For Immediate Release

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STORMWATER: IT CAN MAKE THE WORLD GREEN.
That’s the power of STEP – an initiative transforming the historic 71-mile High Line Canal to improve our region’s environment and community health.

July 31, 2019 – The High Line Canal (Canal) has long been a cherished asset across our region. An extraordinary feat of engineering now nearly 150 years old, the 71-mile-long Canal has historically delivered irrigation water from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the plains. Flash forward to today, the Canal, still owned and maintained by Denver Water, is outliving its life as an irrigation utility and has taken on new life as a recreational and ecological resource.

Today, the Canal faces new challenges. Water scarcity and unprecedented growth of our region, combined with the inefficiency of the Canal as a means of delivering water to customers - on average, 60 to 80 percent of the water diverted to the Canal from the South Platte River seeps into the ground or evaporates - has precipitated the need to reassess the use and future role of the Canal.

Building on a three-year, community-driven planning initiative, the High Line Canal Conservancy (Conservancy) and partners Denver Water, Mile High Flood District and local jurisdictions are working together to transform the Canal into an inspiring model of green infrastructure for stormwater management through an initiative called the Stormwater Transformation and Enhancement Program (STEP).

“The historic story of the Canal and its beginnings was like a promise of a better future. Those who used it were able to enhance their lives and enhance their property. This is a new way for us to bring that promise today of a new future.” – Tracy Young, City of Aurora and High Line Canal Conservancy Board Member

Stormwater, which is precipitation that runs off impervious surfaces and flows into storm drains and eventually into our waterways, can be managed in reaches along the Canal, providing local and regional benefits to water quality and conveyance, the natural environment and community health and livability. Three pilot projects are already underway in Denver, Greenwood Village and Douglas County, with more on the horizon. Learn more here: highlinecanal.org/stormwater.

STEP has been generously supported through a 2018 grant from the Pisces Foundation, which seeks to accelerate to a world where people and nature thrive together. STEP is also supported by The JPB Foundation through the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, an administrative partner in issuing and managing the grant.

ABOUT THE HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY
The High Line Canal Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that was formed in 2014 by a passionate coalition of private citizens to provide leadership and harness the region’s commitment to protecting the future of the Canal. With support from each jurisdiction and in partnership with Denver Water, the
Conservancy is connecting stakeholders in support of comprehensive planning to ensure that the Canal is protected and enhanced for future generations. For more information, please visit www.highlinecanal.org.

The 71-mile Canal has long been a beloved asset across our region, but now its future is uncertain because of changing needs. The High Line Canal Conservancy is working to preserve, protect and enhance this ecological and recreational resource. Don’t take it for granted, the Canal needs your help. Become a High Line Hero today and support what you love!

Be a High Line Hero. joinhighlinecanal.org

For photos, please email Connie Brown connie@highlinecanal.org