

1 **CITY OF LITTLETON, COLORADO**

2
3 **Resolution No. 44**

4
5 **Series, 2019**

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7 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
8 **LITTLETON, COLORADO, ENDORSING THE FRAMEWORK PLAN**
9 **FOR THE HIGH LINE CANAL**

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12 **WHEREAS**, the High Line Canal’s 71 meandering miles are vitally important to
13 the region’s citizens and environmental health with over 350,000 residents residing within one
14 mile of the Canal, and more than 500,000 people using the Canal each year; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, through unprecedented interjurisdictional collaboration, cities,
17 counties and agencies along the High Line Canal have worked together in recognition of the
18 need to plan for the future of the Canal; forming the High Line Canal Working Group, initiated
19 by Arapahoe County and entered into the High Line Canal Working Group Statement of Purpose
20 (attached as Exhibit A); and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the High Line Canal Core Management Team was established in
23 2012 (members include Denver Water, Arapahoe County, the City of Aurora, the City and
24 County of Denver, Douglas County, and the High Line Canal Conservancy) with the purpose to
25 coordinate and catalyze the varied planning process while working toward the primary objective
26 to achieve maximum possible beneficial public use/s for the Canal; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, as the Canal owner, Denver Water has enabled the region’s
29 recreational use of the Canal Trail for nearly 50 years and has supported the High Line Canal
30 Conservancy and the governmental partners in stewarding the development of the Plan for the
31 High Line Canal; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, Douglas County, Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District,
34 the City of Littleton, the City of Centennial, Arapahoe County, South Suburban Parks and
35 Recreation District, the City of Greenwood Village, the City of Cherry Hills Village, the City
36 and County of Denver, the City of Aurora, joined together with Denver Water and the High Line
37 Canal Conservancy to support an extraordinary and diverse public outreach process reaching
38 over 100,000 citizens, and engaging over 3,500 residents resulting in the regionally supported
39 2017 High Line Canal Community Vision Plan (the “Vision Plan”); and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, after an 18 month process, community and stakeholder groups, The
42 Conservancy, Denver Water, and committed local governmental partners, have created the Plan
43 for the High Line Canal: *New Life for a Regional Legacy* (“the Plan”); and

44
45 **WHEREAS**, the Plan represents a community vision to honor, enhance, and

repurpose a landmark of our agricultural heritage into one of our region's premier green spaces connecting neighborhoods and people to nature and each other; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's highest purpose is to safeguard the historic waterway while reclaiming the Canal as a regional greenway for future generations. The Plan lays out strategies and clear guidance for re-purposing the Canal, improving the health of people and the environment, and increasing accessibility and enjoyment for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Plan priorities promote public health through improved access, safety, and quality of experience; environmental health ensuring the canal is a thriving natural corridor; the canal's new life as a green infrastructure/stormwater management system; and honoring the canal's history and promoting its educational potential; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is aspirational, long-range and regional in focus. The Plan's horizon extends 15 years and beyond to guide future considerations, while addressing current priorities, too; and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides guidance for intergovernmental collaboration and framework for how through cooperation along with public and private partnerships, we can implement the Plan and fulfill the community vision for the Canal; and

WHEREAS, the Plan respects local planning and budgeting. The Plan was developed with guidance from local jurisdictions and Denver Water; however, it does not replace the vision individual communities, but instead it serves as a tool to promote regional vision and cooperation. The plan in no way financially obligates or commits local governments and agencies to the proposed plans and enhancements; and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides a visionary roadmap toward a vibrant future encourages communities to work together. Many of the challenges and needed enhancements along the Canal – such as noxious weeds, wildlife impacts, and stormwater -- don't recognize jurisdictional boundaries and local governments must work collaboratively to address them. This Plan provides the framework for coordinated region-wide efforts toward implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LITTLETON, COLORADO, THAT: the City of Littleton affirms our commitment to a shared regional vision for the future of the High Line Canal as set out in the Plan for the High Line Canal, a visionary and collaborative roadmap toward a vibrant future for the historic waterway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, through endorsement of the Plan, that the City of Littleton agrees to preserve and protect the Canal for future generations, work together and with the High Line Canal Conservancy and Denver Water, to create a vibrant future for the Canal that enhances life for people today and in the future.

92 INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED at a regularly scheduled meeting of the
93 City Council of the City of Littleton, Colorado, on the 17th day of September 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
94 at the Littleton Center, 2255 West Berry Avenue, Littleton, Colorado.

95 ATTEST:

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98 _____
98 Colleen L. Norton

99 DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Debbie Brinkman

MAYOR

100

101 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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103

104 _____
104 Reid Betzing

105 CITY ATTORNEY

High Line Canal Working Group Statement of Purpose

PURPOSE

The High Line Canal Working Group is a collaborative effort to secure funding for - and implement - projects that will help enhance and protect the unique recreation experience along the High Line Canal.

VISION

The High Line Corridor be protected forever as an intimate treasure and continuous recreation experience along a historic, naturally scenic Canal.

MEMBERS

Arapahoe County
City of Aurora
City of Centennial
City of Cherry Hills Village
City and County of Denver
Douglas County
City of Greenwood Village
Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District
City of Littleton
South Suburban Park and Recreation District

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

Adams County
Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
Cherry Hills Land Preserve
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Colorado State Parks
Denver Parks and Recreation
Denver Water
High Line Canal Preservation Association
Sand Creek Regional Greenway
South Metro Land Conservancy
South Suburban Park Foundation
The Trust for Public Land

GOALS

- To identify and pursue open space properties near the High Line Canal that enhance conservation values.
- To identify and work with relevant agencies to design and construct safety improvements at roadway and railway crossings.
- To identify and improve connectivity along the trail and to other corridors near the Canal.
- To preserve and enhance the overall trail experience.
- To enhance the trail user’s experience through consistent and improved signage and mileage markers.

CONSERVATION VALUES

- The preservation of views and vistas.
- The enhancement of the public’s sense of place.
- The preservation and enhancement of recreational opportunities for all citizens.
- The protection of adjacent and complementary open space properties to open up the existing character of the Canal that spans multiple jurisdictions.
- The preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat and migration routes.
- The preservation, replacement and enhancement of the historic canopy that defines the Canal

PROCESS

- To evaluate each proposed project on its own merits as it contributes to the whole, acknowledging that landowner participation is voluntary and funding is subject to approval by participating boards and elected officials.
- All projects and proposals will fully respect the operational integrity of the Canal.

COMMITMENT

- To the vision and to the corridor as a whole;
- To agree to collaborate as we are more effective together than individually; and
- To a long-term effort that ensures a legacy for future generations.

Arapahoe County

City of Greenwood Village

Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District

City of Aurora

City of Littleton

South Suburban Park and Recreation District

City of Centennial

Douglas County

In partnership with Denver Water

City of Cherry Hills Village

City and County of Denver

ADOPTED IN 2011

