High Line Canal Vision Plan

Public Meeting 3 Feedback

September 7-8, 2016
VISION PLAN
Adventure on the High Line Canal

Chapter 1
Our Journey Begins
Exploring the Canal

Chapter 2
A Fork in the Road
Ideas & Opportunities

Chapter 3
Our Story
Draft Vision Plan

Chapter 4
Looking Ahead
Draft Action Plan

Once upon a time ...

Then they lived happily ever after ...
OPEN HOUSES
September 7-8, 2016

- Identical open houses in 3 locations:
  - Weds, Sept 7 / 5-8pm / Kent Denver Dining Hall
  - Thurs, Sept 8 / 1-3:30pm / Green Valley Ranch Library
  - Thurs, Sept 8 / 5:30-8pm / Westridge Rec Center

- Approximately 300 total attendees
  - 47 booklets completed
  - Hundreds of comments recorded

- Conversational format with boards to spur discussion
VISION THEMES
Built on what we’ve heard so far

Natural  Connected  Varied

Manage  Enhance
When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?” these were the top responses:

**PEACEFUL**  
**NATURAL**  
**BEAUTIFUL**

**#1 ANSWER**  
Most important role of the Canal  
“A PEACEFUL NATURE RETREAT”

“PROTECTING THE CANAL’S HABITAT”  
SCORED  
4.3 out of 5.0

**#1 ANSWER**  
Most important to focus on outside of the Canal  
“PROTECTING OPEN SPACE NEAR + ALONG THE CANAL”
• Natural: allow prairie to be prairie, woods to be woods
• **VEGETATION**: native species, maintenance, planting
• **HABITAT**: education opportunities, reintroduction of wildlife, ecosystem preservation
• **LAND ACQUISITION**: to broaden greenway, increase preservation efforts
• Concern about water flow, but stormwater may help
When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?” these were the top responses:

**CONNECTED**

**ACCESSIBLE**

**SAFE**

**#2 ANSWER**

Most important role of the Canal

“ACCESS TO JOGGING OR BIKING”

**#2 ANSWER**

“PROTECTING THE CANAL’S MOBILITY CONNECTIONS”

SCORED

4.1 out of 5.0

**#2 ANSWER**

Most important to focus on outside of the Canal

“IMPROVING CROSSINGS TO MAKE THEM SAFER”
• **CROSSINGS IMPROVEMENTS**: for both people and wildlife
• **TRAIL GAPS**: make the Canal a continuous 71 miles
• **ACCESS POINTS**: more trailheads and parking for communities to get on the Canal
• Better connections to amenities and regional trail systems
• Commuter routes
VARIED
Feedback Previously Heard

Respect and celebrate the diversity of the communities along the canal, allowing each its own “piece” of the overall experience.

COMMON THEME
at Chapter Two Open House

DIVERSE DISTRICTS
2 TO 2.5X MORE SUPPORT THAN Consistent or Patchwork Character

While EXERCISE was the #1 MOST DESIRED experience across all areas, the #2 answer was different for each section...

GATHER
Green Valley Ranch, Aurora, and the northern end of the Canal

MEDITATE
Denver and Unincorporated Arapahoe County
+ Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, Littleton, and Centennial

EXPLORE
Highlands Ranch and Douglas County
+ Waterton Canyon
• Thematic feature throughout the 71 miles to unify Canal
• **DEVELOPMENT**: none directly on the Canal, but nearby (or mobile) cafes, ice cream stands, breweries, etc. are desired
• **TRAIL**: combination of widths, surface types, and uses
• **ENVIRONMENT**: variety in different areas of the Canal based on existing natural ecosystem (grass, wildflowers, trees, bushes)
• **SEASONAL**: year-round use, varying character with seasons
• Balance of quiet and active areas, semi-rural to urban, with play areas for children
When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?” these were the top responses:

**TREES**

**MAINTAINED WATER**

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**THANK YOU** for undertaking this process; the Canal is a beloved treasure worthy of thoughtful caretaking.

**COMMON THEME**
at Chapter One Open House

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Stormwater management is an opportunity to become more sustainable and the canal should take advantage of it.

**COMMON THEME**
at Chapter Two Open House

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**MANAGED LANDSCAPE**

2 TO 2.5X MORE SUPPORT THAN Manmade or Natural Ecosystem
• **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**: volunteer programs, adopt-a-spot, fundraising events, youth education

• **MAINTAINED**: clean and safe, well-maintained vegetation and facilities

• **GOVERNANCE**: consistent management, clear structure, guidelines for municipalities
ENHANCE
Feedback Previously Heard

500+
Locations identified as “Aspects to Celebrate”, including:
LANDMARKS
BEAUTIFUL VIEWS
FAVORITE PLACES

Basic infrastructure, vegetation, planting, and maintenance, and crossing safety
COMMON THEME
in OurHighLineCanal online survey

Enhance with basic trail infrastructure, signage, bathrooms, benches, trash cans, and trail heads
COMMON THEME
at Chapter One Open House

#1 ANSWER
I wish the Canal better connected me to...
“PLACES ALONG THE CANAL FOR PEOPLE TO EAT, SHOP, RELAX”
• High interest in stormwater adaptation for water
• **MULTI-USE PATH**: with etiquette rules, designed for many types of users (horse riders, bikers, walkers, etc.)
• **WAYFINDING**: branded signage, mile markers, printed maps, navigation app, destination points, landmarks
• **INFRASTRUCTURE**: restrooms, benches, water fountains, trash cans, dog stations, emergency telephones