



# HIGH LINE CANAL

## CONSERVANCY

### PROGRESS REPORT | June 2017

- › Community Vision Plan released
- › Denver Water and 10 jurisdictions officially endorsed the Vision Plan
- › Be a High Line Canal Membership program launched
- › Water flowing through the Canal since May 11th
- › Conservancy awarded Colorado Health Foundation grant
- › Phase II planning getting started - RFP released
- › Stormwater modeling and demonstration projects progress
- › Summer activities on the Canal include walks, bike rides and volunteer opportunities
- › Conservancy open job positions include summer intern and planning manager

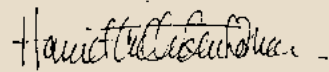
## Dear Partners and Friends of the Canal,

One full year of planning and partnerships has led to the release of the Community Vision Plan for the High Line Canal. The community-driven plan, endorsed by Denver Water and the 10 governmental jurisdictions along its 71 miles, outlines a set of guiding principles: that the Canal remain a natural, connected and continuous, varied, managed and enhanced resource for the region. This plan will help ensure the Canal reaches its greatest potential as an environmental, recreational, social, historic and economic asset. Creation of this plan would not have been possible without the support of Arapahoe County Open Space, Denver Water, Great Outdoors Colorado, Gates Family Foundation, governments along the Canal and generous private donors and friends like you!

In exciting news, Denver Water started diverting water into the Canal on May 11th. Water is slowly flowing past Fairmount Cemetery. This is the first time water has flowed since May 2015.

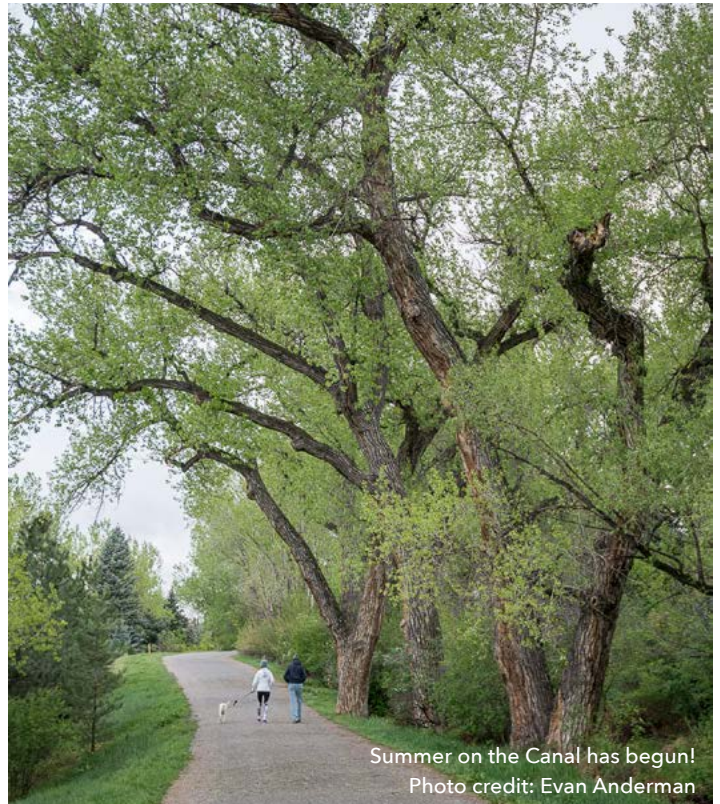
Thank you for your continued support!

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

In collaboration with the Core Team, the Conservancy has released a request for proposals for a framework planning initiative, which includes landscape design guidelines and a wayfinding and signage project. Key highlights of the initiative are listed below.

#### Framework Plan and Zone Definition:

The Framework Plan will serve as an umbrella physical plan for the High Line Canal. The Framework Plan takes the Vision Plan to the next level of detail, looking at the Canal as one 71-mile system. It should address the following:

- › Character zone (or Sub Area) expanded definitions (as identified in the Vision Plan)
- › Recreation opportunities
- › Connectivity and crossings
- › Economic development opportunities
- › Historic resources

#### Landscape Design Guidelines:

The goal of the Landscape Design Guidelines is to achieve a comprehensive environment along the Canal greenway that is memorable, unique and enjoyable; economical and practical to maintain; responsible to functional and environmental constraints; and in which all parts of the Canal relate to each other to establish an integrated whole consistent with this community vision.

#### Wayfinding and Signage Plan:

The signage and wayfinding system will be designed to project a consistent image for trails and pedestrian routes to easily and safely guide residents and visitors to and from the High Line Canal and nearby landmarks, facilities and community services. Additionally, the plan will improve community health by promoting multimodal forms of transportation including walking, bicycling and connections to public transit.

The plan will include:

- › Brand identity
- › Trail system definitions
- › Signage design guidelines
- › Signage master plan
- › Map and guide
- › Public input meetings
- › Quick win projects, i.e. mileage markers

The Community Vision Plan for the High Line Canal is complete and has been endorsed by the following entities:

Denver Water  
Arapahoe County  
City of Aurora  
City of Centennial  
Cherry Hills Village  
City and County of Denver  
Douglas County  
Greenwood Village  
Highlands Ranch Metro District  
City of Littleton  
South Suburban Parks and Recreation District

Visit our website to see the full Vision Plan: [highlinecanal.org/vision](http://highlinecanal.org/vision).

View the video recap of the significant and successful public outreach efforts that led to the creation of the Vision Plan: [highlinecanal.org/video2017](http://highlinecanal.org/video2017).

**The Framework Planning Initiative request for proposals has been released** and can be viewed by visiting [highlinecanal.org/framework](http://highlinecanal.org/framework).

The High Line Canal Conservancy is actively searching for a planning manager to help lead the Framework Planning Initiative and play a key role in project management of strategic governmental and private partnerships for the Conservancy.

Visit [highlinecanal.org/planning-manager-position](http://highlinecanal.org/planning-manager-position) for more details and how to apply.

## CANAL INITIATIVES

### Connecting the Canal:

Our partner Walk2Connect will lead another walk along all 71 miles of the Canal, this time starting at mile 0 and walking to mile 71. Since the summer of 2016, over 150 people have joined these walks, 16 completing all 71 miles. For more information on the summer walks, visit: [highlinecanal.org/walk2connect](http://highlinecanal.org/walk2connect).

### High Line Canal Moments:

The High Line Canal is that special place for so many, that place to connect with nature, that place to connect with others and that unique refuge for getting away in our growing metro region. The Conservancy is dedicating efforts 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 at [hello@highlinecanal.org](mailto:hello@highlinecanal.org).

Stay up-to-date with all Canal happenings - join the mailing list: [highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us](http://highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us).



Connecting the Canal 2017 summer walkers on segment 1  
Photo credit: Chris Englert, EatWalkLearn



Environmental Learning for Kids Canal Cleanup  
Photo credit: Evan Anderman

### Volunteer Program:

This summer we'll be out on the Canal talking to users about the future of the Canal and the challenges it faces today. We will host a volunteer orientation on June 27th to allow passionate community members the opportunity to help Conservancy staff educate and inform the public throughout the summer. If you are interested in supporting the Conservancy as a volunteer, please email [volunteer@highlinecanal.org](mailto:volunteer@highlinecanal.org).

Interested in future walks? Join the mailing list: [highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us](http://highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us)

### Media/Press

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With the release of the Vision Plan and celebration of its endorsement, we gained informative coverage of the Canal. If you missed these articles and videos, be sure to check them out:

- › The Denver Post ([click here](#))
- › 5280 Magazine Online ([click here](#))
- › Denverite ([click here](#))
- › Channel 7 safety upgrade ([click here](#))
- › Greenwood Village Beyond the Green ([click here](#))
- › Channel 7 water flowing ([click here](#))
- › Denver South Economic Development ([click here](#))
- › Aurora Weekly News ([click here](#))



Water is flowing through the Canal for the first time since May of 2015

## In the Works

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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 project is still in the planning phase with the modeling of the hydrology complete. Due to extensive modeling, the pilot is expected to be constructed in November 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 underway
- › **Cost:** \$5.4M 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](http://denvergov.org).

#### 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
- › **Cost:** \$3.2M Faster Funds, \$400k from the City and County of Denver, and \$400k from Arapahoe County.

#### South Suburban Parks and Recreation District Enhancements

- › Bannock Bridge replacement, deKoevend Parking Lot Bridge replacement, Ice Arena Bridge replacement (at deKoevend Park) and the Elati Street Trailhead upgrade projects are all complete.
- › The Franklin Street New Bridge: in construction phase. Bridge is open to the public and the contractor is completing the final grading for a drainage swale and waiting on permanent railings for installation. Final completion is schedule for the end of June.
- › Milliken Park Restroom: planning and design is complete, SSPRD is still in the process of permitting with the City of Centennial. The project timeline is delayed and it is anticipated to be complete in September 2017.

#### Southeast Denver Enhancements

Three park bridges in Bible Park are closed due to structure deficiencies and associated safety concerns. All three bridges require complete replacement.

- › South Bridge (E Cornell Ave): designs are currently being developed. Construction will be completed by late 2017/early 2018.
- › East Bridge (E Amherst Ave): designs are currently being developed. Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2018.
- › West Bridge (S Newport St): Designs are currently being developed. Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2018.

For current updates on these trail detours, [click here](#).

#### Aurora Enhancements

- › Metro Center Trail: connection from the City Center RTD light rail station to the High Line Canal. Under construction and should be completed this spring.
- › Triple Creek Trailhead: design of new trailhead at the junction of the High Line Canal, Sand Creek Greenway and the Triple Creek Greenway. Funding for construction is in place and project will be completed in 2018.

## High Line Canal Tree Inventory

Following an extensive tree inventory survey initiated by the High Line Canal Working Group, the Conservancy has been involved in a series of meetings to determine the next steps for addressing the challenges presented by the tree canopy. These meetings have been housed under the High Line Canal Working Group and include arborists from our partner jurisdictions. Next steps include addressing the "Priority 1" trees that need immediate attention, developing an approach to trimming and maintenance that will enhance the aesthetics of the trail environment and remove only the trees that pose obvious safety hazards.



## Operational Update

### FUNDRAISING

Since launching the first-ever membership program - Be a High Line Hero - less than one month ago, we have raised more than 25% of the \$40,000 membership challenge fund! Thank you to our inaugural members for their commitment to this long-term, regional project. We are approaching 100 new members since April 28th and continue to grow the passionate community of Canal users and supporters. Please spread the word: [joinhighlinecanal.org](http://joinhighlinecanal.org).






On May 20th and 21st, over 50 runners ran the Colfax Marathon in support of the Conservancy. Thanks to their great support, the Conservancy is eligible for \$15,000 through the Colfax Marathon's DaVita Charity Partners Program. Thank you to all who participated and/or contributed the registration fees for our relay teams.

## Upcoming Happenings

- » June 27th: The Conservancy will host a volunteer training session to orient those interested in helping Conservancy staff this summer educate and inform the public about the Canal. If you're interested in volunteering, email [volunteer@highlinecanal.org](mailto:volunteer@highlinecanal.org).
- » July 6th: Visit us at our offices during an open house on the first Thursday of every month at 4pm. 915 S. Pearl St, Denver, CO 80209
- » Stay informed with our monthly newsletter: [highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us](http://highlinecanal.org/#learn-with-us)
- » Share your story – Canal Moments. Email [hello@highlinecanal.org](mailto:hello@highlinecanal.org) if you're interested.
- » See the calendar for more details: [highlinecanal.org/calendar](http://highlinecanal.org/calendar)

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



The Conservancy has been awarded a Colorado Health Foundation Grant for \$64,000 to support our work in identification and piloting of programs that will bring new users to the Canal. This grant enables the Conservancy to take a research-based approach to developing programs that will activate the Canal.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Conservancy wishes Josh Ellsworth, Planning and Special Projects Associate, good luck as he departs for Germany for an exciting opportunity. Josh was one of the first employees to join the Conservancy in 2015 and has provided invaluable assistance with the planning process, contributed and gathered significant amounts of data about the Canal and compiled it into one accessible location, and helped support a number of our leadership teams. He will be missed!

The Conservancy is actively looking for a summer intern and planning manager. For more information on these positions, visit the following links.

[highlinecanal.org/intern-position](http://highlinecanal.org/intern-position)

[highlinecanal.org/planning-manager-position](http://highlinecanal.org/planning-manager-position)



The Community Vision for the High Line Canal is complete and it's time to take action! Thank you for the engaging and passionate conversations in 2016 – you helped write a vision that will ensure the long-term preservation and care of the 71-mile Canal. View the vision here: [highlinecanal.org/vision](http://highlinecanal.org/vision).

The High Line Canal Conservancy is excited to share with you the path forward. Immediate next steps include growing trail system connections; improving Canal crossings; providing tours and programming; implementing signage and wayfinding tools; and growing volunteer, community and partnership involvement.

Support the Canal today and join the passionate community of citizens who are dedicated to the future of the High Line Canal: [joinhighlinecanal.org](http://joinhighlinecanal.org).

Contact: 720.767.2452 or [membership@highlinecanal.org](mailto:membership@highlinecanal.org)

## Leadership Team

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Nancy Sharpe *Ex Officio, Arapahoe County Commissioner*  
Harriet Crittenden LaMair *Ex Officio, Ex. Dir. HLCC*

### HIGH LINE CANAL CORE TEAM

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Shannon Carter	Josh Tenneson
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Jay Henke	Tracy Young
Harriet Crittenden LaMair	Brandon Ransom

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