure

## ON THE HIGH LINE CANAL

Charting our Course for the Next Century

### Chapter 4

## Looking Ahead

**W**elcome! The High Line Canal Conservancy is leading a broad and inclusive community conversation about the future of the well-loved High Line Canal, with the goal of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Canal into the future. Implementing this Vision Plan in coordination with local entities will ensure the Canal reaches its greatest potential as an economic, environmental, recreational, and social asset along all of its 71 miles.

Last time, we shared the draft vision plan with proposed themes and asked for your insights. What you'll see today is a confirmation of the vision plan that you have collectively created over the last several months, including guiding principles.

### Highlights of this Process:

#### **DIVERSE BUT UNIFIED**

Different  
communities,  
one Canal

#### **#71MILES**

The scale of  
the Canal

#### **ADAPTIVE FUTURE**

Potential for  
stormwater  
management

We are nearing the end of this Vision process.



Today you'll also see proposed large-scale strategies and action steps that will bring that vision to life. These action steps combined will become the Action Plan, the practical implementation phase of the Vision Plan. We want to understand your priorities for these action steps, to determine which are most important to you.

When the Vision Plan and Action Plan are complete, the next major step will be to undertake a master plan for the High Line Canal. While the Vision Plan expresses the community's values and input, and an Action Plan applies those values to implementation, a Master Plan outlines the strategy for the Canal's physical form (identifying specific locations, improvements, and projects).

THIS PROCESS	NEXT PROCESS
<p><i>Vision Plan</i></p> <p>EXPRESSES COMMUNITY VALUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes high-level goals (themes)</li> <li>Provides recommendations for action (Action Plan)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies</li> <li>• Partnerships &amp; collaboration</li> <li>• Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identifies high-level system costs</li> </ul>	<p><i>Master Plan</i></p> <p>EXPRESSES PHYSICAL STRATEGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further public input</li> <li>Identifies Projects</li> <li>Evaluates Costs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital per project and funding</li> <li>• Maintenance &amp; Operations</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outlines Phasing Strategy</li> </ul>

# Vision Highlights

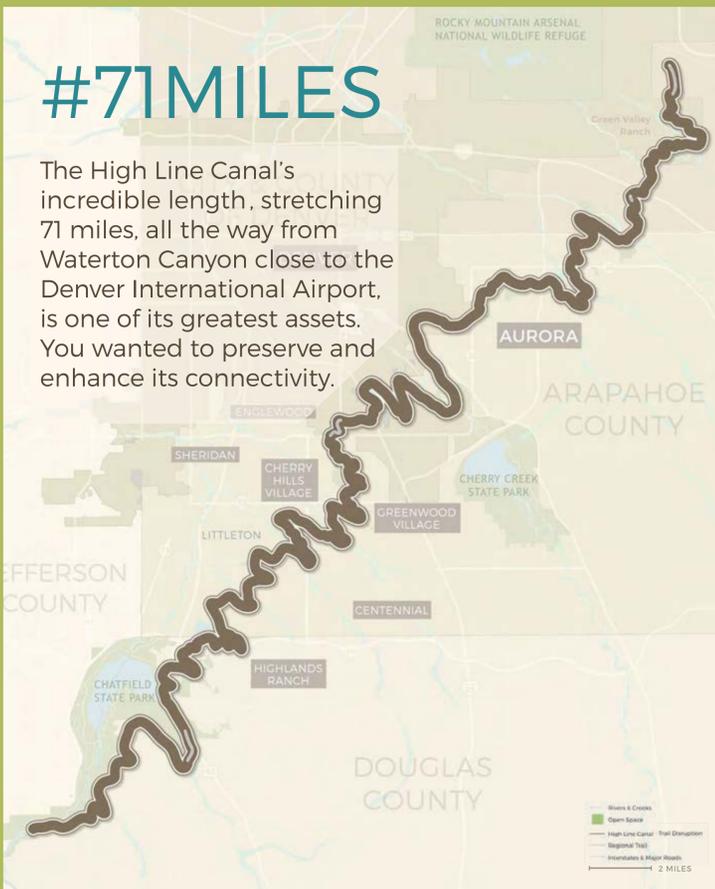
## CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

The Canal passes through many different communities and ecosystems. You shared that this diversity is one of the things that makes the Canal so special. A key part of the Vision is recognizing and celebrating the five distinct "character zones," which offer a varied experience for Canal users.



## #71MILES

The High Line Canal's incredible length, stretching 71 miles, all the way from Waterton Canyon close to the Denver International Airport, is one of its greatest assets. You wanted to preserve and enhance its connectivity.



## STORMWATER OPPORTUNITY

To preserve the Canal's natural character, we must look for new water opportunities. One of the most striking findings of this process was recognition of the Canal's opportunity to serve as a stormwater management resource for the region.



Photo source: [https://i1.staticflickr.com/7/6025/5961777056\\_a5a4fa555\\_b.jpg](https://i1.staticflickr.com/7/6025/5961777056_a5a4fa555_b.jpg)

# Feedback Update

## CHAPTER 3 OPEN HOUSE

At the last open house, we asked attendees to tell us what they thought about the proposed vision themes. The feedback confirmed much of the draft vision and helped us hone the details.



### Natural

KEY THEMES:  
vegetation, habitat, land acquisition for preservation, provide nature in urban setting



### Connected

KEY THEMES:  
crossing improvements, trail gaps, access points, connections to amenities



### Varied

KEY THEMES:  
varied trail type, seasonal changes, varied environments, Canal-friendly development



### Managed

KEY THEMES:  
increased community involvement, well-maintained, clear governance structure



### Enhanced

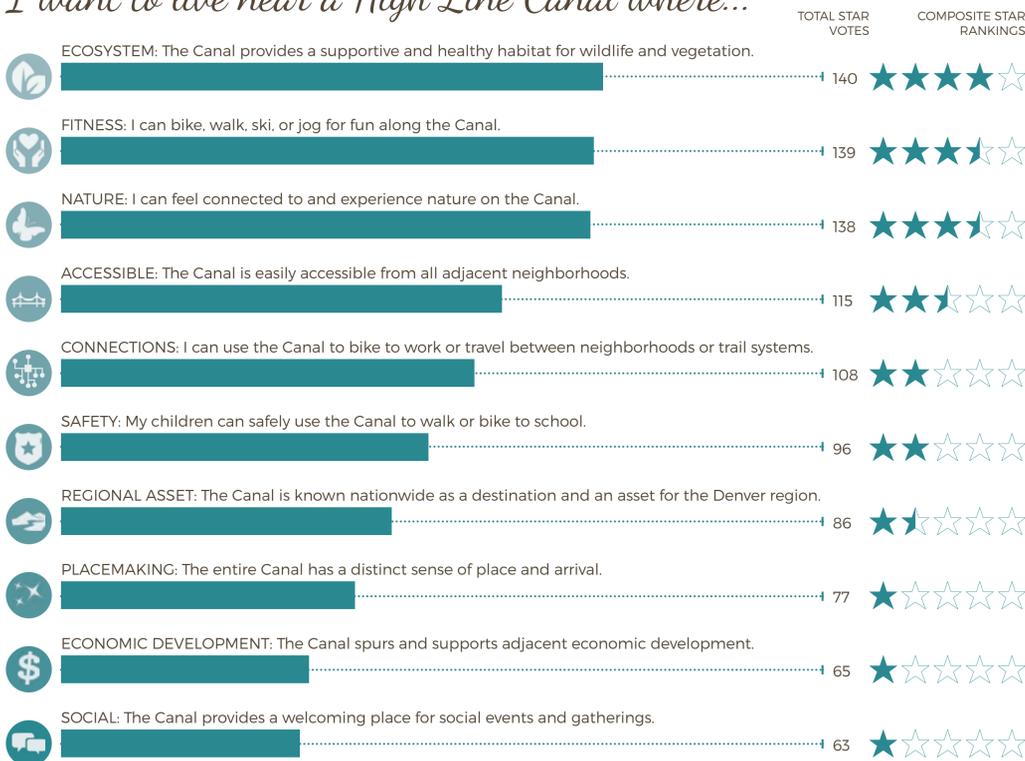
KEY THEMES:  
stormwater adaptation (high interest), multi-use paths, wayfinding, infrastructure

## CROWDGAUGE SURVEY

CrowdGauge is an interactive online tool for envisioning the future of the High Line Canal. The survey was live online from July 20, 2016 to September 12, 2016, and received 163 responses from 43 ZIP codes. CrowdGauge for the High Line Canal enabled respondents to assign priorities and explore cost tradeoffs through a budgeting screen to understand how different paths might impact the Canal's future.

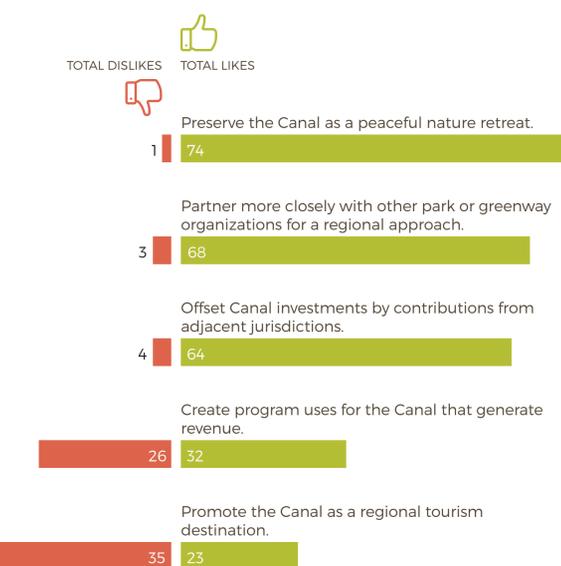
### PRIORITIES

*I want to live near a High Line Canal where...*

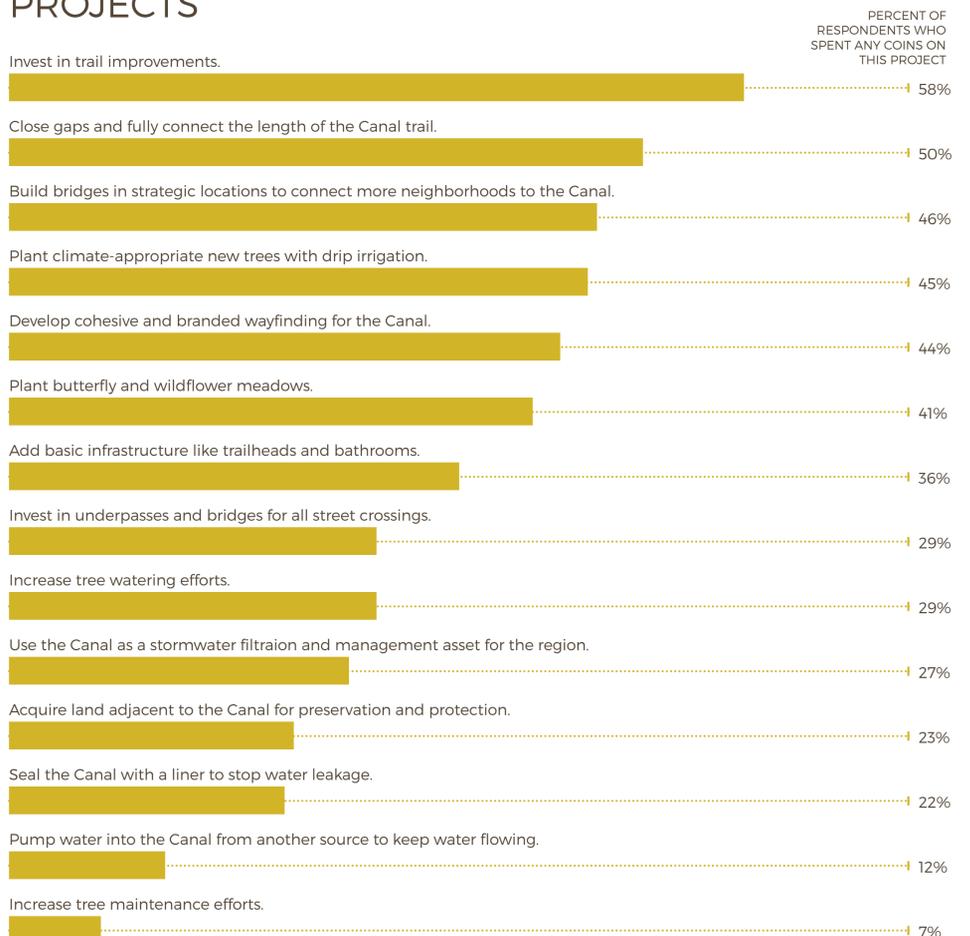


The graphic above shows the priorities of all respondents combined, with bubble size corresponding to star value.

### POLICIES



### PROJECTS





## VISION STATEMENT

*Preserving and  
enhancing the  
71 meandering miles  
of the High Line  
Canal as a cherished  
greenway that connects  
us to nature and  
threads together varied  
communities from the  
foothills to the plains.*

## Feedback

When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?”, these were the top responses:

**PEACEFUL,  
NATURAL,  
BEAUTIFUL**

**Most important  
role of the Canal**

**#1 ANSWER:  
“A PEACEFUL  
NATURE  
RETREAT”**

**Most important  
to focus on outside  
of the Canal**

**#1 ANSWER:  
“PROTECTING  
OPEN SPACE  
NEAR + ALONG  
THE CANAL”**

**PROTECTING  
THE CANAL’S  
HABITAT**

**SCORED  
4.3  
OUT OF  
5.0**

*Guiding Principle*

# NATURAL



*The Canal’s natural, scenic beauty is integral to its identity. We will preserve the natural character of the Canal, ensuring it continues to be an urban refuge for the region’s population and wildlife.*



Photo source: clockwise left to right: High Line Canal Conservancy, [http://43mbhp3aft5g3uc0tuhs4a8.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/lookout\\_forestloop\\_header.jpg](http://43mbhp3aft5g3uc0tuhs4a8.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/lookout_forestloop_header.jpg), [http://b50ym1n8ryw31pmkr467lulic64.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/11/files/2013/05/Flower\\_3.jpg](http://b50ym1n8ryw31pmkr467lulic64.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/11/files/2013/05/Flower_3.jpg)



*Link to the Action Plan*

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle

## Feedback

When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?”, these were among the top responses: **CONNECTED, ACCESSIBLE, SAFE**

Most important role of the Canal  
**#2 ANSWER: “ACCESS TO JOGGING OR BIKING”**

Most important to focus on outside of the Canal  
**#2 ANSWER: “IMPROVING CROSSINGS TO MAKE THEM SAFER”**

**“PROTECTING THE CANAL’S MOBILITY CONNECTIONS”**  
SCORED **4.1**  
OUT OF **5.0**

### Guiding Principle

## CONNECTED & CONTINUOUS



*We will maintain and increase the connectivity of the Canal along all 71 miles, preserving and enhancing the Canal’s use as an important resource and regional network.*

*We support the various physical characteristics of the Canal and will maintain the diversity of uses across the Canal’s different character zones, ensuring all of the Canal’s users can continue to enjoy its use where they can today.*



### Link to the Action Plan

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle



Photo source: clockwise left to right: High Line Canal Conservancy, High Line Canal Conservancy, [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Route\\_33\\_underpass,\\_Washington\\_Secondary\\_Trail,\\_Cranston,\\_Rhode\\_Island.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Route_33_underpass,_Washington_Secondary_Trail,_Cranston,_Rhode_Island.JPG)

## Feedback

### COMMON THEME at Chapter Two Open House

*Respect and celebrate the diversity of the communities along the canal, allowing each its own “piece” of the overall experience.*

### DIVERSE DISTRICTS 2 TO 2.5X

MORE SUPPORT  
THAN CONSISTENT  
OR PATCHWORK  
CHARACTER

WHILE **EXERCISE** WAS THE  
**#1 MOST DESIRED** EXPERIENCE ACROSS  
ALL AREAS, THE **#2 ANSWER WAS...**

#### GATHER

Green Valley Ranch, Aurora, and the northern end of the Canal

#### MEDITATE

Denver and Unincorporated Arapahoe County + Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, Littleton, and Centennial

#### EXPLORE

Highlands Ranch and Douglas County + Waterton Canyon

Guiding Principle

# VARIED



*Through the course of its 71 miles, our Canal passes through many different communities and ecosystems. We value the variety of experiences this creates and will preserve the “varied” character zones of the Canal.*



Photo source, clockwise left to right: Sasaki, High Line Canal Conservancy, [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-W5j-Z6jbxo/UBkVpjwm\\_I/AAAAAAAAA1w/GCLXcUd3aRA/s1600/IMG\\_2219.JPG](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-W5j-Z6jbxo/UBkVpjwm_I/AAAAAAAAA1w/GCLXcUd3aRA/s1600/IMG_2219.JPG), High Line Canal Conservancy, <http://denverhistorytours.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Along-the-High-Line-Canal.jpg>, High Line Canal Conservancy



*Link to the Action Plan*

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle

## Feedback

When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?”, these were among the top responses:  
**TREES,  
MAINTAINED,  
WATER**

COMMON THEME  
at Chapter One  
Open House  
**THANK YOU**  
*for undertaking  
this process; the  
Canal is a beloved  
treasure worthy  
of thoughtful  
caretaking.*

COMMON THEME  
at Chapter Two  
Open House  
**Stormwater  
management is  
an opportunity  
to become more  
sustainable and the  
canal should take  
advantage of it.**

**MANAGED  
LANDSCAPE  
2 TO 2.5X  
MORE SUPPORT  
THAN MANMADE  
OR NATURAL  
ECOSYSTEM**

Guiding Principle

# MANAGED



*Our Canal is a critical,  
beloved asset for the region.  
We will work together to  
preserve and support a long-  
term, sustainable future for  
generations to come.*



*Link to the Action Plan*

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle

Photo source. clockwise left to right: [http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/images/ELP/IMG\\_0060.JPG](http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/images/ELP/IMG_0060.JPG), [http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site36/2014/0422/20140422\\_20140425\\_L7\\_L6-FE25GRTREESB-pl.jpg](http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site36/2014/0422/20140422_20140425_L7_L6-FE25GRTREESB-pl.jpg), <http://media.gettyimages.com/videos/environmentalist-volunteers-digging-hole-and-planting-tree-video-id479319508?si=640x640>

## Feedback

### COMMON THEME at Chapter One Open House

*Enhance with basic trail infrastructure, signage, bathrooms, benches, trash cans, and trail heads*

**500+ Locations identified as “Aspects to Celebrate,” including:**

**LANDMARKS,  
BEAUTIFUL  
VIEWS, FAVORITE  
PLACES**

**I wish the Canal  
would connect  
me to...**

**#1 ANSWER:  
“PLACES NEAR  
THE CANAL FOR  
PEOPLE TO EAT,  
SHOP, RELAX”**

**COMMON THEME  
in MyHighLineCanal  
online survey**

***Basic infrastructure, vegetation, planting and maintenance, and crossing safety***

*Guiding Principle*

# ENHANCED



*We will enhance the enjoyment and use of the Canal in keeping with its natural and varied character.*



Photo source, clockwise left to right: <http://www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us/modules/showimage.aspx?imageid=1621>, <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-VqtAuwyTq7w/VX94MAC70ZI/AAAAAAAAAUQ/jpMKLlvndIE/s1600/105JPC>, [https://image.freepik.com/free-photo/rest-trail-walk-nature-bench\\_121-71195.jpg](https://image.freepik.com/free-photo/rest-trail-walk-nature-bench_121-71195.jpg)



*Link to the Action Plan*

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle

# Draft Action Plan Strategies

## Strategy 1

### Create a Roadmap for the Canal's Future Physical Form

The Vision Plan sets the community-driven vision for the Canal's future. Next steps for planning include the Master Plan, studies for each of the five character zones, and Landscape Guidelines & Maintenance Standards.

## Strategy 2

### Build Awareness and Understanding of the Canal

You've shared how hard it can be to learn about the Canal. This strategy aims to increase awareness and provide more tools for finding your way.

## Strategy 3

### Continue to Align the Canal's Governance & Funding Structure with Vision

What governance and funding model will best ensure the future sustainability of the Canal as a cherished regional resource? This question will be the focus of next steps of planning, ensuring the long-term management is best aligned to support the Canal's natural, connected, and varied character.

## Strategy 4

### Harness the Community's Passion to Promote Stewardship of the Canal

The Canal holds a special place in the hearts of many residents, and you've shared a desire to help ensure its unique character is sustained for the future. This strategy includes opportunities for community support. How else would you like to be involved?

## Strategy 5

### Capitalize on Existing Momentum to Take Action Now

There is already fantastic momentum around the Canal's future, with several projects already in the works. This strategy includes celebrating successes, coordinating with existing projects, and repeating successful models for more immediate improvements to the Canal.

DRAFT

# *Action Plan*

AN ACTION PLAN OUTLINES THE STEPS REQUIRED  
TO BRING THE VISION TO LIFE. IT IS A PRACTICAL  
GUIDE FOR WHAT TO DO NEXT.



## STRATEGY 1

# Create a Roadmap for the Canal's Future Physical Form

The Vision Plan sets the community-driven vision for the Canal's future. Next steps for planning include the Master Plan, studies for each of the five character zones, and Landscape Guidelines & Maintenance Standards.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

#### » Master Plan

The next step in Canal-wide planning, including many more opportunities to provide input and detailed strategies for many topics including historic resources planning; stormwater management; health and wellness approaches, crossings and connectivity; trees, vegetation, and wildlife habitat; encouraging development that supports community vision for Canal; and potential planning and zoning tools.

#### » Complete a Comprehensive Crossings Study

Several crossings have been studied throughout the Canal, but every at-grade street crossing should be safe. This study could include identifying barriers and developing safety standards for crossings.

#### » Complete Sub-Area Studies for each of the Canal's 5 Character Zones

With 71 miles, smaller scale plans are needed to study more local considerations, such as crossing improvements; trailheads and parking; education and programming opportunities where appropriate; connections to nearby amenities (restaurants, shops, parks, schools, and other trails); and preservation and easement opportunities. These studies would address issues unique to each character zone.

#### » Create Landscape Design Guidelines

Provides standards for benches, trash cans, bike racks, and signage for the Canal and its five character zones, and recommendations for tree/vegetation species and planting strategies.

#### » Develop Tree and Landscape Maintenance Standards

These standards would include best practices for tree & vegetation maintenance. It would also detail sustainable landscape maintenance strategies (ex. drip irrigation and integrated pest management) to ensure maintenance of the Canal is healthy for its environment.





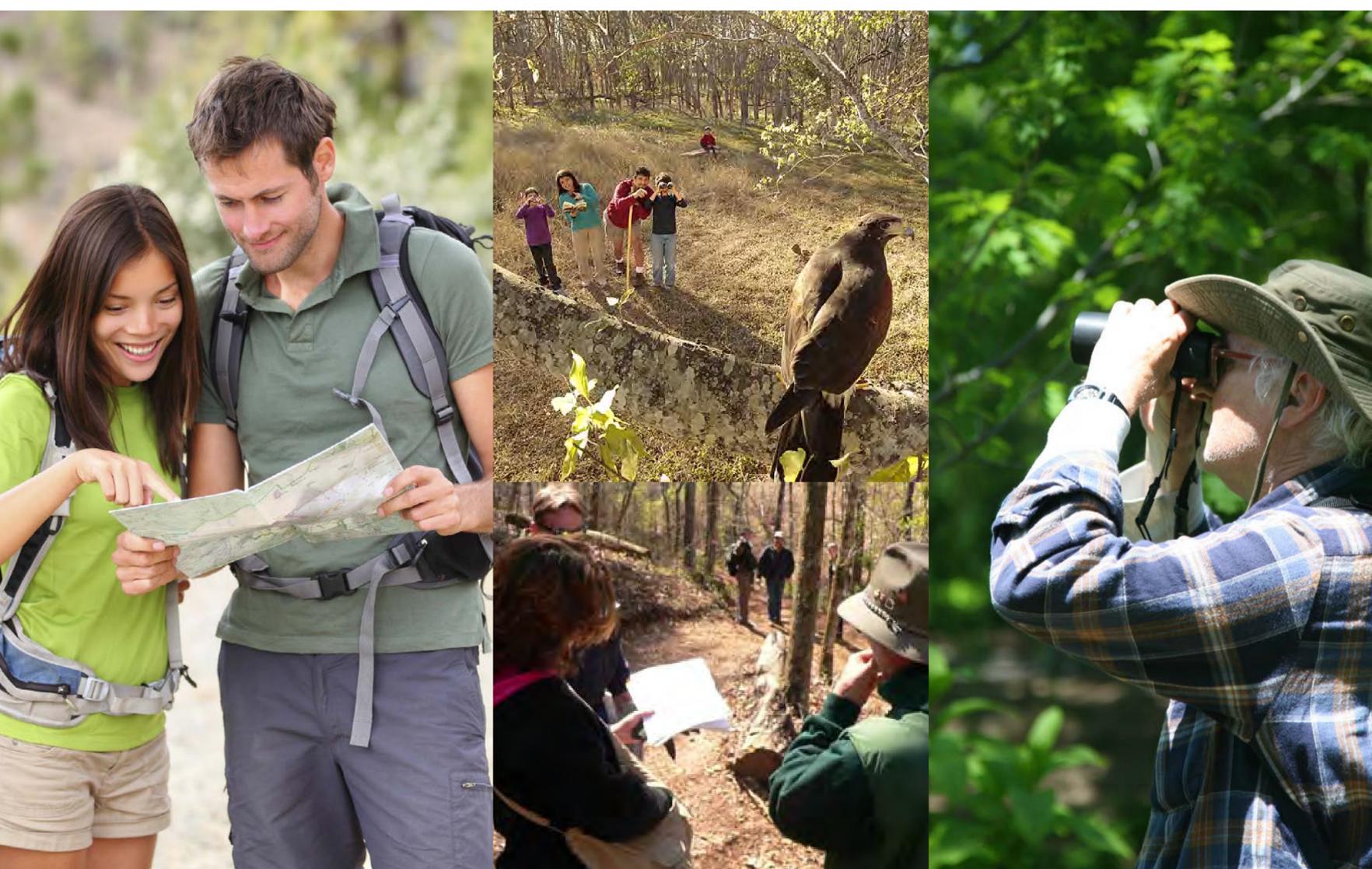
## STRATEGY 2

# Build Awareness and Understanding of the Canal

You've shared how hard it can be to learn about the Canal. This strategy aims to increase awareness and provide more tools for finding your way.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

- » **Establish a consistent brand / identity for the Canal**  
Consistent with principles from this Vision, this brand represents the full 71 miles and also includes varied elements capture the diversity of the five unique character zones of the Canal.
- » **Develop a communications strategy**  
This approach to sharing more about the Canal and upcoming activities could include, for example, podcasts, newsletters, and visits to other community events.
- » **Make it easier to explore the Canal**  
This approach would include the creation of tools that reflect the consistent identity / brand for the Canal, such as maps and a trail guide; signage and wayfinding; an interactive map or Canal exploration app; more detailed website information, or other digital tools.
- » **Expand educational programs**  
The Canal is such a unique resource with a rich history and deep educational potential. It could share stories about water and water conservation, its origins as an engineering marvel, rich history, environmental and cultural significance today, its history, and more! Educational tactics could include field trips, day camps, digital apps, signage, art installations, and beyond.





## STRATEGY 3

# Continue to Align the Canal's Governance & Funding Structure with the Vision

What governance and funding model will best ensure the future sustainability of the Canal as a cherished regional resource? This question will be the focus of next steps of planning, ensuring the long-term management is best aligned to support the Canal's natural, connected, and varied character.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

#### » Study and develop a long-term coordinated governance model for the Canal

Long-term governance and management of the Canal should be aligned to support the community Vision Plan. This study will develop a management structure that will best promote and align with the guiding principles.

#### » Coordinate with local entities and districts

The Canal crosses many different jurisdictions along its 71 miles. Each jurisdiction has regulatory authority over many policies and planning and zoning strategies that impact the Canal. Local coordination with these jurisdictions and other entities is key to the long-term health of the Canal.

#### » Explore and identify funding sources

Sustaining the Canal & its natural, varied, and connected character requires sustainable funding sources. For example, federal, regional, and local funding, grants, and philanthropy together can support the Canal's future.





## STRATEGY 4

# *Harness the Community's Passion to Promote Stewardship of the Canal*

The Canal holds a special place in the hearts of many residents, and you've shared a desire to help ensure its unique character is sustained for the future. This strategy includes opportunities for community support. How else would you like to be involved?

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

- » **Continue and encourage community involvement and input**  
We hope you will continue to be involved in future planning for the Canal! Gathering input from the full diversity of Canal users and nearby residents is key to planning for its future. Additional input opportunities will be available throughout the Master Plan process.
- » **Grow volunteer opportunities**  
Volunteer opportunities could include, for example, weed removal crews, tree planting, wildflower meadow restoration, or trash cleanup. What else would you enjoy?
- » **Provide exciting donation opportunities**  
For those who would like to financially support the Canal and its maintenance, donations of any amount are incredibly helpful. Adopt-a-spot programs or membership programs could include, for example, opportunities to fund maintenance of a stretch of the Canal.
- » **Establish a network of community partners and local champions**  
Develop a structured way for local partners to provide input and stewardship, and grow the network of local connections with environmental groups, businesses, educators, bike clubs, and others.





## STRATEGY 5

# Capitalize on Existing Momentum to Take Action Now

There is already fantastic momentum around the Canal's future, with several projects already in the works. This strategy includes celebrating successes, coordinating with existing projects, and repeating successful models for more immediate improvements to the Canal.

### EXAMPLE SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

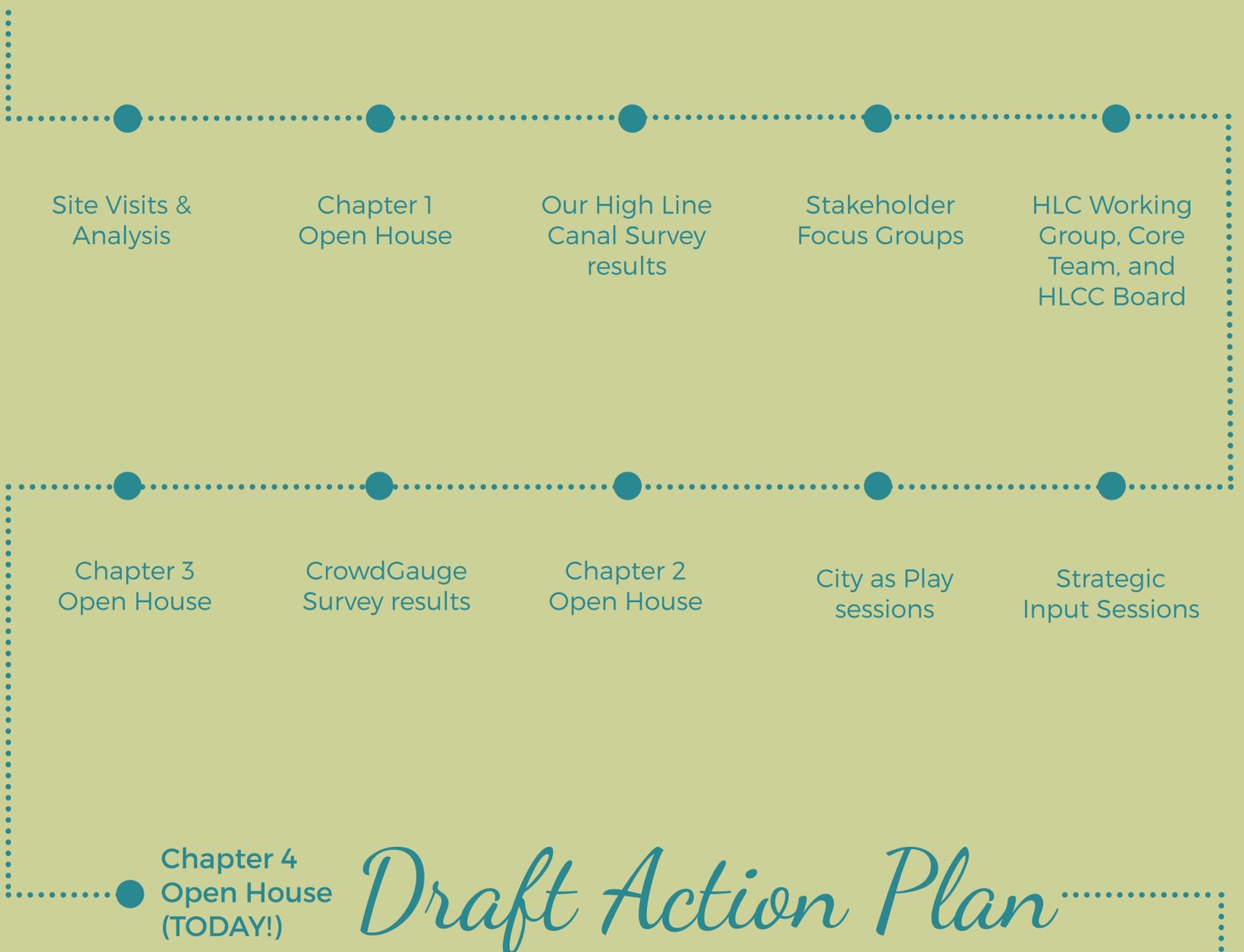
- » Initiate additional stormwater pilots
- » Continue to improve crossings
- » Continue to complete connections to other trail systems
- » Continue upgrading and replacing pedestrian bridges
- » Offer tours of the Canal for the public using HLCC material
- » Provide programming to increase familiarity with Canal (for example, historic tours or a bikeshare program)



# Wrapping Up ...

What are the final steps to finish the Vision Plan process?

*We have brought many kinds of feedback together to build the Vision...*



THE FINAL STEP IS DOCUMENTING THE VISION PLAN AND REFINING THE ACTION STEPS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK.

➤ *Final Vision  
& Action Plan*

WE'LL SHARE THE FINAL DOCUMENT IN EARLY 2017!



*Wishes for Our*



*Canal*



