



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation Division**

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**SUBJECT: Minnesota Power partners with City and Hartley Nature Center to plant 100 trees in Hartley Park**

**BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office**

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## **Minnesota Power partners with City and Hartley Nature Center to plant 100 trees in Hartley Park**

[Duluth, MN] – Hartley Park is a regionally significant park with a rich cultural history and diverse habitats. As part of the 2014 Council approved Mini Master Plan for Hartley, forest management is a priority to ensure the survival of natural tree species in the park and to help restore ecological systems. This project is a joint effort between the City of Duluth, Hartley Nature Center and Minnesota Power's Rajala Woods Initiative that will add longer living white pine and spruce trees along the Tischer Creek stream bank. Long term benefits will be an enhanced trout stream and other aquatic habitats, improved water quality and create upland bird habitats.

Between 10 AM and Noon on May 18, the group of MN Power staff and community volunteers will plant 30 potted trees and additional tree seedlings near the pedestrian bridge just 100 yards beyond the Hartley Nature Center. The tree planting supports the City of Duluth's Hartley Park Mini-Master Plan and the objectives of Hartley Nature Center to protect and enhance ecological values, restore the local ecology, and educate park users about Hartley's natural habitats and its history.

Minnesota Power's Rajala Woods Initiative has committed to planting up to 3 million longer lived tree species on Company owned property and is seeking to inspire others to do likewise on their own property—such as with the City's efforts at Hartley Park. Minnesota Power is looking to support other tree plantings at Hartley Park during park restoration projects in the coming years in support of ecological restoration.

Earlier this spring, the City conducted invasive plant removal as part of the initial implementation of the Mini-Master Plan. Additional work is planned in Hartley this summer to improve trails, parking lots, and responsibly manage the forests.

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