



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation Division

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SUBJECT: Western Waterfront Trail Master Planning Process Kicks off November 15 (A St. Louis River Corridor Initiative Project)

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office

Western Waterfront Trail Master Planning Process Kicks off November 15
(A St. Louis River Corridor Initiative Project)

[Duluth, MN] - The public is invited to attend the first meeting for the Western Waterfront Park and Trail Master Plan, hosted by the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation division on November 15. The City is leading a public process to determine the future recreational uses of a mostly City-owned 10-12 mile corridor along the St. Louis River between the Irving neighborhood and Chambers Grove Park.

The public meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Morgan Park Community Center, 1242 88th Ave West.

The planning area includes an existing 3.3 mile multi-use trail, a historic rail bed, and five existing or planned river access points. The Master Plan's overall goals include:

- Increasing connectivity from adjacent neighborhoods to the St. Louis River and estuary.
- Increasing recreational and development opportunities within and along the St. Louis River Corridor.
- Facilitating a stakeholder community engagement process to gain significant input on the future use of the area.
- Enhancing neighborhood quality of life.
- Restoring and protecting natural habitat along the trail corridor.
- Determining whether to retain and potentially improve the remaining riverfront rail line and renew the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad's lease for excursion rail trips.

The meeting format will be a presentation by staff and consultants followed by an open house to review poster exhibits of concept plans. An online survey will be posted to the City website for additional public comment following this public meeting. A follow up second public meeting is planned for December 6.

Additional details are available at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor/western-waterfront-planning/>

About St. Louis River Corridor Initiative – Connecting People to the River

The St. Louis River Corridor Initiative invests in public park and trail improvements from Lincoln Park to the Fond du Lac neighborhood.

The overall goals of the Initiative are to support the natural environment, enrich neighborhood quality of life, attract new home buyers, establish new visitor destinations and stimulate appropriate development.

Initiative projects are funded in part by \$18 million in bonds, collected through the ½ and ½ tourism tax approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2014. These funds will leverage additional dollars through community partnerships and grants.

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