



HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY

PROGRESS REPORT | FALL 2021

Hello Partners and Friends of the Canal,

The Canal is calling! Have you, too, experienced its call through the rustle of the leaves, the brilliance of its colors, and the peace of nature that awaits? Sounds and worries of the outside world quiet when I am on the Canal. I hope you have also enjoyed time soaking in a beautiful fall season on the Canal. As we head toward the end of another year that presented challenges near and far, we acknowledge the tremendous strides we have taken together to preserve, protect and enhance the 71-mile High Line Canal.

This year, we have been thrilled to see more of you face to face in collaborative meetings, stewardship events, project completion celebrations and more. Highlights from our collective progress this year include:

- › Launched the Canal Conservation Corps to support an elevated level of stewardship for the Canal through volunteer programs such as trash and brush removal events
- › Improved the environmental health of the region with the addition of 175 new trees planted with volunteers along the Canal
- › Enhanced accessibility and interpretation with new wayfinding and interpretive signs
- › Improved safety with new underpasses and crossing enhancements

Please enjoy this report as we share recent and exciting updates on complete and in-the-works projects, the impact of a full stewardship season and more ways to support the Canal and stay involved with the Conservancy. Your engagement in this work for the Canal sustains and lifts up each of us here at the Conservancy – nothing we do would be possible without you!

Thank you for your collaboration and passion to preserve, protect and enhance the High Line Canal.



Harriet Crittenden LaMair
Executive Director

On the cover: New water quality berm in the Canal along Eisenhower Park. Photo courtesy of Evan Anderman.



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

ABOUT THE HIGH LINE CANAL

As one of the longest urban trails in the nation, the High Line Canal (Canal) has long been a cherished asset across our region, tying distinct communities across Colorado together. The Canal was built in the 1880s to deliver South Platte River water to settlers and farmers following the gold rush in 1859. More than a century later, the Canal has outlived its historic purpose as an irrigation utility and taken on a new life as a recreational and ecological resource.



HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY

ORIGINS OF THE HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

The High Line Canal Conservancy (Conservancy) is a nonprofit representing the passionate community dedicated to preserving the Canal. The Conservancy was founded in 2014 to provide leadership that reflects the public's commitment to the Canal's sustainable future. Working collaboratively with its partners, including Denver Water, as well as the local governmental jurisdictions and stormwater managers along the Canal's reach, the Conservancy's efforts will lead to a natural, more connected corridor with improved access, amenities and safety for all trail users.

THE EMERGING CANAL COLLABORATIVE

New life for the Canal demands a new management structure that will support the Canal's role as a 71-mile linear park and emerging function as a stormwater management system. A Memorandum of Understanding is currently being circulated for signatures from each partner that will formally launch the Canal Collaborative.

The Canal Collaborative will consist of three levels of engagement including a forum of elected officials, a leadership team of appointed staff and a series of technical advisory committees.

CANAL COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

- › Arapahoe County
- › Aurora
- › Cherry Hills Village
- › The City and County of Denver
- › Denver Water
- › Douglas County
- › Greenwood Village
- › Highlands Ranch Metro District
- › High Line Canal Conservancy
- › Littleton
- › Mile High Flood District
- › Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority
- › South Suburban Park and Recreation District



State of the Canal

Save the date: January 26, 2021

Canal Collaborative members are invited to attend the first annual State of the Canal to celebrate our progress and hear what lies ahead for 2022.

Stay tuned for more details.



CANAL PROGRAMS + INITIATIVES

WALK FOR THE CANAL 2021

From August 1 through October 10, the Conservancy hosted an impactful second Walk FOR the Canal - a 71-day event that encouraged Coloradans to get outside and active in support of the High Line Canal. This year, a few new features added to the success of the event, including a Bike FOR the Canal challenge and the option to participate in teams.

The Conservancy was also able to host an in-person kick-off event on Colorado Day, August 1, at the Conservancy's new office just steps from the Canal in Centennial. Over 200 attendees - including Canal enthusiasts of all ages and community leaders and representatives - enjoyed family-friendly activities and a parade of 71 Colorado flags representing each mile of the Canal.

Through Walk FOR the Canal and Bike FOR the Canal, the incredible fundraising efforts of the 300 participants and 27 teams helped raise more than \$246,000. We are grateful for the support of the Friedman Family Foundation, new and returning sponsors, participants and donors who went above and beyond to help make this year's Walk FOR the Canal a success.



Representatives from across the region gathered to celebrate the kick off of this year's Walk FOR the Canal, August 1

ENGAGEMENT

The Conservancy continues to raise awareness for the preservation and enhancement of the Canal through partnerships, events, on-Canal tabling, community events and presentations. Through a combination of virtual and in-person events this year, the Conservancy's staff and volunteers were able to participate in or host (as of October 31, 2021):

- > 43 Conservancy Events
- > 10 Community Events
- > 20 Presentations
- > 51 On-Canal Tabling Events



Community Event Highlight: Aurora, Oct 22

The Conservancy hosted a free community event on the High Line Canal with live art with Katy Casper, nature exploration with the Morrison Nature Center and a story walk with Aurora Public Library to celebrate new trail improvements in Aurora along the High Line Canal, while gathering further input from community members with over 45 surveys for future Canal improvements.

CANAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Conservancy recruited and trained 14 dedicated community members to serve as Canal Ambassadors in 2021. These community leaders helped build awareness of the Canal and deeply engage with the communities along the 71-mile reach.

In 2021, Ambassadors served as representatives out on the trail, at community events and within their own communities. And for the first time, experienced Ambassadors worked independently of staff, allowing the Conservancy to reach an even larger audience of trail users and stakeholders. This year, they accomplished the following:

- › Walk for the Canal outreach and marketing efforts through emails, word of mouth, placing signs on the Canal, fundraising and helping to execute the successful Walk for the Canal Kickoff event on August 1
- › Increased public awareness of Canal enhancements and our work during 8 community events, and over 25 tabling shifts at stewardship events and along the Canal
- › Input gathering on Canal Improvement Zone projects by supporting the collection of over 180 surveys in Littleton and Aurora
- › Increased trail safety by installing Share the Canal signs and sharing flyers
- › Helped the Conservancy gain a deeper understanding of the Canal user experience by reporting varied community use, safety concerns and improvement project updates occurring on the Canal.



Canal Ambassador, Melissa Menard

Interested in joining the CCC or becoming an Ambassador? Reach out to us at volunteer@highlinecanal.org for more information and upcoming training opportunities.

CANAL CONSERVATION CORPS



480
volunteers
engaged



9K
pounds
removed



175
trees
planted

The Conservancy officially launched the Canal Conservation Corps (CCC) this spring. The CCC harnesses the commitment of Canal community members, enabling and inspiring them to work together to raise awareness of the Canal, enhance the Canal's ecological health and elevate the level of care for the Canal. The program aims to continue to inspire community members to take action within their community and become stewards of the Canal through one-time volunteer opportunities as well as leadership roles.

CCC members who participate in training and commit 20+ hours annually become Corps Leaders. A total of 10 Corps Leaders assisted with this year's stewardship programs which included:

- › Weekly stewardship events: Leading volunteers at stewardship events such as trash, weed and brush removals
- › Site visits: Scouting along the Canal for potential trash cleanup opportunities
- › Fall tree planting events: Leading groups of 4-5 general volunteers to plant trees according to best practices

Next year, when the warmer months arrive once again, there will be new opportunities for interested general volunteers to sign up for events or for those interested in leadership positions to train as a Corps Leader.

Continue reading to learn more about the impacts of the Canal Conservation Corps through trash, brush and weed removals, as well as (new this year) tree planting programs.



Canal Conservation Corps Volunteers

Community Trash Removals

The Conservancy's Community Trash Removals program had its most impactful season to date. From April to September, the Conservancy led weekly trash cleanups at various locations along the Canal. The 2021 season concluded with:

- › 19 cleanups
- › 7,748 lbs. of trash removed from the Canal
- › 25.7 miles of the Canal cared for
- › 351 volunteer shifts

We look forward to growing the Community Trash Removal program in 2022 through corporate and group cleanups and increased volunteer signups.

Community Weed Removals

This summer, the Conservancy led four weed removals targeting non-native, invasive species that can crowd out natural vegetation and threaten the ecological integrity of the Canal's landscape. The three weed removals in Aurora targeted teasel, while the fourth weed removal targeted thistle in Douglas County. In both cases, volunteers clipped and bagged the seed heads of these two invasive species to prevent their spread across the Canal.

We look forward to continuing this program next year.

- › 25 volunteer shifts
- › 2.5 miles of the Canal cared for
- › 337 pounds of weeds removed



Community Trash Cleanup



Community Brush Removal

Community Brush Removals

In partnership with the local jurisdictions, South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) and Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA), the Conservancy led six brush removals this summer. The brush removals focused on clearing large collections of brush and debris to enhance the Canal's ecological function, keep stormwater flowing and reduce the risk of fire.

We look forward to continuing this program with our partners as the Canal transitions to green stormwater infrastructure. This program has accomplished the following:

- › 85 volunteer shifts
- › 3.2 miles of the Canal cared for
- › 88.5 cubic yards of brush removed

Independent Cleanups

The Independent Cleanup program continues to grow allowing for more areas of the Canal to be cared for and providing community members with resources to be environmental stewards on their own time. This program has accomplished the following:

- › 28 Independent Cleanups performed leading to a total of 147 volunteer hours completed
- › Engaged community members, organizations (such as Boy Scout troops, Boys Team Charity, church groups) and corporations
- › Removed 1,006 lbs. of trash from the Canal
- › Cared for an estimated 42 miles of the Canal

The program is a year-round program, allowing community members the flexibility to care for the Canal on their own schedule. Interested in participating on your own time? Visit highlinecanal.org/IndependentCleanups.

Tree Planting Program

As many of the cottonwoods that have defined the Canal corridor for over a century reach the end of their lifespan and become increasingly stressed by low water availability, the Conservancy raised funds to plant 175 trees along the Canal. This fall, volunteers helped plant these trees, representing the largest tree planting effort on the High Line Canal since 1990. The plantings consist of both xeric (drought-tolerant) and native trees. The Conservancy has raised funds to water the newly planted trees for three years and will evaluate additional watering needs at that time.

This program has accomplished the following:

- › 211 volunteer shifts
- › 75 trees planted in Denver
- › 50 trees planted in Littleton
- › 50 trees planted in Centennial

EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Walk FOR the Canal Community Walks

The Conservancy led themed walks along the Canal to raise awareness for Walk FOR the Canal between August and October. Themes were centered around Canal projects, wildfire risk and mitigation, Canal flora and fauna, nature connection and more.

- › 47 total walkers
- › 6 walks
- › 24 miles covered in total

Educational Programs

The Conservancy, in partnership with Denver Water, Walk2Connect, Denver Audubon and The Park People hosted various virtual and in-person educational opportunities for specific groups, as well as members of the public. These opportunities included: higher learning opportunities for Denver Public School educators, Walking Movement Leader training, Wildscaping 101 landscaping and tree planting training.



Volunteer Tree Planting

2021 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AT-A-GLANCE

Several critical improvement projects will be culminating in 2021, including the completion of three much-anticipated underpasses. This year also marks the first year that the Conservancy will be funding improvement projects in partnership with the local governments, marking an important new phase for this public-private partnership.

2021 DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following projects are underway with varying timelines for completion.



ACCESS

- 2 pedestrian bridges
- 2 trailheads



CONNECTIVITY

- 4 underpasses
- 1 overpass
- 1 trail gap connection
- 2 enhanced at-grade crossings



SIGNAGE

- New mile markers
- 168 wayfinding signs



LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

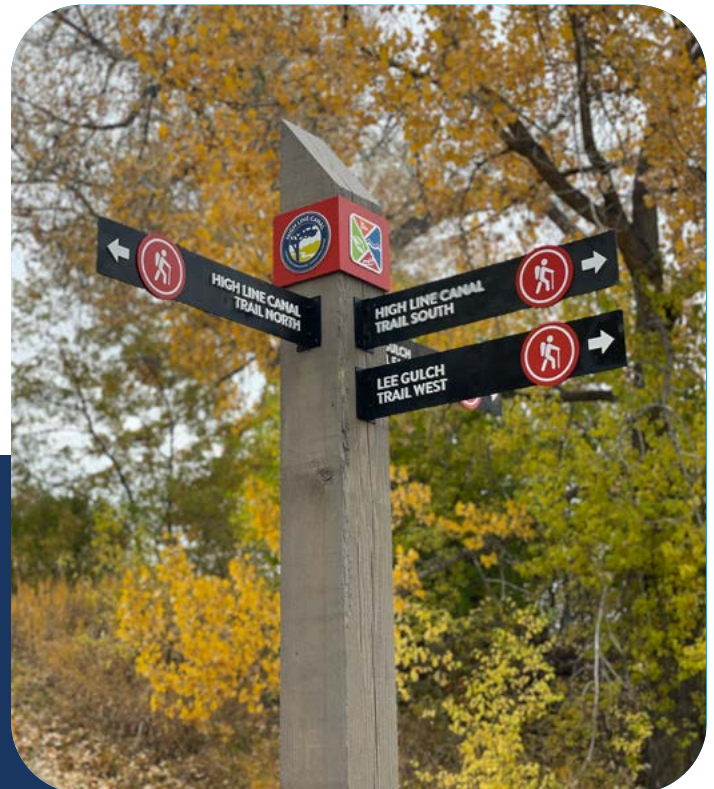
- 225 new trees









STORMWATER

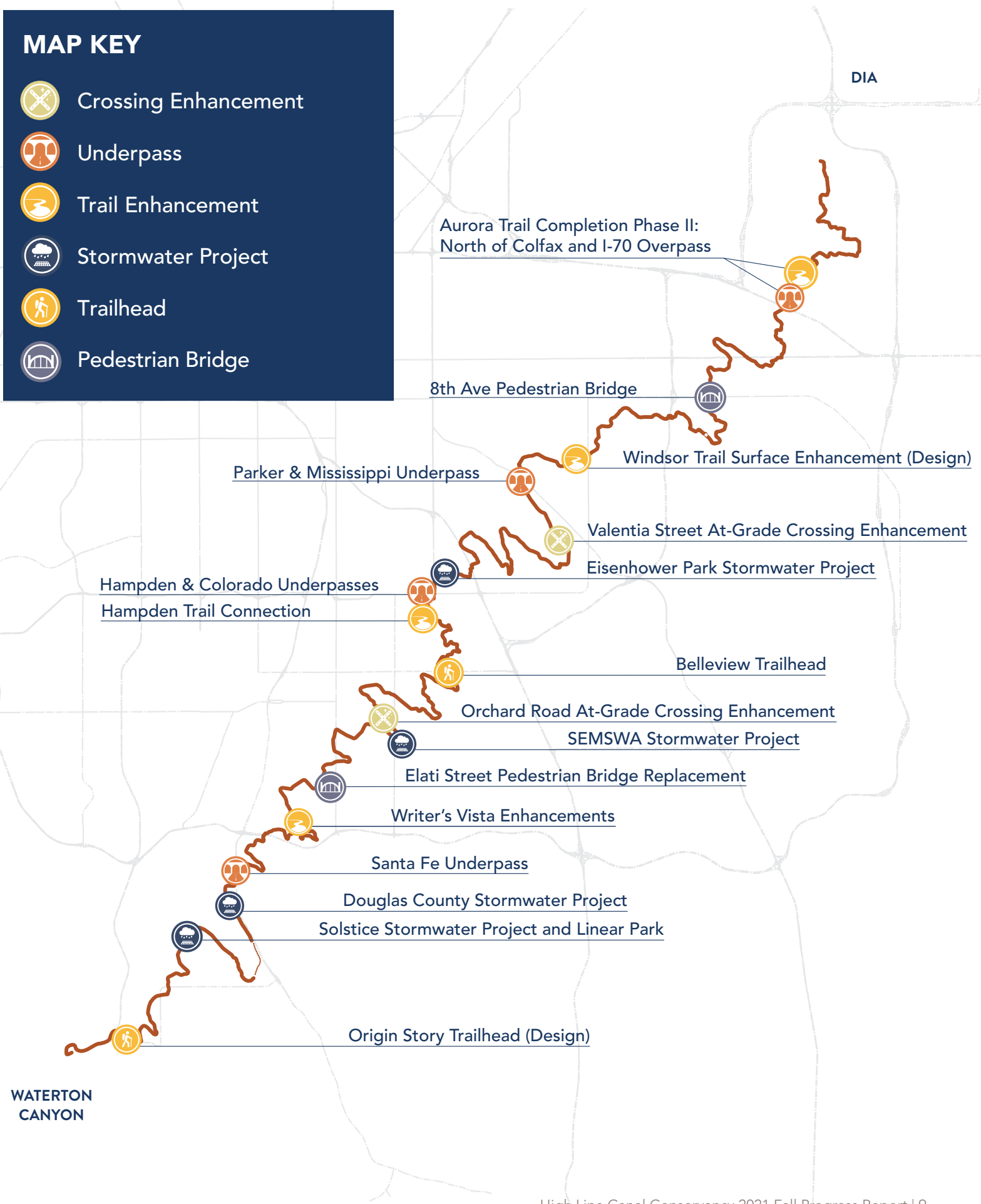
- 4 stormwater projects

In collaboration with the local jurisdictions, installation of 168 new wayfinding signs has begun. These signs increase accessibility, navigation and connectivity of the Canal across all 71 miles.



MAP KEY

-  Crossing Enhancement
-  Underpass
-  Trail Enhancement
-  Stormwater Project
-  Trailhead
-  Pedestrian Bridge



WATERTON
CANYON

COMPLETED PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Hampden and Colorado Underpasses

The City of Denver, Arapahoe County and Cherry Hills Village have come together to create a safe connection where there had been a significant gap in the Canal trail. Two underpasses have been installed, one at Hampden Ave. and one at Colorado Blvd., in addition to a ¼ mile stretch of trail connecting the two, bridging a gap in the trail where the Canal runs through Wellshire golf course. These underpasses have significantly improved the safety of crossing this challenging intersection and better connected Cherry Hills Village and Denver. The underpasses opened to the public in the beginning of June.

- › Location: S. Colorado Blvd. and E. Hampden Ave.
- › Status: Completed June 2021
- › Cost: \$5.4M, with \$4.32M coming from Federal Sources and \$1.08M coming from the City and County of Denver, Cherry Hills Village and Arapahoe County

Greenwood Village Tree Planting Pilot

The City of Greenwood Village planted trees along the Canal, reinvigorating the tree canopy and enhancing the Canal's ecological health. Greenwood Village planted 50 trees in June, planting two varieties of Cottonwood, Boxelder, Hackberry, Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Kentucky Coffeetree, Mesa Glow Maple and Catalpa. Greenwood Village intends to plant 250 trees along the Canal over five years, implementing a critical landscape enhancement recommended in The Plan.

- › Location: Throughout the Canal in Greenwood Village
- › Status: Completed June 2021
- › Funding: The City of Greenwood Village funded tree planting and continues to fund supplemental watering as the trees establish



Bellevue Trailhead

The City of Greenwood Village completed a trailhead off Bellevue Ave near the Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve at 4200 E. Bellevue Ave. This trailhead provides access to the preserve and the High Line Canal trail and includes a restroom for trail users.

- › Location: Bellevue Ave just west of the High Line Canal
- › Status: Trailhead opened in July 2021
- › Funding: Greenwood Village funded improvements to the trailhead and acquisition was supported by Greenwood Village and Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Conservancy Tree Planting Pilots

The Conservancy raised funds to plant 175 trees along the Canal in 2021, 75 in Denver, 50 in Centennial and 50 in Littleton. These trees were planted in September and October by the Conservancy with the support of volunteers. The Conservancy primarily planted xeric, drought tolerant trees including Bur Oak, Catalpa, Chinkapin Oak, Hackberry, Honeylocust, Kentucky Coffeetree and Shumard Oak. The Conservancy also piloted the planting of native, riparian trees including Plains Cottonwood and Boxelder in locations closer to the channel where the tree will be supported by stormwater. The Conservancy will water these trees for three years and these reaches of the Canal will see watering trucks driving the Canal every 1-2 weeks throughout the year.

- › Location: Denver, Centennial and Littleton
- › Status: Completed in October of 2021
- › Funding: The Conservancy raised funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (Denver), the City of Centennial (Centennial) and an anonymous foundation (Littleton) to plant and water trees, for a total budget of \$175,000 over three years



ACTIVE PROJECTS

Signage and Wayfinding

In 2020, Aurora was the first jurisdiction to install portions of the newly designed High Line Canal sign package. Currently, installation has begun on 168 wayfinding signs that will be installed across the Canal to build awareness, improve access and connect users to new parts of the trail. These new signs will include crossing signs that identify street crossings, wayfinding signs to help connect to destinations along the trail and kiosks with maps to help orient users and inform them about rules of the trail.

- › Location: Canal-wide
- › Status: Fabrication underway. Phased installation of signs began in October 2021.
- › Funding: Each jurisdiction along the Canal will be funding part of their sign package, with Arapahoe County Open Space and the High Line Canal Conservancy providing matching funds. The total project cost for this phase of signage is \$506,332.

Parker and Mississippi Underpass

In partnership with Arapahoe County, The City and County of Denver is constructing an underpass at the busy intersection of Parker and Mississippi. Construction began in November 2020 and is anticipated to be completed this year. The High Line Canal trail is closed from Parker Road north to the edge of Fairmount Cemetery and a trail detour is in place. [Click here to learn more.](#)

- › Location: E. Mississippi Ave. and S. Parker Road
- › Status: Construction started in November 2020 and is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2022
- › Funding: \$3.2M FASTER Federal Funds, \$1.75M from the City and County of Denver, and \$1.75M from Arapahoe County



High Line Canal Wayfinding Signage

Eisenhower Park Stormwater Project

The Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) has nearly completed implementation of an innovative stormwater project in the Canal from Hampden Ave to I-25, including along Eisenhower Park and Wellshire Golf Course. The project includes three water quality berms in the Canal to manage the flow of water, four forebays to clean water before it reaches the Canal and two underground water quality vaults to remove trash and sediment. Construction will be completed this year. [Click here to learn more.](#)

- › Location: 1.5 miles of the Canal from Hampden Ave to I-25, including Eisenhower Park
- › Status: Construction started in March and will be completed in the fall of 2021
- › Funding: \$1,050,000 from Denver DOTI

Centennial Stormwater Project

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) has implemented a stormwater project in the Canal in the City of Centennial from Marion Street to Big Dry Creek. The project was initiated by redevelopment of a nearby school whose stormwater discharges into an existing Canal outfall. SEMSWA has taken over maintenance of the Canal channel for this 1.5 mile reach.

- › Location: 1.5 miles of the Canal from Marion Street to Big Dry Creek
- › Status: Construction at the school is still underway but SEMSWA has begun maintenance of this reach



Eisenhower Stormwater Project

Santa Fe Drive/U.S. 85 Stormwater Project

Douglas County recently signed a license agreement with Denver Water to formalize stormwater discharging from Santa Fe Drive into the Canal at Spring Gulch. As part of Douglas County and the Colorado Department of Transportation's highway improvement project planned for Santa Fe Drive, an opportunity arose for the County to execute an agreement with Denver Water that formalizes the use of the Canal to convey existing stormwater from U.S. Highway 85. Stormwater runoff from the proposed highway improvement project will be pretreated before being discharged through an existing 72-inch storm sewer pipe that flows into the Canal. Douglas County is now responsible for maintaining and managing this portion of Canal to ensure safe passage of stormwater.

- › Location: 1.5 miles of the Canal from Spring Gulch to Marcy Gulch
- › Status: Agreement was implemented in summer 2021

Solstice Stormwater Project and Linear Park

Solstice is a new residential development in Douglas County just south of Chatfield State Park. The Canal runs through the development and the developer has pulled back the banks of the Canal to convey stormwater and installed new stormwater outfalls. The developer is featuring the Canal at the center of the development, incorporating the Canal corridor into a 37-acre linear park that will expand the size of the open space on either side of the Canal. The developer has planted trees to reestablish vegetation in the area, leveraging the additional stormwater that will make its way to the Canal. Construction of the stormwater infrastructure has been completed and while construction of the linear park is still in progress, the High Line Canal trail is open to the public.

- › Location: 3 miles from west of Roxborough Park Road to Plum Creek
- › Status: Construction of the linear park is still in progress but the High Line Canal trail is open to the public
- › Funding: The project is funded by the developer and the Canal will be cared for in this reach by the newly formed Mirabelle Metro District

Laredo Highline Access and Awareness Improvements

The Conservancy is partnering with the City of Aurora and Arapahoe County Open Spaces to construct a pedestrian bridge, install signage and place natural elements along the Canal in the Laredo Highline neighborhood of Aurora between 6th Ave and Colfax Ave. The pedestrian bridge will be located where 8th Ave meets the Canal and additional improvements are being installed throughout the neighborhood. Signage and natural elements have been installed and the new bridge will be installed in 2022.

- › Location: High Line Canal from 6th Ave to Colfax Ave
- › Status: Design underway, bridge installation anticipated in 2022
- › Funding Partners: The Conservancy has raised funds for this project from The Colorado Health Foundation (\$180,000) and Aurora has secured a match from Arapahoe County Open Spaces (\$180,000)



UPCOMING PROJECTS

Underpass Feasibility Study and 30% Design

Arapahoe County is leading the study and design of all seven additional underpasses recommended in The Plan for the High Line Canal. This effort will determine the feasibility of underpasses in these locations and, if determined to be feasible, advance a 30% design to better understand potential costs. Many of the recent underpass projects have secured federal funding to implement these high-cost improvements and underpasses determined to be feasible through this study could be positioned for federal funding applications in 2022. While Arapahoe County has hired the consulting team, local jurisdictions have been invited to participate in the project team including Littleton, Centennial, SSPRD, Denver, Aurora and Adams County.

- › Location: High Line Canal and Broadway (at Arapahoe and at Caley), Quebec, Havana, Sable and Colfax (crossings #1 and #2)
- › Status: Feasibility assessment has begun, design will advance to 30% for underpasses determined to be feasible
- › Funding Partners: Arapahoe County is funding the design with \$1.4 million allocated. Moving forward, an underpass for a federal funding application would require partnered funding for implementation.

Aurora Trail Completion Phase II: North of Colfax and I-70 Grade-Separated Crossing

The City of Aurora is working to construct 3 miles of trail connecting the longest gap along the Canal corridor. The project is being implemented in two phases with phase 1 completed in October 2020. Phase 1 included construction of over 1 mile of trail from just north of I-70 to the border with Denver in the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood plus the installation of new signage. Design has begun on the second phase, which will include a grade-separated crossing at I-70 and trail connection to Colfax to the south. Aurora will be generating

public input on this project from November 8th to December 10th. To participate in their virtual open house or learn more about the project [click here](#).

- › Location: High Line Canal from Colfax to Denver/the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood
- › Status: Northern half completed, southern half currently in design with construction anticipated to begin in 2022
- › Funding Partners: Conservation Trust Fund, Adams County Open Space Grant, Adams County Open Space Tax Shareback, Federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The total project cost is currently \$4,850,000.



Proposed Trail Alignment from Colfax to I-70

Enhanced Trail Surface Design and Engineering

The City and County of Denver and Arapahoe County Open Spaces have begun the process of designing and engineering an enhanced trail surface. The Plan for the High Line Canal proposes a divided trail surface, providing a concrete trail and a gravel side path that will help to separate users and improve trail safety. Design and engineering work will cover much of Denver and Unincorporated Arapahoe County, but implementation will begin in the Windsor neighborhood of East Denver, with trail surface enhancement anticipated to begin in 2023.

- › Location: Design of the Canal trail from Colorado Blvd to Havana St with implementation prioritized for Parker Rd to Havana
- › Status: Funded, design underway
- › Funding Partners: The Conservancy and Arapahoe County Open Spaces are funding the trail surface design

Yale and Holly Underpass Design

The City and County of Denver, in partnership with Arapahoe County, is advancing designs of an underpass at the challenging intersection of Yale Ave and Holly St at the border of Denver and Unincorporated Arapahoe County. Initial funding for this project was secured in Denver's 2017 General Obligation Bond and the design process is working to refine the projected costs for the project.

- › Location: High Line Canal at the intersection of Yale Ave and Holly St
- › Status: Initial funding secured, design underway
- › Funding Partners: \$3.7 million secured in Denver's 2017 General Obligation Bond

Orchard Road Crossing Enhancements

The Cities of Greenwood Village and Centennial continue their work to improve the safety of this Canal crossing by installing pedestrian bump outs. These curb extensions will widen the sidewalk on either side of Orchard Road to improve sight lines and shorten the crossing distance for trail users. Greenwood Village and Centennial have secured funding from Arapahoe County Open Spaces.

- › Location: High Line Canal and Orchard Road, west of University Blvd
- › Status: Project funded, currently in design
- › Funding: Greenwood Village, Centennial and Arapahoe County Open Spaces are funding the project. Total project cost is \$150,000

Littleton Neighborhood Canal Improvements



The Conservancy, South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD) and Arapahoe County Open Spaces are partnering on the design of a series of improvement projects. These projects include the replacement of the Elati Street Pedestrian Bridge, the development of a trailhead off of Dry Creek Ct, construction of amenities and installation of interpretive signage. The Conservancy has initiated a community engagement process with the support of SSPRD to design these improvements and engage neighbors in the planting of 50 trees in this section of the Canal.

- › Location: Littleton
- › Status: Project funded, design underway
- › Funding Partners: The Conservancy has raised funds from an anonymous foundation to partner with SSPRD and Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Writers Vista Park Enhancements

South Suburban Park and Recreation District has secured funding from Arapahoe County Open Spaces to update the restrooms and picnic shelter at Writers Vista Park. Writers Vista serves as a critical trailhead and access point for the High Line Canal and these enhancements will provide valuable facilities for Canal users.

- › Location: Writers Vista Park
- › Status: Project funded. Improvements anticipated in 2022
- › Cost: The project is funded with \$100,000 from SSPRD, \$100,000 from the City of Littleton and \$410,775 from Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Santa Fe Drive/Highway 85 Crossing

As part of the Santa Fe Drive/Highway 85 improvements between C-470 and Highlands Ranch Parkway, a High Line Canal pedestrian underpass is being planned and funded by CDOT and Douglas County. The pedestrian crossing is estimated at \$3.5 million and is anticipated to start as early as Spring of 2022.

- › Location: S. Santa Fe Drive and the High Line Canal
- › Status: Design underway. Construction scheduled to begin in Spring of 2022
- › Funding: Estimated at \$3.5 million

High Line Canal Origin Trailhead Design

Douglas County and the Conservancy are partnering to design enhancements to The High Line Canal Origin Trailhead, located along Waterton Rd near the start of the Canal. A design process will begin in Q4, working to prioritize amenities that formalize the small parking area and identify opportunities to improve connectivity between the trailhead and the start of the trail in Waterton Canyon. This trailhead is intended to be an interpretive hub, educating trail users about the Canal's unique history and connection to water in the West.

- › Location: Waterton Rd and the High Line Canal, where the Canal emerges from Waterton Canyon
- › Status: Design to begin in Q4
- › Funding: Design funds raised by the Conservancy through the South Suburban Park Foundation and partnered with funds from Douglas County



The High Line Canal near Santa Fe Drive; Photo courtesy of Evan Anderman

MEDIA/PRESS

RECENT MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- › Stormwater Magazine: "[A new Life for Denver's Historic Irrigation Ditch](#)," May 2021
- › CBS 4: "[Aurora's New Stretch Of High Line Canal Trail Gives Better Access To More Communities](#)," August 20, 2021
- › CBS 4: "[Cyclists Celebrate New Underpasses Along High Line Canal Trail](#)," September 3, 2021
- › CBS 4: "[High Line Canal Helps mitigate Heat Island Conditions In Denver Metro Area](#)," October 15, 2021
- › Landscape Architecture Magazine: "The Reinvention of an Irrigation Canal East of Denver Shows off the Region's Diversity," November 2021
- › Denver Water TAP: "[New projects take shape along High Line Canal; Denver Water pledges \\$10M to long-term care of the historic canal](#)," November 6, 2021

Looking for content in your newsletter? Email us at hello@highlinecanal.org. Interested in sharing more about the story of the transformation of the Canal with your neighbors? [Click here to request a presentation from the Conservancy.](#)

Social media

The Conservancy continues to see steady growth in both audience and engagement across all social media platforms. Analytics to date:

- › Facebook followers: 2,447
- › Instagram followers: 2,194
- › Twitter followers: 975

FUNDRAISING/DEVELOPMENT

HIGH LINE HERO MEMBERSHIP

Our High Line Hero membership base continues to grow. There are over 2,550 High Line Heroes from across the region. There's no better time to join or renew as a member. Visit joinhighlinecanal.org.



CONSERVANCY STAFF

Harriet Crittenden LaMair
– Executive Director

Suzanna Fry Jones
– Senior Director of Programs and Partnerships

Lindsay Moery
– Director of Development

Josh Phillips
– Director of Planning and Implementation

Connie Brown, part-time
– Community Relations and Development Specialist

Chip Brunk, part-time
– Finance Manager

Julia Clover Clark ***NEW***
– Natural Resources Manager

Amy Klein ***NEW***
– Associate Director of Development

Elise Martinez
– Community Outreach and Programs Coordinator

Cathy McCague, part-time
– STEP Program Manager

Breana Winters
– Operations and Programs Manager

We are thrilled to welcome Julia and Amy to our team. Learn more about them by visiting: highlinecanal.org/about-hlcc.



LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marty Zeller **Vice Chair**, *Conservation Partners*
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Karl Friedman *Friedman Family Foundation*
Tom Gart *The Gart Companies*
Craig Jones *The Colony Group, Denver Water Board*
Mike Rosser *Ret. Mortgage Banking Executive*
Jason Swann *Western Lands Policy Analyst*
Josh Tenneson *Great Outdoors Colorado*
Kathy Tyree *Community Leader*
Tom Waymire *High Line Canal Preservation Association*
Suzanne White *Community Leader*
Kendra Black *Ex Officio, City & County of Denver Council*
Nina Beardsley Itin *Ex Officio, Community Leader*
Nancy Sharpe *Ex Officio, Arapahoe County Commissioner*
Harriet Crittenden LaMair *Ex Officio, Ex. Dir. HLCC*

CANAL COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Shannon Carter

AURORA

Tracy Young

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

Chris Cramer

DENVER

Mark Tabor

DENVER WATER

Tom Roode

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Matt Williams

GREENWOOD VILLAGE

Suzanne Moore

HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

Harriet Crittenden LaMair

HIGHLANDS RANCH

Tammy Tucker

LITTLETON

Kathleen Osher

MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT

Jon Villines

SOUTHEAST METRO

STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Paul Danley

SSPRD

Rob Hanna



High Line Canal Conservancy staff with their Walk FOR the Canal bandanas



HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY

Upcoming Happenings

Volunteer Appreciation Evening

December 8, 5-5:30 pm via Zoom
Email volunteer@highlinecanal.org for more information.

Conservancy Open House

First Thursday of every month at 4 pm at the Conservancy's office. Join us to ask about any Canal-related questions you have.

Stay informed

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 highlinecanal.org

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