



HIGH LINE CANAL

CONSERVANCY

PROGRESS REPORT | March 2017

- › Vision Statement and Guiding Principles are finalized
- › 11 of the governmental jurisdictions, including Denver Water, have endorsed the Vision Plan for the Canal
- › Stormwater modeling and demonstration projects under way
- › Trail enhancements continue
- › Significant increase in fundraising
- › Conservancy is officially an independent nonprofit organization
- › Conservancy and partners initiate long-term approach to tree care and enhancement
- › Upcoming Canal happenings include walks, runs and volunteer opportunities
- › Conservancy taking lead with design and initiation of framework planning, landscape guidelines and wayfinding signage

Dear Partners and Friends of the Canal,

2017 is off to a great start and we are looking forward to collaborating on plans for and reaching agreements on future protections and enhancements for the Canal. The Conservancy is close to releasing the final Vision Plan, influenced by the thousands who engaged in the Public Outreach and Vision Planning initiative last year. In addition, this plan is being endorsed by our partners, including Denver Water and the governmental jurisdictions.

This year we are working to move into the next phase of planning – comprehensive master planning as well as wayfinding and signage. In addition, we are implementing a number of activation and stewardship programs. We'll also be launching the High Line Canal membership program – a great way to reach out to Canal users and raise important funds for the long-term protection of the Canal.

Thank you for your continued support!

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.



Programs + Planning Update

PLANNING INITIATIVE

The Public Outreach and Vision Planning initiative was unprecedented and extraordinarily successful.

Endorsement of the Plan

The Conservancy has been working with our partner jurisdictional bodies to endorse the Vision Plan in the form of a resolution, proclamation, or letter of endorsement highlighting the regional effort and commitments to the future of the High Line Canal. We are nearly there and expect to have all endorsements by the end of March.

What's next?

Along with the Core Team, the Conservancy is discussing the scope of the next phase of planning, which will include an umbrella framework plan, landscape design guidelines and wayfinding and signage planning.

Visit highlinecanal.org/community for more information on the Conservancy's planning initiative.

CANAL INITIATIVES

Kids Bike the Canal

The Conservancy is partnering with Environmental Learning for Kids to host a bike ride on the Canal in Aurora. Coming up on April 8th, this young group will experience the Canal by bike while learning about parks planning in Aurora.

Visit: highlinecanal.org/elkkids2017

High Line Canal Moments

The High Line Canal is that special place for so many, a place to connect with nature, a place to connect with others and a unique refuge for getting away in our growing metro region. The Conservancy is beginning a dedicated effort to record and collect memories of special moments and experiences along the Canal over the course of its 134-year history. Do you have a story to share, or know someone who does?

Email us: hello@highlinecanal.org

Vision Statement:

The High Line Canal's 71 meandering miles will be preserved and enhanced as a cherished greenway that connects people to nature and binds varied communities together from the foothills to the plains.

Guiding Principles:



Natural: To preserve the natural character of the Canal, ensuring it continues to be a natural refuge for the region's population and wildlife. The Canal's natural, scenic beauty is integral to its identity



Connected & Continuous: To maintain and increase the connectivity of the Canal along all 71 miles, preserving and enhancing the Canal's use as an important continuous resource and regional environmental and trail network



Varied: To respect the variety of communities and experiences along the Canal and to preserve its various physical characteristics through the course of its 71 miles



Managed: To work together in order to preserve and support a long-term, sustainable future for generations to come. Our Canal is a critical, cherished asset for the region



Enhanced: To enhance the enjoyment and use of the Canal in keeping with its natural and varied character

Connecting the Canal

Along with our partner, Walk2Connect, walkers just completed another 71 miles along the Canal trail after 14 segments through rain, snow and lots of winter sunshine. Over 100 people joined these winter walks, 11 of them completing the entire length.

Interested in future walks? Join the mailing list: highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us

Do you want to share the Canal with others? Join for the Walking Movement Leader Training - a community training to develop Walk2Connect Walking Movement Leaders who will be equipped to facilitate walks along the High Line Canal and beyond.

Thursday, April 13, 2017
6:30pm-8:30pm

The High Line Canal Conservancy
915 S Pearl St, Denver, CO

Email chris@walk2connect

Media/Press

The High Line Canal and the Conservancy continue to be talked about around town. If you missed these articles and videos, be sure to check them out:

- › Denver Business Journal Take 3 ([click here](#))
- › Confluence-Denver ([click here](#))
- › Washington Park the Profile ([click here](#))
- › Ch. 9 News, Take a Hike with Steve ([click here](#))



Connecting the Canal Winter Walkers; Photo Credit: Chris Englert, EatWalkLearn

In the Works

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

STORMWATER PROJECTS

Denver Stormwater Project

The Denver Department of Public Works, with the Conservancy as a key stakeholder, continues to work on plans for the proposed stormwater demonstration project near Eisenhower Park.

- › **Status:** The modeling of the hydrology is complete and the City has begun to draft preliminary designs of the project. The demonstration project is expected to be constructed in 2017.
- › **Funding:** Total Projected Cost of \$750,000 from the City and County of Denver

Greenwood Village Stormwater Project

Greenwood Village (GWV) entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Urban Drainage Flood Control District (UDFCD) to develop a conceptual plan to repurpose the High Line Canal for stormwater treatment and conveyance.

- › **Status:** The IGA was approved by GWV City Council on 5/2/2016 allowing the project to move forward. GWV and UDFCD are working with RESPEC, the consultant, to complete this study.
- › **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 Conservancy is working with the City of Denver to advocate for the inclusion of a robust public art component to the underpass projects.

- › **Location:** S. Colorado Blvd and E. Hampden Ave., Denver CO
- › **Status:** Fully funded, design to start this year. Expected future project phases include: initiative ROW (2017), construction (2018-2019).
- › **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.

For more information on this underpass project, visit denvergov.org.

Green Infrastructure: a new life for the High Line Canal

Its rich history, cultural significance, unique ecology, and recreational potential make the Canal an unprecedented and multi-beneficial opportunity for the metro region. Green infrastructure benefits include:

- › Helps to recharge groundwater, supplying subsurface water to our trees
- › Often more cost-effective than traditional pipework or culverts
- › Naturally helps absorb, delay and treat stormwater
- › Mitigates flooding and pollution downstream
- › Improves air quality and cools the city while providing recreational green space
- › Contributes to the health of the vibrant Canal ecosystem

Source: Trust for Public Land



Parker and Mississippi Underpass

In partnership with Arapahoe County, the City and County of Denver is funding the design and construction of an underpass at Parker and Mississippi. This project is expected to begin late 2017 or early 2018 as funds become available.

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

Quebec Way Trailhead

Arapahoe County completed the Quebec Trailhead Project in the late fall of 2016. This trailhead adds greater Canal access to the 4 Square Mile Neighborhood by providing a new parking lot for vehicles, bike racks, kiosk with a Canal trail map, entrance sign, trash can, portable restroom, fencing, lighting and ADA access to the Canal.

- › Location: Quebec Way in Four Square Mile Neighborhood (Unincorporated Arapahoe County)
- › Status: Complete
- › Cost: \$714,155

South Suburban Parks and Recreation Enhancements

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (SSPRD) in partnership with Arapahoe County Open Space and the Cities of Littleton and Centennial, is making progress to enhance connections and facilities along the Canal.

Bridge enhancements update:

- › Bannock Bridge Replacement: installed and open to the public.
- › deKoevend Parking Lot Bridge Replacement : installed and open to the public.
- › Ice Arena Bridge Replacement (at deKoevend Park): bridge is open to the public with minor landscaping to complete.
- › Franklin St. New Bridge: installed but closed to the public. Trail connection on the south side is under construction. Anticipated final completion is April 10.

Other enhancements:

- › Elati Street Trailhead upgrade: complete.
- › Milliken Park Restroom: Prefabricated restroom is under construction, construction documents are complete, submittal to the City in April. Anticipated completion by July 2017.

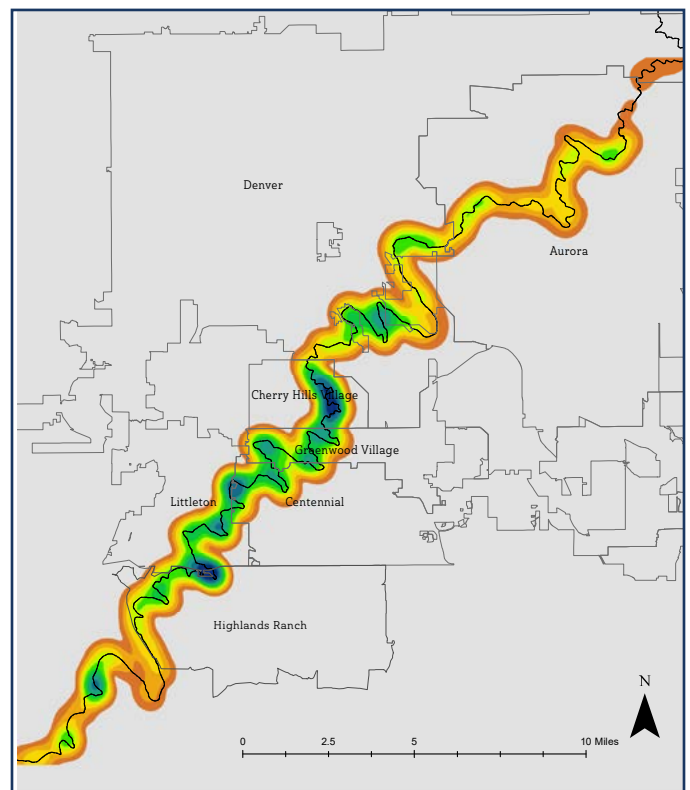


High Line Canal Tree Inventory

Over the summer of 2016, the High Line Canal Working Group (HLCWG) funded a comprehensive tree inventory that identified, geolocated and assessed all trees with diameters greater than six inches and recently planted trees within the approximately 100-foot right-of-way of the High Line Canal corridor. The effort, led by Davey Resource Group (DRG), was successfully coordinated among the different governmental jurisdictions and Denver Water.

- › Objectives: analyze needs to properly manage the trees, reduce safety risk for trail users and better understand the health of the tree canopy.
- › Results: DRG inventoried a total of 23,677 trees in the Canal Corridor that are greater than six inches in diameter or recently planted.

The data from this collaborative effort will be instrumental in assessing the health of the tree canopy and guide future maintenance and landscaping standards. The Conservancy is leading the effort to steward this data, ensuring that it is accessible to the jurisdictions for analysis. Some of the data is already generating information that has presented a clearer picture of the diversity in the tree canopy, as the following graphic from the Conservancy demonstrates.



High Line Canal Tree Density Map
Areas of green and blue indicate high densities of surveyed trees and areas of orange indicate low densities of trees

Operational Update

FUNDRAISING

The Conservancy continues to have success raising private funds – a key source of funding to move forward with the next phase of planning for the Canal.

- › 2016 private donations total over \$410,000
- › 190 donors in 2016
- › 24 miles committed by Founding Partners – 71 Miles Supported by 71 Founding Partners is a campaign to raise \$1,775,000 of catalytic funds through the generous support of 71 Founding Partners each committing \$25,000 over 1, 2 or 5 years.
- › We continue to appreciate in-kind donations – most recently we thank Dry Dock Brewery of Aurora.

ADMINISTRATION

By researching and following nonprofit best practices, Jacob Stauber, our Director of Operations, has overseen the High Line Canal Conservancy spin off from the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center and official formation as an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3).

High Line Canal Conservancy Open House:
Visit us at our offices at 4pm on the first
Thursday of every month.
915 S. Pearl Street, Denver, CO 80209

Upcoming Happenings

- › April 8th: ELK Bike Ride
- › April 13th: Walking Movement Leader Training
- › May 21st: Colfax Marathon – sign up to support the Canal.
- › Every Sunday: High Line Canal Trailblazers
- › Stay informed with our monthly newsletter:
highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us
- › Share your story – Canal Moments
- › Volunteer with the Conservancy – write us a note if you're interested in volunteering with us: hello@highlinecanal.org

See the calendar for more details:
highlinecanal.org/calendar

Follow us on social media:

-  [@High Line Canal Conservancy](https://www.facebook.com/HighLineCanalConservancy)
-  [@COHighLineCanal](https://twitter.com/COHighLineCanal)
-  [@HighLineCanal](https://www.instagram.com/HighLineCanal)



High Line Canal Conservancy Staff and Planning Team at the October Open House

Leadership Team

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