

# Laredo Outdoor Classroom and Crossing Joint Project Request



HIGH LINE CANAL  
CONSERVANCY



# Laredo Outdoor Classroom and Crossing Joint Project Request

Applicant:

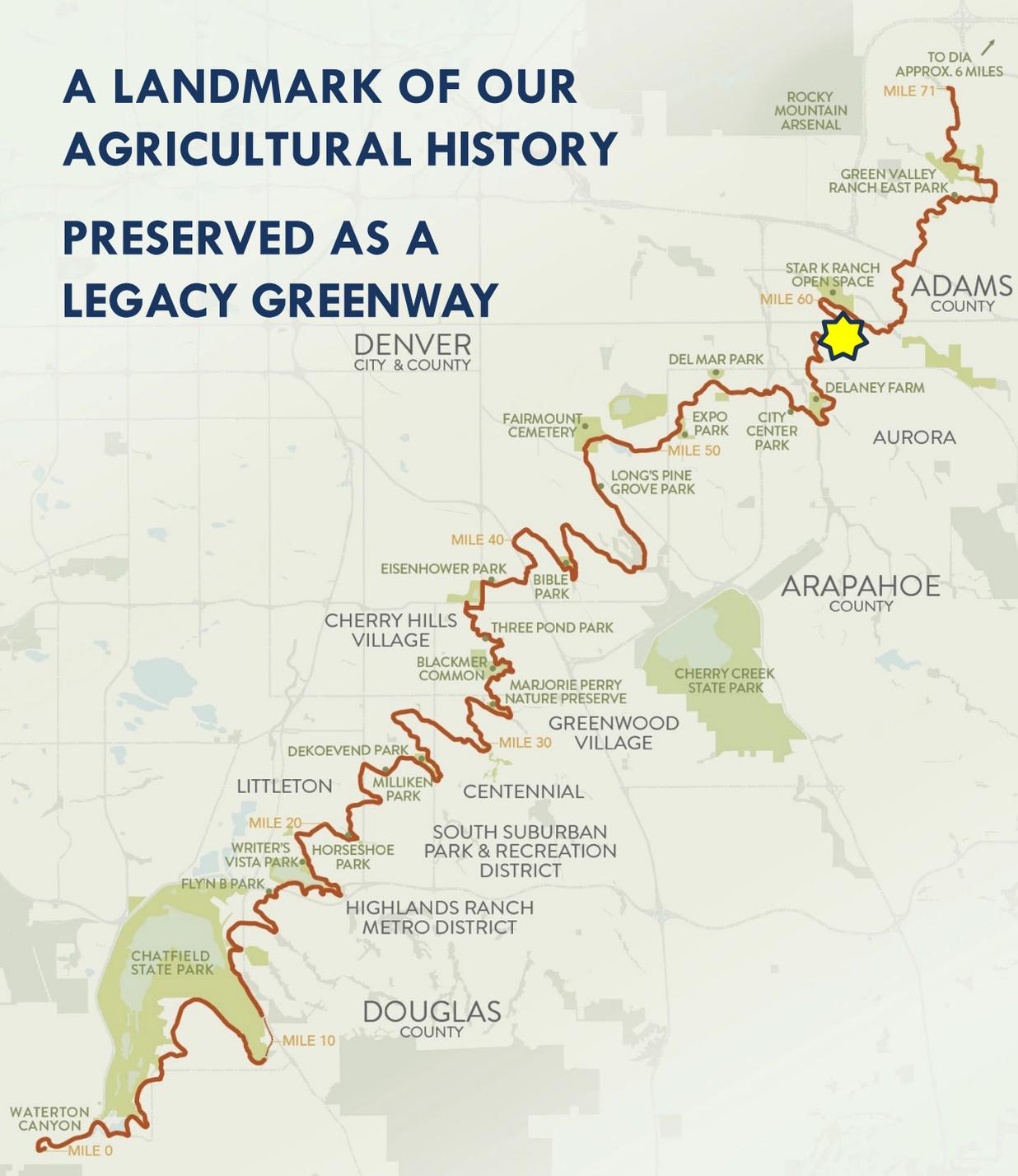
**Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open  
Space Department**

Partner:

**High Line Canal Conservancy**

# A LANDMARK OF OUR AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

# PRESERVED AS A LEGACY GREENWAY



**860 ACRES**

(more than NYC's Central Park!)



**340,000**

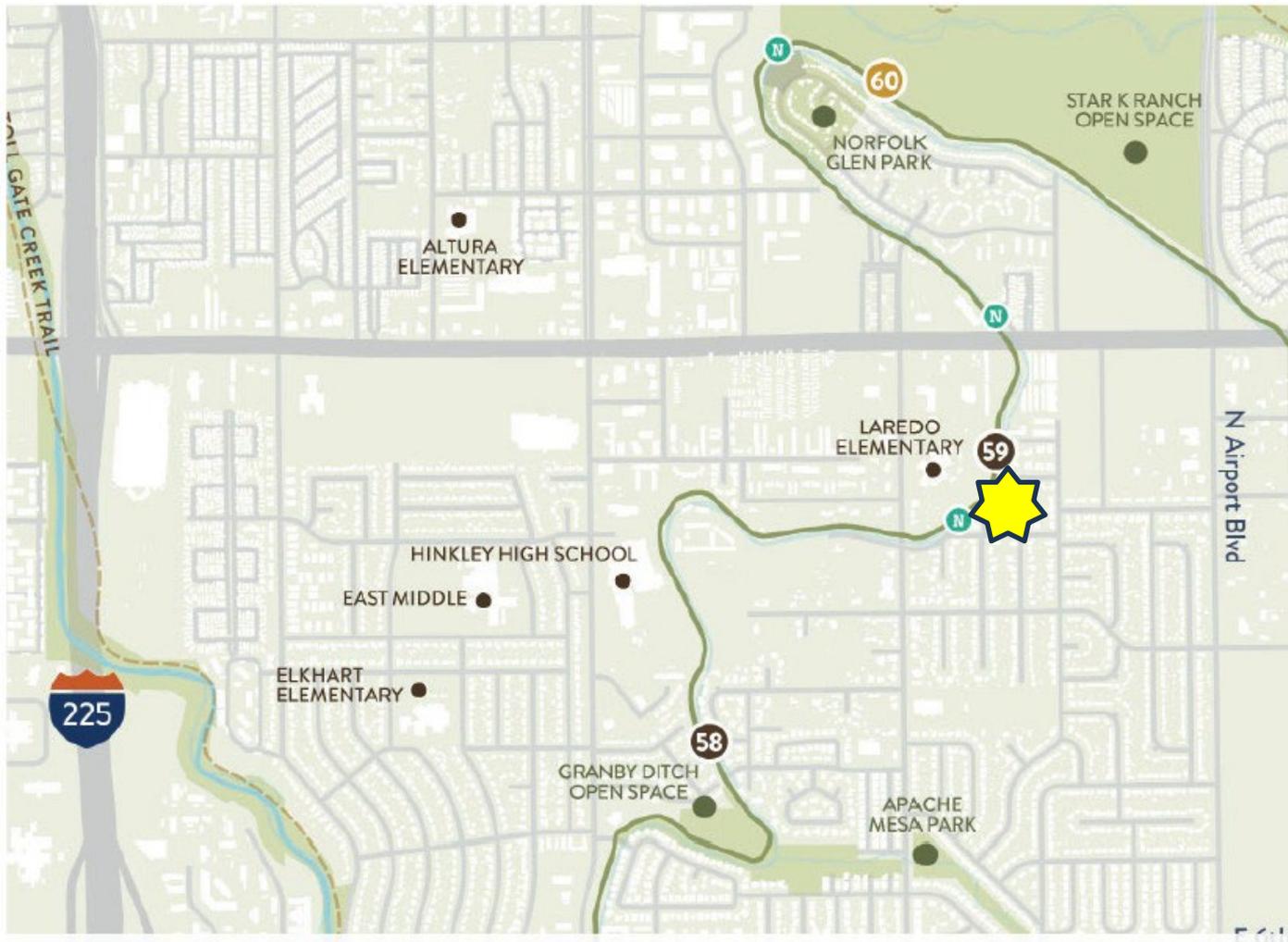
residents within one mile

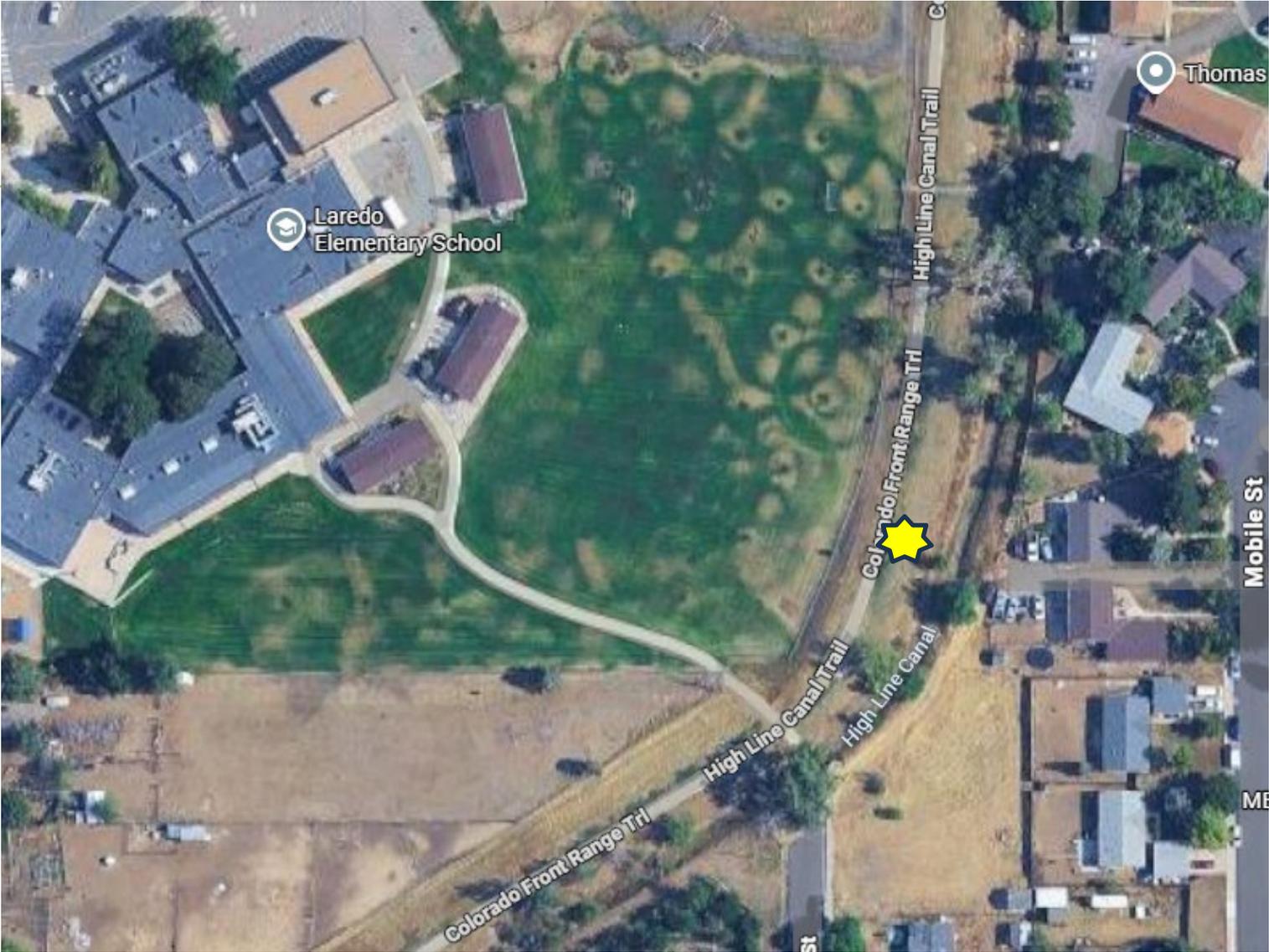


**1 MILLION**

trail users per year

# Laredo Outdoor Classroom and Crossing





# Laredo Outdoor Classroom and Crossing Existing Conditions



ry School





## Improvements include:

- Outdoor Classroom
- Shade structure
- Plantings
- Interpretive signage
- Seating
- Improved Canal Crossing

# Laredo Outdoor Classroom and Crossing

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## Funding Partners

- City of Aurora in partnership with HLCC
  - Contributions for match are from GOCO and private donations
  - **\$270,000**
- Arapahoe County Joint Project Request
  - **\$270,000**

## Timeline

- Design/Review- **through Q1 2026**
- Bidding- **Spring 2026**
- Construction: **June 2026-May 2027**



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# Laredo Community Outreach

## Speak Up for the Canal

High Line Canal Northeast Community Engagement, 2016 - 2024



### ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



### TOTAL REACH



### 2022-2024 NORTH AURORA

#### FEEDBACK REACH

55,000+ total through mailings, social media, newsletters & more  
 770 formal feedback responses  
 305 people engaged at community events

#### WHAT ELSE WE HEARD

- Prioritize wayfinding signage
- More bathrooms and trash cans
- Maintenance of grass and vegetation along the trail
- Trees are desired for shade
- Safer trail access and connectivity needed at Colfax Ave. intersections & Airport Blvd.
- Improved crossings needed at most access points
- Concerns about personal safety & use of Canal for camping
- Prevent unauthorized vehicles on the trail
- Excitement for new and improved neighborhood access points

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### NATURE + NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Water  
 Natural Vegetation/Habitat/Plants & Trees

"Maintain the natural setting with cottonwoods and the wildlife corridor!"

#### RECREATIONAL + EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Signage  
 Gathering Spaces  
 Play Areas

"I know that there are a few areas where the school uses the High Line Canal and the property around it for education and for kids to be able to get outside and play."

#### ACCESS, AWARENESS + ACCESSIBILITY

Shade  
 Benches + Seating  
 Signage  
 Access  
 Parking  
 Restrooms

"A big reason that I love the trail is because in most places that I've been on the trail there is a dirt or crusher-fined jogging path next to the paved path. So wherever the trail is going to be built out in the future, or wherever that enhancement could be made, to continue having both a paved and a dirt or gravel surface would be awesome."

#### SAFETY + CONNECTIVITY

"I feel safe when the trail is far from any stress and I know my kids can run free. And I don't feel safe when the trail comes to a street and there are not stop signs or pedestrian light that makes it safe for us to cross."

Access + Parking

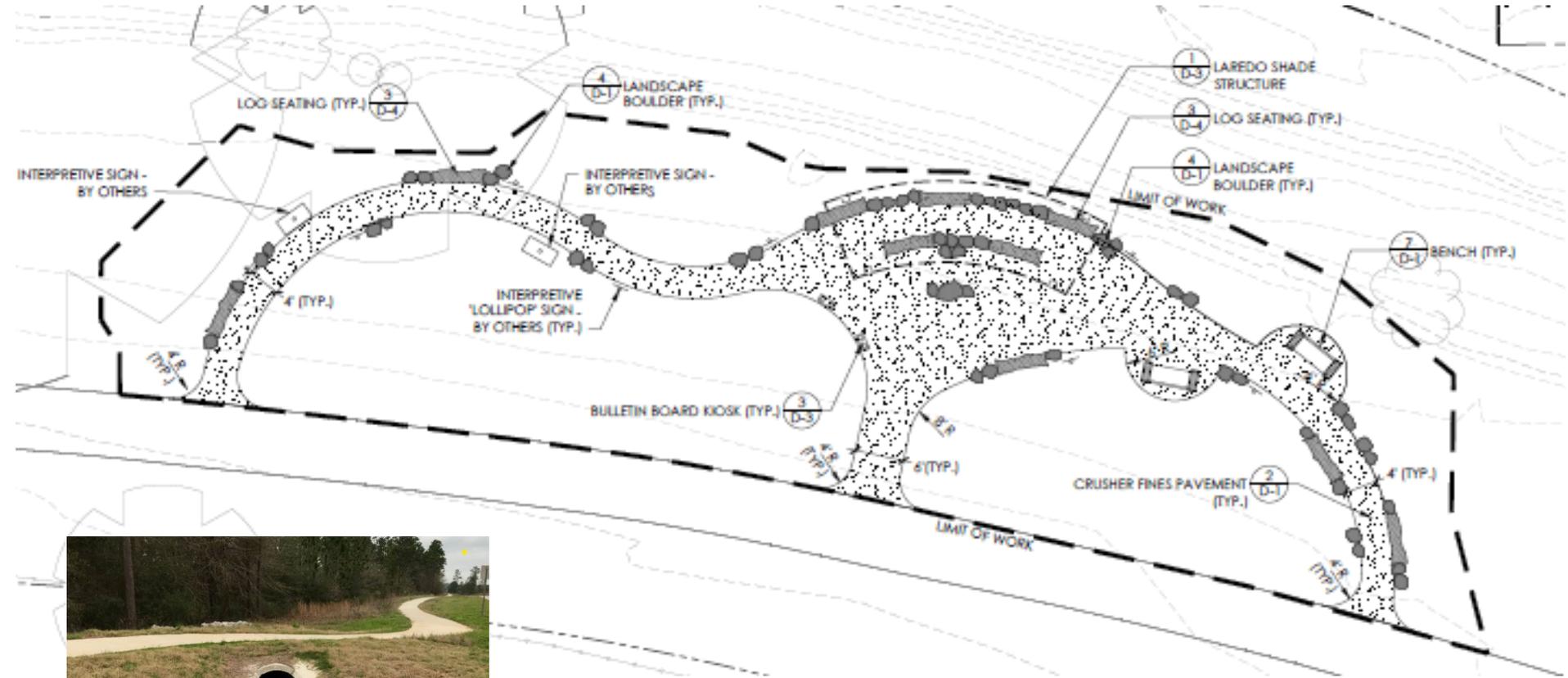
#### STEWARDSHIP + MAINTENANCE

"More community cleanups and trash pickups."

Natural Vegetation/Habitat/Plants & Trees  
 Water



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# Thank you!

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