



HIGH LINE CANAL

CONSERVANCY

Connecting Communities – Connecting Nature
From the Foothills to the Plains



PROGRESS REPORT | SPRING 2024

Hello Partners and Friends of the Canal,

It is with great excitement that we bring you this High Line Canal Progress Report – a biannual report sharing the collective progress we’ve achieved together, as well as what’s ahead.

The recent launch on March 15 of the community phase of the Conservancy’s \$33M capital campaign, Great Lengths for the High Line, exemplifies both this progress and exceptional future for the Canal. The Great Lengths campaign is an unprecedented effort to improve all 71 miles of the High Line Canal, preserving, protecting, and enhancing it for today and generations to come. The Great Lengths campaign is leveraging local and federal funding for a total investment into the Canal of \$100 million over five years. To learn more about the campaign please visit highlinecanal.org/great-lengths/ and help us spread the word.

Equity and access continue to be key pillars of our work; and in a significant leap toward this goal, the Conservancy, in partnership with City and County of Denver, City of Aurora and Arapahoe County, received a \$7M award from GOCO earlier this year to support projects along the northernmost 28 miles of the Canal. This impactful funding from GOCO puts the Conservancy within \$1 million of completing the Great Lengths campaign and will ensure we meet our goal of connect people to nature and improving the environmental health along all reaches of the Canal.

In addition to this momentous effort, we forge on with our ongoing efforts to plan new amenities, offer free stewardship and recreational programming for all, host events, and work toward permanent protection of our beloved Canal.

Thank you for joining us on this journey and supporting the Canal.

Harriet Crittenden LaMair
Executive Director



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 in tandem with all partners in the Canal Collaborative, the Conservancy’s efforts will lead to a natural, more connected corridor with improved access, amenities and safety for all trail users.

THE 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. The Canal Collaborative regional management structure brings these partners together to do more for the Canal than any one entity could do alone. The Canal Collaborative consists of three levels of engagement including a forum of elected officials, a leadership team of appointed staff and a series of technical advisory committees. The Canal Collaborative members are:

- › 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





GREAT LENGTHS FOR THE HIGH LINE

Connecting communities, people, and nature, the High Line Canal is a respite in an urban landscape and an irreplaceable amenity enjoyed by the people of Colorado every day. Great Lengths for the High Line is an unprecedented campaign to reimagine the historic Canal as one of the nation's premier linear parks – and you can be part of it.

More than one million users enjoy the High Line Canal each year; it's truly a Park for All. We invite you to support this ambitious campaign to make it a Park for Always.

This grassroots campaign for the High Line Canal Conservancy will raise \$1 million between March and June of 2024. In combination with grants and public funds, this \$1 million is the final stretch to reach an overall \$33 million fundraising goal.

With these funds the Canal will become a park for always. Specially, these great lengths will:

- PROTECT**
the 71 mile, 860 acre natural corridor
- CONNECT**
more than 24 schools and hundreds of neighborhoods to 8,000+ acres of adjacent parks
- TRANSFORM**
a historic irrigation ditch into a world-class park for all
- REVITALIZE**
the existing 24,000+ tree canopy with 3,500 new trees
- PRESERVE**
the High Line Canal's 860 acres as the centerpiece of our region's park system.

"When people connect with nature, it happens somewhere. Almost everyone who cares deeply about the outdoors can identify a particular place where the first contact occurred- a vast wilderness, a national park, or a stretch of unbounded countryside. But more often that place is not grand -- but a vacant lot, scruffy field or simply a ditch. For millions of people the high line canal will be that place."

SUMMER SCAMPER

When: June 26, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Where: Bible Park

Our incredible community event, Summer Scamper 5K for All, returns to Bible Park this year on June 26, 2024. This fun, family-friendly, all abilities event encourages the diverse High Line Canal community to get outside and get moving. It brings together communities from throughout the Denver metro area while promoting health and wellness by connecting people to each other and to nature.

Come experience the benefits of time on the Canal while immersed in the beauty of nature. It is shown to improve physical and mental health and can be fun for families, teams of employees, neighbors and friends who will enjoy a festival-like setting with food and beverage after crossing the finish line. Our 2024 fundraising goal is \$100,000. Our registration is open now and we are still accepting sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring our event, please reach out to Jennifer Purdum at jennifer@highlinecanal.org for sponsorships. To register to participate, or promote your brand through in-kind donations or booth presence, contact Emma Jacobs at emma@highlinecanal.org.

Summer Scamper 5K for All 2023
Total Attendees: 500+
Total Funds Raised: \$70,000



DINE FOR THE HIGH LINE

When: September 20, 2024
Where: Community College of Aurora - CentreTech Campus

This year's Dine for the High Line event will be held at the Community College of Aurora, CentreTech Campus, on September 20, 2024. It is a nod to the diversity of the Canal's one million annual users in addition to the priority infrastructure projects underway in the Northeast corridor that will strengthen the health of the Canal and the broader community.

The event includes a cocktail hour followed by catered dinner, program and dessert. It is a beautiful way to show support for the High Line Canal and join a group of community members in a noble effort to bring the Canal from its irrigation origins to its new life as a cherished community greenway and economic asset that will serve as a treasured resource for generations of Coloradans.

If you would like to help us meet our fundraising goals by sponsoring our event or making an introduction, please reach out to Jennifer Purdum at jennifer@highlinecanal.org. Our 2024 fundraising goal is \$300,000. For photos from last year's event as well as a list of our sponsors and 2024 Sponsorship Packet, please visit highlinecanal.org/dine. Tickets will go on sale this summer.

Dine for the High Line 2023
Total Attendees: 385
Total Funds Raised: \$280,000

NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION

As part of a comprehensive, long-term plan to strengthen the environmental health and resilience of the Canal, the Conservancy and Canal Collaborative partners are working together to restore, maintain, and enhance the corridor. The Conservancy and Denver Water are working on a concerted effort to address high-priority natural resource maintenance needs over the next two years.

This concerted effort will improve trail user experience and environmental health by pruning and removing hazardous and dying trees, mitigating potential impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer, clearing debris from the Canal channel and removing invasive trees.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

The Canal is in a time of transition as the primary function of the channel shifts from irrigation delivery to green stormwater infrastructure. With stormwater flowing in the Canal, the buildup of brush and debris can create a flood risk when large accumulations collect in the channel.

Debris can also create standing pools of water in the Canal channel, providing habitat for mosquitos to breed. To address these concerns, crews will be removing and hauling away large woody debris from the Canal channel.



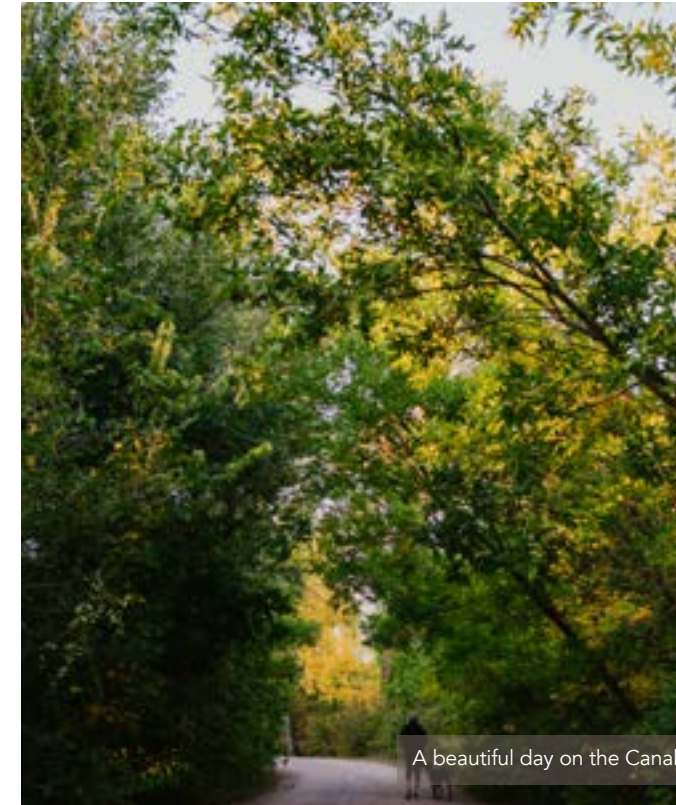
RUSSIAN OLIVE REMOVAL

Russian olive is an invasive species that displaces native vegetation and degrades the ecological health of the Canal. In 2021, the Conservancy launched a program to remove Russian olive along the corridor in partnership with Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC). In 2024, MHYC will cover an additional 14 miles of the Canal, removing and treating Russian olive."



TREE CANOPY CARE

Recently, the Canal Collaborative completed the first Canal-wide tree risk assessment to better understand tree pruning and removal needs on the corridor. During the assessment, certified arborists collected data on the 8,500 trees along the Canal and recommended actions to mitigate risk. In 2024, tree contractors will prune and remove trees prioritized in this assessment.



EMERALD ASH BORER MITIGATION

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that infests and kills ash trees. Ash are the second most common tree species on the corridor, making up 16% of trees over 6 inches in diameter. The Conservancy and our partners are implementing a two-pronged approach to mitigate the impact of EAB on the Canal:

1. Large, healthy ash will be inoculated to protect them from the borer
2. Unhealthy ash will be proactively removed from the corridor.

COMPLETED PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

GREENWOOD VILLAGE TREE PLANTING

The City of Greenwood Village continued its efforts to reinvigorate the tree canopy and enhance the Canal's ecological health by planting 50 trees on the Canal in 2023. This planting project built on the 100 trees planted by Greenwood Village in the two previous years and includes two varieties of Cottonwood, Boxelder, Hackberry, Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Kentucky Coffeetree and Mesa Glow Maple.

Location: City of Greenwood Village

Funding: The City of Greenwood Village funded this tree planting and continues to fund supplemental watering as the trees establish.

CONSERVANCY TREE PLANTING

The Conservancy received funding from the City of Centennial to plant and water 100 trees along the Canal in 2023. This planting project built on the 50 trees planted by the Conservancy in Centennial in 2021 and focused on xeric, drought tolerant trees including Catalpa, Hackberry, Kentucky Coffeetree, Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, and White Oak.

Location: City of Centennial

Funding: The Conservancy combined funding from the City of Centennial and private funds for the tree planting and continues to fund supplemental watering as the trees establish.

ORCHARD ROAD CROSSING ENHANCEMENTS

The Cities of Greenwood Village and Centennial came together to improve the safety of this Canal crossing in 2023 by installing pedestrian bump outs. These curb extensions widen the sidewalk on either side of Orchard Road to improve sight lines and shorten the crossing distance for trail users. Greenwood Village, Centennial and Arapahoe County Open Spaces provided funding for these important safety improvements.

Location: High Line Canal and Orchard Road, west of University Blvd

Funding: Greenwood Village, Centennial and Arapahoe County Open Spaces funded the project. Total project cost was \$230,000



Orchard Road Crossing Improvement

COMPLETED PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Writer's Vista Park Shelters

WRITERS VISTA PARK ENHANCEMENTS

South Suburban Park and Recreation District updated the restrooms and picnic shelter at Writers Vista Park, an important trailhead and access point for the High Line Canal. The work is complete; however, the opening of the restroom is delayed due to a previously unknown sewer line break which is scheduled to be repaired in the spring of 2024. The project was completed with matching funds from Arapahoe County Open Spaces and the City of Littleton.

Location: Writers Vista Park

Cost: The project was funded with \$270,000 from SSPRD, \$100,000 from the City of Littleton and \$410,775 from Arapahoe County Open Spaces

LITTLETON STORMWATER PROJECT II

The City of Littleton has converted an additional half-mile of the Canal to green stormwater infrastructure, assuming maintenance and management of the Canal between the second and third crossing of S. Broadway. This is Littleton's second stormwater project after converting a one-mile reach from Windermere Street to Lee Gulch.

Location: High Line Canal between the second and third crossing of S. Broadway

Funding Partners: The City of Littleton will be responsible for maintenance and management of this reach

ELATI STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The Conservancy and South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD) partnered to replace the Elati Street Pedestrian Bridge, enhancing access to the Canal from the adjacent neighborhood. As a part of the project a pause place with a bench was added between the trail and the Canal and bird houses were added in the adjacent Horseshoe Park.

Location: Littleton

Funding Partners: The Conservancy raised funds from an anonymous foundation to partner with SSPRD funding for a total project cost of \$331,000

2024 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AT-A-GLANCE

Several critical improvement projects will be advancing in 2024.

2024 DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following projects are underway with varying timelines for completion.

ACCESS

- 3 pedestrian bridges
- 1 trailhead

CONNECTIVITY

- 3 underpasses
- 1 overpass
- 1 enhanced at-grade crossing

SIGNAGE

- 30 wayfinding signs
- 6 interpretive signs

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

- 150 new trees

STORMWATER

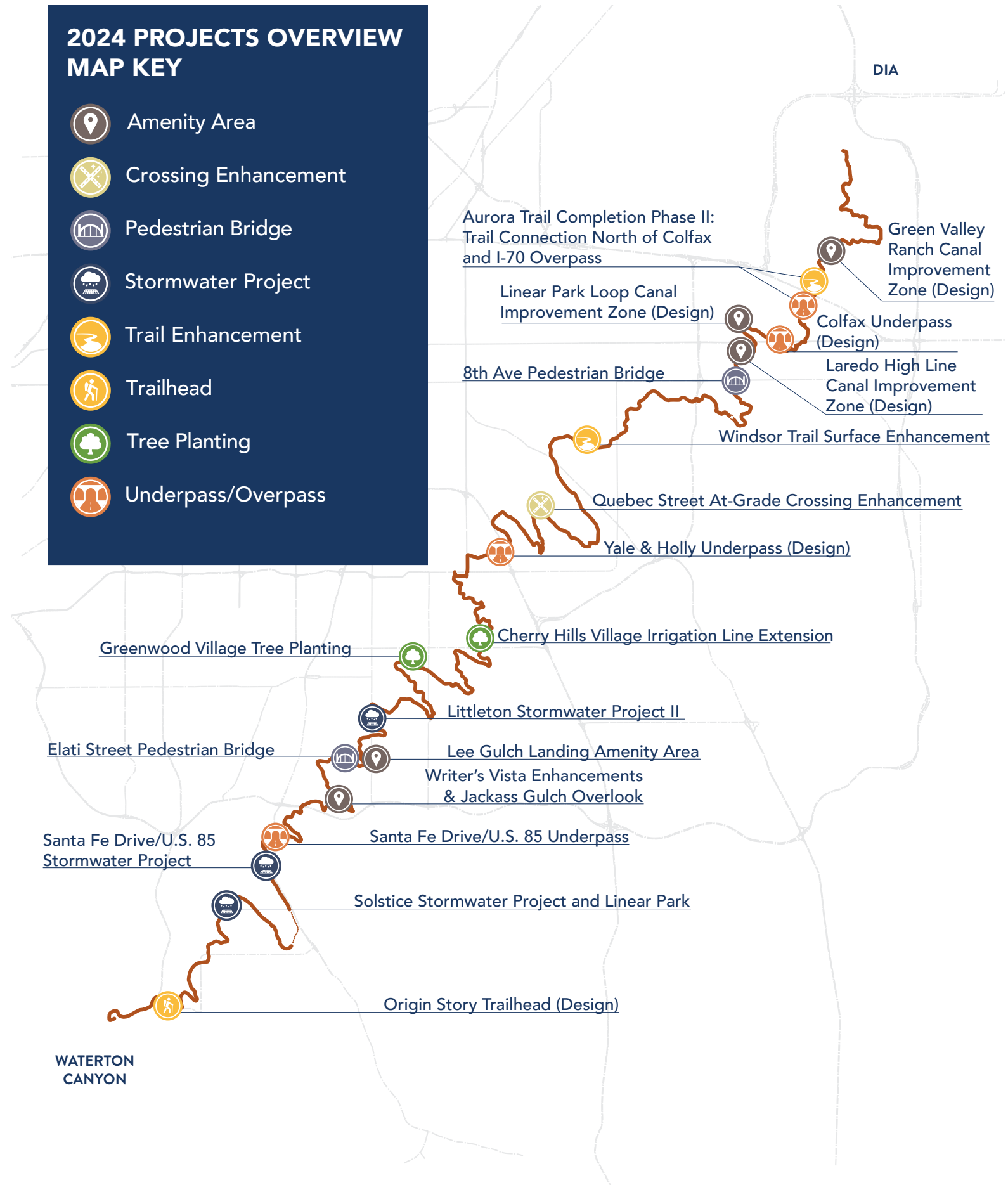
- 3 stormwater projects



The Conservancy will plant 100 new trees this year to help provide shade, improve resiliency and replace canopy coverage from aging Cottonwoods.

2024 PROJECTS OVERVIEW MAP KEY

- Amenity Area
- Crossing Enhancement
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Stormwater Project
- Trail Enhancement
- Trailhead
- Tree Planting
- Underpass/Overpass

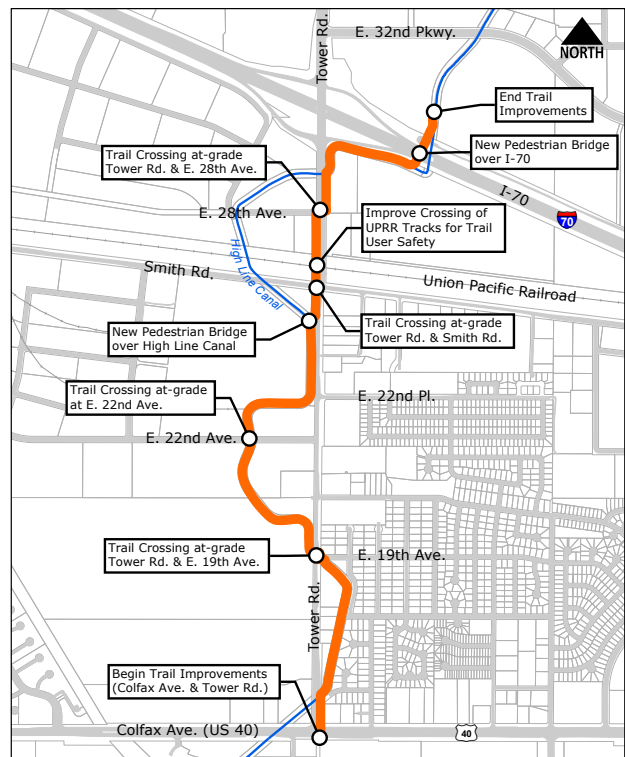


ACTIVE PROJECTS

Aurora Trail Completion Phase II: Trail Connection North of Colfax and I-70 Overpass

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. The second phase will include an overpass over I-70 and trail connection to Colfax to the south, completing a section of trail that has never been formalized. Construction could be completed as early as May. To learn more about the project [click here](#).

- › Location: High Line Canal from Colfax to Denver/the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood
- › Status: Northern half completed, construction underway in the southern half
- › 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 \$7,950,000



 High Line Canal Trail (Colfax Avenue to I-70)
Project Overview

8th Avenue Pedestrian Bridge

The City of Aurora is partnering with the Conservancy and Arapahoe County Open Spaces to construct a pedestrian bridge where 8th Ave dead-ends into the Canal in the Laredo Highline neighborhood. Construction is anticipated in 2024.

- › Location: High Line Canal at 8th Ave
- › 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)

Greenwood Village Tree Planting

The City of Greenwood Village is preparing for another tree planting project this spring, planting 50 trees on the Canal in addition to the 150 that have been planted over the last three years.

- › Location: City of Greenwood Village
- › Status: Planting planned for Spring 2024
- › Funding: The City of Greenwood Village will fund this tree planting and supplemental watering as the trees establish.

Conservancy Tree Planting

The Conservancy received funding from the City of Centennial for a tree planting this spring, planting and watering 100 trees on the Canal in addition to the 150 that the Conservancy has planted in Centennial since 2021.

- › Location: City of Centennial
- › Status: Planting planned for Spring 2024
- › Funding: The Conservancy has secured funding from the City of Centennial and private funds for the tree planting and supplemental watering as the trees establish



Tree planting volunteers

Santa Fe/Highway 85 Crossing

As part of the Santa Fe/Highway 85 improvements between C-470 and Highlands Ranch Parkway, a High Line Canal pedestrian/bicycle underpass is being installed by Douglas County. This grade-separated crossing is estimated to cost \$5 million to construct and could be open to the public as early as second quarter of 2025 but no later than September 2025.

- › Location: S. Santa Fe Drive and the High Line Canal
- › Status: Construction is underway, anticipated to be open to the public no later than September 2025
- › Funding: Estimated to cost \$5 million (70% Douglas County and 30% Federal Funds via DRCOG TIP)



Construction on the Santa Fe Crossing

Santa Fe Drive/U.S. 85 Stormwater Project

Douglas County 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 will take responsibility for maintaining and managing this portion of Canal to ensure safe passage of stormwater.

- › Location: High Line Canal west of Roxborough Park Road
- › 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

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Upcoming projects are in various stages of design, engineering or implementation. All projects are proposed until they are reviewed and approved by Denver Water and other agencies as required.

Green Valley Ranch Canal Improvement Zone Design

The Conservancy is partnering closely with Green Valley Ranch neighbors to design activation and amenity improvements. The current designs include an outdoor classroom, multiple seating areas with shade structures, two bike skills courses and a series of fitness stations. These community-centered designs will be completed in 2024.

- › Location: High Line Canal in Green Valley Ranch
- › Status: Designs will be completed in 2024
- › Funding Partners: The Conservancy is currently pursuing funding for construction

Linear Park Loop Canal Improvement Zone Design

The Conservancy is partnering closely with neighbors along the Colfax corridor to design activation and amenity improvements while improving connectivity with the Sand Creek Trail. The current designs include site improvements at the Canal's juncture with Star K Ranch and at the Triple Creek Trailhead. These include seating areas with shade structures, natural elements and interpretive signage. These community-centered designs will be completed in 2024.

- › Location: High Line Canal between Star K Ranch and Triple Creek Trailhead
- › Status: Designs will be completed in 2024
- › Funding Partners: The Conservancy is currently pursuing funding for construction

Colfax Underpass Design and Engineering

Arapahoe County Public Works is partnering with the City of Aurora and Adams County to design an underpass for the Canal's first crossing of Colfax just north of Laredo Elementary School. This project received a federal grant in 2023 that will support design, engineering and eventually construction. By the time design, engineering, right-of-way and utility work is completed and all approvals are in place, construction could begin as early as 2027.

- › Location: High Line Canal at Colfax Ave
- › Status: Federal funding secured, design and engineering to begin in 2024
- › Funding Partners: Federal funding matched with funds from Arapahoe County Open Spaces, Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space and Adams County

Aurora Water Sanitary Sewer Project and Prairie Planting Pilot

Aurora Water is installing a sanitary sewer line along the Canal corridor, a project that will cause a trail closure in the Fall of 2024 but will have minimal impact on the Canal long-term. As a part of the project, the construction area will be reseeded with natural grasses and a prairie planting pilot is being installed complete with seating areas. The prairie planting will provide an opportunity to highlight native, pollinator and prairie plants while piloting new approaches to natural resources management on the Canal.

- › Location: High Line Canal between Hinkley High School and Laredo Elementary School
- › Status: Construction anticipated in the Fall of 2024, prairie planting anticipated in the Spring of 2025
- › Funding Partners: Aurora Water is funding both the sewer line installation and the prairie planting pilot

Laredo Highline Canal Improvement Zone Design

The Conservancy is partnering closely with Laredo Highline neighbors to design access, activation and amenity improvements. The current designs include multiple seating areas with shade structures, an outdoor classroom and two accessible access points to the Canal. These community-centered designs will be completed in 2024.

- › Location: High Line Canal between E. 6th Ave and Colfax
- › Status: Designs will be completed in 2024
- › Funding Partners: The Conservancy is currently pursuing funding for construction

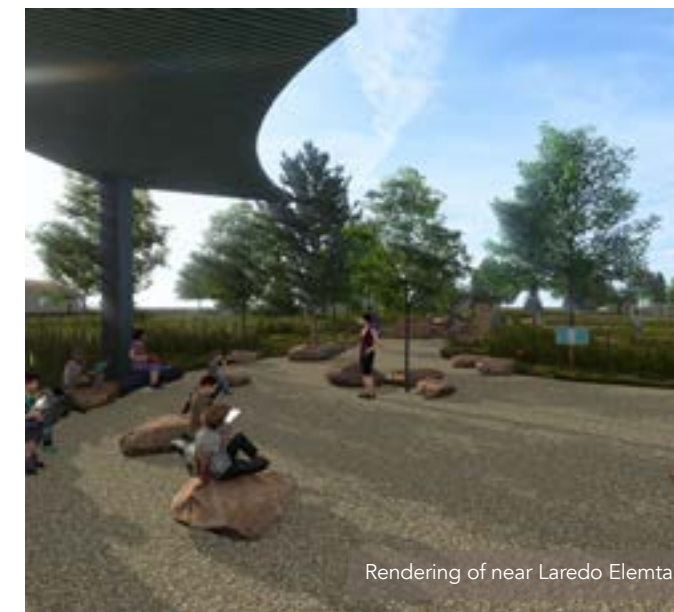
Enhanced Trail Surface Design and Engineering

The City and County of Denver and Arapahoe County Open Spaces have designed an enhanced trail surface for the Canal that includes a 12' concrete trail with a 6' gravel side path. This trail profile was developed for the reaches of the Canal in southeast and east Denver as well as unincorporated Arapahoe County. The City and County of Denver is now advancing the design and engineering of the segments of the Canal in the Windsor neighborhood of east Denver, from Parker Road to Havana Street. Construction of this segment of the Canal may begin in late 2024 and will continue into 2025.

- › Location: High Line Canal from Parker Road to Havana Street
- › Status: Construction anticipated in late 2024
- › Funding Partners: The City and County of Denver is funding the project with partner funds from the Conservancy



Rendering of Marrama Park in Green Valley Ranch



Rendering of near Laredo Elementary

Quebec Street Crossing Enhancement Design

After studying the High Line Canal crossing at Quebec Street in partnership with Arapahoe County, the partners pursued a federal funding application to fund an underpass at this location in 2022. While the funding application was unsuccessful, the partners are now designing at-grade enhancements to improve the safety of crossing in this location. Design began in early 2024 and construction will occur in early 2025.

- › Location: High Line Canal at Quebec St
- › Status: HAWK signal design in 2024 with construction anticipated in early 2025
- › Funding Partners: Arapahoe County Open Spaces and the City and County of Denver

Yale and Holly Underpass Design and Engineering

The City and County of Denver, in partnership with Arapahoe County, is advancing design and engineering of an underpass at the challenging intersection of E. Yale Ave and S. Holly St at the border of Denver and unincorporated Arapahoe County. Funding for this project was secured in Denver's 2017 Elevate Denver Bond Program and in 2023 the City and County of Denver received federal funding to complete the project. Design and engineering is currently underway and construction is anticipated to begin in 2025.

- › Location: High Line Canal west of the intersection of E. Yale Ave and S. Holly St
- › Funding Partners: The \$16.9 million project is funded by Denver's 2017 General Obligation Bond, Arapahoe County Open Spaces and an \$11.7 million federal grant

Broadway Corridor Study

The City of Littleton is partnering with the City and County of Denver, Arapahoe County, Douglas County, City of Englewood and City of Centennial to study the transportation and land use conditions along an 11-mile stretch of Broadway. This study includes funding for early action projects, one of which is to assess all three High Line Canal crossings of Broadway and evaluate potential safety improvements that could be made at-grade.

- › Location: High Line Canal at Broadway, just south of Arapahoe Rd
- › Funding Partners: DRCOG Transportation Improvement Program and the City of Littleton

Jackass Gulch Improvements

The City of Littleton is advancing water quality and channel stabilization improvements along Jackass Gulch, including in an open space adjacent to the Canal just north of Mineral Avenue. Littleton is working on incorporating a pause place along the Canal for users to stop and enjoy the incredible views of the front range and the soon-to-be improved gulch. The project also includes improved trails within the adjacent open space to provide connections to the gulch and the nearby Mineral Spur Trail. Littleton will continue to work with SSPRD and the Conservancy to incorporate these recreation improvements in the project.

- › Location: High Line Canal north of Mineral Avenue along Jackass Gulch
- › Status: Construction planned for 2024
- › Funding: The City of Littleton is funding improvements in partnership with the Mile High Flood District. The pause place will be maintained by SSPRD.

Lee Gulch Landing Amenity Area

SSPRD and the Conservancy partnered on the design of amenities and safety improvements at the juncture of the High Line Canal trail and Lee Gulch trail in Littleton. These amenities will create a pause place near the historic Lee Gulch flume, one of three wooden flumes remaining on the Canal, adding seating and interpretation along with select natural play elements. These improvements build on a tree planting project in 2021 that added 50 new trees to this segment of the Canal. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2024.

- › Location: Littleton at the juncture of the High Line Canal Trail and Lee Gulch Trail
- › Status: Construction anticipated to begin in Summer 2024
- › Funding Partners: The project is jointly funded by SSPRD, the Conservancy and Arapahoe County Open Spaces



Littleton Irrigated Tree Planting Pilot

The Conservancy and the City of Littleton are partnering to develop an irrigated tree planting pilot project along the Canal. The Conservancy has engaged a consultant to complete a tap analysis to better understand irrigation opportunities and constraints along the Canal and will utilize this data to select a pilot planting location.

- › Location: City of Littleton
- › Status: Tap analysis and irrigated planting pilot design will be completed in 2024
- › Funding: The Conservancy is funding the tap analysis and design and has funding available to support the planting

Plum Creek Gap Alternatives Analysis

Douglas County has allocated funds to continue evaluating alternative approaches to closing the Plum Creek Gap, which will soon be the largest trail gap remaining on the 71-mile High Line Canal Trail. This exploration began in 2018 through a series of meetings with Douglas County, Highlands Ranch Metro District, the Conservancy, Denver Water and Colorado Parks and Wildlife and this group will reconvene in 2024 to evaluate opportunities to create a connection across Plum Creek and formalize a trail along the Canal's historic alignment.

- › Location: High Line Canal at Plum Creek
- › Status: Alternatives analysis will be completed in 2024
- › Funding: The alternatives analysis is funded by Douglas County Parks, Trails and Building Grounds



C-470 Trail Connection Design

The City of Littleton has secured federal funding to improve the connection between the High Line Canal Trail and the C-470 Trail (also called the Centennial Trail) just south of County Line Rd. This project will improve east/west connectivity within Littleton and improve the safety of this challenging trail juncture.

- › Location: High Line Canal south of County Line Road
- › Status: Design will be completed in 2024
- › Funding: The City of Littleton has secured federal funding to support the project

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. Designs are currently at 30% and include improvements to the trailhead and connection to the Canal Trail as well as two overlooks with interpretive signage to share the story of the Canal's origins. 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. Designs will continue in 2024 as the Conservancy requests funding from Douglas County for construction.

- › Location: Waterton Rd and the High Line Canal, where the Canal emerges from Waterton Canyon
- › Status: Designs will be completed in 2024
- › Funding: Design has been funded jointly by the Conservancy and Douglas County Parks, Trails and Building Grounds

2024 EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Community Science

Every migration season (spring and fall) the Conservancy leads birding walks to engage the community in learning about birds and gathering data for wild bird conservation research. Global Big Day is a date of special importance to birders as an opportunity to create a snapshot of the distribution of all birds around the world. On May 11 we are leading multiple concurrent birding walks along the Canal guided by expert birders to participate in this global holiday. The data we gather on Global Big Day will be added to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird database where it can be used by scientists to evaluate the status of bird distributions across the front range.

Community Science Program Goals:

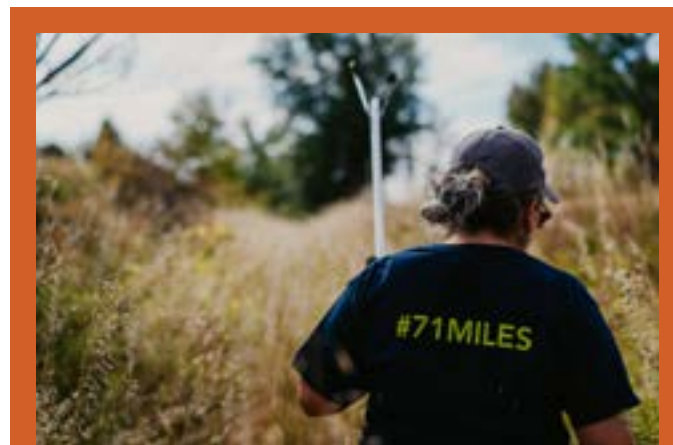
- › 9 Birding Walks
- › 100 Species of birds documented
- › 100 Birding program participants

Recreation Meets Education

On April 27 we will join our partners at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) for the Spring into Nature: Family Fun Day at Chatfield Farms. We will join a group of our community partners in engaging families to discover the learning and play opportunities of spending time in nature. Stop by from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to join the fun!



Nature Play on the High Line



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: TRASH PICKUPS

Once a month the High Line Canal Conservancy hosts a trash pickup at identified areas. The goal is to clear the canal entirely of trash and keep it beautiful for its users. In addition to Conservancy hosted pickups, other local organizations are now hosting their own pickup events, which led to over 15,000 pounds being collected in 2023.

PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS



2024 Events + Programs Preview

2024 is going to be an exciting year for Conservancy programs! We are planning stewardship, community science, educational, and recreational programs all along the Canal. We have a skilled group of volunteer Canal Ambassadors and Canal Conservation Corps (CCC) Leaders ready to support upcoming programs. This spring we are partnering with a variety of groups and organizations including Aurora History Museum, Denver Audubon, Sand Creek Regional Greenway, Boys Team Charity, Regis Jesuit High School, Stockton's Plum Creek Stables, and more!

To get involved:

- › Volunteer at a stewardship event
- › Become a Canal Ambassador or Corps Leader
- › Plan your own independent cleanup
- › Host a group or corporate event

Visit highlinecanal.org/cleanups to register!



Canal Ambassador

Canal Conservation Corps

The Canal Conservation Corps (CCC) is powered by the commitment of outdoor stewards from all across the Canal community to care for the ecological health of the Canal through stewardship. New and returning Corps Leaders completed their 2024 training and will join us as leaders on the Canal during stewardship programs. Corps Leaders and Canal Ambassadors also participate in our Canal Monitoring Program where they help survey all 71 miles of the Canal to look for and report maintenance needs like trash accumulation and damage to signs, benches, and newly planted trees.

2024 CCC Goals



CANAL AMBASSADORS

Canal Ambassadors increased awareness of the Canal and the Conservancy through representing the Conservancy at 27 community events in 2023. They have also attended most of our other events across the 71 miles helping to engage and support trail users. In 2024 So far we have:

- › 20 Adult Canal Ambassadors
- › 8 Youth Ambassadors
- › More Canal Ambassadors representing the Canal in Aurora and NE Denver

Want to be a Canal Ambassador? Visit highlinecanal.org/canal-ambassador-program/

MEDIA/PRESS

RECENT MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- › Denver7: "[Colorado Trail Projects Get Biggest Funding Boost to Date from Lottery Revenue](#)" March 27, 2024
- › History Colorado: "[The High Line Canal: A Nature Lover's Escape from the City](#)" March 27, 2024
- › Business Wire: "[Revitalizing a 71-mile Gem: High Line Canal Conservancy Unveils Great Lengths Campaign Following GOCO Award](#)" March 15, 2024
- › 5280: "[High Line Canal to be Transformed with \\$100 Million in Investments](#)" March 18, 2024
- › Littleton Independent: "[Pedestrian bridge at Elati Street on High Line Canal Trail opens](#)" January 26, 2024

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: 2,838
- › Instagram followers: 2,883
- › X (formerly Twitter) followers: 1,013

CONSERVANCY STAFF

Harriet Crittenden LaMair
– Chief Executive Officer

Tracy Young
– Chief Operating Officer

Amy Daley
– Chief Financial Officer

Suzanna Fry Jones
– Chief Programs and Impact Officer

Lindsay Moery
– Director of Development

Josh Phillips
– Director of Planning and Implementation

Breana Winters
– Community Engagement and Programs Manager

Julia Clover Clark
– Natural Resources Manager

Keely Quinn ***NEW***
– Communications and Marketing Manager

Jennifer Purdum
– Donor Relations & Development Manager

Elisabeth Lawrence, part-time
– Bookkeeper

Samantha Wilbur
– Programs Coordinator

Edith Fong
– Administrative Assistant

Emma Jacobs
– Development & Donor Relations Associate

Lindsay Hoppestad ***NEW***
– Programs & Outreach Intern

LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Suzanne White, Vice Chair
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Diana Romero Campbell*, Ex Officio
Carrie Warren-Gully*, Ex Officio
Nina Beardsley Itin, Ex Officio
Harriet Crittenden LaMair, Ex Officio

**elected officials*

CANAL COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Gini Pingnot

AURORA

Sarah Young

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

Chris Cramer

CITY AND COUNTY OF ENVER

Mark Bernstein

DENVER WATER

Tom Roode

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Matt Williams

CITY OF GREENWOOD VILLAGE

Suzanne Moore

HIGHLANDS RANCH METRO DISTRICT

Ken Standen

HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

Harriet Crittenden LaMair

CITY OF LITTLETON

Kathleen Osher

MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT

Jon Villines

SOUTHEAST METRO STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Dan Olsen

SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Andy Jennings

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

Pam Beardsley	Tom Roode
Bruce Beckman	Lorie Sadler
Susan Beckman	Nancy Sharpe
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Leslie Cavness	Tom Waymire
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Mike Coffman*	Marty Zeller
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Happy Haynes	
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Jim Petterson	
Tony Pickett	
Eliza Prall	
Sarah Rockwell	

**elected officials*

CANAL COLLABORATIVE FORUM

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Bill Holen*

AURORA

Crystal Murillo*

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

Dan Sheldon*

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

Diana Romero Campbell*

DENVER WATER

Alan Salazar

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Lora Thomas*

CITY OF GREENWOOD VILLAGE

Anne Ingebretsen*

HIGHLANDS RANCH METRO DISTRICT

Carolyn Schierholz*

HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

Paula Herzmark

LITTLETON

Pam Grove*

MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT

Laura Kroeger

SOUTHEAST METRO STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Bart Miller

SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Susan Pye*

**elected official*



HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY





STAY CONNECTED

Conservancy Open House

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

4010 E. Orchard Road
Centennial, CO 80121

STAY INFORMED

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

PARTNERS

