

Section Three

Hampden Avenue to Havana Street

Recreation district in charge: Denver Parks and Recreation Department

General information

These 13 miles of the High Line Canal Trail are blacktop or concrete and run through an urban setting, crossing many busy streets. Almost unnoticed as it progresses, the canal conforms to the terrain, at times zigzagging to the northwest with mountain views, and at other times sagging to the southeast toward the Great Plains.

- **Length:** 13 miles.
- **Access:** The trail passes through several parks with parking areas. A number of bridges, sidewalks and bike paths intersect adjacent neighborhoods. The path is accessible to wheelchairs.
- **Regulations:** No horses except between Cherry Creek and Mississippi Avenue. Walkers, joggers, cyclists and in-line skaters are welcome. No unauthorized motorized vehicles. Stay on the trail except at parks and open space.



Mile 36.0 – The Denver portion of the High Line begins in Magna Carta Park at the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and Hampden Avenue. The pocket park has large shade trees, picnic tables and a small playground. The trail is the sidewalk that runs along the east side of Colorado. *Note: Parking is available but restrooms are not.*

Mile 36.5 – Looking west, Wellshire Golf Course is watered by the canal, which runs through it. The course is open to the public for play, but not for access to the canal. In the distance, the view of the Front Range includes the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area to the northwest. University Hills Shopping Center is north on Colorado.

Mile 37.0 – Enter Eisenhower Park by a small bridge over the canal. Named for Mamie Doud Eisenhower, wife of the 34th U.S. president, the park has a recreation center, pool, tennis courts, playground and picnic tables. Scotch pine trees shade the path.

Cottonwoods grow naturally along the canal as it bends east through the University Hills neighborhood. By the time it gets to this point, about half the water that entered the canal in Waterton Canyon has either been used by lease holders, evaporated or seeped into the ground to water trees and

plants. Evaporation and seepage are normal occurrences for dirt-lined canals. *Note: Parking and restrooms are available. The area is handicap accessible.*



Mile 37.2 – Bridge to Bellaire Street provides access to the trail and Eisenhower Park. Busy Dahlia Street marks the park's eastern boundary.

Mile 37.8 – The bridges lead to Forest Street in the University Hills neighborhood. The one to the south picks up an urban bike route.

Mile 37.9 – Large cottonwoods above provide a lush, green cover for wildlife. Red fox, deer and even coyote have been spotted along here. Keep an eye out for them when you pause at the picnic table nearby. The hum of Interstate 25 traffic can be heard.

Mile 38.0 — Bridge to Holly Street, Ivy Way and Eastman Avenue. *Note: The area is handicap accessible.*



Mile 38.1 — The trail descends to a tunnel under I-25 and enters the Holly Hills and Goldsmith neighborhoods. Parts of the canal and trail become backyard landscaping. *Caution: Tunnel has limited sight distance and poor drainage. It might be wet or icy in colder months.*

Mile 38.6 — Cross at the Yale Avenue and Holly Street crosswalk.

Mile 39.0 — Through the trees, glimpses to the northwest reveal the Front Range. Urban wildlife, such as magpies and squirrels are common.

Mile 40.0 — Nearby is access to Iliff Avenue and Grape Street. Trees and a picnic table offer a chance to rest before the busy Iliff and Holly crossing.

Mile 40.5 – In a short distance, enter Bible Park at Yale. The largest Denver park along the canal, it has parking, picnic tables, sports fields, basketball courts, water, restrooms and a soothing waterfall. *Note: Use the crosswalk at Monaco, follow the trail a short distance and cross at the Yale crosswalk. Both crossings are busy; be cautious.*

Mile 41.0 – The canal makes a horseshoe loop around Goldsmith Gulch. Four bridges link the park with neighborhoods. A boardwalk passes through Hutchinson Park’s wetlands and wildlife area.

Mile 42.0 – Cross Yale and enter a long, shaded path. Imagine what it was like when settlers arrived – plains barren of trees. Today you can’t see the mountains because of an irrigated urban forest. The canal crosses Yale three times as it follows the contour of the land, keeping a “high line.” Just ahead, there’s a bridge to Olive Street



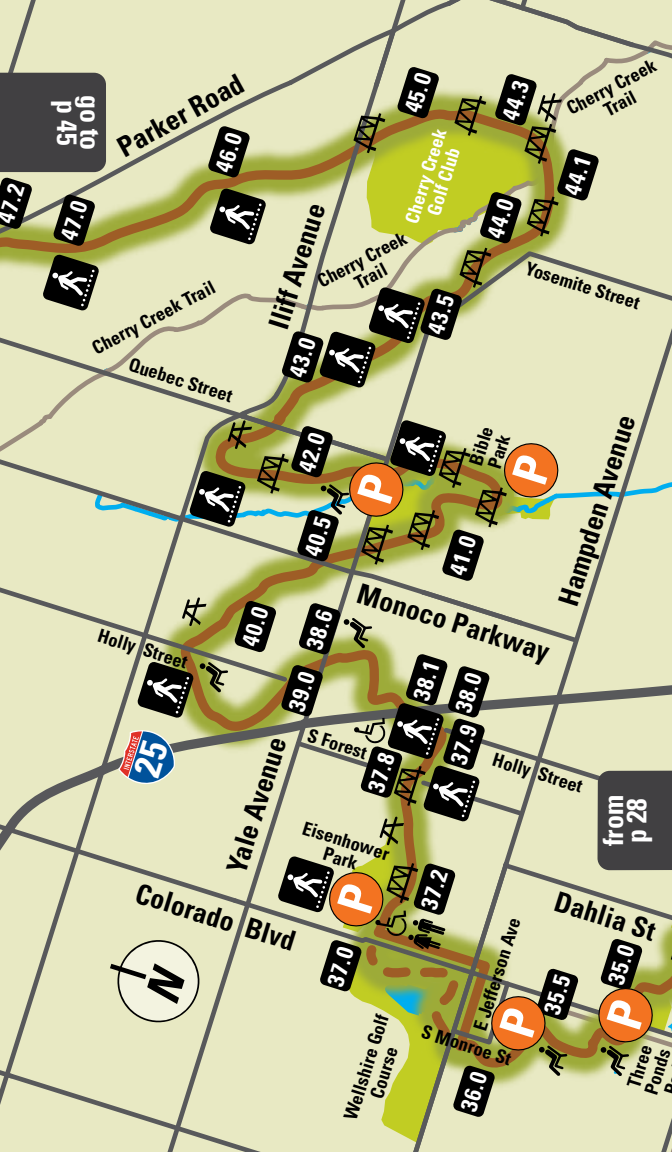
and an alley access to Iliff Avenue and Oneida Street. At the Quebec crossing, there’s a picnic table and refreshments available at the nearby shops.



Mile 43.0 – The unique character of the High Line is evident here. Starting at 5,600 feet above sea level, the canal drops only 2 feet each mile. Even at its end, after 71 miles, the canal is above downtown Denver’s mile-high elevation. The Front Range shimmers beyond the city. As the trail turns east and crosses Quebec, it exits Denver and enters unincorporated Arapahoe County.

Mile 43.5 – A Cherry Creek bike path connection and a bridge to Willow Court are nearby. Built above grade, the canal overlooks townhouses and condos that snuggle up to the embankment. Groves of mature cottonwoods shade these stretches.

Mile 44.0 – Cross Yosemite Street. Just ahead, the High Line intersects the Cherry Creek bike path that leads from downtown to the Cherry Creek Reservoir. To the south, off Cherry Creek, are paths to Hampden Heights Park and the John F. Kennedy Golf Course. A ditch rider’s house, built on the open plains at the turn of the century, is tucked along the canal near Boston Court. Flowing toward the mountains, Cherry Creek was named by early pioneers for the chokecherries that grew on its banks. Arapaho Indians camped along it in the fall, eating the cherries, sunflower seeds and plums. Long after pioneers settled Denver, Indians camped near the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte north of downtown Denver, where gold was found.



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Parker Road

Cherry Creek Trail

Cherry Creek Golf Club

Iliff Avenue

Cherry Creek Trail

Yosemite Street

Cherry Creek Trail

Quebec Street

Hampden Avenue

Monoco Parkway

Holly Street

25

Yale Avenue

Eisenhower Park

Holly Street

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Colorado Blvd



Dahlia St

Wellshire Golf Course

E Jefferson Ave

S Monroe St

Three Ponds

46.0

45.0

44.3

44.1

44.0

43.5

43.0

43.5

42.0

41.0

40.5

40.0

39.0

38.6

37.8

38.1

38.0

37.9

37.2

37.0

35.0

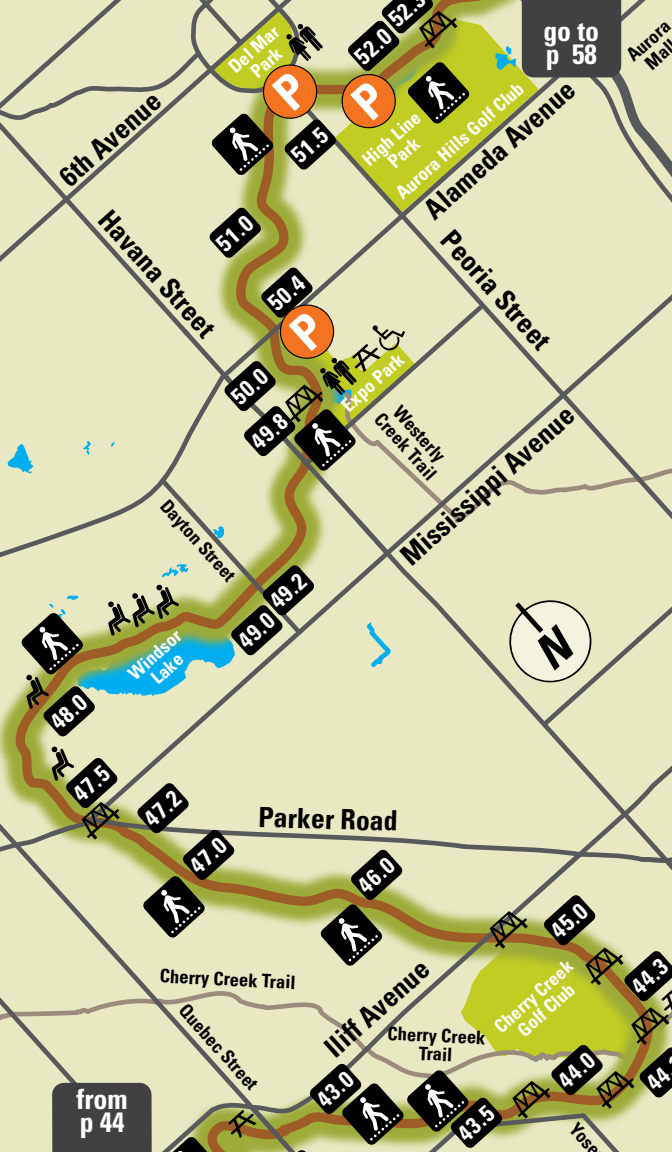
35.5

36.0

47.2

47.0

35.0



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Mile 44.1 – The canal flows under Cherry Creek through a siphon. Black-crowned night herons have been sighted here. *Caution: The large, concrete structure upstream diverts water into both the siphon and Cherry Creek. A similar structure on the other side is the siphon's outlet. Access to them is prohibited. Also stay clear of the riprap and siphon. The low-flow crossing may be dangerous when the creek is flowing.*

Mile 44.3 – Cherry Creek Golf Club and townhouses nestle alongside the canal.




Mile 45.0 – A small grove of mature cottonwoods shade this portion of the High Line. Be careful when riding over the narrow bridges that span the canal in this and other sections of the route.



Mile 46.0 – After crossing Iliff, the trail dodges in and out of Denver. There are plans for an underpass at Iliff. Until then, use the nearby crosswalk. Horses are allowed only along the Cherry Creek – Mississippi leg. Although homes and townhouses border the canal from Iliff to Florida, the mountains can be viewed in splendor over the rooftops along most of this stretch.

Mile 47.2 – The town-and-country checkerboard continues after you cross Parker Road at Mississippi. Witness the intertwining of condo living and old Arapahoe County cultures. *Caution: There is heavy traffic at Parker and Mississippi. Use the crosswalk.*






Mile 47.5 – The High Line enters Fairmount Cemetery, the canal’s second largest user. Water from the canal is pumped into Windsor Lake, to the east, to keep the cemetery’s lawn and trees green. Founded as a real estate venture in 1890, the cemetery was built six miles from Denver to assure no encroachment on its plots. Many of Colorado’s most famous residents are buried here, some with plots positioned for views of the Rocky Mountains. The cemetery is open to the public but does not encourage High Line users to enter. *Note: Stay on the trail; showing deference to cemetery occupants and visitors is suggested.*

Mile 49.0 – The trail runs past the Windsor Gardens retirement community after crossing Valentia Street. The large embankment on the other side of the canal is the Windsor Lake dike. Take a break on one of the several benches along this part of the trail. This stretch is frequented by walkers from Windsor Gardens who are known to plant flowers and keep up the trail. A dual trail is maintained here, soft surface for joggers and asphalt for bicycling and in-line skating.

Mile 49.2 – Cross Dayton and resume the trail through a residential neighborhood.



Mile 49.8 – The Denver section ends at busy Havana Street, where Aurora begins. *Caution: Heavy, dangerous traffic. Those headed north should head back to their vehicles and park at Expo Park a few blocks east of Havana on Exposition Avenue. The High Line forms Expo Park’s northern boundary. Southbound users might look for parking at the neighborhood park at New York Place and Fulton Street a block east of Havana or on the Parker-Leetsdale, Mississippi and South Quebec Street corridors.*

