

**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile**

*Doorstep recreation opportunities will provide activities and promote healthy lifestyles. Resources, which provide for the study and enjoyment of nature, will be accessible to all.*

*Schools, community centers, and parks will be intensely used for neighborhood and cultural activities. A variety of recreational activities for teens, children, seniors, and family groups will be developed.*

*From the “2001 and beyond” Visioning Process*

Duluth’s parks, recreation, and open space system contributes significantly to the quality of life of Duluth residents and provides a draw for visitors. Not only does the park and open space system offer residents important recreational opportunities, it preserves and makes accessible unique views, vistas, and natural resource areas that help give the community its identity.

Duluth has a well-developed park and recreation system that includes many popular recreational facilities, numerous park areas, a network of trails, a variety of inclusive recreational programs, and a diversity of open space features. The 2001 land use inventory identifies 16.6% of Duluth’s total land area as having a park, recreation, or open space use (including private open space or recreation areas). In addition to formally designated lands and land uses, other areas serve a recreational or open space purpose, including tax-forfeit lands, private undeveloped lands, and lightly-developed or private open space areas. This combination of different land uses and ownership types creates Duluth’s informal ‘greenbelt.’ As Duluth plans for development and redevelopment, the role and function of its parks, recreation and open space areas, and the other informal elements of the greenbelt, need to be taken into account.

**Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features**

Duluth’s park system is one of the most extensive in the nation. The City owns and maintains 11,862 acres, which includes a variety of park, recreation, and trail opportunities both in the City and outside City limits. Duluth also provides its residents with a diverse range of recreational programs and special events, many in partnership with other organizations.

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features

#### Park and trail areas

The following pages present an inventory of the City's parks, parkways and trail system. Not all park locations and recreation facilities are included, as some are not included in the City's GIS database, some have not been mapped as recreation resources, and the inventory of facilities at some parks is incomplete. In spite of such limitations, the following inventory demonstrates both the mix of the majority of resources and the breadth of assets.

Skyline Parkway, the 'backbone' of the City's historic parkway system, follows the glacial ridge for much of the City's length and links many of the parks and trails. The route of the Parkway is made up of a number of separately named roads. (See "Historical Development Patterns" for a discussion of the Duluth parkway system.) Skyline Parkway is a unifying element for many of Duluth's parks, offers the opportunity to provide recreational connectivity across the entire city.

The City's park system is presented on three maps according to the Comprehensive Plan Areas – West, Central, and East. The maps show parks by park category. The categories are a modified version of the National Park and Recreation Association's categories, modified to reflect Duluth's specific park issues.

#### *Park and trail map - West Planning Area*

Park and trail facilities in the West Area exist within a dramatic landscape characterized by steep slopes and rock outcrops. The West Area borders the St. Louis River and the estuary formed by the River's mouth on Lake Superior. This area thus includes some unique and sensitive ecological areas of the City. Primary parks in this area include Fond du Lac Park, Magney/Snively Park, Fairmount Park and Brewer Park. Large portions of Magney-Snively are located outside the City limits within Midway Township as well as Fond du Lac Park. The West Area's primary recreational areas includes the 1,200 acre Spirit Mountain Recreation Area and the Lake Superior Zoo.

Morgan Park, Irving, Fond Du Lac, Merritt, Gary – New Duluth, Riverside, Norton and Harrison are among the Community Recreation Centers located in this area.

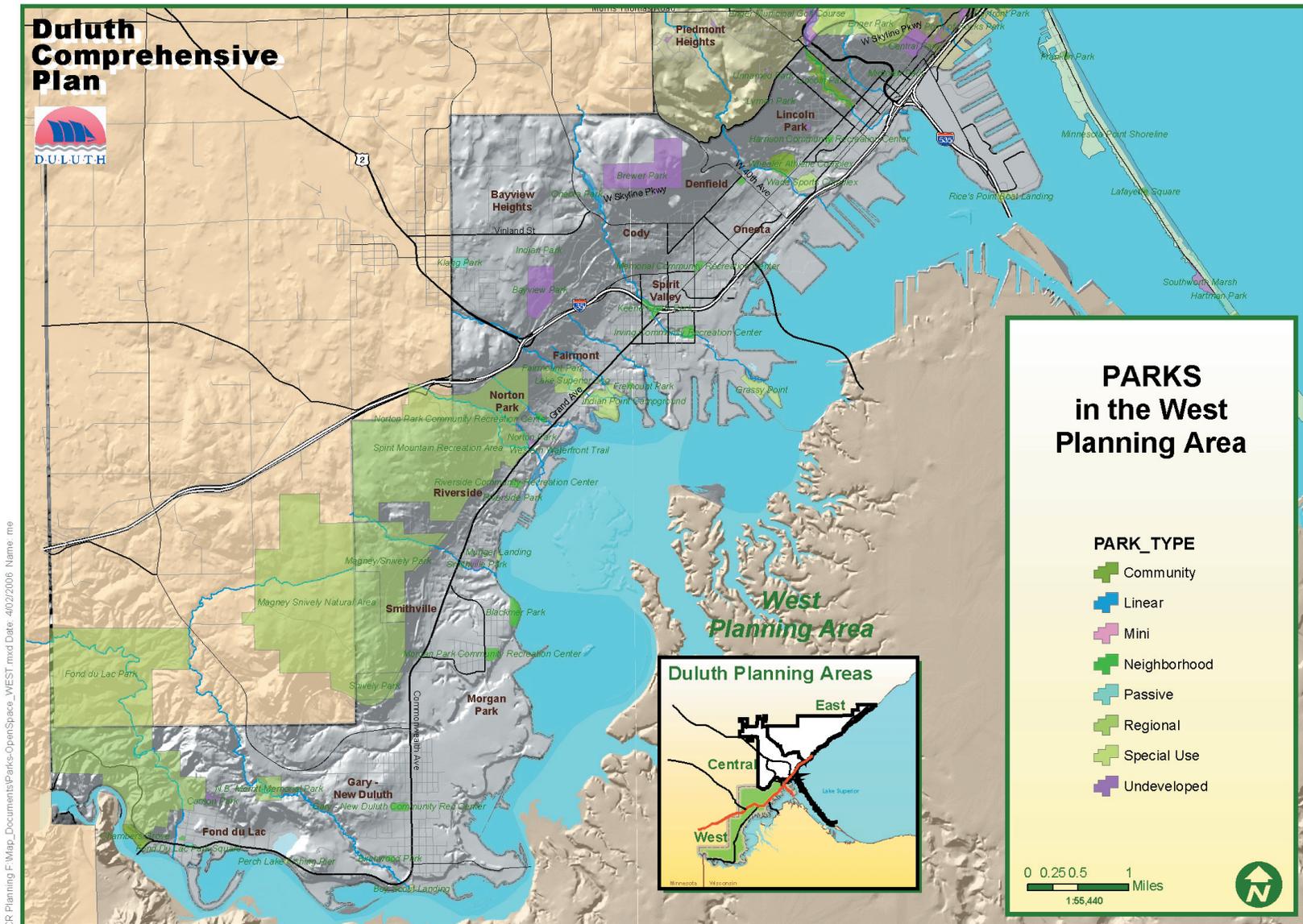
Historically, Skyline Parkway extended through Fond du Lac Park, but was washed out in the 1950s and now exists only as a trail. Today the Parkway extends from Becks Road eastward, winding around the Bardon's Peak overlook, through Magney-Snively Park and Spirit Mountain. The Parkway runs outside the City limits for much of the western end of its route, entering the City in the Spirit Mountain area.

# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

## Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features

Prominent connecting trails in this area include the future Superior Hiking Trail, the Western Waterfront Trail and Duluth's connection to the Willard Munger Trail.

**Figure P-1: Parks in the West Planning Area**



Parks Profile

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features

#### *Park and trail map - Central Planning Area*

Park and trail facilities in the Central Planning Area, include the downtown core and extend over the ridge to the airport. Primary parks in this area include Bayfront Park, Chester Park, Enger Park and golf course, Park Point Recreation Area, and Central Park. In addition to the golf course other recreational and tourist draws in the Central Area include the Arlington Athletic Complex, the Great Lakes Aquarium, Lake Superior Plaza, and Lake Place Park Sculpture and Peace Garden.

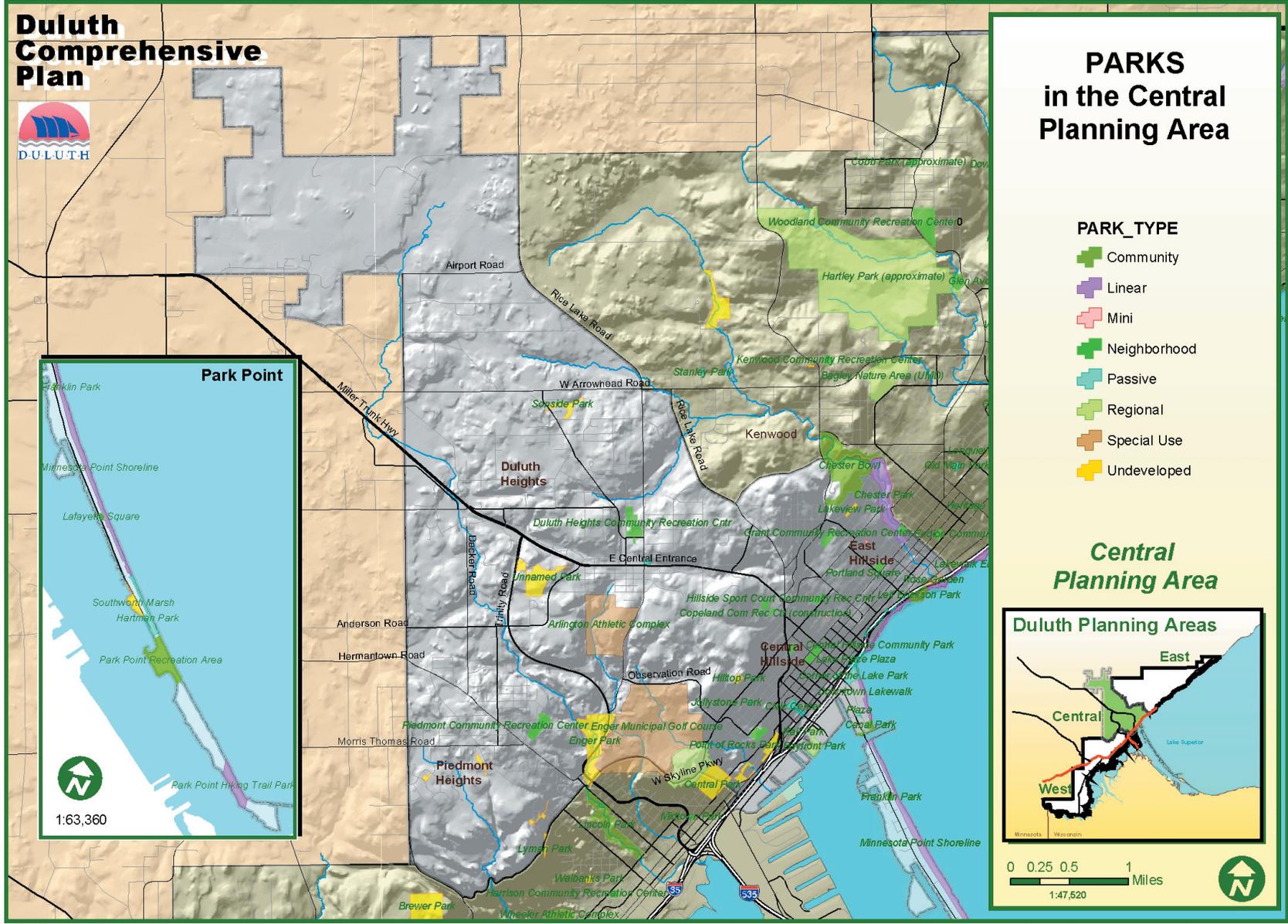
The Central Planning Area contains the largest number of Community Recreation Centers, including Duluth Heights, Grant, Hillside Sport Court, Piedmont, Copeland, and Observation.

Skyline Parkway connects several prominent parks in the Central Area (including both Chester and Enger parks). The Parkway historically had several spurs in the Central region, primarily running alongside stream corridors toward Lake Superior. The northern region of the Central Area has fewer large park areas, but does have significant areas of undeveloped land and tax forfeit land that offers open space value and informal recreational opportunities.

Prominent connecting trails in this area include the future Superior Hiking Trail, the Park Point Hiking Trail and the Lakewalk, which connects Canal Park to the Central and East Area neighborhoods.

**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile**  
**Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features**

**Figure P-2: Parks in the Central Planning Area**



Parks Profile



## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features

#### *Park and trail map - East Planning Area*

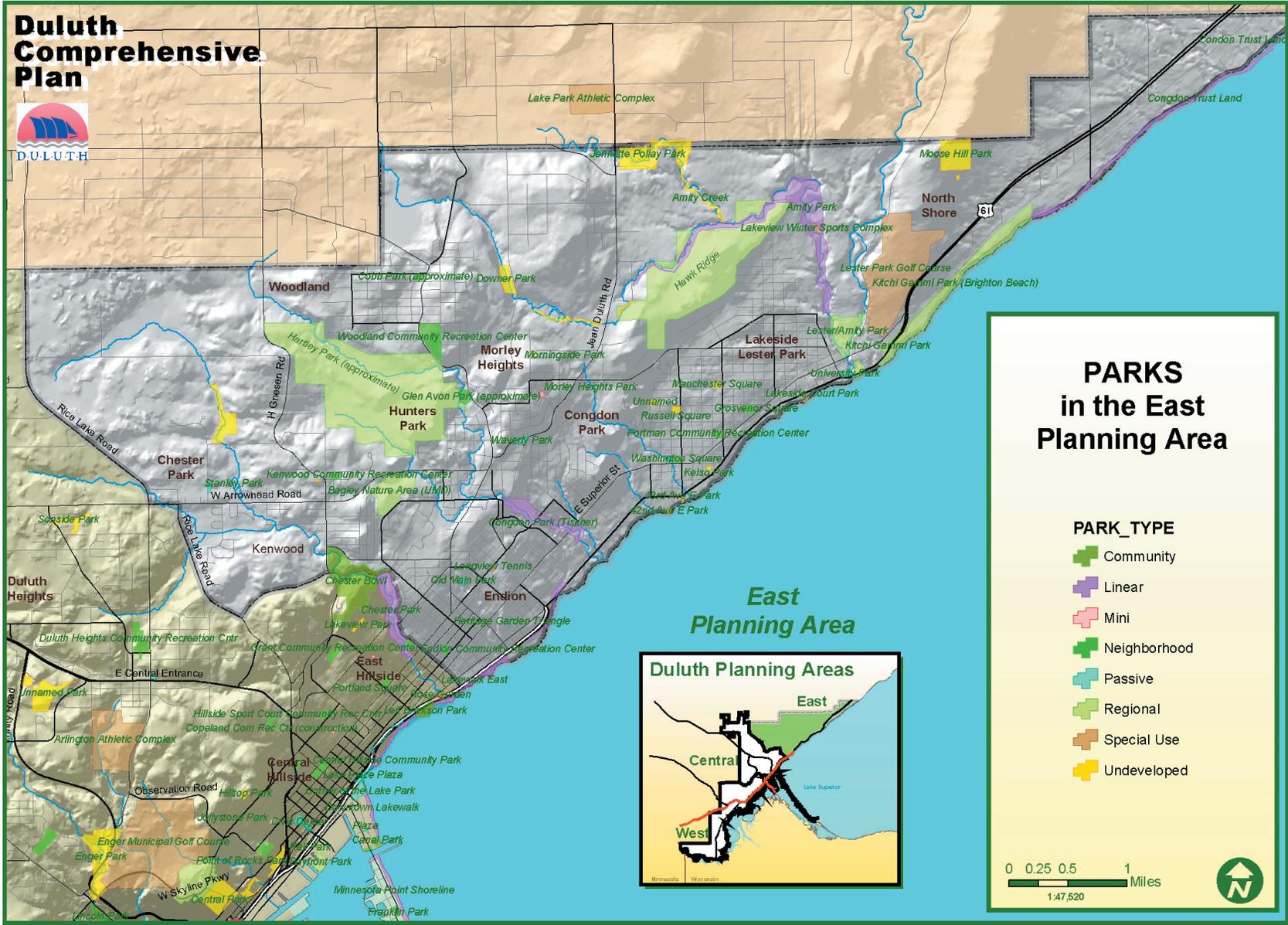
Park and trail facilities in the East Planning Area provide a transition from the City's urban center to the North Shore gateway. Primary park facilities are Hartley Park, Kitchi Gammi (Brighton Beach) Park, Lester/Amity Park and the Lester Park Golf Course, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Congdon Park and Jeannette Pollay Park. The Congdon Trust Lands are outside the City limits on the east, along the north shore of Lake Superior.

In the East Planning Area, Skyline Parkway follows the ridgeline and then comes down towards Lake Superior as Seven Bridges Road, through Lester/Amity Park, where it joins scenic Highway 61 along the North Shore. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, managed by the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, is located along Skyline Parkway in this area as well as the Woodland, Portman, and Kenwood Community Recreation Centers.

Prominent connecting trails in this area include the future Superior Hiking Trail and Lakewalk East Trail. Several trail systems, including a connection to regional snowmobile trails, are located north of Hawk Ridge and along the Lester River.

**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile**  
**Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Features**

**Figure P-3: Parks in the East Planning Area**



Parks Profile

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

Duluth Parks and Recreation Department

Duluth Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreational Department, as stated in its mission statement, provides high-quality recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental experiences for citizens and visitors. Programs are designed to enhance the quality of life and provide personal enrichment for users. The Parks and Recreation Department supports many programs for people of all ages, from toddler time to teen dances, after-school programs, music concert series, senior programs, and numerous other recreation programs and special events.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) consists of seventeen members; ten members representing each of the ten neighborhood planning districts, one member at large, and members who represent the professions of recreation/education and land management, as well as community school staff.

The Commission's vision statement is "To preserve a naturally beautiful city, our vision is to provide innovative and quality Parks and Recreation programs and facilities that will sustain a dynamic quality of life for everyone." The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, Parks and Recreation Department, and other agencies and organizations in matters that relate to Duluth Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

The Commission is supported by the following sub-committees:

- The Skateboard Park Committee develops and prioritizes current and possible future skateboard parks.
- The Trails Committee seeks to promote high-quality recreational trails for a wide variety of activities while protecting the natural resources of trail corridors.
- The Facilities Committee seeks input from citizens on recreation facility needs, and provides the administration with a prioritized list of facilities and projected costs. This committee's members represent organizations that use Parks and Recreation facilities.
- The Grant Committee advises on the award of grants through the Grant Program, a cooperative effort between the City of Duluth and the Commission. This program awards starter grants funded from charitable gaming. Funds are directed toward establishing and improving public facilities and/or recreational, educational, environmental, or other community related programs
- The Dog Park Committee works to establish dog parks in the City of Duluth by providing recommendations on potential sites, design, and budgetary considerations. In

October 2005, the City Council approved its first two dog parks, one on the west end at Keene Creek Park and one on the east end at the City owned Riley Tree Farm in Rice Lake Township.

- The Proposed Fees Committee reviews the existing fee structure and makes recommendations for changes as necessary to help maintain the quality of services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The Youth Programming Committee reviews existing programs and discusses future needs for youth in Duluth's Park and Recreation programs.

### Funding

The Duluth Parks and Recreation Department includes three general budgetary categories; Recreation and Senior Services, the Duluth Zoo, and the Golf Division. Recreation and Senior Services and the Zoo are funded within the General Fund. In 2005, General Fund expenditures totaled \$2.5 million, or approximately three percent of the total General Fund. The Zoo was budgeted at approximately one million dollars, with the Recreation and Senior Services funded at approximately \$1.5 million. Since 2002, funding has remained steady for the zoo, while Recreation and Senior Services has declined by over 15% since 2002.<sup>1</sup>

The Golf Division is not funded in the General Fund, but in the Enterprise Fund section of the budget. The Golf Division has a 2006 budget of approximately \$1.4 million, an amount that has remained relatively stable since 2002.

### **Park Facilities and Categories**

Duluth's park system includes a variety of park types and recreational and open space uses. As was shown on the park maps, Duluth's park lands and facilities have been categorized into eight park types:

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Regional Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Passive Parks
- Undeveloped Parks
- Linear Parks

<sup>1</sup> 2005 Park and Recreational Division Expense Detail

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Park Facilities and Categories

These categories are based partially on the National Parks and Recreation Association category standards, as noted below, but have been modified to reflect Duluth's unique resources. The categorization is somewhat subjective, but generally reflects the primary uses of the park lands.

Following the description of the park categories is an inventory of amenities. The inventory is sorted by neighborhood district to allow for matching descriptions with mapped park areas.

#### Mini parks

The National Parks and Recreation Association standards for this park type is described below:

- Service area: quarter mile radius
- Size: 0.1 – 0.3 acres (0.25 – 0.5 acres/1,000 pop.)
- Population served: 500 – 2,500 persons
- User age range: toddler to 9 years
- Often adjacent to public schools. Usually combined with adult gather areas

Tot lots provide a simple, safe, and flexible play environment designed to satisfy the needs of families with small children up to nine years of age. Generally these are located in residential areas where small children are not served by larger parks, or areas that are geographically limited and therefore able to serve a small number of people. Although there are only three parks (Morley Heights, Lilliput, and Munger Park) specifically geared toward this population, many of the neighborhood parks incorporate these features as well. As the City develops new or expanded residential areas, integrating such mini parks into the design of the subdivision or neighborhood park can add value to the development and meet overall recreational goals.

#### Neighborhood parks

Neighborhood parks are both larger and have more amenities than mini parks. The National Parks and Recreation Association identifies the following general standards for neighborhood parks:

- Service area: quarter to half mile radius
- Size: 4 – 8 acres (1 – 2 acres/1,000 pop.)
- Population served: 1,000 – 5,000 persons
- User age range: 5 - 14 years (all ages)
- Suited for intense development. Geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school/park facility

The neighborhood park provides for the passive and active recreational needs of neighborhood residents. These parks are more intensely developed with some natural areas or landscape features. They have facilities such as community recreation centers, playground equipment, picnic areas or benches, and areas to allow for an organized events or games. Neighborhood parks comprise about 170 acres in the City, and include 22 community recreational centers that offer residents a variety of programs as well as facilities to host special events. The distribution and approximate service area of community recreation centers is shown in Figure P-4.

#### Community parks

Community parks serve a larger geographic area than neighborhood parks, and typically provide a wider range of amenities and recreational opportunities. The National Parks and Recreation Association standards for this park type are:

- Service area: 1 - 1 1/2 mile radius
- Size: 15 – 25 acres
- Population served: 10,000 – 30,000 persons
- User age range: all ages
- Includes athletic complexes with lighted fields

Duluth's community parks are generally much larger parcels than neighborhood parks and provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages from several neighborhoods as well as visitors to the area. Community parks are multi-purpose parks that have pavilions available for special events and an abundance of natural features. In Duluth, these parks comprise about 280 acres.

#### Regional parks

Regional parks are typically the largest size parks found in Duluth. Regional parks typically include natural areas that serve not only recreational needs but also open space, viewshed, and natural system needs. According to the National Parks and Recreation Association, regional parks generally meet the following standards:

- Service area: Within 30 minutes
- Size: 50 – 100 acres
- Population served: 40,000 – 100,000 persons
- User age range: all ages
- Large natural or landscaped area designed to accommodate large numbers of persons. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods

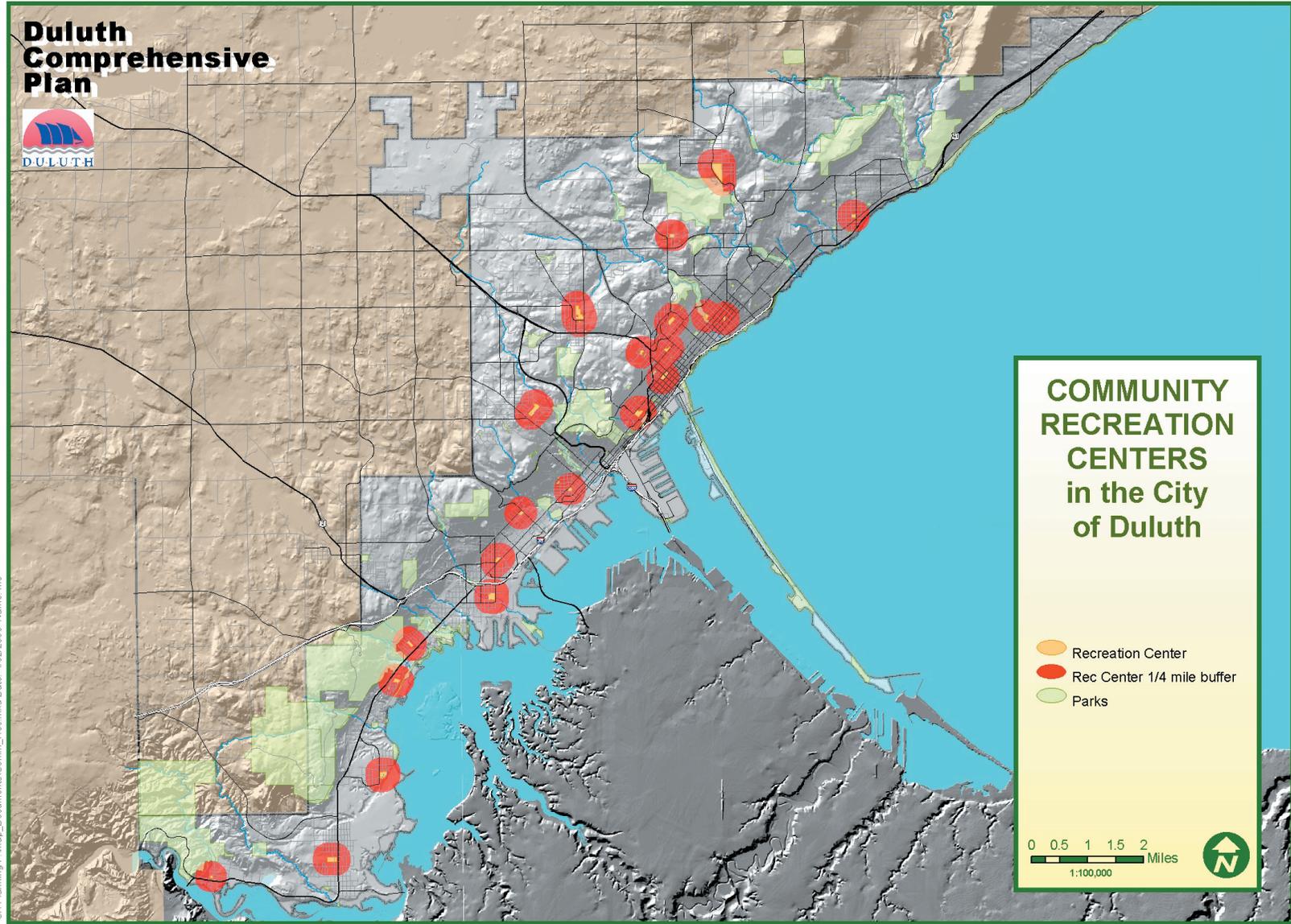
**Community parks**

- Wheeler Athletic Complex
- Lincoln Park
- Canal Park
- Park Point Recreation Area
- Leif Erickson Park
- Chambers Grove
- Chester Bowl

# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

## Park Facilities and Categories

Figure P-4: Community Recreation Centers in the City of Duluth



Parks Profile

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Park Facilities and Categories

In Duluth these parks comprise about 4,700 acres and include large natural areas such as Duluth's Magney/Snively Natural Area, Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, and Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, N.B. Merritt Memorial Park, Fairmount Park, Bayfront Park, Kitchi Gammi Park (Brighton Beach), Lester/Amity Park, Enger Park, Fond du Lac Park, Hartley Park, and the Congdon Trust lands.

#### Special use areas

The City has a number of unique park and open space areas that serve the residents and tourists with a broad range of specialized facilities (i.e. golf, boating, tennis, zoo, etc.) These park areas include mixes of other types of parks such as the Arlington Athletic soccer complex, or have highly specialized designs or use, such as the Rose Garden near Leif Erikson Park. Additional examples include Indian Point Campground, Boy Scout and Munger landings, Lake Superior Zoo, Grassy Point, Skateboard and Basket Ball Parks and Enger Municipal and Lester Park golf courses. For a complete list refer to the parks maps.

#### Passive parks

Passive parks are characterized by small open space areas with minimal facilities and upkeep. Amenities may include gardens, benches, and small open spaces for recreation. While not large in size, passive parks provide critical open space in residential areas, visual breaks, public meeting areas in dense commercial areas, and informal play areas. Passive parks comprise approximately 55 acres of areas of park land in Duluth. Examples of passive parks include Klang Park, Stanley Park, Fond Du Lac Park Square, Pennel Park, Lake Superior Plaza, Heritage Garden Triangle, Old Main Park, University Park, Corner of the Lake Park, Lake Place Plaza, and a number of small unnamed parks.

#### Undeveloped parks

Duluth has a number of open space areas that are formally parks, but do not have facilities. These parks are undeveloped – although some offer informal playfields – and have minimal maintenance. They are nonetheless important open space areas for informal recreational activities and for the protection of significant natural resources. These parks comprise about 550 acres of Duluth's park lands. A list of Duluth's undeveloped parks is provided on the right:

#### Duluth's undeveloped parks

- Brewer Park
- Indian Park
- Central Park
- Hilltop Park
- Southworth Marsh
- Downer Park
- Kelso Park
- Lakeside Court Park
- Lakeview Park
- Lyman Park
- Manchester Square
- Point of Rocks Park
- Russell Square
- Sonside Park
- Fremont Park
- Smithville Park
- Carson Park
- Riverside Park
- Bellevue Park
- Morningside Park
- the 42nd and 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave E Lake Access parks,
- Johnson Park
- Jeanette Pollay Park
- Moose Hill Park
- Amity Creek
- Walbanks Park
- Several unnamed parks

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Trails

#### Linear parks

Linear parks are relatively narrow corridors of land that frequently follow stream corridors and include trails. Linear parks serve as links between residential neighborhoods, parks, and other community amenities as well as provide recreational opportunities. In Duluth, linear parks comprise approximately 420 acres. Some of Duluth's linear parks are connected to neighborhood, community, or other park categories with the same park name.

LINEAR PARKS / TRAILS		
Park/Trail Name	Distance (if available)	Trail Type
➤ Chester Bowl	3 kilometers	Downhill ski, X/C Ski,
➤ Chester Creek Linear Park and trail	(xc) 2.5 miles	Hiking
➤ Tischer Creek Trail	1.5 miles	Hiking
➤ Grassy Point Trail		Hiking
➤ Hartley Park trails	5k (xc)	X/C Ski, biking, hiking
➤ Hawk Ridge trails		Hiking
➤ Keene Creek Trail		Hiking
➤ Kingsbury Creek Linear Park	1.3 miles	Hiking
➤ Lakewalk Linear Park and trail	1.3 miles	Hiking, biking X/C Ski, hiking
➤ Lester/Amity trails	15K (xc) 1.5 miles	X/C ski, horseback Hiking
➤ Lester Park Golf Course	3k (xc)	X/C Ski
➤ Lincoln Park Trail	1.5 miles	Hiking
➤ Magney-Snively trails	14k (xc)	Hiking
➤ Mission Creek Linear Park and trail	3.25 miles	X/C Ski
➤ Park Point Linear Park and trail	4.5 miles	X/C Ski, hiking Hiking
➤ Piedmont Trail	4k	X/C Ski
➤ Spirit Mountain trails	20k	X/C Ski
➤ Western Waterfront Trail	5 miles	Hiking
➤ Willard/Munger Trail		Biking
➤ Snowmobile trails	45 miles	Snowmobiling

#### Trails

While frequently associated with linear parks, trails serve a distinct function in Duluth's open space and recreation system. The City has a trail inventory that includes over 96 miles of trails. Trails are categorized as winter trails, encompassing cross-country skiing, skijoring and snowmobile trails, and summer trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and similar activities. The following sections describe these features in greater detail.

Winter use trails

Duluth has a variety of cross-country skiing, skijoring, and snowmobile trail opportunities. Five city trails and the Spirit Mountain Cross-Country Center provide 65k for every level of skier. Many trails pass through beautiful forests with breathtaking views of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River Valley. Following are examples of trails used for winter recreation.

Cross-Country and Skijoring Trails

- *Chester Bowl*  
The Chester Bowl trail offers 3k for the advanced skier and racer.
- *Hartley Trail*  
The Hartley trail has a total of 5k of trails to explore, including both challenging hills and more gentle areas for beginners.
- *Lester-Amity Trail*  
The Lester-Amity trail offers 15k of varied terrain through pine, aspen, and birch forests. An additional 3k circles the Lester Park Golf Course and is accessible from the main Lester-Amity Trail.
- *Magney-Snively Trail*  
The Magney-Snively trail has 14k of trail for intermediate and advanced skiers. This trail offers skiing through a beautiful hardwood forest with large hills and trees.
- *Piedmont Trail*  
The Piedmont trail has 5k of trail for beginning and intermediate skiers. This double-tracked trail traces through aspen, birch, and hardwood forests.
- *Enger and Lester Park Golf Courses*  
  
Both Enger and Lester Park public golf courses provide skijoring trails during the winter. Trails are determined based on snow cover and course conditions.

Snowmobile Trails

- *Duluth Cross Town Trail*  
  
The West Section follows 33 miles along the Skyline ridge, around Spirit Mountain and the woodlands behind the zoo. This trail connects to the Willard Munger State Trail.  
  
The East Section of the Duluth Cross Town trail is 12 miles and begins in Lester Park. This trail continues into the Hawk Ridge Valley and through city woodlands to the start of the North Shore State Trail.

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Trails

- *Lester River Trail* – The Lester River Trail, located at the eastern end of the city, winds along Amity Creek and the Lester River. The picturesque trail crosses many footbridges and is a short and easy (0.8 miles) walking trail.
- *Congdon Park Trail* – The Congdon Park Trail, sometimes called the Tischer Park Trail, follows the winding course of Tischer Creek. The easy, 1.5 mile trail travels past falls, rapids, riffles, and pools through shady glens from Vermillion Road down the hillside to Superior Street.
- *Chester Creek Trail* – The Chester Creek Nature Trail is a challenging, 2.5-mile trail on either side of Chester Creek, and is the place to look for several kinds of rare wild flowers and plants.
- *Hartley Park Trails* – Hartley Park features 660 acres of forested hills and wetlands. A variety of scenic year-round-use recreational trails take advantage of forests and views of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River Valley. Hartley trails are designated for hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing, and dog walking.
- *Lincoln Park Trail* – Lincoln Park is one of the city's oldest and most popular parks. The moderate 1.5 mile Lincoln Park Trail runs up one side of Miller Creek and down the other.
- *Kingsbury Creek Trail* – The Kingsbury Creek Trail begins just above the Lake Superior Zoo. The moderate 1.3-mile trail includes majestic white pines and a great view from the top of the loop where the old Thompson Hill Road ends.
- *Park Point Trail* – The Park Point Trail offers great opportunities for bird watching. The challenging 4-mile walk follows along the shoreline.
- *Western Waterfront Trail* – Duluth's newest trail is the Western Waterfront Trail, which follows the scenic St. Louis River approximately 5 miles.
- *Mission Creek Trail* – The historic Mission Creek Trail follows part of the old Skyline Parkway. This nearly 3.25-mile loop trail offers some steep and rocky stretches.

### Summer use trails

Duluth has ten different nature trails available for recreational use. These nature trails highlight Duluth's diverse environmental areas, from the cascading waterfalls of Tischer Creek in Congdon Park to the dunes of Park Point and the scenic banks of the St. Louis River. Hiking, biking, birding, and rock climbing are all accessible within the city limits. Following are examples of trails used for summer recreation.

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile Trails

CITY PARK AMENITY INVENTORY	District	Accessible	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Trash Cans	Playground	Bathrooms	Ballfields	Courts	Rinks	Trails	Gardens	Off-St Parking	Other Features
Blackmer Park	1	N		3		2	K	P	S,I,B				Y		
Boy Scout Landing	1	Y				1		P							
Chambers Grove	1	Y	Y	30	6	8	K	F	So		H	Y	25		
Fond du Lac Park Community Recreation Center	1	N				2					HB,Sn,Sk				
Gary - New Duluth Community Recreation Center	1	Y				2		F	S,I,B,So	Bb			Y	40	SKATE RAMPS
Morgan Park Community Recreation Center	1	Y		6		6	T, K	F		Bb,T		Y	Y	40	SKATE RAMPS
Indian Point Campground	1	Y	Y	24	10	10	K	F				HB		20	
Lake Superior Zoo	1	Y				10		F					Y	200	
Magney/Snively Park	1											Sk,HB		30	
Munger Landing	1							P						20	
Norton Park Community Recreation Center	1			2		2	T,K	F	So,S	Bb			Y		
Riverside Community Recreation Center	1			2		1	K	F	So,S	Bb					
Smithville Park	1														
Western Waterfront Trail	1			4		6		P				HB		40	
Brewer Park	2	N													
Buffalo Park	2	N													
Fairmount Park	2	Y	Y	26		8	K	F				Y	Y	200	
Grassy Point	2	N				1								4	
Irving Community Recreation Center	2	Y		3		2	T,K	F	So,S,B	T,Bb		HB	Y	20	
Keene Creek Park	2	Y		4		6	T,K			T,Bb		HB		20	SKATE RAMPS
Memorial Community Recreation Center	2			6	4	6	T,K	F	So,B	B			Y	30	
Merritt Community Recreation Center	2			4		4	K	F	So,B,L	Bb			Y	4	
Moose Hill Park	9														
Peterson Arena	2							F						200	
Rice's Point Boat Landing	2					1								20	
Wade Sports Complex	2			Y		20		F	S,B					300	
Wheeler Athletic Complex	2			30		20	K	F	So,S	T			Y	200	

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Trails

CITY PARK AMENITY INVENTORY CONTINUED	District	Accessible	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Trash Cans	Playground	Bathrooms	Ballfields	Courts	Rinks	Trails	Gardens	Off-St Park- ing	Other Features
Harrison Community Recreation Center	3	Y		6		2	T,K	F	So,S,B	T,Bb			Y		
Lincoln Park	3	Y	Y	12	7	6	T,K	F	So,F,S	Bb		HB	Y	10	
Arlington Athletic Complex	4	Y				6		P	S					100	SOCCER
Birchwood Park	4	N		3		1	K					Y	Y		
Buckingham Creek	4														
Duluth Heights Community Recreation Cntr	4	Y		2		2	K	F	S,L,B,So	Bb	P,H		Y	10	SKATE RAMPS
Enger Park	4	Y	Y	14	4	6		F				Y	Y	60	
Enger Municipal Golf Course	4	Y						F						100	
Pennel Park	4			2	1	2							Y		
Piedmont Community Recreation Center	4					1	K	F	So,S	Bb		HB,SK		10	
Piedmont Ski Trail	4					1								15	
Twin Ponds Park	4			1		2								20	
Bayfront Park	5	Y				10	T, K	P					Y	100	
Baywalk	5	Y													
Canal Park	5	Y		4		26							Y	300	
Cascade Park	5	Y	Y	5	2	4	T, K			Bb			Y		
Central Hillside Community Park	5	Y		4	2	8	T, K	F		Bb	P		Y	25	PARKS OFFICE
Central Park	5	N			6							H	Y		
Civic Center	5	Y				2		F					Y	40	
Franklin Park	5	N		3		2	T	P				Y		20	
Copeland Com Rec Ctr (construction)	5	N													
Hillside Sport Court Community Rec Cntr	5	N		4		4	T,K	F	So,S,B	T,Bb			Y	3	
Jollystone Park	5	N		Y											
Lafayette Community Recreation Center	5	Y		2		1	T,K	F	S,B	Bb		H	Y	10	
Lake Place Plaza	5	Y		3		8		F				H	Y		
Lakewalk	5	Y		8		40		F				HB	Y	200	

**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile**  
**Trails**

CITY PARK AMENITY INVENTORY CONTINUED	District	Accessible	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Trash Cans	Playground	Bathrooms	Ballfields	Courts	Rinks	Trails	Gardens	Off-St Parking	Other Features
Leif Erikson Park	5	Y	Y	Y		2		F				HB	Y		
Liliput Park	5	Y		3	1	1	T,K						Y		
Midtown Park	5					2	K			Bb					SKATE RAMPS
Observation Community Recreation Center	5			2		2	T,K	F	So,S	Bb			Y		
Park Point	5		Y	35	8	2	T,K	F	So,S			HB	Y	385	
Rail Park	5					1								10	
Washburn Park	5					1									
Washington Com Rec Cntr	5						T	F		Bb					GYM/POOL
Washington Square	5			3		1	T,K						Y		
Lower Chester Com Rec Cntr	6	Y						F			P,H				
Endion Community Recreation Center	6	Y		3		10	T, K	F	So,F	Bb,T			Y	20	SKATE RAMPS
Grant Community Recreation Center	6	Y		2		1	K	F	So,B,S	Bb			Y		
Munger Park	6					1	T,K								
Portland Square	6			8		2	T,K						Y		
Congdon School Community Recreation Center	7	N				1						Y	Y		
Longview Tennis	7	Y		4		1		F		T			Y		
Old Main Park	7			2		1							Y		
Vermillion Park	7														
Amity Park	8	N		6											
Cobb Park (approximate)	8	Y													
Glen Avon Park (approximate)	8	Y						P	S,L,B		P,H	Y		30	
Downer Park	8	N							So						
Fryberger Arena	8	Y												200	
Hartley Park	8	Y										HB,Sn,Sk	Y	30	
Hawk Ridge	8	Y				2		P				HB	Y	60	
Lyman Park	8												Y		
Morley Heights Park	8			2		2	T,K						Y		

Parks Profile

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Trails

CITY PARK AMENITY INVENTORY CONTINUED	District	Accessible	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Trash Cans	Playground	Bathrooms	Ballfields	Courts	Rinks	Trails	Gardens	Off-St Park- ing	Other Features
Morningside Park	8			1		1	K		So	Bb			Y		
Pleasant View Park	8														
Stanley Park	8											HB			
Walbanks Park	8														
Waverly Park	8														
Woodland Community Recreation Center	8			2		1	K	F	So,S	T,Bb			Y	200	
Unnamed	9	Y												3	
42nd Ave E Lake Access	9	N													
43rd Ave E Lake Access	9	N													
Grosvenor Square	9	N		1		2	K		So						
Johnson Park	9	N													
Kitchi Gammi Park (Brighton Beach)	9	Y	Y	28	12	6	K	P				H	Y	50	
Lakeside Court Park	9	N													
Lakeside Playground	9	N													
Lakeview Park	9	N													
Lester Park Golf Course	9					8		F					Y	100	
Lester/Amity Park	9	Y	Y	20	3	6	T,K	F	So			HB,Sn,Sk	Y	60	
Manchester Square	9														
Portman Community Recreation Center	9			4		2	T,K	F	So,S	Bb			Y		
Russell Square	9														
University Park	9														
Chester Bowl	10	Y		27	9	13	K	F	S	Bb,S	P,H,S	HB,SK	Y	80	SKATE RAMPS
Kelso Park	10														
Kenwood School Park	10						T,K								
Lake Park Fields	N/ A	Y						P	S,So,L					50	
Indian park		N													
Totals				370	75	324								3664	

### Forest Parks/Memorial Forests/Forest Preserves

Forest Parks were established in the 1930's to help Duluth manage its tax-forfeited property. The Forest Parks are not official parks, but areas within which tax forfeited land are managed for a public purpose. Some of them essentially function as and are widely regarded as parks, while others have been developed or partially developed for a variety of purposes. A more detailed discussion is found in the Land Use Profile.

### Park and Recreation Programs

#### Senior programs

The City of Duluth has extensive programs and opportunities available to its senior population. The City has 11 different sites supporting senior programs, with a dining program provided at 10 of these locations. Some programs available include the Northland Senior Games, Active Aging Week, Bocce Fun Time, 100 Year Birthday Party, Meals on Wheels, a community picnic and many educational seminars. Senior Programs are available at Duluth Heights, Evergreen, Gary New Duluth, Harrison, Lincoln Park, Morgan Park, Piedmont, Portman, Rainbow and Woodland.

#### Youth recreation, Chester Bowl, youth sports, flag football

The City offers many recreational opportunities for youth ranging from summer recreation programs, supporting youth sport organizations, to flag football. Some specific sporting opportunities offered are softball, hockey, speed and figure skating, soccer, basketball, tennis, cross-country skiing and ski jumping, baseball, volleyball and golf. A fundraising event at Chester Bowl is held annually to support youth sport organizations. The Parks and Recreation Department works closely with these youth organizations.

#### Community recreation centers

As noted in the neighborhood parks category, Duluth has 22 community recreation centers throughout the City, providing numerous recreational programs and facilities to citizens and visitors. The Park and Recreation Department provides programmatic activities including indoor and outdoor active, passive and organized recreational opportunities as well as space for neighborhood meetings and social events. Program activities, and facilities and amenities, vary by location.

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Other Recreation or Cultural Facilities

#### Additional Duluth Recreation Facilities

FACILITY	DESCRIPTION
Skyline Parkway (30 miles)	Public roadway, backbone of Duluth's historic parkway system
Superior Hiking Trail	On public and private property, maintained by non-profit association
Congdon Elementary School Community Center	Small building, not city owned, used as a warming-center for ice skating
Hartley Nature Center	On public property, maintained by non-profit association
Lakeside/Lester Park Community Rec Center	Former library building now used by a private group
Lake Superior Plaza (aka Minnesota Power Plaza)	Public plaza on grounds of Minnesota Power property
Spirit Mountain Recreation Area	On public property, maintained by non-profit association
Snowmobile Trails – 45 miles	On public property, maintained by non-profit association
Snowflake Nordic	Private facility for skiing and other recreational use
Bagley Nature Area	Nature reserve owned by UMD, includes hiking and xc ski trails
Southworth Marsh	Area used as dredge spoil deposit site, possible natural area potential
Moose Hill - 80 acres	Partially in Duluth, DNR jurisdiction and under consideration by DNR for a Science and Natural Area

#### Adopt a park/trail programs

The Adopt-A-Park Program was created in 1992 to provide citizen groups an opportunity to become directly involved with the care of a City park. Organizations make a three year commitment to picking up litter in their adopted park at least three times per year. Some organizations are involved in making improvements to parks. This provides an avenue for public participation in the care and maintenance of City parks and trails while conserving City resources.

#### Other Recreation or Cultural Facilities

The City of Duluth benefits from other facilities that act as recreational and cultural amenities. Some of these facilities are publicly owned and managed by nonprofit entities, while others are privately owned. These facilities also vary widely in their level of development, from extensively developed to a natural state with high ecological value.

- Skyline Parkway, as discussed earlier in this chapter, is an approximately 30-mile scenic drive that traverses and links 27 different park and public land areas comprising more than 5,500 acres. The Parkway provides access to many recreational opportunities while itself being used recreationally for walking, running, biking, and in some locations, horseback riding and seasonal snowmobile riding. Touring the dramatic drive 600 feet above the shoreline with stops at parks or overlooks is a popular activity for both residents and visitors.
- Spirit Mountain Recreation Area is a multi-use recreational facility, developed by the City in 1974. The Spirit Mountain Recreation Area is managed by the Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority and contains 1,123 acres (1,038 acres in Duluth and 85 acres in Proctor). It includes ski slopes, parking areas, lodging facilities, and a campground, as well as wooded areas used mainly for cross-country skiing and mountain-biking. The mission of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area is to develop a wide range of quality, year-round recreational activities that encourage regional economic growth while conserving the environment.
- Under a trust agreement with the City, the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory manages 115 acres overlooking the western tip of Lake Superior as a nature reserve. The lands are open to the public for study and enjoyment. The mission of the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

Founded in 1972, Hawk Ridge is now known as one of the world's major observation areas of raptor migration, with visitors coming from all over the world to learn and observe.

- The Lake Superior Zoo is dedicated to the responsible stewardship of the natural environment through exhibition of living animals and plants and programs in conservation and wildlife education. Nearly 150,000 people visit the Lake Superior Zoo annually. Arrowhead Zoological Society, Inc. is a non profit organization that was formally established in 1959 to assist with the operation, growth, and improvement of the Lake Superior Zoo. The society, under an agreement with the City of Duluth, operates the gift shop and concessions at the Zoo. The Society also sells memberships, organizes special events, handles marketing, admissions, office administration and finances the education program.

#### Enger and Lester Park Golf Courses

Both public golf courses offer 27-holes of play each, and provide residents and visitors a unique golfing opportunity with views of Lake Superior. A Golf Committee supports staff and the Park and Recreation Department with turf management practices and equipment needs to insure adequate golf course conditions.

#### Duluth Public Arts Commission

The Duluth Public Arts Commission supports many activities that maintain and enhance existing public art investments as well as creating new opportunities. Some of these programs include:

- Save our Sculptures Program, in collaboration with the Duluth Sister Cities Program and Parks and Recreation Department, helps clean, restore and maintain outdoor sculpture;
- Summer Youth Education offers an outreach program for Duluth children to provide opportunities to participate in and learn about art;
- Zooscapes, in collaboration with the Lake Superior Zoo, provides an annual juried art competition involving local and regional artists;
- The Galley Hop provides free transportation and special events at Duluth area art galleries;

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Other Points of Interest

- The Tiffany Windows project is initiating the restoration and installation of the windows at the Depot;
- Summer concert opportunities at locations such as Chester Bowl, Lake Place Park and Bayfront Festival Park;
- The Bayfront Festival of Lights, a winter recreational and entertainment event that occurs at Bayfront Festival Park.

### Other Points of Interest

#### *Glensheen Historic Estate*

Completed in 1908, Glensheen is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also known as the historic Congdon Mansion, this estate has over 7 acres directly on the shore of Lake Superior. Glensheen features a 39-room Jacobean style mansion complete with original furnishings.

#### *Great Lakes Aquarium*

The Great Lakes Aquarium highlights the history, culture, and majesty of the Great Lakes area. Over 30 interactive exhibits feature some of the 70 species of freshwater fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals found in and around the Great Lakes. More than 120,000 gallons of freshwater displays, daily dive shows and educational programs draw visitors from the broader Midwest region.

#### *Great Lakes Floating Maritime Museum*

The Great Lakes Floating Maritime Museum features two unique ships floating in Duluth harbor. The William A. Irvin was the proud flagship of U.S. Steel's Great lakes fleet, and the U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Sundew, which tended buoys and served as an icebreaker at several ports on Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Both ships are unique and popular destinations for tourists.

#### *Lake Superior Railroad Museum*

The Lake Superior Railroad Museum focuses on the history of railroad transportation in the area. Visitors enjoy the opportunity to board historic locomotives and explore the "William A. Crooks", the state's first steam engine.

#### *St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center, The Depot*

Known locally as the “Depot,” this historic building was constructed in 1892 and for years served as Duluth’s busiest railroad station and “Port of Entry”. Today, the Chateau-esque-style Union Depot is the home to many arts and cultural institutions, including the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, “Depot Square” (a realistic, life-size depiction of Downtown Duluth as it looked in 1910), the Saint Louis County Historical Society’s regional exhibits, the Duluth Art Institute, the Duluth Children’s Museum, and the Duluth Playhouse.

#### *The Waterfront Sculpture Walk*

Offering more than lake views, shops and restaurants, Duluth’s waterfront is an expression of art. A series of sculptures representing the social, cultural, and historical values of Duluth and its Sister Cities in Vaxjo, Sweden; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Perozavodsk, Russia; and Ohara, Japan, create a casual stroll through an outdoor gallery of international art.

#### *Hartley Nature Center*

Hartley Nature Center provides opportunities for understanding, appreciation of, and stewardship for the natural world. During the school year, Hartley offers multiple public programs for adults and families. Hartley Nature Center has its own board of directors (separate from the City) but gets most its funding for programmatic and planning work from the City.

### **Park Issues - Future Opportunities**

The City of Duluth’s ability to designate parks and open space areas has benefited from both geography and history. The unique local topography creates many areas well-suited for recreational facilities or open space. Duluth stands out relative to many communities for its parks and open space, its viewsheds and vistas, and its active recreational opportunities, from Lake Superior kayaking to hiking in old growth forest, to golf, snowmobiling, downhill and cross-country skiing. The park, trail, and recreation amenities serve not only to enhance Duluth residents’ quality of life, but as an attractor for new development and business opportunities. Some items to consider for future parks and recreation-related planning:

- The tax forfeited lands within the City include high quality natural areas, areas used as recreational amenities for decades, as well as parcels that provide unique development opportunities to add value to Duluth’s residential housing stock. These public lands need to be classified to reflect their value as park or natural areas additions to Duluth’s park system. These undeveloped public lands also can provide important natural re-

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile

### Park Issues - Future Opportunities

source, recreation, or scenic connections between existing parks and recreation areas. The Comprehensive Plan can identify critical connections that can be preserved or that need trail, habitat, or scenic vista easements (or other development standards) should the parcel be otherwise suitable for development. Duluth residents can thus be assured that these currently public lands will ultimately contribute to the enhancement of Duluth's park and trail system.

- As the City plans for development, it may want to classify and standardize the existing parks, and set access standards for different park classifications. Parks and recreation facilities are infrastructure, just as wastewater or the electric grid are infrastructure, necessary to maintain Duluth residents' quality of life. Setting access standards will allow clear evaluation of the need for park dedications in new developments or redevelopment areas, and allow for trail and natural area linkages to be created within the development process. Standards could enhance the existing park system, and help evaluate which future park, recreational, and open space amenities would best suit the immediate neighborhoods as well as serving the entire community.
- The City's neighborhoods are defined by stream corridors, bluff lines, and other natural features. The Comprehensive Plan can recommend, as part of new development and redevelopment activities, creating integrated connections defined by natural features to make a trail and pedestrian network that not only links neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces, but connects to the City's numerous cultural resources and destination businesses.

**Resources**

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# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Profile Resources

Parks Profile

