



Administration Building
West Hearing Room
5334 S. Prince St.
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-4630
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Nancy A. Doty, Chair, District 1
Nancy Sharpe, District 2
Rod Bockenfeld, District 3
Nancy Jackson, Chair Pro-Tem, District 4
Bill Holen, District 5

Study Session

November 15, 2016

The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners typically holds weekly Study Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Study Sessions (except for Executive Sessions) are open to the public and items for discussion are included on this agenda. Agendas (except for Executive Sessions agendas) are available through the Commissioners' Office or through the County's web site at www.arapahoegov.com. Please note that the Board may discuss any topic relevant to County business, whether or not the topic has been specifically noticed on this agenda. In particular, the Board typically schedules time each Monday under "Committee Updates" to discuss a wide range of topics. In addition, the Board may alter the times of the meetings throughout the day, or cancel or reschedule noticed meetings. Questions about this agenda? Contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or by e-mail at commissioners@arapahoegov.com

Study Session Topics

10:00 A.M. Administrative Meeting: Department Director Review (BoCC Conference Room)

BoCC

11:00 A.M. Administrative Meeting: Department Director Review (BoCC Conference Room)

BoCC

Break

1:15 P.M. Administrative Meeting: Department Director Review (BoCC Conference Room)

BoCC

2:30 P.M. Administrative Meeting: Department Director Review (BoCC Conference Room)

BoCC

3:30 P.M. *Draft High Line Canal Vision And Action Plan (WHR)

Discussion of a recommendation from Open Spaces staff to the Board of County Commissioners to provide feedback on the draft High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan and a request to endorse the plan

Request: Information/Direction

Josh Tenneson, Grants and Acquisitions Manager, Open Spaces
Shannon Carter, Director, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations
Todd Weaver, Budget Manager, Finance
Tiffanie Bleau, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Documents:

[BSR_SS_HLC VISION PLAN_11.15.16.PDF](#)
[VISION-ACTION PLAN DRAFT_HANDOUT FOR CH 4.PDF](#)
[OPENHOUSE4_BOARDS_FINAL_LOWRES.PDF](#)

*** To Be Recorded As Required By Law**

WHR - West Hearing Room

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If you need special accommodations, contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or Relay
Colorado 711.*

Please contact our office at least 3 days in advance to make arrangements.



Board Summary Report

Date: November 3, 2016
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces Department Director
From: Josh Tenneson, Grants and Acquisitions Manager
Subject: Draft High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan

Direction/Information: To provide information and seek input on the draft High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan.

Request and Recommendation:

The recommendation from Open Spaces staff to the Board of County Commissioners (“BoCC”) is to provide feedback on the draft High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan (“Plan”) on November 15, 2016, and endorse the Plan.

Background:

In early 2015, the BoCC approved a resolution to apply for a \$75,000 Great Outdoors Colorado planning grant (which we successfully obtained) and contribute \$30,000 in Arapahoe County Open Spaces matching funds to undertake a comprehensive community outreach and visioning project for the future of the High Line Canal and its recreational greenway. Other partners contributed nearly \$150,000 towards the effort. The High Line Canal Conservancy has led the visioning project and has received significant input from Open Spaces staff and the High Line Canal Working Group (“HLCWG”).

In order to obtain substantial public input, four series of community open houses took place between June and October 2016. Each series included three identical community gatherings in various locations (such as Goodson Rec Center, Eloise May Library, Kent Denver, Dry Dock Brewing Company, Eisenhower Rec Center, and Lowry Town Center) along the Canal and represented an important chapter in the mission to chart the High Line Canal’s course for the next century.

These community open houses were just one piece of gathering input from the public and stakeholders. Through community and civic organizations, strategic input sessions, and by tapping into existing events, the High Line Canal Conservancy embraced an all-encompassing outreach approach to help write the story of the future of the Canal. In total, the Conservancy obtained input from over 3,500 people through 75 separate community events. An additional 500 people participated via an online survey. And 250,000 people were reached through a Denver Water bill insert. All of the input culminated in the construction of the draft Plan.

Links to Align Arapahoe

Increase Intergovernmental Cooperation
Increase Community and Regional Partnerships

Improve Park, Trail and Open Space Opportunities
Improve Customer Experience
Optimize Use of Resources
Enhance Quality of Life

Discussion:

The High Line Canal is a regional asset that passes through numerous jurisdictions. Through comprehensive planning and multi-jurisdictional cooperation, Arapahoe County is being asked to embrace the vision statement advanced in the Plan to *“preserve and enhance 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.”* In the course of developing community plans and ordinances, each of the jurisdictions along the canal has already adopted certain management and planning strategies that address local uses and activities within the High Line Canal corridor in a manner that reflects the varied communities’ conditions and priorities.

The draft Plan recognizes that, while these differences in specific planning and management activities exist, there is nevertheless a core set of common guiding principles that all the jurisdictions share with respect to caring for the High Line Canal corridor. The following six guiding principles identify the values and priorities that all of the jurisdictions share so that future management of the High Line Canal will be guided by a common vision. The manner and timing with which the High Line Canal Vision will be accomplished may vary by jurisdiction according to factors such as the availability of funding, staffing and access constraints. However, each jurisdiction is being asked to endorse the Guiding Principles outlined below (see the first attachment for further details):

1. 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.
2. 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 uses can continue to enjoy its use where they can today.
3. Varied: 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 of the Canal.
4. Managed: 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.
5. Enhanced: We will enhance the enjoyment and use of the Canal in keeping with its natural and varied character.

Because of the high-level nature of the Plan, jurisdictions are not being asked to formally adopt the plan. Instead, jurisdictions are being asked to endorse the plan. Endorsement in this context means committing to further the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined above and signing a symbolic document that will be executed by each member of the HLCWG.

After endorsing the Plan at the HLCWG meeting in January 2017, we anticipate that master planning will be one of the next major steps for the High Line Canal corridor. The High Line Canal Conservancy will likely be instrumental in advancing master planning. As the framework for master planning coalesces in

early 2017, we anticipate requesting the BoCC's approval to use Arapahoe County Open Space Acquisition and Development funding that will ultimately come from Arapahoe County's funding pledge to the HLCWG.

Alternatives:

Approve, modify, or deny the request.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact on Arapahoe County.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends endorsing the High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan.

Attorney Comments:

None

Reviewed By:

Josh Tenneson

Grants and Acquisitions Manager

Shannon Carter, Director

Intergovernmental Relations and Open Spaces

Janet Kennedy, Director

Finance

Tiffanie Bleau

Assistant County Attorney

Attachments:

1. Draft High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan
2. Materials from Chapter 4 (final public open house materials)

VISION

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.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OBJECTIVES

 <p>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.</p>	<p>Maintain the peaceful character of the Canal, so it continues to be a place for the region to connect with nature, from the foothills to the prairie</p> <p>Identify sustainable, responsible water sources for the continued nourishment of the Canal's trees and vegetation, and transition to tree species that require less water to thrive</p> <p>Protect and improve wildlife habitat and environmental health of the Canal</p> <p>Preserve and enhance open space along the Canal, including identifying opportunities to protect adjacent open spaces to create larger habitat areas</p> <p>Employ environmentally sustainable practices in landscape management and Canal maintenance to assure overall health</p>
 <p>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.</p>	<p>Improve connectivity along the Canal by closing gaps and upgrading crossings' through safety and signage</p> <p>Improve connections from the Canal to other trail networks, further strengthening the regional trail network</p> <p>Strengthen safe access to and from local neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other amenities</p> <p>Minimize future interruptions of the Canal experience such as new crossings</p> <p>Maintain a continuous wildlife and ecological corridor by providing safe alternatives</p>
 <p>Varied 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 of the Canal.</p>	<p>Acknowledge that there exists diverse communities, trail characters, & ecosystems along the Canal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wild canyon (Waterton Canyon) • The rolling foothills (Douglas County & Highlands Ranch) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wooded village (Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Centennial) • An urban refuge (Denver & unincorporated Arapahoe County) • A meandering natural retreat in the prairie (Aurora & Denver's Green Valley Ranch) <p>Support enhancement and protection of unique characteristics of each character zone as change happens to best suit each zone's needs</p> <p>Provide equity of experience and opportunities along the length of the Canal for the varied communities</p> <p>Promote appropriate habitat caretaking in the Canal's different ecosystems</p> <p>Encourage and promote continued public engagement & local leadership involvement throughout the many Canal-adjacent jurisdictions</p>
 <p>Managed 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.</p>	<p>"MANAGEMENT" IS BOTH OPERATIONAL AND PHYSICAL</p> <p>Operational Establish a clear model for governance and a sustainable funding source Strengthen regional, county, municipal, and community partnerships Provide a role for citizen input and stewardship</p> <p>Increase use, safety, and awareness of the Canal in underused areas, including coordination with law enforcement Determine common themes and approaches to management along the Canal (i.e., mile markers, maps, signage, etc.)</p> <p>Physical Model responsible water management practices and consider the Canal for stormwater management where feasible Transition to drought-tolerant species that require less water and explore alternative irrigation methods</p> <p>Provide appropriate maintenance of the Canal's vegetation for safety and beauty while exploring options for fewer or different trees Provide on-going maintenance for physical improvements such as trailheads, signs, furnishings, etc. Provide an overall wildlife management plan consistent with regional authority plans</p>
 <p>Enhanced We will enhance the enjoyment and use of the Canal in keeping with its natural and varied character.</p>	<p>Provide enhancements that are consistent with the Canal's vision</p> <p>Increase awareness about the Canal and its story</p> <p>Acknowledge and enhance views, landmarks, and special moments</p> <p>Improve connections where appropriate from the Canal to nearby amenities like cafes, bicycle repair shops, and restrooms while protecting the Canal from commercialization</p> <p>Coordinate with new development to encourage design that supports the character of the Canal</p>

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The action steps to implement and sustain the vision in coordination with local entities

STRATEGY 1

Create a Roadmap for the Canal's Future Physical Form



STRATEGY 2

Build Awareness & Understanding of the Canal



STRATEGY 3

Align the Canal's Governance & Funding Structure with the Vision



STRATEGY 4

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



STRATEGY 5

Capitalize on Existing Momentum to Take Action Now



Adventure

ON THE HIGH LINE CANAL

Charting our Course for the Next Century

Chapter 4

Looking Ahead

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:

DIVERSE BUT UNIFIED

Different
communities,
one Canal

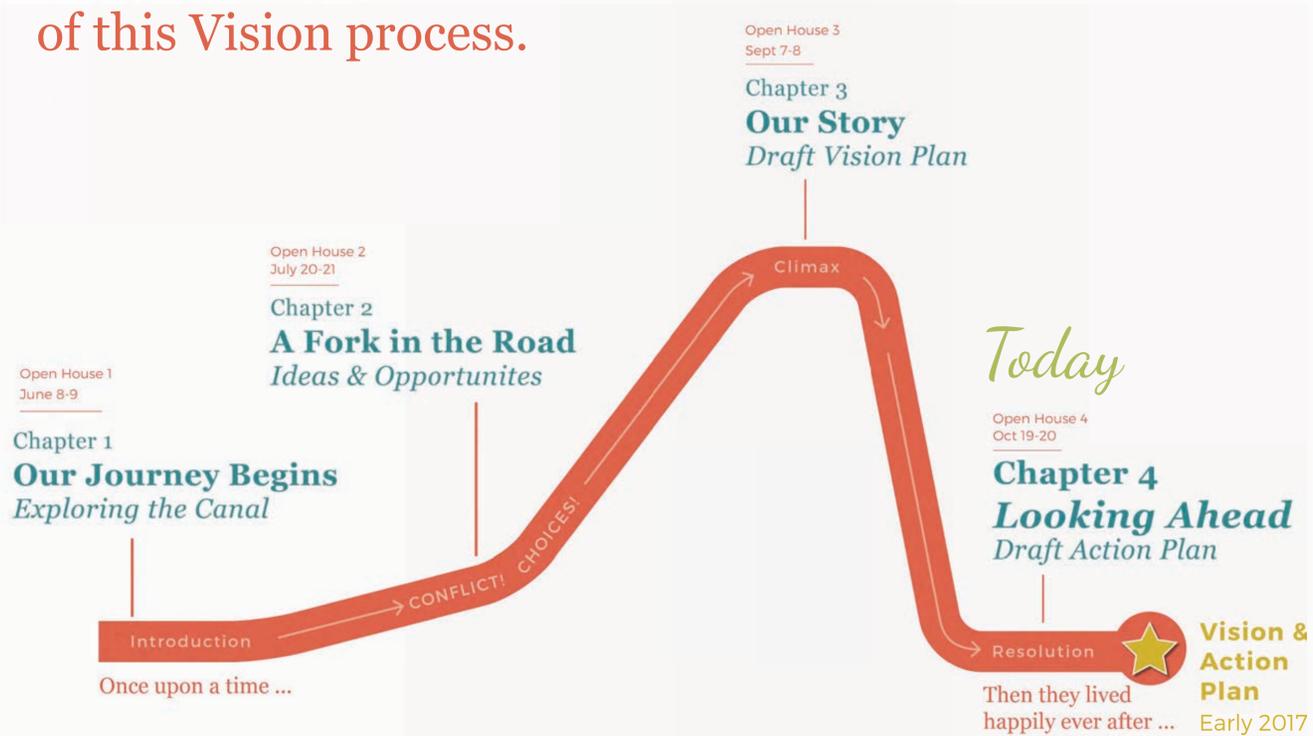
#71MILES

The scale of
the Canal

ADAPTIVE FUTURE

Potential for
stormwater
management

We are nearing the end of this Vision 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).

THIS PROCESS

NEXT PROCESS

Vision Plan

EXPRESSES COMMUNITY VALUES

Establishes high-level goals (themes)

Provides recommendations for action (Action Plan)

- Policies
- Partnerships & collaboration
- Development

Identifies high-level system costs

Master Plan

EXPRESSES PHYSICAL STRATEGY

Further public input

Identifies Projects

- Evaluates Costs
- Capital per project and funding
 - Maintenance & Operations

Outlines Phasing Strategy

Vision Highlights

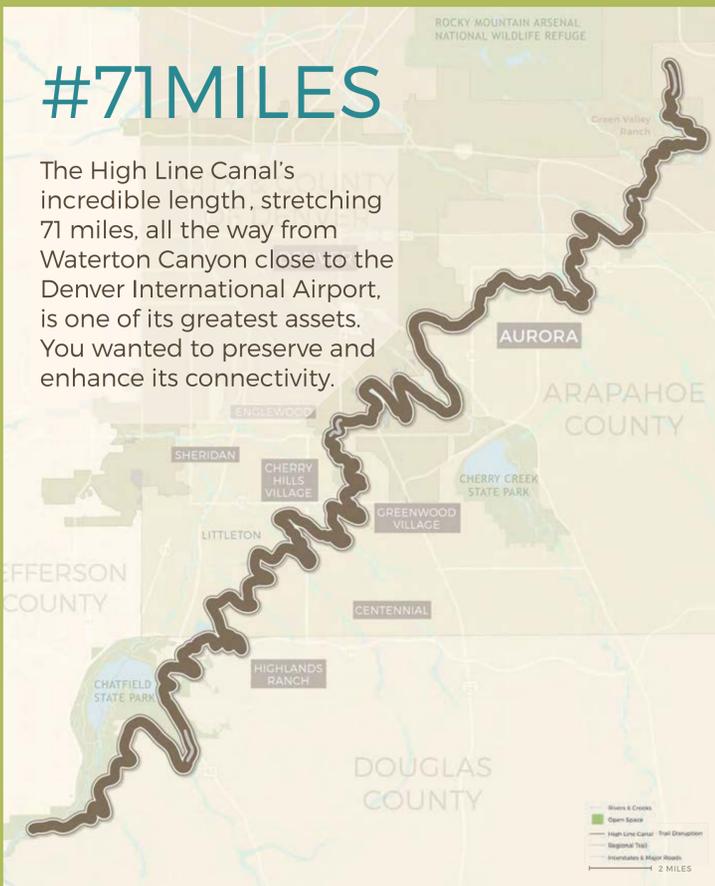
CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

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.



#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.



STORMWATER OPPORTUNITY

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.

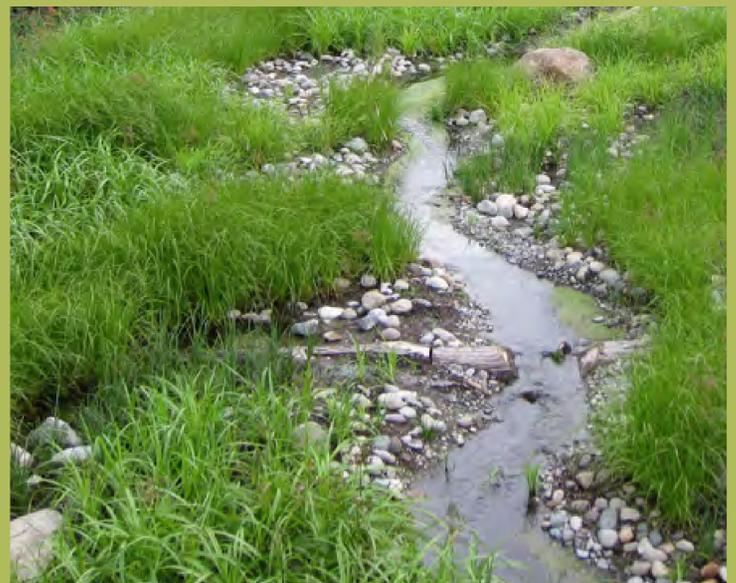


Photo source: https://i1.staticflickr.com/7/6025/5961777056_a5a4fa555_b.jpg

Feedback Update

CHAPTER 3 OPEN HOUSE

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.



Natural

KEY THEMES:

vegetation, habitat, land acquisition for preservation, provide nature in urban setting



Connected

KEY THEMES:

crossing improvements, trail gaps, access points, connections to amenities



Varied

KEY THEMES:

varied trail type, seasonal changes, varied environments, Canal-friendly development



Managed

KEY THEMES:

increased community involvement, well-maintained, clear governance structure



Enhanced

KEY THEMES:

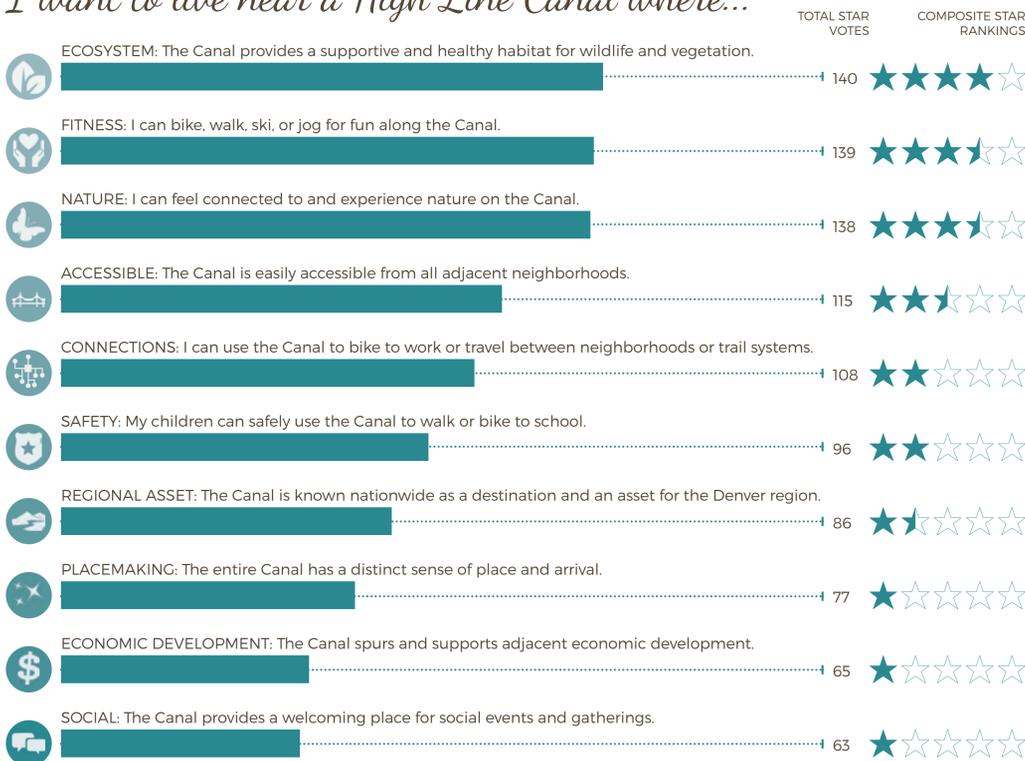
stormwater adaptation (high interest), multi-use paths, wayfinding, infrastructure

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.

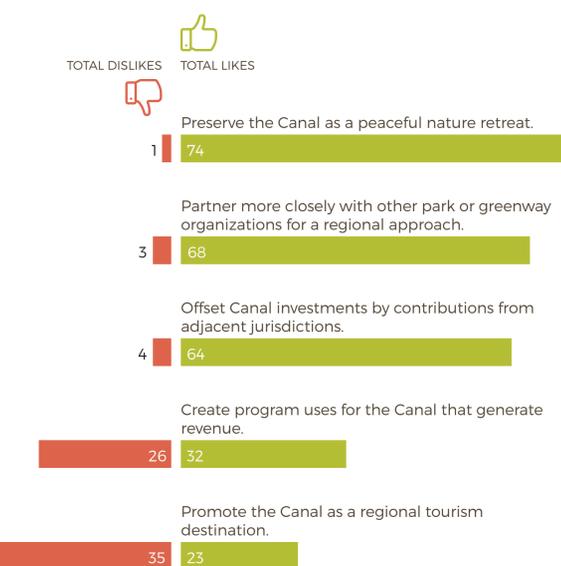
PRIORITIES

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

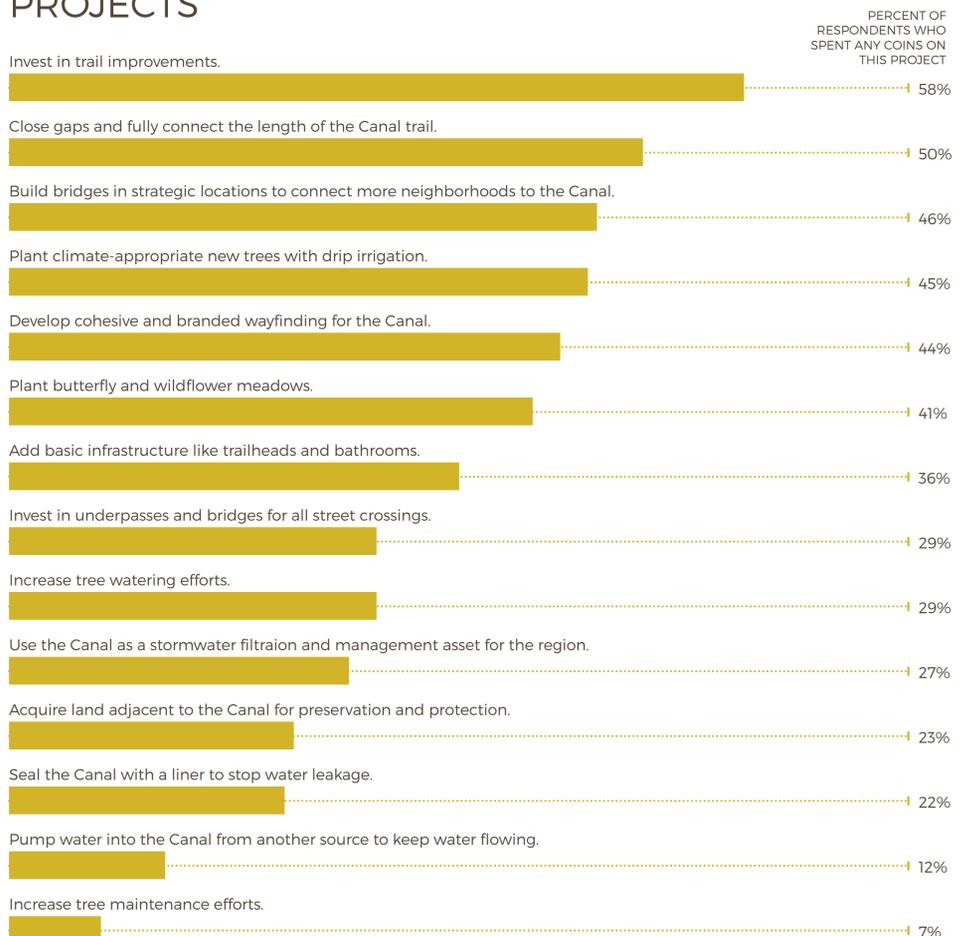


The graphic above shows the priorities of all respondents combined, with bubble size corresponding to star value.

POLICIES



PROJECTS



VISION STATEMENT

*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.



Photo source: clockwise left to right: High Line Canal Conservancy, http://43mbhp3aft5g3uc0tuhs4a8.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/lookout_forestloop_header.jpg, http://b50ym1n8ryw31pmkr467lulic64.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/11/files/2013/05/Flower_3.jpg



Link to the Action Plan

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

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



Photo source: clockwise left to right: High Line Canal Conservancy, High Line Canal Conservancy, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Route_33_underpass,_Washington_Secondary_Trail,_Cranston,_Rhode_Island.JPG

Feedback

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 + Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, Littleton, and Centennial

EXPLORE

Highlands Ranch and Douglas County + Waterton Canyon

Guiding Principle

VARIED



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.



Photo source, clockwise left to right: Sasaki, High Line Canal Conservancy, http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-W5j-Z6jbxo/UBkVpjwM_I/AAAAAAAAA1w/GCLXcUd3aRA/s1600/IMG_2219.JPG, High Line Canal Conservancy, <http://denverhistorytours.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Along-the-High-Line-Canal.jpg>, High Line Canal Conservancy



Link to the Action Plan

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

Feedback

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

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.**

**MANAGED
LANDSCAPE
2 TO 2.5X
MORE SUPPORT
THAN MANMADE
OR NATURAL
ECOSYSTEM**

Guiding Principle

MANAGED



*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.*



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: http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/images/ELP/IMG_0060.JPG, http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site36/2014/0422/20140422_20140425_L7_L6-FE25GRTREESB-pl.jpg, <http://media.gettyimages.com/videos/environmentalist-volunteers-digging-hole-and-planting-tree-video-id479319508?si=640x640>

Feedback

COMMON THEME at Chapter One Open House

Enhance with basic trail infrastructure, signage, bathrooms, benches, trash cans, and trail heads

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”**

**COMMON THEME
in MyHighLineCanal
online survey**

Basic infrastructure, vegetation, planting and maintenance, and crossing safety

Guiding Principle

ENHANCED



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



Photo source, clockwise left to right: <http://www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us/modules/showimage.aspx?imageid=1621>, <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-VqtAuwyTq7w/VX94MAC70ZI/AAAAAAAAAUQ/jpMKLlvndIE/s1600/105JPC>, https://image.freepik.com/free-photo/rest-trail-walk-nature-bench_121-71195.jpg



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.

DRAFT

Action Plan

AN ACTION PLAN OUTLINES THE STEPS REQUIRED
TO BRING THE VISION TO LIFE. IT IS A PRACTICAL
GUIDE FOR WHAT TO DO NEXT.



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.

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.





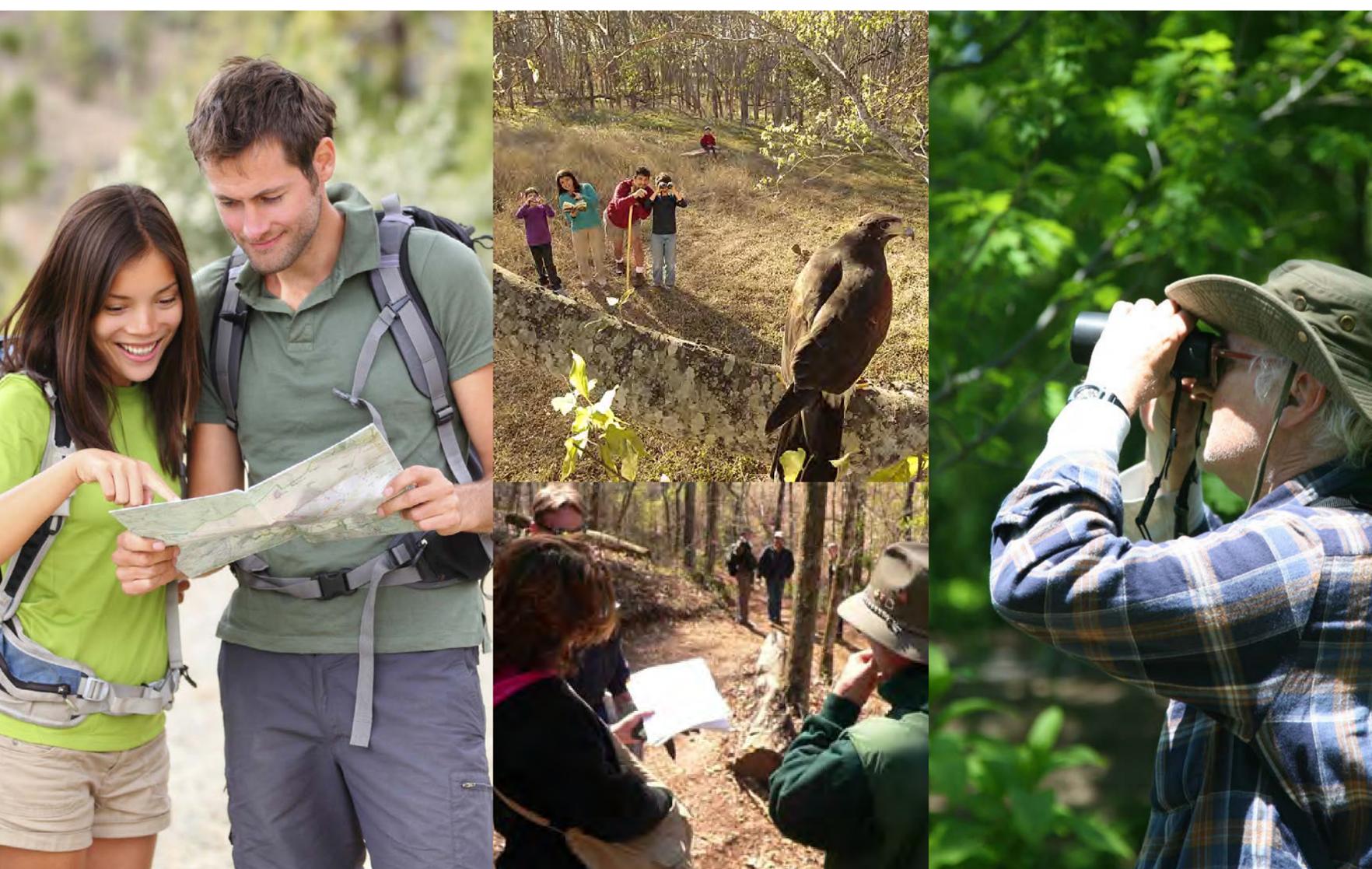
STRATEGY 2

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.

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 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.





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?

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.





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.

EXAMPLE SUPPORTING ACTIONS:

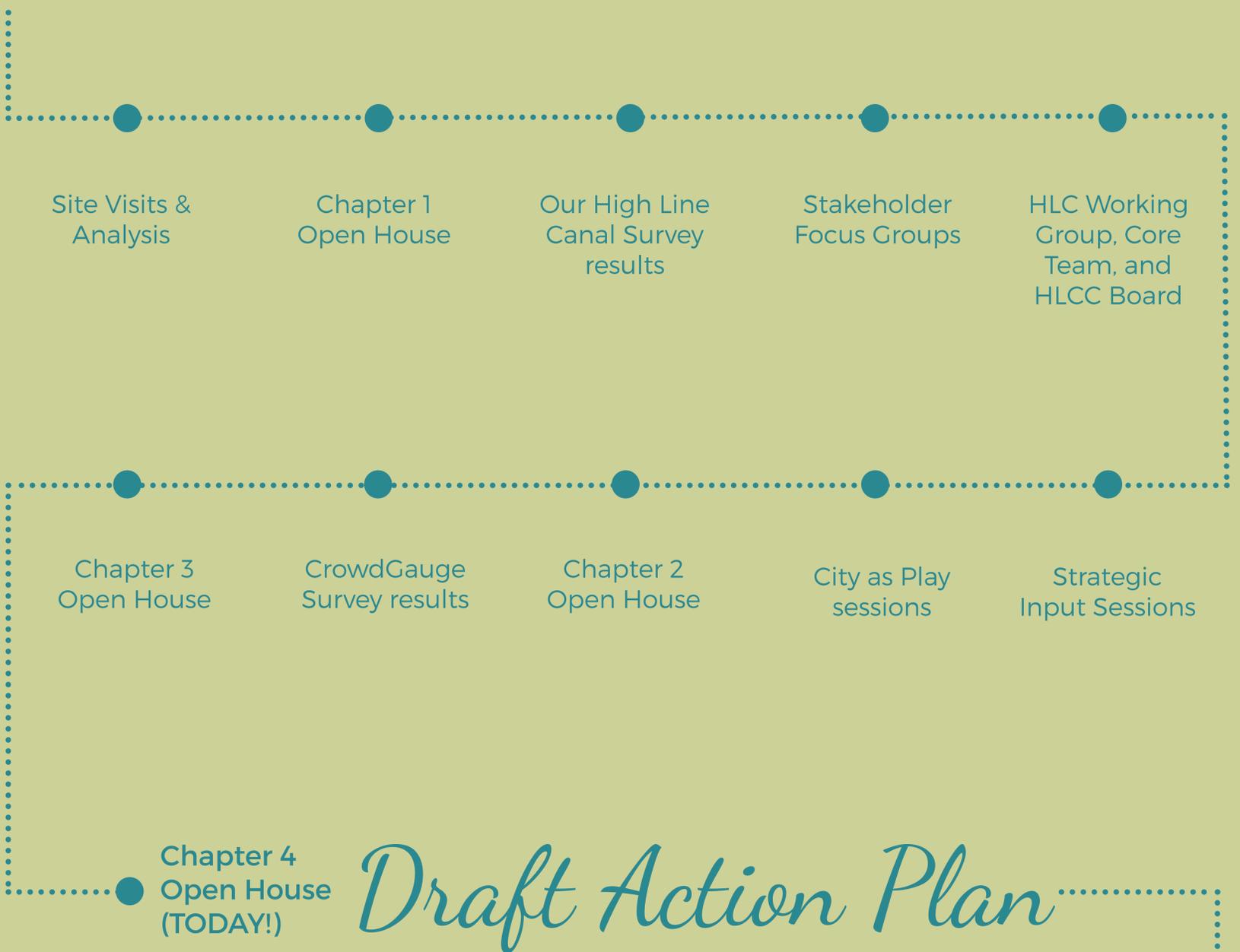
- » Initiate additional stormwater pilots
- » Continue to improve crossings
- » Continue to complete connections to other trail systems
- » Continue upgrading and replacing pedestrian bridges
- » Offer tours of the Canal for the public using HLCC material
- » Provide programming to increase familiarity with Canal (for example, historic tours or a bikeshare program)



Wrapping Up ...

What are the final steps to finish the Vision Plan process?

We have brought many kinds of feedback together to build the Vision...



THE FINAL STEP IS DOCUMENTING THE VISION PLAN AND REFINING THE ACTION STEPS BASED ON YOUR FEEDBACK.

➤ *Final Vision
& Action Plan*

WE'LL SHARE THE FINAL DOCUMENT IN EARLY 2017!



Wishes for Our



Canal



