

Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements

Joint Project Application

City of Aurora

Mr Rian French

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste 4600
Aurora, CO 80012

rfrench@auroragov.org
O: 303-739-7196

Application Form

Application Summary

Grant Category*

Select One:

Joint Project

Primary Contact Information*

Please provide information for the primary contact for this project in the following format.

Agency:

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

Agency: City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space

Name: Curt Bish

Title: Principal Planner

Telephone: 303.739.7131

Email: cbish@auroragov.org

Project Type*

Select One:

- **Trail Project:** Trail/trailhead construction or improvement, including stream/road crossings and trailhead amenities (such as parking, restrooms or shelters)
- **Site Improvement Project:** New construction, improvement, repair, or replacement of passive outdoor recreation amenities
- **Acquisition Project:** Eligible projects include fee simple acquisition of land for public open space or trails; acquisition of buffer land; acquisition of a conservation easement; and/or acquisition of water rights
- **Other Project:** Other allowable projects include stream/habitat restoration, natural re-vegetation, and water quality improvement

Site Improvement Project

Project Title*

Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements

Project Address

High Line Canal South of Colfax Ave

Project Location*

Select all that apply:

Aurora

GPS Coordinates (Latitude in Decimal Degrees)*

Example: Dove Valley Regional Park

Latitude: 39.577303

39.738728

GPS Coordinates (Longitude in Decimal Degrees)*

Example: Dove Valley Regional Park

Longitude: -104.828850

-104.777622

Grant Request Amount*

\$585,000.00

Cash Match Amount*

\$585,000.00

Total Project Amount*

Total project amount includes grant request and cash match only. Please do not include in-kind match.

\$1,170,000.00

Cash Match Percentage*

Calculate cash match as % of total project cost.

50

Project Partners

List partner agencies if applicable.

High Line Canal Conservancy

Executive Summary*

Highlight key points of your proposal, such as project description, components, deliverables, need, goals, beneficiaries, planning, etc.

The City of Aurora has come together with Arapahoe County Open Spaces, High Line Canal Conservancy and all of the jurisdictions along the High Line Canal to plan for the Canal's future as a recreational and ecological resource. The result, The Plan for the High Line Canal (The Plan), has identified and prioritized projects that will enhance the user experience on the trail through improved access, awareness, connectivity and activation. The Plan prioritizes improvements in Aurora and Northeast Denver where the Canal connects diverse communities and yet is significantly underutilized compared to other reaches of the trail. This project will implement priorities identified in The Plan in Aurora, completing site improvements at the Triple Creek Trailhead that were designed when the trailhead was constructed but couldn't be afforded at the time. These site improvements will include planting, gathering spaces, natural play elements, a bike skills course and interpretive features. These amenities will help draw users to the Triple Creek Trailhead, connecting them to the High Line Canal and Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

After completing a community-centered design process in 2023 to develop the plan for improvements in this area, the High Line Canal Conservancy (Conservancy) successfully procured funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) focused on improvements in north Aurora that activate the trail and connect communities to nature. The neighborhoods along the Canal in north Aurora are 40% Latino, 20% African American and 5% percent Asian American. The median household income in these areas is \$41,000 per year, less than half of the median household income of the Denver Metro Area as a whole. The City of Aurora's and the Conservancy's interest, with support from The Colorado Health Foundation, is in removing barriers to using the trail for recreation and positioning the Canal as a catalyst of community health. Aurora PROS is requesting funds from ACOS to match these private funds raised by the Conservancy to implement these critical projects and invest in these north Aurora neighborhoods.

This project will have eight key deliverables: circulation paths throughout the open space accessed by the trailhead, gathering spaces with seating and overlooks, natural play elements, a bike skills course, extensive planting, seating, wayfinding signage and interpretive features. The circulation paths will allow trail users to explore this spectacular open space situated just off Colfax Ave while the gathering spaces and overlooks will enhance the visitor experience. The natural play elements and bike skills course will help make the site a destination for trail users. Extensive planting at the site will build on restoration work completed in 2019 to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Seating and wayfinding signage will enhance connections with two of Aurora's regional trails, while interpretive features will educate trail users about the site's history and the siphon that carries Canal water under Sand Creek in this location. The goals of the project are to increase use of both trail systems while improving community health and the ecological health of the Canal and open space.

Project Timeline

- Q3 2025: Funding commitment secured, designs progress through approval processes, community engagement supports development of interpretive content.
- Q4 2025: Final designs are approved through the City of Aurora.
- Q1 2026: Construction begins.
- Q4 2026: Construction complete, establishment watering contract begins.

Authorized Signature

Certification and Authorized Signature Form*

Please attach completed Certification and Authorized Signature Form as a PDF document. Form must be signed by highest authority in agency or authorized individual. *Staff will email you the form.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_CertificationandAuthorizedSignatureForm.pdf*

TCT_Certification and Authorized Signature Form.pdf

Project Timeline

Project Timeline Form*

Please attach completed Project Timeline Form as a PDF document. *Staff will email you the form.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_TimelineForm.pdf*

TCT_JP Project Timeline Form.pdf

Project Budget

Budget Forms*

Please attach completed Summary Budget Form and Detailed Expense Budget Form as a single PDF document. *Staff will email you the form.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_BudgetForms.pdf*

TCT_AuroraPROS_BudgetForm.pdf

Project Narrative

Question 1*

Describe the project goals, scope, expected results, and deliverables. Discuss the current condition of the project site and what improvements, if any, are proposed and why. Discuss how this project preserves open space, improves access to the outdoors, creates connectivity, and/or provides educational opportunities.

The goals of the project are to increase use of the trail through improved access and awareness, improve community health and enhance the ecological health of the Canal. This project will have eight key deliverables, all of which are prioritized in The Plan: circulation paths throughout the open space accessed by the trailhead, gathering spaces with seating and overlooks, natural play elements, a bike skills course,

extensive planting, seating, wayfinding signage and interpretive features. The circulation paths will allow trail users to explore this pristine open space situated just off Colfax while the gathering spaces and overlooks will enhance the visitor experience. The natural play elements and bike skills course will help make the site a destination for trail users. Extensive planting at the site will build on restoration work completed in 2019 to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Seating and wayfinding signage will enhance connections with two of Aurora's regional trails, while interpretive features will educate trail users about the site's history and the siphon that carries Canal water under Sand Creek in this location. The goals of the project are to increase use of both trail systems while improving community health and the ecological health of the Canal and creek corridors.

When the Triple Creek Trailhead was completed in 2019, it was intended to be a regional gateway for trail users to the Canal and Sand Creek regional trails, enhancing access to the trail system and regional connectivity. However, the budget at the time was limited and the master plan developed for the site was not able to be implanted. Since then, the master plan for the site has been refined based on public input and the Conservancy has secured matching funds to support Aurora's efforts to implement these improvements. The site improvements will make the trailhead a destination for trail users and for neighbors looking to access this open space off Colfax Ave. Circulation paths will provide accessible opportunities to explore the open space. Signage and interpretive features will also provide educational opportunities on the site, connecting visitors to the site's natural resources and the unique history of the Canal.

Question 2*

Describe the community/neighborhood and user groups the project will serve. Discuss the type of users (children, families, seniors, etc.), and estimate the number of users that will benefit annually. How did you arrive at this estimate? *Include up to five community support letters in the Attachments section. Support letters should come from users, working groups, community members, volunteers, schools, etc. Letters should be dated within the last six months.*

The north Aurora neighborhoods along the Canal are predominantly Latino and African American and the project will actively work to engage these communities in enhancing and activating the Canal. There are two schools in the neighborhood where this project site is located that serve low-income, diverse populations that are representative of their neighborhood. Hinkley High School has a rate of 72.4% free and reduced lunch and 94% of students are non-white. Laredo Elementary school has a rate of 84.9% free and reduced lunch and 91% of students are non-white. Engagement with these schools has been a critical component of the Conservancy's community engagement that has sought to empower the community and ensure a feeling of ownership in the neighborhood for the Canal. Moving these projects into implementation is critical to ensure that the community members who have been involved in public engagement processes can see these improvements come to life. Access improvements will create valuable opportunities to provide safe routes to school and partnerships with these educational institutions will be essential to catalyzing use of the Canal. There are other indicators of barriers to accessing health and wellness resources in this community as 20% of neighbors speak English less than very well and 22.6% do not have a high school diploma.

User counts performed by the Conservancy in north Aurora have recorded just 3-12 users per hour, though anecdotally these numbers increase before and after school. For comparison, user counts in the Canal's southern suburbs have consistently recorded 50-100 users per hour during peak use. Based on these user counts, assuming the average 7.5 users per hour in the neighborhood and extrapolating for the year, 32,850 total users would benefit from awareness and activation improvements in north Aurora.

Question 3*

Discuss the need and urgency for this project and why it is a priority. Was the project prioritized in a master plan or other planning document (including County Comprehensive Plan, County Open Space Master Plan, etc.), an independent community planning process, a working group, etc.? Is this part of a larger phased project? What opportunities will be lost if this project is not funded now?

This project was identified and prioritized in The Plan for the High Line Canal, a plan that has been endorsed by Aurora, Arapahoe County and the Conservancy. The project was requested by local community members during a robust outreach process that informed both the High Line canal Community Vision Plan (Vision Plan) and The Plan for the High Line Canal (The Plan). The Plan recommends significant investment in diverse communities along the trail, prioritizing Denver and Aurora for a large proportion of enhancements. The Canal is underutilized in these communities and will require investments to reach its full potential as a recreational resource. The designs that have been developed were cocreated with community members through robust community engagement efforts in 2023 and the community is eager to see these improvements come to life.

The Plan recommends a series of Community Activation Zones, areas of the Canal where investments are needed to increase use of the trail as a community resource and catalyst for improved community health. The Plan states the goal of Community Activation Zones as: Increase health, wellness and active uses by providing activation through the addition of nature play, gathering spaces, exercise stations or other activation types as identified in the Design Guidelines. Neighborhoods for these zones are called out explicitly in The Plan and focus on low-income and diverse communities where the Canal is underutilized. These investments will improve the user experience along the Canal and have the potential to improve community health in some of the most diverse communities in the region. The Conservancy's design process was supported by a private foundation and their share of implementation funds have been secured from GOCO, leveraging philanthropy to enhance the Canal in the Northeast.

This investment would represent one of the first efforts to construct community-informed improvements since completion of The Plan. If this project is not funded now, it will stymy momentum in achieving the level of investment in Aurora that is recommended in The Plan. Implementing all of the recommendations in The Plan in Aurora will require significant support from private sources, Arapahoe County Open Spaces and federal funding for transportation improvements. Demonstrating success will help the Conservancy continue to raise funds and show members of the community that progress is being made. These improvements will be further leveraged by the development of an underpass at the Canal's first crossing of Colfax. This \$12M project, funded with federal funds in addition to matching funds from Arapahoe County and Adams County, will provide a critical connection for trail users to connect along the Canal in north Aurora and utilize these improvement zones.

Question 4*

Summarize any planning completed prior to submitting this Joint Project proposal. Is design and engineering complete? Does the project necessitate a zoning change? List any permits that need to be obtained and status of obtaining those permits (Federal 404, County or City, Storm Water Drainage, etc.).

The master plan for these projects was developed in 2023 through a community-centered design process. Since that time, the Conservancy and Aurora PROS have progressed designs to 90% and the plans have gone through review with the City of Aurora, Arapahoe County and Denver Water. The plans have been submitted to the City of Aurora AMANDA review process to progress through their final review before Aurora can put the projects out to bid and start construction. The final approval for the project will come from the City of Aurora since the improvements are on their property.

Question 5*

Describe the timeframe needed to complete the project. Discuss the agency's capacity to complete the project, including project management, resources, and experience implementing similar projects.

The goal is to complete this project by the end of 2026. The City of Aurora will be responsible for collecting funds from Arapahoe County and the Conservancy, putting the project out to bid and hiring a construction contractor. The Conservancy will support project management in three ways: staff time dedicated by the Conservancy's Project Manager, a construction administration contract with the landscape architecture firm that has developed the plans and an outside project management firm that will be hired by the Conservancy to support Aurora PROS with construction oversight and payment applications. Aurora PROS has extensive experience completing park and trail improvements and while this is a newer role for the Conservancy, the Conservancy's Project Manager and Chief Operating Officer have extensive experience overseeing construction projects in other capacities.

The Conservancy will also be responsible for the development of interpretive sign content as well as the fabrication and installation of interpretive signs. The Conservancy has engaged a consultant team to complete a Canal-wide Interpretive Plan and this team will develop interpretive signage for this site as a pilot project within this Canal-wide effort.

Question 6*

Summarize any efforts to obtain public input, disseminate information to the public, develop partnerships, and garner community support for this project. List the stakeholders that are involved. Discuss any known or anticipated opposition to this project and how this will be addressed. *Include letters, petitions, news articles, or other documents evidencing opposition in the Attachments section.*

Public engagement for the Triple Creek Trailhead site improvements has been extensive, including Aurora PROS outreach efforts during design of the trailhead and Conservancy outreach to subsequently update and refine the master plan. There is no known opposition to improvements at this site.

Starting in 2016, the development of The Plan for the High Line Canal included engagement with over 5,000 residents across the region, providing far-reaching input about ways to enhance the Canal. Aurora PROS partnered with Arapahoe County Open Spaces and the High Line Canal Conservancy to develop both the Community Vision Plan and The Plan. Improved access to the Canal as one of the most important themes in The Plan and the Northeast reaches of the Canal highly prioritized activation and amenities.

Since 2019, the Conservancy piloted a collaborative and community-centered approach to engagement that, in recent years, has been replicated across the Northeast to cultivate meaningful involvement of local youth and their families, community leaders, and partner organizations that represent the diverse populations of the Northeast. Deep community engagement through the community-centered design approach ensures that all communities along the Canal engage in and co-lead the design of trail enhancements by establishing a community feedback structure that cultivates local leadership and decision-making.

Public engagement for the Triple Creek Trailhead site improvements has occurred at two scales: a comprehensive effort across the northeast reach of the High Line Canal and site-specific engagement tied to the Triple Creek Trailhead. There is no known opposition to the improvements.

Overall Engagement

Outreach efforts for the Conservancy's GOCO-funded north Aurora initiative have reached over 55,000 people via postcards, social media, newsletters, and other channels. Formal feedback was received from more than 770 individuals through surveys and polls, and 305 people were engaged in person at community events. A wide range of inclusive tactics were used to gather feedback and build support, including:

- Community events such as public walks, nature play days, pop-ups, and ice cream socials
- Tabling along the Canal trail
- Surveys (physical and digital)

- On-trail signage linking to survey questions
- Public input walks
- Guidance from the Northeast Advisory Committee

Partners have included local schools, libraries, rec centers, and places of worship, as well as organizations including Environmental Learning for Kids, Girl Trek, Groundwork Denver, Metro Denver Nature Alliance, Outdoor Afro, Promotores Verdes, Sand Creek Greenway, Spirit of the Sun, YES Coalition, and Mile High Youth Corps.

Feedback showed significant support for Canal improvements, especially for shade, seating, and safer access—top priorities in the Laredo Highline neighborhood. Engagement highlights are included in the attached outreach summary sheet, titled “N Aurora Engagement Summary_2023-2024”.

Triple Creek Trailhead Engagement

In addition to attending community events, tabling on the Canal and engaging with partners, the Conservancy held a Nature Play Day at Triple Creek Trailhead on August 6, 2023, which collected input specific to this site. Key themes included:

- The sensory play station was the most popular feature
- Participants expressed interest in additional dog amenities
- High enthusiasm for a nature playground
- Appreciation for the existing restroom and desire for a drinking water source
- A need for clear signage to distinguish the High Line Canal Trail from the Sand Creek Trail

This event, in combination with on-site and digital feedback collection, helped refine the design for this project. Additional community input was gathered during site visits with the Sand Creek Greenway partnership, a key collaborator in outreach and alignment at this shared trail node.

Through these deep and broad engagement efforts, the project reflects community priorities and has built strong local support—especially in communities historically underrepresented in public planning processes.

Question 7*

How much of your planned cash match is secured? If applicable, what are your plans for raising additional funds? Describe cash and in-kind match partnerships established for the project. Explain if partnerships were not possible or necessary for this project. *Include partner support letters in the Attachments section and include match from partners on the Budget Forms. Joint Project recipients are responsible for project cost overruns.*

All matching funds have been secured from the Conservancy’s GOCO grant, including construction funding, interpretive signage design, fabrication and installation as well as funding for contracted construction oversight and construction administration. The Conservancy’s GOCO grant will also support Conservancy staff time and project management being contributed to the project in-kind. The Conservancy has also invested significant funds raised from a private foundation in staff time to manage the design and community engagement process as well as design costs associated with advancing the designs to 90%. To this point, over \$150,000 has been invested in the design and engineering of the improvements in north Aurora.

Question 8*

Describe any scenic, historic, or cultural values associated with the project site. Will they be preserved or restored? Discuss specific natural resources at the site (including habitat, water, wildlife, and vegetation) and impacts to these resources as a result of this project. If applicable, discuss environmental sustainability benefits of this project (such as energy or water conservation, water quality improvement, etc.).

The High Line Canal has significant historic value as a remnant of Aurora’s agricultural heritage. The project will preserve the historic High Line Canal channel while providing opportunities to educate the local community about the Canal’s history and its importance to the growth of Aurora. This site is particularly

unique as it was originally home to a wooden flume that carried High Line Canal water over Sand Creek. After the 1965 floods damaged the flume, a concrete siphon structure was installed carrying Canal water under Sand Creek. Trail users visiting the site are left to wonder where the Canal is physically located, creating an opportunity for interpretation that highlights how the Canal functioned, following the high point of the topography to carry Canal water across natural waterways. The Canal and Sand Creek also form important habitat for wildlife and vegetation, providing a green spine for animals to move throughout the city. Significant planting at the site will enhance habitat for birds, insects and small mammals while circulation paths will limit the disruption of vegetation by directing visitors.

This project will lay the groundwork for future engagement in this community, including educating local residents about the Canal's transition from irrigation facility to stormwater management system. This is particularly important in north Aurora, where irrigation water has not been delivered for over twenty years. This lack of water has taken a toll on the tree canopy, and Aurora now has the least dense tree canopy of any jurisdiction along the Canal. Community members will also be engaged around the Canal's transition to green infrastructure, a sustainable approach to water management that could lead to more water in the Canal and a healthier ecosystem. However, this transition is unlikely to take place without support from the community that could be generated as a result of these improvements.

Question 9*

Discuss ownership and legal access at the proposed project site. Detail any third-party rights, easements, or other encumbrances that exist.

The City of Aurora owns the site and will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the improvements. While the High Line Canal property passes through the site, no improvements are proposed on that portion of the property.

Question 10*

Describe long-term plans for maintaining the project. Who will be responsible for maintenance? Estimate annual costs to maintain the site, and explain how maintaining this project site affects your agency's budget.

Aurora PROS will be responsible for maintenance of the site improvements and the Conservancy will be responsible for maintaining signage and benches. The site improvements maintenance cost will be considered and included in the annual operating budget. The Conservancy estimates that bench and sign maintenance will cost approximately \$300 per year to remove graffiti and provide touch ups. These signs are a part of a significant sign package being installed across the Canal and represent a small percentage of the overall sign package implementation.

Question 11*

If applicable, describe how this project will address inclusivity per Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Aurora PROS is committed to universal design and ensuring that site improvements are inclusive of people of all abilities. The High Line Canal can be a great resource for people of varied abilities, as the trail has very little slope and the concrete path provides an elevated level of accessibility. Additional site amenities, such as natural elements, signage and seating will all be inclusive per ADA guidelines.

Question 12*

If successful in obtaining Joint Project funding, how will the agency use this project to inform citizens about the value of the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax? Discuss plans for public outreach, signage, celebration, dedication, etc. *You are required to inform the County of any press about the project and any related events (ribbon cutting ceremonies, etc.). Additionally, acknowledgement of County support must be included in any press about the project.*

This project will acknowledge the value of the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax in several ways and highlight the County's key role as the owner of the Canal. All outreach and engagement materials will recognize Aurora PROS, Arapahoe County Open Spaces and the High Line Canal Conservancy. Temporary signage promoting improvements in the neighborhood will recognize all three partners and permanent signage installed along the Canal as part of the project will similarly include logos for all three partners. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held upon completion of the project and Arapahoe County Open Spaces will have the opportunity to play a central role in the event.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Evidence of Support from Highest Authority*

Please attach evidence of support from the agency's highest authority (official letter or resolution) as a PDF document. At a minimum, this document must include: project title, amount of grant funds requested, statement that matching funds are secured and/or efforts to secure funds are underway (include the amount of matching funds committed), and certification that the project will be open to the public or serve a public purpose upon completion. *A sample resolution is available on the Open Space website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SupportfromHighestAuthority.pdf*

TCT_Applicant_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf

Attachment 2: Evidence of Community Support

Please attach letters of support from users, working groups, community members, volunteers, schools, etc. (maximum of 5) as a single PDF document. Letters should be dated within the last 6 months.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_CommunitySupport.pdf*

TCT_Community Support.pdf

Attachment 3: Documentation of Opposition

Please attach documentation of opposition as a single PDF document. If there is no known opposition to this project, please attach a page stating that this section is not applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Opposition.pdf*

Attachment 4: Evidence of Commitment from Project Partners

Please attach evidence of commitment from project partners (such as partner support letters or commitment to provide cash/in-kind match) as a single PDF document. There is no maximum allowable number of partner support letters. If there are no partners for this project, please attach a page stating that this section is not applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_PartnerCommitments.pdf*

Attachment 5: Primary Project Photo*

Please attach one high resolution photo in JPG format. Please choose the photo that provides the best overall representation of your project. This photo will be used for presentations and/or publications.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_PrimaryPhoto.jpg*

TCT_PrimaryPhoto.pdf

Attachment 6: Photos

Please attach photos of existing conditions at the project site (including captions) as a single PDF document. Include conceptual drawings if applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Photos.pdf*

TCT_Photos.pdf

Attachment 7: Maps*

Please attach a site map and a vicinity map as a single PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Maps.pdf*

TCT_VicinityMap.pdf

Attachment 8: Other Attachments

Please attach additional supporting documentation (news article, cost estimate, appraisal, title commitment, etc.) as a single PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_OtherAttachments.pdf*

TCT_N Aurora Engagement Summary_2023-2024.pdf

Confirmation

Please click the "I Agree" button below to certify that your application is complete and ready to submit. Once submitted, applications are final and cannot be returned.*

I agree

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- TCT_Certification and Authorized Signature Form.pdf
- TCT_JP Project Timeline Form.pdf
- TCT_AuroraPROS_BudgetForm.pdf
- TCT_Applicant_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf
- TCT_Community Support.pdf
- TCT_PrimaryPhoto.pdf
- TCT_Photos.pdf
- TCT_VicinityMap.pdf
- TCT_N Aurora Engagement Summary_2023-2024.pdf



Certification and Authorized Signature Form

Please attach this form to grant and joint project applications submitted through the Arapahoe County Open Spaces Online Grant Portal.

By signing this form, I certify that:

- The information included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.
- If funded, the applicant commits to completing the proposed project.
- If funded, the applicant accepts responsibility for any cost overruns necessary to complete the project.
- If funded, the completed project will be open to the public or will otherwise serve a public purpose.
- If funded, the applicant agrees to maintain the completed project site or to continue its maintenance agreement with a partner agency as outlined in the application.
- I am authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant.

Authorized Signature (highest authority in agency or authorized individual)

05/29/25

Date

Jason Batchelor, City Manager, City of Aurora, CO

Printed Name and Title

Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements

Grant Project or Joint Project Name



Joint Project Timeline Form

Use the sample timeline below as a guide to complete your proposed project timeline. Rows or columns may be added as necessary to include any milestones specific to your project. Timeline must be detailed, realistic, and coincide with details provided in the narrative portion of the grant application. Timeline must conclude within two years of project start date.

Task	May '25	J '25	J '25	A '25	S '25	O '25	N '25	D '25	J '26	F '26	M '26	A '26	M '26	J '26	J '26	A '26	S '26	O '26	N '26	D '26	J '27	F '27	M '27
AMANDA review period																							
Grant Award Notification																							
IGA Executed / Project Start Date																							
Bid Documents																							
Solicitation of Contractors																							
Project Bid Award & Contracting																							
Construction																							
Grand Opening																							
Final Report																							

Summary Budget Form - Grants (50% minimum cash match)

Source of Funds	Date Funds Secured	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Funds
Arapahoe County Open Spaces Grant		\$585,000		\$585,000
Applicant Cash Match	4/14/2025		\$415,000	\$415,000
High Line Canal Conservancy Partner Match	3/15/2024		\$170,000	\$170,000
Totals		\$585,000	\$585,000	\$1,170,000

MATCH REQUIREMENTS	Total Project Cost:	\$1,170,000.00
	Cash Match % Required:	50%
	Required Cash Match Amount	\$585,000.00
	Project Cash Match Budgeted:	\$585,000.00
	<i>Minimum Met? Y or N</i>	

Applicant: Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Project Title: Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements

** Please do not include in-kind match on the Budget Forms. Describe in-kind match in the budget narrative and project narrative.*



May 29, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S Lima St, Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112

Re: Joint Project Grant Application 2025

Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces and OSTAB Members:

Please accept this letter of commitment on behalf of the City of Aurora, Colorado for support of the Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements joint project grant application. This project will complete the 2016 master plan, including the bike skills course, shade shelter with adjacent nature discovery paths and nodes, with enhanced native plantings and interpretive signage throughout.

Aurora is requesting \$585,000 in grant funds from the Arapahoe County Open Space Tax program. The City of Aurora has a secured cash match of \$415,000 comprised of Great Outdoor Colorado Centennial grant funds in partnership with the High Line Canal Conservancy who have also brought \$170,000 in funding. The City will be responsible for any cost overruns. Maintenance and care of the facility will be managed as part of our ongoing maintenance budget.

If awarded, an intergovernmental agreement between the city of Aurora and Arapahoe County will be required along with a city council resolution. Grant reports will be authorized by the director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

By approving this grant application for \$585,000, the Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board will contribute to the site improvements that will complete the 2016 master plan. The trail is currently and will remain open to the public. Thank you for your on-going support of our parks, open space and trail system.

Sincerely,

Jason Batchelor
City Manager



TO: Arapahoe County Open Spaces
FROM: Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership
DATE: May 20, 2025
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements

Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces,

There are few places in the Denver Metro region with more potential to advance equitable access to nature and recreation than the intersection of the High Line Canal and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. On behalf of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed site improvements at the Triple Creek Trailhead—a key connection point between our two regional trail systems.

The Triple Creek Trailhead is already an important access hub, but the proposed improvements by the High Line Canal Conservancy and the City of Aurora will elevate its impact. With new gathering areas, a bike skills course, interpretive features, and natural play and restoration elements, this project will transform the site into a vibrant community destination. It will encourage residents to explore both the Canal and Sand Creek trails and increase awareness of the 250+ acres of open space in this part of north Aurora.

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway and the High Line Canal Conservancy share a commitment to serving diverse and historically underserved communities. This project aligns with both organizations' long-standing goals: creating welcoming, healthy, and safe public spaces that support outdoor recreation, youth engagement, and environmental education. Our collaboration with the Conservancy in recent years has included programming, stewardship, and coordinated engagement strategies—all aimed at ensuring that investments reflect the voices and priorities of local residents.

We are especially excited about how this project will draw more people to the trails and greenways in this part of the region. It supports our shared vision for interconnected, equitable access to nature from the foothills to the plains.

We wholeheartedly support the Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements and urge you to fund this critical investment in community health, connectivity, and access.

Very best,

Mo Fair
Executive Director
Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

Aurora, May 27th, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces

6934 S Lima St A

Englewood, CO 80112

Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces,

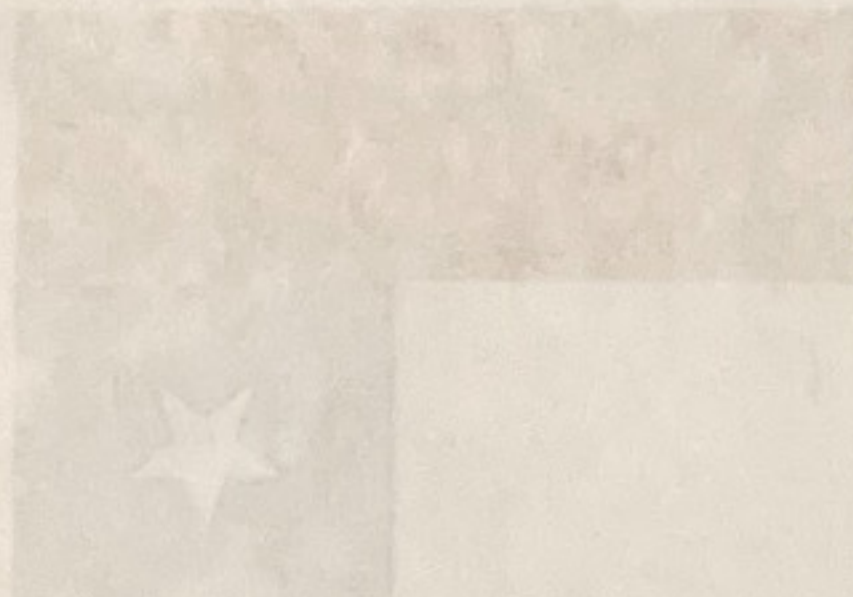
My name is Ema Reyes, and I'm a middle school student living in Aurora. I'm writing to share my support for the High Line Canal improvement projects in North Aurora—especially the work happening at the Triple Creek Trailhead.

As someone who loves being outside and staying active with my family, the High Line Canal is one of my favorite places to explore. Whether we're walking our dog, riding bikes, or going for a run, the Canal gives us a safe, beautiful, and convenient way to enjoy nature right in our own community. It's more than just a trail to me — it's a place that helps me stay healthy, connect with my neighbors, and feel proud of where I live.

I think it's really exciting that the High Line Canal Conservancy and the City of Aurora are improving access and amenities in this part of Aurora. The Triple Creek Trailhead especially has so much potential to become a welcoming, well-used entry point for people of all ages. These improvements show that our community values outdoor spaces and is investing in something that benefits everyone—kids, teens, families, and even future generations.

Thank you for your work to protect and improve the High Line Canal. It makes a big difference in my life and in the lives of many others.

Sincerely,



Ema Reyes

Ema Laura Reyes

Aurora, Colorado

May 13, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
6934 S Lima St.
Centennial, CO 80112

RE: Joint Project Grant Support for High Line Canal Projects in North Aurora

Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces,

On behalf of the High Line Canal Northeast Community Committee, we are writing in strong support of the joint project grant applications submitted by the High Line Canal Conservancy and the City of Aurora for the Granby Ditch Overlook, Laredo Elementary Outdoor Classroom, and Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements.

Our committee represents over 15 neighborhoods in Northeast Denver, Aurora, and unincorporated Arapahoe County. Formed in 2022, we serve as a trusted bridge between the High Line Canal Conservancy and our communities—ensuring that trail improvements are shaped by local voices and benefit those historically underrepresented in outdoor spaces. These three projects are direct results of an inclusive, community-centered design process. As members of the committee, we've played an active role in shaping the priorities and designs for these sites. Each project reflects our collective vision to activate the Canal as a safe, healthy, and accessible green space for our youth, families, and elders:

- Granby Ditch Overlook will transform a part of the trail into a natural refuge with interpretive signage, natural seating, and plantings.
- Laredo Elementary Outdoor Classroom will connect students and neighbors to the Canal through a shade structure, safe crossings, and meaningful educational opportunities.
- Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements will deliver long-awaited enhancements to a key regional access point, including natural elements, bike skills features, and interpretation.

Together, these projects address the priorities we've consistently elevated: safe access, ecological restoration, cultural interpretation, and joyful use of the Canal for all. They advance equity in public space and demonstrate how public-private partnerships can meet the needs of communities who have been historically underserved.

We are grateful for Arapahoe County Open Spaces' past support and urge you to invest in these community-backed projects. They will deliver visible, lasting impact for the neighborhoods we call home.

Sincerely,

The High Line Canal Northeast Community Committee

Leslie Brown

Calvin Ann Evans

Nelson Holland

Debi Hunter Holen

Cynthia Armendáriz-Maxwell

Laura Morales

Adolfo Romero

Vanessa Salinas



HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY

TO: Arapahoe County Open Spaces

FROM: High Line Canal Conservancy

DATE: May 30th, 2025

SUBJECT: Letter of No Opposition – Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements

The Triple Creek Trailhead site improvements have been known by the community for nearly a decade, as is evident by the 2016 master plan. The master plan was not able to be fully realized due to construction costs, and the first phase was completed in 2019. Since that time, there has been ongoing public outreach and engagement to keep the community informed and invested in the goals of the site. The Conservancy has not received any known opposition, nor been apprised of any by Aurora PROS or other entities.

Sincerely,

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



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Documentation of Opposition



TO: Arapahoe County Open Spaces
FROM: High Line Canal Conservancy
Amy Daley, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer
DATE: May 30, 2025
SUBJECT: Triple Creek Trailhead Site Improvements - Funding

The Conservancy partnering with Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (Aurora PROS) on improvements to the Triple Creek Trailhead. The Conservancy has secured \$585,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado and private donations for the project as described in the joint project request. The Conservancy will spend \$170,000 on project design and engineering to prepare documents for bidding. A funding agreement, signed by both parties, has been executed to transfer \$415,000 to Aurora PROS for project construction.

The opportunity to further enhance the Triple Creek Trailhead in North Aurora is an exciting opportunity for the Conservancy and Aurora PROS and we appreciate the consideration of Arapahoe County Open Spaces to support the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Daley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Amy Daley, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
High Line Canal Conservancy



Triple Creek Trailhead



TRAILER
PARKING
↑
CAR
PARKING
→



Triple Creek Trailhead



TRAILER
PARKING
↑
CAR
PARKING
→





 **SAND CREEK** REGIONAL GREENWAY
WELCOME TO AURORA 

↑ S. Platte River Trail 12.4 Mi

↑ Morrison Nature Center   2 Mi

←↓ High Line Canal Trail

↑ Sand Creek Park   4.3 Mi











Trail Map



Trail and Open Space Rules & Regulations

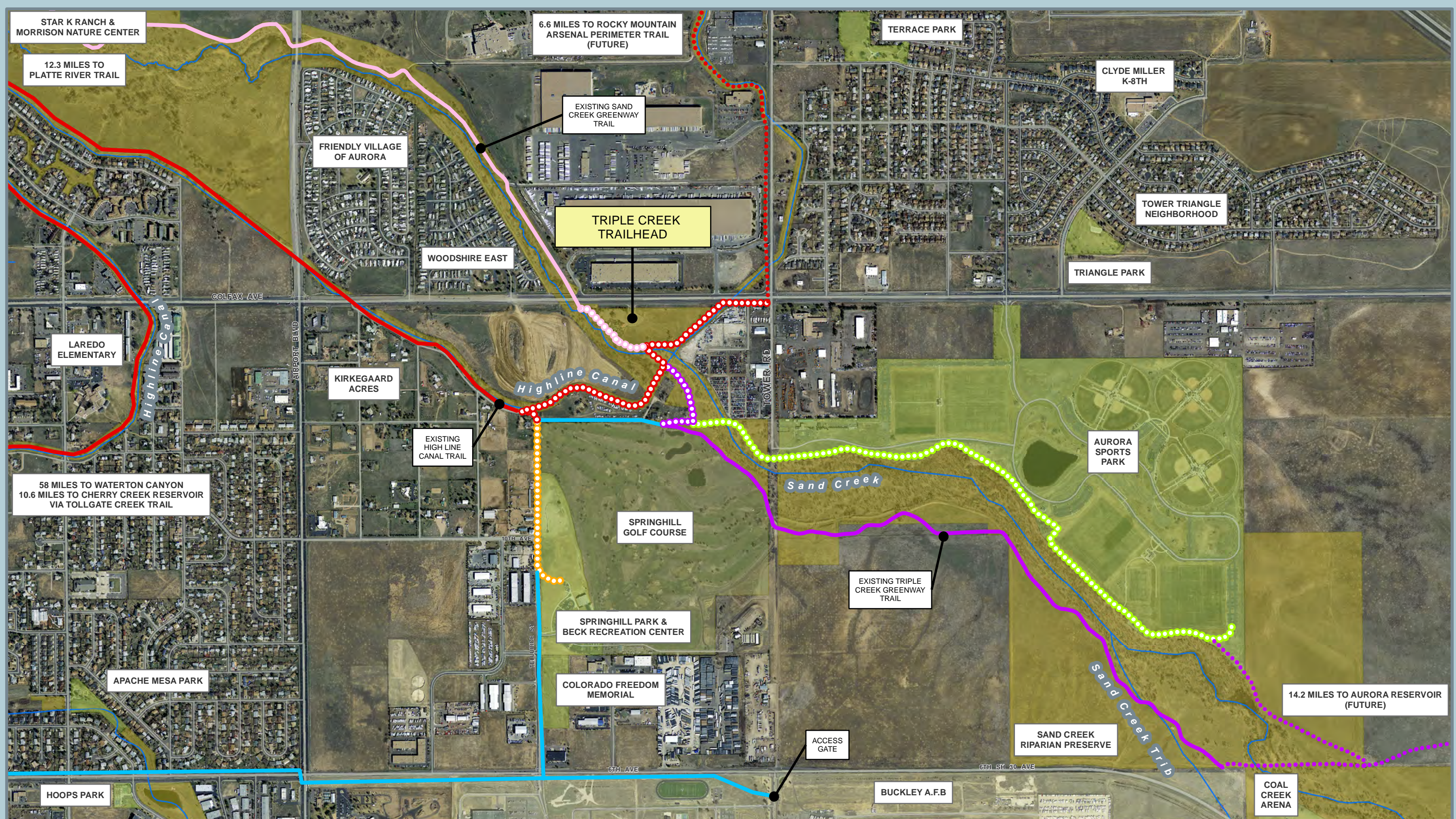
Hours are from dawn to dusk, except where posted otherwise.
Keep all pets on a leash no longer than 10 feet at all times.
Pet waste must be picked up and disposed of properly.
Share the trail and be courteous to others at all times.
Do not block the flow of traffic, move off the trail when stopping.
Stay to the right side of the trail, except when passing. Announce approach when passing.
All trash must be disposed of properly.

The following activities/items are prohibited:
Swimming • Tubing • Boating • Bores • Fires
Hunting • Trapping • Fishing • Weapons
Damaging or removing vegetation
Unauthorized motorized equipment of any type
Glass bottles or containers

To report accidents or unusual incidents call 911
For a complete list of rules and regulations or for general information
Call (303) 738-7180
www.auroraopen.org/pros







High Line Canal/Triple Creek Trail Connections

Parks, Recreation & Open Space
The Quality of Life Department

Aerial Photography: Spring 2012

September, 2013

TRIPLE CREEK TRAIL

TRIPLE CREEK TRAIL PROPOSED

TRIPLE CREEK TRAIL FUTURE

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL PROPOSED

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL FUTURE

SAND CREEK TRAIL

SAND CREEK TRAIL PROPOSED

EXISTING TRAIL

SPORTS PARK CONNECTOR PROPOSED

SPRINGHILL CONNECTOR PROPOSED

DEVELOPED PARK

OPEN SPACE

GOLF COURSE



0 500 1000
Feet

Triple Creek Trailhead

MASTER PLAN



Speak Up for the Canal

High Line Canal Northeast Community Engagement, 2016 - 2024



HIGH LINE CANAL
CONSERVANCY

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



TOTAL REACH



1,500,000
reach through media & mailings



10,000
people engaged across the region



4,000+
youth engaged



1,500+
total surveys



100+
community input events

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!"

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

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."

STEWARDSHIP + MAINTENANCE

"More community cleanups and trash pickups."



Natural Vegetation/
Habitat/Plants & Trees



Water

