HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Quebec Street to Parker Road

September 9, 2025

HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

DENVER PARKS & RECREATION

ZOOM INFO

- Your choice to turn your camera on/off for the presentation
- Please mute your microphone for the entire presentation
- Please use chat function to comment or ask questions during the presentation
  - We will read and answer these at the end so everyone benefits
- We will have a Q&A session at the end and ask that you raise your (virtual) hand to be called on prior to asking your question

WELCOME

Leslie Summey, Arapahoe County Commissioner, District 4 (Chair)

OVERVIEW

- Project Team Introduction
- High Line Canal History
- Project Background
- Existing Conditions
- Proposed Improvements
- Potential Impacts
- Project Timeline
- Q & A

PROJECT TEAM

Roger Harvey, Planning Manager, Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Adam Lind, Trails Program Manager, Denver Parks and Rec

Josh Phillips, Director of Planning and Implementation, High Line Canal Conservancy

Will Viitanen, Design Team Project Manager, Livable Cities Studio

- **Consultants:**
  - Livable Cities Studio, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, AzTec Consultants Survey

TO DIA
APPROX. 6 MILES
MILE 71
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL
GREEN VALLEY RANCH EAST PARK
STAR K RANCH OPEN SPACE
MILE 60
ADAMS COUNTY
DENVER CITY & COUNTY
DEL MAR PARK
DELANEY FARM
FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY
EXPO PARK
CITY CENTER PARK
AURORA
MILE 50
LONG'S PINE GROVE PARK
MILE 40
EISENHOWER PARK
BIBLE PARK
ARAPAHOE COUNTY
CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE
THREE POND PARK
BLACKMER COMMON
MARJORIE PERRY NATURE PRESERVE
CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK
GREENWOOD VILLAGE
MILE 30
DEKOEVEND PARK
LITTLETON
MILLIKEN PARK
CENTENNIAL
MILE 20
WRITER'S VISTA PARK
HORSESHOE PARK
SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
FLYN B PARK
HIGHLANDS RANCH METRO DISTRICT
CHATFIELD STATE PARK
DOUGLAS COUNTY
MILE 10
WATERTON CANYON
MILE 0

Denver Metropolitan Area, CO
The High Line Canal
850 acres
Denver, CO
City Park
330 acres
New York City, NY
Central Park
840 acres

350,000
residents within one mile
1 MILLION
trail users per year

HAND DUG IN 1883
ACQUIRED BY DENVER WATER IN 1924
OPENED TO RECREATION IN 1970

HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY
ARAPAHOE COUNTY
DENVER PARKS & RECREATION

OUTLIVING ITS HISTORIC USE

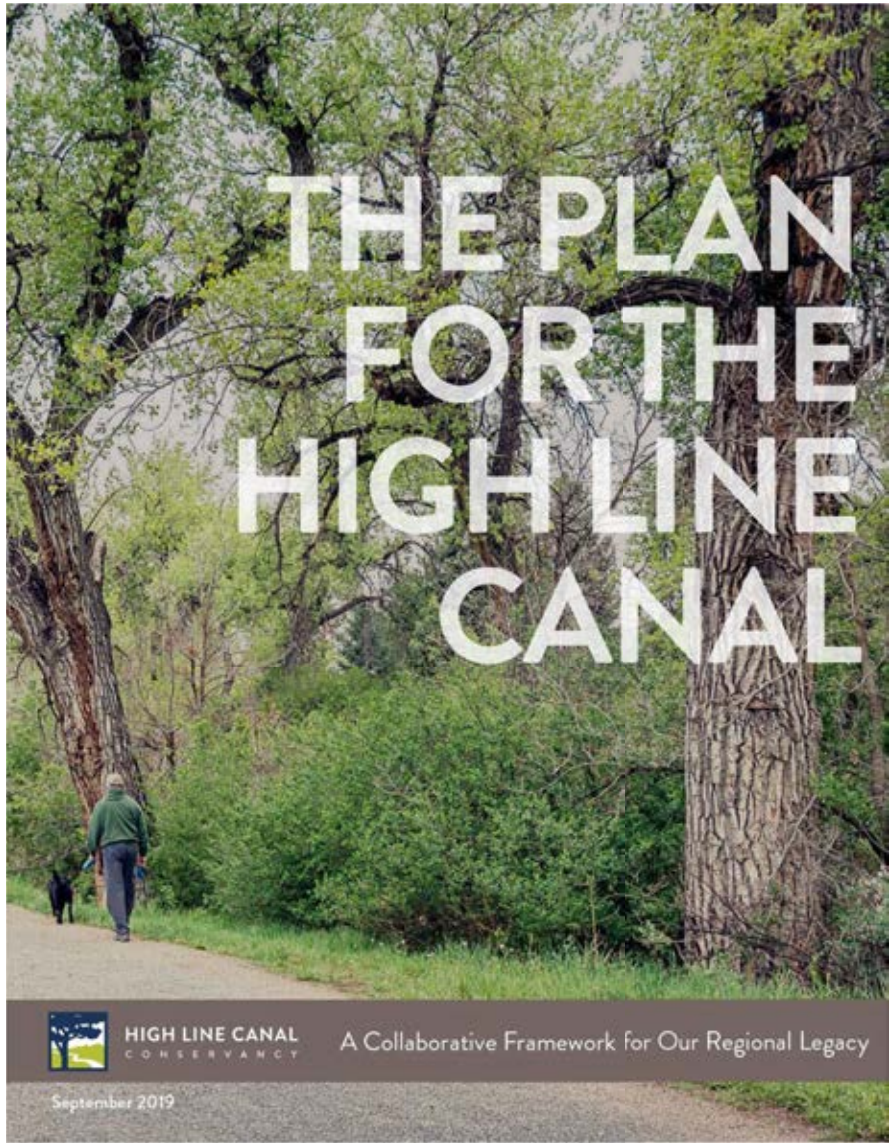
60-80% OF IRRIGATION WATER LOST

LAST CENTURY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

9/9/2025

THIS CENTURY'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK

THE COMMUNITY VISION PLAN FOR THE HIGH LINE CANAL


THE PLAN FOR THE HIGH LINE CANAL
HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY
A Collaborative Framework for Our Regional Legacy
September 2019

ACCESS AND SIGNAGE

71 new mile markers

200+ new wayfinding signs

5 new trail heads

7 improved access points

OWNERSHIP TRANSFER

- 45 miles of HLC transferred from Denver Water to Arapahoe County in June 2024.
- Focus, Vision and Mission now switches to recreation from water provider.
- Conservation easement held by High Line Canal Conservancy - ensures the canal will remain conserved OS in perpetuity.
- Includes section from Parker to Quebec .

- Working with all the local government partners, who have historically maintained the trail recreation, to a wider caretaker role for the entire canal.
- Trail improvements remain a priority.
- Aligns with County's strategic focus on creating safe, healthy, and environmentally-responsible communities

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Project Need Identification
  - A majority of the High Line Canal trail in Denver is 8’ wide asphalt.
  - DPR Trails Inventory assigned “poor condition” rating to the trail in this area as part of 2019 condition inventory.
  - Trail age is unknown - @30+ yrs old.
  - Existing trail does not meet DPR or ACOS regional trail standards.
  - DPR has maintained since the 70’s and will continue to maintain County sections.

PROJECT MAP

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS
QUEBEC STREET TO PARKER ROAD
S. QUEBEC STREET
S. PARKER ROAD
E. YALE AVENUE
LEGEND
High Line Canal - Project Extents
Arapahoe County
Denver County
0
0.25
0.5
0.75
1.00 mi
N

PROJECT FUNDING

DESIGN

- Fully funded for project from Quebec to Parker

CONSTRUCTION

- Project has construction funding for *Phase 1: Parker Rd. to Cherry Creek Confluence*
- Future funding needed for additional phase(s) for Cherry Creek to Quebec still to be identified

EXISTING CONDITIONS

EXISTING CONDITIONS AREA 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS AREA 2

EXISTING CONDITIONS AREA 3

EXISTING CONDITIONS AREA 4

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

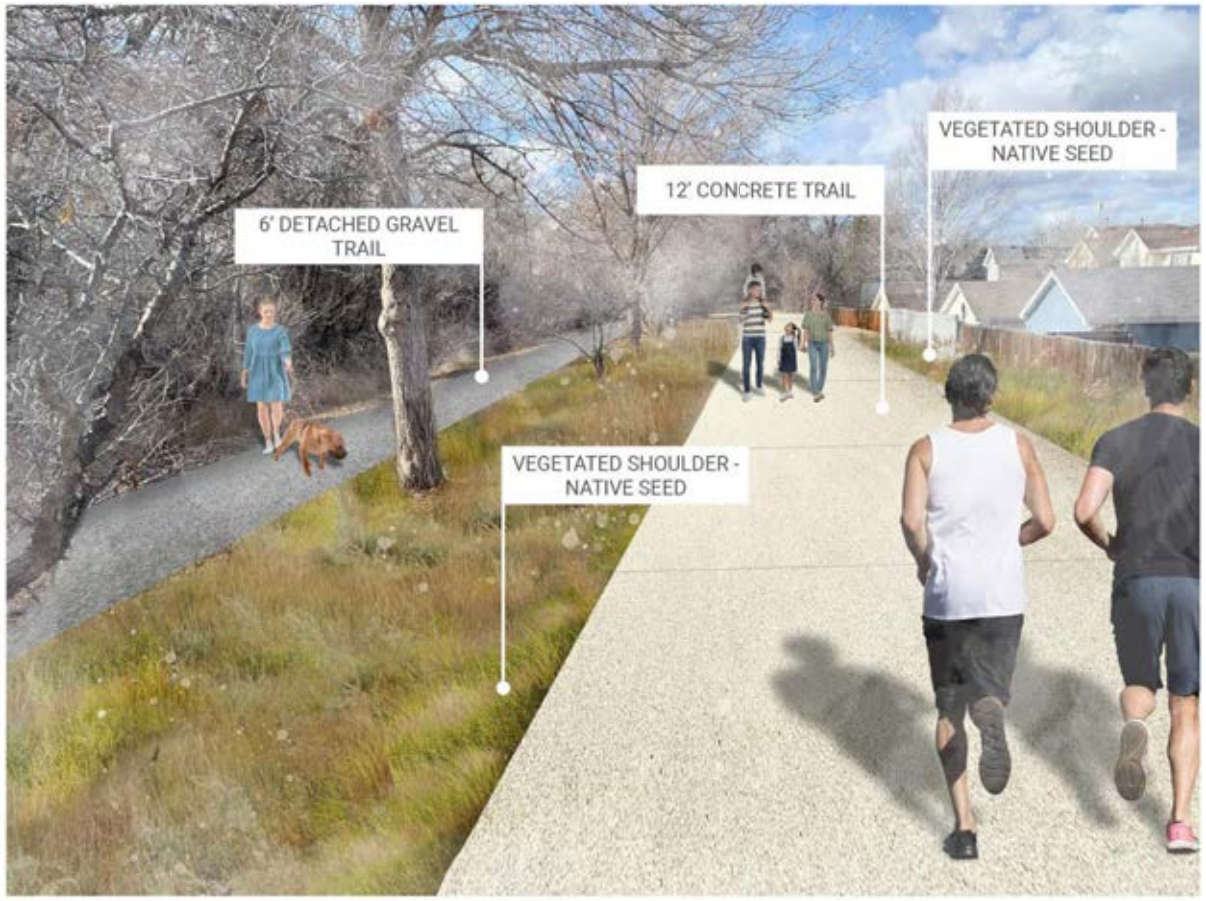
High Line Canal Plan Recommendation

Proposed Cross Section for this

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

IDEAL SCENARIO

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
ALTERNATE LAYOUT



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT TYPES

AMENITIES

Bench Seating, Bike Racks, Waste Receptacles, Pet Pickup Stations, Signage (Crossing Bollards, Underpass and Directional)

ADA UPGRADES

ADA Compliant Hard and Soft Surface trail with recovery zone where feasible

RAMP/ CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

9 Upgraded Curb Ramps at 5 Streets

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

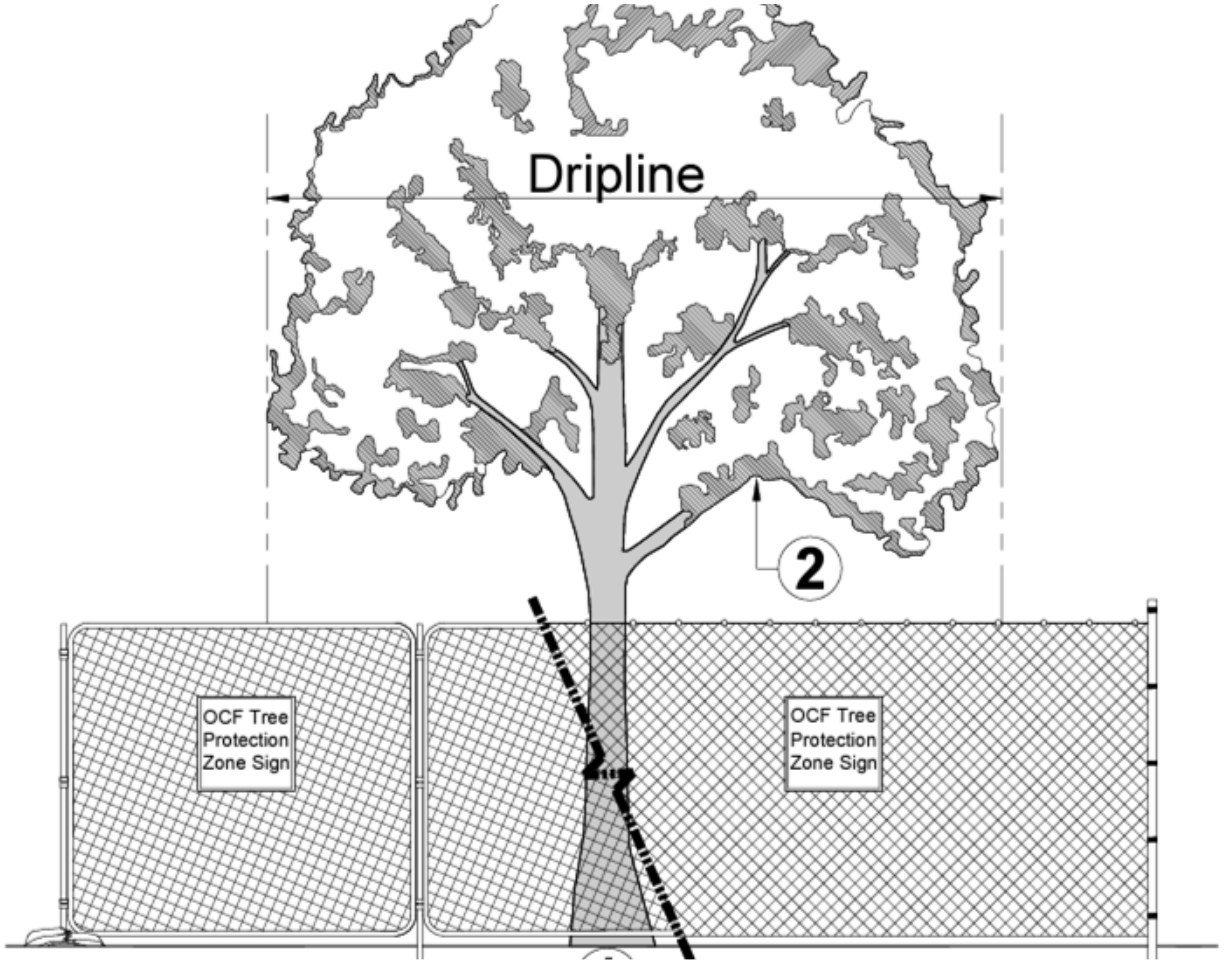
- Trail closures and detours
  - Construction to be phased to reduce trail closures
  - Where possible, bicycle and pedestrian detours would follow the same route.
  - Detour routes would be determined with project phasing prior to construction.
  - Detour Route will be signed for people bicycling and walking

POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO TREES

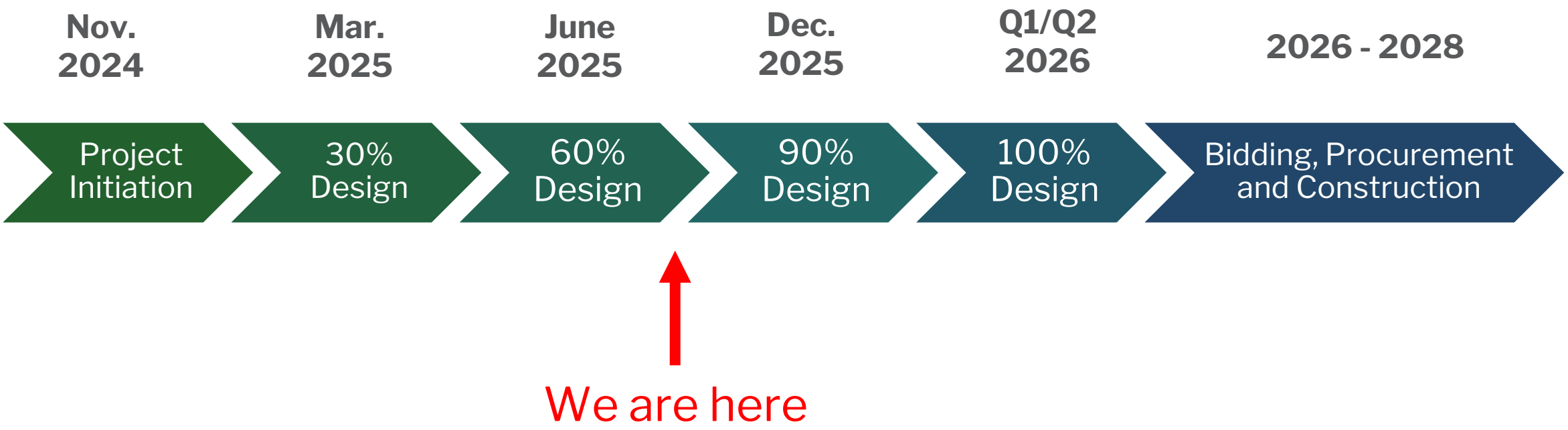
- Trees
  - Existing trees are adjacent to existing trail and in the area of construction for the new trail
  - Recently completed Tree Risk Assessment (July 2022) will guide decisions for tree removal prior to and during the project
  - Hand work around roots and exploratory air spading to locate roots prior to construction
  - Specific care taken during design around large high value trees to preserve them at the cost of reducing trail cross section.
  - Final removals for project still being confirmed as necessary for trail improvements

MITIGATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- Trees
  - Tree protection zone (TPZ) -DPR Forestry limits activities in TPZ
  - 1’ protection zone for every 1” diameter of tree
  - Heavy Construction equipment not allowed in TPZ to protect roots
  - Where work will happen in TPZ, only approved methods such as air spading and hand digging allowed
- Understory
  - Adjacent to the trail will include native seeding/restoration



PROJECT TIMELINE



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS EMAIL **CANAL CARES LINE**.
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720-767-2452

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