

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. 17-0259 In Support of the High Line Canal Vision Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the historic High Line Canal (the “Canal”) has always faced challenges as an irrigation delivery system due in part to its water right low priority and high rate of seepage; and

**WHEREAS**, despite its challenges as an irrigation delivery system, the Canal is a cherished part of the lives of millions of people of all ages and backgrounds, serving as a natural respite from the urban experience - the Canal’s 71 meandering miles are vitally important to the region’s citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, data indicates that more than 350,000 residents reside within one mile of the Canal, and more than 500,000 people use the Canal each year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the High Line Canal Working Group, a collaborative effort initiated by Arapahoe County to secure funding for and implement projects that help enhance and protect the unique recreational experience along the High Line Canal, entered into the High Line Canal Working Group Statement of Purpose (attached as Exhibit A); and

**WHEREAS**, the High Line Canal Core Management Team was established in 2012 and includes Denver Water, Arapahoe County, the City of Aurora, the City and County of Denver, and Douglas County. As explained in the Core Team Memorandum of Understanding, the Core Team’s focus is to coordinate and catalyze the many different processes that are needed to develop and implement a future vision for the Canal. The Core Team’s primary objective is to achieve maximum possible beneficial public use/s for the Canal; and

**WHEREAS**, as the Canal owners, Denver Water has supported the region’s recreational use of the Canal Trail for over 40 years and has partnered in creating this transformational long-term vision for the Canal’s future, while continuing to meet its water delivery obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, Douglas County, Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District, the City of Littleton, the City of Centennial, Arapahoe County, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, the City of Greenwood Village, the City of Cherry Hills Village, the City and County of Denver, the City of Aurora, which are all of the counties, cities and districts along the Canal, joined together with Denver Water and the High Line Canal Conservancy to support an *extraordinary and diverse public outreach* process that reached over 100,000 citizens, and engaged over 3,500 residents across the Denver metro region through public meetings, more than 25 community events, and two online surveys; and

**WHEREAS**, through this unprecedented public input process, the High Line Canal Conservancy, in partnership with the counties, cities, and districts along the Canal and with support from Denver Water, developed the High Line Canal Vision Plan (the “Vision Plan”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Vision Plan recognizes that each of the jurisdictions along the Canal previously have adopted local management and planning strategies that address uses and activities of the Canal within their jurisdictions, and these differences are acknowledged and respected by the Vision Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1:** That the undersigned governmental entity supports the High Lind Canal Vision as stated below:

The High Line Canal's 71 meandering miles will be preserved and enhanced as a cherished greenway that connects people to nature and binds varied communities together from the foothills to the plains.

**Section 2:** That the undersigned supports these guiding principles for the future of the Canal. These guiding principles are:

Natural: To preserve the natural character of the Canal, ensuring it continues to be a natural refuge for the region's population and wildlife. The Canal's natural, scenic beauty is integral to its identity;

Connected & Continuous: To maintain and increase the connectivity of the Canal along all 71 miles, preserving and enhancing the Canal's use as an important continuous resource and regional environmental and trail network;

Varied: To respect the variety of communities and experiences along the Canal and to preserve its various physical characteristics through the course of its 71 miles;

Managed: To work together in order to preserve and support a long-term, sustainable future for generations to come. Our Canal is a critical, cherished asset for the region;

Enhanced: To enhance the enjoyment and use of the Canal in keeping with its natural and varied character.

**Section 3:** That the undersigned affirm the "High Line Canal Working Group Statement of Purpose" to reinforce their continuing collaborative efforts (Exhibit A).

**Section 4:** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 21, 2017

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PRESIDENT