Welcome! The High Line Canal Conservancy is leading a broad and inclusive community conversation about the future of the well-loved High Line Canal, with the goal of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Canal into the future. Implementing this Vision Plan in coordination with local entities will ensure the Canal reaches its greatest potential as an economic, environmental, recreational, and social asset along all of its 71 miles.

Last time, we shared the draft vision plan with proposed themes and asked for your insights. What you’ll see today is a confirmation of the vision plan that you have collectively created over the last several months, including guiding principles.

Highlights of this Process:
Today you’ll also see proposed large-scale strategies and action steps that will bring that vision to life. These action steps combined will become the Action Plan, the practical implementation phase of the Vision Plan. We want to understand your priorities for these action steps, to determine which are most important to you.

When the Vision Plan and Action Plan are complete, the next major step will be to undertake a master plan for the High Line Canal. While the Vision Plan expresses the community’s values and input, and an Action Plan applies those values to implementation, a Master Plan outlines the strategy for the Canal’s physical form (identifying specific locations, improvements, and projects).
CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

The Canal passes through many different communities and ecosystems. You shared that this diversity is one of the things that makes the Canal so special. A key part of the Vision is recognizing and celebrating the five distinct “character zones,” which offer a varied experience for Canal users.

To preserve the Canal’s natural character, we must look for new water opportunities. One of the most striking findings of this process was recognition of the Canal’s opportunity to serve as a stormwater management resource for the region.

VISION HIGHLIGHTS

#71MILES

The High Line Canal’s incredible length, stretching 71 miles, all the way from Waterton Canyon close to the Denver International Airport, is one of its greatest assets. You wanted to preserve and enhance its connectivity.
At the last open house, we asked attendees to tell us what they thought about the proposed vision themes. The feedback confirmed much of the draft vision and helped us hone the details.

**CrowdGauge Survey**

CrowdGauge is an interactive online tool for envisioning the future of the High Line Canal. The survey was live online from July 20, 2016 to September 12, 2016 and received 163 responses from 43 ZIP codes. CrowdGauge for the High Line Canal enabled respondents to assign priorities and explore cost tradeoffs through a budgeting screen to understand how different paths might impact the Canal’s future.

**I want to live near a High Line Canal where...**

**Ecosystem:** The Canal provides a supportive and healthy habitat for wildlife and vegetation.
**Fitness:** I can bike, walk, or jog for fun along the Canal.
**Nature:** I can feel connected to and experience nature on the Canal.
**Accessibility:** My children can safely use the Canal to walk or bike to school.
**Regional Asset:** The Canal is known nationwide as a destination and an asset for the Denver region.
**Economic Development:** The Canal spurs and supports adjacent economic development.
**Social:** The Canal provides a welcoming place for social events and gatherings.

**Priorities**

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<th>Key Themes</th>
<th>Total Star Votes</th>
<th>Composite Star Rankings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>140</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connected</td>
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**POLICIES**

**Preserve the Canal as a peaceful nature retreat.**
**Authorize more components to manage and maintain the Canal.**
**Offset Canal investments by contributions from adjacent jurisdictions.**
**Promote the Canal as a regional tourism destination.**

**PROJECTS**

**Invest in trail improvements.**
**Close gaps and fully connect the length of the Canal trail.**
**Use the Canal as a stormwater filtration and management asset for the region.**
**Preserve the Canal as a peaceful nature retreat.**
**Offset Canal investments by contributions from adjacent jurisdictions.**
**Invest in underpasses and bridges for all street crossings.**
**Increase tree watering efforts.**
**Use the Canal as a stormwater filtration and management asset for the region.**
**Build bridges in strategic locations to connect more neighborhoods to the Canal.**
**Add butterfly and wildflower meadows.**
**Create program uses for the Canal that generate revenue.**

**Total Likes**

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<th>Percentage of Respondents Who Spent Any Coins on This Project</th>
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**Total Dislikes**

<table>
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<th>Percentage of Respondents Who Spent Any Coins on This Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
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**Feedback Update**

**Chapter 3 Open House**

**Key Themes:**
- Natural: vegetation, habitat, land acquisition for preservation, provide nature in urban setting
- Connected: crossing improvements, trail gaps, access points, connections to amenities
- Varied: varied trail type, seasonal changes, varied environments, Canal-friendly development
- Managed: increased community involvement, well-maintained, clear governance structure
- Enhanced: stormwater adaptation (high interest), multi-use paths, wayfinding, infrastructure
A VISION PLAN EXPRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S VALUES AND INPUT. IT IS A DOCUMENTED ASPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE.

YOUR VISION FOR THE CANAL

preserved
trees
natural
maintained
water
protected
peaceful
beautiful
nature

sanctuary
convenient
improved
better
shady
quiet
accessible

flowing
clean
green
continuous
wildlife
relaxing
connected

consistency
consistent
mature
sustainable

healthy
cleaner
preserved

trout
trinity
tidal
wild

well
permanent
longterm

safe
harmless
triumphant
Preserving and enhancing the 71 meandering miles of the High Line Canal as a cherished greenway that connects us to nature and threads together varied communities from the foothills to the plains.
Feedback

When asked, "What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?", these were the top responses: PEACEFUL, NATURAL, BEAUTIFUL

Most important role of the Canal

#1 ANSWER: "A PEACEFUL NATURE RETREAT"

Most important to focus on outside of the Canal

#1 ANSWER: "PROTECTING OPEN SPACE NEAR + ALONG THE CANAL"

PROTECTING THE CANAL’S HABITAT
SCORED 4.3 OUT OF 5.0

Guiding Principle

NATURAL

The Canal’s natural, scenic beauty is integral to its identity. We will preserve the natural character of the Canal, ensuring it continues to be an urban refuge for the region’s population and wildlife.

Link to the Action Plan

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle

Photo source, clockwise left to right: High Line Canal Conservancy, http://b50ym1n8ryw31pmkr4671ui1c64.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/11/files/2013/05/Flower_3.jpg
Feedback

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

Most important role of the Canal
#2 ANSWER: “ACCESS TO JOGGING OR BIKING”

Most important to focus on outside of the Canal
#2 ANSWER: “IMPROVING CROSSINGS TO MAKE THEM SAFER”

“PROTECTING THE CANAL’S MOBILITY CONNECTIONS” SCORED 4.1 OUT OF 5.0

Guiding Principle

CONNECTED & CONTINUOUS

We will maintain and increase the connectivity of the Canal along all 71 miles, preserving and enhancing the Canal’s use as an important resource and regional network.

We support the various physical characteristics of the Canal and will maintain the diversity of uses across the Canal’s different character zones, ensuring all of the Canal’s users can continue to enjoy its use where they can today.

Link to the Action Plan

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle
COMMON THEME
at Chapter Two
Open House
Respect and celebrate
the diversity of the
communities along
the canal, allowing
each its own “piece”
of the overall
experience.

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...

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

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

EXPLORE
Highlands Ranch and Douglas
County +
Waterton Canyon

Through the course of its
71 miles, our Canal passes
through many different
communities and ecosystems.
We value the variety of
experiences this creates and
will preserve the “varied”
character zones of the Canal.

Guiding Principle
VARIED

Feedback

Through the course of its 71 miles, our Canal passes through many different communities and ecosystems. We value the variety of experiences this creates and will preserve the “varied” character zones of the Canal.

Link to the Action Plan
Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle.
When asked, “What words describe the Canal as you’d like to see it become?”, these were among the top responses: 

**COMMON THEME** 

at Chapter One Open House 

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

**COMMON THEME** 

at Chapter Two Open House 

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

**COMMON THEME** 

at Chapter One Open House 

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

- TREES
- MAINTAINED
- WATER

**MANAGED LANDSCAPE**

2 TO 2.5X MORE SUPPORT THAN MANMADE OR NATURAL ECOSYSTEM

**Feedback**

Our Canal is a critical, beloved asset for the region. We will work together to preserve and support a long-term, sustainable future for generations to come.

**Guiding Principle**

**MANAGED**

Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle.
Guiding Principle

ENHANCED

We will enhance the enjoyment and use of the Canal in keeping with its natural and varied character.

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

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

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

I wish the Canal would connect me to...

#1 ANSWER: “PLACES NEAR THE CANAL FOR PEOPLE TO EAT, SHOP, RELAX”

Link to the Action Plan
Look for this symbol next to strategies to see which support this Guiding Principle
Draft Action Plan
Strategies

Strategy 1
Create a Roadmap for the Canal's Future Physical Form

The Vision Plan sets the community-driven vision for the Canal's future. Next steps for planning include the Master Plan, studies for each of the five character zones, and Landscape Guidelines & Maintenance Standards.

Strategy 2
Build Awareness and Understanding of the Canal

You've shared how hard it can be to learn about the Canal. This strategy aims to increase awareness and provide more tools for finding your way.

Strategy 3
Continue to Align the Canal’s Governance & Funding Structure with Vision

What governance and funding model will best ensure the future sustainability of the Canal as a cherished regional resource? This question will be the focus of next steps of planning, ensuring the long-term management is best aligned to support the Canal's natural, connected, and varied character.

Strategy 4
Harness the Community’s Passion to Promote Stewardship of the Canal

The Canal holds a special place in the hearts of many residents, and you've shared a desire to help ensure its unique character is sustained for the future. This strategy includes opportunities for community support. How else would you like to be involved?

Strategy 5
Capitalize on Existing Momentum to Take Action Now

There is already fantastic momentum around the Canal's future, with several projects already in the works. This strategy includes celebrating successes, coordinating with existing projects, and repeating successful models for more immediate improvements to the Canal.
AN ACTION PLAN OUTLINES THE STEPS REQUIRED TO BRING THE VISION TO LIFE. IT IS A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR WHAT TO DO NEXT.
Create a Roadmap for the Canal's Future Physical Form

The Vision Plan sets the community-driven vision for the Canal's future. Next steps for planning include the Master Plan, studies for each of the five character zones, and Landscape Guidelines & Maintenance Standards.

**SUPPORTING ACTIONS:**

» **Master Plan**  
The next step in Canal-wide planning, including many more opportunities to provide input and detailed strategies for many topics including historic resources planning; stormwater management; health and wellness approaches, crossings and connectivity; trees, vegetation, and wildlife habitat; encouraging development that supports community vision for Canal; and potential planning and zoning tools.

» **Complete a Comprehensive Crossings Study**  
Several crossings have been studied throughout the Canal, but every at-grade street crossing should be safe. This study could include identifying barriers and developing safety standards for crossings.

» **Complete Sub-Area Studies for each of the Canal’s 5 Character Zones**  
With 71 miles, smaller scale plans are needed to study more local considerations, such as crossing improvements; trailheads and parking; education and programming opportunities where appropriate; connections to nearby amenities (restaurants, shops, parks, schools, and other trails); and preservation and easement opportunities. These studies would address issues unique to each character zone.

» **Create Landscape Design Guidelines**  
Provides standards for benches, trash cans, bike racks, and signage for the Canal and its five character zones, and recommendations for tree/vegetation species and planting strategies.

» **Develop Tree and Landscape Maintenance Standards**  
These standards would include best practices for tree & vegetation maintenance. It would also detail sustainable landscape maintenance strategies (ex. drip irrigation and integrated pest management) to ensure maintenance of the Canal is healthy for its environment.
You’ve shared how hard it can be to learn about the Canal. This strategy aims to increase awareness and provide more tools for finding your way.

**SUPPORTING ACTIONS:**

- **Establish a consistent brand / identity for the Canal**
  Consistent with principles from this Vision, this brand represents the full 71 miles and also includes varied elements that capture the diversity of the five unique character zones of the Canal.

- **Develop a communications strategy**
  This approach to sharing more about the Canal and upcoming activities could include, for example, podcasts, newsletters, and visits to other community events.

- **Make it easier to explore the Canal**
  This approach would include the creation of tools that reflect the consistent identity / brand for the Canal, such as maps and a trail guide; signage and wayfinding; an interactive map or Canal exploration app; more detailed website information, or other digital tools.

- **Expand educational programs**
  The Canal is such a unique resource with a rich history and deep educational potential. It could share stories about water and water conservation, its origins as an engineering marvel, rich history, environmental and cultural significance today, its history, and more! Educational tactics could include field trips, day camps, digital apps, signage, art installations, and beyond.
STRATEGY 3

Continue to Align the Canal’s Governance & Funding Structure with the Vision

What governance and funding model will best ensure the future sustainability of the Canal as a cherished regional resource? This question will be the focus of next steps of planning, ensuring the long-term management is best aligned to support the Canal’s natural, connected, and varied character.

SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

» Study and develop a long-term coordinated governance model for the Canal
   Long-term governance and management of the Canal should be aligned to support the community Vision Plan. This study will develop a management structure that will best promote and align with the guiding principles.

» Coordinate with local entities and districts
   The Canal crosses many different jurisdictions along its 71 miles. Each jurisdiction has regulatory authority over many policies and planning and zoning strategies that impact the Canal. Local coordination with these jurisdictions and other entities is key to the long-term health of the Canal.

» Explore and identify funding sources
   Sustaining the Canal & its natural, varied, and connected character requires sustainable funding sources. For example, federal, regional, and local funding, grants, and philanthropy together can support the Canal’s future.
RELEVANT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Canal holds a special place in the hearts of many residents, and you’ve shared a desire to help ensure its unique character is sustained for the future. This strategy includes opportunities for community support. How else would you like to be involved?

SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

» Continue and encourage community involvement and input
  We hope you will continue to be involved in future planning for the Canal! Gathering input from the full diversity of Canal users and nearby residents is key to planning for its future. Additional input opportunities will be available throughout the Master Plan process.

» Grow volunteer opportunities
  Volunteer opportunities could include, for example, weed removal crews, tree planting, wildflower meadow restoration, or trash cleanup. What else would you enjoy?

» Provide exciting donation opportunities
  For those who would like to financially support the Canal and its maintenance, donations of any amount are incredibly helpful. Adopt-a-spot programs or membership programs could include, for example, opportunities to fund maintenance of a stretch of the Canal.

» Establish a network of community partners and local champions
  Develop a structured way for local partners to provide input and stewardship, and grow the network of local connections with environmental groups, businesses, educators, bike clubs, and others.

Harness the Community’s Passion to Promote Stewardship of the Canal

STRATEGY 4

SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

» Continue and encourage community involvement and input
» Grow volunteer opportunities
» Provide exciting donation opportunities
» Establish a network of community partners and local champions
There is already fantastic momentum around the Canal’s future, with several projects already in the works. This strategy includes celebrating successes, coordinating with existing projects, and repeating successful models for more immediate improvements to the Canal.

**EXAMPLE SUPPORTING ACTIONS:**

- Initiate additional stormwater pilots
- Continue to improve crossings
- Continue to complete connections to other trail systems
- Continue upgrading and replacing pedestrian bridges
- Offer tours of the Canal for the public using HLCC material
- Provide programming to increase familiarity with Canal (for example, historic tours or a bikeshare program)
Finally, we document the Vision Plan and refine the action steps based on your feedback.

We'll share the final document in early 2017!
Wishes for Our