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City of Duluth - Communications Office

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DATE: 9/20/2016

SUBJECT: Western Port Area Neighborhood Planning To Help Revitalize and Redevelop Brownfield Sites, Public Open House Set for September 28

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office

**Western Port Area Neighborhood Planning To Help Revitalize and Redevelop Brownfield Sites
Public Open House Set for September 28**

[Duluth, MN] – The City of Duluth is implementing a federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) planning grant that focuses upon the Irving and Fairmont neighborhoods. The focus of the project is to develop strategies for the redevelopment of brownfield and other blighted sites that will result in improved infrastructure, transportation, traffic management, connectivity (to include pedestrian and bikes), urban design, and economic development opportunities.

The project's study area is called the Western Port Area Neighborhood (WPAN). The WPAN has a long industrial history that has supported and impacted the surrounding neighborhood's evolution as industry has changed over the years. The WPAN represents Duluth at a crossroads as the City strives to achieve harmony between responsible development, environmental stewardship and advancing health and prosperity of residents. The focus will be on five catalyst sites within the WPAN and balancing economic activity while sustaining natural green space and water resources. Economic activity is one of four core areas within the City's broader Comprehensive Plan revision for 2035.

The planning process entails public engagement with stakeholders and the general public. A public open house has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2016 from 5:00-8:00 pm at the Raleigh Edison Charter School gymnasium, located at 5905 Raleigh Street. All interested residents are encouraged to attend this free event. A facilitated discussion will occur between 5:30-7:30 p.m. Public input will help the City develop a strategic framework to help prioritize development and identify partners and funding sources.

Anyone with questions can contact Heidi Timm-Bijold, in the City's Business Development Office, (218) 730-5324.

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