



**ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE RIVER**

2016 UPDATE

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

- I. What is the Corridor Initiative?
- II. Initiative history
- III. Mayor Larson's vision
- IV. Working with the community
- V. Fundraising
- VI. Featured Projects
- VII. Looking Ahead
- VIII. Questions



PART I: WHAT IS THE ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE?

- \$50 million park investment plan
- City/county/state/federal/private funds
- Area from Lincoln Park to Fond du Lac
- Goal to enrich neighborhood quality of life and attract tourists
- 26 projects planned with citizens, for citizens

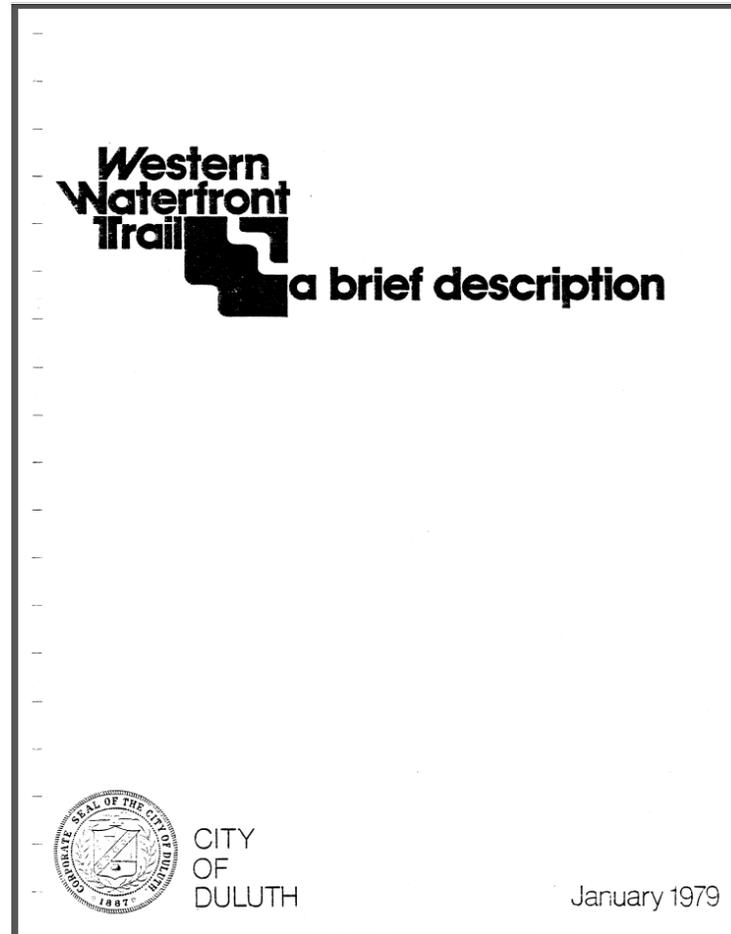
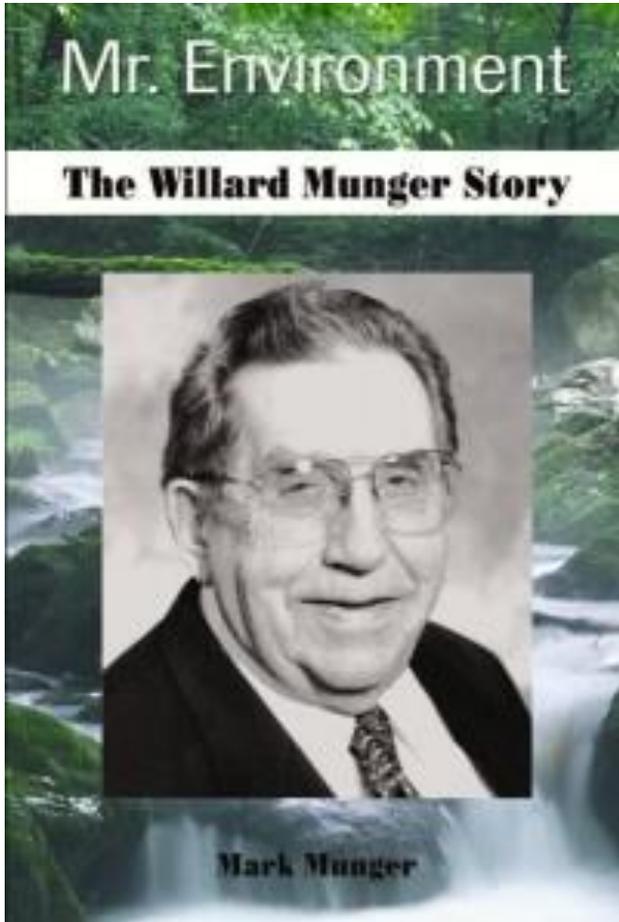


ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE GOALS

1. Support environmental restoration
2. Enrich neighborhood quality of life
3. Attract new homebuyers
4. Establish new visitor destination
5. Stimulate economic development



PART II: INITIATIVE HISTORY



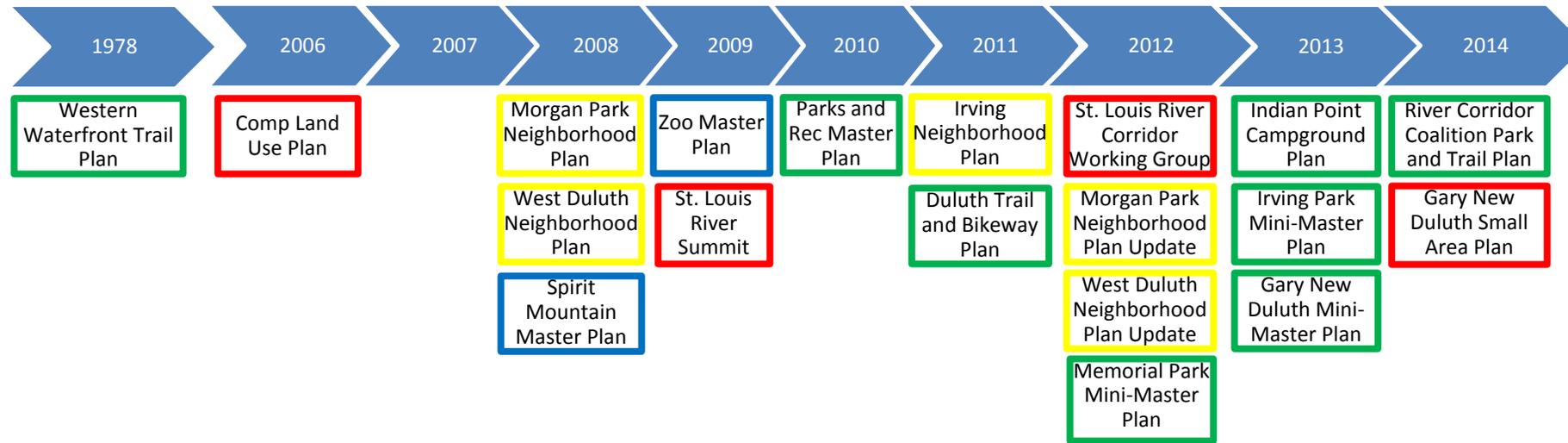
STATE AND CITY AUTHORIZATION OF THE INITIATIVE

- **June 2014** – Legislature authorizes $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$ tax renewal for Corridor Initiative
- **August 2014** – City Council renews $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ tax



PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS AND FUNDING LEVELS

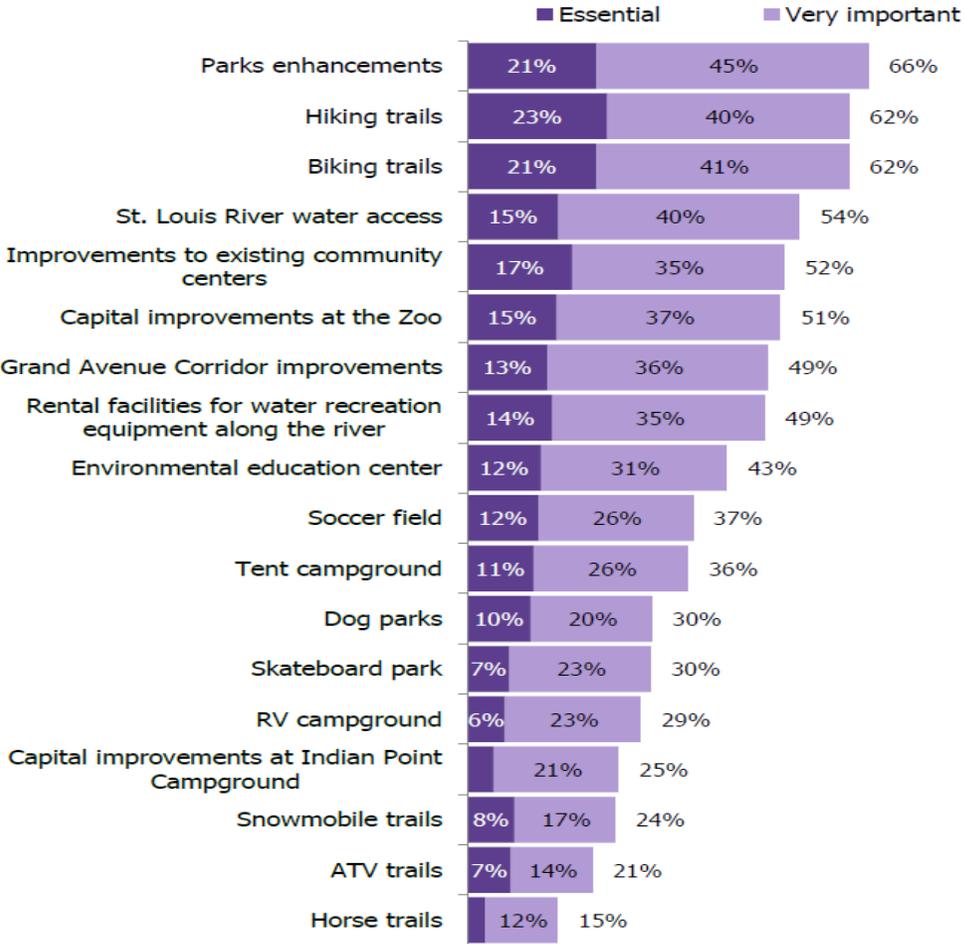
Existing Plans



Project Sources

- Existing plans
- Neighborhood groups
- User groups
- Citizen advisory group

2014 NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY



City Council Resolution 15-0175R

Passed March 23, 2015

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO CONTINUE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF RECREATION AND TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council supports moving forward with the specified projects and funding levels as generally laid out.

ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR RECREATION AND TOURISM PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Contribution from ½ of 1% taxes</u>
Wade Stadium	\$2.3 million
Spirit Mountain snow making	\$2.3 million
Fairmount Park/the zoo	\$2.3 million
Cross City trail	\$900,000
West DWP trail	\$400,000
Gary New Duluth Recreation Area	\$500,000
Lincoln Park	\$500,000
Memorial Park	\$500,000
Wheeler Athletic Complex	\$500,000
Neighborhood parks grant fund	\$500,000
Duluth Traverse	\$650,000
Lower Spirit Nordic	\$1 million
Superior Hiking loops	\$205,000
Spirit Mountain all-weather bike loop	\$155,000
Equestrian trail(s)	\$250,000
Snowmobile trail(s)	\$250,000
ATV trail(s)	\$250,000
Spirit Mountain river connector	\$60,000
Tallus Island paddle center	\$350,000
National water trail	\$150,000
Kingsbury Bay restoration	\$500,000
Kingsbury Creek river connector	\$415,000
Western Waterfront Trail	\$925,000
Indian Point renewal	\$750,000
West Duluth Climbing Park	\$200,000
Park and trail system infrastructure	\$400,000
Contingency	\$500,000;

PART III: MAYOR EMILY LARSON'S VISION

- The Corridor Initiative is an unmatched opportunity to extend the benefits of Duluth's success to all.
- Mayor Larson will reshape the Initiative to realize that promise by leveraging investments to spark job creation, housing rehabilitation, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization.
- The Initiative is generally on the right track with well-chosen projects, appropriate funding allocations, increased public participation, and timely progress.



PART III: MAYOR EMILY LARSON'S VISION — WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

- Continuation of more transparent, meaningful, and inclusive public engagement begun in late 2015
- Increase in funding for neighborhood parks, Fairmount Park, and river access below Spirit Mountain
- Completion of the Cross City Trail on the community-determined River Route
- Public process to examine the potential St. Louis River Natural Area to ensure perpetual green space protection and access under the Duluth Natural Areas Program
- Increase inter-departmental collaboration to give substance and cohesion to neighborhood revitalization and economic development goals

ORIGINAL VS. ADJUSTED 1/2-&-1/2 TAX ALLOCATIONS

Project	Original Allocation	Adjusted Allocation	Comments
Wade Stadium	\$2,300,000	\$2,360,000	Cost overrun, Council-approved
Spirit Mountain Water Supply	\$2,300,000	\$2,532,000	Cost overrun, Council-approved
Lake Superior Zoo	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	
Cross City Trail (Accessible)	\$900,000	\$900,000	
DWP Trail (Accessible)	\$400,000	\$400,000	
Gary New Duluth Recreation Area	\$500,000	\$550,000	Increased to cover planning cost
Lincoln Park	\$500,000	\$550,000	Increased to cover planning cost
Memorial Park	\$500,000	\$550,000	Increased to cover planning cost
Wade/Wheeler Athletic Complex	\$500,000	\$550,000	Increased to cover planning cost
Neighborhood Parks	\$500,000	\$1,200,000	See detailed slides
Duluth Traverse	\$650,000	\$650,000	
Grand Avenue Nordic	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	
Destination Hikes	\$205,000	\$50,000	Decrease from 5 hikes to 3, lower than expected costs
All-Weather Mountain Bike Loop	\$155,000	\$155,000	
Equestrian Trails	\$250,000	\$250,000	
Snowmobile Trails	\$250,000	\$250,000	
ATV Trails	\$250,000	\$250,000	
Lower Spirit River Access	\$410,000	\$745,000	Full funding, levers \$1.5m of outside funds for road/trail
National Water Trail	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Kingsbury Bay Restoration	\$500,000	\$0	Project fully funded by other entities
Fairmount Park	\$415,000	\$1,000,000	To fully fund Phase I conversion of west side to park
Western Waterfront Trail (Accessible)	\$925,000	\$925,000	
Indian Point Renewal	\$750,000	\$200,000	Seek Legacy Parks and Trails support
Quarry Park	\$200,000	\$200,000	
Trail Wayfinding and Barriers	\$400,000	\$400,000	
Contingency	\$500,000	\$0	Redundant, contingency built into each project

ADJUSTMENTS TO 1/2-&-1/2 PROJECT FUNDING

1. Funding increases for projects with cost-overruns

2. \$1.6 million made available to add to project funding due to:

- \$600,000 of previously unallocated funds
- Lower than expected project costs
- Elimination of redundant contingency funds
- Projects funded by others

3. Mayor Larson's proposed budget reallocations

- Neighborhood parks
- Fairmount Park
- Lower Spirit water access
- Indian Point Campground

PART IV: WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY



PARKS PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP

- In 2015 Parks and Recreation created a new focus within their division which is referred to as the Parks Stewardship Team.
- The focus of team's work is around community engagement of the future use and development of public green space in Duluth, walking through every step of the process from public input meetings, planning, permitting, fundraising, design and construction.
- Uniquely, the Steward Team approach relies heavily on community partners to invest in parks infrastructure for the sustainability of existing and new amenities on public land.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

MARCH 2015 – PRESENT



GROUPS ENGAGED IN ONE OR MORE PROJECTS

Harrison Community Club

Irving Community Club

Piedmont Community Club

Piedmont Hockey

Duluth Area Youth Softball Association

Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association

Denfeld Youth Football League

Lincoln Park Middle School

St. Louis County

Superior Hiking Trail Association

Ecolibrium 3

Lincoln Park Child and Family Collaborative

Izaak Walton League

1854 Authority

St. Louis River Alliance

Duluth Area Family YMCA

Spirit Mountain Authority

Northshore ATV Club

Irving Recreation & Events Association

West Duluth Business Club

Valley Youth Center

Lincoln Park Business Group

Riverside Community Club

Morgan Park Community Club

Norton Park Community Club

Fond du Lac Community Club

Merritt Community Club

Duluth Dog Parks

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee of MIC

Healthy Duluth Area Coalition

Wheels on Trails

Visit Duluth

Friends of the Lakewalk

Duluth LISC

Hermantown Night Riders

Duluth Bike Coalition

ISD 709

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Drift Topper Snowmobile Club

Monarch Buddies

Duluth Audubon Society

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Irving Neighborhood Coalition

West Duluth Kicks Soccer

Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumee Shores

River Corridor Coalition

Northland Paddlers Alliance

Minnesota Land Trust

Duluth Climbers Coalition

Gary New Duluth Development Alliance

Gary New Duluth Community Club

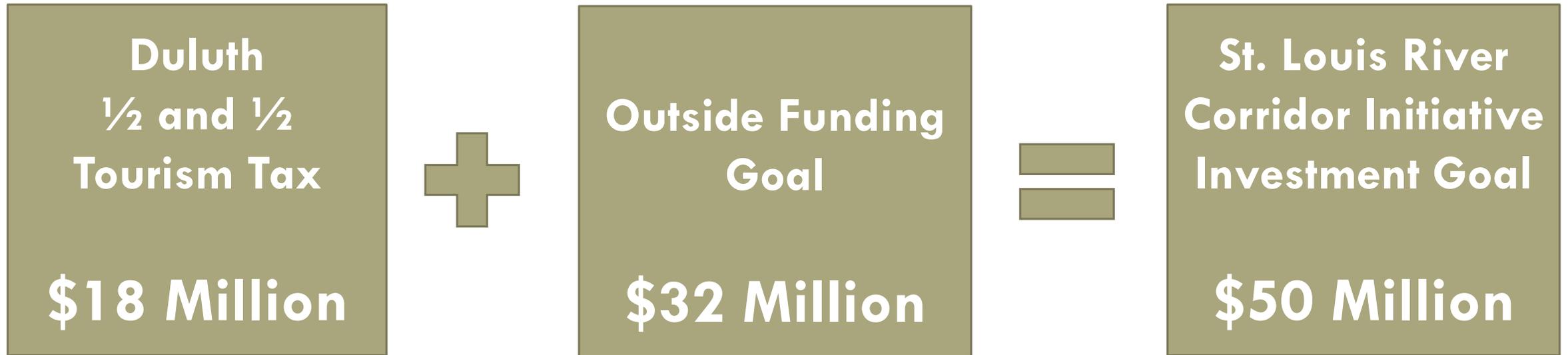
Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance

Duluth Cross Country Ski Club

PART V: FUNDRAISING GOALS



ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE FINANCING GOALS



OUTSIDE FUNDING FOR INITIATIVE - \$15 MILLION AWARDED TO-DATE

Project		Outside
Type	Project Name	Funding
Trails	Cross City Trail Total Phases II - IV	\$3,050,000
	Duluth Traverse	\$2,040,000
	Trails Subtotals	\$5,090,000
River	WWFT Renewal	\$500,000
Access	Spirit Mt River Connector	\$900,000
	River Access Subtotals	\$1,200,000
Other	Quarry Park	\$100,000
	Spirit Mountain Snowmaking System	\$4,100,000
	Lake Superior Zoo Renewal	\$300,000
	Wade Stadium Renovation	\$2,300,000
	Other Projects Subtotals	\$6,800,000
Grand Ave	Gary New Duluth Phases I and III	\$700,000
	Chambers Grove Park	\$1,500,000
	Lincoln Park	\$75,000
	Grand Avenue Park Projects Subtotals	\$2,350,000
	Total Outside Funding	\$15,565,000

Sources

- NOAA Coastal Program
- EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Federal Recreational Trails Program
- MN DNR Regional Trails Grant
- MN Legacy Parks and Trails Grant
- MN Legacy Arts and Culture Grant
- MN Conservation Legacy Partners Metro
- Corporate Contributions
- Community Donations

2016 GRANTSEEKING PLAN

- Approximately City-led 20 grant proposals seeking approximately \$8 million

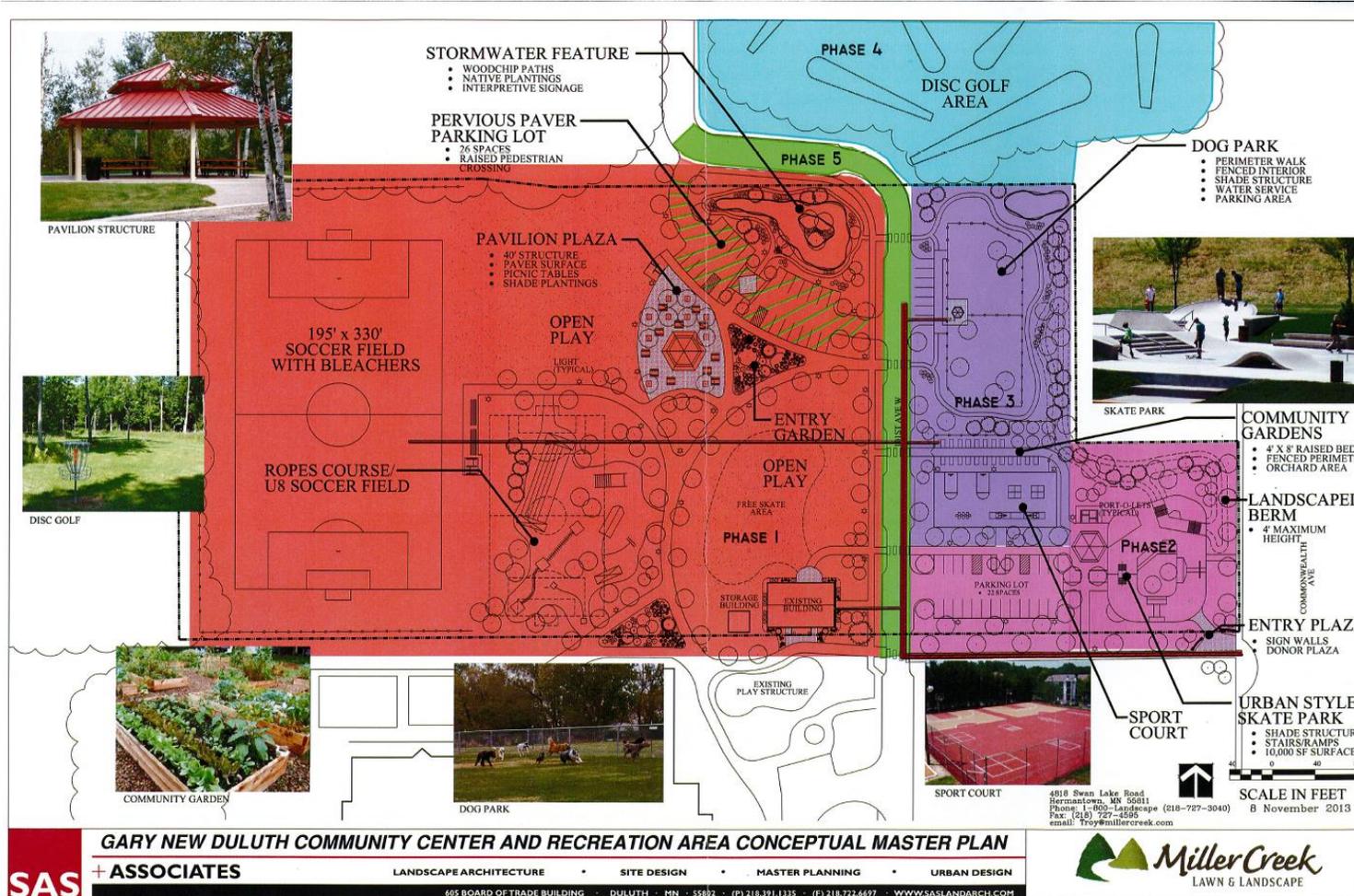


PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

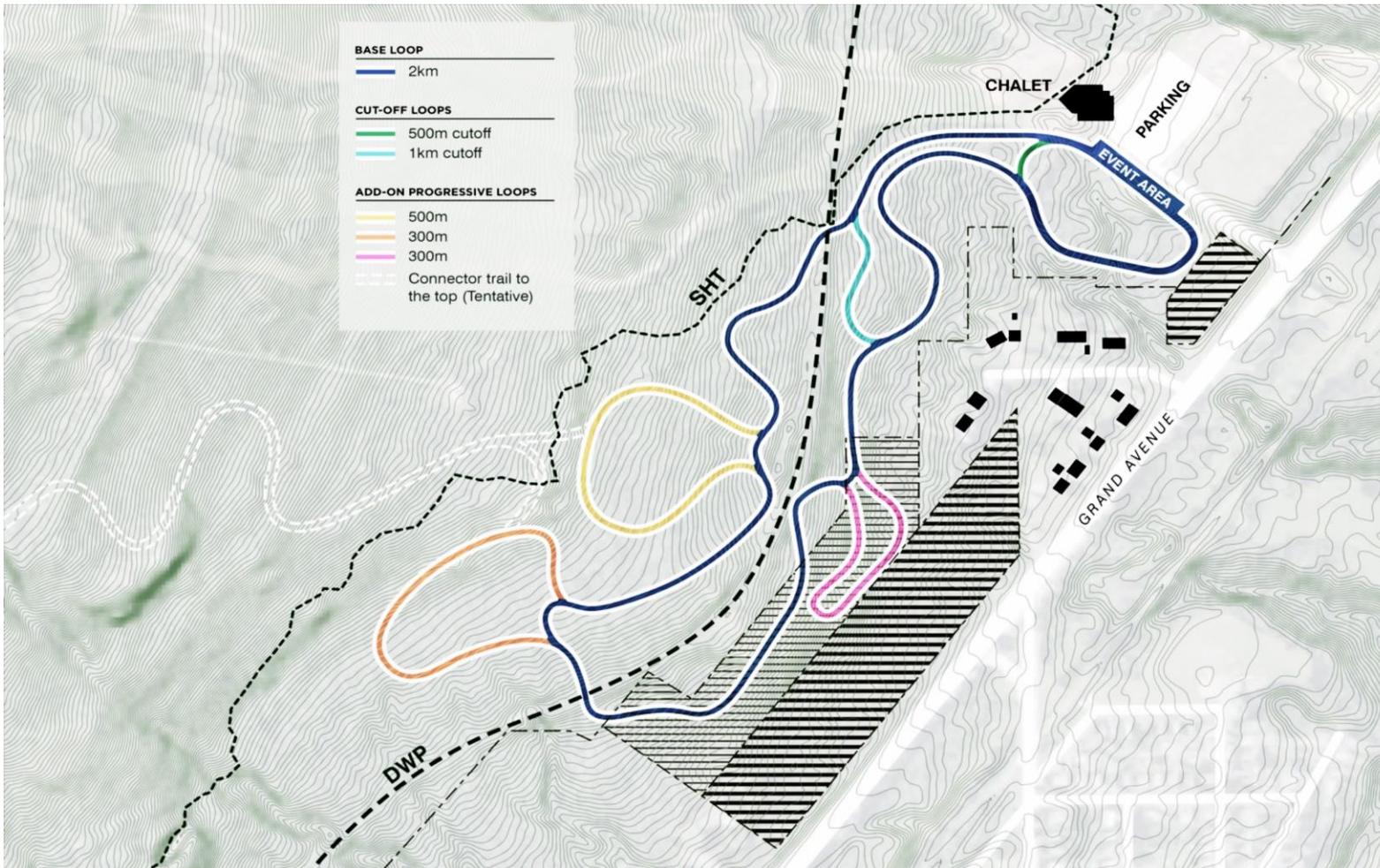


\$1.5 MILLION AND COUNTING!

GARY NEW DULUTH PHASES 1 COMPLETION IN 2016



DULUTH CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB GRAND AVENUE NORDIC CENTER



\$350,000 Remaining left
to fundraise to start
PHASE I: 2017

Duluth Cross Country Ski
Club
\$150,000

½ & ½ Funds
\$1,000,000

CYCLISTS OF THE GITCHEE GUMEE SHORES DULUTH TRAVERSE SYSTEM



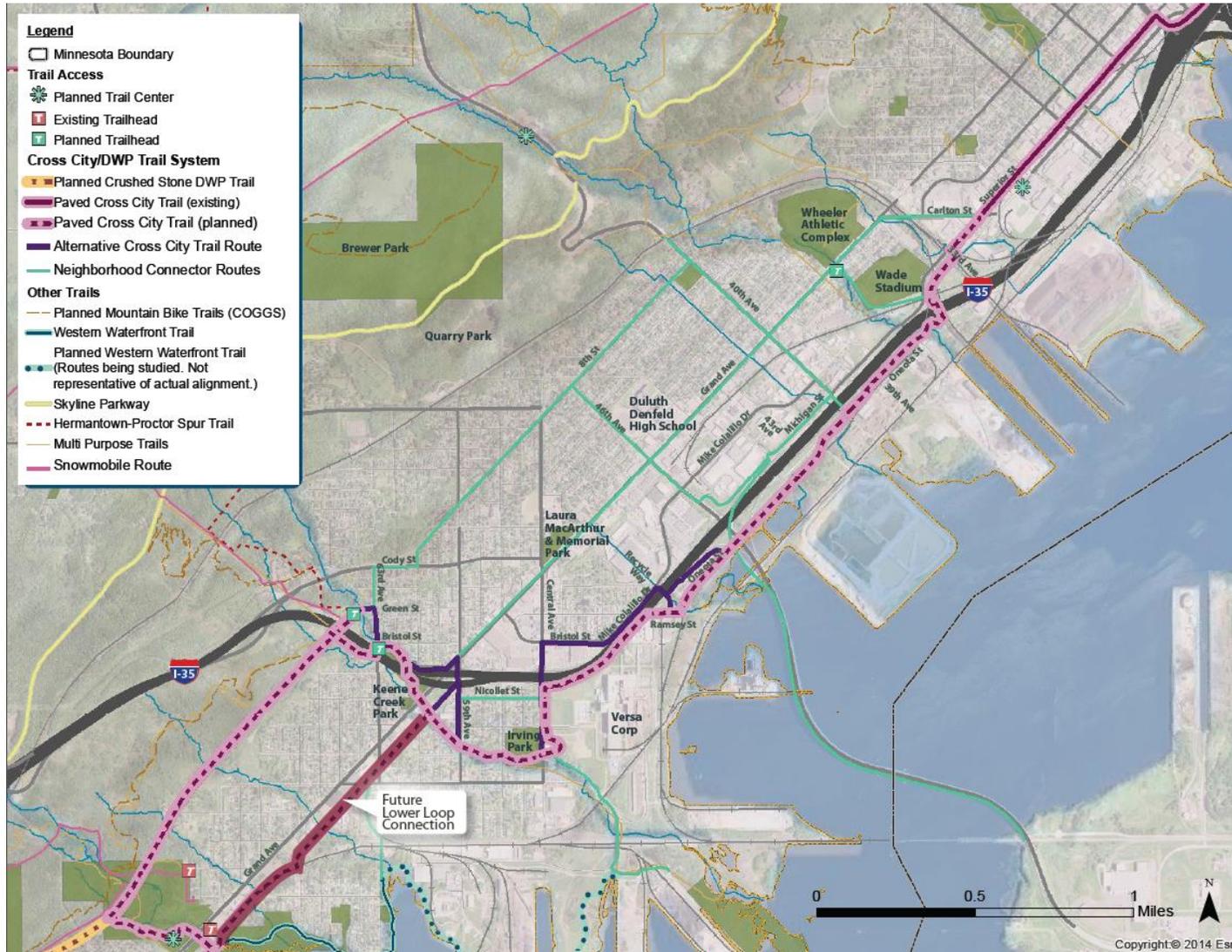
PART VI: RIVER CORRIDOR FEATURED PROJECTS



Featured Projects:

1. Cross City Trail
2. Lincoln Park
3. Neighborhood Parks
4. Western Waterfront Trail & St. Louis River Natural Area

CROSS CITY TRAIL - THE RIVER ROUTE



CROSS CITY TRAIL —

8-mile paved accessible, multi-use trail connecting the Munger State Trail to the Lakewalk

Project Timeline

Planning

Design

Permitting

Construction

2015

- I-35 to Zoo construction commences

2016

- Complete Mini Master Plan -- July 2016
- Complete I-35 to Zoo
- Design/permitting Carlton Street to I-35

2017

- Construct Zoo area south to WWFT/Munger Trail
- Construct Phase 2 Carlton Street to DWP via River Route

Funding

Proposed reallocation of funds from the Zoo-Spirit Mt. segment to the Carlton Street-Irving Park-I-35

What's New/Different: City will connect the CCT to the Munger Trail via an alignment in the vicinity of Fairmount Park and the zoo.

GRAND AVENUE PARKS: LINCOLN PARK



LINCOLN PARK

- » Repair existing park infrastructure to reduce short and long term maintenance
- » Upgrade park destination areas to improve safety and meet ADA accessibility requirements
- » Introduce updated park amenities to better serve the needs of children, adult, and senior park user groups.

South Segment



LINCOLN PARK

Project Timeline

Planning

Design

Funding

Construction

2015

- Master Planning commences

2016

- Completed Master Plan - February
- Grantwriting
- FEMA work commences

2017

- Implementation of \$740,000 Phase 1

2018 - 2020

- Implementation of Phases 2, 3 and 4

Funding

Phase I –

Cost: \$740,000 (partially funded - \$550,000 1/2 & 1/2 and \$50,000 U.S. Bank Places to Play)

Currently seeking funding for Phases 2,3,4

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



9:1 matching grants up to \$90,000 for neighborhood-level investments.

1/2 and 1/2 Funding -- \$1,200,000

Requirements: Projects must align with City plans. Match may be cash or in-kind.

Qualifying parks include: Piedmont, Midtowne, Harrison, Merritt, Irving, Grassy Point, Keene Creek, Norton, Riverside, Smithville, Morgan, Blackmer, Fond du Lac, and Historical.

Implementation/Construction – 2016-2018

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- City will encourage and support neighborhoods that wish to raise cash and in-kind contributions greater than the \$10,000 requirement
- City will help to organize and support a volunteer service day for each park to implement those portions of the park mini-master plans that can be carried out by volunteers. Anticipated value of volunteer service will count as match
- Work will be spread across three years



RIVER CORRIDOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

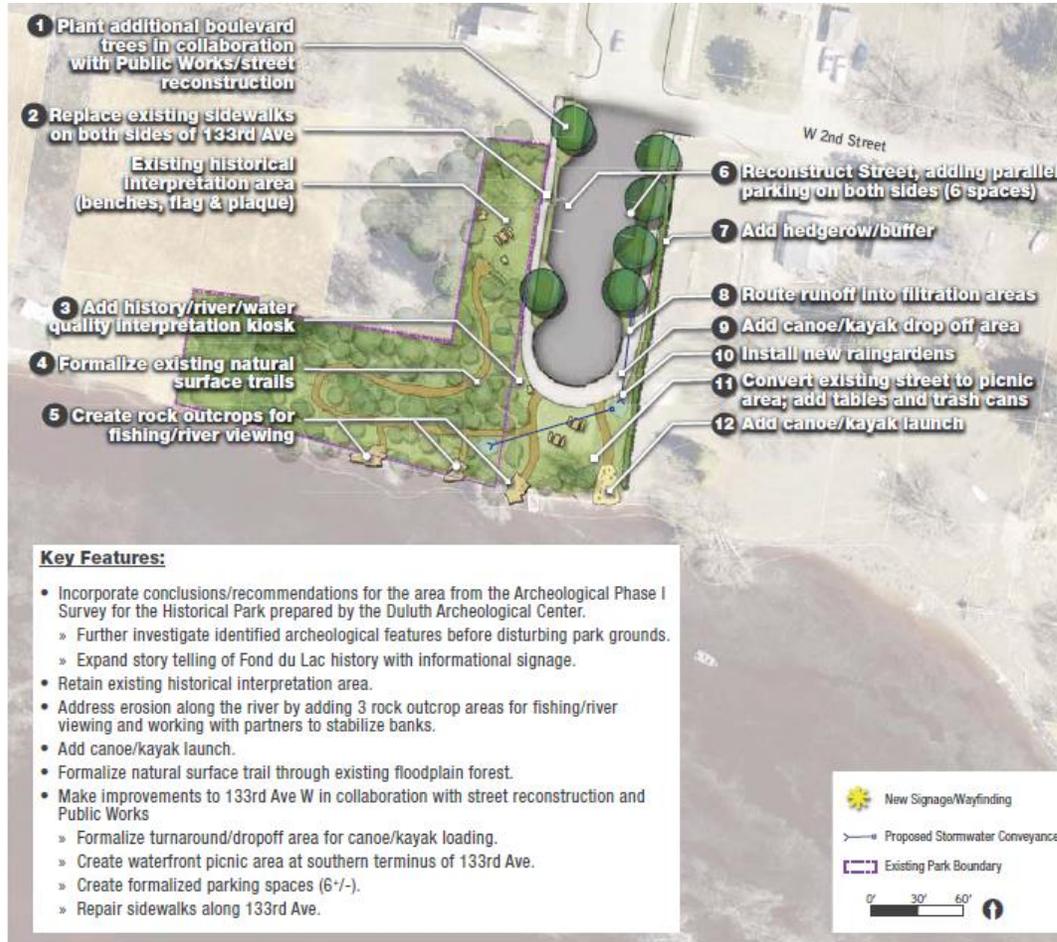


FIGURE 2.1 HISTORICAL PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN

Phasing & Cost Estimates

PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM



ACTION			COST
#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	
3	Circulation	Install New Kiosk	\$7,500
4	Circulation	Formalize Existing Nature Surface Trails	\$2,100
7	Vegetation	Add hedgerow/buffer	\$1,600
12	Recreation	Build New Canoe/Kayak Launch	\$5,000
13	Circulation	Install New Park Wayfinding Sign	\$2,000

Total Short-Term Improvement Costs **\$18,200**

PHASE 2: LONG-TERM



ACTION			COST
#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	
1	Vegetation	Plant Additional Boulevard Trees	\$2,800
2	Circulation	Replace Existing Sidewalk on 133rd Ave	\$21,000
5	Recreation	Create Rock Outcrop for Fishing/Viewing	\$60,000
6	Infrastructure	Reconstruct Street	\$-
8	Stormwater	Route street runoff into parkland	\$6,750
9	Stormwater	Install New Rain garden/Filtration Areas	\$6,750
10	Circulation	Add New Canoe/Kayak Drop-Off Area	\$5,600
11	Furnishings	Convert Existing Street Into Picnic Area - Add Picnic Tables & Trash Cans	\$5,000

Total Long-Term Improvement Costs **\$105,100**

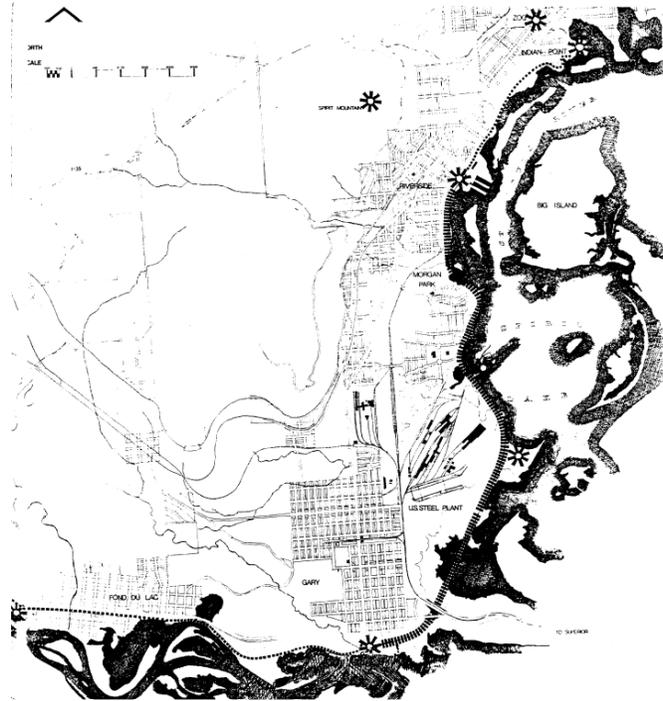
Total Short-Term Improvement Costs **\$18,200**

Total Improvement Costs **\$123,300**

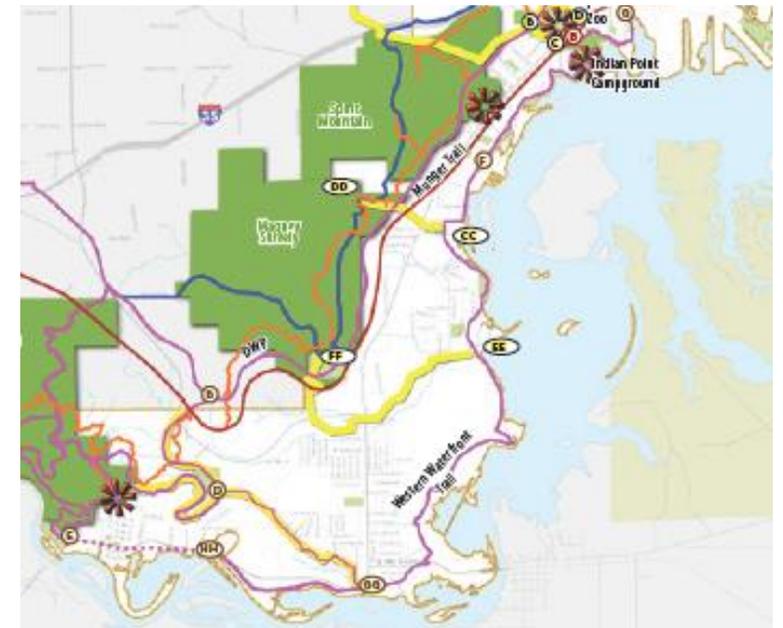
WESTERN WATERFRONT TRAIL RESTORATION AND EXTENSION

Project Purpose:

Fulfill 37-year-old vision to reconnect people to the river via approx. 12-mile-long accessible trail through restored natural habitats.



From 1979 Western Waterfront Trail Plan



From 2011 Trails and Bikeways Master Plan

WESTERN WATERFRONT TRAIL - RESTORATION AND EXTENSION

Project Timeline

Planning

Design

Permitting

Construction

2015

- Secured funding for trail renewal and habitat restoration

2016

- Complete 3.3 mile trail and habitat restoration
- Complete a Western Waterfront Trails & Parks Mini-Master Plan

2017

- Complete negotiation with US Steel and EPA for improvements to City riverfront bordering US Steel Superfund Site

2020

- Projected completion of US Steel shoreline clean-up

Funding

Phase I – Restoration of Existing Trail (3.3 Miles)

- Cost: \$925,000 (fully funded)

Phase II – Riverside to Blackmer Extension (1 Mile)

- Cost: \$1 million (\$500,000 ½-and-½)

Planning

Additional project phases to be determined in the 2016 Master Planning process. The process will include:

- (1) Future use of City-owned riverfront at US Steel – rail, trail, or rail-trail
- (2) Enhanced water access at Lower Spirit Mt. and at US Steel-Slag Point
- (3) Heritage interpretation along the riverfront

RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE NATURAL RIVERFRONT

- Approximately 550 Acres of City-owned land surround the Western Waterfront Trail
- Nearly all are designated by the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Preservation
- Nearly all land is too steep or too wet to be developable (legally or technically)
- Current management is passive
 - Properties are not proactively restored or protected
 - No coherent plan guides development, management, and use



Publicly Owned Greenspace near Tallus Island

A PROPOSAL TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RIVERFRONT: THE ST. LOUIS RIVER NATURAL AREA

Explore creation of a St. Louis River Natural Area under the 2002 City Council-approved Duluth Natural Area Program which protects City-owned properties of special environmental significance to the community.

Conduct an 18-month public process to explore whether, where, and how to create and manage a St. Louis River Natural Area.

- Stage 1: St. Louis River Natural Area nomination public review and Council approval
- Stage 2: St. Louis River Natural Area management plan public review and Council approval

The potential St. Louis River Natural Area would guarantee that, as we extend the Western Waterfront Trail to the Fond du Lac neighborhood, the natural area around the trail would be restored and protected in perpetuity for the benefit of all.

A ST. LOUIS RIVER NATURAL AREA WOULD:

- Lead to development and implementation of an environmental restoration and protection plan for the City-owned riverfront.
- Increase access to federal and state funds for environmental restoration.
- Assure that plans for park and trail improvements in and around the natural area support the aim of restoring our riverfront.



A ST. LOUIS RIVER NATURAL AREA WOULD NOT:

- Restrict the freedom of motorized and non-motorized boats to travel and fish throughout the estuary.
- Place additional limits on private development.



PART VII: LOOKING AHEAD — 2016 CONSTRUCTION

- Duluth Traverse — Chambers Grove/Fond du Lac/Mission Creek area & Trinity-Spirit Mt.
- Cross City Trail — Completion of I-35 to the Zoo
- Western Waterfront Trail — Trail renewal and habitat restoration
- Lincoln Park — Stream bank restoration (FEMA)
- Chambers Grove — Park restoration and improvements
- DWP & Western Snowmobile Trail (FEMA)
- DWP Roundhouse site restoration

PART VIII: QUESTIONS

