



# Senior Programs Update

March 8, 2023

Abby Proulx, *Recreation Specialist*



# Program Overview

## Types of Programs

Activity Clubs

General Programs

Special Events

## Reopening

Timeline

Program Numbers 2021-2022

## Partnerships

New and Existing

Program Specific

## Outreach

Methods

Preferences and Trends

## Looking Forward

Program Interest

Local and National Trends



# Activity Clubs

*'Activity Clubs' are used to describe senior groups who meet in our facilities on a regular basis to engage in a social gathering.*

Anybody ages 55+ can create or join an activity club

Groups must have a volunteer leader to liaison group meetings, facility requests, and general senior program information.

Historically, Activity Clubs have been, and continue to be, an integral part of senior programming in the City of Duluth.

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DAY	TIME
500 Cards	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	Tu, F	12:15-3 p.m.
BINGO	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	Th	12:30-3 p.m.
BINGO	Morgan Park, 1242 88th Ave. W.	W	12:30-3 p.m.
Bone Builders	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	Tu, Th	9-10 a.m.
Bridge	Portman, 4601 McCulloch St.	M	Noon-3 p.m.
Cribbage	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	W	1-4 p.m.
Cribbage	Morgan Park, 1242 88th Ave. W.	Tu	12:30-3 p.m.
Dominoes	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	M	10 a.m.-noon
Evergreen Crafters	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	W	12:30 - 4 p.m.
Hand and Foot	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	M	Noon-3 p.m.
Men's Coffee and Chat	Portman, 4601 McCulloch St.	W	9- 11 a.m.
Play/Learn to Play Mahjong	Evergreen, 5830 Grand Ave.	W	12-3 p.m.

# General Senior Programs



*Lunch, Learn, and Share from Feb. 2023 at Harrison Community Center,  
Last Snowshoe Social of 2021-2022 Season at Hartley Park*

*‘General Programs’ are used to broadly to describe programs led or instructed by a Parks and Recreation employee or specialized contract instructor.*

Some programs may require pre-registration or fees.

Most programs have some sort of structure to them and are skills or interest based.

Includes larger social gatherings with the purpose of bringing the community together.

These programs have been revamped and are a newer addition to senior specific programming.

# Special Events



- All City Senior Picnic
  - Addition of centenarian celebration
- Annual Holiday Party
- Additions to existing programs
  - BINGO Parties



# Reopening Timeline

June 2021

- Senior programs began a slow re-opening. Primarily for the Activity Clubs to return to the centers.

August 2021

- Hosted the first “larger gathering” for the All City Senior Picnic. Still under masking and distancing restrictions.

December  
2021

- Most Activity Clubs have returned. Hosted the Annual Holiday Party at lower capacity.

2022

- Addition of programs and events. Distancing and masking guidelines loosen throughout the year.
- First full year of programs since the initial shutdown.

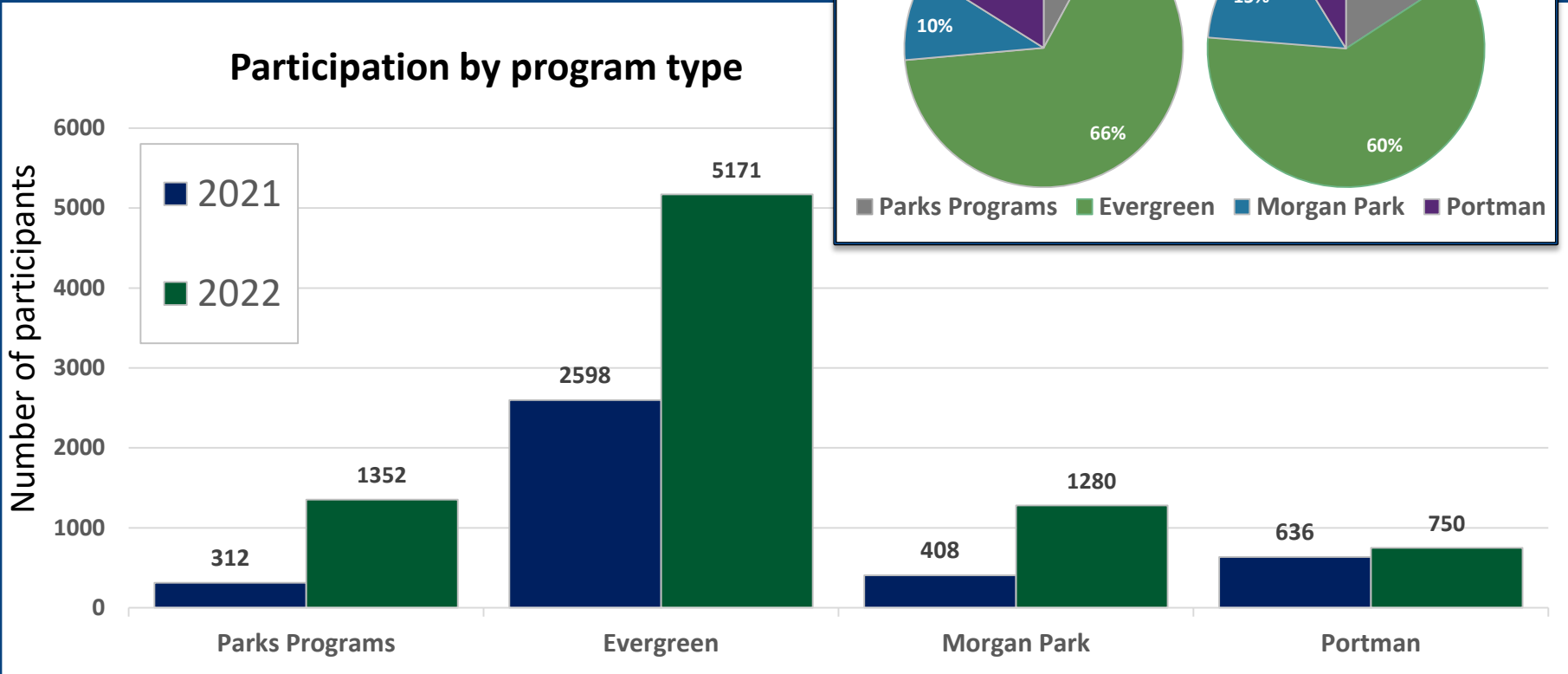
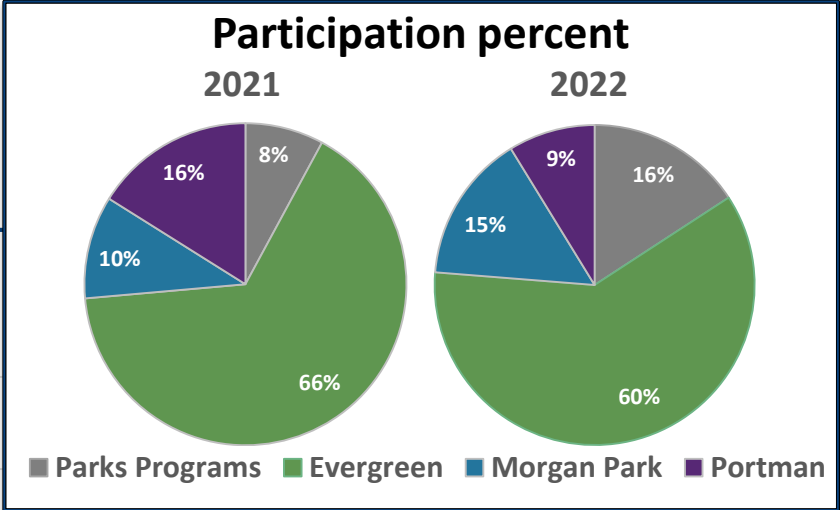




# Program Numbers

Program breakdown 2021-2022

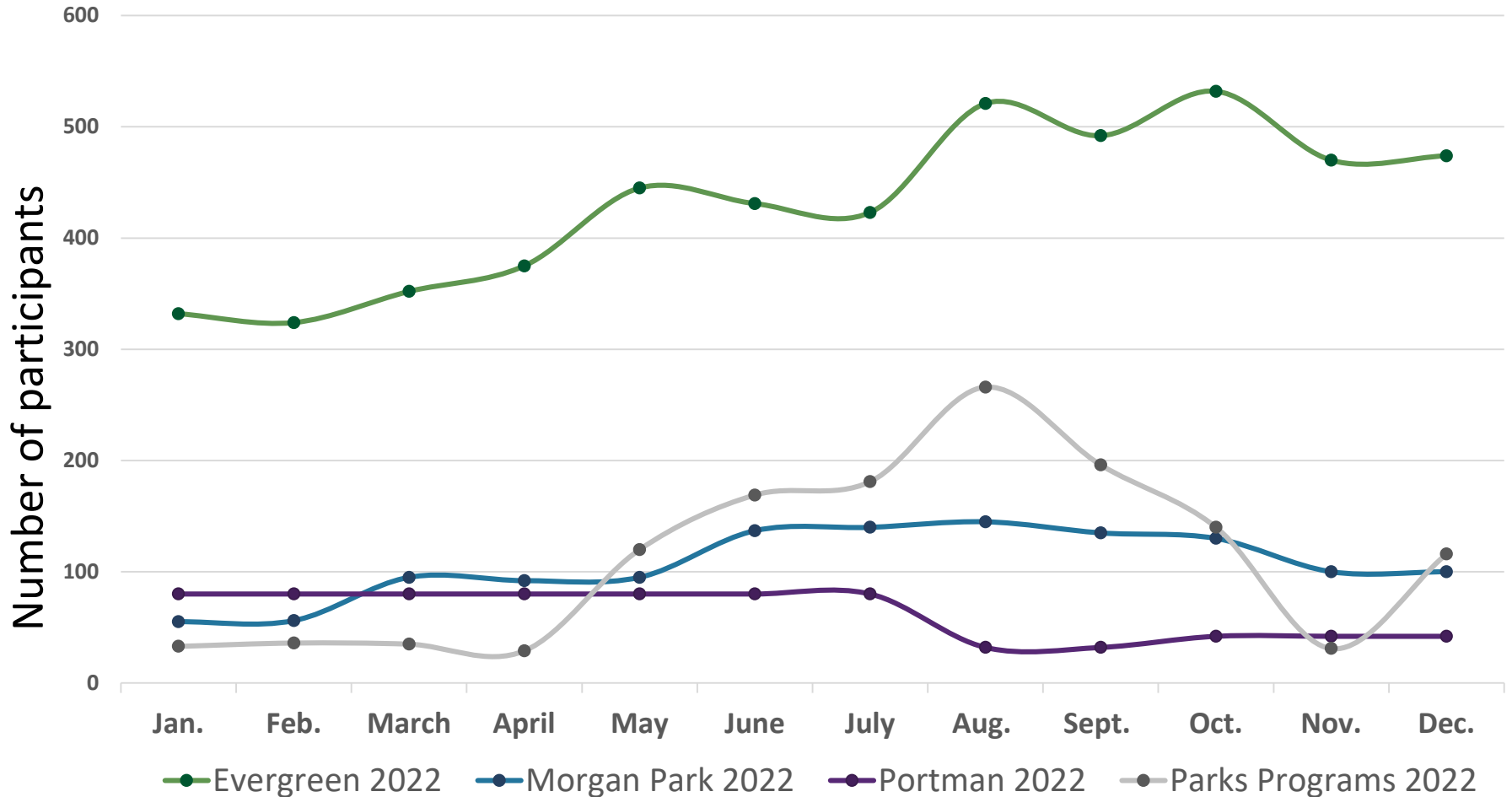
Data for 2022 is representative of 12 months. Due to COVID-19, programs had a soft roll-out beginning in June 2021 and represents approximately 6 months.





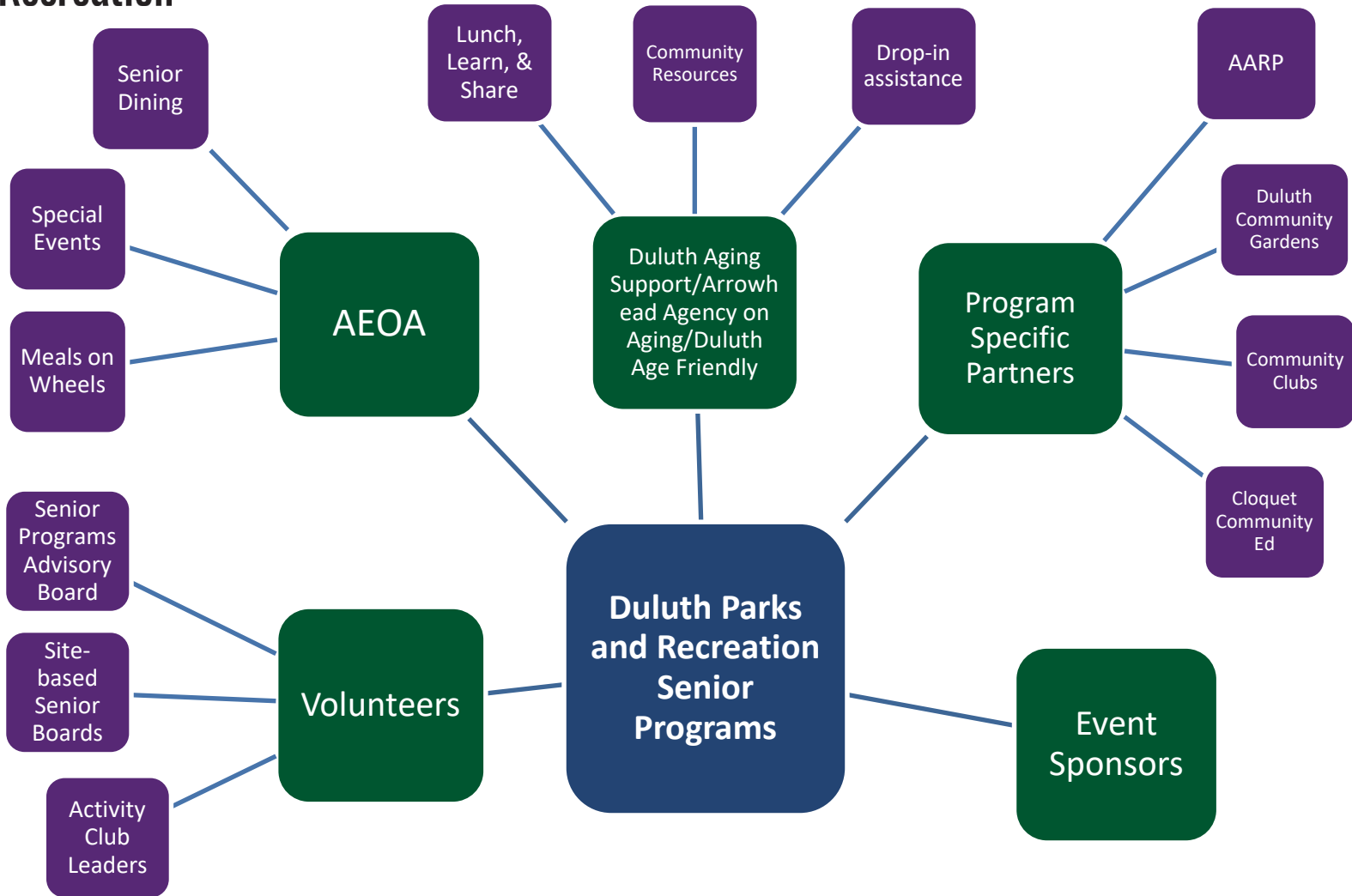
# Program Numbers

Program participation by location and type (2022)





# Program Partnerships



# Outreach

## Brochures

- Includes all Parks and Recreation Programs
- Released seasonally, 3x per year.

## Word of Mouth

- Historically the method for communication, especially at centers.
- Phone trees often used by Activity Clubs.

## Flyers

- Printed and placed at senior centers/library.
- Occasionally delivered by staff throughout town.

## Facebook/Online Ads

- Newer outlet.
- Primarily used to target new audiences and specific programs.

## Online Community Boards

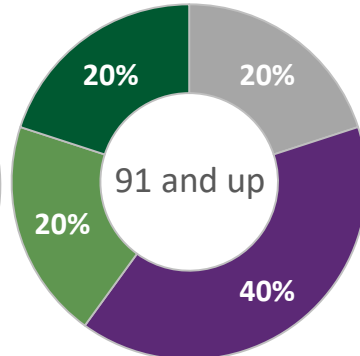
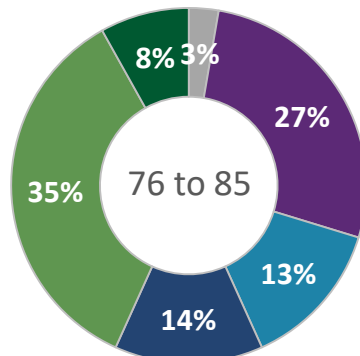
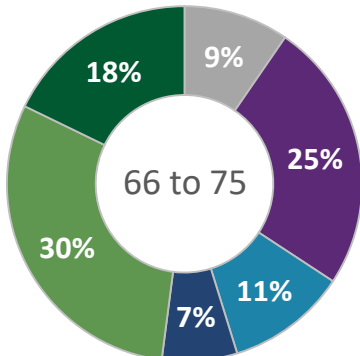
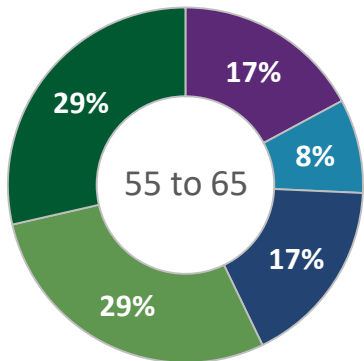
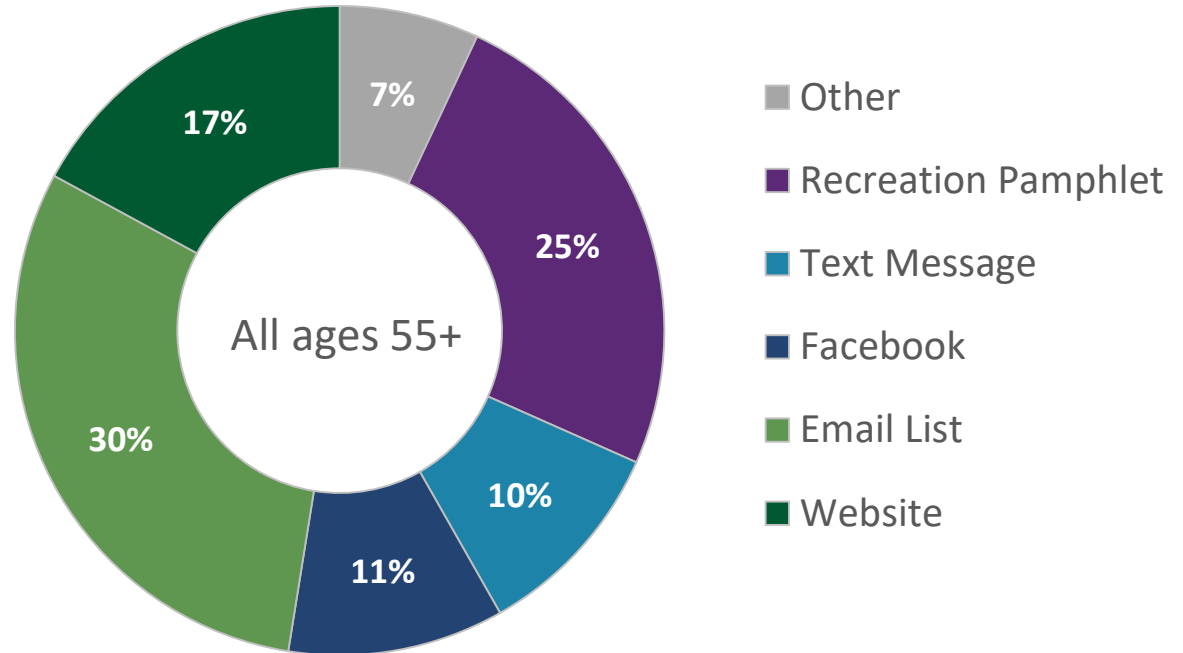
- Locally-relevant groups such as Perfect Day Duluth.
- Social pages such as the BoomerAge group on Meetup.com

## Website/Email List

- New, informal, monthly email list.
- Has grown by word of mouth to ~200 in one year.

# Communication Preferences

How would you be willing to receive news and information on recreation opportunities?  
*(select all that apply)*



# Recent Trends



## Senior Dining

- Had been on a decline pre-covid
- This trend has been seen elsewhere in the state and nation. Varies significantly by community.
- Still remains a critical support for those who utilize.



## Demographics

- Change in working habits and preferences.
- General split in current 55+ demographic interests and preferences.



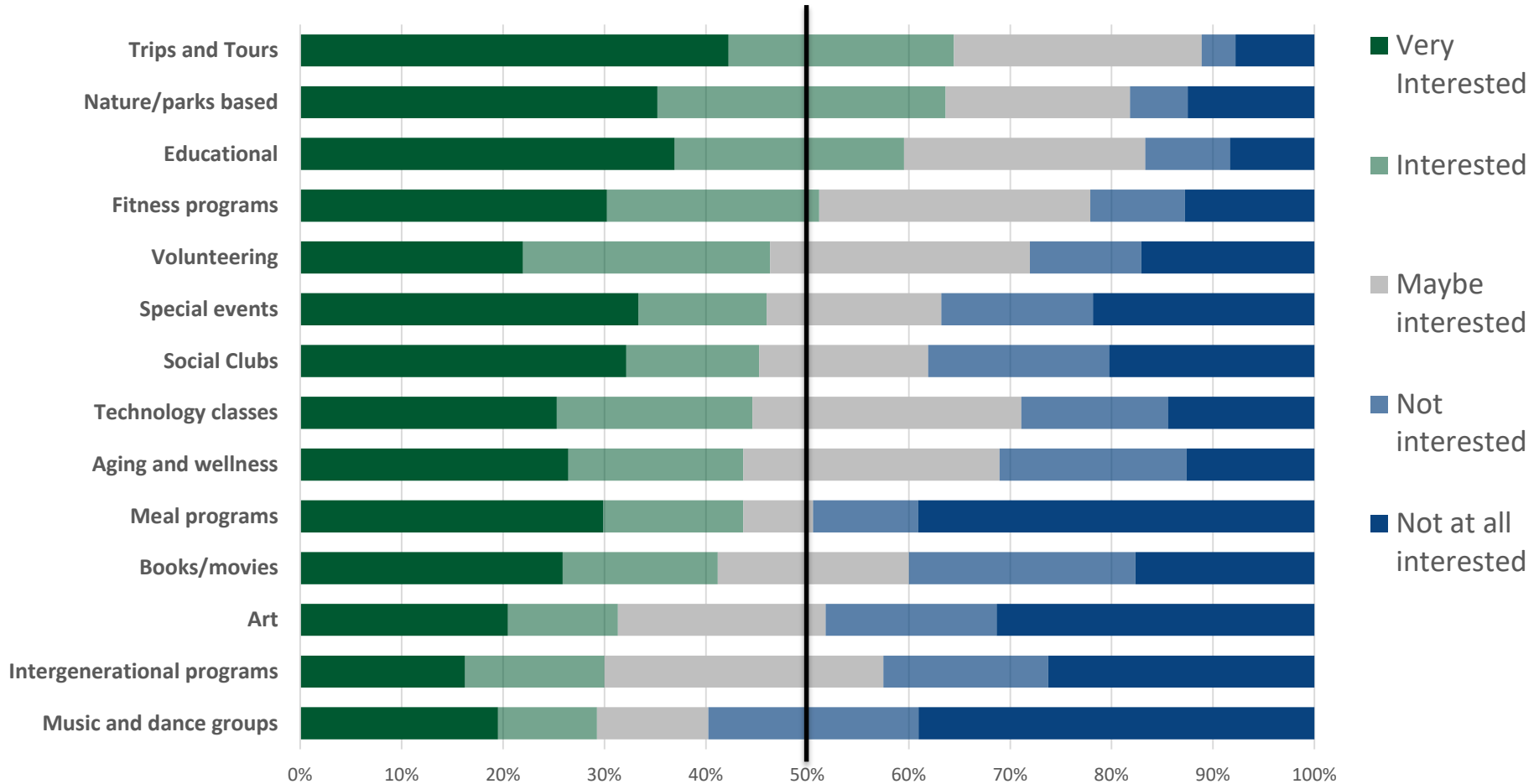
## Covid Impacts

- Health impact by neighborhood
- Change in personal risk-taking
- Re-shuffling of social offerings and volunteer opportunities during shutdown.



# Program Interest

How interested are you in the following programs  
(rank 1-5, 1=not at all interested, 5= Very Interested)





# Where we go from here

- New programs
- Balance between Activity Clubs and Park Recreation staff-led programs
- Focus on community connections and collaboration
- Pursue additional outreach and feedback avenues



# Thank you!

For additional questions or information:  
Abby Proulx, Recreation Specialist  
*218-730-4307 or [aproulx@duluthmn.gov](mailto:aproulx@duluthmn.gov)*





# Strategic Public Lands Re-alignment Project

Update

March 8, 2023



## Duluth Project Areas Associated with The Preservation and Development of Tax Forfeit Lands

-  Project Areas with Land Acquisitions Underway
-  Future Project Areas

0 7,000 14,000 28,000 Feet



**August 11, 2021**

## **Parks & Recreation Commission**

### **Motion to approve tax forfeit parcel list**

*The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends:*

- 1. To approve the list of tax forfeit parcels in the St Louis River, Mission, Piedmont, Hartley/Downer, and Lester/Amity Public Land Project Areas, as well as other specifically indicated parcels, that the City administration has proposed for City acquisition and permanent protection.*
- 2. That the City Council, simultaneous with acquisition, formally designate as City parks those parcels that the City administration has indicated for conveyance for park use under state statute.*
- 3. That the City Council, simultaneous with acquisition, designate as portions of the St. Louis River Natural Area all parcels previously recommended for inclusion so that all such parcels will be immediately subject to the protections of the Duluth Natural Areas Program ordinance and the St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan.*

- 4 year process:** That is in the final stages.
- 3 land types:** Park, Natural Area, stormwater/flood resilience.
- 2 projects, combined:** Strategic Public Lands Re-alignment and St. Louis River Natural Area Acquisition (GLRI/EPA grant-funded).
- 1 great achievement:** To bring 2,000 acres, much of which is already being used for recreational purposes, under the protection of City ownership to ensure continued use as parks and natural areas.

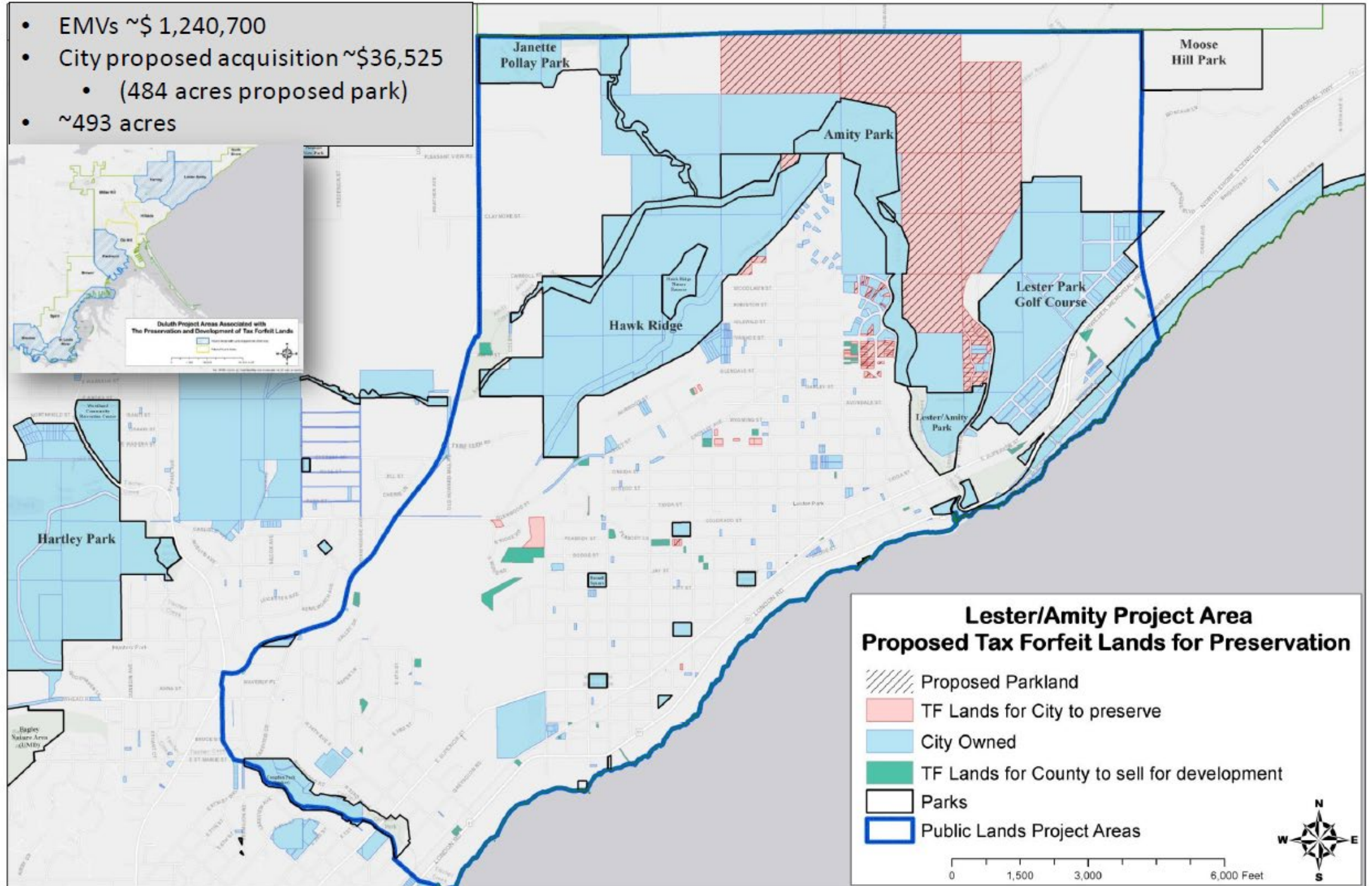
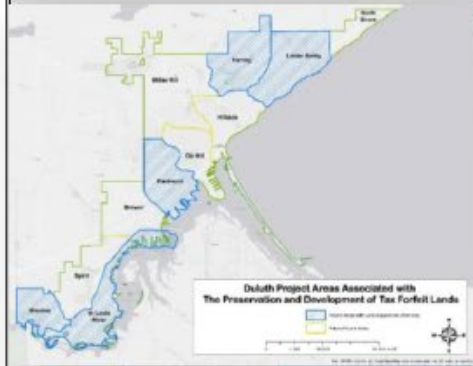


## OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

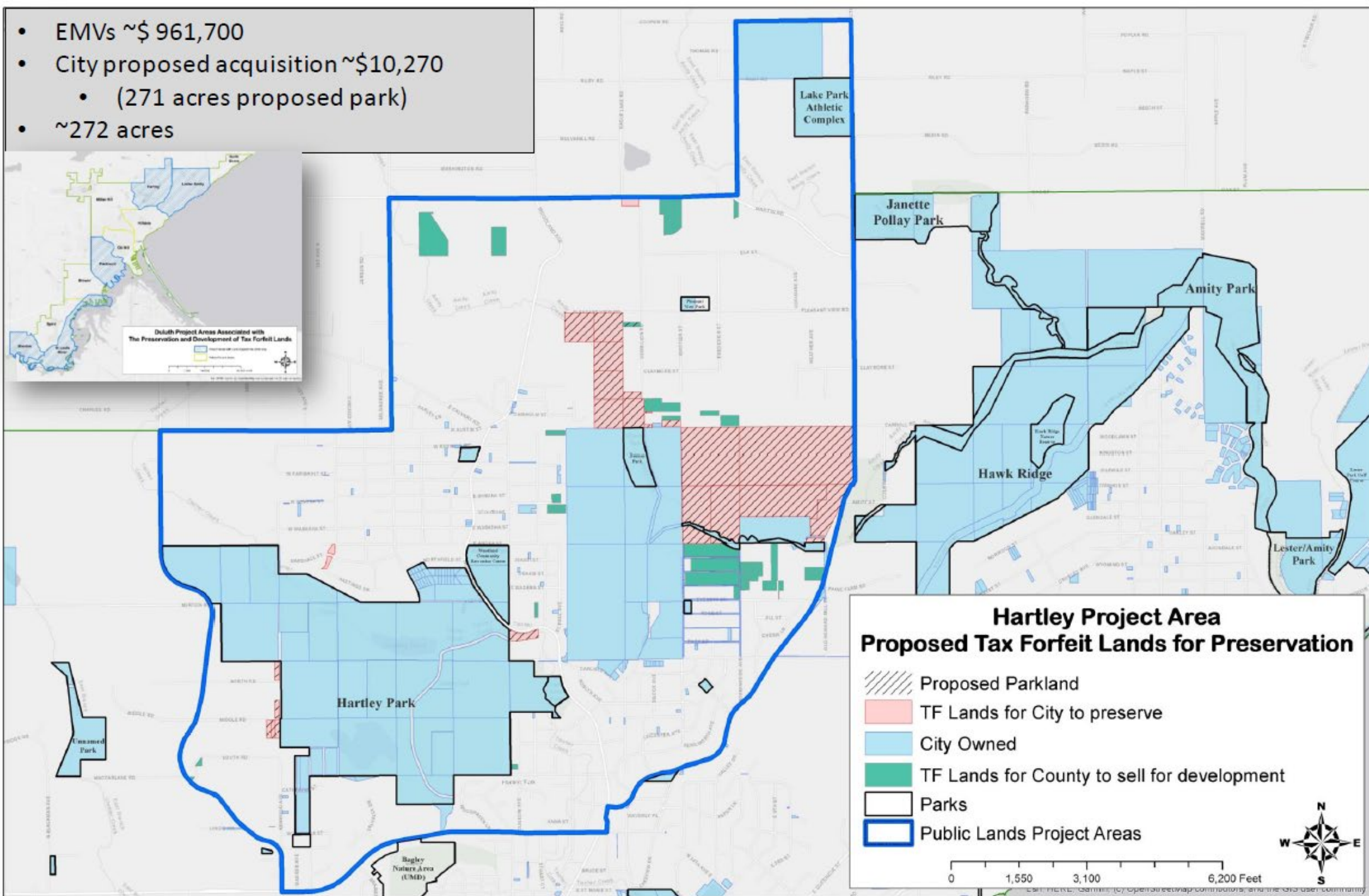
- Declare the necessity and secure the future of undeveloped places
- Reinforce the place-specific
- Take sustainable actions
- Develop a healthy community



- EMVs ~\$ 1,240,700
- City proposed acquisition ~\$36,525
  - (484 acres proposed park)
- ~493 acres

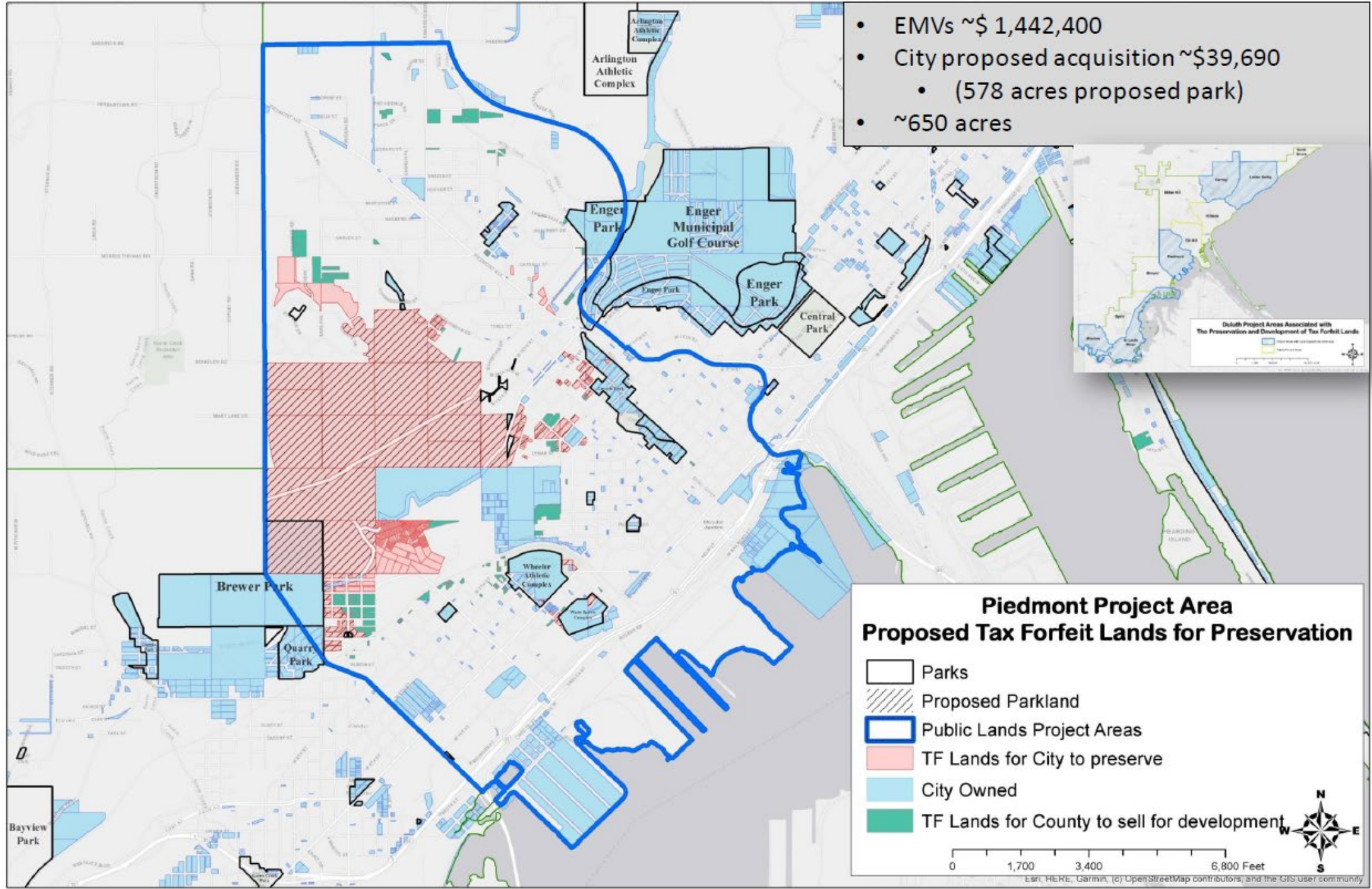


- EMVs ~\$ 961,700
- City proposed acquisition ~\$10,270
  - (271 acres proposed park)
- ~272 acres





- EMVs ~\$ 1,442,400
- City proposed acquisition ~\$39,690
  - (578 acres proposed park)
- ~650 acres



**Piedmont Project Area  
Proposed Tax Forfeit Lands for Preservation**

- ▭ Parks
- ▨ Proposed Parkland
- ▭ Public Lands Project Areas
- ▭ TF Lands for City to preserve
- ▭ City Owned
- ▭ TF Lands for County to sell for development

0 1,700 3,400 6,800 Feet



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

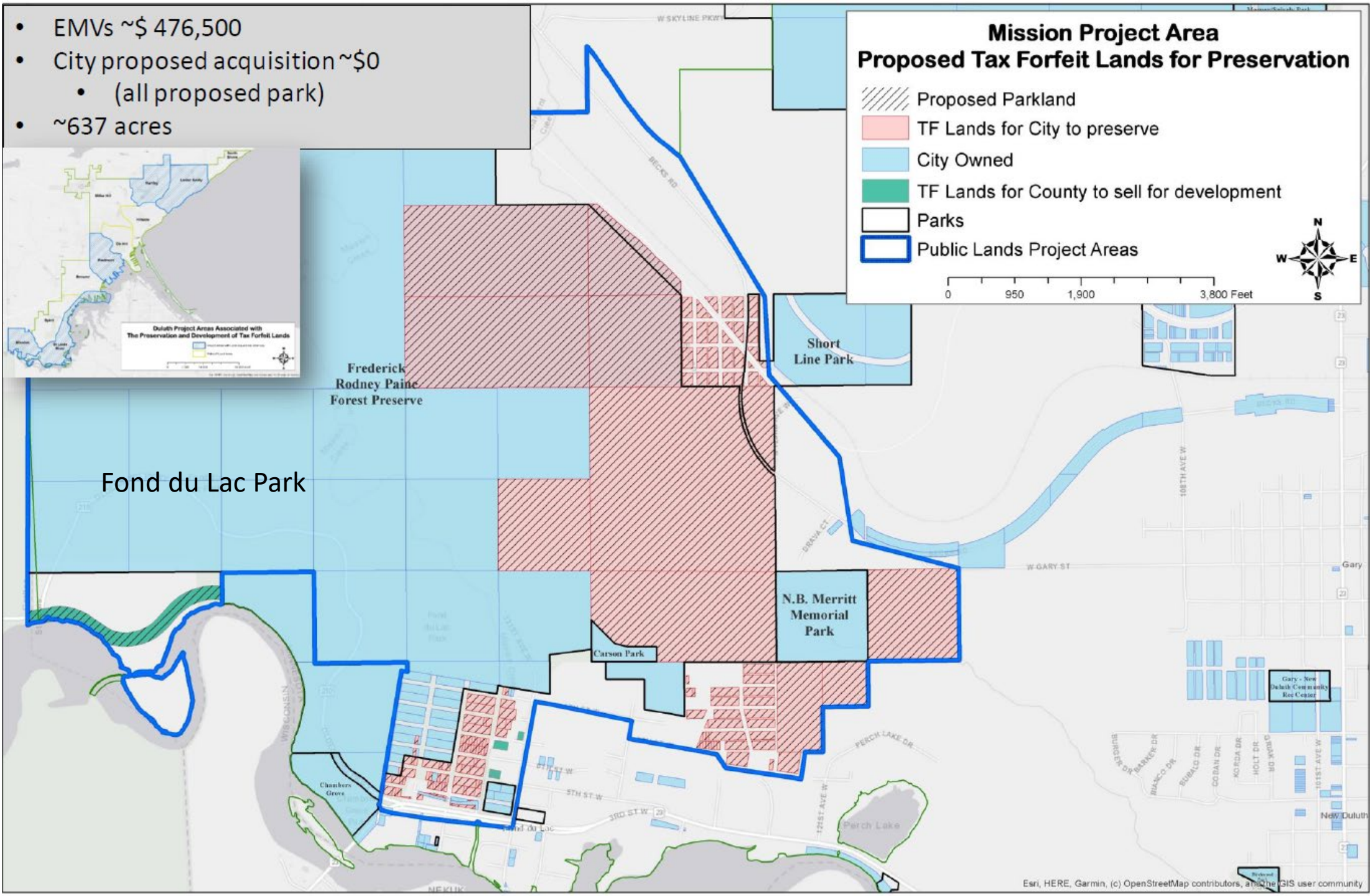


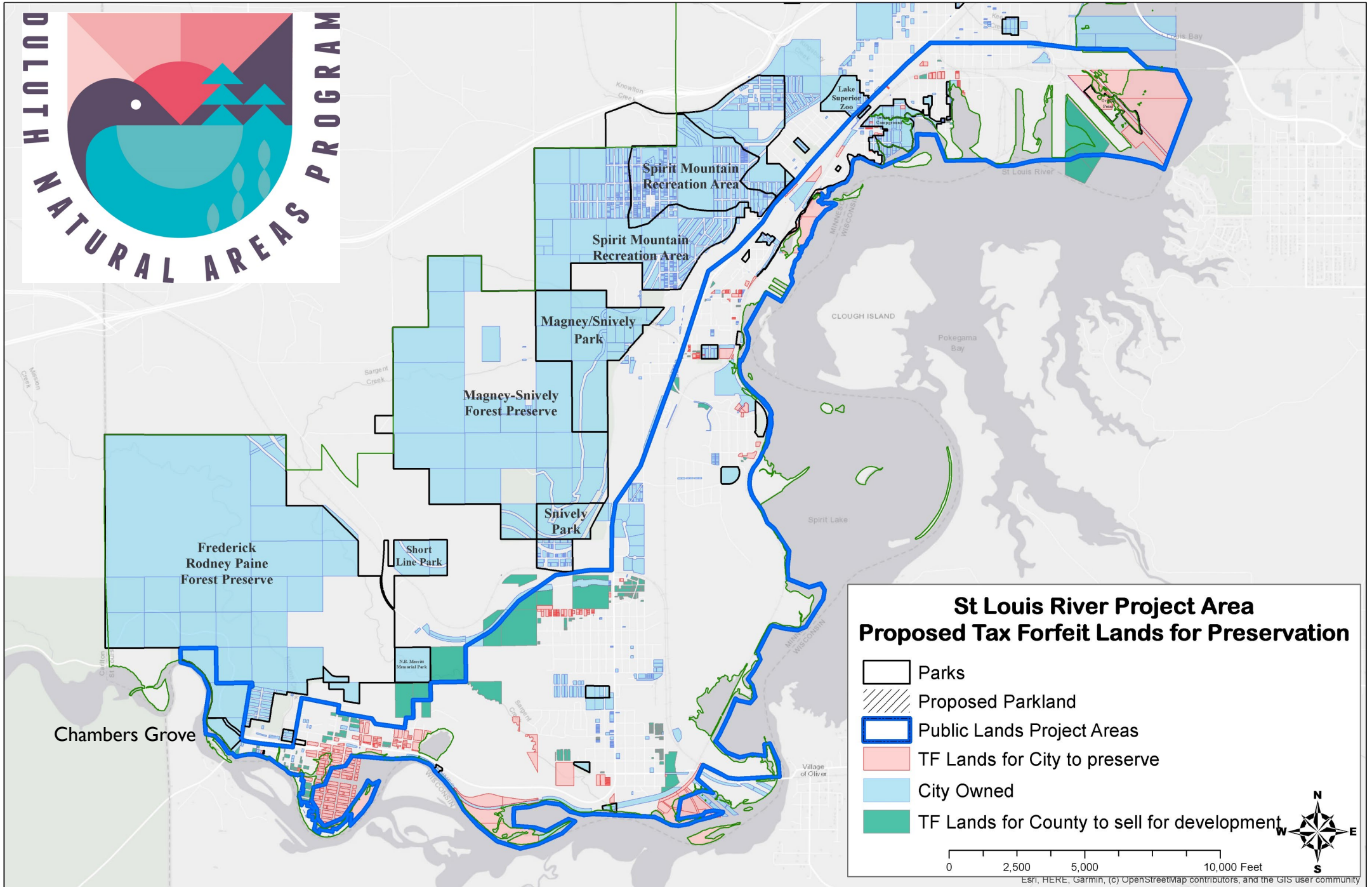
- EMVs ~\$ 476,500
- City proposed acquisition ~\$0
  - (all proposed park)
- ~637 acres

### Mission Project Area Proposed Tax Forfeit Lands for Preservation

- ▨ Proposed Parkland
- TF Lands for City to preserve
- City Owned
- TF Lands for County to sell for development
- ▭ Parks
- ▭ Public Lands Project Areas

0 950 1,900 3,800 Feet





Chambers Grove

Frederick  
Rodney Paine  
Forest Preserve

Short  
Line Park

Magney-Snively  
Forest Preserve

Snively  
Park

Magney/Snively  
Park

Spirit Mountain  
Recreation Area

Spirit Mountain  
Recreation Area

Spirit Lake

CLOUGH ISLAND

Pokegama Bay

St Louis River

Lake Superior Zoo

Village of Oliver





# Remaining Tasks and Timeline

**March:** Resolve outstanding Title work issues.

**April:** Final Council Action / City pays County for parcels being purchased with EPA grant funding at Less than Estimated Market Value.

**Summer:** Arrange for Grassy Point Ordinary Low Water level survey to meet DNR requirement.

**April – December:** Parcels move through County recorder and auditor.

> Can simultaneously begin park naming, or re-naming processes.

**By Dec 31, 2023:** EPA grant ends, all parcels purchased, deeds recorded.

**2023-2026:** City has 3 Years by Statute to designate lands as parks or natural areas.





# Notes

## **Primary Protection Strategy**

The City Administration's primary protection strategy is to make sale and/or development of the properties difficult by asking City Council to formally designate them for protection, fostering strong public support for permanent protection, and making their development and/or sale subject to rigorous public review and strong public approval.

The City Administration intends to carry out this strategy in a number of linked steps:

1. Ask City Council to Impose formal protective designations available under City Code and/or state statute that obligates public review and super-majority approval by City Council prior to any future development or sale.
2. Engage the public to name or rename the protected lands and eventually plan how they will be managed and used.
3. Conduct public events to acknowledge the protective designation and celebrate the new place names.
4. Install prominent official signage identifying the property as protected.



**25% of the acreage will be purchased for less than market value**

**§282.01, Subd. 1a(h)** authorizes sale of conservation land for less than its market value to local governments that intend to permanently protect properties that have significant environmental value but lack the existing or planned recreational uses necessary for the County to convey them to the City at no cost under §282.01, Subd. 1a(e).

(h) Conservation tax-forfeited land may be sold to a governmental subdivision of the state for less than its market value for either: (1) creation or preservation of wetlands; (2) drainage or storage of stormwater under a stormwater management plan; or (3) preservation, or restoration and preservation, of the land in its natural state. **The deed must contain a restrictive covenant limiting the use of the land to one of these purposes for 30 years** or until the property is reconveyed back to the state in trust.

**(a) After three years** from the date of any conveyance of tax-forfeited land to a governmental subdivision for an authorized public use as provided in this section, regardless of when the deed for the authorized public use was executed, if the governmental subdivision has failed to put the land to that use, or abandons that use, the governing body of the subdivision must: (1) with the approval of the county board, purchase the property for an authorized public purpose at the present market value as determined by the county board,

**75% of the acreage is being free conveyed**

**§282.01, Subd. 1a(e)** authorizes free conveyance of tax forfeit properties to local governments for specific authorized public uses. Nearly all of this property is to be acquired for authorized public use as parks.

(e) Nonconservation tax-forfeited land held in trust in favor of the taxing districts may be conveyed by the commissioner of revenue in the name of the state to a governmental subdivision for an authorized public use, if an application is submitted to the commissioner which includes a statement of facts as to the use to be made of the tract and the favorable recommendation of the county board. For the purposes of this paragraph, "authorized public use" means a use that allows an indefinite segment of the public to physically use and enjoy the property in numbers appropriate to its size and use, or is for a public service facility. Authorized public uses as defined in this paragraph are limited to:

- (2) a park that is both available to, and accessible by, the public that contains improvements such as campgrounds, playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or shelters;
- (3) trails for walking, bicycling, snowmobiling, or other recreational purposes, along with a reasonable amount of surrounding land maintained in its natural state;

**\*Some of the acreage** to be acquired is not suitable for park or natural area designation and there are no other suitable protective designations available in City Code. Much of this acreage is comprised of relatively isolated lands essential for stormwater and floodwater management and resiliency. We intend to examine, with collaboration with other departments - the possibility of creating a new protective designation that can fulfill the public interest in long-term protection of lands that are important for stormwater and floodwater management and resiliency but are not suitable for park or natural area designations. This would be a multi-departmental endeavor.