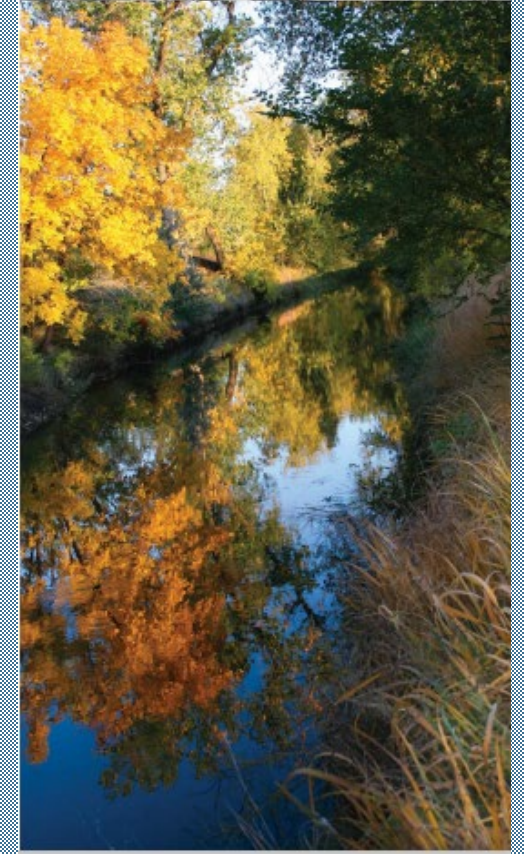
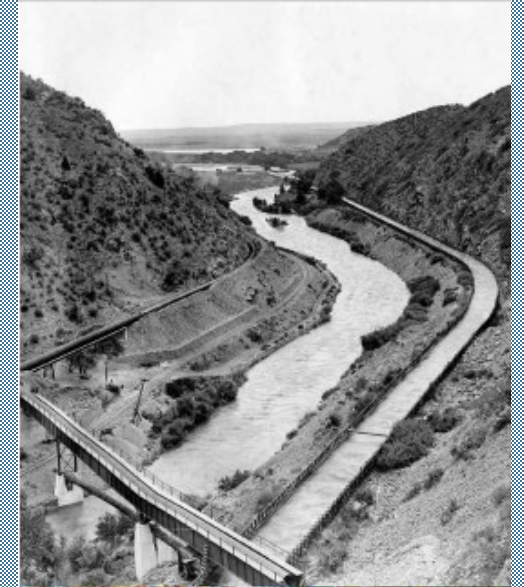


IGA WITH MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT
REGARDING FUNDING OF MAJOR
DRAINAGEWAY PLANNING FOR HIGH LINE
CANAL STORMWATER TRANSITION AND
MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION 112-2024

Brent Soderlin, Director of Public Works & Utilities
Sarah White, Water Resources Manager

OCTOBER 15, 2024



HISTORY OF THE HIGH LINE CANAL

- Constructed in 1883 to provide irrigation water
- Purchased in 1924 by Denver Water
- Maintenance road was repurposed to a recreational trail in the 1970s
 - 71 miles from Waterton Canyon to Green Valley Ranch
 - One of the nation's longest continuous urban trails
 - 800-acre corridor
- 1999 - Denver Water Policy prohibits stormwater into Canal
- 2010 - Denver Water announces plans to stop use of the lower canal

HISTORY OF THE HIGH LINE CANAL

- 2010 – High Line Canal Working Group formed
- 2015 – Formation of the High Line Canal Conservancy
- 2020 – Denver Water pledges to conserve HLC
- 2021 – The Canal Collaborative formed
- 2024 – Ownership transfer to Arapahoe County
 - 45 miles transferred
 - Includes conservation easement to permanently protect the HLC as natural open space (managed by HLC Conservancy)
 - Maintenance is a collaboration between Denver Water, the counties, local jurisdictions and the conservancy

HIGH LINE CANAL COLLABORATIVE



VISION STATEMENT

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.

-Community Vision Plan for the High line Canal April 2017



HIGH LINE CANAL COLLABORATIVE

Planning Priorities

- Public health through improved access, safety and quality of experience
- Environmental health ensuring the Canal is a thriving natural corridor
- Repurpose the Canal as a green infrastructure/stormwater management system, and
- Honoring the Canal's History and educational potential.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Irrigation Ditch transformation concerns

- Stormwater historically diverted away from canal
- HLC not considered part of regional drainage master plans
- HLC crosses 30 waterways
- Floodplain regulation requirements
- Preservation of headgates
- Maintain vegetation along the Canal

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

4 Major Stormwater Planning Milestones

- 2014 – HLC Feasibility Study for Stormwater Runoff Reduction & Treatment
- 2018 – HLC Stormwater and Operations Master Plan
- 2019 – Stormwater Transformation and Enhancement Program
- 2024 – Stormwater Transition and Management Plan (STAMP)

ONE CANAL. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE WATER.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

2018 - High Line Canal Stormwater and Operations Master Plan

Additional considerations needed:

- Water rights implications
- Adverse impacts due to overtopping
- Long term management
- Review and approval process

Future governance of the High Line Canal will need to be determined by the jurisdictions located along the canal together with Denver Water.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

2024 - HLC Stormwater Transition and Management Plan (STAMP)

- Update to the 2018 Stormwater and Operations Master Plan
- Canal Collaborative lead by MHFD
- Canal- wide master plan
 - Operations and Maintenance
 - Refinement of hydrology
 - Water quality considerations
 - Regulatory Considerations
 - ❑ Water Rights, MS4, Waters of the State, Floodplain Regulations
 - Standardized approach across all jurisdictions

HLC IN LITTLETON

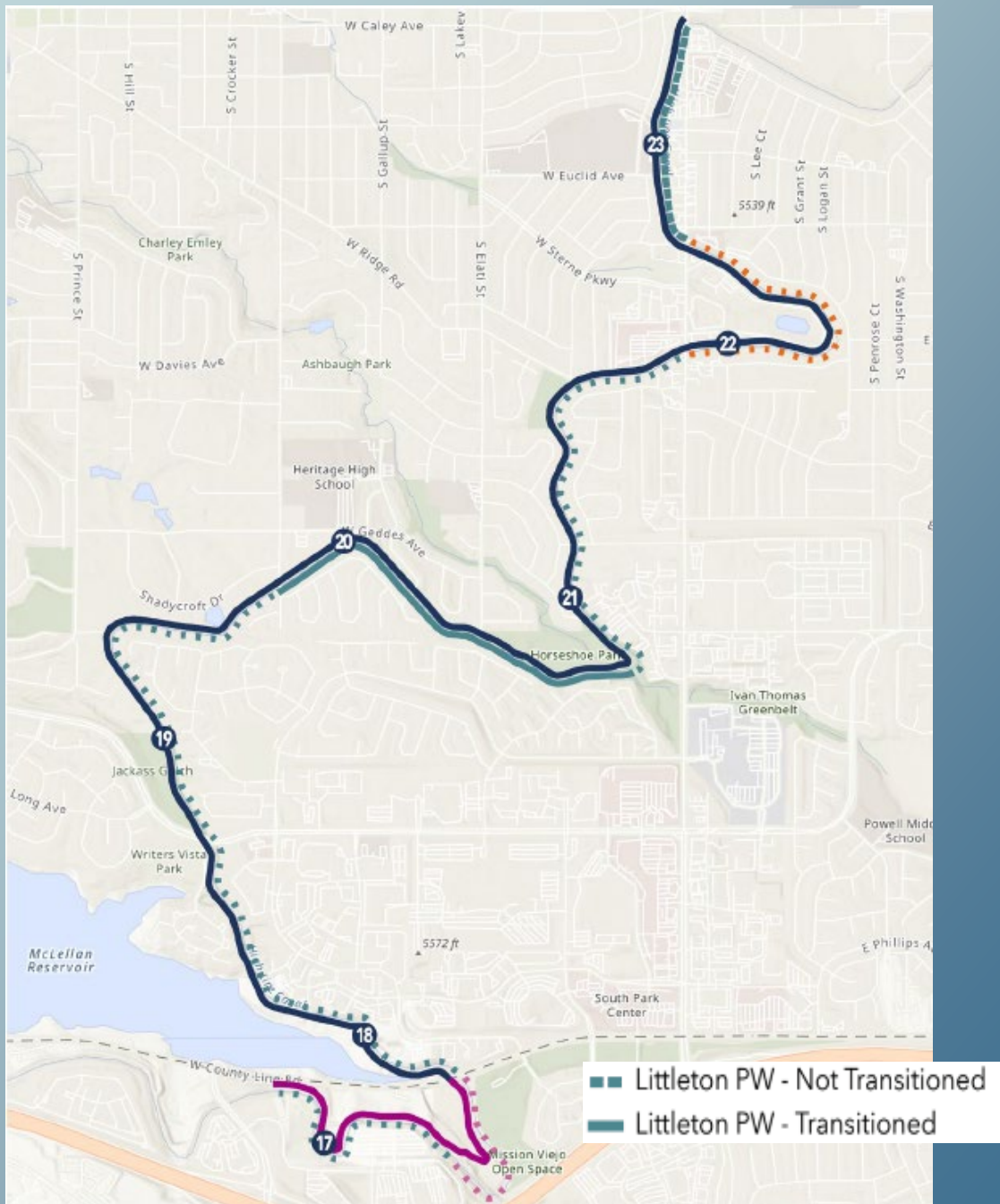
Total Length: 5.41 Miles

Littleton current maintenance* and management responsibilities:

- 1 mile: Windemere Street to Lee Gulch (2019)
- 0.5 mile: Broadway to Broadway (2023)

Trail Miles: 4.72 (*SSPRD maintains the trail)

User Count: 91,999 (2016 @ Mile 20)



May 2023

HLC IN LITTLETON

HLC @
Windermere
Bridge

- Major Drainageway Crossings
 - Jackass Gulch
 - Rangeview Gulch
 - Lee Gulch
 - Littles Creek
- HLC spills into Littles Creek in 2 locations
- Overflow weir - Lee Gulch Flume
- 13 drainage subbasins

HLC @
Lee Gulch



PROJECT COSTS

Partner	Share	Maximum Contribution
Littleton	6%	\$37,500
DISTRICT*	38%	\$250,000
Other Funding	56%	\$370,000
Total		\$657,500

*For DISTRICT funding, see agreement 24-08.14.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the IGA with Mile High Flood District



QUESTIONS?