



HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

Connecting Communities—Connecting Nature
from the foothills to the plains

Community Engagement Intern for the High Line Canal Denver/Aurora May 2023

Title: Community Engagement Intern
Duration: June – December 2023
Work Days: Part-time, 20 – 24 hours/week
Compensation: \$18 - \$20/hour

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).

The Plan lays out clear guidance for re-purposing the historic Canal, improving the health of people and the environment, and increasing accessibility and enjoyment for generations to come. With over 100 recommended projects, The Plan is guiding the work of the Conservancy and the local governments along the Canal to prioritize work in under-resourced neighborhoods with less access to quality park space. In support of this work, the Conservancy also leads a series of volunteer, stewardship and environmental education programs that support the development of young and diverse environmental leaders with over 1000 unique participants to date.

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 initial funding from Great Outdoors Colorado ([GOCO](#)) [through their Resilient Communities program](#), the Conservancy continues to improve community vitality, advance equitable access and increase stewardship of the Canal in this challenging yet urgent time.

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

Position Summary

This position provides the opportunity to work with the Conservancy staff, volunteers, youth ambassadors and community members to support trail stewardship and community engagement grounded in accessibility and inclusivity. The Community Engagement Intern (Intern) will assist with executing on-the-ground community programs throughout the year, including recreational, educational and stewardship programs. This involves both outdoor work as well as administrative work in the office. The Intern will report to the Community and Programs Manager and work closely with the Programs Coordinator.

Stewardship Programs

- Engage the Northeast communities in improving the health and biodiversity of their surrounding environment through trash, weed and brush removal projects
- Work with community partners, such as Environmental Learning for Kids, to complete trail stewardship projects
- Assist with event preparation and set-up, distribute tools and supplies to volunteers, and collect volunteer waivers
- Support volunteers and staff during each stewardship event
- Assist with event breakdown, collect and organize tools, supplies and paperwork

Community Outreach and Engagement Programs

- Support recreational and educational community programs along the Canal, such as community walks
- Engage with community members through environmental education and citizen-science programs, such as Bioblitzes
- Set up a table at multiple locations along the Canal to engage with Canal users and the local community
- Participate in jurisdictional events to engage with NE Canal communities and share our work
- Assist with outreach at private and public community events to connect with community members, share project and program updates, and recruit supporters and volunteers
- Recruit community members to participate in all programs and provide input for trail projects
- Disseminate trail use and enhancements surveys
- Distribute flyers and signs as needed to promote events or Canal happenings

Program Administration

- Data entry to track volunteer and participant registration, attendance and event participation in Raiser's Edge database and Excel
- Help track projects using Asana project management software
- Prepare stewardship and outreach supply bins before events and tabling shifts
- Purchase and pick up event food and supplies as needed

Qualifications

- A member of a Northeast Denver or North Aurora community, or deeply connected to these communities
- A passion for connecting people in diverse communities to nature and to each other
- Fluent Spanish speaker highly preferred
- A High school diploma; plus an educational focus or 2+ years of work experience in environmental education, community development, diversity and inclusion, communications, and/or planning strongly desired
- An understanding of or desire to learn about the importance of community involvement in designing and enhancing public open spaces
- Demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to the long-term mission and value of the Conservancy



- Adaptable and demonstrates a willingness to be flexible, versatile and/or tolerant in a changing work environment while maintaining effectiveness and efficiency
- Ability to work independently and cooperatively with colleagues in a small-team environment, to anticipate and solve problems
- Self-motivated and highly organized with tremendous attention to detail and an ability to multi-task
- Excellent communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook
- An interest in conservation and/or the outdoors is a plus
- Available to work during evenings and weekends as needed

Application Instructions

Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply by sending a resume and cover letter addressing the applicant's interest in and qualifications for the position. Please send both documents as one PDF attachment in an email to employment@highlinecanal.org. No phone calls, please.

Application Deadline: Until filled

The Conservancy is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity for all employees, applicants, volunteers, program and event participants, trail users and visitors, partners, and other organizational stakeholders. We prohibit unlawful discrimination and harassment based on age, race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, disability, military status, genetic information, native language, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, gender, veteran status, political service, and affiliation or any other status protected by applicable state or local law. This prohibition includes unlawful harassment based on any of these protected classes.

Unlawful harassment includes verbal or physical conduct which has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. This policy applies to all employees, including managers, supervisors, co-workers and non-employees such as customers, clients, vendors, consultants, etc.

