

St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

2021 Progress Report



Progress Report Overview

-  Corridor Initiative
-  Development Process
-  Project Updates
-  Looking Forward



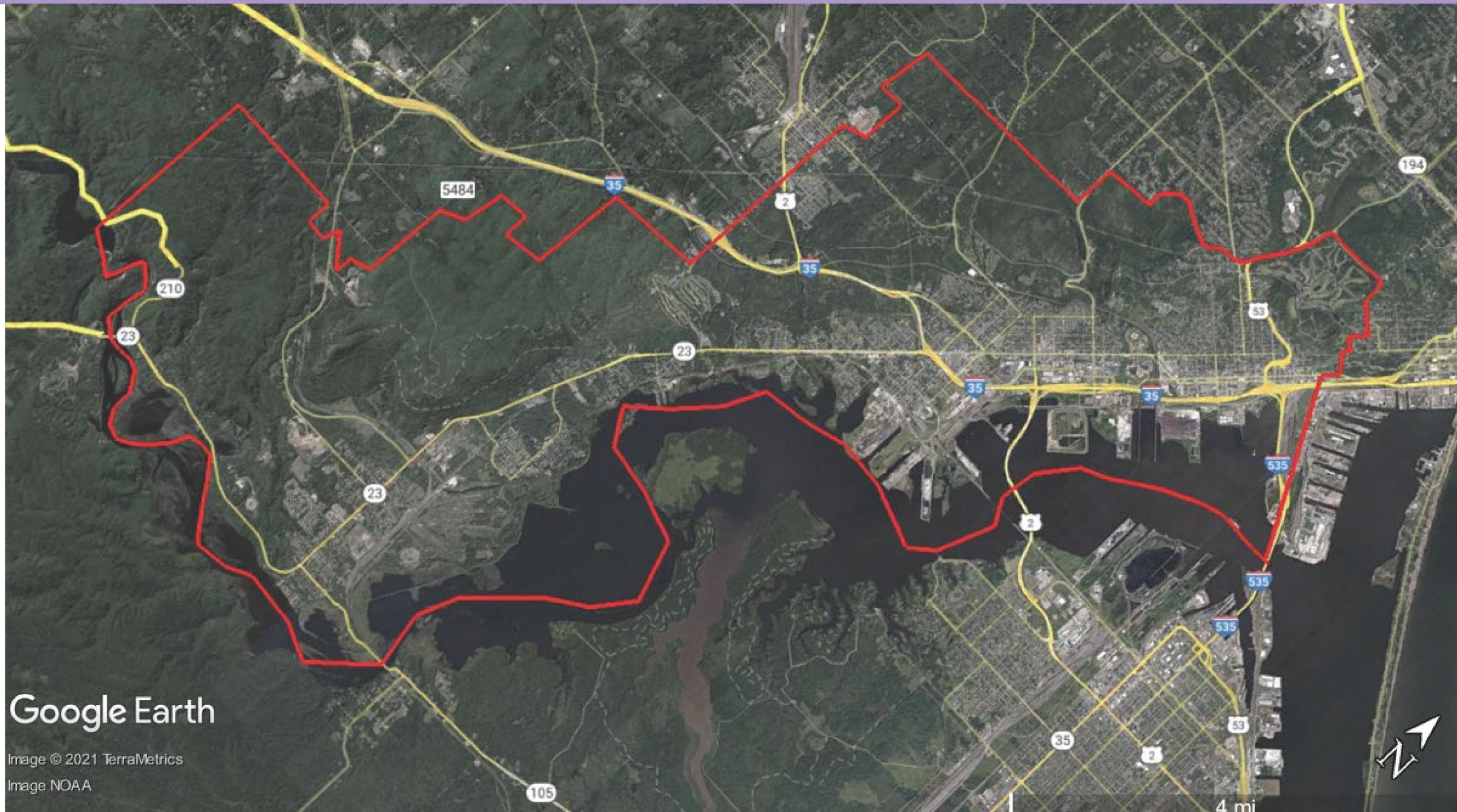
St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

Overview

- Conceived in 2010 by former Mayor Don Ness
- Further enhanced by Mayor Emily Larson
- \$50 million investment plan, leveraging tourism tax revenue
- Focused investment in St. Louis River corridor from Fond du Lac to Lincoln Park
- Address environmental contamination and neighborhood disinvestment
- Remediate and re-create healthy, beautiful, natural spaces
- Support community-based plans and improvements to parks system



St. Louis River Corridor Initiative



Google Earth

Image © 2021 TerraMetrics

Image NOAA

St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

Historical Context

- Historic appeal of St Louis River Estuary
- 19th & 20th century industrial contamination
- Late 20th century decline of industry and neighborhoods
- St. Louis River Estuary Area of Concern cleanup



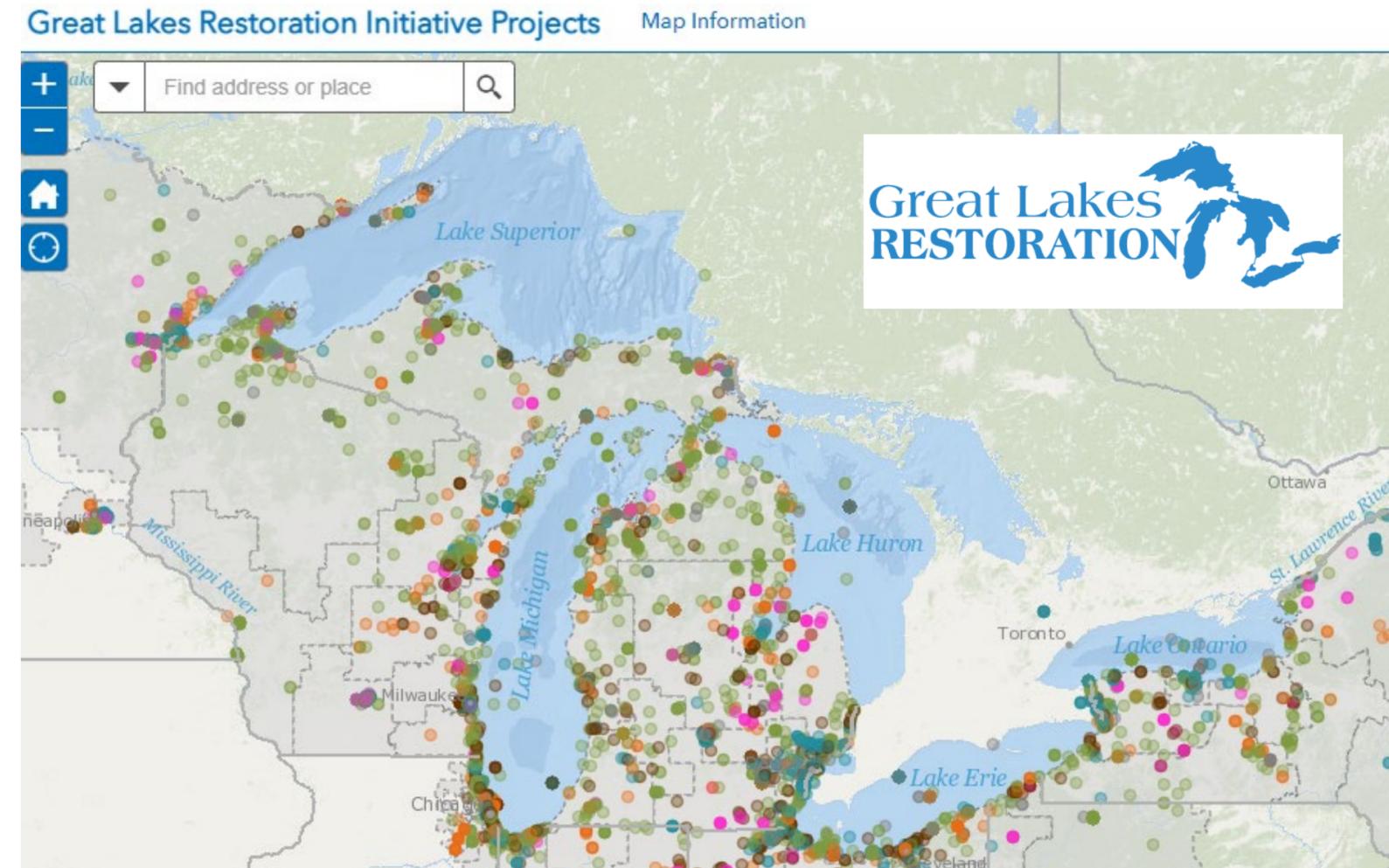
Source: MNPCA



St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

- Restoring the Great Lakes becomes a national priority in 2010
- Federal funds become available for remediation and restoration efforts
- Plan for St. Louis River Area of Concern calls for AOC delisting by 2025
- Restoring the estuary's natural beauty looks truly promising



St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

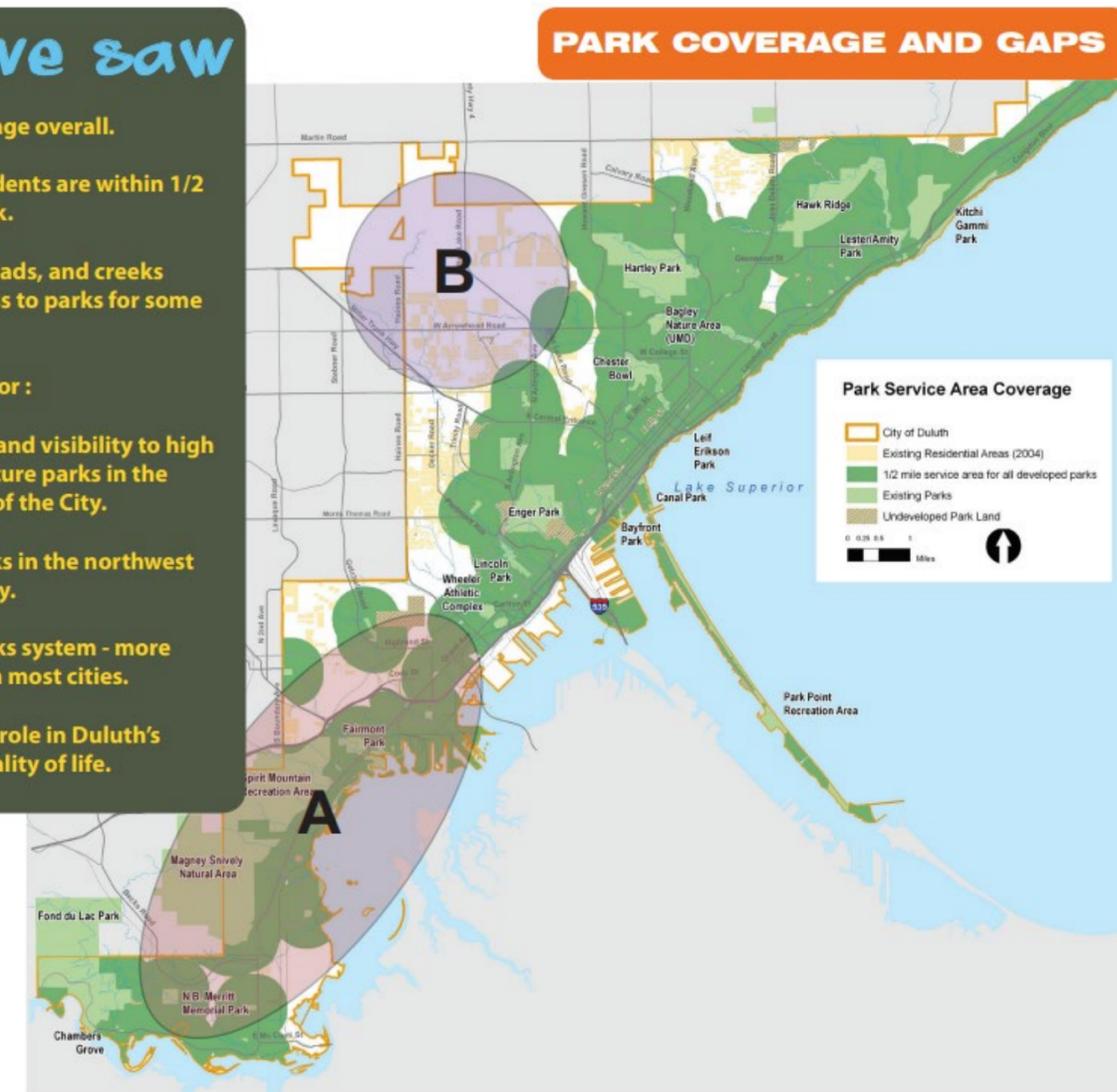
2010 Parks & Rec Master Plan - Western Duluth

- Wealth of natural spaces and resources
- System in worse repair than eastern Duluth
- Fewer destination-quality parks and trails than eastern Duluth
- Existing destination-quality parks inaccessible to western Duluth residents with limited economic means

what we saw

- ✓ Good park coverage overall.
- ✓ Most Duluth residents are within 1/2 mile of a City park.
- ✓ Busy roads, railroads, and creeks inhibit easy access to parks for some residents.
- ✓ There are needs for :
 - A Better access and visibility to high quality/signature parks in the western part of the City.
 - B Access to parks in the northwest part of the City.
- ✓ An extensive parks system - more parks/capita than most cities.
- ✓ Parks play a vital role in Duluth's economy and quality of life.

FOR CONTEXT:
Number of Parks: 105
Acreage of Parkland:
11,600 acres



Duluth Parks & Recreation Master Plan

St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

Mayor Don Ness's Vision

- **Idea:** Seize the opportunity of environmental cleanup to help reverse a crisis of neighborhood decline
- **Strategy:** Provide destination-quality recreational access to natural resources to draw residents, visitors, and businesses to western Duluth and catalyze public-private investment in housing and economic development.



Development Process: Project Selection, Planning, & Funding



Development Process

Timeline

- 2014: State Legislature authorizes ½ & ½ tourism tax renewal
- 2014: City Council renews ½ & ½ tourism tax to finance \$18M in borrowing for outdoor recreation capital improvements targeted in western Duluth
- 2014 - 2015: Public engagement on project evaluation and selection
- 2015: City Council expands target area to include Lincoln Park neighborhood, and supports project funding levels
- 2015 - 2018: Development of Mini-Master Plans
- 2016 - Present: Seek outside funding, implementation of plans ongoing



Project Selection

Considerations

- Projects and priorities identified in existing plans and documents
- Project priorities from citizen survey
- Input from user groups, neighborhood groups, and Citizen Advisory Committee

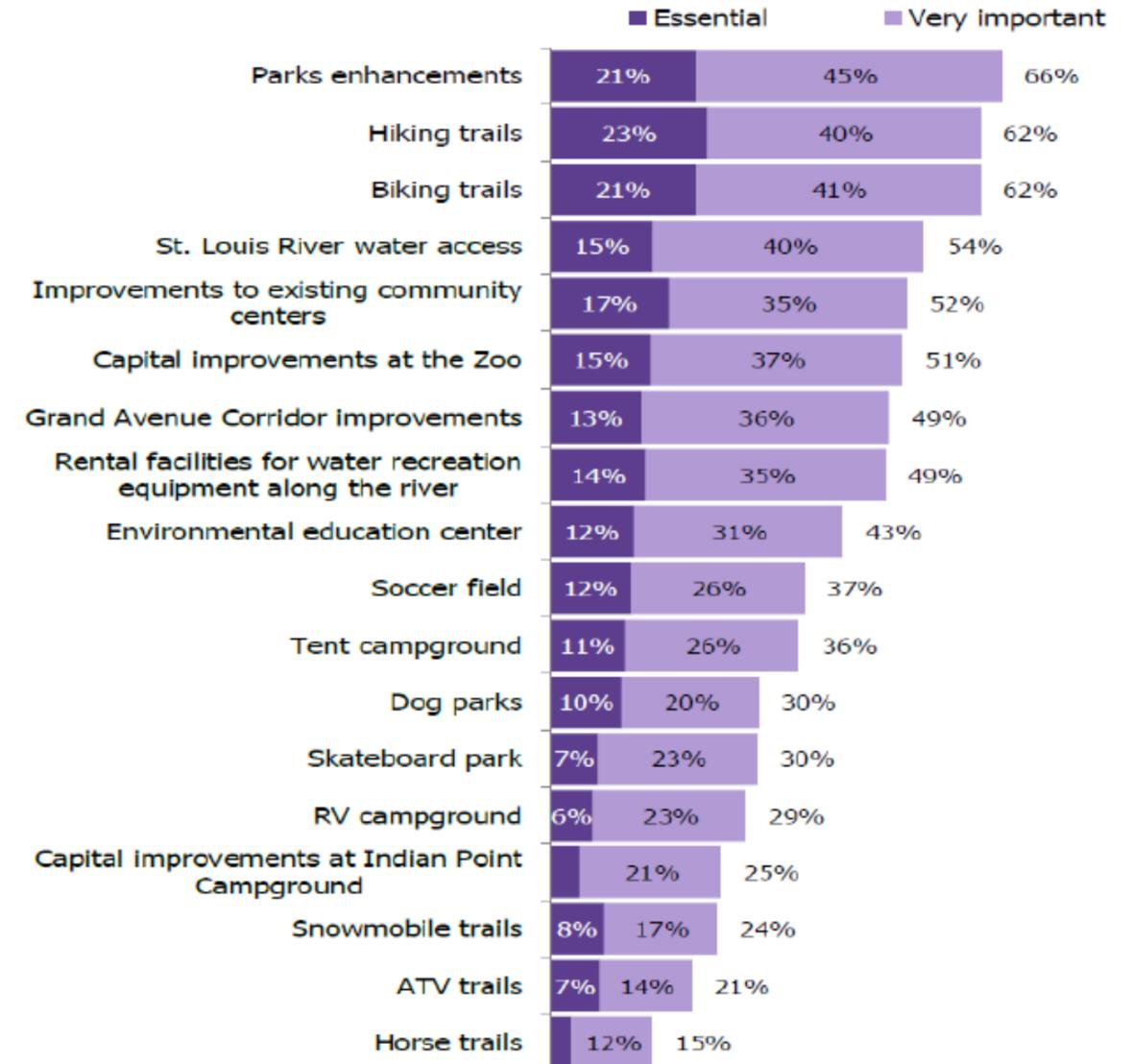


Project Selection

Project Selection Guidelines:

- Invest more in outdoor recreation facilities that are broadly appealing and accessible – i.e. multi-use accessible trails, destination-quality parks, etc.
- Invest less in single user facilities with high financial, cultural, and ability barriers to participation
- Connect people to the river in ways that require the least money, ability, and equipment.
- Restore and protect the natural resources upon which much outdoor recreation depends.

2014 National Citizen Survey



Project Funding

2015 City Council Preliminary ½ & ½ Approval

- \$2.3M each for match for state bonding projects (Wade Stadium, Spirit Mountain, Zoo)
- \$2.2M for parks
- \$3.9M for walking and biking trails
- \$250,000 each for equestrian trails and snowmobile trails
- \$1.8M for river restoration

City Council Resolution 15-0175R

Passed March 23, 2015

ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR

RECREATION AND TOURISM PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Contribution from ¼ 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;



Project Planning

Mini-Master Plans Development

- Community-based plans: advisory committees, surveys, public meeting, community workshops, public comment periods, and consultant support
- Council approved plans:
 - 17 park plans
 - 7 major trail plans, including National Water Trail
 - 2 Wayfinding and Interpretative Plans
 - St. Louis River Natural Area plan
 - Spirit Mountain



Project Funding

2016 Mayor Larson Fortifies Initiative

- Budget adjustments based on equity and inclusion approach
- Parks funding increased to \$3.7M
- Some funds shifted away from projects that may be cost prohibitive
- Renewed focus on meaningful public engagement

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	\$650,000	Transferred from Duluth Traverse
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	\$400,000	Transferred to DWP Accessible
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

Project Funding

Initial Funding Plan



Project Funding

Outside Funding Awarded

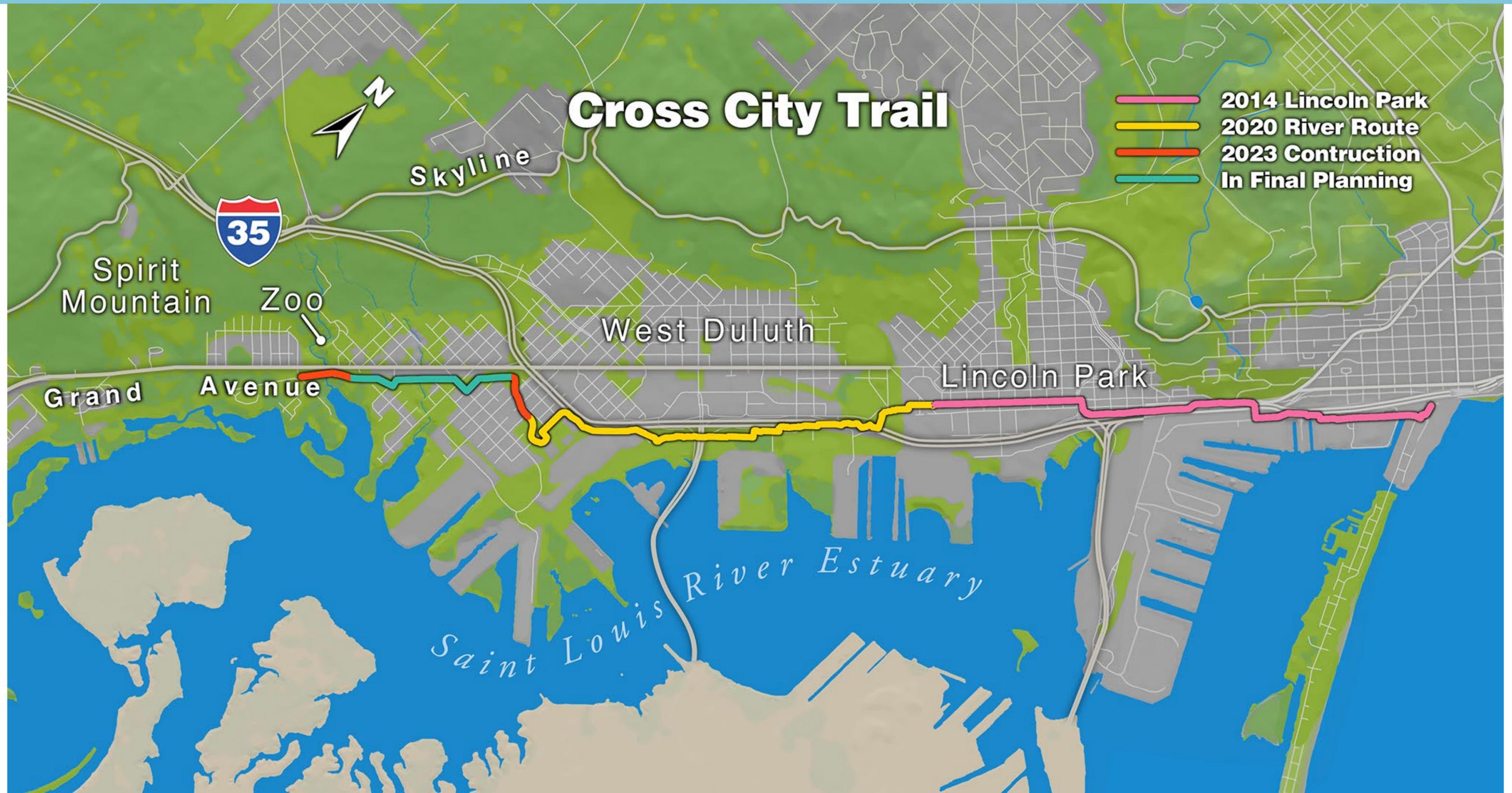
- NOAA Coastal Program
- EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Federal Recreational Trails Program
- MN Regional Trails Grant Program
- MN Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program
- MN Arts and Culture Legacy Grant Program
- MN Conservation Partners Legacy Metro Grant Program

	Contributions
Cross City Trail	\$ 4,488,730
DWP	\$ 1,639,198
Waabizheshikana	\$ 3,181,356
Duluth Traverse	\$ 982,750
Spirit Mountain Bike Trails	\$ 450,000
Snowmobile Trails	\$ 391,052
Grand Avenue Nordic Center	\$ 1,363,834
Equestrian Trails	\$ 51,530
SHT Loops	\$ 35,000
ATV Trails	\$ -
Wade-Wheeler Complex	\$ 2,529,000
Lincoln Park	\$ 1,778,601
Chambers Grove	\$ 2,300,000
GND Recreation Area	\$ 1,891,000
Memorial Park	\$ -
Neighborhood Parks	\$ 360,729
St. Louis River Natural Area	\$ 218,332
Land Acquisition	\$ 4,778,000
Plant Restoration & Care	\$ 800,000
Signage & Wayfinding	\$ 29,843
Spirit Mnt. Rec Area	\$ 4,373,083
Lake Superior Zoo	\$ 2,179,000
National Water Trail	\$ 461,000
Indian Point/Kingsbury Bay	\$ 500,000
Quarry Park	\$ 33,280
Spirit Landing	\$ 1,377,000
TOTAL	\$ 36,192,318

Project Updates: Trails



Cross City Trail



Cross City Trail



Establish a seven-mile paved accessible multi-use trail connecting the Munger State Trail to the Lakewalk.



- 2014: Lakewalk – Carlton constructed
- 2017: New Mini-Master Plan adopted

- 2020: Carlton – Irving constructed
- 2021: Clarifying Resolution adopted



Work Complete or Funded

Half & Half:	\$ 1,269,330
Other City Funds:	\$ 1,461,445
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$ 4,488,730</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 7,219,505

Work Not Yet Funded

Cost to Complete	~\$ 1,000,000
<u>City Funds Remaining:</u>	<u>\$ Zero</u>
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 1,000,000



- Segment VI Pt I to be bid out for construction in 2023
- Submitting grants in 2022 for construction of Segment VI Pt II in 2024
- Work remains to finalize and secure funding for Segment VI Pt III from Raleigh Street to Tappa Keg Inn.



Cross City Trail



Source: Duluth News Tribune

Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific (DWP) Trail Corridor



Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific (DWP) Trail Corridor



Conversion of eight miles of former DWP railroad bed to a universally accessible multi-use pathway.



- 2017: Clyde Connector completed
- 2018: Stewart Creek bridge completed
- 2019: DWP Trail Plan adopted, critical infrastructure completed

- 2020: Rock scaling, Sargent Creek bridge restoration, Munger connection, Beck's Rd. parking lot completed
- 2021: Clarifying Resolution adopted, capping, parallel DT spine, signage completed



Work Complete or Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 1,261,166
Other City Funds:	\$ 51,000
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$ 1,639,198</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 2,951,364

Work Not Yet Funded	
Cost to Complete:	\$ 2,100,000
<u>City Funds Remaining:</u>	<u>\$ Zero</u>
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 2,100,000



- No additional work planned
- \$2.1 million Spirit to Zoo segment cost is prohibitive



Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific (DWP) Trail Corridor



Waabizheshikana (The Marten Trail)



Establish a 10-mile universally accessible, crushed stone, multi-use, interpretive trail along the St. Louis River from the Irving neighborhood to the Fond du Lac neighborhood.



- 2016: Surfacing, stormwater accessibility improvements completed on Segment 0
- 2018: Habitat restoration completed for Segments 0, 1, and 2
- 2020: Waabizheshikana Mini-Master Plan adopted, Signage and wayfinding completed for Segment 0
- 2021: Waabizheshikana Interpretive Plan



Work Complete or Funded		Work Not Yet Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 748,167	Cost to Complete:	\$ 4,000,000
Other City Funds:	\$ 49,958	City Funds Remaining:	\$ 330,000
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$ 3,181,356</u>	NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 3,670,000
TOTAL:	\$ 3,979,481		



- Repair of Segment 0 with FEMA funds in 2022
- Preliminary state commitment to fund construction of Segment 2 in 2023
- US Steel commitment to fund construction of Segment 3 in 2023
- Portion of Segment 7 likely to be built by MNDOT in 2024
- Submitting 2022 state application for 2024 funding of Segments 1, 6, and 7



Waabizheshikana (The Marten Trail)



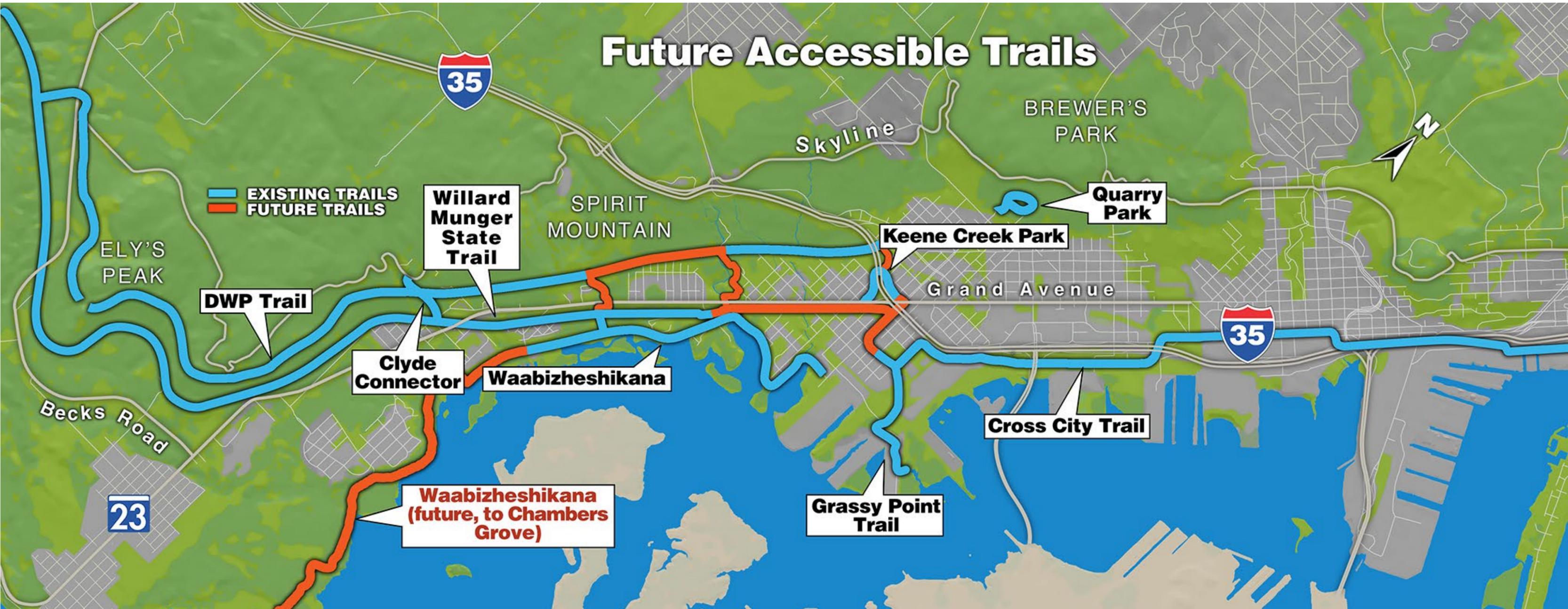
Waabizheshikana (The Marten Trail)



Accessible Trails Expansion



Accessible Trails Expansion



Duluth Traverse (DT) Trail



100-mile bike-optimized, multi-use natural surface trail system comprised of a city-spanning beginner level connector trail, with several trail hubs and opportunities for riders of varying ability levels



- 2015 – 2021: 90+ miles completed (Mission, Brewer, Piedmont, Lincoln Park, Craft Connector, UMD, Lester, etc.)

- 2017: DT Mini-Master Plan adopted
- 2019: DWP Trail Plan adopted

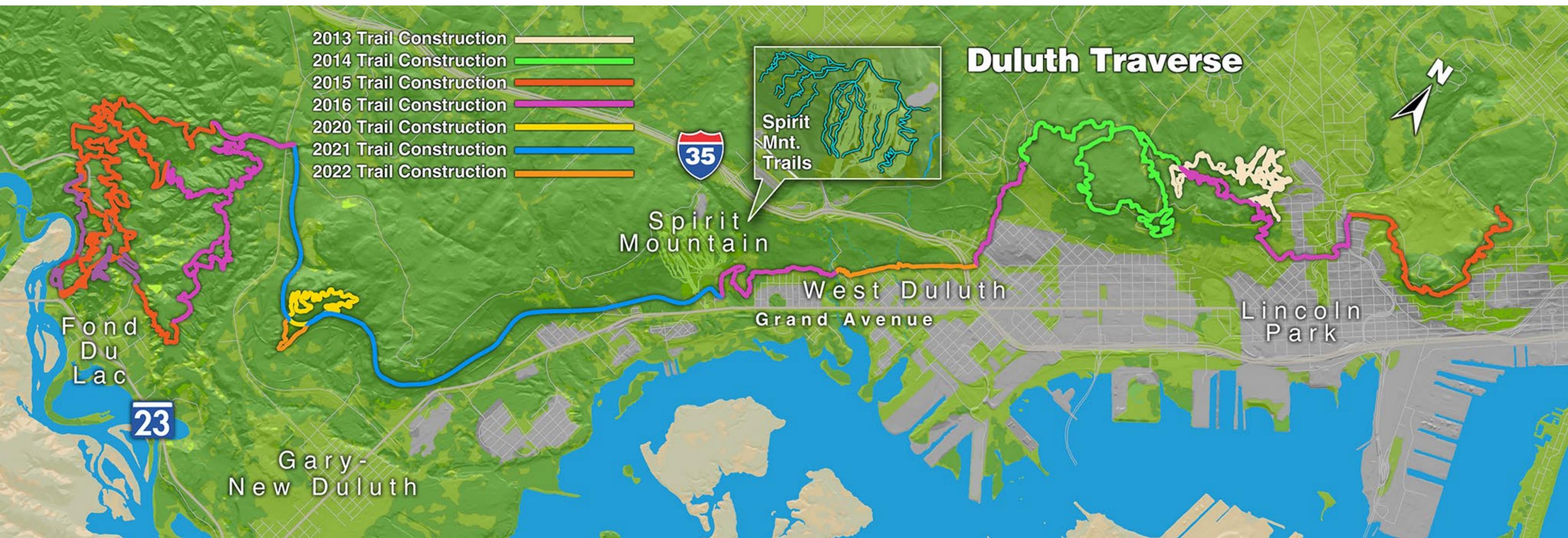
Work Complete or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	400,000
Other City Funds:	\$	684,483
Non-City Contributions:	\$	982,750
TOTAL:	\$	2,077,233

- Sargent Creek Bridge to Ely's Tunnel, Gogebic to Lower Chalet, Zoo to Green St., Shortline Trailhead to Ely's Tunnel to be completed in 2022



Duluth Traverse (DT) Trail



Duluth Traverse (DT) Trail



Mountain Bike Trails at Spirit Mountain



Expand, renew and improve Spirit Mountain's system of downhill and cross-country mountain biking trails including a hardened all-weather trail.



- 2016: All-weather Trail Design and user group engagement completed
- 2017: DT Mini-Master Plan adopted, Spirit Mountain Master Plan adopted
- 2019: All-weather downhill trail completed
- 2021 Preliminary state award for expansion and improvement of Spirit system



Work Complete or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	155,000
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>450,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$	605,000



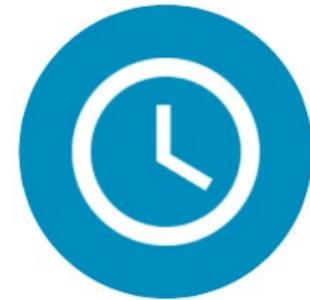
- All-weather cross-country loop to be completed July 2022
- Downhill trails expected to be expanded and enhanced in 2023



Snowmobile Trails



Restoration and enhancement of western Duluth destination snowmobile trail system damaged by flooding and deferred maintenance



- 2017: St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan adopted, Clyde Connector completed
- 2019 Clarifying Resolution adopted
- 2021: Thompson Hill trail and bridges (Kingsbury & Knowlton) restorations; preliminary state commitments to fund Spirit connections



Work Completed or Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 248,500
Other City Funds:	\$ 326,000
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$ 391,052</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 965,552

Work Not Yet Funded	
Cost to Complete:	\$ 300,000
<u>City Funds Remaining:</u>	<u>\$ Zero</u>
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 300,000



- Spirit Mountain connections to be constructed with state support in 2023
- Seeking funds to construct bridge abutments at upper Knowlton Creek at the same time



Snowmobile Trails



Snowmobile Trails



Grand Avenue Nordic Center



Establish a world-class cross country ski destination with snowmaking, lighting, and topnotch grooming that will provide reliable high-quality skiing from as early as November to as late as April.



- 2015: Cross County Ski Trail Plan adopted
- 2018: Grand Ave. Nordic Center opened, with 2.5km of new trail and some snowmaking
- 2021: Legacy funding preliminarily awarded to complete final 2.5km of trail



Work Complete or Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 1,000,000
Other City Funds:	\$ 350,000
Non-City Contributions:	\$ 1,363,834
TOTAL:	\$ 2,713,834

Work Not Yet Funded	
Cost to Complete:	\$ 2,000,000
City Funds Remaining:	\$ Zero
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 2,000,000



- Completion of trail construction planned for 2023
- Funds for additional snowmaking and lighting included in state bonding request



Grand Avenue Nordic Center



Current Facility: 2.5 km trails, 1.5 km with snowmaking



Completed Facility: 5.5 km trails, 3.3 km with snowmaking and lighting

Grand Avenue Nordic Center



Source: Perfect Duluth Day



Source: Duluth Cross Country Ski Club

Equestrian Trails



Equestrian Trails



Reestablishment of destination equestrian trails in western Duluth after floods destroyed former system.

- 2015: Feasibility study completed
- 2017: St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan adopted; reconstruction of Clyde Connector Trail (8 miles) completed
- 2018: Hardening of Ely Peak Loop Trail
- 2019: Clarifying Resolution adopted
- 2021: West DWP Trail completed, horse trailer parking lot added at Beck's Rd.



Work Completed

Half & Half:	\$	135,000
Other City Funds:	\$	73,000
Non-City Contributions:	\$	51,530
TOTAL:	\$	259,530

** \$115,000 of Equestrian Half & Half was assigned to DWP Trail to support its co-use by equestrians*

- Project is complete and in use



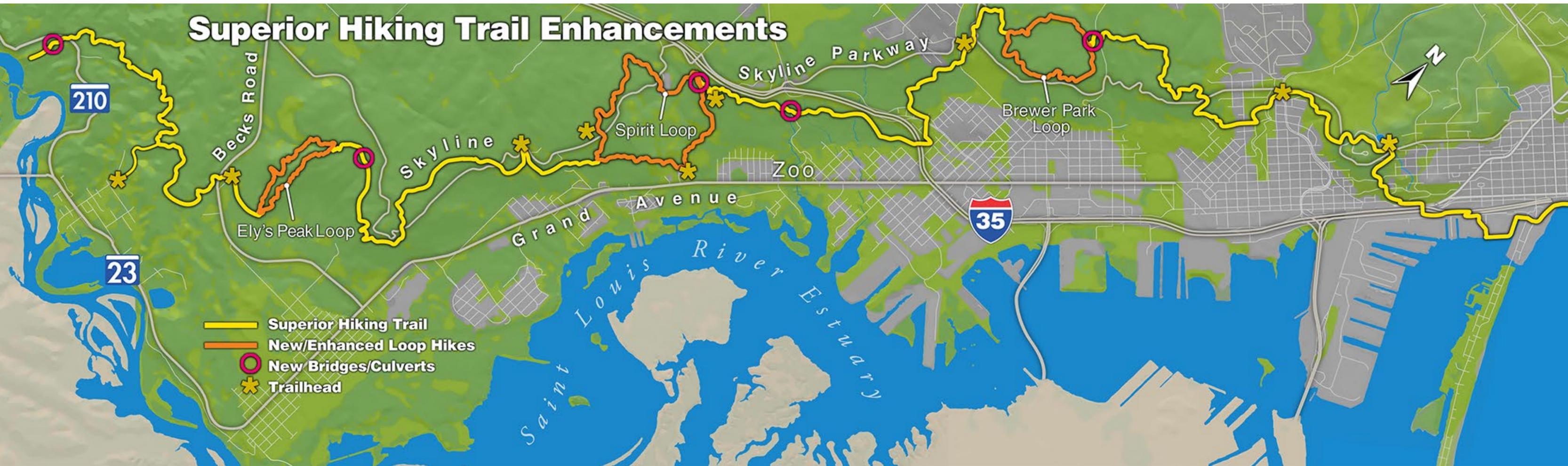
Equestrian Trails



Source: Duluth News Tribune



Superior Hiking Trail (SHT)



Superior Hiking Trail (SHT)



Provide short destination-quality looped experiences on the Superior Hiking Trail and upgrade existing spine infrastructure to modern trail sustainability standards

- 2017: St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan adopted
- Completed Destination Loops: Ely's Peak, Spirit Mountain, Brewer Park
- Completed Sustainability Upgrades: Mission Creek, 131st Ave connector, Sargent Creek crossing, Knowlton Creek reroute, Haines Rd. connector reroute, Lyman St. boardwalk



Work Completed

Half & Half:	\$	50,000
Other City Funds:	\$	0
Non-City Contributions:	\$	35,000
TOTAL:	\$	85,000

- Project is complete and in use



Superior Hiking Trail (SHT)



ATV Trails



Study of the wisdom of planning and developing designated ATV trails in western Duluth.



- 2015–2016: City–stakeholder study process
- 2017: St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan adopted without ATV trails

Work Completed

Half & Half:	\$	26,958
Other City Funds:	\$	0
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	\$	26,958

** \$223,042 remainder of snowmobile Half & Half reassigned to completion of multi-use accessible trail system*

- No further work is planned



Project Updates: Parks



Wade – Wheeler Athletic Complex



Wade – Wheeler Athletic Complex



Renovate Wade-Wheeler Athletic Complex to create a destination-quality sports center.

Wade Stadium

- 2014: New artificial turf field, lighting and scoreboard updates completed at Wade
- 2015: West Duluth Sports Corridor Mini-Master Plan adopted, renewal of historic brick walls completed at Wade

Wade-Wheeler Athletic Complex

- 2019-2021: New or renewed concessions, restrooms, dugouts, walkways, volleyball area, fencing, maintenance building, and horseshoe area.



Work Complete or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	3,115,000
Other City Funds:	\$	596,117
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,529,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$	6,240,117

Work Not Yet Funded

Cost to Complete:	\$	3,000,000
<u>City Funds Remaining:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Zero</u>
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$	3,000,000



- Sport courts to be completed at Wheeler in spring 2022
- Near term term funding needed to waterproof walls and roof
- Long-term funding needed to rebuild parking lots and stormwater



Wade – Wheeler Athletic Complex



Lincoln Park



Restoration of historic Lincoln Park. Project highlights to include: new playground, parking areas, sport court, picnic pavilion, accessible walkways, nature playscape, and green stormwater infrastructure, as well as restoration of the road, stone walls, and event pavilion.



- 2016: Lincoln Park Mini-Master Plan adopted
- 2018: Miller Creek restoration completed
- 2022: Construction to begin



Work Complete or Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 810,000
Other City Funds:	\$ 587,500
Non-City Contributions:	\$ 1,778,601
TOTAL:	\$ 3,176,101

Work Not Yet Funded	
Cost to Complete:	~\$ 1,000,000
City Funds Remaining:	\$ Zero
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 3,000,000



- Construction anticipated in 2022
- No current plans to seek additional funding to renew less developed upper park



Lincoln Park



Lincoln Park



Chambers Grove Park - Nagaajiwanaang



Comprehensive park restoration, including: shoreline naturalization, stormwater improvements, new interpretive trail loop, accessible restroom facility, improved parking and access road, and an accessible playground.



- 2015: Authorization of DNR shoreline naturalization
- 2016: Authorization of park renewal construction contract
- 2016: park and river restoration completed
- 2018: Interpretative Trail completed
- 2020: Signage completed



Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	100,000
Other City Funds:	\$	1,392
Non-City Contributions:	\$	2,300,000
TOTAL:	\$	2,401,392



- Project complete



Chambers Grove Park - Nagaajiwanaang



Chambers Grove Park - Nagaajiwanaang



Gary New Duluth Community Recreation Area



Renewal and improvement of community recreation area in partnership with Gary New Duluth Development Alliance (GNDDA), including establishment of a destination skate park.



- 2015: Community center renovation completed by GNDDA
- 2016: Soccer fields, pavilion, parking lot, stormwater, garden, and open play area completed
- 2017: Storage building completed by GNDDA
- 2018: Dog park completed by GNDDA
- 2019: Sport court and community garden completed by GNDDA
- 2020: Foundations for skate park features completed



Work Completed or Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 725,413
Other City Funds:	\$ 44,637
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$ 1,891,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 2,661,050

Work Not Yet Funded	
Cost to Complete:	~\$ 600,000
<u>City Funds Remaining:</u>	<u>\$ Zero</u>
NON-CITY FUNDS NEEDED:	\$ 600,000



- Need to raise \$600,000 to complete skate park
- Goal to complete skate park by 2024



Gary New Duluth Community Recreation Area



Memorial Park



Planned restoration of urban park central to the West Duluth business district.

- 2012: Memorial Park Mini-Master Plan adopted
- 2015: Demolition of former community center
- 2019: Installation of new World War I memorial, plantings, sidewalk, and flag pole



Work Completed or Funded		Funds Remaining	
Half & Half:	\$ 685,000	City Funds Remaining:	\$594,853
Other City Funds:	\$ 0		
Non-City Contributions:	\$ 0		
TOTAL:	\$ 685,000		

- Engage the community to determine whether the community wishes to renew the park without a new community center or continue to seek the \$3-\$6 million that is likely to be necessary to construct a new center.



Memorial Park

PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



Staff and the public reviewed park concept plans and provided input on desired features and design. A preferred Master Plan emerged based on that direction.

The Memorial Park Master Plan contains the following features/activities:

- New three-sided Park Pavilion with bathrooms. Pavilion open to the plaza.
- Multi-use Plaza area to accommodate picnicking, neighborhood gathering and events.
- Water Play/Spray Pad as a signature play experience. Consider installing a storage tank to re-use spray pad water for irrigation.
- Tree-lined Arbor Walk with decorative paving.
- Pathway connections to N. Central Ave., Grand Ave. and Elinor St.
- Renovation of the former softball field into a multi-use green space for open play and pleasure skating rink (no hockey boards).
- Memorial Plaza and Memorial Wall – Relocate and display existing memorials and provide information on the historic Evergreen Highway (Grand Avenue).
- Mini-basketball hoop.
- Site furnishings (benches, tables and grills), decorative fence and pedestrian/safety lighting.
- Grand Ave. walkway connection and garden.
- Born Learning Trail which consists of stencils and markers that foster interactive learning.

Neighborhood Parks



For neighborhoods parks in the corridor, co-create park mini-master plans and improvement projects (up to \$100,000) with neighborhood groups, having a 9:1 match generated through community efforts.

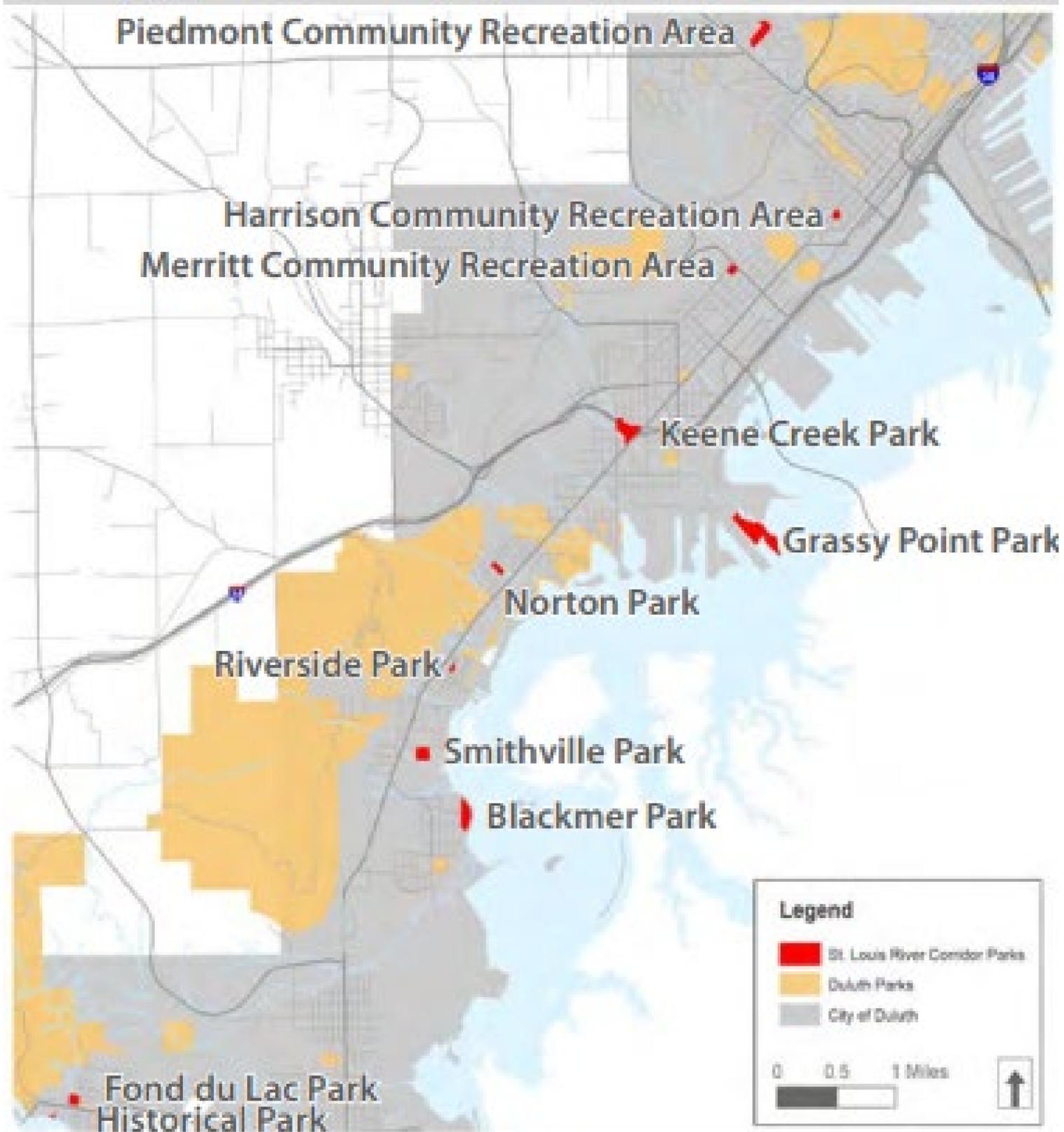
- 2017: Harrison Park plan implemented
- 2018: Riverside Park plan implemented
- 2021: Keen Creek Park, Merritt Park, and Piedmont Park plans implemented; Grassy Point work currently underway

Half & Half:	\$	1,013,986
City Funds:	\$	673,286
Contributions:	\$	360,729
Funds Seeking:	\$	960,000
TOTAL:	\$	3,008,001

- Fond du Lac Park planning/design 2022, implementation 2023
- Norton Park planning/design 2023, implementation 2024
- Blackmer Park implementation 2024
- Morgan Park implementation 2025
- Historical Park and Smithville Park future planning/design/implementation



Neighborhood Parks



Project Updates: Environmental Protection



St. Louis River Natural Area



Protect and preserve 1,230 acres along the St. Louis River as part of the Duluth Natural Area Program (DNAP). The natural area protects the waters of the St. Louis River estuary, and provides river access for Duluth's residents and visitors.



- 2002: City of Duluth enacted DNAP
- 2016: St. Louis River Corridor Initiative launched
- 2019: St. Louis River Natural Area nominated to DNAP
- 2020: St. Louis River Natural Area designated under DNAP (Management Plan approved)



Work Completed or Funded	
Half & Half:	\$ 0
Other City Funds:	\$ 0
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$ 218,332</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 218,332



- Acquire additional lands as identified in Management Plan



St. Louis River Natural Area

Native Plants

- 17 distinct native plant communities
- 62% in good to excellent condition
- 3 sensitive species: pale sedge, discoid beggarticks and soapberry

Birds

- 169 species
- 13,953 individual birds
- 4 congregating DNAP guilds
- 52 birds of conservation concern, including the threatened species: Common Tern, Trumpeter Swan, Horned Grebe and Peregrine Falcon

Water Features

- St. Louis River Estuary, largest freshwater estuary in North America
- 4 trout streams: Knowlton, Stewart, Kingsbury and Keene Creeks

Geology

- Evidence of glacial Lake Duluth in backwaters of Rask Bay, North Bay, Radio Tower Bay, Mud Lake and Kingsbury Bay

LEGEND

- Proposed natural area boundary*
- City of Duluth trails in the natural area
- Trout streams in the natural area

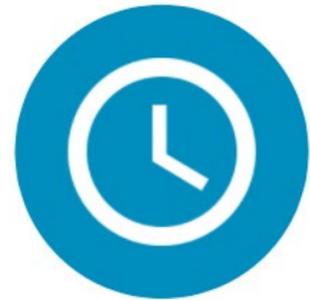
*Inclusion in the natural area subject to landowner assent.



Land Acquisition



Identify, assess, and invest in the most meaningful tracts of publicly-owned open space lands to preserve the ecological functions and values, enhance the ecosystem, and reduce impacts of natural disasters



- 2020: St. Louis River Natural Area designated under DNAP, Management Plan adopted
- 2021: Tax-forfeit lands identified and reviewed by County and City
- 2022: Final approvals and transactions to occur



Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	0
Other City Funds:	\$	270,000
Non-City Contributions:	\$	<u>4,778,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$	5,048,000



- Complete Mission and Piedmont acquisitions
- Designate new Mission and Piedmont parks
- Initiate acquisition of essential green space in Spirit and Brewer Park areas



Native Plant Restoration and Care



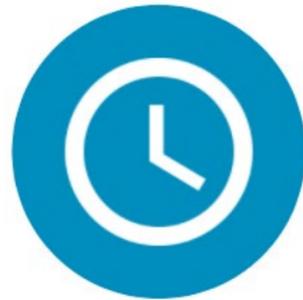
Control invasive species, reintroduce native plants, and maintain plantings.

- 2020: St. Louis River Natural Area designated under DNAP, Management Plan adopted
- 2015 – Present: Invasive species removal and native plant reintroduction at Western Waterfront Corridor, Kingsbury Forest, Lincoln Park, Fairmount Park, and Piedmont
- 2022: Grassy Point invasive species removal and Kingsbury Forest plantings by Minnesota Land Trust

Work Funded or Completed

Half & Half:	\$	175,000
Other City Funds:	\$	96,150
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>800,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$	1,071,150

- On-going invasive species maintenance and care for new plantings
- Messaging to public on invasive species prevention and management



Project Updates: Special Projects



Signage and Wayfinding



Establish a plan for the design, engineering, installation, and implementation of modern, cohesive, and comprehensive park and trail signage in Duluth.

- 2017: Gate, Wayfinding, and Signage Design Plan adopted
- 2019: Engineering Specifications established, plan implementation begins
- 2020-22: Wayfinding and gates installed on CCT, Waabizheshikana, DWP, Chambers Grove, neighborhood parks, Duluth Traverse, GND Rec, Quarry, Wade/Wheeler



Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	310,936
Other City Funds:	\$	0
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>29,843</u>
TOTAL:	\$	340,779

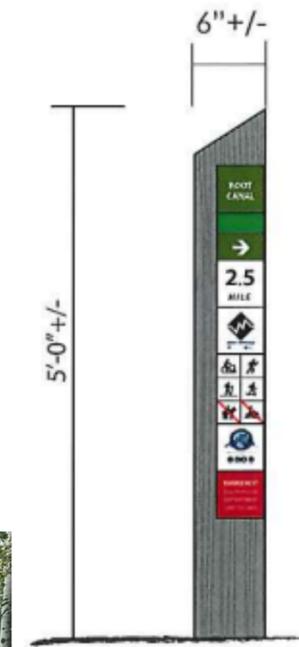
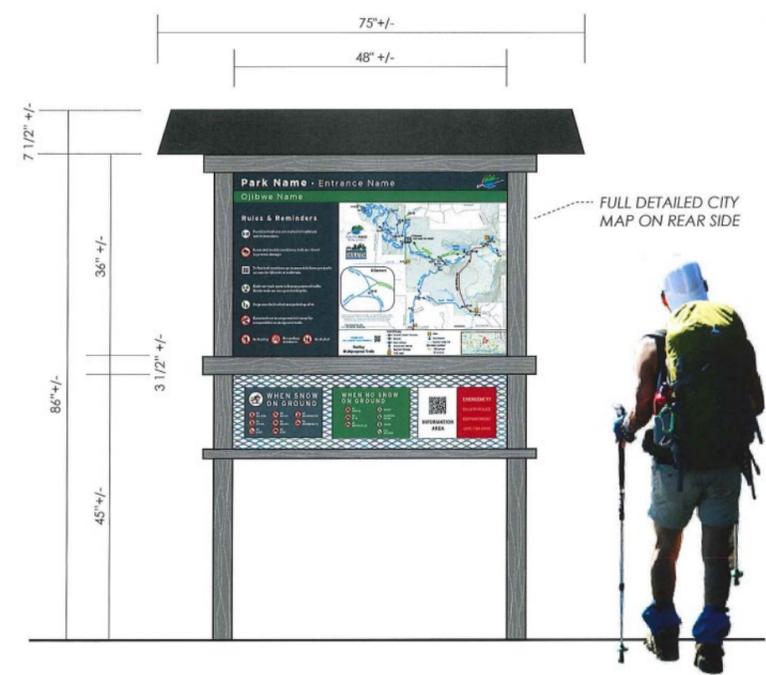
Funds Remaining

City Funds Remaining: \$77,420

- Ensure signage and wayfinding is built into future project budgets, and continue installation of cohesive and comprehensive trail signage throughout Duluth parks and trails.



Signage and Wayfinding



Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Snowmaking



Establish new, more sustainable snowmaking system and drainage system at Spirit Mountain Recreation Area.



- 2017: Spirit Mountain Master Plan adopted
- 2018: System installation completed



Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	2,818,276
Other City Funds:	\$	0
Non-City Contributions:	\$	4,373,083
TOTAL:	\$	7,191,359



- Project complete



Lake Superior Zoo



Lake Superior Zoo improvements, including the renovation and repurposing of WPA pavilion, new and improved exhibits for brown bears, black bears and cougar, main building renovations, and other site enhancements.



- 2014: WPA pavilion renovation completed
- 2016: Lake Superior Zoo Concept Plan adopted
- 2018: Amended Concept Plan adopted
- 2021: Bear exhibits completed



Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	2,306,870
Other City Funds:	\$	0
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,179,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$	4,485,870



- Prepare plans and seek project financing for main building renovations and general improvements to grounds



National Water Trail & Water Access



Creation and implementation of the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail Plan, and improve and expand river access along the corridor.



- 2017: National Water Trail Master Plan adopted
- 2018: Spirit Landing site plan approved
- 2019: Waabizheshikana Mini-Master Plan adopted, including access point recommendations
- 2020: St. Louis River Estuary Water Trail officially designated as a National Water Trail



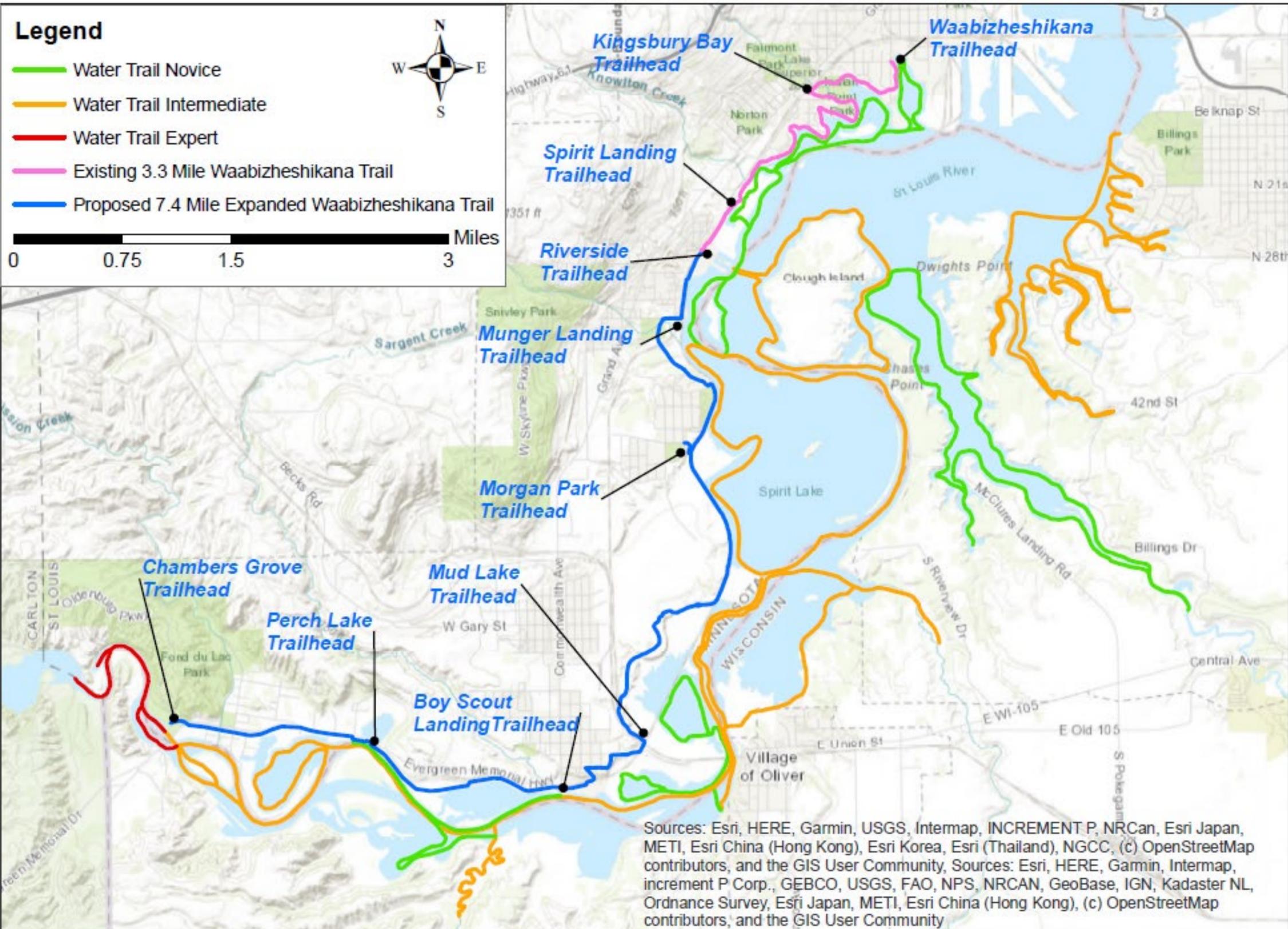
Work Completed or Funded		Funds Remaining	
Half & Half:	\$ 200,000	City Funds Remaining:	\$120,180
Other City Funds:	\$ 0		
Non-City Contributions:	\$ 461,000		
TOTAL:	\$ 661,000		



- Water trail programming, marketing, and outreach led by St. Louis River Alliance
- Munger Landing & Perch Lake improvements planned for 2022 and 2023
- Slag Point water access development in partnership with U.S. Steel
- Spirit Landing carry-in paddle access – specific plan to be developed



National Water Trail & Water Access



Spirit Landing



Secure and improve continued public access for pedestrians, cyclists, and paddlers to a restored and protected riverfront opposite Tallas Island.

- 2015: Riverside Small Area Plan adopted including recommendations to secure and maintain the Spirit Landing area as a minimally improved, publicly accessible natural area
- 2019: Waabizheshikana Mini-Master Plan adopted, including realignment of trail segment connecting Riverside and Spirit Landing
- 2020: City publicly abandons plans to extend Riverwest Drive across the BN railroad
- 2021: Riverwest Drive and parallel bike/ped path constructed to the uphill side of railroad



Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	450,000
Other City Funds:	\$	0
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,377,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$	1,827,000

Funds Remaining

City Funds Remaining: \$ 375,619



2022 - Acquire, restore, and permanently protect BN-owned riverfront and adjoining tax forfeit property including Tallas Island

2023 - Construct bike/ped crossing of BN line at terminus of Riverwest Drive and relocate portion of Waabizheshikana away from the BN line

TBD - Develop and implement plan for carry-in canoe/kayak access



Quarry Park



Establish a neighborhood park with accessible trails, disc golf, connections to the Superior Hiking Trail and the Duluth Traverse, a multi-use gathering space, and world-class ice climbing.



- 2016: Quarry Park officially dedicated as a park, and Mini-Master Plan adopted
- 2018: Accessible trail loop and parking lot completed
- 2019: Disc golf course, hiking loop, mountain bike trail, service road, and gates completed
- 2020: Signage and wayfinding completed
- 2021: Ice-farming system and pump house completed

Work Completed or Funded

Half & Half:	\$	210,000
Other City Funds:	\$	0
<u>Non-City Contributions:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>33,280</u>
TOTAL:	\$	243,280



- Project complete
- Inaugural ice farming season in 2022



Quarry Park



Indian Point Campground



Planning and renewal of Indian Point Campground.



- 2021: Restroom and shower-house facility improvements

Work Completed or Funded

Funds Remaining

Half & Half:	\$	50,000	City Funds Remaining:	\$	0
Other City Funds:	\$	0			
Non-City Contributions:	\$	500,000			
TOTAL:	\$	550,000			

** Remainder of original Indian Point Half & Half reassigned to completion of multi-use accessible trail systems*

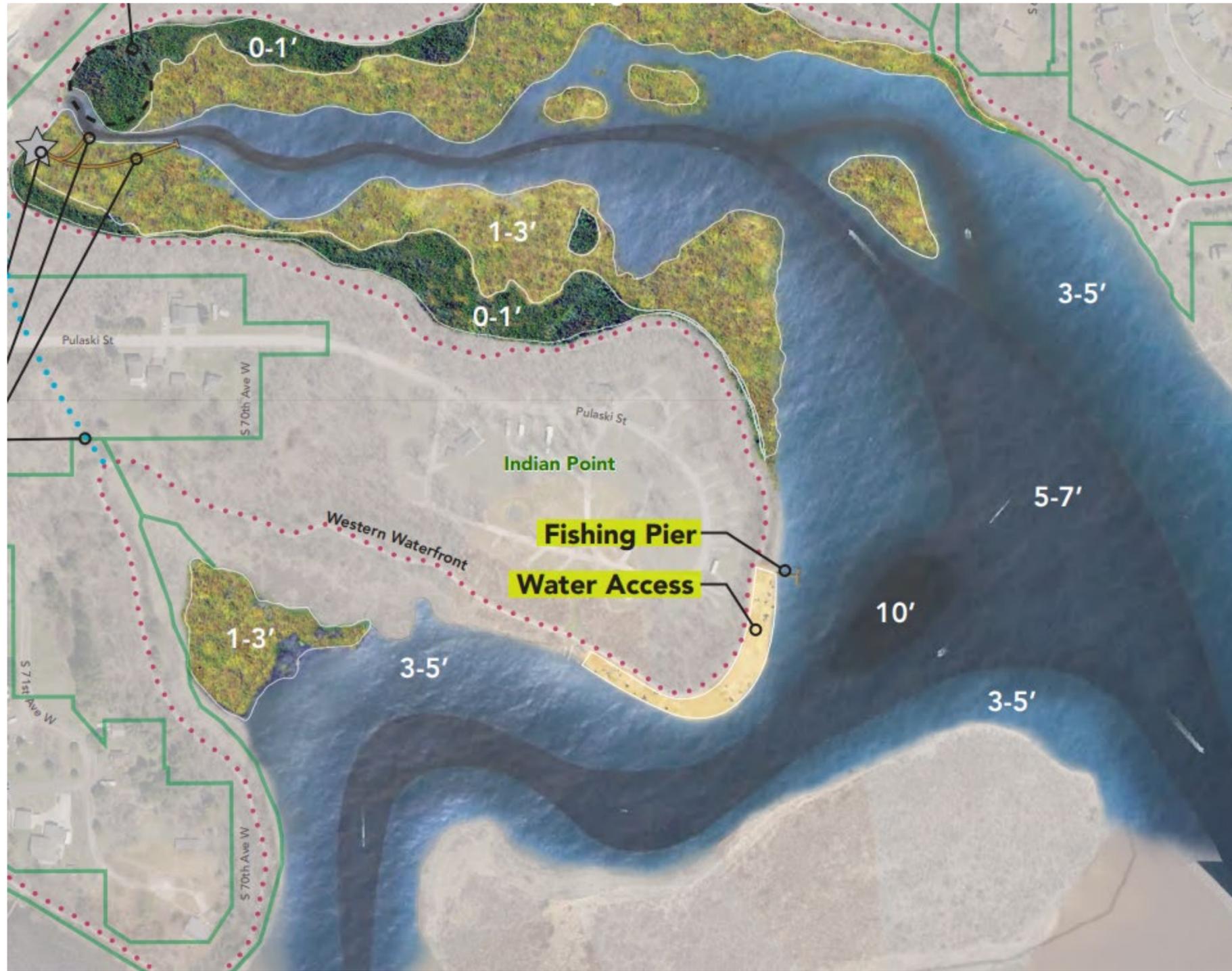


- 2022 – DNR to complete dredging for potential swimming area, install new fishing pier, and complete trail improvements
- Determine purpose of site – campground, park, or both – and develop mini-master plan. Timing tbd.



Indian Point Campground

Improvements to the Indian Point Area



Looking Forward

- **2022-2023:** Complete green space acquisition and associated park and Duluth Natural Area designations.
- **2023:** Plan and implement tourism promotional strategy for St. Louis River Corridor
- **2023-2025:** Complete big projects that are nearing the finish line – e.g. Lincoln Park, Grand Avenue Nordic Center, the Cross City Trail, Gary New Duluth, etc.
- **2023-2026:** Cost-effectively build out Waabizheshikana and National Water Trail in association with completion of riverfront contaminant cleanup projects



Project Funding

Half and Half Funds Remaining (By Project)

	Half & Half Remaining
Cross City Trail	\$ 186,700
DWP	\$ -
Waabizheshikana	\$ 330,646
Duluth Traverse	\$ -
Spirit Mountain Bike Trails	\$ -
Snowmobile Trails	\$ 23,449
Grand Avenue Nordic Center	\$ -
Equestrian Trails	\$ -
SHT Loops	\$ 20,490
ATV Trails	\$ -
Wade-Wheeler Complex	\$ -
Lincoln Park	\$ 467,061
Chambers Grove	\$ -
GND Recreation Area	\$ -
Memorial Park	\$ 594,853
Neighborhood Parks	\$ 366,529
St. Louis River Natural Area	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ -
Plant Restoration & Care	\$ -
Signage & Wayfinding	\$ 77,420
Spirit Mnt. Rec Area	\$ -
Lake Superior Zoo	\$ -
National Water Trail	\$ 120,180
Indian Point/Kingsbury Bay	\$ -
Quarry Park	\$ 32,124
Spirit Landing	\$ 375,619
TOTAL	\$ 2,595,071

Questions?



