

# High Line Canal Vision Plan

Open House #2

July 20-21, 2016

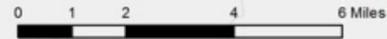
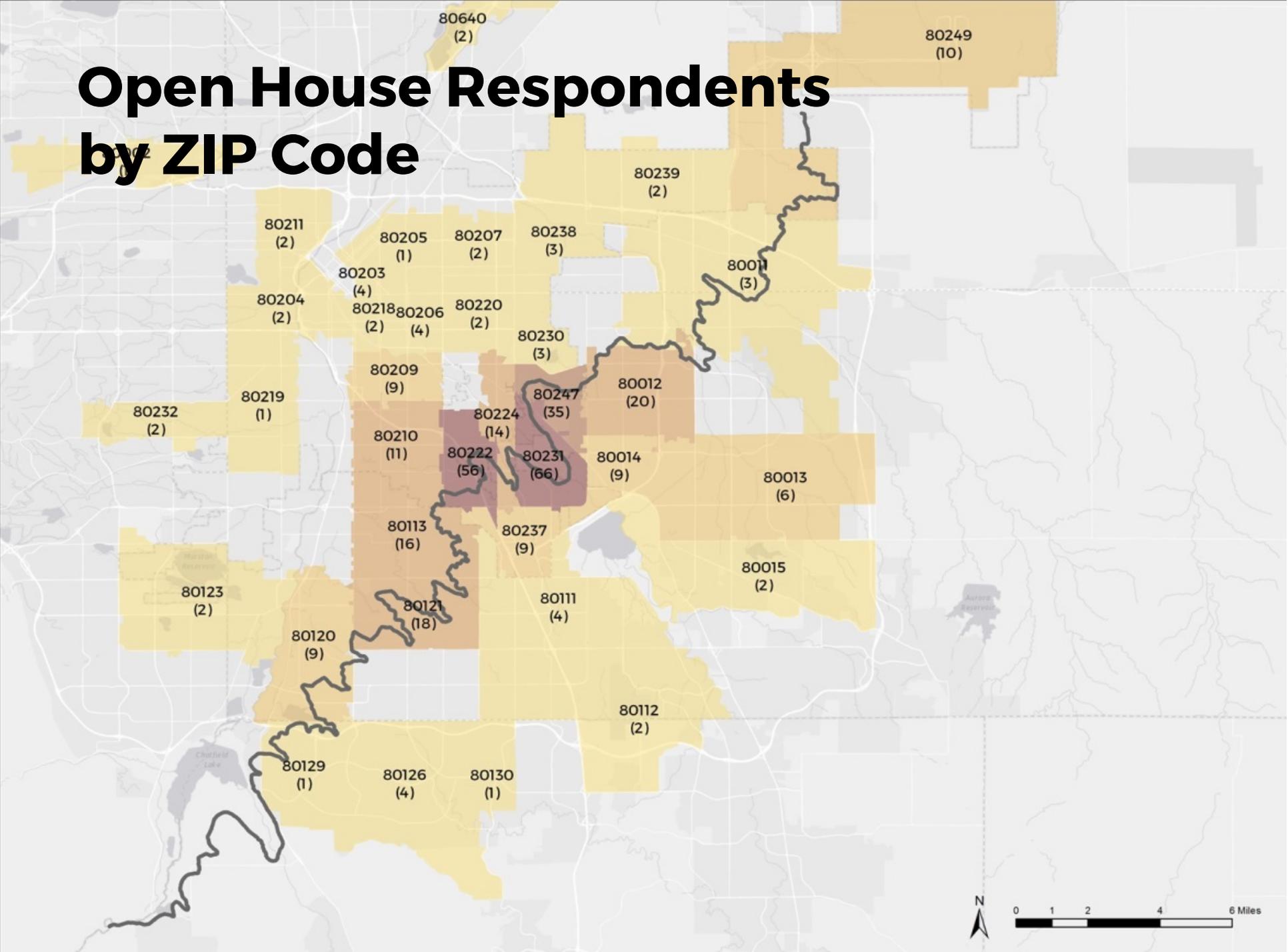
Feedback Summary

# Open Houses Overview

- Series of meetings in July 2016; each meeting offered the same content
  - July 20: Expo Rec Center
  - July 21: Eloise May Library
  - July 21: Eisenhower Rec Center
- Open-house style boards explained options for the Canal's future
- Engagement activities included handouts and sticker placements

<b>Activities Completed</b>	
Preserve Handout	196
Protect Handout	152
Stickers Placed	565

# Open House Respondents by ZIP Code



# Summary of Findings

The findings from Open House #2 mirrored what we heard in the OurHighLineCanal survey: consistent themes related to preserving nature and preserving the ecosystem, as well as connectivity.

Responses were largely consistent per neighborhood, with strong preferences for managed landscape, diverse districts, and adaptation. Themes relating to new development on the Canal were less popular. Protecting the Canal's connections and habitat were highly ranked across all neighborhoods, with protecting the Canal's surroundings ranked slightly lower.

Finally, stickers placed along a map of the Canal revealed in which neighborhoods respondents wanted to experience certain activities. Each neighborhood had a distinguishing theme that separated it from the others.

# **PRESERVE HANDOUTS**

# HANDOUT

This handout asked open house attendees to respond to the options outlined on the Preserve boards. After identifying their ZIP code, attendees then were able to check multiple boxes to identify which of the options appealed to them and why.

## How can we better **PRESERVE** the Canal?



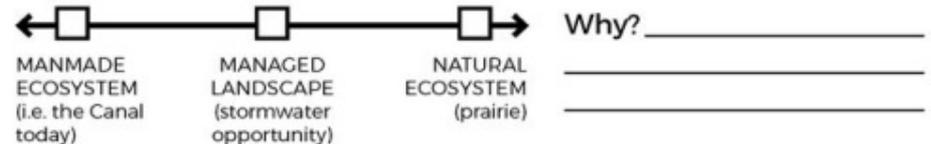
1. Your zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. What aspects are most important to preserve and why?

- The wholistic 71 miles? Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- The ecosystem? \_\_\_\_\_
- The historic profile / construction? \_\_\_\_\_
- The mobility connections it provides? \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Water & Preserving the Ecosystem: Which option(s) appeal to you?

Choose the options that most appeal to you. Remember that a combination of these solutions could be possible in different stretches of the Canal, creating a more diverse habitat corridor.



### 4. Preserving the Canal's identity: Which option(s) appeal to you?



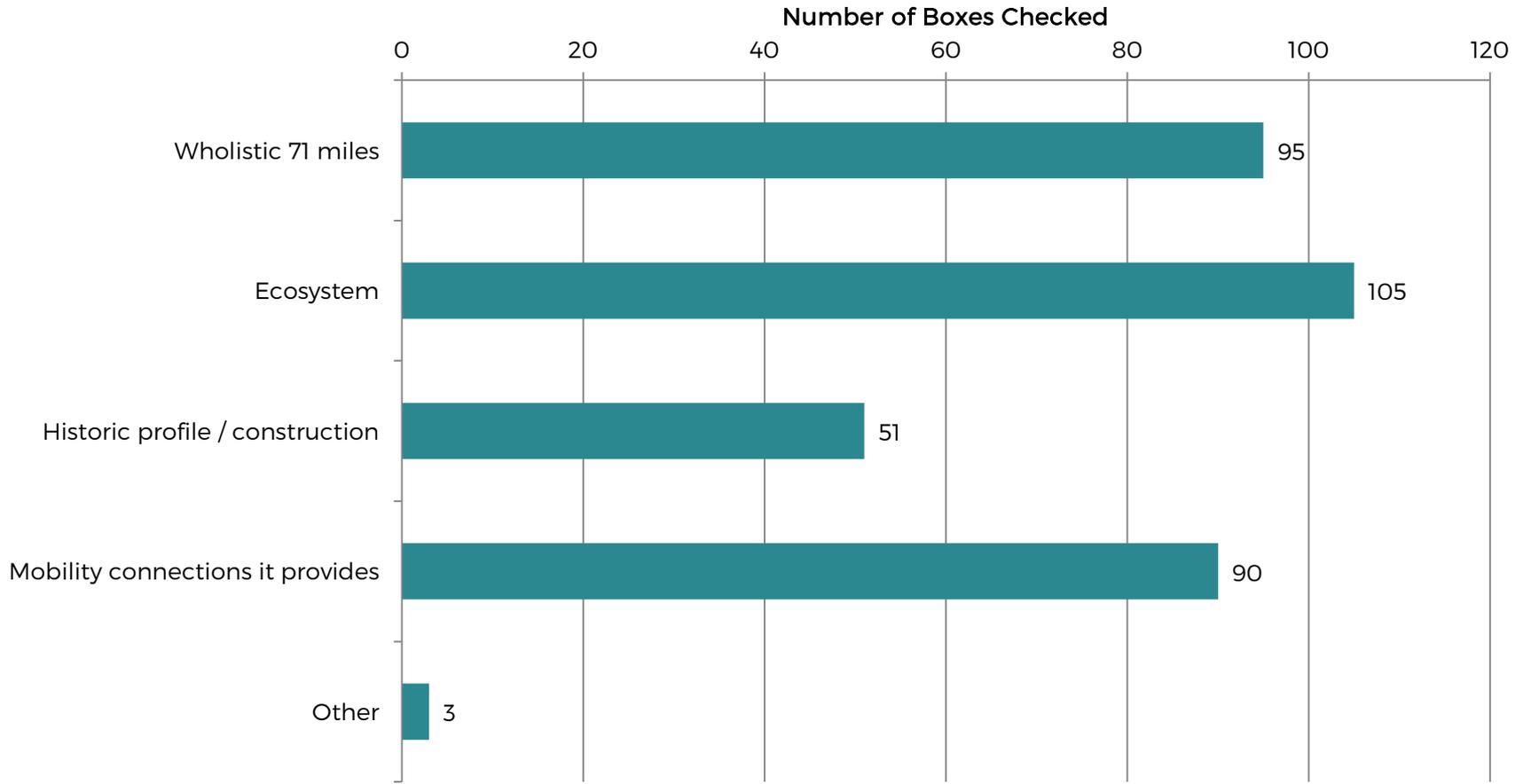
### 5. Preserving the Canal's historic story: Which option(s) appeal to you?



#### If we adapt, what new uses appeal to you?

- Retrofit for stormwater collection
- Enhance habitat & education (boardwalks, bird blinds, etc.)
- Tiered social spaces for outdoor classrooms or small gatherings
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

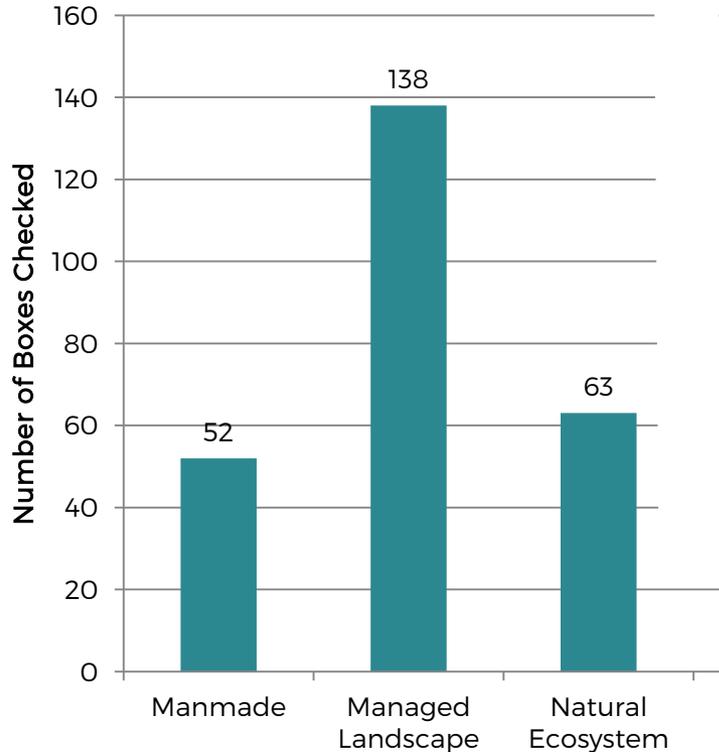
# What aspects are most important to preserve?



# ECOSYSTEM BOARDS



# Overall: Managed Landscape was most frequently chosen



*Most common reasons attendees reported selecting an option:*

## Overall

- A combination of all three is good, can be different depending on the area. Diversity is good!

## Manmade

- More affordable and simple option

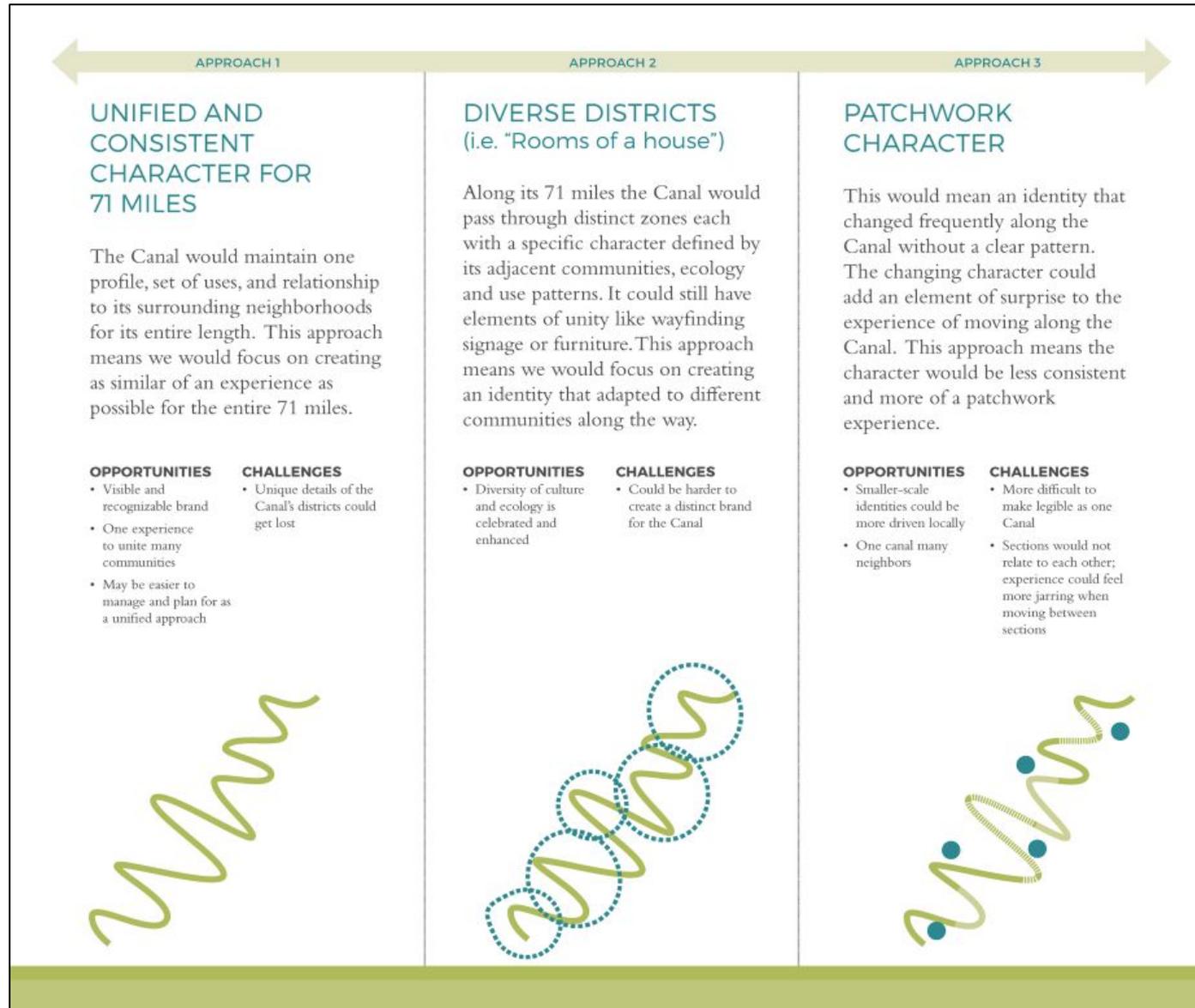
## Managed Landscape

- Stormwater management is an opportunity to become more sustainable and the Canal should take advantage of it
- The Canal cannot be supported by today's ecosystem, needs some management
- Can be used for water transportation
- Can enhance development opportunities

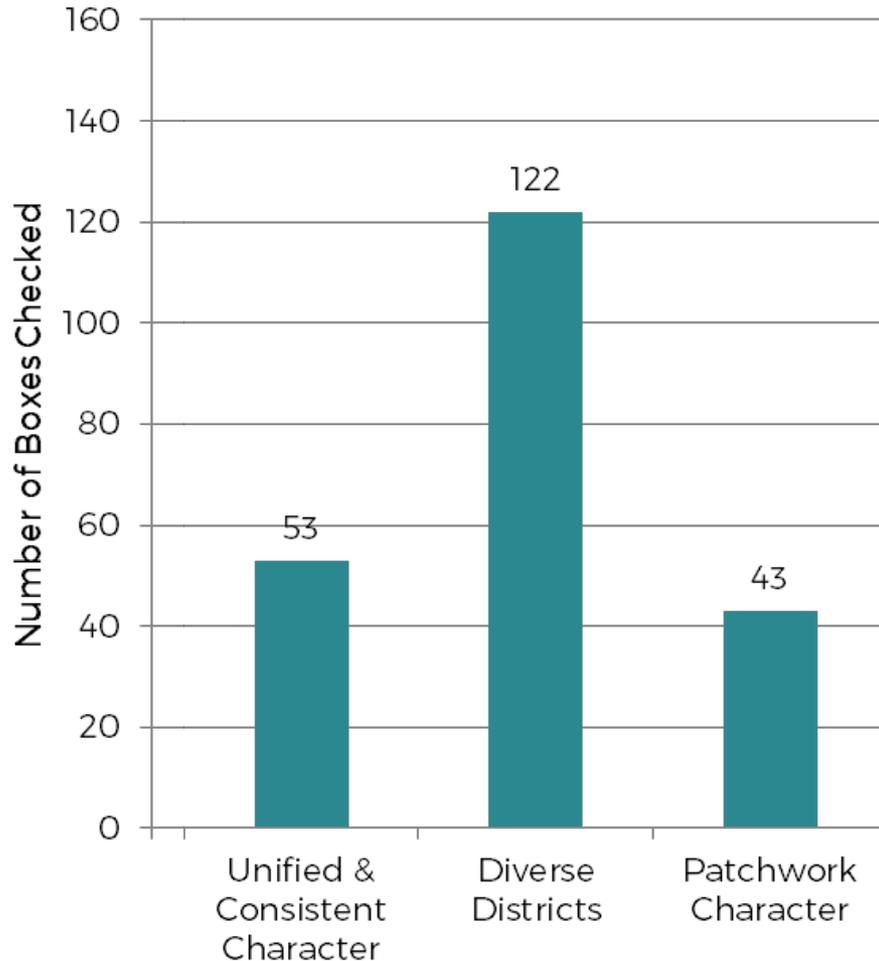
## Natural Ecosystem

- Plants need water to survive - need a combination of managed and natural
- Requires less maintenance and is more sustainable
- Preserves natural beauty and diverse habitat

# CHARACTER BOARDS



# Overall: Diverse districts was most frequently chosen



*Most common reasons attendees reported selecting an option:*

## **Unified + Consistent Character**

- Unification is more equitable; solves the “haves” and “have nots” issue
- Creates consistencies in signage and creates continuity

## **Diverse Districts**

- Can enhance the beauty of the place and create unique experiences to draw people there
- Respect and celebrate the diversity of the communities along the Canal, communities can have their own “piece” of the overall experience
- Too many governments and jurisdictions can make it too difficult to make it fully unified
- Basic elements are important for continuity (signage, path treatment, maintenance, etc.), but diversity is important

## **Patchwork Character**

- More economical approach
- Similar thoughts to Diverse Districts

# HISTORY BOARDS

## APPROACH 1

### MAINTAIN THE CANAL'S PROFILE AS-IS

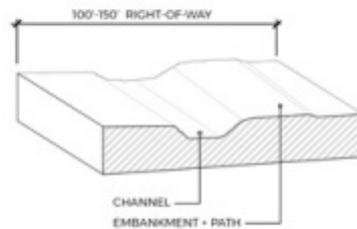
The Canal's historic profile, or cross-section, has an identifiable channel on the uphill side and embankment on the downhill side with a maintenance path, all within the corridor measuring 100 to 150 foot in width. This approach means future uses would be more limited and water would only be possible through continuing diversions from the Platte River.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- No changes to existing landscape structure
- Preserves the Canal as an element of cultural heritage

#### CHALLENGES

- Over time, ecosystem would change
- Less flexible; stormwater would require adaptation (approach 2)



THE HISTORIC PROFILE

## APPROACH 2

### ADAPT (New uses for the historic profile)

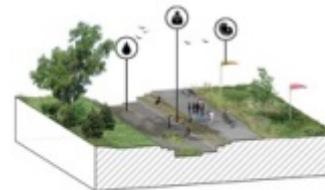
Honoring the simple low channel and high pathway of the historic profile, new uses and landscapes could be inserted within the corridor. With this approach, many options are possible and could vary along the Canal.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Flexible approach allows for stormwater management or a range of other options
- Provides opportunities for elevated experiences as well as protected options in the low Canal bed
- Preserves Canal's historic shape

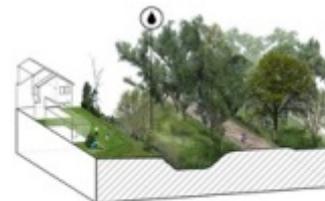
#### CHALLENGES

- Maintaining the historic profile constrains proportions of new ideas and interventions
- Trees within the levee may compromise the Canal's ability to carry water



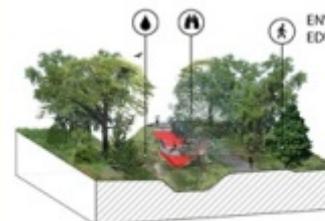
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Adapting the Canal as a tiered social space where the low points could collect stormwater



STORMWATER

Adapting the channel to temporarily hold stormwater



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The high and low variation could be enhanced for wildlife watching with elevated viewing platforms, boardwalks, and habitat enhancements

## APPROACH 3

### HONOR THE HISTORIC LEGACY IN NEW WAYS

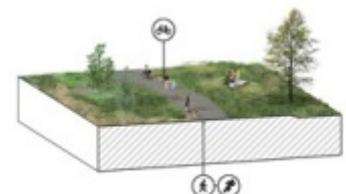
Are there other, less literal, ways we could honor the Canal's history through future enhancements? What other possibilities could you imagine?

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Greatest flexibility of potential new uses
- Trail alignment could shift to one side of right-of-way
- Opportunity for wider, flatter areas for sports, picnicking, playgrounds, public art and more

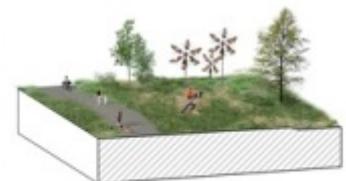
#### CHALLENGES

- Maintaining the Canal's story



PICNICKING & BUTTERFLIES

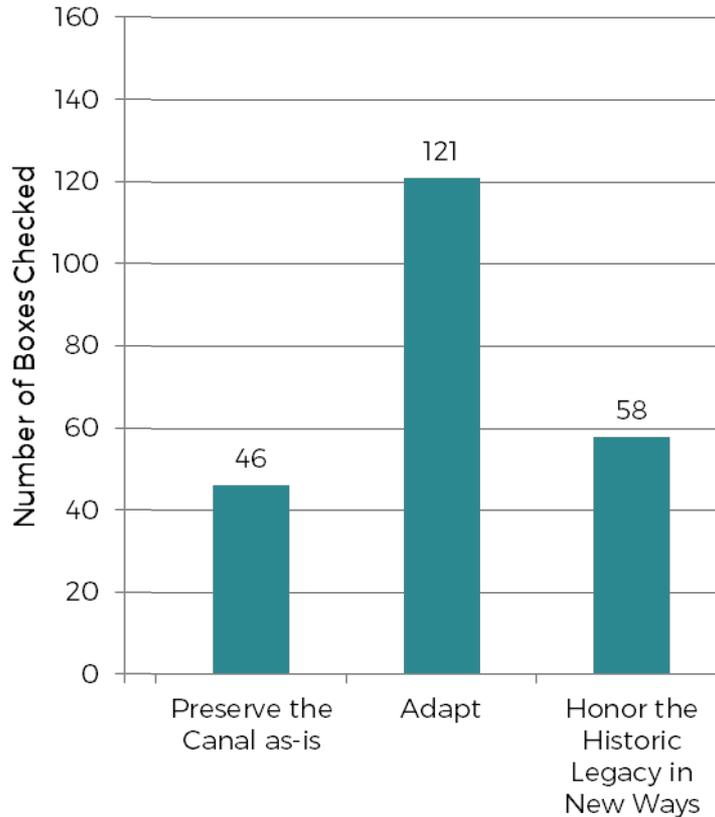
Wider flat areas could offer space for picnicking, tossing a frisbee, or other play opportunities.



PLAY & PUBLIC ART

Shifting the trail alignment could provide a broader area for butterfly meadows, public art, or a nature-p area.

# Overall: Adapt was most frequently chosen



*Most common reasons attendees reported selecting an option:*

*Overall:*

*Each option can create opportunities*

## **Preserve the Canal as-is**

- Avoid adding a lot of man made features and development
- As-is is better for the environment
- Keep a link to the past and preserve historic character

## **Adapt**

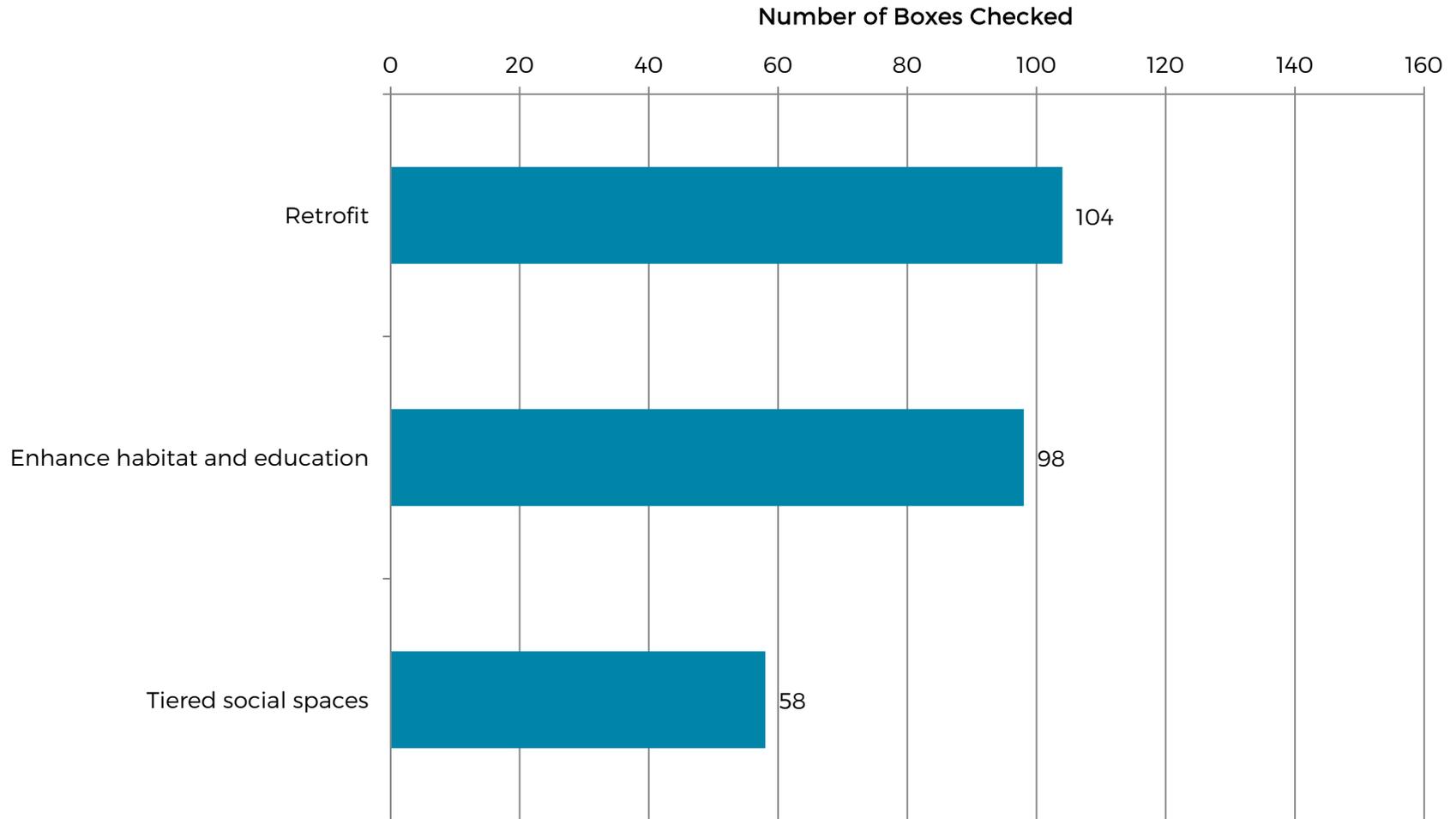
- Preservation of profile is engaging and can increase usability and diversify uses

## **Honor Historic Legacy in a New Way**

- Can have historic markers and educational tools to engage people
- Creates more flexibility for uses
- Enhances the relevance of history and future

# Preserving the Canal's historic story:

If we adapt, which new uses appeal to you?



**PROTECT  
HANDOUTS**

# HANDOUT

page 1

This handout asked open house attendees to respond to the options outlined on the Protect boards. After identifying their ZIP code, attendees then were able to check multiple boxes to identify what should be focused on outside the Canal.

Questions 3, 4, and 5 asked attendees to rank their opinion about the option on a scale from 1-5.

How can we better  
**PROTECT** the Canal?

*what  
do you  
think?*

1. Your zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

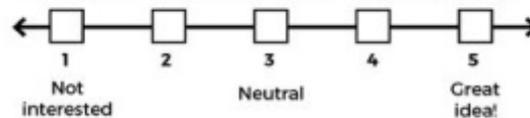
2. What is most important for us to focus on, outside of the Canal?

Check all that apply:

- Strengthening habitat connections
- Protecting open space along and near the Canal
- Ensuring new development embraces the Canal
- Improving connections with adjacent parks and recreational amenities
- Improving crossings with local roads to make them safer
- Identifying new revenue sources to support future enhancements of the Canal
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Protecting the Canal's Connections: Mobility & Connecting Communities

Overall, how do you feel about this opportunity?



Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

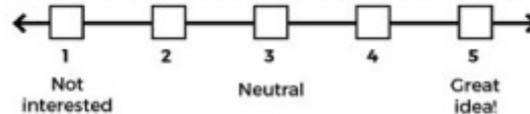
Other ideas for strengthening connections outside the Canal for environmental benefit?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Protecting the Canal's Habitat: Wildlife Corridor Role

Overall, how do you feel about this opportunity?



Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other ideas for strengthening connections outside the Canal for mobility benefit?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# HANDOUT

page 2

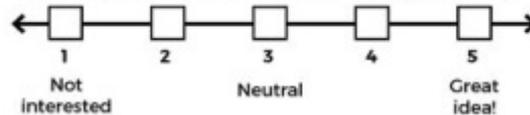
Questions 3, 4, and 5 asked attendees to rank their opinion about the option on a scale from 1-5. Question 6 requested open-ended responses.

How can we better  
**PROTECT** the Canal?



## 5. Protecting the Canal's Surroundings: Neighbors & Adjacent Uses

Overall, how do you feel about this opportunity?



Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other ideas for improving the relationship between the Canal and its neighbors?  
Other ideas for generating revenue?

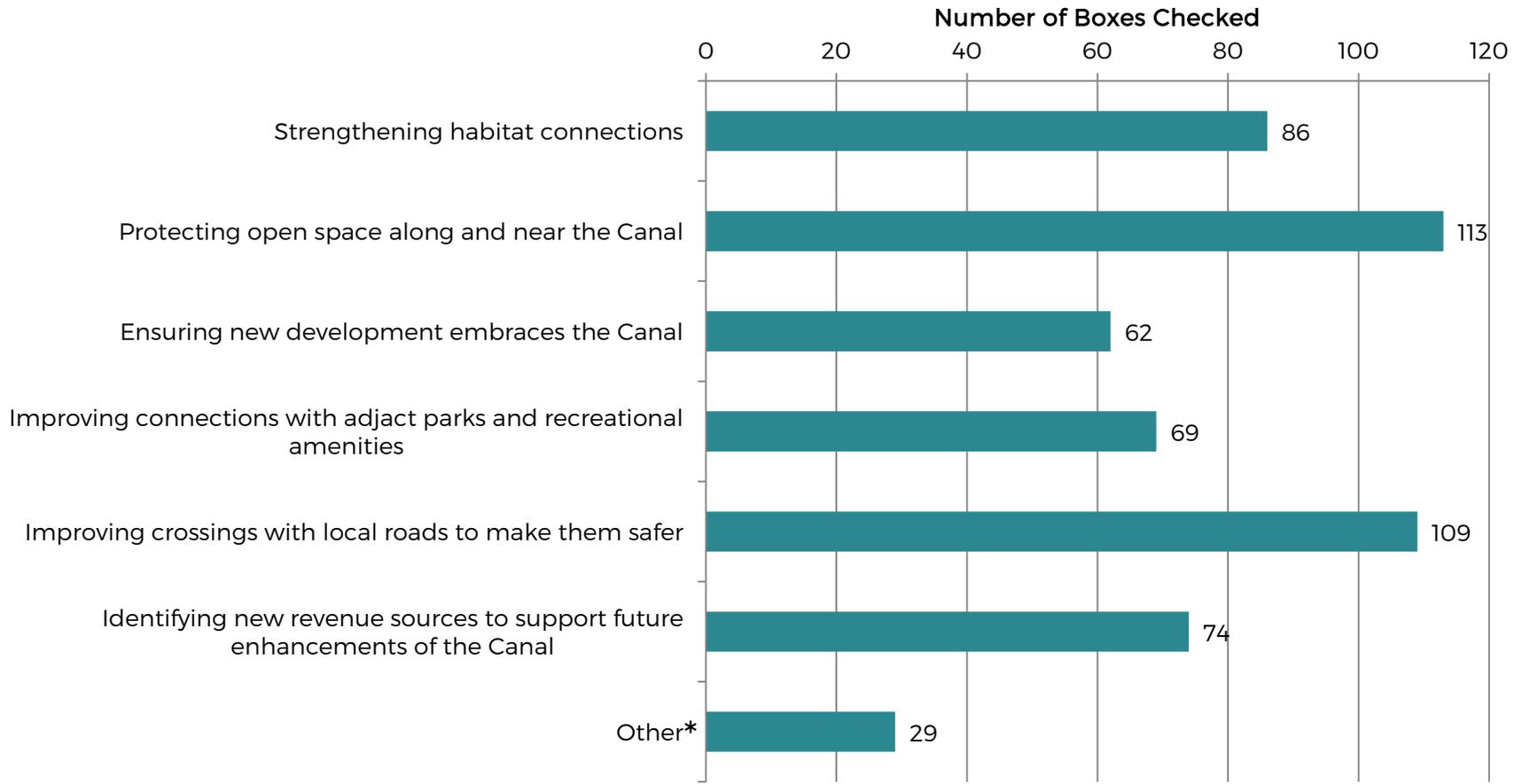
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 6. I wish the Canal better connected me to ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

# What is most important to focus on, outside of the Canal?

Overall Feedback



\* Other includes: Creating public awareness of issues that surround the Canal, safety, possible job creation, addressing homelessness, involving communities in maintenance, reduce possible disturbance on existing ecosystems, parking needs, encouraging cafes and places along the Canal for people to eat, shop, relax, resurface the paved trails, stormwater and water sources, utilizing the Canal as an urban asset, children's education program

# BOARDS

## *Protecting the Canal's Connections*

# Strengthening the Role of the Canal to Connect Communities

*Tell us your thoughts on your handout*  
Question 3

The High Line Canal already acts as movement corridor for walking, jogging, and bicycling. What are the opportunities to further protect this identity?

### **OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. Improve crossings along and to the Canal
2. Strengthen connections with other trails across the region
3. Promote development of additional trail connections
4. Support active lifestyles and recreation

THIS APPROACH COULD INCLUDE IMPROVING ...

### TRAIL CONNECTIONS

#### **EXAMPLES**

Cherry Creek Greenway and Triple Creek



### STREET CROSSING

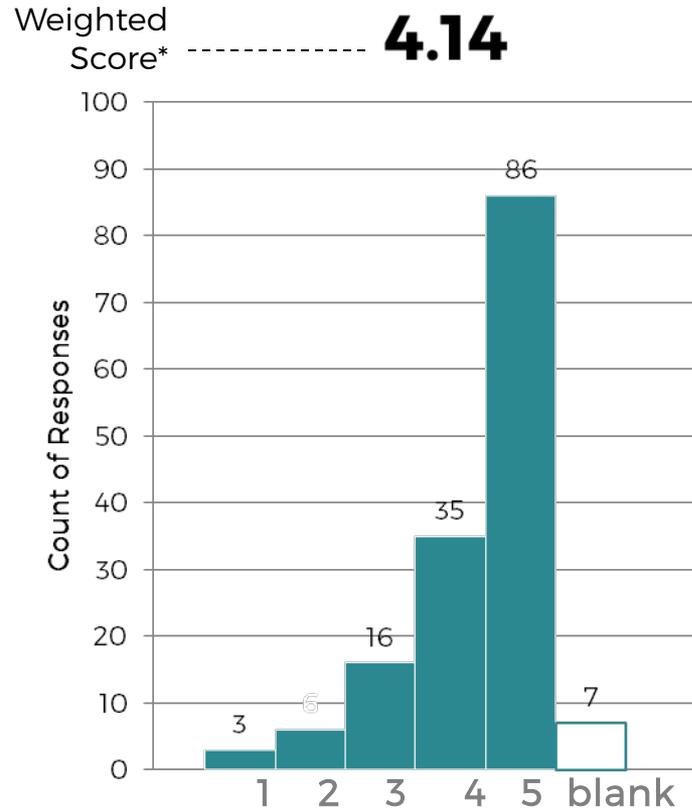
#### **EXAMPLES**

Sante Fe and Broadway



1. BELTLINE, ATLANTA  
2. CHILE, PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

# How do you feel about this opportunity?



## Protecting the Canal's Connections: Mobility & Connecting Communities

### Why protect connections?

- Creates easier and safer access
- More access and connections mean more users
- Greater connections can enhance quality of life
- Safety is a priority
- Creates an alternative, safe transportation system that can be a model for other places
- Is an important shared resources
- Is a unique asset for the metro area and can increase tourism

\* Boxes checked at the "5" level were weighted with 5 points, 4 with 4 points, etc. to achieve an average score for each option across all feedback.

# BOARDS

## *Protecting the Canal's Habitat*

### Strengthening the Role of the Canal as a Wildlife Corridor

The High Line Canal already acts as movement corridor for wildlife. The success of the Canal depends on its connections to existing and new development, adjacent conservation land, creek corridors, and other open spaces.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Strengthen the Canal's environmental role in the region
2. Link patches of larger habitat areas, providing a connection for wildlife
3. Intersections with creeks and waterways connect the Canal's habitat with other green corridors
4. Backyards can provide small patches of open space for wildlife.

*Tell us your thoughts on your handout*

Question 4

THIS APPROACH COULD INCLUDE IMPROVING CONNECTIONS TO ...

#### CONSERVATION LAND

##### **EXAMPLES**

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and DeKoevend Conservation Land



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

#### CREEK CROSSINGS

##### **EXAMPLES**

Cherry Creek and Toll Gate Creek



DESIGN COMPETITION

#### BACKYARD HABITAT

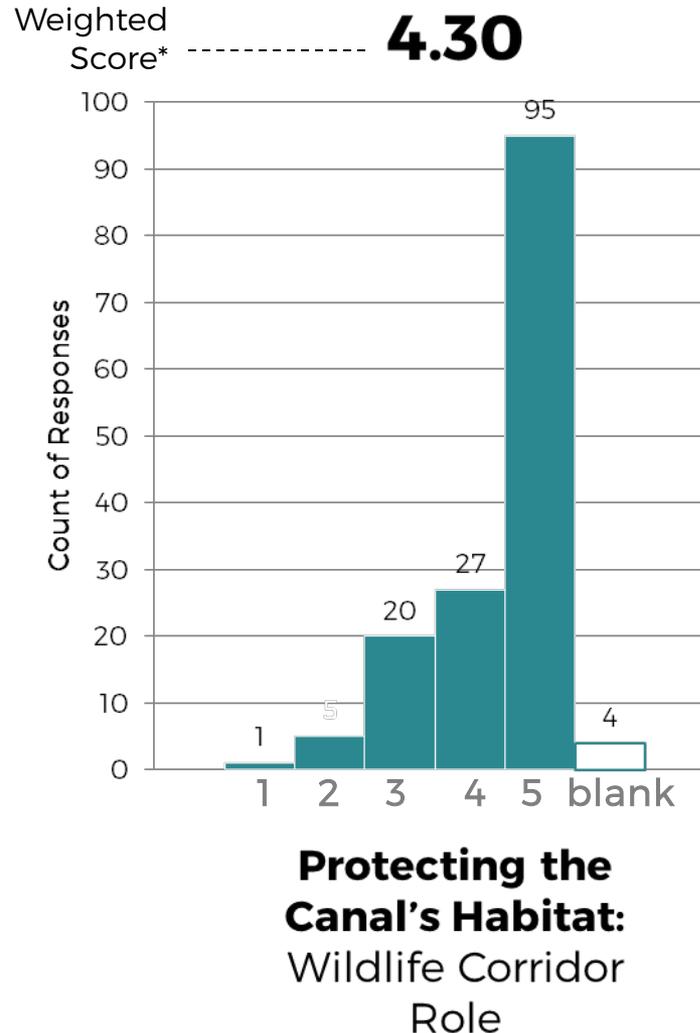
##### **EXAMPLES**

Homes and lots of other adjacent uses



HIGH LINE CANAL ADJACENT HOUSING OPEN SPACE

# How do you feel about this opportunity?



## Why protect habitat / wildlife?

- Protect and educate, people benefit from wildlife observation
- Natural environment is what makes this place great and there is already little nature nearby
- Opportunity to incorporate wildlife into the city and enhance natural experience, adds to urban living
- Protecting the natural habitat can bring more animals which are invaluable
- Need to protect the wildlife and save animals from over development
- Need to protect wildlife corridors, if not it can create conflict with humans

\* Boxes checked at the "5" level were weighted with 5 points, 4 with 4 points, etc. to achieve an average score for each option across all feedback.

# BOARDS

## Protecting the Canal's Surroundings

### Supporting the Canal through Adjacent Uses and Neighbors

*Tell us your thoughts on your handout*

Question 5

As the High Line Canal passes through diverse communities, the character of adjacent development and neighbors impacts this experience. How can these nearby uses support and enhance the Canal?

#### OPPORTUNITIES

1. Revenue generation to support Canal enhancements
2. Programming and recreational opportunities
3. Development that supports the character and function of the Canal, providing a source of stormwater, trail connections, and integrates with the Canal (not turning its back on the Canal)
4. Parks and schools can provide recreational connections, expanded social space, and educational programming opportunities
5. Cafes and other nearby uses can provide places to pause, rest, and grab a bite to eat. These locations could also provide supporting activities like games or disc golf. Revenue could help support the Canal.

THIS APPROACH COULD INCLUDE IMPROVING CONNECTIONS TO ...

#### DEVELOPMENT

##### EXAMPLES

Plum Creek and Sterling Ranch Village



NICOLLET MALL

#### PARKS & SCHOOLS

##### EXAMPLES

Eisenhower Park and Expo Park



CHICAGO 605

#### OTHER USES

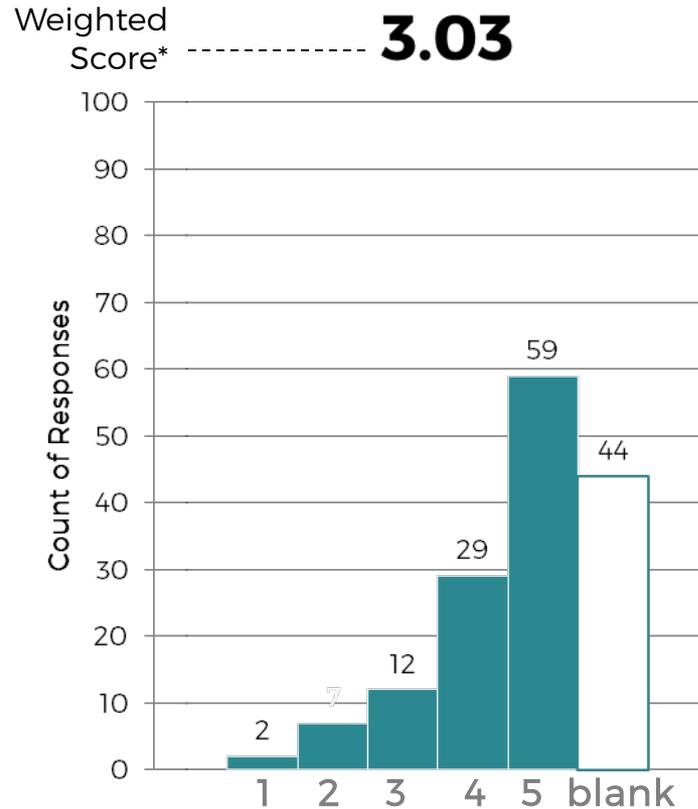
##### EXAMPLES

Dry Dock Brewing; Hudson Gardens Coffee House (Mary Carter Greenway Trail)



HIGH LINE, NYC  
BICYCLE SHARE

# How do you feel about this opportunity?



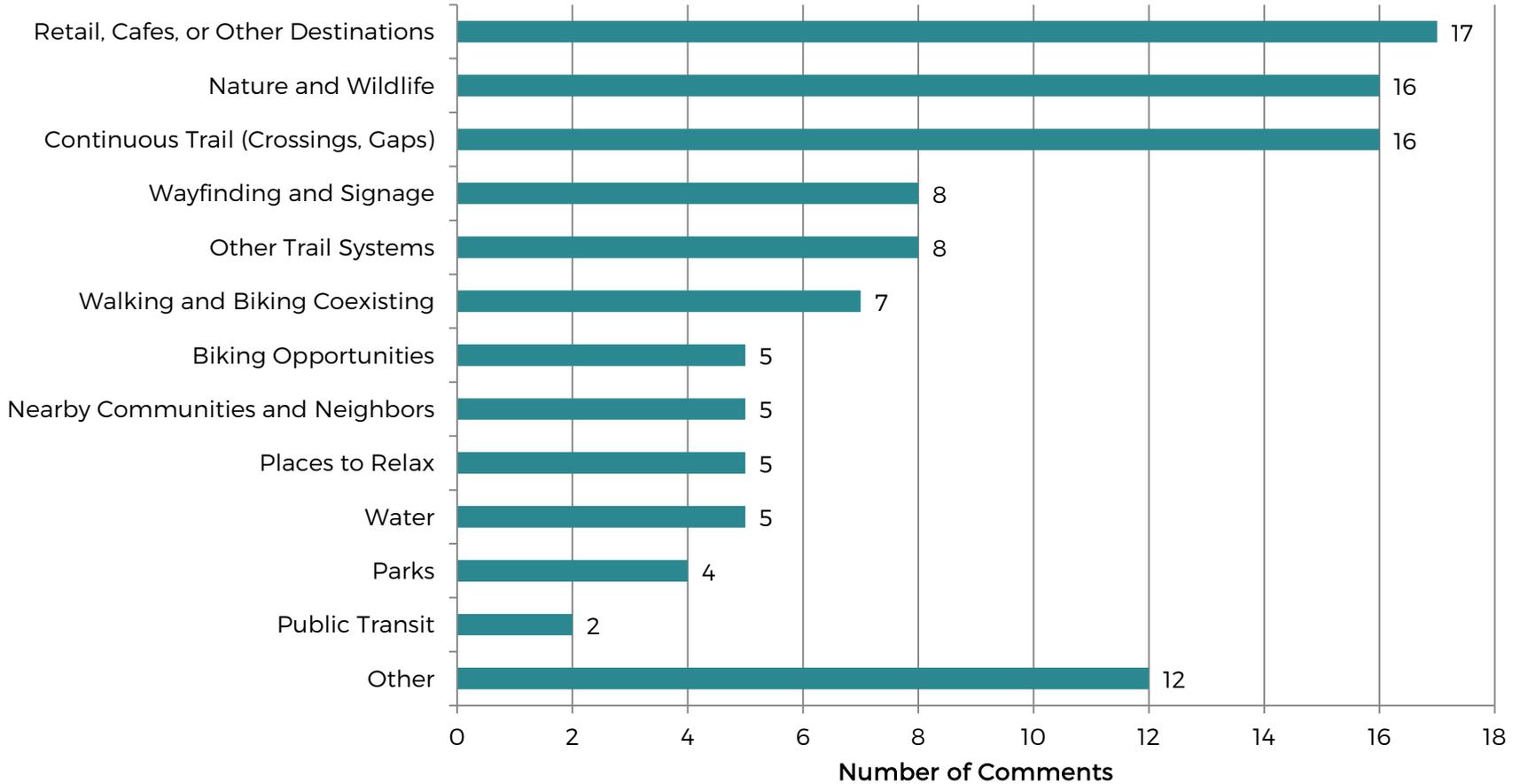
## Protecting the Canal's Surroundings: Neighborhoods & Adjacent Uses

### Why protect surrounding context?

- Will create commitment and resources to sustain the Canal
- Education and involvement is important
- Protect the surrounding so it does not become over commercialized or a tourist attraction
- It's a good thing when local businesses get involved
- Gives more opportunity for use schools and other community organizations
- Give the community more ownership in the vision and to become better stewards

\* Boxes checked at the "5" level were weighted with 5 points, 4 with 4 points, etc. to achieve an average score for each option across all feedback.

# I wish the Canal better connected me to...



*Responses to this question were open-ended; to analyze, they were grouped by theme as shown above.*

**ENHANCE  
MAP STICKERS**

# STICKERS PLACED

Attendees at each open house placed stickers on the boards to identify where they would like to experience certain activities on the Canal.

The photo at left displays the stickers placed at the Open House held at Eisenhower Rec Center. Similar feedback was recorded on separate boards at the other two open houses.



# Stickers Placed by Canal Section



MEDITATIVE



INSPIRE



GATHER



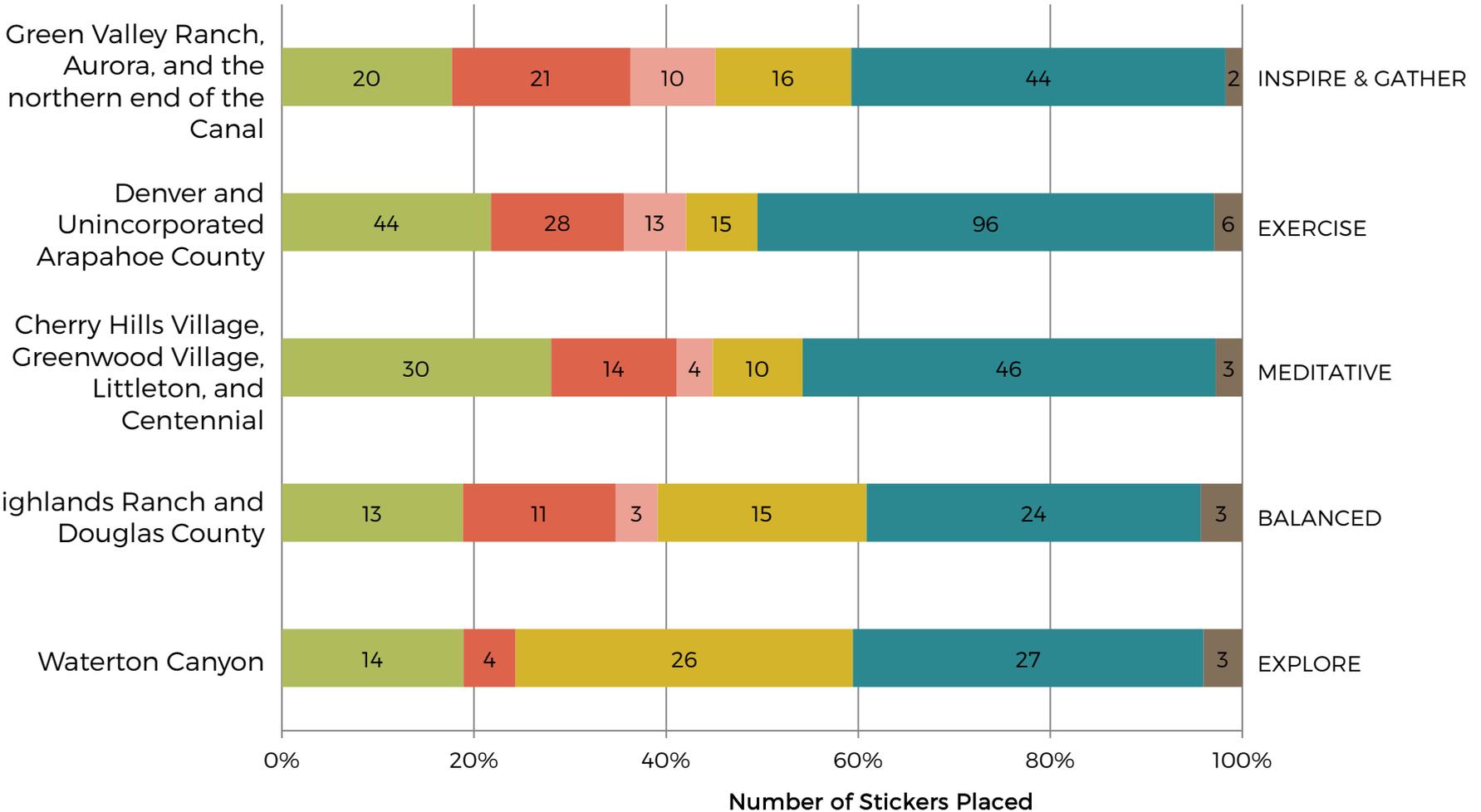
EXPLORE



EXERCISE



SOMETHING ELSE



# Summary of Stickers Placed

**EXERCISE** ranked 1<sup>st</sup> for all communities. The top other themes varied by community:

Green Valley Ranch, Aurora, and the northern end of the Canal: **INSPIRE and GATHER**

Denver and Unincorporated Arapahoe County: **MEDITATIVE and INSPIRE\***

Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, Littleton, and Centennial: **MEDITATIVE**

Highlands Ranch and Douglas County: **BALANCED across all themes**

Waterton Canyon: **EXPLORE**

\*In addition – Exercise is an especially strong theme, even stronger than in other parts of the Canal. Here, the “Exercise” sticker comprises about 48% of the total stickers placed for that section, which is a higher percentage than any other Canal section for Exercise.