

## Section Two

### County Line Road to Hampden Avenue

*Recreation districts in charge:*

*South Suburban Park and Recreation District  
(County Line Road to Orchard Road)*

*Greenwood Village Parks, Trails and Recreation  
Department (Orchard Road to Belleview)*

*Cherry Hills Village Parks, Trails and Recreation  
Department (Belleview to Hampden)*

### General Information

This portion of the High Line Canal Trail is the longest at 18.5 miles and was the first section opened to recreation in 1970. There are no gates, and the surface is a uniform, crushed-granite base. It crosses several streets, including busy Broadway three times. More than 300,000 people use this section of the trail annually. At this point, South Platte water in the canal has traveled for nearly 24 hours, dropping about 2 feet each mile.

Historically, demand for High Line water was strong in this area for hay pasture, alfalfa fields and fruit orchards. Homeowners adjacent to the trail take a paternal interest in the canal. Many cottonwoods along this portion owe their longevity to those neighbors. The canal adds tranquility and privacy, creating a genteel



country atmosphere. Large 5-acre home sites and adjacent open space contribute to the well-being of wildlife, including coyotes and red fox. The trail also connects with several other bicycling and hiking trails.

- **Length:** 18.5 miles of uniform, nearly flat, crushed granite.
- **Access:** Parking is available at several suburban parks and pull-offs. Bridges and alley easements provide access from all neighborhoods. Handicap access where noted.
- **Regulations:** Horse riding, bicycling and walking intermingle. Use caution and stay to the right.

**Mile 17.0** – Mount Evans, measuring 14,222 feet high, is prominent to the west. High Line Headgate No. 30 helps fill McLellan Reservoir.

**Mile 17.3** – Old cottonwoods, spread and nourished by the canal, may have seeded in the spring after water was first put in the ditch in 1883. Take a break on one of the many benches along the canal provided by the park district and private organizations.



**Mile 17.7** – Townhouses in Littleton overlook the canal. A bridge leads to a small shopping area. Nearby streets are named Canal Court, Canal Circle and Highline Canal Drive. To the west, the Peninsula development overlooks but doesn't have access to McLellan Reservoir.

**Mile 17.8** – Below the bridge, cattails in the canal signal a storm drainage, which provides water year-round and sediment to grow in. The sporadic nature of High Line water itself cannot support cattails. Watch for red-wing blackbirds among the cattails.

**Mile 18.0** – Writers Vista Park at Mineral Avenue has water and restrooms in season, as well as a playground and ample parking. Going northward, the path crosses Mineral and skirts the Southbridge and Bel-Vue Heights neighborhoods. *Note: Parking is available with handicap-accessible spots. There's a crosswalk light at Mineral Avenue.*

**Mile 18.2** – Private bridge leads to tennis courts and a private pool. Bird and bat houses are mounted high in the cottonwood. Flickers and bats eat billions of insects every year. Parts of decayed and dead trees are often left for nesting spots.



go to  
p 28

Caley Avenue

Arapahoe Road

The Street  
Southglens

22.5

23.0

22.2

22.1

22.0

P

21.0

Ridge Road

Broadway Dry Creek Road

Lee Gulch Trail

Windermere

Lee Gulch Trail

Lee Gulch  
Trail

19.0

P

19.2

19.4

19.7

18.7

18.5

18.2

18.0

Mineral Avenue

County Line  
Road

85

Writer's  
Vista  
Park

P

17.8

17.7

P

17.0

Centennial  
Bike Trail  
Dad Clark  
Gulch

Santa Fe Drive

McLellan  
Reservoir

14.9

15.0

16.0

P

14.5

N

Highlands Ranch  
Golf Club

14.0

12.5

13.0

P

Marcy Gulch

12.3

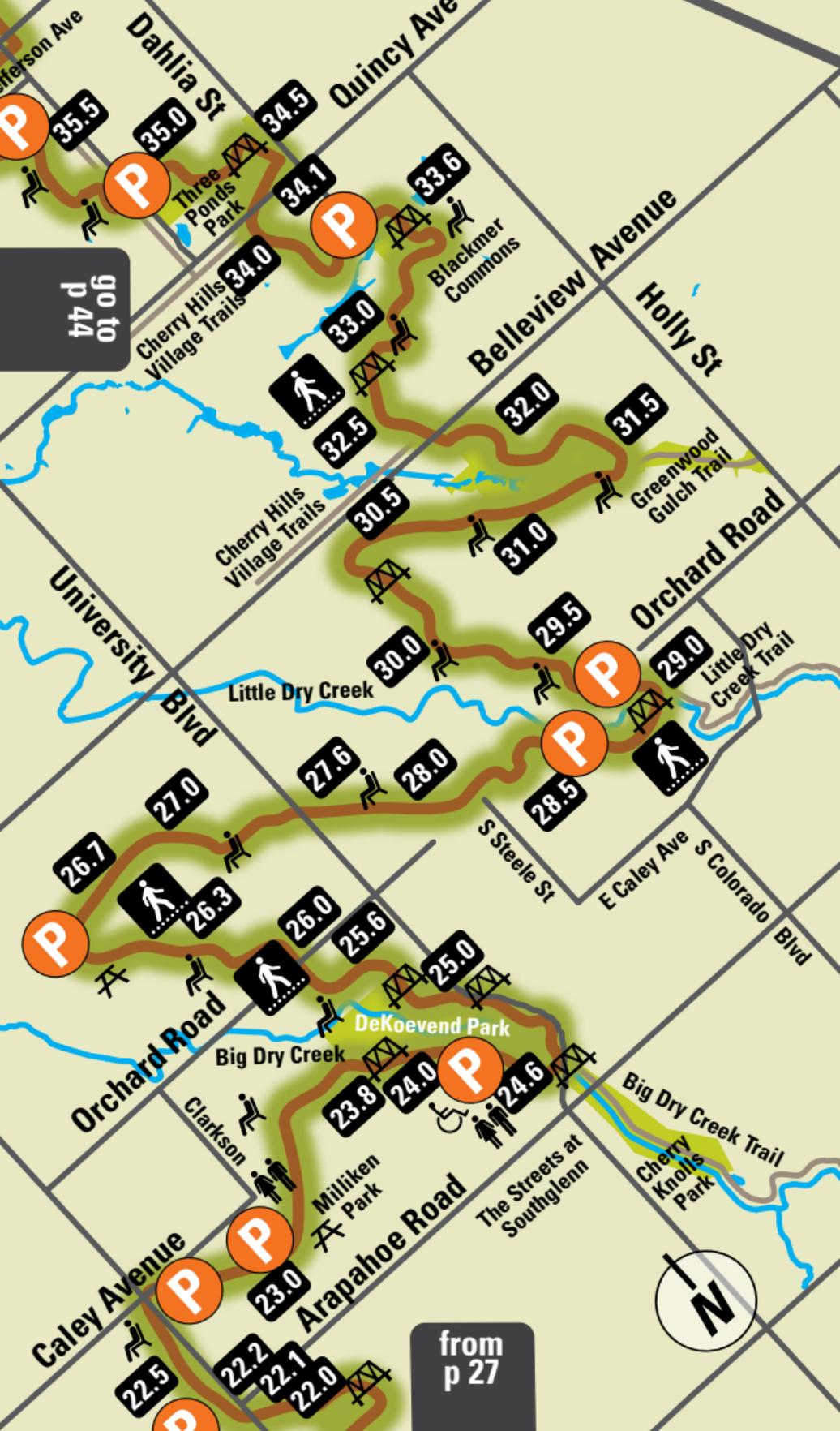
Carder  
Court

P

Redstone  
Park

from  
p 15

Brandon





**Mile 18.5** – Looking toward the foothills, two entrances to the Ken Caryl Ranch development off C-470 can be seen as cuts in the hogback. Along the canal, look for Newport plum trees, a favorite with wildlife. Russian olive trees, prevalent along the canal, choke out berry and fruit trees.

**Mile 18.7** – The canal enters the original part of Littleton, a semi-rural setting with small farms, gardens and horses. Littleton began around the Rough and Ready Flour Mill started by Richard Little on the South Platte in 1860. Known for its small-town atmosphere, Littleton has preserved a farmhouse as its historical museum.



**Mile 19.0** – A private pond and bridge lead to the Southbridge subdivision. Note cattails at the storm runoff point. Path crosses Windermere Street.

**Mile 19.2** – A public span at Footbridge Park is used by Heritage High School students and residents of the Bel-Vue Heights West neighborhood. Among the trees planted along the canal here are piñon, juniper and American plum.

**Mile 19.4** – Cross Gallup Street and enter a pleasant Littleton neighborhood. Ahead, there are public steps to Elati Street, 0.2 miles up the trail, and a bridge to the Southbridge neighborhood.

**Mile 19.7** – The large pasture and marsh to the west is designated open space. Many varieties of flora grow here. Look for Russian olive, coyote willow, native Hawthorne, American plum, common chokecherry, dogwood and Woods' rose.





**Mile 20.0** – The canal winds around Lee Gulch, and the trail runs by a wooded area popular with BMX bike riders. The trail intersects with Lee Gulch Trail, which travels west to the South Platte Trail. Water in the canal is carried in the Cheese Factory Flume across the drainage. Resuming in a semi-rural Littleton neighborhood, the canal enters a virtual forest dominated by cottonwoods. *Note: Footbridge and steps lead to Dry Creek Circle off Broadway. Nearby parking lots belong to adjacent office buildings. Retail stores and refreshments are within walking or riding distance all along Broadway.*

**Mile 21.0** – Cross Broadway at the Ridge Road-Costilla Avenue light and enter the unofficial Broadway Loop, a large oxbow in the canal that loops back to Broadway about a half-mile ahead. Apartment buildings line one side of the trail along Highline Circle. A trolley, completed in 1907, once ran from Denver down Broadway to Littleton, where passengers stepped off onto a quaint New England-style main street. The city called itself the milling, beekeeping and pickle capital of Colorado, and was considered one of America's best suburbs. *Note: Use caution when crossing busy Broadway at the crosswalk at Ridge Road.*

**Mile 22.1** – Little’s Creek Park is visited by wood ducks, mallards and cinnamon teal.

*Caution: Be careful when crossing Broadway at the Arapahoe Road crosswalk. Both streets are very busy.*

**Mile 22.2** – West of Broadway, Whitman Elementary and Euclid Middle schools each have parking lots. A group of large trees shades the path.

**Mile 22.5** – The canal crosses under Broadway into the city of Centennial at Caley Avenue. A headgate delivers water to a reservoir in Littleton’s Ketring Park, a few blocks to the northwest on Gallup Street. Littleton’s library and history museum are in the park. Gallup Park lies just west of Ketring Park, and the Angeline Little Greenway is kitty-corner from Euclid school. *Note: Use caution when crossing Broadway at the Caley Avenue crosswalk. Parking is available in the church parking lot at Broadway and Caley Avenue.*



**Mile 23.0** –

There are parking and picnic tables at Milliken Park on Clarkson Street. Headgates 50 to 54, out of the original 165, can be spotted near here.





**Mile 23.8** – After Franklin Street, the park enters designated open space purchased by the lottery-funded Great Outdoors Colorado. Big Dry Creek is ahead. Sunrise is the best time to see wild animals. Blue herons have been spotted here.

**Mile 24.0** – A bridge leads to Panama Drive and a walkway to deKoevend Open Space Park. The canal's loop defines deKoevend, with tennis, ice skating, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, covered tables, restrooms and parking. The canal crosses over Dry Creek and runs parallel to University Boulevard, which bends around the park because of the canal's historic right of way. The Streets at SouthGlenn is just south on University. There's parking and a bridge available at the South Suburban Ice Arena, 6508 S. Vine Street. *Note: Handicap access.*

**Mile 24.6** – Goodson Recreation Center has swimming, a weight room and a racquet club. A bridge links High Line's trail with the Big Dry Creek Trail and 100 miles more of trails in South Suburban's district. *Note: The recreation center is open to the public. Parking is available. There are fees for programs.*

**Mile 25.0** – Eagles and great horned owls have been seen in the open space here. To the southwest is a great view of the Rocky Mountains. A private pasture adjacent to open space is used to feed horses.

**Mile 25.6** – This bench provides one of the best views of Mount Evans.

**Mile 26.0** – Orchard Road marks the southern boundary of Greenwood Village, with good views of the Front Range. A church playground has access to the trail. The church also has a parking lot.

**Mile 26.3** – Access to the canal from this neighborhood is provided by an easement.

**Mile 26.7** – Notice the covered water and sanitation treatment facilities. Adjacent tennis courts are private.

**Mile 27.6** – Busy University Boulevard has a pedestrian underpass.

**Mile 28.0** – The canal winds gently through a country-club atmosphere, with bridal paths intersecting. Landowners and others have planted Austrian pines to screen homes and provide habitat for wildlife.





**Mile 28.5** – In the gully below, Little Dry Creek runs through private land.

**Mile 29.0** – A siphon carries the canal under Little Dry Creek, and the intersecting Little Dry Creek Trail winds in from the Village at the Meadow. The canal's ditch riders operate out of Denver Water's Little Dry Creek District Office at this location on Orchard Road. Follow the trail as it runs next to the canal.

*Note: Parking is available in a small lot east of the canal and on the north side of Orchard Road. No public parking is available at Denver Water's Little Dry Creek headquarters.*

**Mile 29.5** – Near the canal, there's a grove of American plum trees. In the fall, hundreds of migratory songbirds stop in the open space along the High Line.

**Mile 30.0** – Horse country in a town-and-country atmosphere has Denver's skyline as a backdrop.



**Mile 31.0** – The open space to the left is private. As valuable wetlands filled with bulrushes and sedges, it is home to night herons, blue herons, hawks and owls. The Preserve, a housing development, took its name from this private open space. Two bridges connect the Preserve. Glenmoor Golf Course takes water from the High Line near here. *Note: This area also has access to the Greenwood Village trail system.*

**Mile 32.0** – The trail and canal go under Belleview Avenue, or you can cross at grade. Horses use the tunnel, as well. This is the boundary between Greenwood Village and Cherry Hills Village. Glenmorr Country Club is to the west.

**Mile 32.5** – A public bridge spans the canal. This designated open space is open to the public. The wetlands are adjacent to the private Kent Country Day School, which is a big High Line customer. Mountain lions have been seen in this area.

**Mile 33.0** – Blackmer Commons, a donated and designated open space is nearby. You may walk into this 15-acre preserve. Good views of Mount Evans and the Front Range.

**Mile 33.6** – Bridge to Dahlia Street, with designated parking for High Line users. Reach this lot by turning south on Dahlia from East Quincy Avenue.





**Mile 34.0** – A private wildlife refuge, with a pond and bird nesting boxes is nearby. The trail shrubbery narrows to a country-lane atmosphere. A private bridge leads to the barn. Enjoy, but no trespassing.

**Mile 34.1** – Cross Quincy Avenue. Canada red cherry has been planted to attract and feed birds.

**Mile 34.5** – A bridge to Dahlia Hollow Park, which is open to the public. A second bridge farther up leads to Bellaire Street and Oxford Place.

**Mile 35.0** – Three Pond Park, popular with horse riders, is open space available to the public. Wildlife includes fox and hawks.

**Mile 35.5** – Trail recreationists must stop here, though the canal runs under Hampden and through the Wellshire Golf Course, another canal customer. The trail does not continue with the canal, and trail users are not allowed through the golf course. For trail users going south, there is parking available in the back of the church parking lot off of Jefferson Street. You can also access the trail from Monroe Street. For trail users continuing north, avoid walking east along Hampden Avenue to the light at Colorado Boulevard. Instead, head back to your car and park at mile 36 or 37.