High Line Canal
An extraordinary feat of engineering now nearly 140 years old, the 71-mile-long Canal is outliving its historic function as an irrigation utility and has taken on new life as a recreational resource and green stormwater infrastructure. As the Canal transitions from its historic purpose, the High Line Canal Conservancy (Conservancy) is faced with an urgent need to move forward critical enhancements and stewardship that bolster community resiliency and environmental health.

High Line Canal Conservancy
The Conservancy is a nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve, protect and enhance the High Line Canal in partnership with the public. Since its formation in 2014, the Conservancy has partnered with the Canal’s owner, Denver Water, and the 11 jurisdictions it traverses to lead an unprecedented outreach and planning initiative that has led to the current focus to improve the Canal through capital projects and community programs. With engagement from over 5,000 stakeholders and invaluable initial support from GOCO, the Conservancy created the nationally award-winning Community Vision Plan for the High Line Canal (The Vision Plan, 2017) and The Plan for the High Line Canal (The Plan, 2019).

In order to implement relevant enhancements and foster community-driven programs, the Conservancy is committed to developing a deeper level of engagement within the communities along the northeast portion of the trail in NE Denver and Aurora where the Canal is underutilized and, historically, has lacked investment in the corridor. With funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) through their Resilient Communities program, the Conservancy has the opportunity to improve community vitality, advance equitable access and increase stewardship of the Canal in this challenging yet urgent time.

The Conservancy’s stewardship programs are powered by the Canal Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC is made up of trained youth and adult Corps Leaders, as well as individual and group volunteers. In volunteering for an event with the Conservancy, you automatically become a part of the Canal Conservation Corps. The CCC aims to harnesses the commitment of community members from across the region, enabling and inspiring them to work together to enhance the Canal’s ecological health and future vitality.

Types of Stewardship Programs
1. Trash cleanups to improve habitat and waterways
2. Weed removals to mitigate invasive weeds and promote native vegetation
3. Brush removals to reduce fire and flood risk
4. Tree plantings to help revitalize the tree canopy and enhance the ecological health of the Canal

Learn more about the Canal and the Conservancy at www.highlinecanal.org.
Work Desired

A Canal Conservation Corps Leader (Corps Leader) will work with Conservancy staff, partners, volunteers, and community members to support our on-the-ground programs and events focused on stewardship of the Canal.

Stewardship Programs

- Assist and support staff at stewardship-focused volunteer events along the Canal, such as trash cleanups, weed removals, brush removals and tree plantings.
  
  With adequate training, Corps Leaders are able to lead stewardship events independently with Conservancy staff approval and if desired by the Corps Leader.
- Help with day-of stewardship event tasks such as: Setting up and breaking down events, taking photos, checking in volunteers and collecting waivers, distributing and managing tools and supplies, overseeing participants, assisting with trash and debris collection, ensuring safety of volunteers and giving an environmental/safety talk at the start of each event.
- Conduct site assessments to analyze segments of the Canal for potential stewardship projects and report findings to the Community Outreach and Programs Coordinator such as parking locations and trail accessibility.
- Promote stewardship events by posting flyers and placing Conservancy signs by locations near events and/or by sharing event details via social media outlets such as Next Door, Facebook, local HOA newsletters, etc.
- Observe sections of the Canal to monitor the status of the trail and corridor for stormwater flow, trash and debris accumulation, trail safety, and/or plant and wildlife habitat.
- Share information with volunteers, trail users and passerby about the purpose and benefits of each stewardship event, as well as how to get involved in future volunteer events.
- Sign community service hours form for volunteers requesting community service hours

Programs and Event Administration

- Meet in-person or virtually with Conservancy staff, volunteers and other partners as needed to coordinate logistics for programs and events.
- Complete errands, such as picking up and dropping off stewardship supplies and snacks and sanitizing stewardship supplies (vests, gloves, and pickers) (optional).
- Assist with distributing supplies for Independent Cleanup volunteers (optional).

Qualifications

- Demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to the long-term mission and value of the Conservancy
- A passion for connecting people in diverse communities to nature and to each other
- Excellent communication skills and desire to work alongside other community members
- Available to work during evenings and weekends as needed
- Availability to commit a minimum of 20 hours per year
- Must complete Corps Leader and Canal Ambassador Orientation and the Corps Leader Training
- Must display a strong understanding of Conservancy safety protocols for all stewardship events and be comfortable conveying this information to volunteers.

Application Instructions

Please complete this online Corps Leader Contract Work Application.

Application Deadline: None