

## The High Line Canal P00147

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**There are two versions of the audio - one at the original speed, and a second which has been slowed using Audacity.**

This material was adapted by Peter Schmitt from a variety of sources\* with the (as yet unrealized) goal of adding it to the Simple English Wikipedia website.

Audio is read by Peter Schmitt



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## High Line Canal

The High Line Canal is a man-made waterway that is a great recreation spot in the Denver area. It is 71 miles long, and has a footway (trail) that runs next to the water.

In 1859, people discovered gold near where Cherry Creek joins the South Platte River. Many people went to that place to look for gold, hoping to become rich. This area became the city of Denver.

Other people came to the area to farm. This region is “semi-arid” – dry! Because there is little water, farming is hard to do.

James Duff was a Scottish immigrant to Colorado. He had the idea to build a canal to take water from the South Platte River to settlers and farmers who lived to the east and south of Denver. Investors gave money for the “High Line Canal” as a private undertaking. The owners of the canal had to buy water “rights” to be able to use water from the river. The design of the canal required that it curve back and forth along its route following the high spots of the land. This lets the water move naturally, without pumps.

The width of the canal varies from 40 feet to 20 feet. Its depth varies from seven feet to four and a half feet. The canal was completed in 1883. The price of construction was \$650,000.

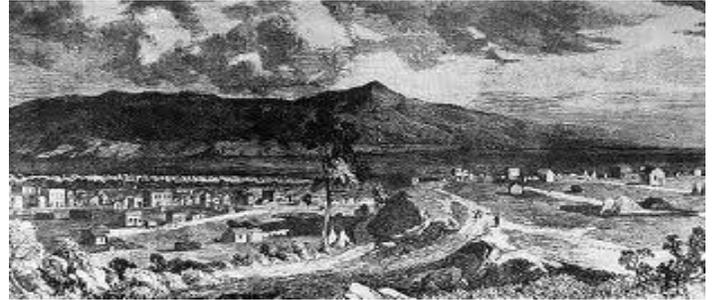
Unfortunately, the supply of water in the canal was uncertain, and the project was not thought to be a great success. The canal was sold to the City of Denver in 1924. It is now managed by the Denver Water Board.

Today the canal is a good place for recreation. The path next to the canal is very flat. 59 miles of the High Line Canal are available for walking, running, and bicycling. The trees around the canal give shade. The canal area and is home to many birds and animals. There are almost 200 species of birds, 28 species of mammals, and 15 species of reptiles living there. There are also very many types of plants. People have seen deer, raccoons, fox, coyotes, hawks, and ducks along the High Line Canal.

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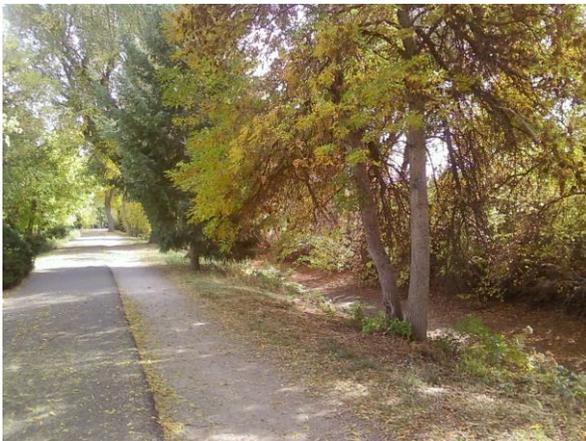
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Other \_\_\_\_\_ came to the area to \_\_\_\_\_. This region is “semi-arid” - dry! Because there is little water, farming is \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

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P00147

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check your understanding

### True or False

- |                                                               |   |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. The High Line Canal was built in 1924.                     | T | F |
| 2. James Duff was from Scotland.                              | T | F |
| 3. There is a road for cars next to the canal.                | T | F |
| 4. The canal was built by the City of Denver.                 | T | F |
| 5. The canal is very flat. This makes it nice for walkers.    | T | F |
| 6. Bears and zebras live near the canal.                      | T | F |
| 7. The public can not use the path that is next to the canal. | T | F |
| 8. People ride bicycles along the canal path.                 | T | F |

### Questions

1. Why is farming difficult in the area around Denver?

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2. Why did people decide to settle in the area that is now Denver?

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3. What is the size of the High Line Canal?

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4. Who built the High Line Canal?

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5. How is the canal used today?

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6. What kinds of animals live near the canal?

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