



ESSENTIAL SPACES

Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan



DRAFT PLAN FOR COMMUNITY REVIEW
August 5, 2022





Women's group hike along one of the trails in Congdon Park.

LETTER FROM DULUTH PARKS AND RECREATION

LETTER TO BE CREATED BY CITY
STAFF FOR FINAL DOCUMENT



IMAGE FROM
DULUTH
STAFF

Jessica Peterson, Parks and
Recreation Manager

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Children enjoying the playground at Bayfront Park.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION CONTENTS:

- Imaging the Future of Duluth's Park System
- The Essential Spaces Plan
- What We Heard From the Community
- Key Initiatives
- Themes and Goals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Duluth's trails offer year-round opportunities for walkers and bikers in the summer and snowshoers and skiers in the winter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF DULUTH'S PARK SYSTEM

Before the City of Duluth was formally established, Indigenous Peoples stewarded this area's natural lands, water bodies, tree covered hills, rock bluffs, and shoreline. Throughout history, the natural setting has continued to attract people and has been at the center of major transformations over time. Parks and natural areas are essential to the story of Duluth's past and future. From neighborhoods forming around communal park spaces, to massive industrial development along the shoreline, to the reimaging of Canal Park and the Lakewalk from century-old industrial yards and decaying buildings into a lively destination with shops and restaurants. As Duluth continues to transform, it is imperative that the park system receive the level of investment necessary to meet the social, cultural, and recreational needs of our community, and to ensure long-term sustainability and resiliency of our beloved lands.

Duluth has an impressive portfolio of park spaces, including four premier Destination Parks, and an abundance of acreage that far surpasses municipalities of comparable size. The city is alive with diverse events and recreation programming, an activated waterfront, growing tourism, heavily used trails, strong sports and activity

clubs, and dedicated community volunteers and partners. Duluthians use park spaces in a myriad of ways, from swimming and fishing in neighborhood creeks and picnicking with friends and family under a covered gazebo, to practicing as a team for athletic competitions. Rated Outdoor Magazine's "Best Outdoors Town" in 2014, Duluth's park and trail system is foundational to providing opportunities to recreate outdoors within minutes of one's doorstep. However, this abundance has long experienced a challenge of lacking sufficient and sustainable funding to maintain and improve properties and to provide programmed recreation opportunities.

Input from citizens and community leaders has made clear that this plan must focus on addressing a backlog of maintenance projects and updating recreation amenities in poor condition, while also working to expand meaningful connections between people and natural spaces. As the City looks to the future, its biggest hurdle is obtaining funding and staff resources needed to care for a large system with a wide variety of parks, recreation, open spaces, and trails. With additional resources, community support, and prioritization of investments, the City can continue to take transformative actions to ensure Duluth's park system is flourishing for generations to come.



Cross country skiing on one of the many trails in Duluth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE ESSENTIAL SPACES PLAN

Parks are essential spaces for Duluthians. The Essential Spaces Plan recognizes the important function that parks and recreation serve in Duluth, and honors the robust legacy of resident involvement and partnerships that make the system what it is today. Acknowledging that Duluth's park system is vast and diverse, the Essential Spaces Plan emphasizes caring for the City's current assets, while envisioning a future that is more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The plan provides localized recommendations for enhancing and right-sizing the park system to create strong, vibrant park spaces that meet the recreation needs of our community.

The plan was informed by robust community engagement. Community outreach focused on both empowering residents to express their existing and desired uses of park spaces and programming options they would like to see, as well as informing residents and stakeholders about inner workings of planning, funding, and park maintenance to highlight the complexities of running an award-winning park system.

PLAN PURPOSE

This Essential Spaces Plan is a guide for the future of Duluth's parks, recreation, open space, and trails system over the next 10 to 15 years. This plan provides recommendations on how Parks and Recreation can continue to support a healthy and vibrant community, enhance inclusion and equity, and advance environmental protection under a sustainable budget framework.



Kingsbury Pier at Indian Point Campground.

MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK

Community Visioning

PLAN THEMES

INVEST IN DULUTH'S
FUTURE

ADVANCE UNIQUELY
DULUTH EXPERIENCES

PARK SPACES FOR
BUILDING COMMUNITY

STRENGTHEN
PROGRAMS AND
PARTNERSHIPS

SUSTAIN NATURAL
AREAS

19 GOALS

134 STRATEGIES

85 ACTION ITEMS

LEVEL OF SERVICE
GUIDELINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Eight pop up events were held at various events throughout Duluth, including Boo at the Zoo.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE COMMUNITY

The following key takeaways were identified through community input and were central to the creation of the Essential Spaces Plan Themes and Goals.

- Most Duluth residents identify themselves as active users of the park system and value parks for providing spaces to spend time outdoors, connect with nature, and maintain and improve health.
- Collectively, using trails for walking, hiking, running, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing is the most common use of the park system, along with enjoying nature and wildlife, and relaxation and contemplation.
- Lack of information was the most frequent barrier that has prevented use of the park system and program offerings, which includes unfamiliarity with programs or activities and insufficient signage and wayfinding.
- Maintenance was identified as a priority among Duluth residents. Most support prioritizing maintenance in parks and trails that are most in need followed by those that are used the most.
- Duluth residents identified restrooms (indoor and portable), dog parks, community gardens, public access points for water and paddling, splash pads, and

off-leash dog parks as desired amenities to add to the system.

- Responses reflected that unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing, and biking; paved trails for walking; picnic and small group gathering areas and playgrounds are found abundantly throughout the system.
- Residents want parks and recreation programming to include entry-level opportunities and skill building for outdoor recreation activities, environmental education and nature exploration, and opportunities to volunteer to support the park system.
- Outside organizations that provide a range of organized sports leagues and programs within park spaces are valued.
- Duluthians value the benefit that park spaces provide in protecting the natural environment and supporting environmental resiliency.

ESSENTIAL SPACES ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS:

2,355
PEOPLE
PROVIDED INPUT

Table 1: Engagement by the Numbers

Surveys	1,962
Community-Wide Survey	1,592
Statistically Valid Survey	370
Project Advisory Committee	12
Six Focus Groups	58
Three Community Workshops	102
City Staff Workshop	45
Online Survey	170
Social Media Posts	10
Social Media Followers	28,586

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CITY OF DULUTH PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

VISION STATEMENT

To promote the health and well-being of our community, environment, and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities, and natural resources now and into the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

To be the central driving force in strengthening the heritage of a healthy, active community for future generations by continuing on the path of improving and enhancing our parks and facilities; protecting our natural resources; and developing partnerships to deliver recreation programs and services.

KEY INITIATIVES

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division, in collaboration with partners, will use the Essential Spaces Plan as a guiding document to oversee and execute park system infrastructure and programming investments over the next decade. The master plan has been created with the intent of upholding the Division's Vision and Mission Statements.

The plan's Key Initiatives are fundamental to providing a high quality park system that serves and reflects the diverse needs of the people of Duluth and protects the scenic beauty and health of the city's Northland ecosystem.

- **Advocate for a revised park levy based on a fixed percentage of taxable property value and renewal of the half-and-half tourism tax** for the park system to ensure City funding is consistent with the desires, expectations, and uses of Duluth citizens.
- **Maintain and repair assets in parks that are used most**, focusing efforts first in High Priority Equity Zones and assets in poor condition.
- **Implement maintenance and operations practices that are environmentally protective and climate-conscious**, such as developing demonstration rain gardens, rewilding certain coastline areas to a more native ecosystem, and designating "naturally managed" park areas as undisturbed spaces that contain native plant species and provide wildlife habitat.
- **Develop stronger connections with water** with projects such as providing clear wayfinding signage, formalizing water access points, and increasing adaptive facilities.
- **Increase community awareness of parks and recreation program offerings** and support programming opportunities that fill gaps in existing local programming options.
- **Promote environmental stewardship for natural areas** through education initiatives, comprehensive trail management, and supporting ongoing efforts of the Duluth Natural Resource Management Program Plan.
- **Invest in indoor and outdoor athletic facilities** to address aging infrastructure and expand recreation options to reflect desires of surrounding neighborhoods and community members.
- **Continue to engage the community when making park improvements** to create park spaces that foster social interactions, promote community pride and inclusivity, and reflect the culture, diversity, and heritage of all Duluth community members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THEMES AND GOALS

The following summary provides an overview of the plan's five themes and supporting goals. They are described in depth in Chapter 3.

INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE



GOALS

- A. Increase park funding, in line with industry standards, to create and maintain a high-quality, four-season park system that will effectively enhance the health and well-being of our community.
- B. Invest strategically to decrease routine and long-term maintenance requirements, leverage outside funding, and support community-based priorities.
- C. Balance maintenance, reinvestment, consolidation, and new construction of park infrastructure to meet current and future system needs within a sustainable budget framework.

ADVANCE UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES



GOALS

- D. Provide equitable, high-quality outdoor education and programming that encourages meaningful connections with nature in park spaces.
- E. Support opportunities for water-based recreation through managed access.

- F. Support improvements that simultaneously fulfill documented community recreational needs, enhance tourist attraction, and deliver other public benefits such as economic development and resource protection.

PARK SPACES FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY



GOALS

- G. Promote inclusion in park spaces, facilities, and programs ensuring that all persons have equitable and appropriate access to our park and recreation system.
- H. Activate park spaces to support local, social, cultural, and economic advancement.
- I. Honor the culture, storytelling, art, and history of traditionally marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and the NQT2SLGBIA community, among others.
- J. Provide equitable, efficient, and effective opportunities for public participation in park planning processes to balance various perspectives and preferences.
- K. Support visitor navigation and engagement through a user-friendly system of trailheads, signage, wayfinding, and interpretive elements.

STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND VOLUNTEERISM



GOALS

- L. Strengthen Parks and Recreation's program offerings.
- M. Bolster relationships with partners who provide programming and recreation services and support opportunities that fill gaps in existing local programming options.
- N. Promote and support strategically targeted volunteerism to efficiently increase the safe use and enjoyment of park spaces.
- O. Increase community awareness of recreational opportunities in park spaces.

SUSTAIN TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS



GOALS

- P. Protect and enhance our open spaces to restore and maintain ecological health, build resilience to natural disasters, and preserve the area's natural beauty.
- Q. Increase climate-resiliency in all of our trails and natural areas through modern design and best management practices.
- R. Complete and maintain a comprehensive trail system offering safe, sustainable, and diverse user experiences.
- S. Promote a culture of respect for public lands, trails, and waterways, as well as other system users, through stewardship education initiatives.



Bike trails offers plentiful opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy the outdoors.



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

SECTION CONTENTS:

- Plan Context
- Legacy of Duluth's Parks
- Park System Overview
- Demographic and Area Context
- Trends and Special Considerations

PLAN CONTEXT

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At the heart of this Essential Spaces Plan are guiding principles. A 12-member Project Advisory Committee oversaw plan development, and these principles reflect the Committee's foundational values and vision for the future of Duluth's park and recreation system. Each plan theme, goal, and strategy was developed and evolved under these guiding principles.

1. Indigenous Acknowledgment

Anishinaabe and other Tribal Nations, including the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, first settled here and maintained a balanced relationship with the land and the lake for over 10,000 years.

2. Inclusion and Equity

Strive to create a plan process and outcomes that improve inclusivity and equity.

3. Quality over Quantity

Strike a necessary balance between the quality of parks and community recreation facilities with the overall quantity of facilities.

4. Resiliency and Sustainability

Adhere to climate change adaptation strategies and approaches for recreation. Ensure long-term adaptability and provide recreational opportunities that will not compromise environmental quality over time.

5. Natural Resource Management

Protect, restore, and preserve natural resources and ecological systems.

6. Community Partnerships

Cultivate strategic use of volunteers and community groups to perform mission critical work that would otherwise go undone due to staffing and funding limitations.

7. Healthy Community and Family

Focus

Support health and well-being. Actively promote access for all to recreation in a clean, safe environment. Advance and maximize health and health equity through investments and policies. Support families and youth.

8. Safety

Provide safe, secure, and welcoming park and recreational experiences.

9. Cost Recovery

Apply a cost recovery and financial performance model to sustain programs, built assets/facilities, and lands over a 10 year period.

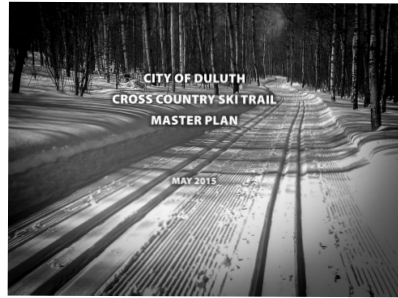


Duluthians value the natural resources and ecological systems within the City. Through effective management, such as providing instructive signage, these areas can be protected and preserved.

FOUNDATIONAL PLANS

The Essential Spaces Plan supports and works in conjunction with the important planning efforts that came before it. Foundational planning efforts include the 2010 Parks and Recreation Plan, 2011 Trail and Bikeway Plan, Cross Country Ski Trails Master Plan, Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework, Imagine Duluth 2035, Natural Resource Management Program Plan, as well as the numerous Mini-Master Park Plans adopted by the City.

Existing recommendations and goals that affect Duluth's park and recreation system, either directly or indirectly, were documented and used to inform this plan. The Essential Spaces Plan builds upon these past planning efforts to ensure the benefits of the park system are distributed, supported, and enjoyed broadly across the community.



FOUNDATIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS

1. **Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2010):** Centered around implementable recommendations to improve the parks and recreation network. This plan serves to guide future development within Duluth for an increase in the area's parks and recreation. In turn, this will benefit tourism, jobs, and the overall quality of life.
2. **Trail and Bikeway Plan (2011):** Serves as a road map to guide the development and management of Duluth's trails and bikeways. In turn, a comprehensive, connected, and sustainable network to serve the greater community will be created.
3. **Cross Country Ski Trails Master Plan (2015):** Acknowledges the leading issues of each ski trail, as gathered through community input. The plan also contains recommendations to improve trails.
4. **Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework (2018):** Describes how climate affects the region today and into the future and identifies goals and strategies for Duluth to mitigate those effects into the future.
5. **Imagine Duluth 2035 (2018):** Works towards a people- and nature-oriented city. The plan works to shift away from the past auto- and industry-centric development and instead, helps prepare the city for future transformation. The plan balances preservation and new growth through innovative approaches that align with the community's vision.
6. **Natural Resource Management Program Plan (2022):** Identifies, assesses, and recommends investment in Duluth's publicly owned open space lands in order to preserve their ecological functions and values, enhance the ecosystem services they provide, and reduce impacts of natural disasters.

PLAN CONTEXT

DULUTH'S PARK HISTORY

The City of Duluth is located on lands of the Assiniboiné, Gitchee Gumée, Ojibwe, Cree, Cheyenne, and Dakota tribes.

Duluth is a city of approximately 85,800 people located in northern Minnesota. Situated on the western edge of Lake Superior, the nation's largest and deepest fresh water lake, Duluth is a four-season city with cold, snowy winters and mild summers. The city is 150 miles north of Minnesota's largest urban area - the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Humans began to enter the area we now know as Duluth approximately 14,000 years ago. It was first inhabited by various Native Nations, including Assiniboiné, Gitche Gumée, Ojibwe, Cree, Cheyenne, and Dakota¹. The Dakota, also known as the Sioux, primarily dominated the area until the mid-1600s when Ojibwe people began settling.

The Ojibwe people quickly adapted their lifestyle to the area's seasonal attributes². In spring, families would collect and process the sap of maple trees, fish, and hunt muskrats. Come summer, large bands of the tribe would gather near lakes to plant, fish, and gather medicinal plants. During

¹ Acknowledge indigenous land. Eco3 - Energy, Equity, and Economic Vitality. (2021, January 18). Retrieved May 25, 2022, from <https://www.ecolibrium3.org/land-acknowledgment/> (lakesuperiorstreams.org)

² Onigamiinsing Dibaajimowinan - Duluth's stories. Onigamiinsing Dibaajimowinan - Duluth's Stories. (n.d.). Retrieved May 25, 2022, from <http://www.duluthstories.net/>

the fall, the Ojibwe people would live off of previously harvested crops and rice. Families would return to winter campsites as the season changed again. Winter was a time of hunting, trapping, processing, and drying meat.

In 1767, Jonathan Carver arrived in Duluth, marking the beginning of European migration into the region³. Soon after, the infringement of European settlements on the traditions of native lands began. In 1854, the Lake Superior Ojibwe entered the 1854 Treaty of La Pointe with the United States, which ceded their lands, including the Duluth area. Although the treaty displaced the Ojibwe people from lands they had been inhabiting for thousands of years, the Ojibwe retained their hunting and fishing rights in the region.

As Europeans established permanent settlements in Duluth, the area's park system began to develop in a similar fashion to many other park systems established in the 19th century. It started as town squares, or unimproved tracts of land in a central area, which were used as public gathering places. As Duluth began to grow, those residing in the townsite set aside two platted parks: Cascade Square (Park), a four-acre parcel in the heart of town, and Central Park (sometimes called Zenith Park today), a thirty-acre parcel on the rocky

³ Duluth's Park System, 1856 - 1956. Zenith City Online. (2020, January 1). Retrieved May 25, 2022, from <http://zenithcity.com/archive/parks-landmarks/duluths-park-system-1856-1956/7/>

2000 - present

Duluth emerges as a premiere outdoor recreation city. Duluth parks funding is drastically reduced and then partially restored. Recreation programs cease and then recommence in new form.

Story and Play Program



1900 - 2000

Board of Parks Commission is eliminated and the Recreation Advisory Board takes its place. Recreational opportunities are added, including Spirit Mountain, Upper Chester and the Lakewalk.

*1926 Big Chester Ski Jump
Image Source: UMD Martin Library*



1800 - 1900

Treaty of La Pointe cedes the lands of Duluth as an official city of the United States. Park Commissioners are established. Citizens begin contributing to parks.

*Pavilion and observatory built in Cascade Park in 1895
Image source: Duluth Public Library*



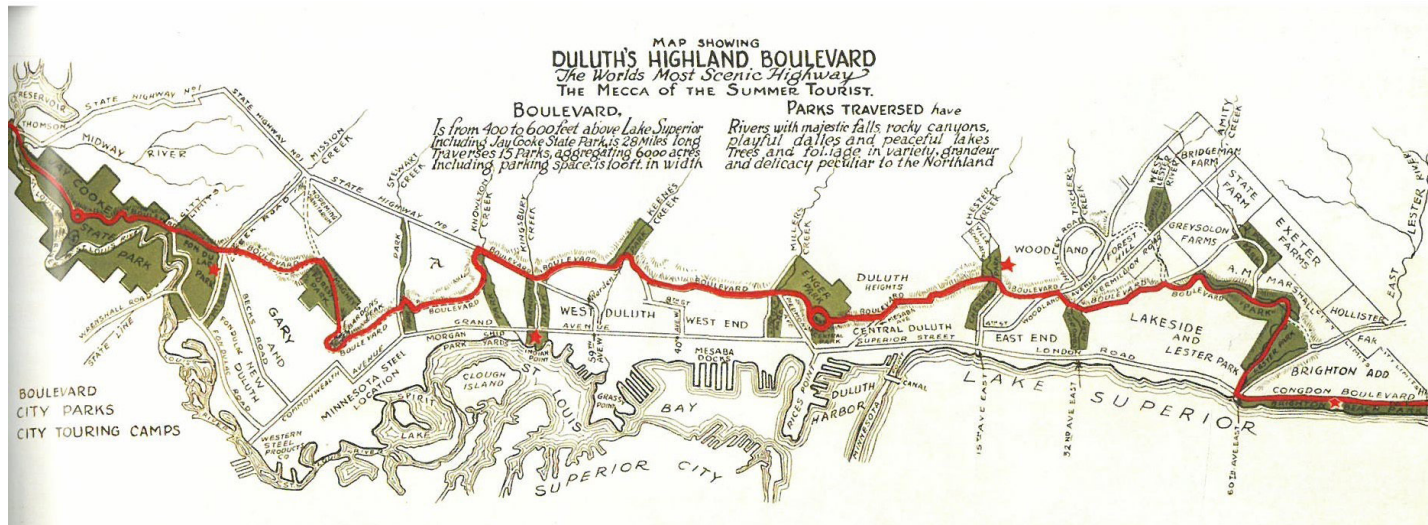
1600 - 1800

Duluth is home to Native tribes including the Dakota and Ojibwe people prior to British explorers arriving.

*Circa 1900 Ojibwe Indian families building birch bark canoes.
Image source: U.S. Forest Service*



PLAN CONTEXT



This stylized map calling today's Skyline Parkway "Highland Boulevard" was produced in the 1920s by the Duluth Chamber of Commerce and Mayor's Office. It was intended to be handed out at Duluth's autotourist camps. It included nonexistent unnamed parks along Stewart Creek, Knowlton Creek, and Fond Du Lac that were never built, perhaps indications of Mayor Snively's unrealized vision for the park system.

Source: UMD Martin Library and 'Duluth's Historic Parks' by Nelson and Dierckins

hillside west of downtown. William K. Rogers, president of Duluth's Board of Park Commissioners, can be credited for the preservation of much of the lands that make up Duluth's current park system, which includes a scenic hillside parkway and connection to a number of parks along Lake Superior's shoreline. Rogers's park system plan was officially adopted in February of 1888, with Duluth's first Board of Park Commissioners created shortly after in 1889.

In the late 1890s, residents of Duluth became actively involved in acquiring and improving land for parks spaces, solidifying the role of the Parks Board in the community. Since then, Duluth has maintained its commitment to parks and natural surroundings,

resulting in a large expansion of the system.

Today the City owns and maintains 9,168 acres of park spaces (excluding golf courses). Parks and Recreation helps to steward these parklands, in cooperation with community partners and other City divisions, through planning and community engagement, grant seeking, project management, programming, events, education, partnerships, maintenance, preservation, and environmental resiliency.

The history of Duluth's parks and recreation system is a story of remarkable contributions from individuals and groups. It is also marked by many milestones of funding

challenges, which only compounded as the number of parks increased.

While a parks levy was established in 2011 to create permanent funding for parks and recreation, the amount set forth is inadequate to support a park system of Duluth's size and has failed to account for inflation or rate increases over time. As a result, Duluth's parks and recreation has been heavily dependent on partnerships, grant funding, the City General Fund, gifts, clubs, and volunteers to maintain and improve parks and recreation offerings. Looking to the future, expanding and diversifying funding opportunities will be key for ensuring that the legacy of Duluth's beautiful and cherished park system is carried forward.

"The history of land, and who has access to it, tells an enormous amount about the values and priorities of a community. Duluth's story is based on a resounding value for green space, open space, wild space and free space. Parks are where people gather, families play, and memories are made. And the best part is that parks are for everyone: all neighbors all neighborhoods. No one needs to pay admission or a membership fee. Everyone already belongs."

- MAYOR OF DULUTH, EMILY LARSON

PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DULUTH'S PARK SYSTEM

Duluth has a significant amount of open space and several types of natural features, which provide both challenges and opportunities for the park system and its users.

1. Four-season City: Duluth offers four-season recreation options including a trail system that provides year-round hiking and biking, as well as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing during the winter. As a northern, lakeside, and forested city, extreme cold and snow are realities of life. While these extremes may, at times, limit outdoor activities, the climate also provides ideal conditions for an extensive fat-biking trail system and skiing/snowboarding at Chester Bowl and Spirit Mountain. Contrastingly, Duluth has long summer days. The average day in June has a sunrise at 5am and sunset at 9pm, which provides many hours of sunlight for outdoor summer activities and events.

2. Natural Topography and Geology:

The city is uniquely situated on a steep hill. This allows for scenic views and up- and down-hill biking and hiking. The Superior Hiking Trail runs through Duluth and offers more than 350 miles of views along a ridgeline overlooking Lake Superior. Additionally, the boulders and granite outcroppings scattered throughout the city provide geologic exploration

and attract climbers for bouldering and rope climbing opportunities. The hilly topography also introduces accessibility and development challenges for the City.

3. Waterfront Location: The water bodies of Duluth offer many benefits: recreation, environmental, climate change resilience, economic, and wellness/spiritual. Duluth's proximity to many natural waterbodies, including Lake Superior and the St. Louis Estuary, provides a variety of year-round, water-based activities such as boating, ice fishing, ice skating, paddling, swimming, sailing, fishing, and kayaking. Multi-agency restoration efforts have begun to restore wild rice in the St. Louis River estuary, which will improve the estuary's ecology and contribute to restoring the cultural practice of gathering wild rice each fall.

4. Woodlands: Duluth is situated in the Northern Lakes and Forests ecoregion of Minnesota, an area characterized by coniferous and northern hardwood forests and numerous lakes and wetlands. These woodlands offer unique recreational opportunities through hiking, biking, hunting, foraging, fishing, and other outdoor-oriented activities.

"You'll never see another town like Duluth."

Bob Dylan, Rolling Stone #1078, May 14, 2009



Lake Superior and downtown view from the Duluth Traverse at Antenna Farm.

PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

THE CURRENT PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

Duluth offers thousands of acres of green space alongside the great Lake Superior, and pristine wilderness. The diverse and refreshing landscapes of the region contribute to a high quality of life and are appealing to residents and visitors alike. **People can enjoy over 9,000 acres of green space, including 162 parks, and over 350 miles of trails.** This is a substantially greater amount of local government owned green space compared to other cities of Duluth's size. Duluth's profusion of natural/passive green space is similar to that of many cities in the mountain west with the difference that most of Duluth's natural/passive space is owned by local government rather than the federal government.⁴

Duluth's parks, open spaces, and trails offer a broad variety of outdoor recreation activities. Due to the city's proximity to Lake Superior, the St. Louis River, and several smaller creeks, many Duluthians have access to water-based recreation. Private operators in Duluth offer unique water-based experiences such as sailing, charter fishing, rafting, canoeing, and kayaking. City parks and

facilities provide space for a variety of other activities like sports, arts, special events, and clubs.

Trails offer opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and nordic skiing, among other activities. Additionally, the city has an array of sports and recreation facilities, including sport courts, ice rinks, athletic fields, disc golf courses, skating rinks, dog parks, golf courses, picnic areas, and community centers. Through partnership agreements with the City, clubs and private organizations are able to utilize these facilities for organized sports and activities and often assist with substantial maintenance of the facilities.

21%

of the total land area in the City of Duluth is dedicated to parks, natural/passive land, golf courses, and undeveloped open space.

⁴ An inventory of parks and amenities can be found in Appendix A. Figure 1 provides a map of existing parklands, categorized as developed parks, natural and passive lands, golf courses, and undeveloped park properties. Within these broad categories of parklands are more detailed park classifications, which can be found in Chapter 2, Table 8.

DEVELOPED PARKS

Developed parks are those that have constructed facilities, such as playgrounds, sport courts and fields, and places for gathering. Developed parks include neighborhood and community parks, as well as larger park spaces that have a regional draw.



NATURAL / PASSIVE LANDS

Natural / passive lands are typically large areas of native landscapes, habitats, ecosystems, and natural features. Natural / passive lands sometimes host active recreation opportunities such as hiking and cross-country skiing as well as opportunities for solitude.



GOLF COURSES

Golf courses operated by the City are open to the public but require a fee for use. Golf courses offer opportunities for low-impact outdoor exercise and are accessible to multiple generations.



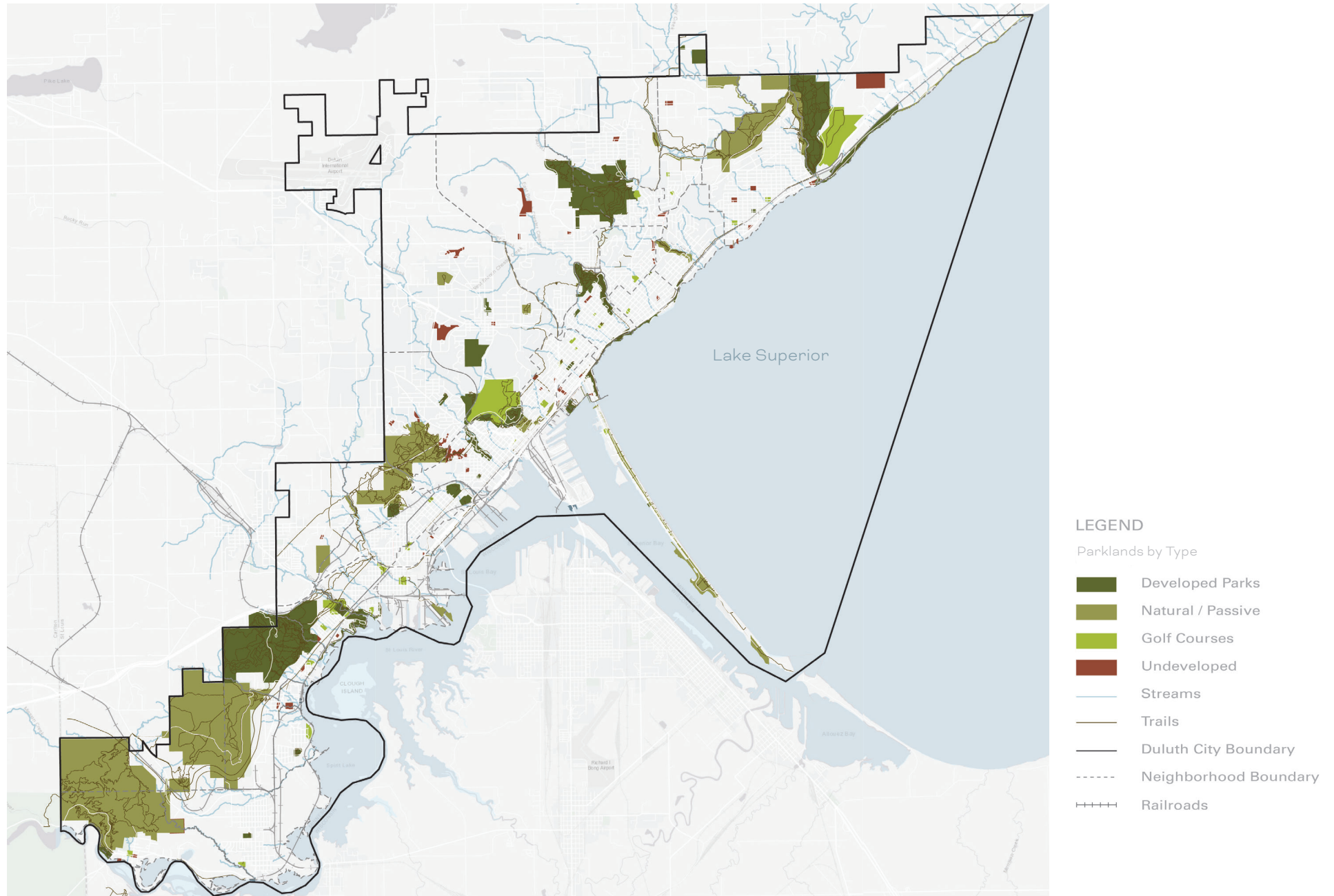
UNDEVELOPED PARK PROPERTIES

Undeveloped park properties are areas owned by the City that are currently not developed or managed to facilitate public use. These may serve as future parks should there be substantial demand and appropriate funding.



PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Figure 1: Duluth Parklands by Type Map, 2022



PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

DULUTH'S PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING

Three City divisions work collectively to manage the park system: Parks and Recreation, Park Maintenance, and Property and Facilities Management. Each of the three divisions are funded as separate entities and have separate operating budgets. Figure 2 expresses this relationship and uses the 2022 budget as an example of how each division's funding is combined to provide revenue for general operating and maintenance of the entire park system.

Parks and Recreation has an operating budget of approximately \$2.49 million. Approximately 96% of the revenue for Parks and Recreation

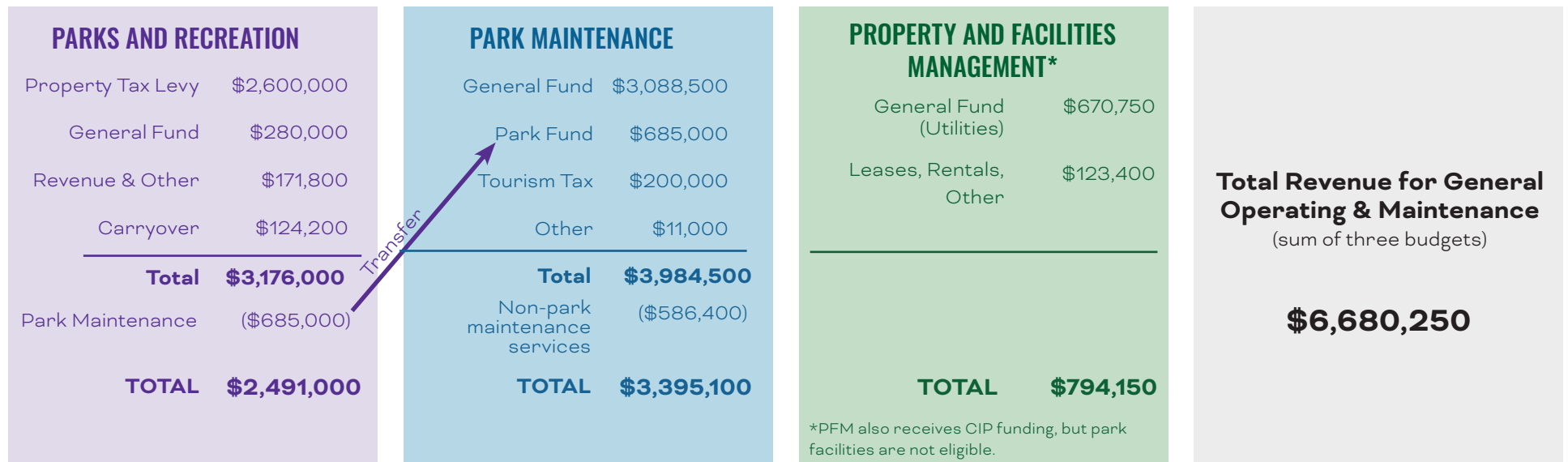
is derived from three primary funding sources, Property Tax Levy (82%), General Fund (9%), and Fund Balance (5%). The remaining revenue (4%) is generated from use of facilities, permits and licenses, and the Indian Point Campground.

Park Maintenance has an operating budget of approximately \$3.98 million, of which approximately \$3.39 million is dedicated to the park system. Park Maintenance is also funded primarily through tax sources including General Fund (77%), Park Fund (17%), and Tourism Tax (5%). The remaining revenue comes from soccer field rentals and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Together, the two divisions support the park system with a total budget of \$5.88 million.



Parks and recreation funding may be used to update amenities such as the playground at Cascade Park.

Figure 2: Duluth Park System Funding Diagram, 2022



PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

An important note related to the property tax allocation is that the \$2.6 million budget is capped as a ceiling, which means the amount generated from the property tax will not increase under the current City Council resolution. Inflation and rising personnel costs erodes away the buying power over time. Over the past decade, \$2.6 million is worth only 79.4% of what the value was in 2012, which translates to approximately \$2.06 million in current dollars. Over time, increasing costs and inflation will continue to shrink the value of the property levy tax at an accelerated rate.

Property and Facilities Management (PFM) is responsible for upkeep of the park system's many buildings and utilities. Looking at funding that directly supports the park system, PFM receives General Fund dollars to support park building utilities, as well as revenue from leases, rentals, and other sources. In total, PFM contributes approximately \$794,100 directly to the park system, outside of typical property and facility management responsibilities.

Parks and Recreation also receives supplemental funding through external sources, including:

- Community Contributions and Fundraising
- 1/2 & 1/2
- Grants

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Enterprise Funds
- American Rescue Plan Act

It should be noted that these fund sources are not guaranteed, committed revenues and often require staff support for applications and coordination. When received, these funds are generally spent on capital enhancements, expansions, improvements, and acquisitions.

The current funding mechanism is not sustainable long term as costs to operate and maintain the park system continue to exceed the pace of tax supported revenues. Without cultivating new revenue sources, the opportunity to increase services or programs is bleak. Increasing operating costs could result in the City reducing services and shedding some existing operations.

Essentially, Parks and Recreation is at a crossroad, with two potential paths forward. The first path is to seek additional funding through voter referendum, to establish modern-day funding levels capable of addressing actual park system needs. The second path is to face the potential of reducing services, programs, facilities, or staffing.



Parks and recreation funds are generally spent on maintenance, capital improvements, and land acquisitions.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND AREA CONTEXT

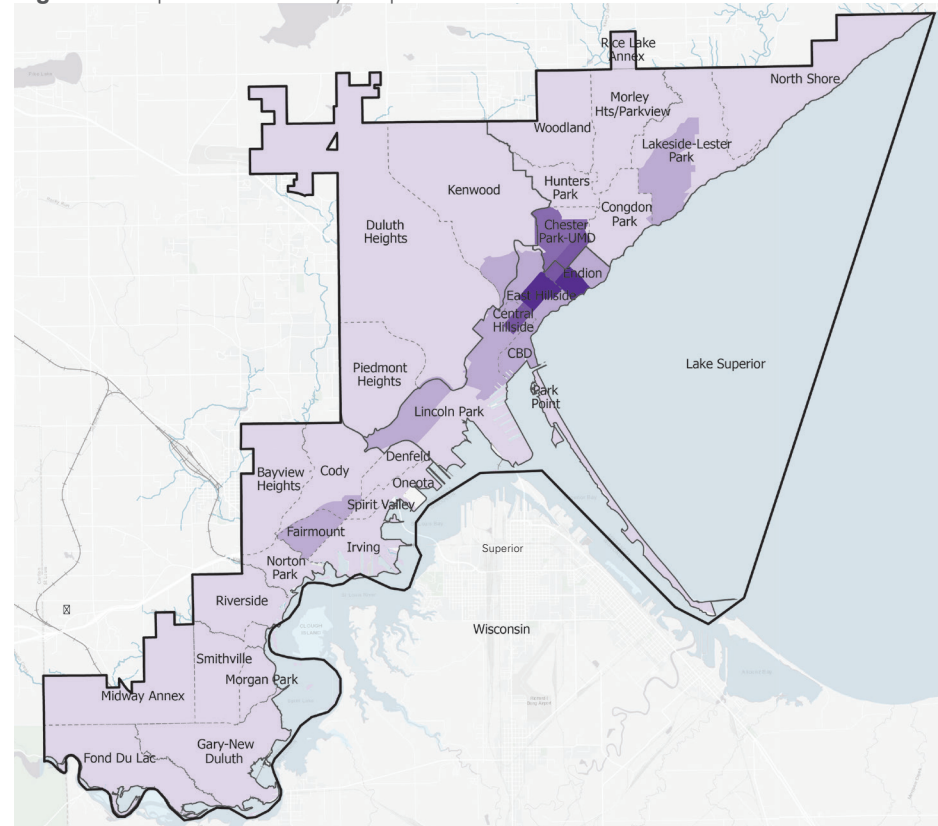
POPULATION

Duluth stands out as the fifth most populous city in the state and the largest city in the Duluth-Superior, MN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Duluth is the landmark port city in the northeastern portion of the state and is home to approximately 85,800 people, roughly 1.5% of Minnesota's population. Over the past 20 years, Duluth's total population has remained relatively stable and has not seen the fast-paced growth of other locations in the state. Minnesota experienced 7.6% population growth from 2010-2020, while Duluth has only seen an increase of 0.5%, or about 412 people, during the same time period. The population of Duluth is projected to reach approximately 88,430 by the year 2025 and 89,920 by 2030. This is an increase of 1,733 residents, or approximately 1.01% over a decade. This rate of population growth is much lower than the state and national average as shown in Table 2.

Duluth sits at the confluence of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River, and just across the river from the city of Superior, WI. These two cities are often referred to as the “Twin Ports” and collectively include a population of approximately 116,000 people.

A majority of Duluth's population is concentrated in central Duluth. As shown in Figure 3, the most populated neighborhoods are East Hillside and Endion followed by Chester Park-UMD, home to the University of Minnesota – Duluth. Looking west, the Lincoln Park and Fairmount neighborhoods have a higher population density than other nearby neighborhoods. On the more eastern side of the city, the same is true of the Lakeside-Lester Park neighborhood. Generally speaking, population density decreases closer to city boundaries.

Figure 3: Population Density Map



Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Duluth GIS data, American Community Survey Data

Table 2: Population 2010 to 2020

	Duluth City	Minnesota State	United States of America
Population April 1, 2020	86,697	5,706,494	331,449,281
Population April 1, 2010	86,265	5,303,925	308,745,538
Population, percent change, 2010 -2020	0.5%	7.6%	7.4%

Source: US Census 2020

DEMOGRAPHIC AND AREA CONTEXT

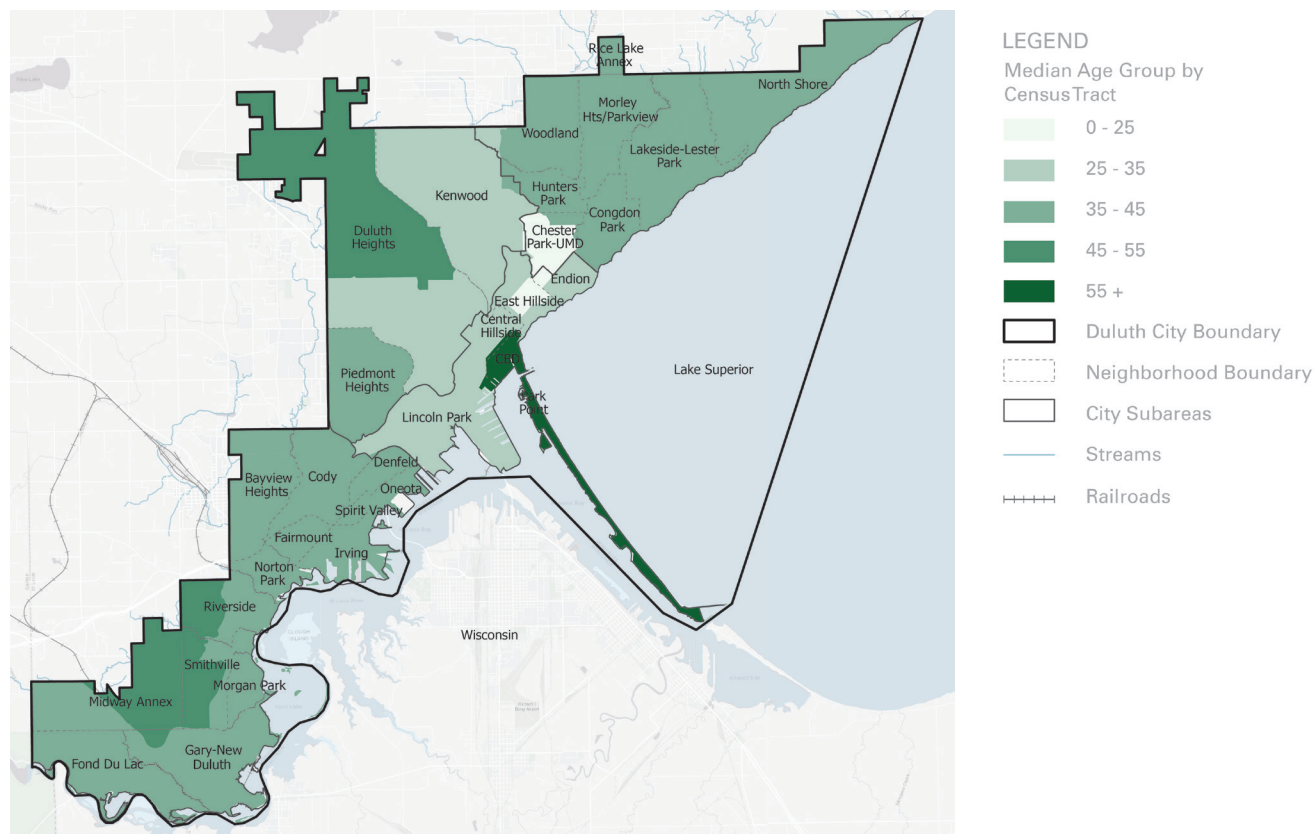
AGE DISTRIBUTION

Duluth's population has a median age of 33.7, significantly younger than the nation's average of 38.2 years. This can likely be attributed to the presence of the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD), with an enrollment of over 10,000 students, as well as the College of St. Scholastica (CSS) and Lake Superior College (LSC). Young adults between the ages of 20-29 account for the largest age group in the city, at 21% of the population.

The average age of residents in most Duluth neighborhoods is 35 to 45. Figure 4 shows the average age distribution in Duluth to be predominately 45 or younger, with a high concentration of those aged 20-25 centered around the UMD campus in the Chester Park-UMD, East Hillside, and Kenwood neighborhoods. In western Duluth, the average age of residents is between 50-55, while residents in the Park Point neighborhood are, on average, aged 65 and older.

Interests in green space and recreation differ among these age groups and should be considered when planning for future park use and programming. Design solutions and recreational offerings that reflect local demographics will support increased accessibility, usability, and safety for park users of all ages.

Figure 4: Median Age Distribution Map



Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Duluth GIS data, American Community Survey Data

DEMOGRAPHIC AND AREA CONTEXT



Park and recreation spaces provide opportunities to gather, recreate, and socialize.

Duluth's Diversity Index is expected to grow from **25.9%** in 2020 to **29.1%** in 2025

DIVERSITY

The population of Duluth is expected to increase in racial and cultural diversity. Table 3 shows that as of 2020, Duluth's White / Caucasian population is the largest racial group (87.8%), followed by Two or More Races (4.2%), Hispanic or Latino (2.6%), Black or African American (2.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.6%), and Asian (1.4%). Since 2010, there has been a small, but notable, increase of Black / African American (0.8% increase) and Asian (0.5% increase) residents. Much of the city's racial diversity is seen in central Duluth including the Central Business District (CBD), Central Hillside, Duluth Heights, and the areas just east and west of the CBD.

Over 95% of Duluth residents over the age of five speak only English, and 1.7% speak Spanish. The English-only speaking population is higher than the state's 88.7%, and the rate of Spanish speaking residents is lower than Minnesota's 3.4%. Nonetheless, the city is projected to grow in diversity. A Diversity Index, used to understand and describe the racial and ethnic makeup of a specific geography, projects that Duluth's Diversity Index will grow from 25.9% in 2020 to 29.1% in 2025.

Table 3: Racial Demographics by percentage (2020)

	Duluth City	Minnesota State
White	87.8%	79.2%
Black or African American	2.4%	6.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.6%	0.9%
Asian	1.4%	4.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.4%	.03%
Hispanic or Latino	2.6%	5.5%
Two or more races	4.2%	3.1%

Source: US Census Data, ACS 2020

DEMOGRAPHIC AND AREA CONTEXT

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Duluth is a city with a diversified job base. According to ESRI, more than half of the city's residents, about 64%, are those who perform professional, desk, managerial, or administrative work in a typical 9-5 position. These individuals are likely to enjoy Duluth's park spaces during their work day breaks, after the day concludes, and on weekends. Approximately 14.5% of the employees who work in Duluth are employed in manufacturing, industrial and transportation sectors. The daytime population for Duluth totals 98,505 people, reflecting a net increase of approximately 12,000 people who commute into the city.

Table 4: Income Distribution

	Duluth City	Minnesota State
<\$15,000	13.9%	8.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	10.9%	7.1%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10.5%	7.8%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	14.6%	11.9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16.7%	17.1%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10.8%	13.8%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	14.2%	18.3%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	4.6%	8.0%
\$200,000+	3.9%	8.0%
Median Household Income	\$54,084	\$73,382

Duluth's Median Household Income (MHI) is substantially lower than the state. Duluth's Median Household Income (MHI) is \$54,084 compared to Minnesota's \$73,382. Table 4 shows a large portion of low to middle income households in Duluth. Nearly 25% of households earn less than \$25,000 annually, which is a larger percentage than the state's 15.1%. About 27.5% of households in Duluth earn \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually. The city has fewer high-income households than the state, with 22.7% of households in Duluth earning more than \$100,000 annually, compared to 34.3% in Minnesota. Duluth's lower income levels highlights the need for Parks and Recreation to continue providing affordable and accessible recreation opportunities.

DISENFRANCHISED POPULATIONS

According to ESRI, "disenfranchised population areas" are areas with a high concentration of households that receive food stamps/SNAP benefit, live below the poverty level, do not own a vehicle, are non-English speaking and/or have one or more persons living with a disability. As seen in Table 5, when compared to the state, Duluth has a lower percentage

of its population who does not speak English and less people receiving SNAP benefits, despite higher levels of people living in poverty.

The city also has a slightly larger percentage of residents with disabilities than the state overall. Parks and Recreation should focus on efforts to improve park spaces for all ages, incomes, and abilities using universal design. See page 114 for more information on universal design.

Table 5: Disenfranchised Populations by Percentage

	Duluth	Minnesota
Households Below the Poverty Level*	17.3%	9.5%
Households Receiving Food Stamps / SNAP	4.4%	7.9%
Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability	22.8%	21.9%
Population 18-64 That Speaks Only A Language Other Than English	0.1%	0.4%

*The determination of households living below the poverty level is based on factors that include income in addition to household size and number of children; the percentage reflected in Table 5 is therefore not a parallel comparison to income data presented in Table 4.

Source: ESRI, Business Analyst 2020

NEARLY ONE-FIFTH OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ONE OR MORE PEOPLE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

THE PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN DULUTH THAT HAVE AN INCOME BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL WAS NEARLY DOUBLE THAT OF THE STATE IN 2019

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

RECREATION TRENDS

Local and national trends highlight the overall direction of parks and recreation, showcasing both sustained and evolving priorities that may affect Duluth's park system.

DULUTH'S RECREATION TRENDS

Participants in Duluth's Parks and Recreation Survey identified themselves as active users of the park system, with 57% of respondents reporting they visit parks and natural areas at least once a week or more. When asked to identify which recreational or leisure activities in Duluth's park system they participate in most, walking, hiking, and running on trails was the most popular

activity, followed by enjoying nature and wildlife, and biking on trails (See Figure 5). **These popular activities appeal to all ages and can be done in most environments, and are enjoyed regardless of skill level.** Further adding to their appeal, these activities tend to have minimal barriers to entry, such as being relatively inexpensive, not requiring a set schedule, and having social flexibility, meaning they can be done alone, socially-distant, or in a group setting. More information about recreation and park use trends can be found in Appendix B. Other important trends and takeaways from the Parks and Recreation survey include the significance of winter sports in Duluth, specifically snowshoeing and cross-country skiing (28%) and ice skating (9%).

With a population that enjoys staying active year round, the City evaluate options for enhanced indoor athletic and recreation opportunities to expand community options during the long winter months. Additionally, 9% of survey takers indicated using natural lands for hunting, foraging, and fishing, which has implications for land protection and a need for management actions that safely facilitate multiple uses.

their parks and facilities in the past five years. The trend of increasing visitation has implications for Duluth and Parks and Recreation must consider the challenges associated with a growing number of visitors. While Duluth has an abundance of parkland and trails, some locations experience crowding, conflicts between different uses, and added maintenance challenges due to increased use.

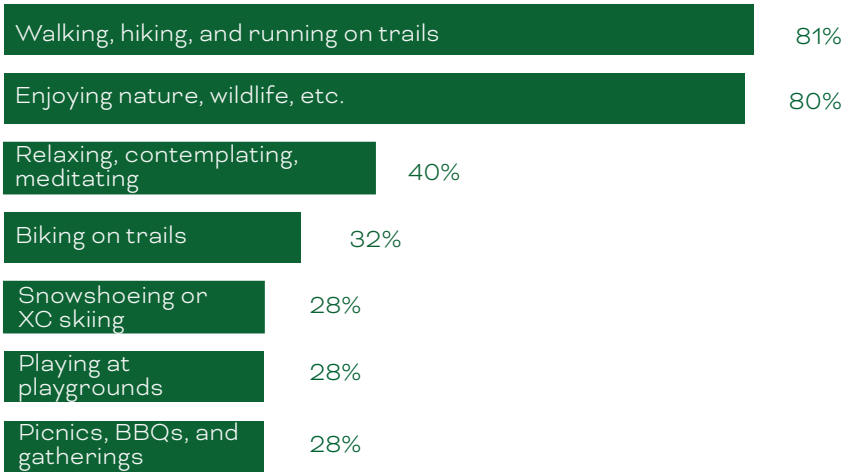
The outdoor recreation industry plays a significant role in the State of Minnesota's economy⁵.

Changing parks and recreation values, as seen through increased parks visitation and growing importance of outdoor activities, coupled with the increasing economic role of outdoor recreation highlights the importance of supporting diverse park and recreation opportunities in Duluth.

MINNESOTA'S RECREATION TRENDS

The 2022-2024 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) indicates that in a 2017 Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Household Survey, 70% of survey responders think outdoor activities are very important. **This is a 16% increase from the 2004 report, indicating a growing importance of outdoor activities.** The report also contains results from a Local Recreation Provider Survey stating that **a majority of providers (77%) reported increased visitation to**

Figure 5: Top Uses of Duluth's Parks, Recreation Facilities and Trails



Results derived from question: What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all?

Source: 2021 Duluth Parks and Recreation Survey: Address-Sample Results.

"Minnesotan's favorite activities include relaxing in the outdoors, walking or hiking, relaxing by the water and picnicking outdoors."

- 2022 to 2024 SCORP

⁵ According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2020 outdoor recreation in Minnesota generated over \$8.4 billion, which accounts for 2.2% of the state's gross domestic product (GDP).

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This Essential Spaces Plan is shaped by an understanding of the environmental and social challenges that the park system faces. While these threats span topics that are larger and more complex than those that Parks and Recreation can possibly solve alone, identifying and acknowledging these challenges creates a shared understanding of the broader social and environmental factors at play and creates space for considering new ways to operate and maintain park and recreation facilities to best meet the needs of current times.

As part of this plan process, special considerations were given to long-standing environmental injustices, the growing number of unhoused individuals seeking refuge in park spaces, and the effects of climate change.



Environmental Justice



Homelessness in Park Spaces



Climate Change



A coastal resilience and mitigation study is underway to find solutions to shoreline collapses on the North Shore from Brighton Beach to Knife River. It will also evaluate the bayside of the Park Point Recreation Area and determine mitigation options for surge-related flooding.

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice is "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies" (EPA). Many of the environmental injustices faced by communities today are direct results of discriminatory policies of the past, including segregation and redlining, among others. These policies led to the formation of historically underserved neighborhoods, which were more likely to suffer from industrial pollutants and less likely to receive financial investments.

An area's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), is a meaningful tool for exploring environmental justice¹. On a scale from 0 to 1, the SVI measures the level of support an area may need before, during, or after disasters. Variables such as poverty, access to transportation, and crowded housing are factored into determining an area's social vulnerability. Other factors to consider when analyzing environmental justice include access to high quality parks, climate change, exposure to pollutants, water quality, flood plains, zoning, and proximity to hazardous areas.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). CDC's Social Vulnerability index (SVI). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved May 25, 2022, from <https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html>

The Priority Equity Areas Map displayed in Figure 6 utilizes the SVI, along with other environmental and health data, to determine high, medium, and low priority areas for equity-focused projects and investments in Duluth. Neighborhoods considered high-priority equity areas are those with the greatest concentrations of:

- Low income households
- People of color
- Populations with poor mental health
- Populations with low levels of physical activity
- Air pollution
- Populations with a disability
- People aged 65 and over
- People aged 18 and under
- High population density
- Zero-car households
- Impaired water quality zones

A body of water is considered to be impaired if it fails to meet one or more of the water quality standards as measured by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

This data is used to illustrate that proximity to water does not always allow for safe access and utilization. Although residents may live near water, there may be physical barriers preventing access or the water may be unsuitable for recreation due to poor quality or contamination.

In Duluth, water remediation and restoration work within the St. Louis River estuary is heavily underway and it is anticipated that all use impairments in this area will be removed by 2028.

After examining these factors, it is apparent that Duluth's densest neighborhoods have higher social vulnerability scores and are experiencing greater environmental injustices than other neighborhoods. Neighborhoods experiencing the disproportionate impacts of lower water quality, higher urban temperatures, and greater levels of air and noise pollution include the Central Business District, Central Hillside, East Hillside, Lincoln Park, Duluth Heights, Denfeld, Irving, Gary-New Duluth, and Fond du Lac.

Notably, the youngest and most diverse portions of the population are also the residents who have the lowest incomes. More than 60% of people in the Central Business District, as well as those in and around the UMD campus, are living with incomes that fall below the poverty line. The intersections between population density, income, and experiences of environmental injustice in Duluth are significant for park planning purposes and highlighting priority areas for equity-focused projects and investments is very important for the future successes of the system.

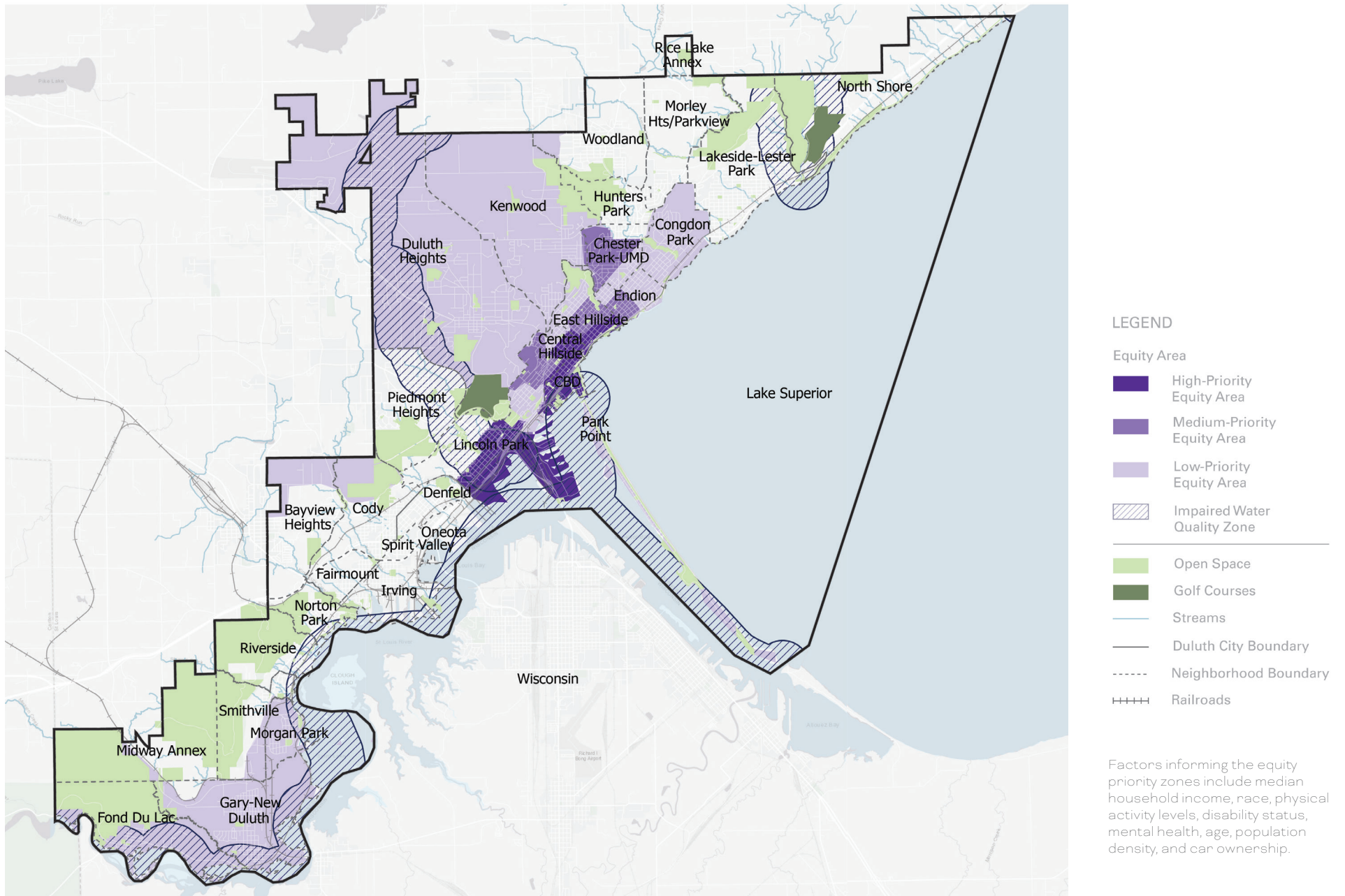


Areas with higher SVI scores are more susceptible to natural disasters and have less ability to recover.

Source: MPRnews.org, Derek Montgomery

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Figure 6: Priority Equity Areas Map



Source: Design Workshop Analysis, CDC SVI Data 2021

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Parks can play a vital role in promoting environmental justice and counteracting inequitable decisions of the past in the following ways²:

1. **Decreasing Urban Heat Islands:**

Parks and open spaces can be utilized to reduce heat. The Central Business District is a dense, urban area. This creates an urban heat island effect that makes central Duluth more vulnerable to human discomfort and environmental impacts. The City should strategically utilize parks and open space to reduce heat. This can be done through increasing trees and providing more shade in the area, or increasing the amount of green space downtown.

2. **Manage Stormwater:** Green infrastructure can be utilized to filter and absorb stormwater. Examples of green infrastructure include rain gardens and bioswales, green roofs, permeable pavement, and water catchment systems. The areas in western Duluth along the St. Louis River and areas near Lake Superior have high flood risks and low water quality. Decades of industry, dumping of waste and materials, pollution, etc. have harmed the ecosystem in the estuary and reduced residents' ability to enjoy the recreational and leisure offerings typical of healthy

waterways. Several community partners, including those involved with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Area of Concern efforts, have made an impact with clean-up efforts along the St. Louis River estuary. Efforts at multiple sites along the river are contributing to restored healthy ecosystems that in turn will increase citizens' access to higher quality water.

3. **Improving Air Quality:** Urban tree canopies act as natural filters for air quality. They can absorb or dilute particles, odors, and pollutants from the air. Gary-New Duluth has been historically dominated by industrial buildings which contributes to poor air quality. Trees and open space should be used to counteract these impacts and decrease the high vulnerability of these areas.



Parks and open spaces can utilize green building practices, such as a retaining wall, to aid stormwater management.

² Schottland, T. (2019, April 5). Parks as a solution to climate change. National Recreation and Park Association. Retrieved May 25, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/april/parks-as-a-solution-to-climate-change/>

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

HOMELESSNESS IN PARK SPACES

Homelessness is a growing and complex crisis in cities throughout the country, compounded by other systemic issues related to affordable housing, social service needs, and access to quality healthcare. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, approximately 30% of people experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, or living on the street, a park, abandoned building, or other locations not suitable for human health.

According to the 2022 St. Louis County Continuum of Care Point in Time Count, which is an annual census of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness (unsheltered, in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or domestic violence shelter), there are 606 individuals experiencing homelessness in St. Louis County¹. Approximately 20% of these individuals are those under the age of 18; 39% of all individuals experiencing homelessness are unsheltered.

As the homelessness crisis grows, the strain felt by parks and recreation departments also increases. It's not uncommon for persons experiencing homelessness to use park spaces for resting and passing time, refuge, storing personal property, engaging

¹ <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services>

in solicitation activities and, in some cases, establishing unofficial camps lacking safe water and waste facilities. Many communities ban and criminalize these types of activities in public spaces. The American Society of Landscape Architects has stated that, “the exclusion of those experiencing homelessness from public parks is often based on fear of crime and the discomfort from others at viewing the circumstances of unhoused individuals.”

In Duluth, 19% of Parks and Recreation Survey respondents identified security concerns and not feeling safe as a barrier to their park usage. Written responses and focus group discussions revealed that these feelings of concern were, in part, due to the presence of trash, drug use, poor lighting, conflicts with other users, and encampments of unhoused people throughout the city's park system. While these issues are challenging to address, community input also made clear that Duluthians value compassionate and humane treatment of persons experiencing homelessness, and believe that parks should be inclusive of all people, regardless of economic condition.

The on-going challenge for City administration and staff is to find the appropriate balance between the rights of all people to exist in public spaces, while maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for all park users.

Opportunities to support unsheltered persons within the park system include flexing facility space for shelter and connecting individuals to social services in park spaces. City staff is regularly interfacing with unsheltered citizens and, in early 2022, Duluth opened its first permanent warming center in Lincoln Park.

Ingrained into the community fabric, park facilities and Parks and Recreation staff support community health and well-being. Parks and Recreation will continue to collaborate with City leadership to fully address the complex challenges associated with homelessness in Duluth.

“[Park] Agencies uniquely serve as community wellness hubs, trusted gathering places that connect every member of the community to essential programs, services and spaces that advance health equity, improve health outcomes, and enhance quality of life.”

- National Recreation and Park Association

TRENDS AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE

The effects of climate change and the pressures it will place on the park system are inevitable. For the Midwest specifically, increased heat, intense rain events, flooding, large wind events, drought, and late spring freezes threaten to negatively affect agriculture, forest composition, and public health¹. According to the National Climate Assessment's findings, consequences across the Midwest can already be seen in substandard air quality for more than 20 million people, three times as many major heatwaves from 1900 to 2010, and an increase of extreme rainfall and flooding events over the last century². Many of Duluth's existing park spaces have been adversely impacted by flooding, and the changing temperatures of Lake Superior continue to alter plant and wildlife habitats.

All places will feel the effects of climate change, but according to data from ProPublica, St. Louis County will be far less critically impacted than other locations³. **Duluth is uniquely positioned to become a climate refuge city**, which is defined as a place that implements strategies to make it

attractive to persons fleeing from detrimental impacts of climate change. The recently adopted (at the time of this writing) City of Duluth Climate Action Work Plan 2022 - 2027 is one of many indicators that the City is actively strategizing for climate resiliency. Duluth's moderate climate, proximity to fresh water, potential for growth, and pro-active approach to climate change resiliency make it a prime candidate as a climate migration hub.

Duluth's vast park system can be further enhanced and managed to provide climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. A significant portion of Duluth is made up of green space, with parks and natural lands accounting for 21% of the city's land area. The Trust for Public Land's Climate-Smart Cities program recommends four objectives for parks to provide multi-benefit climate solutions⁴:

1. **Cool:** Shady green spaces reduce the heat island effect to protect people from high temperatures.
2. **Absorb:** Green infrastructure practices can be utilized for parks and streetscapes to absorb rain, reduce flooding and recharge drinking water.

3. **Protect:** Strategically placed and managed parks and natural lands buffer cities from rising water levels, extreme storms, and wildfires.
4. **Connect:** Trail links between park spaces provide emission-free transportation and connect destinations.



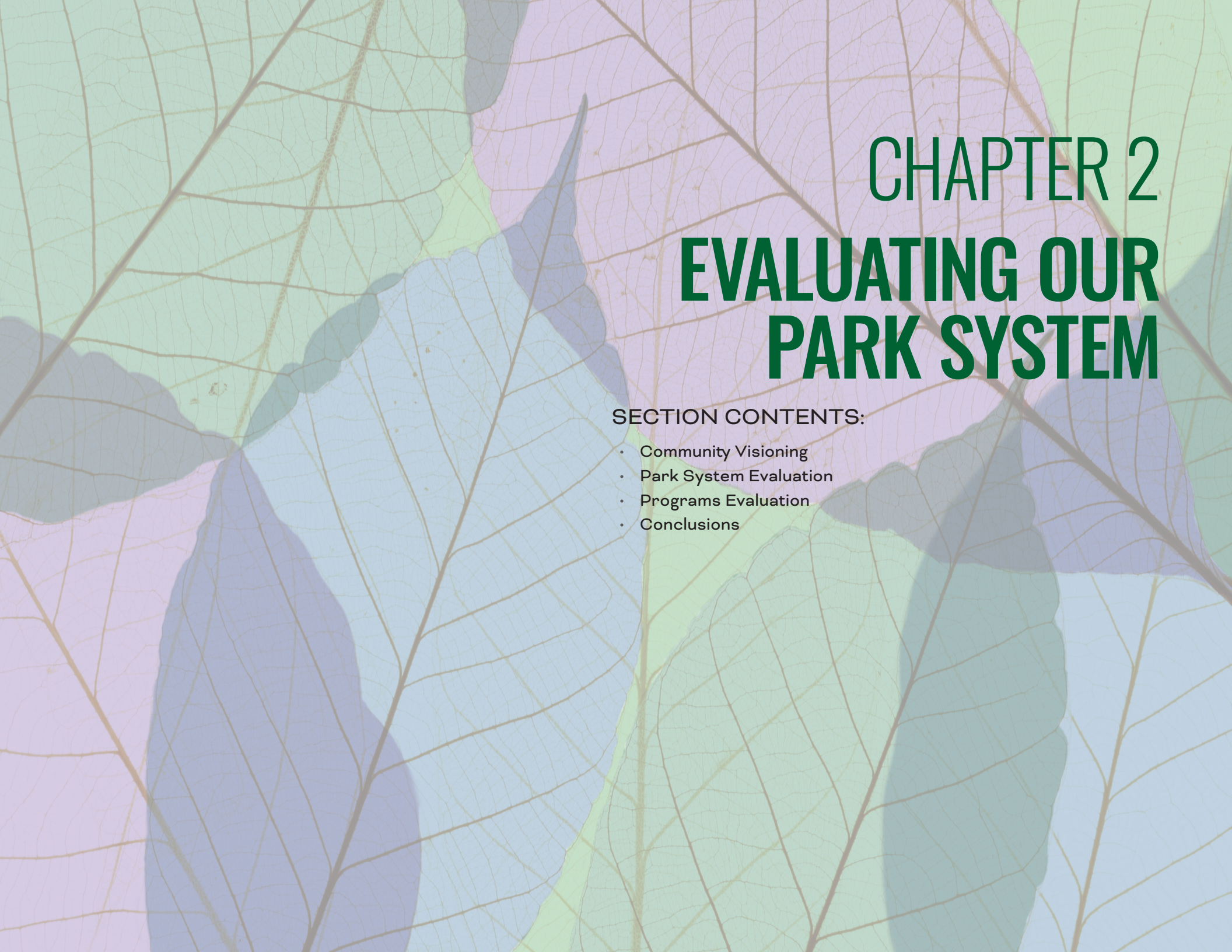
Flooding and extreme snow storms are examples of weather events in Duluth that can increase due to climate change impacts.

¹ Population Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Framework (May 2018)

² How will climate change affect the Midwest? - environmental defense fund. EDF.org. (n.d.). Retrieved May 25, 2022, from https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/content/regional_releases_midwest.pdf

³ ProPublica. New Climate Maps Show a Transformed United States, accessed on February 12, 2021. Retrieved from: <https://projects.propublica.org/climate-migration/>

⁴ Schottland, T. (2019, April 15). Parks as a solution to climate change: Health & Wellness: Parks and Recreation Magazine: NRPA. National Recreation and Park Association. Retrieved May 25, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/april/parks-as-a-solution-to-climate-change/>



CHAPTER 2

EVALUATING OUR PARK SYSTEM

SECTION CONTENTS:

- Community Visioning
- Park System Evaluation
- Programs Evaluation
- Conclusions

COMMUNITY VISIONING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Extensive input from community members, technical stakeholders, advisory committee members, and staff informed the development of this Essential Spaces Plan. Engagement opportunities and efforts to involve community members in the plan process included six focus group meetings, multiple pop-up events, an online survey, and three community workshops. Appendix B provides a full report on public engagement findings.

Acknowledged gaps in Engagement

- University and college students
- Indigenous population
- Youth



Community workshops were one of several types of engagement events held throughout this process. This photo shows a small group discussing desires for improvements in locations throughout the city, indicating their input by placing stickers on a map.

6
PROJECT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS



60
FOCUS GROUP
PARTICIPANTS



8
COMMUNITY
POP UP EVENTS



1,962
COMMUNITY SURVEY
RESPONDENTS



102
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
PARTICIPANTS



ESSENTIAL SPACES
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT:

2,335
PEOPLE

PROVIDED INPUT

COMMUNITY VISIONING

VISIONING PROCESS

The Essential Spaces Planning process wove together technical analyses with input from the community to create a vision for the future of Duluth's park system.

Taking Stock of Existing Conditions

- Develop an inventory of amenities, facilities, and parks
- Analyze gaps in the system
- Classify and analyze the parks based on system standards analysis
- Write report on analyzing local, state, and national demographics and recreation trends
- Benchmark peer communities
- Equity analysis

Creating A Shared Vision

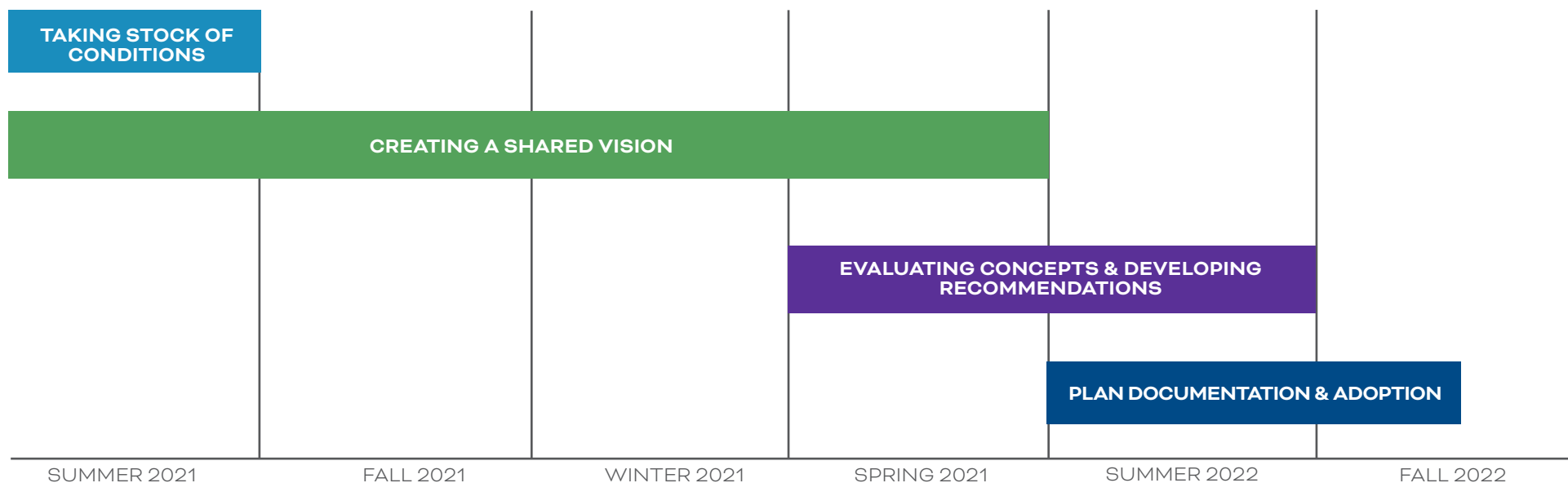
- Conduct community surveys and pop-up events to understand residents' perspectives on values, current park use, recreational needs and opportunities for improvement
- Convene focus groups for targeted feedback
- Conduct statistically valid community survey to develop vision for the future
- Facilitate community workshops to actively engage residents

Evaluating Concepts and Developing Recommendations

- Develop an inventory of amenities, facilities, and parks
- Develop vision and themes
- Assess programming needs
- Evaluate sources

Plan Documentation and Adoption

- Create draft plan with action steps for implementation over next 10 years



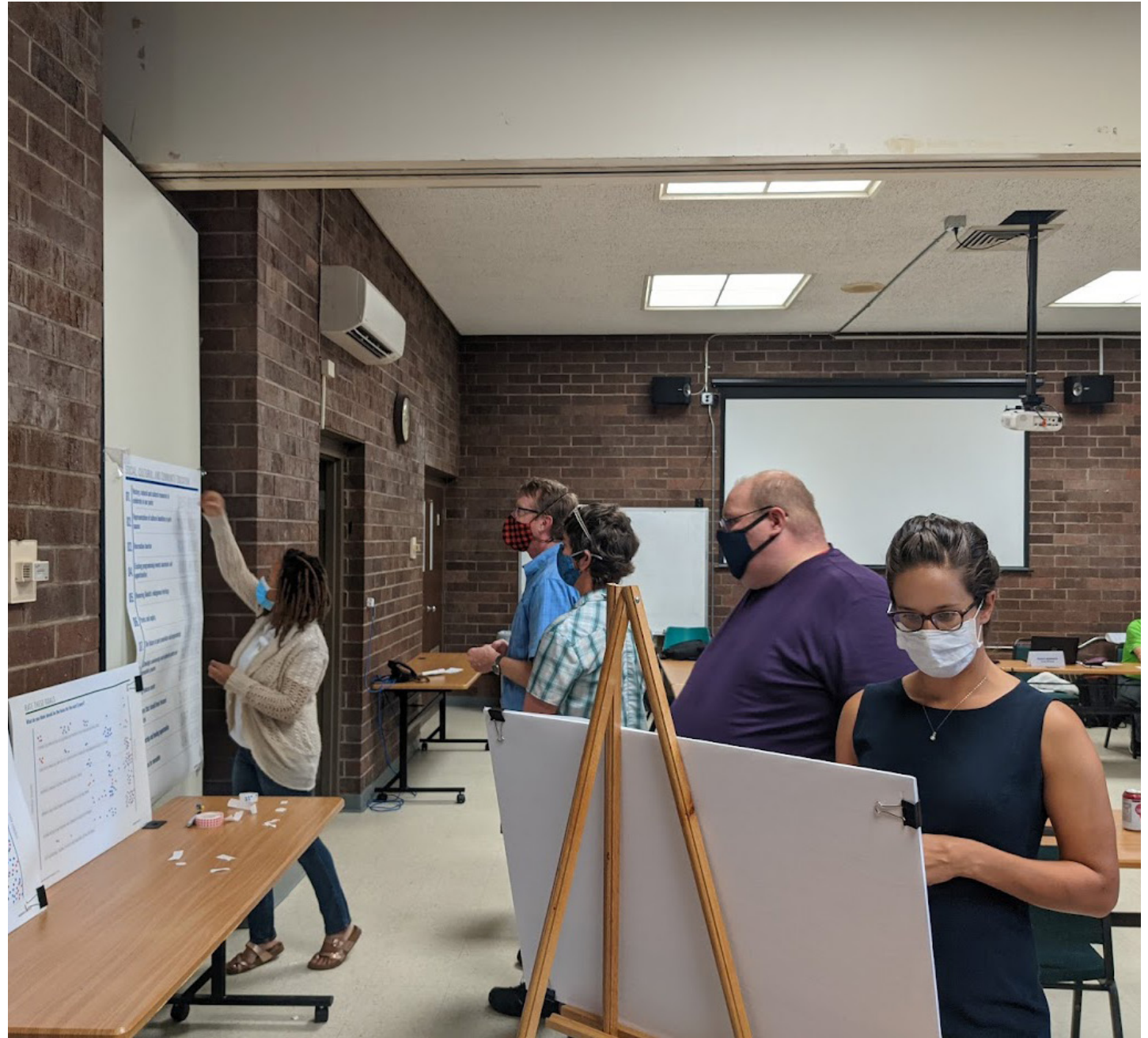
COMMUNITY VISIONING

FOCUS GROUPS

Six, 90-minute focus group meetings were hosted August 9 - 10, 2021. Over 130 individuals representing different organizations, interests, clubs, and groups in Duluth were invited to attend. The meetings were topical in nature and centered on specific areas of interest related to parks and recreation. Participants were selected and invited to attend based on their in-depth knowledge of the specific topics. Focus Groups were organized around topics of:

- parks and environmental stewardship;
- youth recreation and programming;
- outdoor recreation;
- social, cultural, and community education;
- events and activities support; and
- organized sports and leagues.

Focus group discussions highlighted a variety of perspectives, user group experiences, and priority areas for consideration. Maintenance, equity, and funding levels came up in nearly every discussion, regardless of the group's topic area. Input from these conversations laid the foundation for creating a shared community vision and for formulating community survey questions.



Focus groups provided their thoughts on the plan objectives and had in-depth discussions of the six topics.

COMMUNITY VISIONING



Community engagement efforts included workshops, pop-up events, and surveys. During each method, participants were encouraged to give their opinions through activities and dot exercises.

COMMUNITY VISIONING

STATISTICALLY VALID COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community-wide survey process helped establish a collective vision and understanding of park space according to Duluthians. Two survey efforts took place simultaneously. The first survey effort was considered statistically valid in which 3,200 households within Duluth were randomly selected and asked to participate in the online survey through a mailed invitation. An open participation version of the survey was also available. City took concerted efforts to invite all residents to complete it. The City took concerted efforts to invite all residents to complete the open participation survey, including sharing it widely with community partners and on social media, and promoting the survey at eight community events with diverse audiences. The open participation outreach effort likely reflects those more engaged with the park system, as they were more likely to have heard of the survey through messaging from Parks and Recreation and were more likely to be active users of the system.

Both survey efforts utilized the same set of questions. A total of 370 residents completed the address sample survey, while the open participation survey received a total of 1,592 responses. Both sets of results were considered throughout the creation of the plan.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Community responses to the survey drove the creation of five plan themes, which are focused on sustaining and strengthening the existing system while nurturing opportunities for new and deeper connections to our parks and recreational spaces.

INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE

- 51%** Of residents support or strongly support an increase to the property tax levy.
- 62%** Six in 10 respondents prioritize maintaining the existing system over adding new facilities.
- 62%** Of respondents support prioritizing maintenance of parks and trails most in need, followed by parks and trails that are used the most.

ADVANCE UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES

- 75%** Said there were too few splash and spray water pads.
- 65%** Said there were too few programs that provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities.
- 57%** Said there are not enough off leash dog trails.
- 54%** Said there were too few designated fishing areas.
- 54%** Said there were too few water and paddling public access points.

PARK SPACES FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

- 74%** Said providing space to interact with other community members was essential or very important.
- 61%** Said opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community are essential or very important.
- 69%** Said there were too few restroom facilities.

STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

- 69%** Prefer the Parks and Recreation to provide spaces for organized sports and leagues provided by other organizations.
- 57%** Expressed a desire for the department to focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests.
- 35%** Identified lack of information as one of the top barriers for using Duluth's recreation and program offerings.

SUSTAIN TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS

- 85%** Prefer the Parks and Recreation to provide spaces for organized sports and leagues provided by other organizations.
- 80%** Of respondents chose enjoying nature in the top 5 uses of Duluth's park system.
- 60%** Of respondents said there are the right amount of unpaved trails for hiking and snowshoeing in the system.

COMMUNITY VISIONING

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

A series of three community workshops took place April 13 – 14, 2022 at various locations across the city. A combined total of 102 participants attended these events. Participants were presented with information on proposed plan themes and goals, and were asked to provide feedback on their preferences, priorities, and opinions to further shape the Essential Spaces Plan. Workshop participants provided input using a variety of engagement methods, including interactive exhibit boards, an instant polling response to questions, and a small-group mapping exercise. For those unable to attend the in-person workshops, an online version of the polling questions was available from April 13 – May 10, 2022 that received 170 responses.



Participants responding to questions during engagement sessions.

POLLING TAKEAWAYS

Key takeaways from the combined in-person and online polling include:

1. Improving the quality and maintenance of existing parks and facilities was consistently among the top priorities of respondents.
2. Respondents recognized additional funding and resources as a critical need for the park system.
3. Participants conveyed approval of the five plan themes, as evidenced by most respondents selecting “completely agree” or “agree” when asked the level to which they agreed with each proposed theme.

The list to the right highlights the top five responses from the total participants in response to each topic area.

CRITICAL ITEMS FOR THE PLAN TO ADDRESS

21%	Park and facility condition/quality
19%	Funding and resources
15%	Environmental sustainability and resilience
10%	Access, inclusion, and mobility to parks
8%	Adding parks and natural lands

IMPORTANT ACTION FOR SPORTS COURTS GOING FORWARD

30%	Better care and maintenance
18%	No opinion
15%	Add indoor facilities
11%	Upgrade or replacement
10%	Managing for more use and access

IMPORTANT ACTION FOR SPORTS FIELDS GOING FORWARD

22%	Better care and maintenance
19%	Design for multiuse
13%	No opinion
11%	Add indoor facilities
10%	Managing for more use and access

PROGRAMS THAT DULUTH PARKS AND RECREATION SHOULD PROVIDE

18%	Free programs
16%	Outdoor skills building programs
16%	Outdoor educational programs
14%	Youth day camps
12%	Partner for arts, history, and culture programs

COMMUNITY VISIONING

MAP EXERCISE TAKEAWAYS

In-person workshop attendees also participated in a small-group mapping exercise. Participants were provided with a set of maps displaying Duluth's park system and a sheet of stickers containing different park amenities or improvements. They were instructed to place stickers on the maps at the locations they wished to see future park investments or enhancements.

Key takeaways from the mapping exercise include:

1. Restrooms were chosen by the largest amount of respondents. The percentage of restroom stickers was significantly larger than other categories.
2. Out of the top five stickers selected, four of them were related to maintenance and capacity additions rather than additional activities or recreation items. These included restrooms, parking, maintenance, and safety.
3. Residents have a lot of great ideas about the future re-use and activation of Lester Park Golf Course.

SUMMARY OF STICKERS BY TOP CATEGORIES

47	Stickers indicated a need for restrooms. The most common placement of restroom stickers were associated with the Piedmont Trail System, Kitchi Gammi Park (Brighton Beach), and Magney/Snively Park.
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29	Stickers related to mountain biking. Stickers were placed within Enger Park, Chester Park, Lester Park Golf Course, and Spirit Mountain Recreation Area.
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29	Stickers indicated parking needs. Common locations included Piedmont/Brewer Trailhead, Hartley Park, Piedmont Neighborhood Trailhead, and Magney/Snively Park.
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SUMMARY OF STICKERS BY TOP AREAS

1

Lester Park Golf Course: As the community begins to imagine the future re-use of this space, common stickers were camping, mountain biking, golf, community gardens, disc golf, and indoor gathering space.

2

City-wide, general comments: Top items include restroom facilities, enforcement, beer gardens, and mountain biking.

3

Piedmont Trail System: Parking and restroom facilities were the top selected stickers.

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

PARK INVENTORY

Duluth's extensive and all-season park system is a critical component of the city's physical, environmental, social, and economic well-being. Maintaining and improving such a vast park system, while challenging, is vital for ensuring a high quality of life for Duluth residents.

Duluth parks have been grouped into nine classifications, as shown in Table 6 and Figure 8. Park classifications were developed based on the characteristics of the park, such as size, amenities offered, access, and intended duration of use. A detailed description of each park classification can be found on the following pages (see Table 8). Duluth boasts 162 parks, 9,168 park acres (which equates to a whopping 106 park acres per 1,000 residents), and over 350 miles of trails! Natural/Passive lands make up the largest classification, at about 5,540 acres.

Table 6: Park Classification

Classification	Acres
Destination Park	2,840
Community Park	118
Neighborhood Park	121
Special Use	266
Plaza	5
Parkway	6
Natural / Passive Park	5,540
Trailhead / Water Access	13
Undeveloped	259

*Golf Courses are not included in total park acreage

162
Parks



9,168
Park acres

*Golf Courses are not included in total park acreage



106
Park acres per
1,000 residents



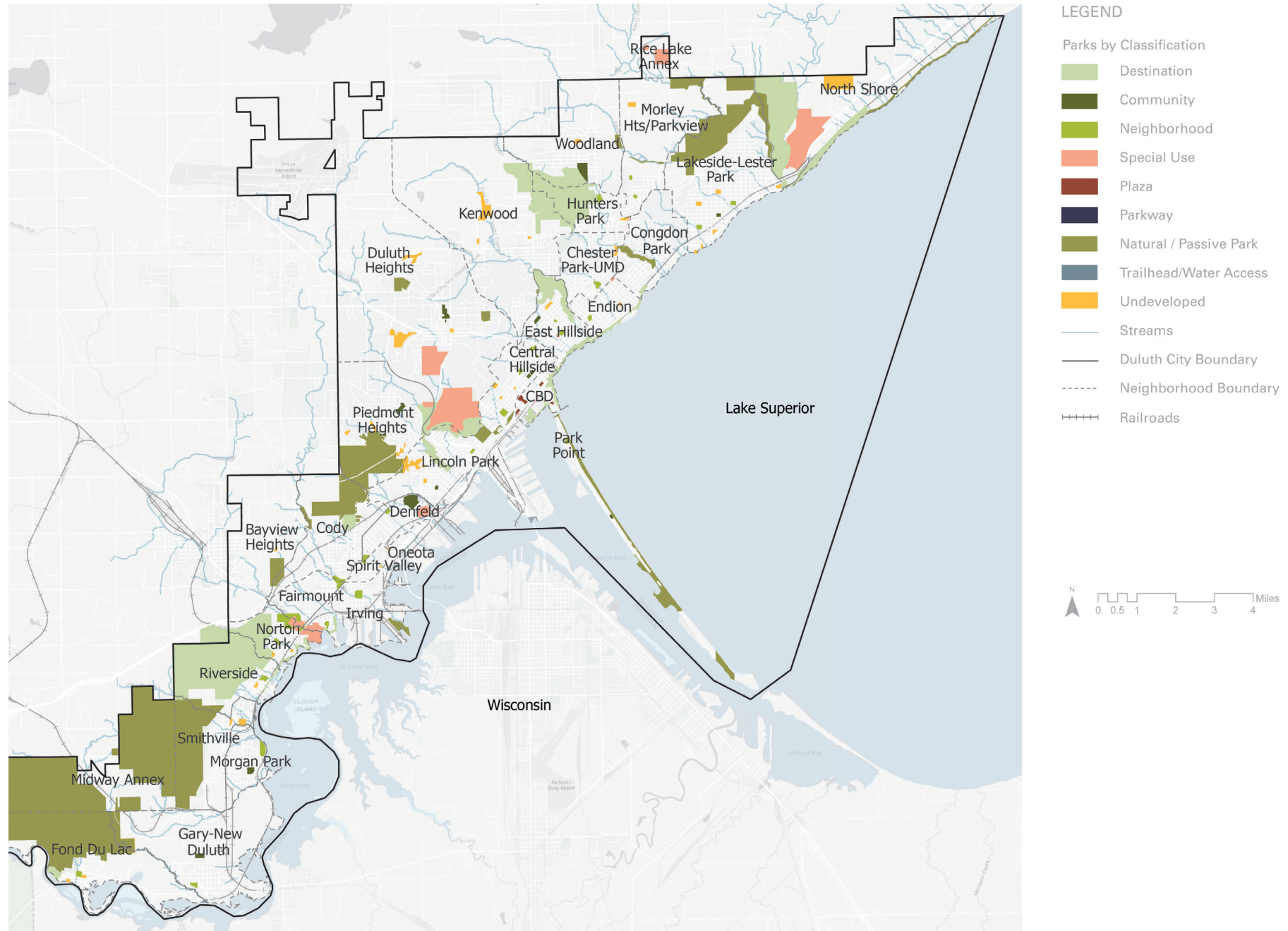
353
Miles of trails



Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Duluth GIS data

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Figure 7: Park Systems by Classification Map



PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Table 8: Park Classification Definitions

TYPE OF PARK	DESCRIPTION	INVENTORY
Destination	Large, multi-use parks that provide facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve city residents and the surrounding region, and which may serve as a tourist destination. Destination parks protect large expanses of land with natural resource values of regional significance. These areas typically provide recreational opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation and may include features such as playgrounds, shelters, restrooms, and athletic facilities.	<div>2,840 acres</div> <div>19 properties</div> <hr/> <div>E.g., Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, Bayfront Park, Lester Park</div>
Community	Serves as a focal point for community-wide activities and provides facilities that serve a broad purpose, balancing active and passive recreation needs. May include programmed sports facilities, such as athletic complexes or fields, and playground equipment. These parks are centrally located and attract residents from multiple neighborhoods.	<div>118 acres</div> <div>13 properties</div> <hr/> <div>E.g., Central Hillside Community Park, Evergreen Community Center</div>
Neighborhood	Intended to provide both active and passive recreation for residents for short daily leisure periods, such as court/field games, skating, sports play, leisure activities, and small gatherings. Should provide for most intensive use by children, family groups, and senior citizens. Accessible to neighborhood population and geographically centered with safe walking and bicycle access.	<div>121 acres</div> <div>27 properties</div> <hr/> <div>E.g., Fairmount Park</div>
Special Use	Purpose built to serve a specific community or regional need, which may attract locals and visitors alike. Examples include campgrounds, golf courses, and other specialized-use facilities such as baseball/softball, soccer, basketball, pickleball, tennis, rock climbing, golf, and skateboarding amenities.	<div>266 acres</div> <div>13 properties</div> <hr/> <div>E.g., Arlington Athletic Complex, Indian Point Campground</div>

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

TYPE OF PARK	DESCRIPTION	INVENTORY
Plaza	Provides opportunities for recreation close to home, particularly where access to larger parks is limited/not feasible. These parks are comprised of large proportion of hard surfaces suitable for events but do not contain restroom facilities, their own parking, play areas, or sport fields and courts. Plazas are typically easily accessible and are found in the urban setting, usually near downtown or commercial area. Typically 2 acres or less.	5 acres 7 properties <hr/> E.g., Civic Center
Parkway	Generally located adjacent to city streets, parkways are landscaped areas with turf, trees, planting, and enhanced naturalistic landscape located adjacent to public right of way.	6 acres 11 properties <hr/> E.g., Skyline Parkway
Natural / Passive	Open areas and natural areas typically used for passive recreation. May include paths, mature trees, nature areas, gardens, hiking and biking trails, foraging, gathering, and areas for observing nature. They do not always provide recreation opportunities and are designed to protect environmentally sensitive features.	5,540 acres 29 properties <hr/> E.g., Magney / Snively Park, Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve
Trailhead / Water Access	<p>Trailheads are paved or unpaved surface that serve as an access point to a designated open space corridor allowing for pedestrian and bicycle commuting and recreation use.</p> <p>Water Trail Access Points are boat launch or landing pads and generally found along Lake Superior or the St. Louis River Corridor.</p>	13 acres 4 properties <hr/> E.g., Munger Landing
Undeveloped	There are two different types of park properties that fall within the “undeveloped” park classification. 1) Undeveloped green space in a neighborhood or urban area that may be used actively by residents but has no amenities. Some might be considered “excess” due to parcel or right-of-way divisions, be irregularly shaped, and have no redevelopment or resale potential while others may be candidates for disposal. 2) Dedicated park space in a recently built subdivision that has yet to be built out. These properties will be reclassified as their planning evolves.	259 acres 39 properties <hr/> E.g., Moose Hill Park

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

LEVEL OF SERVICE OF PARK ACREAGE

PARKLAND TO POPULATION ANALYSIS

Table 9 details the number of acres for each park classification per 1,000 people. Duluth's 9,168 acres of parkland equates to 106 acres per 1,000 people (or roughly 4,605 square feet of parkland per person). The significant amount of Natural/ Passive land in Duluth aligns with the community's desire to protect the natural environment and support environmental resiliency.

Duluth also has a significant amount of tax-forfeit lands, which the City does not yet own, that house recreational assets that the City maintains as though they are public property. Generally speaking, community members consider these lands to be part of the park system, despite their lack of permanent protection and official parkland dedication. It is important that the City continue to acquire such lands to ensure that existing recreational amenities are formally protected and remain available for long-term public use. Future parkland acquisitions should also serve to fill system gaps, connect existing park spaces, and support environmental protection efforts.

Table 9: Park Acres per 1,000 Residents in Duluth

Parks	Number of Properties	Number of Property Acres	Acres / 1,000 Population in 2020 (86,697)
Destination	19	2,840	32.8
Community	13	118	1.4
Neighborhood	27	121	1.4
Special Use	13	266	3.1
Plaza	7	5	0.1
Parkways	11	6	0.1
Total Developed Parks	90	3,356	38.8
Natural / Passive	29	5,540	63.9
Trailheads / Water Access	4	13	0.2
Total Natural Lands, Trailheads, & Water Access	33	5,553	64
Undeveloped	39	259	3
Grand Total	162	9,168	105.7

* Golf Courses are not included in total park acreage.



Lakewalk Trailhead



Bayfront Park Playground

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

PARK ACCESS

10 MINUTE WALK ANALYSIS

Park access and utilization are determinants of public health. More time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and stress. Park access and utilization also encourages physical activity, whether it be a moderate stroll or an intense hike.

The walkshed analysis, shown in Figure 9, identifies areas in Duluth that are within a 10-minute walk from parks or natural lands. **70% of Duluth's households are within a 10-minute park walk.** The analysis was conducted by calculating the proximity of Duluth's residential address points to city-owned parks. Using GIS, the analysis determines how far one can travel on foot from each City-owned park (excluding golf courses and undeveloped parks) within 10 minutes using the street and trail network. The walkshed accounts for large barriers that might impede access, including railroad tracks, rivers, interstates, and roads with a speed limit higher than 45 mph. Park access points are also considered to account for gates and other barriers that impede entry. Layering residential address points on this walkshed reveals homes that are not within a 10-minute walk of a green space. These households are

considered “underserved” for the purposes of this analysis.

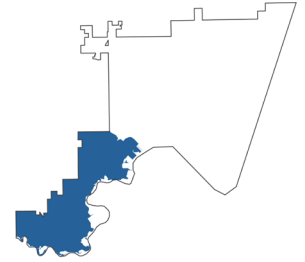
WHO CAN(NOT) ACCESS PARKS?

A deeper look into the walkshed analysis gives a clearer understanding of park access gaps in the city. A majority of the households located outside a 10-minute park walk are in centralized areas of Duluth, particularly Duluth Heights and Kenwood. Though both neighborhoods contain parks, accessibility is limited by the presence of the Duluth International Airport and more intensive commercial development.

Closing park gaps and increasing the perception of safety are vital components in addressing social inequities. The following provides a summary of residential clusters by city subareas highlighting neighborhoods that do not have access to a park or natural land area within a 10-minute walk. While Chapter 4 combines Central Duluth and Duluth Heights as the central geography for Duluth, the walkability gaps were significantly different and deserved separate callouts in this section of the gap analysis.

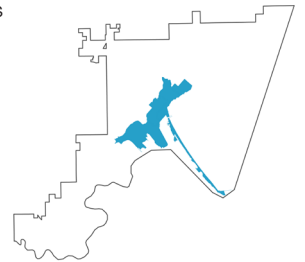
WESTERN DULUTH

Western Duluth is home to some of the largest open spaces in the city including the Fredrick Rodney Paine Nature Preserve, Magney/Snively Park, and Spirit Mountain Recreation Area. However, barriers such as I-35, waterways, and the railroad system prevent some residents and households from accessing these parks easily within a 10 minute walk.



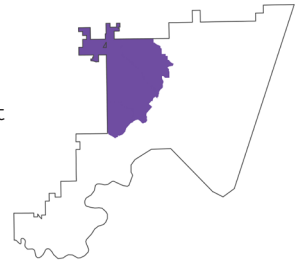
CENTRAL DULUTH

Central Duluth has the highest residential park access when compared to other areas in the city. As shown in Figure 9, neighborhoods such as Park Point, Central Hillside, East Hillside, the Central Business District, Endion, and Lincoln Park have few gaps.



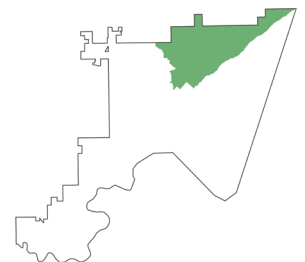
DULUTH HEIGHTS

Duluth Heights sees the most park gaps. This city subarea is comprised of the Piedmont Heights, Central Duluth, and Kenwood neighborhoods. This area of Duluth has a more suburban style development with auto-oriented destinations such as the shopping mall and airport. These development patterns can create barriers to walking as destinations tend to be separated by larger distances and require driving.



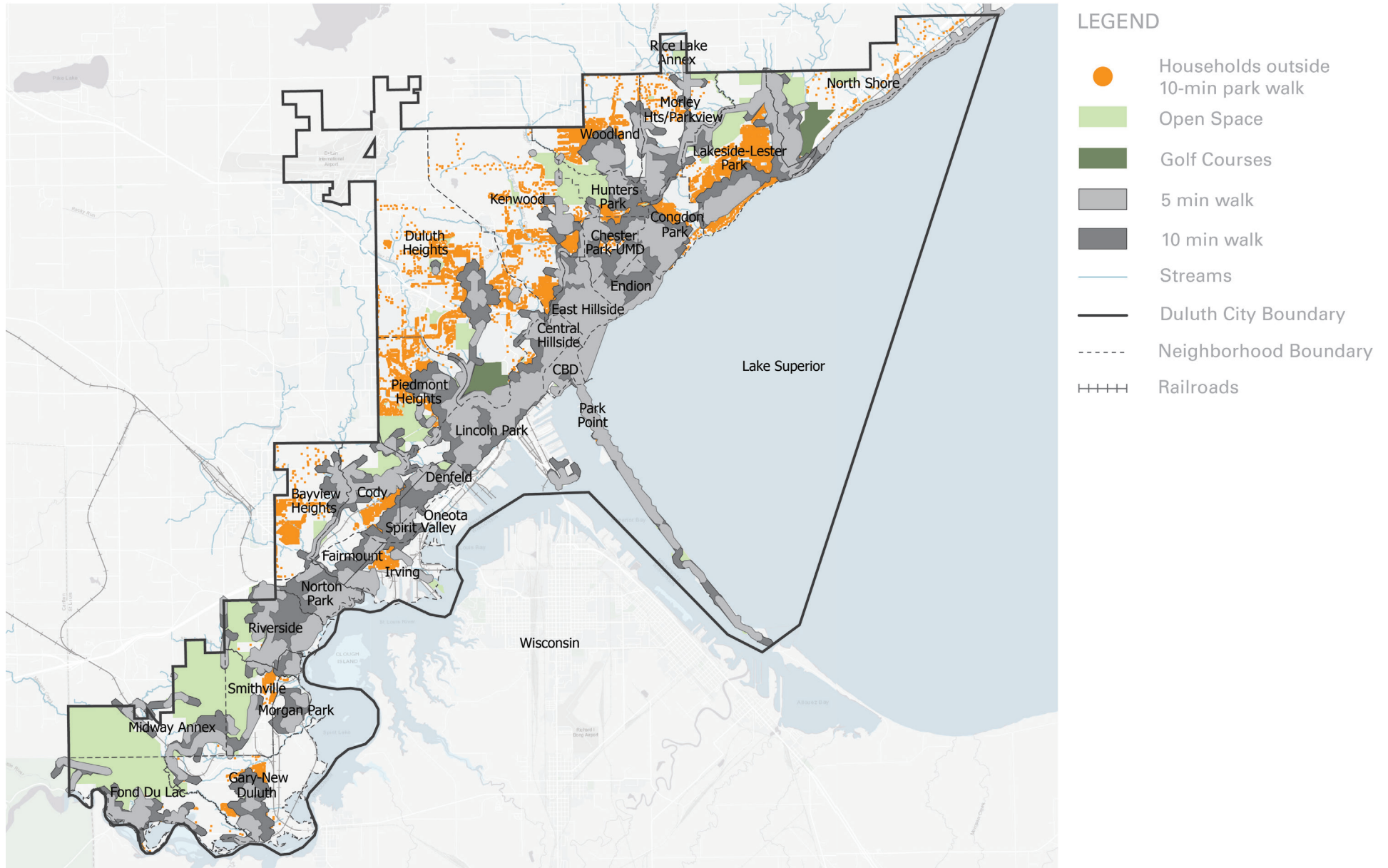
EASTERN DULUTH

Neighborhoods in eastern Duluth that are adjacent to central Duluth and closer to the downtown core, such as Chester Park-UMD and Congdon Park, have parks within walking distance to many households. Neighborhoods along the north edge of the city boundary and adjacent to golf courses, which were excluded from this study, have fewer households with parks within walking distance.



PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Figure 8: Walkshed Analysis Map



Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Duluth GIS data

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

SERVICE AREA OF PARK AMENITIES

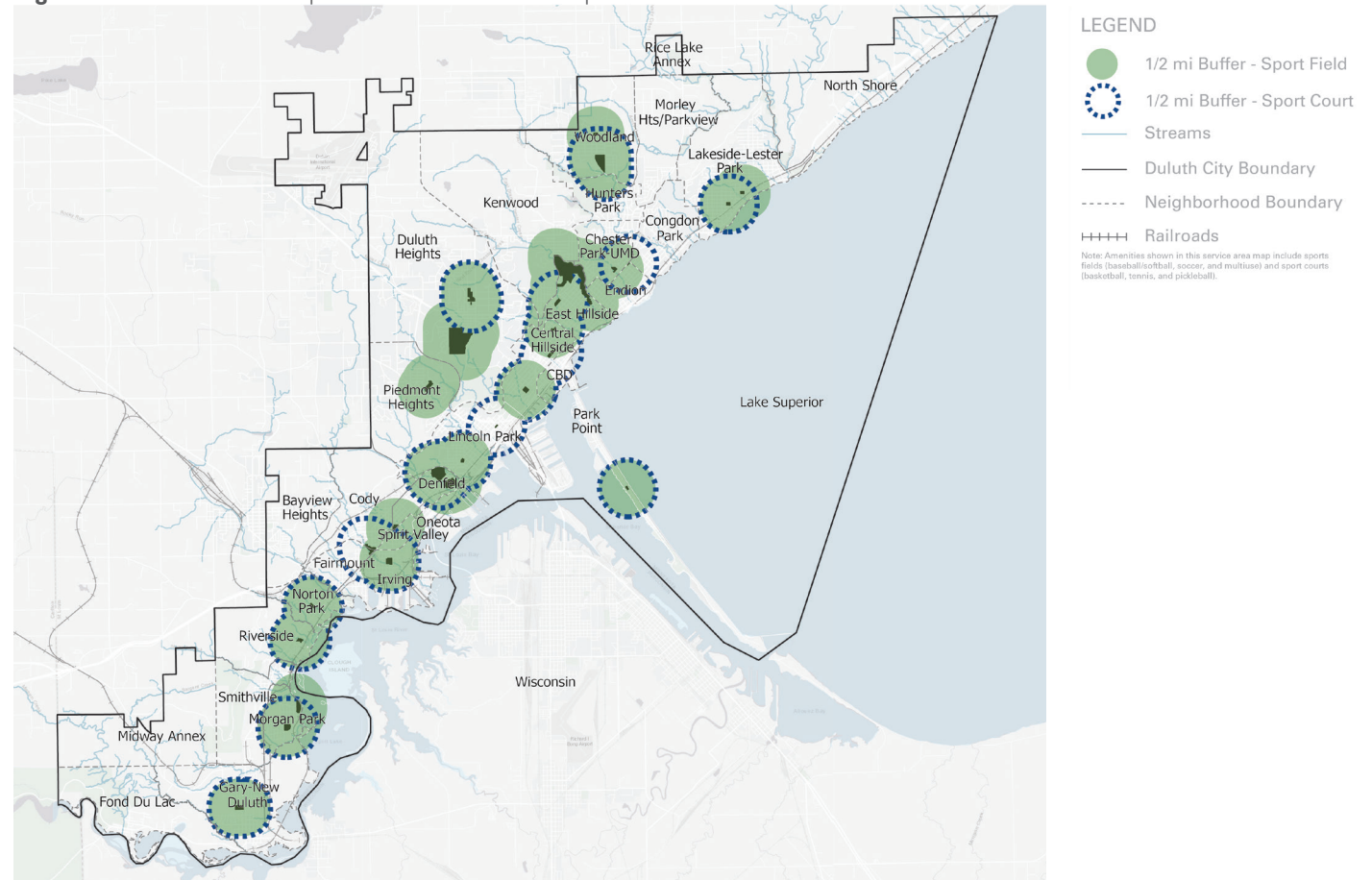
Duluth offers a broad array of parks and recreation amenities (see Table 10), including playgrounds, sport courts, hockey and pleasure rinks, athletic fields, pavilions, and restroom facilities.

Table 10: Park Amenities

Amenity	Quantity
Park Pavilions & Gazebos	18
Soccer Fields	11
Baseball / Softball Fields	18
Multiuse Fields	23
Basketball Court Sites	24
Tennis Court Sites	8
Pickleball Court Sites	3
Multiuse Court Sites	2
Playgrounds	39
Toddler Playgrounds	5
Accessible Playgrounds	9
Hockey Rinks/Pleasure Rinks	7
Pleasure Skating Only Sites	2
Skate Parks	6
Restrooms	11

Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Duluth GIS data & inventory assessment

Figure 9: Service Area - Sport Courts & Fields Map

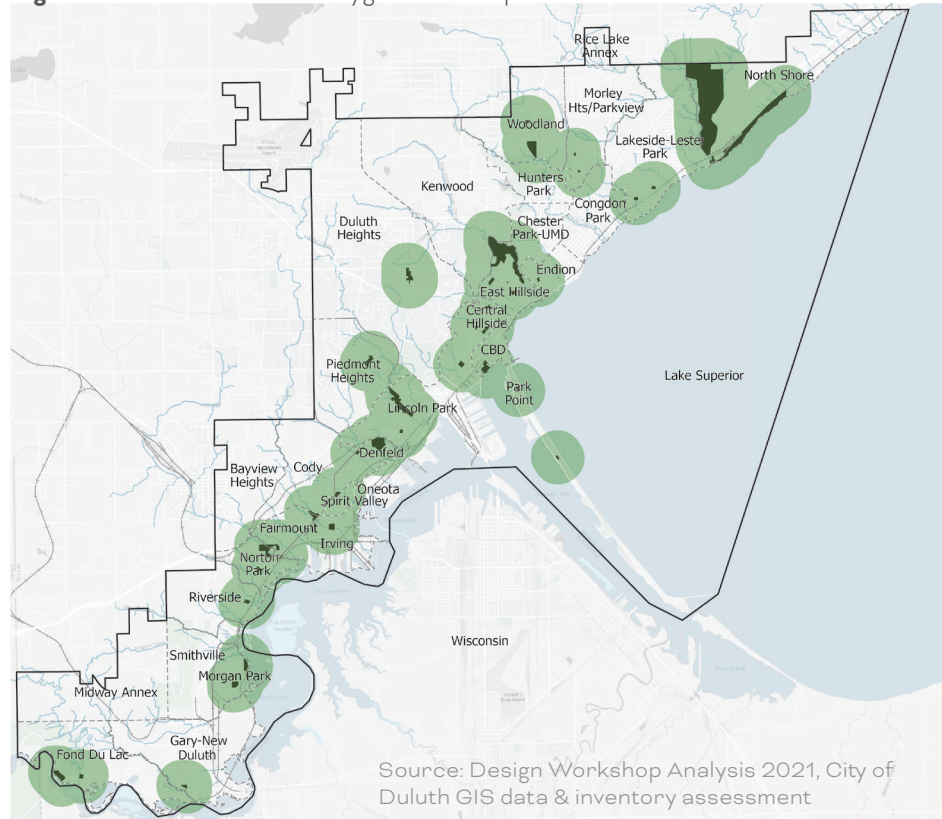


Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Duluth GIS data & inventory assessment

Duluth's park system provides 18 baseball/softball fields, 11 soccer fields, and 23 multi-use fields. The system also includes 24 outdoor basketball courts sites, eight tennis court sites, three pickleball court sites, and two multiuse court sites. Service area coverage for both sport courts and fields is comprehensive throughout the city, as shown in Figure 9. The service area for sport fields is slightly more extensive than that of sport courts, most notably in central Duluth.

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Figure 10: Service Area - Playgrounds Map



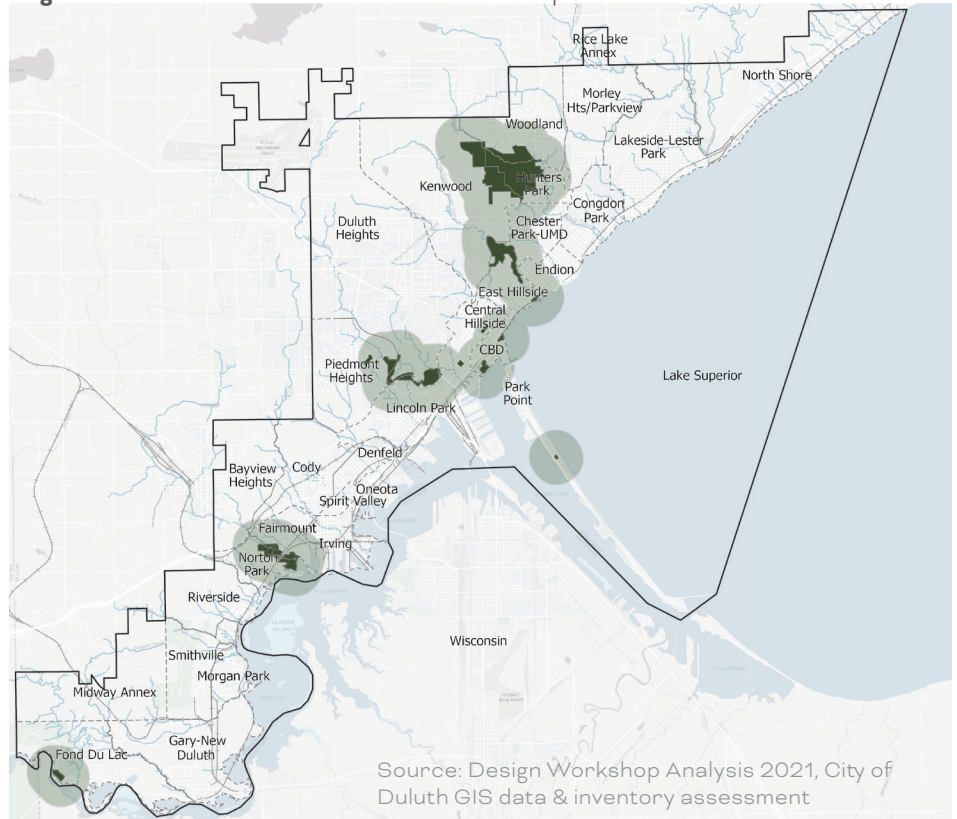
The park system provides 39 playgrounds throughout the city, as shown in Figure 10, creating extensive half-mile service area coverage. With such strong coverage, there may be room for consolidating playground facilities in some locations to minimize service area overlaps and to reduce long-term maintenance burdens and replacement cycles. Future playground replacements should consider universal access and sensory play equipment, as needed.

LEGEND

- 1/2 mi Buffer - Playgrounds
- Streams
- Duluth City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- ++++ Railroads

Note: Amenities shown in this service area map include playgrounds, accessible playgrounds, toddler playgrounds.

Figure 11: Service Area - Park Restrooms Map



Permanent restroom are more appropriate in destination and special use parks, with provisions in community parks, trailheads, and water access points. It is uncommon to provide restrooms abundantly in neighborhood parks, as these parks generally serve residents within a half-mile of their home. Thus, as seen in Figure 11, the service area coverage for permanent restrooms is not as broad as other amenities. It should be noted that this map does not reflect a number of portable restroom made available seasonally. Future analysis should

LEGEND

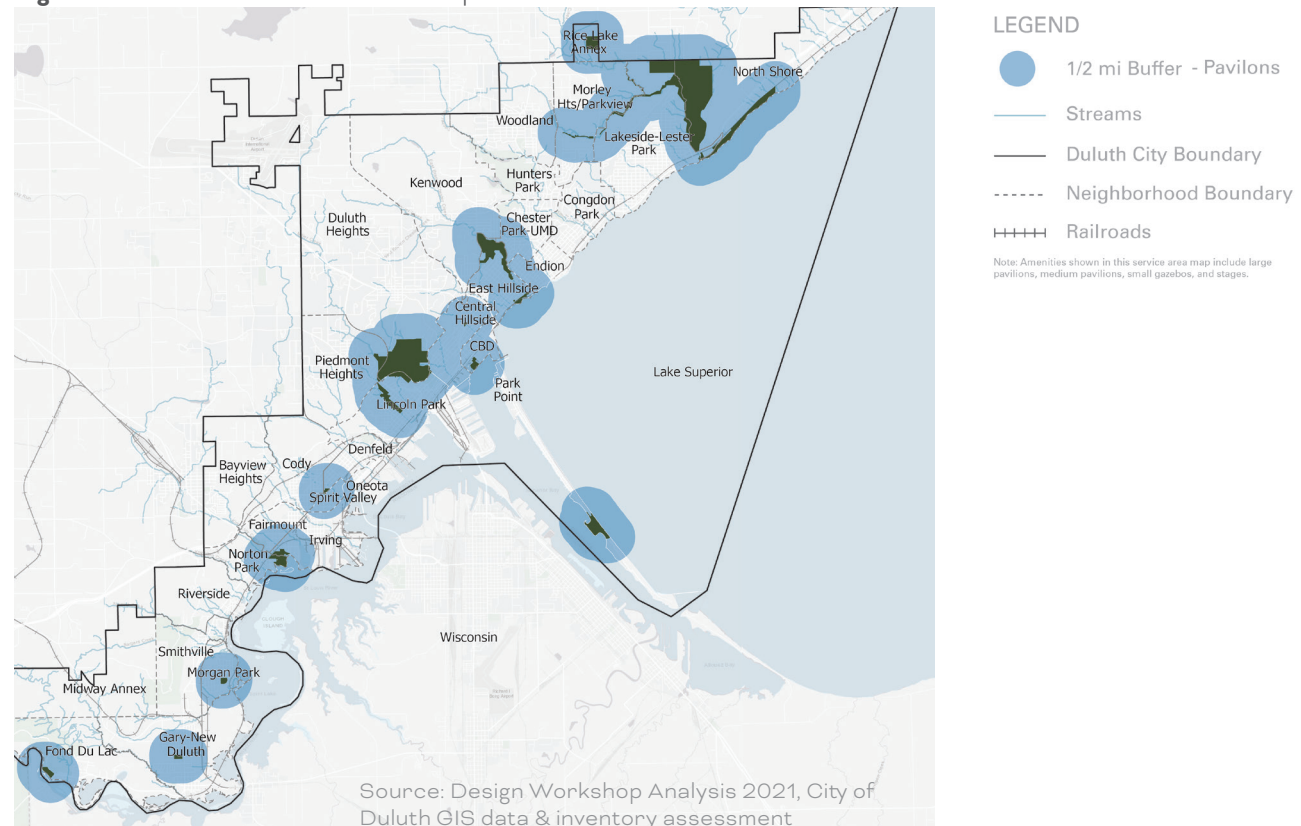
- 1/2 mi Buffer - Restrooms
- Streams
- Duluth City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- ++++ Railroads

include an analysis of restrooms across the park system to evaluate gaps, equity, and opportunities for consolidating, adding, or improving restroom facilities, as needed and as financially feasible. Parks such as Brighton Beach and Lincoln park will see improvements and permanent restrooms will be included.

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Park pavilions and associated picnic tables, benches, stages, and BBQ facilities serve an important community function of providing spaces for small and large group gatherings and also offer shade and cover from natural elements. These pavilions include small pavilions, medium pavilions, large pavilions, and stages. Pavilions are most abundantly found in destination, community, and neighborhood parks, as well as some special use parks, trailheads, and water access points. As shown in Figure 12, the service area is comprehensive with pavilions spaced throughout the city. Future efforts might look to provide pavilion space in the Congdon Park and Lakeside-Lester Park neighborhoods.

Figure 12: Service Area - Pavilions Map



PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

PARK CONDITIONS

City staff conducted and documented park conditions as being in good, fair, or poor condition based on the following definitions:

Good: System is functioning well, though it may have minor cosmetic deficiencies;

Fair: System has deficiencies, but functionality is not affected and safety is not a concern;

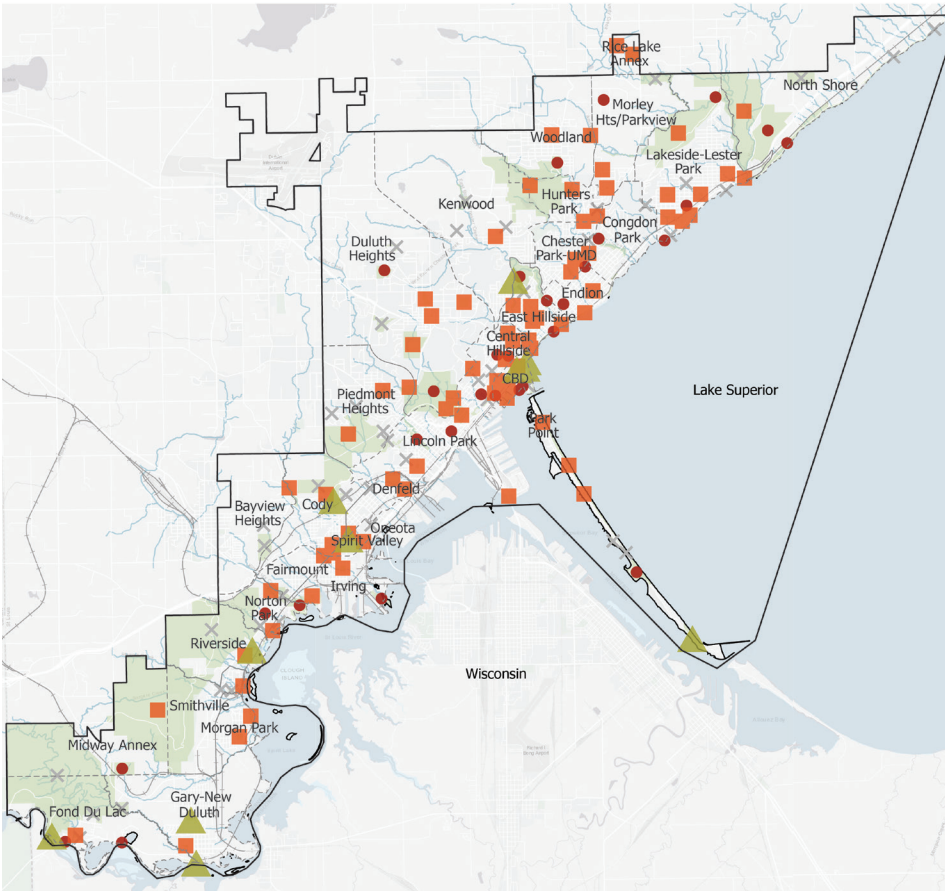
Poor: System has passed its useful life, does not perform its duty, and/or poses a safety risk.

Based on a 2021-22 conditions assessment, 20.7% of Duluth's parks are in poor condition, 51.4% are in fair condition, and 7.9% are in good condition. Figure 13 displays the outcomes of this assessment across the city. (Note: 20% of parkland, particularly natural lands and undeveloped park properties, were not included in this evaluation.)

To understand how park conditions differ across the city, Table 11 groups parks into four subareas: western, central, and eastern Duluth, and Duluth Heights. Table 11 also provides the comparative number of parks within each subarea.

Western Duluth has the highest number and relative proportion of parks in good or fair condition when compared to other subareas. This reflects work completed under the direction of the 2010 Parks Master Plan and the St. Louis River Corridor Initiative, which identified investments in western Duluth parks as a community priority. Conversely, central Duluth has the highest number and relative proportion of parks that are in poor condition. Duluth Heights contains the fewest total number of parks, but also has a lower relative population. Notably, none of eastern Duluth's parks are in good condition, but eastern Duluth has the highest relative proportion of parks in fair condition.

Figure 13: Park Conditions Map



LEGEND

Park Condition Ratings

×

Not Available

●

Poor

■

Fair

▲

Good

—

Streams

—

Duluth City Boundary

Neighborhood Boundary

++++

Railroads

Table 11: Condition Rating of Parks by Subarea

	WESTERN		CENTRAL		DULUTH HEIGHTS		EASTERN	
Condition	No. of parks	Percent of total	No. of parks	Percent of total	No. of parks	Percent of total	No. of parks	Percent of total
Not Evaluated	15	31%	10	19%	8	38%	10	25%
Poor	6	13%	14	26%	2	10%	8	20%
Fair	21	44%	25	47%	10	48%	22	55%
Good	6	13%	4	8%	1	5%	0	0%
Total	48		53		21		40	

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

PARK BUILDINGS

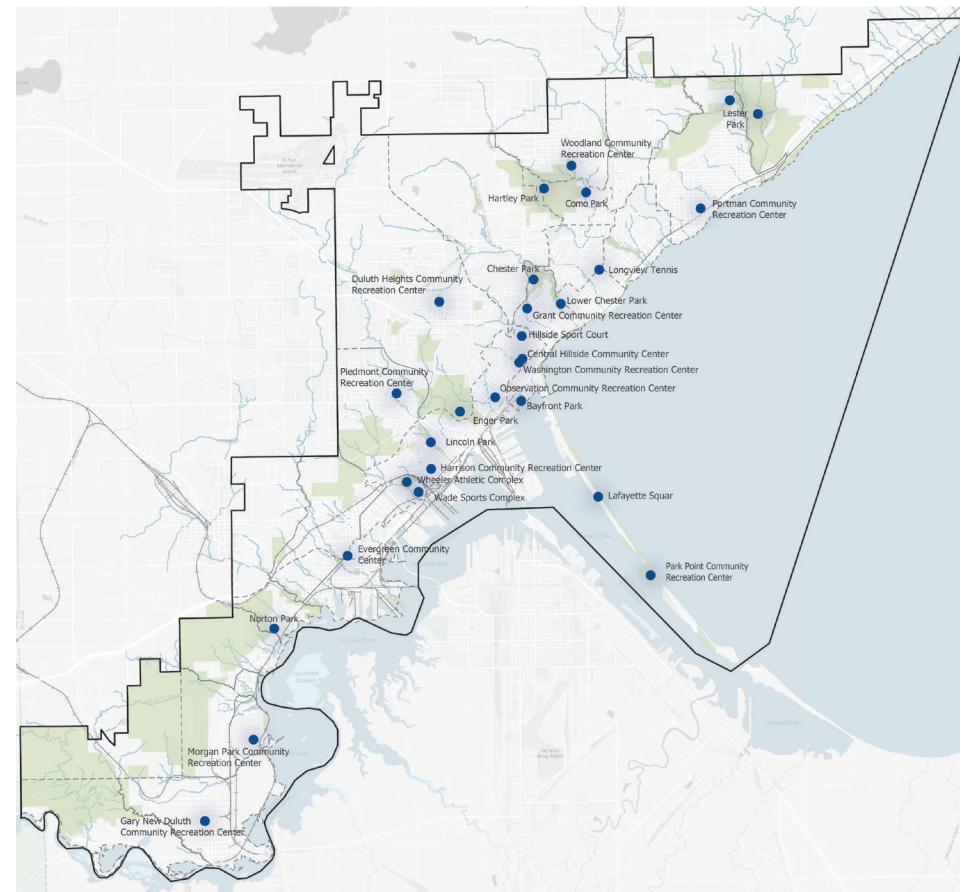
As Figure 14 shows, the City of Duluth has an extensive number of buildings within its park and recreation system. Most of these were traditionally constructed with the intention of providing neighborhood access to indoor facilities or to support outdoor activities, and are often referred to as Community Centers.

The facilities within each building differ; some, for instance, have indoor meeting space that can be utilized by seniors or organized groups while others include warming huts and are leased by hockey clubs. The access to Community Centers also varies, with some leased by clubs or associations and others rented out through or programmed by Parks and Recreation. When taken together, this set of buildings represents a range of diverse facility types throughout the city.

While Community Centers have served as a cornerstone of recreation in the City of Duluth for decades, the expansiveness of the system and resources needed to maintain it has been to the detriment of these built spaces. In 2022, deferred maintenance for park buildings was estimated at \$28.8 million. At least seven park buildings are in poor or near inoperable condition, and the funding required to address

deferred maintenance exceeds available resources. Acknowledging this, the 2010 Parks and Recreation Plan recommended eliminating several Community Centers from the system and partnering with schools for shared use of gym and aquatic facilities. Since the adoption of the 2010 plan, the City has followed through with removing five facilities from the system. A future condition assessment of the City's more than two dozen park and recreation buildings should be conducted to inform how, when, and where these buildings can be accessed, whether there are gaps, and where there may be opportunity to consolidate building inventory.

Figure 14: Park Building Map



LEGEND

- Park Building
- Streams
- Duluth City Boundary
- - - - Neighborhood Boundary
- + + + + Railroads

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

PEER CITIES ANALYSIS

PARKLAND TO POPULATION COMPARISON

Comparing local metrics to those of similar communities provides an understanding of how Duluth's system compares and contrasts to its peers. The communities of Bend, OR, St. Cloud, MN, Fayetteville, AR, and Bozeman, MT were selected for comparison to Duluth due to similarities in population size, the presence of a university, climate, and/or recreational interests.

As shown in Table 12, **Duluth ranks highest among comparable cities in total park acreage per 1,000 people.** Duluth has a vast network of natural lands, making it the leading city in natural / passive park provision (Note: some other cities benefit from natural/passive lands owned by other agencies). Duluth ranks average in terms of developed park acres per 1,000 residents, with slightly lower figures for community and neighborhood parks when compared to peer cities.

Table 12: Parkland and Population Comparison to Peer Cities

Parks	Duluth, MN	Bend, OR	St. Cloud, MN	Fayetteville, AR	Bozeman, MT
Population	86,697	100,421	68,001	87,590	48,330
Park Acres per 1,000 Population					
Destination / Regional	32.8	21.2	N/A	36.1	N/A
Community	1.4	6.5	N/A	2.5	1.4
Neighborhood	1.4	1.6	N/A	2.1	2.9
Special Use	3.1	0.6	N/A	1.6	2.3
Plaza	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7
Parkway	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7
Total Developed Parks	38.8	29.9	N/A	42.2	7.3
Natural / Passive	63.9	0.8	16.4	1.7	2.1
Trailheads / Water Access	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.0	.07
Total Natural Lands, Trailheads, and Water Access	64.0	1.0	16.4	3.7	2.8
Undeveloped	3.0	1.0	0.0	2.9	0.6
Grand Total	105.7	31.8	16.4	48.9	10.6

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

PARK MAINTENANCE HOURS COMPARISON

Based on NRPA standards, Table 13 reflects the minimum staff time recommended for maintaining each park type to a high standard. Table 13 also calculates the recommended staff hours for Duluth, based on the number and types of parks in the system, and compares that figure to the actual staff hours reported in 2021. Given the vastness of the park system, NRPA standards call for more than 369,000 hours of park maintenance work in Duluth parks, which is approximately 9 times more than Park Maintenance's capacity at current personnel levels.

Table 13: Park Maintenance Hours Comparison

Park Classification	Minimum Recommended Park Maintenance Staff Hours Per Park (NRPA Standards)	Number of Parks in Duluth	Minimum Recommended Park Maintenance Staff Hours for Duluth	Actual Park Maintenance Staff Hours for Duluth (2021)
Destination Parks	8,500	19	161,500	20,891
Community Parks	7,500	13	97,500	9,423
Neighborhood Parks	1,675	27	45,225	2,408
Special Use Parks	1,500	13	19,500	4,253
Plaza Areas	800	7	5,600	974
Parkways	Contract	11	N/A	600
Natural/Passive Areas	1,000	29	29,000	1,047
Trailheads/Access Points	1,800	4	7,200	213
Undeveloped Parks	95	39	3,705	139
Total	22,870	162	369,230	39,948

(Notes: These figures do not account for tree work, which takes place both inside and outside of park spaces throughout the city. This is one snapshot in time for the purposes of this analysis; Maintenance staff hours and distribution of time varies year by year based on numerous factors. In 2021, in particular, the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing shortages affected staff hours.)

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

While the overall hours of recommended park maintenance may not be feasible for the City, analyzing the percentage of staff hours in each park type is useful for determining if maintenance efforts are distributed in-line with national standards. Table 14 shows that, generally speaking, Duluth Park Maintenance staff time is distributed in accordance with national standards, but that further considerations are needed for specific park types. While natural/passive areas are shown as having relatively large differences between recommend and actual hours, given the limited staff resources, this is an appropriate approach for the City.

However, the City should explore opportunities for diverting some park maintenance staff hours away from Destination Parks and Special Use Parks and putting those hours towards Neighborhood Parks, which are receiving a smaller percentage of staff hours than recommended. For Destination Parks and other heavily used tourist areas, the City should consider creating dedicated enterprise funds to provide direct financial support for these maintenance-heavy spaces. Opportunities for outsourcing services within the Special Use Parks through agreements with third-party organizations should also be explored to achieve desired levels of service, while reducing dedicated staff time. The ability to redistribute

and increasing park maintenance staff time in Neighborhood Parks would not only bring the City closer to national standard recommendations, but would also support desires voiced by community members.

Table 14: Distribution of Park Maintenance Hours Comparison

Park Classification	Recommended Per-cent of Park Maintenance Staff Hours by Park Type (NRPA Standards)	Actual % of Park Maintenance Staff Hours by Park Type in Duluth	Difference Between Recommended and Actual % of Park Maintenance Staff Hours
Destination Parks	43.74%	52.30%	8.56%
Community Parks	26.41%	23.59%	-2.82%
Neighborhood Parks	12.25%	6.03%	-6.22%
Special Use Parks	5.28%	10.65%	5.37%
Plaza Areas	1.52%	2.44%	0.92%
Parkways	Contract	1.50%	1.50%
Natural/Passive Areas	7.85%	2.62%	-5.23%
Trailheads/Access Points	1.95%	0.53%	-1.42%
Undeveloped Parks	1.00%	0.35%	-0.66%

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

10-MINUTE WALK COMPARISON

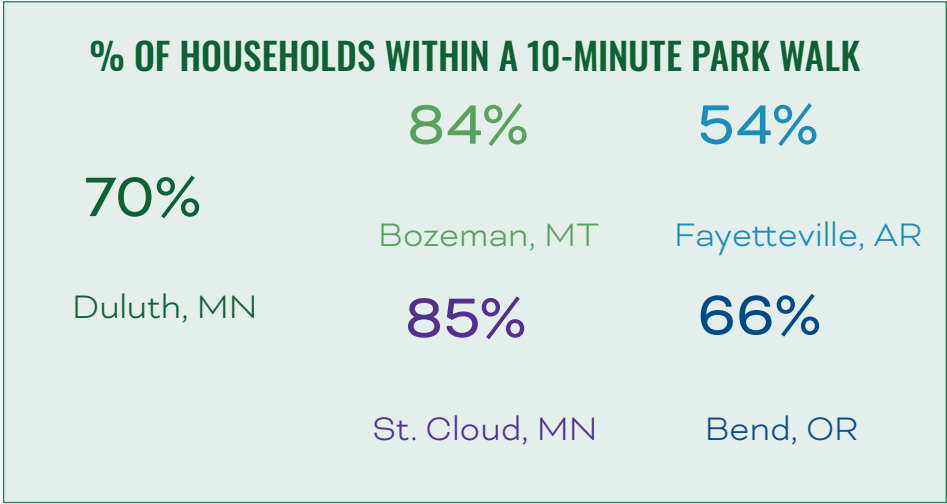
Although the amount of park acreage in Duluth's system surpasses that of its peer communities, when evaluating park access, Duluth ranks in the middle. In the city, 70% of households are able to reach a park within a 10-minute walk. This rank is likely attributed to a combination of factors, including the oversized geographic coverage of Duluth's city boundaries spanning 26 miles from east to west, slightly lower provisions of developed community and neighborhood parks in certain neighborhoods, the exclusion of school park spaces from this analysis, and other barriers as outlined in on page 43.

FUNDING COMPARISON

Table 15 identifies metrics related to the park system, financial resources, and staffing for Duluth and peer cities. Comparing operating budgets per park acre is an important measure, as it accounts for both total monetary resources available and the quantity of park spaces that funding must support. In comparison to peer communities, Duluth has a relatively small capital, operations, and maintenance budget. The city has approximately three-fifths the budget per park acre when compared to Bend and St. Cloud.

Duluth has comparable numbers of full time employees (FTEs) compared to St. Cloud and Bozeman, while Bend outpaces all peer communities

in terms of staff. However, when analyzing staffing levels alongside the total number of parkland acres requiring management, there are 190 acres of parkland for each FTE in Duluth. The peer city with the closest comparison figure is St. Cloud, at 31 acres of parkland for each FTE. To be within the range of its peer cities, Duluth would need to increase parks related staffing levels to be similar to that of Bend, which has nearly five times as many FTEs to manage their park and recreation system. At current funding levels, however, such extensive staff increases are not feasible.



Source: Trust for Public Lands, 2021

Table 15: Resources and Needs Comparison to Peer Communities

	Duluth	Bend	St. Cloud	Bozeman
Total park acres	9,715*	3,136	1,682	1,019
Acres per 1,000 residents	105.7	31.8	16.4	10.6
Budget per acre	\$686	\$1,190	\$1,142	N/A
Capital expenditures in the next five years**	\$26.7M	\$82.2M	\$6.7M	N/A
Total FTEs	47.2	235	53	41.6
FTEs per park acre	0.005	.075	.031	.041

* Golf courses are included in this number
** Possible due to grant funds

PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Based on data from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), when assessing U.S. cities of a similar population size, Duluth's operating budget is less than the national average (see Table 16). At the same time, the vastness of Duluth's park system and the acreage these funds must support far exceeds the national average. **The average park acres per 1,000 residents for cities of a similar population size is 9.2, compared to Duluth's 105.7 acres. Likewise, the average miles of trails for cities of a similar size is 14 miles, while Duluth has over 350 miles of trails requiring support.**

When comparing the number of FTEs, Duluth has approximately 17 fewer staff to support parks and recreation

than the average for cities of a similar population size. This means that parks and recreation-related staff in Duluth are working with a smaller budget than other communities to support far more park spaces, which in turn, leaves few resources to support much needed increases in staffing levels. Given the extensiveness of the park system and the value of deferred maintenance in Duluth, increasing park funding to better align with national averages, based on park acreage, is vital for the future of the park system.

Table 16: Nationwide Resources and Needs Comparison

NRPA Benchmark Comparison with Communities 50,000-99,000 population		
Metrics	NRPA	Duluth
Median # of FTE	64.1	47.2
Residents per park acres	1,235	9.5
Park acres per 1,000 residents	9.2	105.7
Miles of Trails	14	353
Budget	\$7,330,336	\$6,680,250
Cost recovery	25.3%	3%
Value of deferred maintenance	\$200,000	\$113.6M



Park funding can be used to provide more community events in the parks, such as the successful Bayfront Festival.

“...the minutes of park board meetings [1892] paint a picture of a city whose enthusiasm and desire for parks always outstripped its ability to pay for them.”

– Duluth's Historic Parks, The First 160 Years , N. Nelson & T. Dierckins, p. 5

PROGRAMS EVALUATION

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The City of Duluth has been rebuilding its recreation program since substantial cuts to department budgets occurred during the Great Recession in 2008/2009. The voter-approved Park Referendum in 2011 restored base-level funding to parks and recreation but remained substantially lower than previous funding levels in the absence of general fund contributions. In 2019, with support from the General Fund, Parks and Recreation added two staff positions dedicated to delivering and coordinating recreation programs. Continual evaluation and refinement of program offerings is ongoing and great strides have been made over the last several years, despite challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parks and Recreation has a long history of working with community recreation service providers, defined here as youth sports organizations, adult sports associations, non-profit groups, social service organizations, the school district, and/or private sector entities that provide recreation services. These community recreation service providers deliver a large share of the community's recreation programs, often in partnership with the City. Partnerships take many forms and may include single-time permits,

formalized agreements between the City and the recreation provider to allow for controlled public access of park facilities, collaborative delivery of programs, and more.

PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Programming offered by Duluth Parks and Recreation is reasonably comprehensive and meets a broad range of interests and needs in the community. The City's recreation programs are summarized in Table 17.

Duluth's natural landscape allows for a variety of outdoor recreation programming opportunities that may not be typical for many other park and recreation departments, and these types of programs are highly desired by the community. Fitness programs, adult sports, youth sports, and special needs programs may not be as widely offered by Duluth Parks and Recreation when compared to other park and recreation departments. Instead, the City relies on their community recreation service providers to deliver many of these activities to the community. This is both a reflection of limited programming resources, but also of the community's desire to maintain park space for third-party organized sports leagues.

Table 17: Duluth Parks and Recreation Programs by Type

Recreation Type	Focus	Programs
Outdoor Recreation	Youth and Families	Full Moon, Nature Knowledge, Outdoor Game Night, Intro to Archery, Open Archery, Stargazer Hike, Date Night, Guided Hikes, Orienteering, Intro to Geocaching, Family Hike, Family Canoeing, Intro to Fly Casting, SHT Hikes
	Youth	Outdoor Rec Club, Homeschool Archery, After School Adventures, Outdoor Education Day, Outdoor Rec Club at Schools, After School with North Star, Heritage out of School, Bug Catching, Summer Day Camps, Hawk Ridge Summer Fun
	Adult	Intro to Mountain Biking, Disc Golf, Women's Hike, Superior Trail Series
Arts, Crafts, and Culture	Youth	Craft and Creativity, MEA Break, Teen Night, Friday Fun, Young Makers Knitting
	Adult	Trivia
Sports and Fitness	Youth	Soccer shots, Floor Hockey, Sports of all Sorts, Fun Fitness, Punt, Pass and Kick, Hunter Basketball, Flag Football, Spring Break Learn-to-Sports, Stay and Play at DPL, Youth Open Gym, Sports Sampler, Learn to Play LAX, Learn-to-Skate, Dodgeball Play Gym, Fun Fitness, Jazz & Hip Hop
	Adult	Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, Softball
Seniors		Ghost, Ghouls & Grandkids, Autumn Hike, Evergreen, Portman, Morgan Park, River Lunch Cruise, Chanhassen Theatre, Morgan Park Holiday Party, Portman Holiday Party, Evergreen Holiday Party, Senior Appreciation Day, 100 Year Birthday Party, Movies, Senior Hike, Activity Club All Senior Picnic Senior
Community Events		Story and Play, Edible Dutch Celebration, Pumpkin, Palooza and Storytime, Boobash, Skating, Gobble Glide Skate, Skate with Santa, Champions Build Champions, Sand Modeling Contest, Community Fishing Night, Pop up Play, Art Kits, Skate the Heart, Park Days, Cold Front, Summer by the Front, Chester Creek Concert Series
Self-Directed	Youth	Drop-in Basketball/Volleyball, Ice Skating, Golf, Disc Golf, Tennis, Skateboarding/in-line skating
	Adult	Drop-in Basketball/Volleyball, Ice Skating, Golf, Disc Golf, Tennis

PROGRAMS EVALUATION

COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Community recreation service providers are valuable community resources. Their continued efforts reduce the City's financial burden to provide recreation programming, while increasing activated use of Duluth's park spaces and facilities. This list represents a sampling of the types of activities offered by community service providers and is not intended to be all inclusive:

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Boxing
- Cross-country skiing
- Disc golf
- Ultimate frisbee
- Football
- Gardening
- Golf
- Hockey
- Figure skating
- Lacrosse
- Pickleball
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Swimming

CHALLENGES WITH PROGRAMMING

High Cancellation, Low Occupancy Rates

The programming unit within Duluth Parks and Recreation is relatively young, and still in the process of defining its foothold. As with many newly established operations, the division faces challenges related to optimizing program offerings, increasing participation, and expanding community awareness of program offerings. When evaluating the effectiveness of programming efforts, two useful metrics to consider are occupancy rates and cancellation rates (see Table 18).

Lower occupancy rates indicate that programs have substantial room for growth in participation. While it's not unusual for newer, lesser-known programs to have lower occupancy rates initially, individual programs should be monitored to determine if those with consistently low participation should be eliminated. Conversely, programs with

consistently high occupancy rates may be prime for expansion.

Cancellation rates may provide insight into whether there are too many or too few program offerings available. A typical cancellation rate ranges from 10 to 20%. Cancellation rates below 10% may indicate that there are not enough new programs. Conversely, cancellation rates over 20% may indicate there are too many new programs or that program participation is declining and could be considered for elimination. A newly established operation, like Duluth Parks and Recreation programming unit, can anticipate higher cancellation rates over the next three years, as the appropriate mix of program offerings comes into focus.

It's worth noting that the 2019 data in Table 18 reflects the first year of program rejuvenation for Duluth Parks and Recreation. Progress stalled when the COVID-19 pandemic forced recreation providers across the country to close and/or modify offerings. At that time, community

members felt a general unease towards attending in-person group activities. Some agencies throughout the country are reporting a 50% decline in program levels post-pandemic. While interest, comfort, and confidence for public gatherings is coming back, the newness of Duluth's expanded programming and the backdrop of COVID-19 are important contextual elements when considering these documented occupancy and cancellation rates.

Facility Needs

The City of Duluth faces an immense challenge to maintain its expansive system of park spaces and amenities, including a high number of community centers that are degrading or inoperable. While community centers are dispersed throughout Duluth and have offered a space for community members to recreate and gather for decades, the budget, staff resources, and third-party support for their upkeep and care is scarce. Parks and Recreation lacks adequate funding to support much needed capital replacements and improvements which impact use and programmability of community centers. Additionally, these centers are often not right-sized nor designed for current trends, which call for larger facilities equipped with indoor sports facilities. Aquatic facilities are provided by YMCA, the Duluth public school district, and University of Minnesota Duluth.

Table 18: Parks and Recreation Program Occupancy and Cancellation, 2019-2021

	2021 Occupancy Rate	2021 Cancellation Rate	2020	2019 Occupancy Rate	2019 Cancellation Rate
Jan-May	3%	77%	N/A	N/A	N/A
June-August	41%	26%	N/A	30%	40%
Sept-Dec	38%	33%	N/A	25%	29%

Source: City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department

PROGRAMS EVALUATION

PROGRAMMING SWOT ANALYSIS

The analysis in Table 19 provides an evaluation of Parks and Recreation's programming and facility Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). The SWOT is derived from a review of program offerings, as well as focus group participants input and feedback from the 2021 Parks and Recreation Community Survey. This analysis was used to formulate strategic next steps to employ over the next ten years as part of this plan.

In summary, the City of Duluth desires to build a strong foundation of recreation programs and services. An aging inventory of existing facilities, a lack of indoor facilities, and limited financial resources places a challenge on the City to respond to these needs.

Table 19: Programming SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich natural resources with ample park and open space inventory • Waterfront opportunities • Diverse program offerings, through partnerships with others • Popular location for tournaments and special events • A significant number of special interest classes offer strong community-led programs and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial resources • Facility maintenance needs • Inconsistent maintenance in parks • Overuse of some fields • Lack of senior programs focused on younger, more active seniors • Inadequate marketing of programs; community has lack of familiarity with programs or activities • Lack of programs for people with disabilities that are specialized to serve all ages and abilities • Limited teen programming • Limited fitness and wellness programming • Limited cultural program offerings
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor and outdoor (turf) multi-use fields • Donor and sponsorship opportunities through naming rights • Site-specific programming for outdoor recreation; opportunities for skills building • Multi-use sport courts • Use of park spaces for community events • Community interest in volunteer opportunities • Community interest in cultural, history, and wellness programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgetary resources • Competing with others for program offerings rather than filling in gaps • Deterioration of community centers and inability to maintain or replace in the future • Partner frustration with maintenance and upkeep due to resource capacity • Sense of safety • Community members feeling unwelcome and/or unsafe in spaces and programs

CONCLUSIONS

The system analyses and community engagement findings reveal the many strengths of the city's park and recreation system. The network of parks and trails is vast in its number of properties and overall acreage. Park spaces offer unique opportunities for recreation that reflect Duluth's geography and culture. Duluth continues to attract tourists and newcomers, in part due to the abundance of natural spaces and opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout all four seasons. Parks and Recreation benefits from strong civic involvement and partnerships for program offerings that enhance and diversify recreation opportunities. Duluth's citizens appreciate their park spaces and acknowledge the value that natural spaces provide to personal and environmental health.

The system analysis and community engagement findings also reveal opportunities for further strengthening the existing park and recreation system. With these opportunities in mind, the following chapters present Themes, Goals, Strategies, Action Items and Level of Service Standards and Guidelines to direct Park and Recreation efforts to support a healthy community, enhance inclusion and equity, and advance environmental protection under a sustainable budget framework.



Riverside Park reflects an updated, well-maintained playground.



Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

Public Workshop #1
April 13 and 14, 2022

Prepared by
DESIGNWORKSHOP

CHAPTER 3

THE PLAN

SECTION CONTENTS:

- Themes and Goal Summary
- Invest in Duluth's Future
- Advance Uniquely Duluth Experiences
- Park Spaces for Building Community
- Strengthen Programs, Partnerships, and Volunteerism
- Sustain Trails and Natural Areas

THEMES & GOALS SUMMARY

INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE



Goal A	Increase park funding, in line with industry standards, to create and maintain a high-quality, four-season park system that will effectively enhance the health and well-being of our community.
Goal B	Invest strategically to decrease routine and long-term maintenance requirements, leverage outside funding, and support community-based priorities.
Goal C	Balance maintenance, reinvestment, consolidation, and new construction of park infrastructure to meet current and future system needs within a sustainable budget framework.

ADVANCE UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES



Goal D	Provide equitable, high-quality outdoor education and programming that encourages meaningful connections with nature in park spaces.
Goal E	Support opportunities for water-based recreation through managed access.
Goal F	Support improvements that simultaneously fulfill documented community recreational needs, enhance tourist attraction, and deliver other public benefits such as economic development and resource protection.

PARK SPACES FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY



Goal G	Promote inclusion in our park spaces, facilities, and programs ensuring that all persons have equitable and appropriate access to our park and recreation system.
Goal H	Activate park spaces to support local, social, cultural, and economic advancement.
Goal I	Honor the culture, storytelling, art, and history of traditionally marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and the NQT2SLGBIA community, among others.
Goal J	Provide equitable, efficient, and effective opportunities for public participation in park planning processes to balance various perspectives and preferences.
Goal K	Support visitor navigation and engagement through a user-friendly system of trailheads, signage, wayfinding, and interpretive elements.



STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, & VOLUNTEERISM

Goal L	Strengthen Parks and Recreation's program offerings.
Goal M	Bolster relationships with partners who provide programming and recreation services and support opportunities that fill gaps in existing local programming options.
Goal N	Promote and support strategically targeted volunteerism to efficiently increase the safe use and enjoyment of park spaces.
Goal O	Increase community awareness of recreational opportunities in park spaces.



SUSTAIN TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS

Goal P	Protect and enhance our open spaces to restore and maintain ecological health, build resilience to natural disasters, and preserve the area's natural beauty.
Goal Q	Increase climate-resiliency in all of our trails and natural areas through modern design and best management practices.
Goal R	Complete and maintain a comprehensive trail system offering safe, sustainable, and diverse user experiences.
Goal S	Promote a culture of respect for public lands, trails, and waterways, as well as other system users, through stewardship education initiatives.



INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE

The most dependable funding source for Duluth's park system is a property tax levy ("parks levy"), dedicated to parks, as approved by voters in a 2011 referendum. However, the parks levy was established as a fixed \$2.6 million levy whose total proceeds can never increase; not when there is new private development, not when property values increase, never. In contrast, the cost to operate and maintain Duluth parks continually increases. The result is an ever-widening gap between the cost to maintain park infrastructure in Duluth and the funds available to pay for that work.

The City is responsible for the care and maintenance of a parks and open space system that has much more constructed park infrastructure than is typical for a city of Duluth's size. Because of the continuously declining value of the parks levy, available City funds are increasingly insufficient to maintain constructed parks infrastructure over time. This plan acknowledges that the City will lack adequate human and financial resources to maintain all constructed park and trail infrastructure over time even

with securing the maximum plausible additional funding for parks capital maintenance. Public engagement efforts highlighted that park users feel the weight of this challenge, as maintenance consistently topped the list of community concerns.

A critical component of this plan is an "all-of-the-above" strategy for sustaining the future of the park system. This includes identifying methods for increasing and diversifying funding sources, from increasing revenue to partnering with organizations to maintain park spaces, as well as methods for reducing expenses, such as adjusting maintenance policies and divesting in assets that are in a state of disrepair. While such decisions are difficult, this plan identifies and analyzes park elements that may be suitable for removal from the system. Similar efforts from the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan resulted in the removal of five inoperable community centers.

Parks and Recreation is routinely applying for competitive grant funding, often with great success. However, an over-reliance on grant funding is not ideal, as it creates uncertainty

in annual funding levels, can cause priorities to shift based on what type of funding is available, and generally will not assist with on-going maintenance challenges.

This plan theme gives focus to strategic park system investment and consolidation goals over the next ten years, as well as approaches for seeking increased and diversified funding resources.



WHAT WE HEARD...

RESIDENT PRIORITIES

48% of survey respondents identify maintenance as the most important issue to address over the next ten years.

Over half of survey respondents support prioritizing maintenance of parks and trails most in need, followed by parks and trails that are used the most. Few felt that maintenance efforts should be spread out evenly.

62% of residents favor Parks and Recreation giving focus to maintaining and taking better care of established amenities over building and expanding the system.

28% of survey respondents cite “quality” as an issue preventing their use of the park system, including insufficient maintenance or lack of cleanliness, lack of equipment or amenities of interest, and insufficient recreation programs.

When asked to prioritize between the quality of parks (fewer, larger, destination-quality parks) or the quantity of parks (more, but smaller, and lower-amenity and less maintained parks), **residents show a slight preference for quantity over quality, at 54% and 46%, respectively.** With a relatively even split between the two options, residents’ strong call for a better maintained park system should be considered.

SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Increasing the property tax levy is supported by 51% of respondents and opposed by 49% - a nearly even split. Opposition is stronger than support for adding a new user fee or increasing a sales tax.

More than **8 out of 10** survey respondents support or strongly support strategies to increase funding through corporate contributions.

Over 95% of respondents who have an opinion support or strongly support creating a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding.

Source: 2021 Parks & Recreation Survey Report

“Duluth’s parks and open spaces brought me here 26 years ago, and with increased funding to improve them, they will draw even more people to our community to enjoy for generations to come.”

-Britt Rohrbaugh

Project Advisory Committee
Member



GOAL A. Increase park funding, in line with industry standards, to create and maintain a high-quality, four-season park system that will effectively enhance the health and well-being of our community.

Duluth's park spaces are essential to the well-being of the community, and most Duluth residents are active users of the park system. The statistically valid community survey indicated that 57 percent of respondents visit Duluth's parks and natural areas once a week or more. Further, survey responses show that Duluth residents feel that connecting with nature, protecting natural environments and wildlife, and maintaining health are essential or very important purposes of the park system. Given the vast size of Duluth's park system and the value it brings to the community, it is critical to have robust resources available for planning, construction, and maintenance activities to keep spaces functioning at an acceptable level of service.



Park funding allows for improvements and maintenance for the park system, such as the Hartley Nature Center building expansion.

STRATEGIES

- A1. Seek a renewed and revised property tax levy dedicated to supporting the park system, including a method for addressing inflation, expanded service delivery, and capital reinvestment.
- A2. Advocate for the renewal of the half-and-half tourism tax to supplement athletic and recreational tourism focused projects and investments.
- A3. Explore an increased allotment of local tourism tax dollars for key parks serving as tourist destinations in order to support their higher maintenance needs and to increase safety, perhaps through a park ranger program.
- A4. Identify the most appropriate options for expanding revenue generating activities in park spaces by creating a coordinated marketing strategy and utilizing staff resources to promote activities, park space events, and activity rentals.
- A5. Evaluate the potential of a Duluth Parks Foundation for collection of philanthropic gifts and fundraising for targeted projects.
- A6. Evaluate the potential for increasing corporate sponsorship and naming rights funding, creating a catalog of opportunities.
- A7. Maintain Parks and Recreation's success with strategically applying for and securing grant funding and advocate for a permanent grant support staff person.
- A8. Provide annual reporting on investments and projects completed to ensure transparency to the public about progress.
- A9. Partner with other City departments to strengthen the City's Municipal Code to require that land be dedicated as parks, open space, or trails for new development (park dedication ordinance), and to establish a fee-in-lieu (park impact fee) for infill development to support improvements and amenities at existing, nearby park spaces.
- A10. Partner with other City departments to incorporate park investments into projects supported with Tax Increment Financing.



With the system's budgetary constraints, it is crucial to prioritize the upkeep of current amenities within the system.

GOAL B. Invest strategically to decrease routine and long-term maintenance requirements, leverage outside funding, and support community-based priorities.

Because Duluth's parks and recreation system is so expansive, yet resources to maintain it are modest compared to cities of a similar population size, it is imperative that the City be strategic with investments, including evaluating how short-term actions may lead to long-term savings. This goal aims to prioritize park system maintenance, improve efficiency, and set realistic standards and expectations to better serve the community.

STRATEGIES

- B1. When possible, replace heavily manicured and cost inefficient landscaping with durable, low-maintenance and native landscaping.
- B2. Resiliently rebuild public shoreline by, in order of priority, removing infrastructure from the shoreline without replacement, relocating infrastructure away from the shoreline, stabilizing the shoreline using vegetation and natural materials, or hardening the shoreline.
- B3. When possible, invest in energy efficient and renewable energy infrastructure and equipment within the park system to decrease energy dependence over the long-term.
- B4. Identify needed resources to plan for and manage trees in street rights of way, parks, and public open space areas.
- B5. Increase staffing for parks capital maintenance focusing on project planning, grant administration, and construction project management.
- B6. Evaluate the potential for adding additional turf fields to increase use and decrease mowing maintenance.



GOAL C. **Balance maintenance, reinvestment, consolidation, and new construction of park infrastructure to meet current and future system needs within a sustainable budget framework.**

The City has a significant backlog of deferred maintenance liabilities throughout the entirety of its park system. Many of these park assets are beyond their useful life and require reinvestment or consolidation. Likewise there are evolving and unmet recreational needs in Duluth, which require new investments and amenities be added to the system. With limited funding, staff, and equipment resources, there is a need to find a balance between the provisioning of routine maintenance and the need for new investments, consolidation, and removal of outdated or underutilized assets. A sustainable budget framework will require consideration of the maintenance capacity for supporting and maintaining new or improved park assets in the context of the system as a whole. The City must administer a parks maintenance program that is flexible enough to accommodate shifting priorities and patterns over time.



Community feedback emphasized the importance of regular maintenance within existing parks.

STRATEGIES

- C1. Identify and prioritize parks capital needs by considering intended uses and amenities, existing conditions, and community priorities against the required resources for routine and on-going capital maintenance.
- C2. Identify appropriate places for adding different types of restroom facilities (See Chapter 4 list of suggestions by Planning Area and park amenity standards).
- C3. When the City embarks on mini-master plan processes, evaluate park amenities for replacement and/or relocation.
- C4. Prioritize bringing park amenities into operating condition across the entire park system or, where necessary, remove them.
- C5. Maintain investment in the asset management system and continue to integrate internal systems to track and develop plans for deferred maintenance and capital improvement goals.
- C6. Analyze data associated with park maintenance and capital improvement activities to guide allocation of available staff resources for inclusion in parks planning efforts.
- C7. When prioritizing improvements to parks and trails, consider Priority Equity Areas (Shown in Figures 6 and 15), safety, and system-wide distribution of park amenities and services.
- C8. Consider transitioning some parks to a minimum maintenance/passive status with few facilities.
- C9. Implement systems with long lifecycles and low maintenance requirements wherever possible throughout the park system (e.g. pollinator no mow areas, natural playscapes, etc.).



ADVANCE UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES

Duluth's natural amenities, culture, and northern climate offer an abundance of unique park, trail, and recreation experiences. Sitting on the western edge of Lake Superior, the lakefront and the many waterways leading to it provide for picturesque landscapes and water-based recreational opportunities. The city's park system offers an extensive trail network, which is activated by a wide range of users for both warm-weather and cold-weather activities. Trail use, along with enjoying nature and wildlife, were among the top ways people said they use Duluth's park system. Notably, the value of these recreational opportunities extends beyond individual enjoyment, as promoting outdoor experiences is a key component of Duluth's economic strategy to attract tourists and new residents.

Advance Uniquely Duluth Experiences focuses on reducing real or perceived barriers to recreational experiences in Duluth. For example, despite the area's abundance of water, water-related facilities were included in the top five amenities residents identified as having too few of, including formalized water and paddling access points and splash pads. Removing barriers to

water access is not only important for recreational and economic purposes, but also for increasing equitable and safe water access for residents broadly, and in response to climate change. Similarly, while the extensiveness of the park system and the recreational opportunities it provides are highly valued by the community, these opportunities may be intimidating or out of financial reach to some users. The cold-weather climate and the lack of indoor recreational facilities further limits recreational participation for some users. Parks and Recreation is uniquely positioned to provide entry-level, affordable, and diverse experiences to those who may not otherwise have access to or feel comfortable starting such activities. Through focused recreation and educational opportunities, intentional placemaking and design efforts, and supporting improvements that enhance both local and tourist-based recreational activities, the City can nurture connections to nature and advance uniquely Duluth experiences.



WHAT WE HEARD...

MOST COMMON USES OF THE PARK SYSTEM

8 in 10 respondents placed walking, hiking, running on trails and enjoying nature in their top 5 uses of Duluth's park system.

4 in 10 respondents placed biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, playing, or gathering in their top 5 uses of Duluth's park system.

THERE ARE TOO FEW...

35% of respondents with an opinion were most likely to say there were too few dog parks, community gardens, public access points for water and paddling, and splash pads.

When assessing Duluth Parks and Recreation programming, respondents were most likely to say there are **too few** programs that provide **entry-level opportunities** and skill building for outdoor recreation activities, environmental education and nature exploration, and opportunities to volunteer to support the park system.

Source: 2021 Parks & Recreation Survey Report



A unique aspect of Duluth is that residents have the ability to do almost any outdoor activity that they desire within their own city limits.

"The most unique part about Duluth is that you can do almost every single outdoor activity inside the city limits, literally, without ever having to leave town."

- Terrance Lovejoy Sr.

Project Advisory Committee Member



GOAL D. **Provide equitable, high-quality outdoor education and programming that encourages meaningful connections with nature in park spaces.**

Parks and Recreation can provide opportunities for learning and enjoying natural outdoor spaces through programming and park design. Connections with nature and wildlife can have profoundly positive effects on individual health and well-being, and community input highlighted the importance and value that Duluth residents place on such connections. Through both active and passive programming opportunities, Parks and Recreation can play an important role in fostering the relationship individuals have with nature and the outdoors. Further, Parks and Recreation is well suited to support equitable programming goals, to help increase diversity in outdoor recreation, and to practice targeted outreach to individuals and groups who may not otherwise have the opportunity to make such meaningful connections with nature.

STRATEGIES

- D1. Support the efforts of community recreation partners to reach diverse populations and expand participation in nature-based recreation and education activities.
- D2. Engage with those underrepresented in mainstream outdoor education to learn how they would most prefer to be welcomed and included to participate in nature-based activities.
- D3. Foster relationships with and between community education centers (e.g. schools, nature center, etc.) and community recreation providers to increase opportunities for youth to experience the outdoors.
- D4. Explore untapped environmental educational opportunities in Duluth Natural Areas.
- D5. Host educational community events for all ages that encourage learning about and stewarding Duluth's unique natural qualities.
- D6. Provide sufficient signage and wayfinding at all critical access points and educational signage at key park locations and trailheads.

- D7. Provide introductory recreational experiences and opportunities to create positive connections with the outdoors, designed with inclusivity and equity at the forefront.



Ely's Peak Rock Program provides educational programming for purposeful outdoor connections.



GOAL E. Support opportunities for water-based recreation through managed access.

Lake Superior and the St. Louis River estuary create numerous opportunities for water-based recreation in Duluth, including swimming, fishing, kayaking, sailing, surfing, and more. However, some Duluth neighborhoods experience greater barriers to accessing water-based recreation opportunities than others. Public access points for water recreation activities and splash pads were among the top amenities Duluth residents identified as having too few of in the community survey and written comments further described residents' feelings of being cut-off from the lakefront. Infrastructure that supports shore fishing, waterfront trail use, canoeing/kayaking, swimming, waterfront parks, and viewpoints are elements that provide low-barrier access to water. Additionally, while Lake Superior acts as a major tourist attraction, options for how and where to best experience water-based recreation activities may be unclear to visitors. Through creative and thoughtful design, Duluth can offer improved and managed water access opportunities for locals and visitors alike.

STRATEGIES

- E1. Develop a clear and systematic plan for water access in Duluth, built on safety and promoting connections to the St. Louis River National Water Trail and Lake Superior Water Trails.
- E2. Increase programming that encourages both passive and active connections with waterways, and increases water education and safety among participants.
- E3. Formalize and increase recreational water access points, designated fishing areas, and splash pads in East, Central, and West Duluth. Where possible, consider options for incorporating adaptive facilities and provide space for equipment rental hubs, vessel access points, and parking adjacent to existing park facilities. Ensure ADA accessible water access points in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act.
- E4. In neighborhoods where formalized access to clean natural water bodies is not possible, consider alternate methods to support water-based experiences, such as transportation options, installing splash pads, and/or waterway clean-up efforts.
- E5. Identify, plan, and establish a swimming site on a restored section of the St. Louis River.



There are extensive opportunities to explore Duluth by Kayak.
Source: Hans Johnson



GOAL F. **Support improvements that simultaneously fulfill documented community recreational needs, enhance tourist attraction, and deliver other public benefits such as economic development and resource protection.**

Duluth's unique landscapes and expansive park system can make the city feel, at times, like one big natural playground. Promoted as an outdoor recreation destination, both locals and tourists are attracted to the extensive opportunities for experiencing the outdoors in Duluth. It is important to consider and reflect upon the diverse set of recreational, cultural, environmental, and economic purposes that the park system serves when planning and prioritizing investments. It is wise to invest where the direct recreational benefits are greatest and the indirect benefits for economic development, tourist attraction, environmental health, and cultural resources are most extensive.

STRATEGIES

- F1. Invest in facilities that address community-based priorities, support recreation trends, and fill system gaps (see Chapter 4 for recommendations by Planning Area).
- F2. Evaluate the development of a financially sustainable indoor recreation facility to accommodate Duluth's cold-weather climate. This is most likely to occur through public-private efforts.
- F3. Collaborate with Duluth's planning and economic development teams to identify strategies for promoting and investing in park spaces that benefit both tourists and local residents.
- F4. Enhance online maps and interactive tools that feature parks and recreation services and facilities, including trails, community events, and available opportunities that might be of interest to those traveling to Duluth. This also allows an opportunity to showcase parks that are less utilized to spread out park users and impacts more evenly throughout the system.
- F5. When redeveloping athletic facilities, implement multi-use design as much as possible to expand usability, reduce duplication of maintenance needs, and create greater opportunity for tournament-like events.
- F6. Engage the community in a planning process regarding the future use and improvement of the Lester Park Golf Course site.
- F7. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing community feedback channels (comment forms, Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, etc.), and options for creating more efficient feedback loops.
- F8. Engage the community in a planning process regarding athletic fields and amenities to determine appropriate locations, types, and quantities.



Busker Stroll along the Lakewalk bring many visitors and community members together to recreate outdoors.



PARK SPACES FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Park spaces can foster social interactions and interpersonal connections, promote community pride and inclusivity, and uplift one's sense of belonging and well-being. Park spaces play a role in building community and, with some intentionality, can help create an environment that is more equitable, inclusive, respectful, and responsive.

With nearly 70% of Duluth households located within a 10-minute walk of a park, opportunities to use park spaces to strengthen community ties are abundant. However, the City must also work to expand such opportunities to the remaining households located outside of a 10-minute walk to a park. Further, while many existing park spaces and amenities encourage social interaction and connection, Parks and Recreation can utilize best practices for enhancing and promoting more thoughtful and intentional experiences. Park spaces in which neighbors can see a unique reflection of themselves and their community needs will attract more use, encourage stronger community connections, and establish a stronger sense of responsibility and care towards park spaces.

Individuals of all ages, incomes, abilities, genders, and cultural identities must

feel safe, welcomed, and included in park spaces. Factors that may enhance feelings of general safety include cleanliness, well-maintained facilities, lighting, and clear signage. Factors that may enhance feelings of inclusion and welcoming include targeted events and programs, multiple languages on signage, adaptive equipment and facilities, public art, interpretative elements, diversity in promotional materials and parks-related leadership roles, scholarship programs, and clear and friendly direction on how to best activate park spaces.

The Park Spaces for Building Community theme focuses on enhancing community connections, promoting a sense of place, and encouraging inclusivity of all residents. Through a strategic focus on community building, the park and recreation system will acknowledge the needs of community members, break down barriers to accessibility, and work towards increasing the overall health of the community.



WHAT WE HEARD...

THERE ARE TOO FEW

32% of residents with an opinion feel there are too few picnic and small group gathering spaces.

46% of residents with an opinion feel there are too few cultural and historic facilities.

52% of residents with an opinion feel there are too few community gardens.

55% of respondents would like to see improvements for parks and trails most in need of maintenance prioritized.

69% of residents with an opinion feel there are too few indoor restrooms within the system.

PARK VALUES

61% of residents feels parks are essential or very important for appreciating and preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the community.

64% of residents feel parks are essential or very important for providing space to gather and host community events.

66% of residents feel parks are essential or very important for providing recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities.

74% of residents feel parks are essential or very important for providing safe public spaces to interact with other community members.

PARK BARRIERS

5% of residents said that not feeling welcome or a lack of belonging was a reason why they didn't use parks, facilities, or programs.

18% of residents feel that there is insufficient maintenance or lack of cleanliness in the parks.

20% of residents experience challenges with locations or facilities being overcrowded.

"A thriving park has its own energy. An energy that is inviting for family, friends, and visitors of all ages and backgrounds. It can spark joy and conversations, and deepen connections with nature and the community. When we embody that energy, we can create positive and meaningful memories that last a lifetime."

- John Staine

Project Advisory Committee Member

Source: 2021 Parks & Recreation Survey Report



GOAL G. Promote inclusion in our park spaces, facilities, and programs ensuring that all persons have equitable and appropriate access to our park and recreation system.

An equitable park system aims to ensure as many residents as possible have access to park spaces, and that those spaces are maintained at a standard level of quality across all neighborhoods. An inclusive park system is one that considers the physical, cultural, social, and economic needs of various groups and works to reflect the diversity of those needs in park facilities, amenities, and programming opportunities. Community engagement and relationship building will be central to Duluth's pursuit of an equitable and inclusive park system.

STRATEGIES

- G1. Invest in park spaces that are in poor condition (see Figure 13), starting with those located in High Priority Equity Areas.
- G2. When replacing elements in poor condition or at the end of their life cycle, explore options that follow Universal Design Guidelines as described in Chapter 4.
- G3. When creating a park plan, continue engaging community members in the design process to ensure staff understand the features and amenities that will best serve particular neighborhoods.
- G4. Collaborate with City leadership to clarify staff roles and responsibilities for addressing unhoused populations in park spaces.
- G5. Evaluate existing pavilion locations in the park system to determine if and where additional pavilions may be needed. Pavilions should be appropriately sized for community gathering events and equitably distributed throughout the city.

- G6. Work interdepartmentally to develop collective learning opportunities for staff and City leaders that educate on appropriate practices for Indigenous acknowledgment, gender inclusion, and racial and socioeconomic equity.
- G7. Enhance ties to diverse cultural and historical education opportunities in both new and existing programming, where appropriate.
- G8. Establish a sustainable scholarship program to support individuals and families lacking the financial means to participate in programs and/or use facilities.



Quarry Park accessibility improvements create more opportunities for inclusive family programming.



GOAL H. **Activate parks spaces to support local, social, cultural, and economic advancement.**

As the responsible party for permitting park spaces, it is important that Parks and Recreation have sound policies, procedures, and communication channels that allow events and programming to bring people together with relative ease. Park activation can occur through city- or partner-led programming that is well-planned and marketed, supervised, and helps people feel comfortable park spaces. Park activation should be tailored to neighborhood demographics and cultures. Activities may range from exercise and fitness classes to social events that include vendors. Activation should benefit residents through the support of social and cultural advancements and may also benefit Duluth's economy through supporting local entrepreneurs and welcoming visitors.

STRATEGIES

- H1. Develop a process for collaborating with neighborhood groups to better use and improve park spaces for building a sense of community and togetherness, including consideration of resources, policies, volunteer availability, maintenance, and activating different park types.
- H2. Work to develop appropriately scaled event infrastructure for neighborhood and community parks throughout the system, including, as appropriate, seating, power, lighting, etc. As part of the planning process, design for flex spaces that further encourage and support community events.
- H3. Collaborate with local organizations to expand and strengthen opportunities for third-party entities to provide small-scale, pop-up park amenities that invite social interactions.
- H4. Promote park spaces and the programs and services available at each location through collaborating with neighborhood groups and localized community partners and businesses.

- H5. Review and revise plans, policies, and ordinances to better facilitate commercial operations and activate community spaces, including operations for food trucks, market vendors, e-mobility, beer gardens, and entertainment providers.
- H6. Continue to evaluate permitting use fees per industry standards.



A farmers market is one example of a use that can be established in parks to support local social, cultural, and economic advancement.



GOAL I. Honor the culture, storytelling, art, and history of traditionally marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and the NQT2SLGB IA community, among others.

Many locations that were once used for hunting and gathering, ceremonies, burials, and permanent shelter by Indigenous Peoples are recognized today as places of leisure, recreation, and natural habitat and contribute to Duluth's network of essential park spaces.

Community feedback revealed that some residents, particularly people of color, do not feel welcome within the park system and reported unjust treatment from other park users.

With both history and recent community feedback in mind, this goal seeks to emphasize park design and programming to reflect and celebrate the identity and histories of all people, particularly those of traditionally marginalized communities. Highlighting and recognizing histories and diverse cultures within park design and cultural activities is shown to increase diversity of users, foster civic identity, and attract new audiences to the parks.

STRATEGIES

- I1. Explore options to support the creation and enjoyment of public art in park spaces.
- I2. Provide a platform for uplifting programming that recognizes diverse cultures, such as festivals and performances.
- I3. Ensure that diversity is reflected in advertisements of parks and park programming through images and text choice.
- I4. Honor Indigenous stories through partnerships, programming, ceremonies, land management, interpretation, and proactive community engagement.
- I5. Further implement a previously established process for incorporating Ojibwe language into park signage.
- I6. Ensure consideration and intentionality of interpretative signage, where appropriate, as part of the park planning process.
- I7. Collaborate with diverse community leaders and commit to hiring practices for diverse staff representation, when possible.
- I8. Actively engage boards and commissions representing diverse populations, such as the Duluth African Heritage Commission, Duluth Human Rights Commission, Duluth NQT2LGBIA Commission, and Indigenous Commission.
- I9. Encourage increased diversity within the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff through emphasizing the importance of having representation of diverse backgrounds in Duluth.
- I10. Work with local artists and historians to curate signage and art that honors the heritage and histories of park spaces and surrounding communities.
- I11. Advocate for the Duluth Public Arts Commission to establish a sustainable funding source and maintenance policy to support the installation, promotion, and upkeep of public art on public property, including in park spaces.



Twin Ports Juneteenth Celebration at Central Hillside Park.
Source: Ivy Vainio



Park renaming ceremony for Gichi-Ode' Akiing, which means "a grand heart place" in Ojibwe.



GOAL J. **Provide equitable, efficient, and effective opportunities for public participation in park planning processes, to balance various perspectives and preferences.**

When investments in park spaces occur, incorporating feedback from community members is vital for a successful planning process. Efforts to increase input from traditionally underrepresented groups is of particular importance. Effective public participation practices help ensure that planned investments will meet community needs, bolster feelings of welcomeness and inclusion, enhance park usage, and allow for greater enjoyment of park spaces.

STRATEGIES

- J1. Expand engagement of young people and older adults that caters to a wide range of interests and fosters connection across age groups.
- J2. Diversify the methods used to engage with members of the public, increasing the efficiency of communications via Boards and Commissions and traditional forms of communication. Use more creative engagement strategies such as pop-up events, meeting community members where they are and 'on their terms', and lean on collaborative relationships with community leaders.
- J3. Work to expand representation of, and support for, underrepresented communities with the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- J4. Expand partnerships with community organizations to broaden the reach of public participation.
- J5. Develop a Community Engagement Plan for Parks and Recreation.



Various perspectives from diverse community members were brought forth during this planning process.



GOAL K. Support visitor navigation and engagement through a user-friendly system of trailheads, signage, wayfinding, and interpretive elements.

Directional elements are important aspects of park branding and placemaking. Signage and wayfinding are key to helping visitors orient themselves in physical space. Signage helps define and orient users to a space. Wayfinding combines signage and map design, trail markers, symbols, color, and typography to help users or visitors easily navigate through a space.

With such an extensive park and trail system, users can easily become disoriented without proper directional signage. Community input indicated that insufficient signage and wayfinding was a barrier that prevented some residents from using Duluth's park and trail system. The need for improved signage was made clear, particularly at trail intersections, areas where trails have gaps in connectivity, and places where various types of users may occupy the same space.

STRATEGIES

- K1. Implement a system-wide signage and wayfinding plan that integrates the recognition of Indigenous lands through interpretation and signage and continues to incorporate partner wayfinding standards and support (SHTA, COGGS, DXC, etc.).
- K2. Streamline various citizen reporting tools for documenting community needs, safety, concerns, issues, and ideas.
- K3. Implement Duluth Traverse Master Plan recommendations for trailhead amenities and prioritization of remaining deliverables.
- K4. Major park renovation and new design should follow principles of “context sensitive design” tailored to fit the environment and community in which they are built. See Chapter 4 for Level of Service Standards and Guidelines.
- K5. Develop level of service standards for trailheads to define when certain services are provided, such as signage and maps, trash receptacles, bike maintenance tools, etc.



Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve map and trail rules help users navigate through the open space.



STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND VOLUNTEERISM

Recreation programs and organized activities are foundational to community appreciation for and use of park spaces and can impact the way people interact with the outside world and socialize with others. They can also support skills-building for recreation and sports activities that create lifelong habits for fitness, wellness, and health. Public park and recreation agencies are often leaders in providing services and programming for children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Public agencies are often best equipped to bridge the growing divide between those who have the ability to pay-to-play and have access to transportation than those that do not. A key focus of this plan is on strengthening relationships with community recreation service providers and strategically directing the City of Duluth's programming to make best use of the spaces where these activities take place.

Parks and Recreation has many parks, open spaces, and facilities. Staff also provides programming in these spaces. Limited resources create a challenge in making residents aware of the full breadth of services available to them. A history of partnering with others, at times with loose arrangements, has

challenged Parks and Recreation with creating consistent standards for use and care of both indoor and outdoor facilities. The robustness of community recreation service providers also poses challenges in distinguishing Parks and Recreation's programs from the large variety offered by others. Finally, with an extremely expansive park and recreation system, Parks and Recreation must utilize community volunteers to support the City's responsibilities for care and upkeep likely even, to some degree, if funding resources were more sustainable. While balancing agreements and relationships requires resources and strong relationships, the return on such investment comes through the dedication and contribution of so many individuals and groups who are committed to investing in the legacy of Duluth's park system, which has a strong culture of stewardship.

The Strengthen Programs, Partnerships, and Volunteerism theme focuses on bolstering the offerings of Parks and Recreation, standardizing partnership agreements across the system, and creating a culture of recognition and excitement for stewardship.



WHAT WE HEARD...

FOCUS FOR PROGRAMMING

57% of residents preferred that the Parks and Recreation programming focus on diverse and evolving outdoor recreation trends.

7 in 10 residents preferred that outside organizations, rather than the City, provide a range of organized sports leagues and programs.

Residents were most likely to say Parks and Recreation offered too few programs for: entry-level opportunities for recreational activities; skill building for outdoor recreation activities; environmental education and nature exploration; and volunteer opportunities.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

When asked whether there were too many or too few of specific Parks and Recreation program offerings, **half or more of residents said they did not know** for a majority of the listed programs.

44% of respondents chose a lack of information when asked about issues preventing usage of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands.

This included **35%** being unfamiliar with programs or activities.

"We have a responsibility to make outdoor recreation opportunities available to those who otherwise do not have the resources. With more people in the community stepping up to say, 'How can I help?', I'm hopeful for the future of programming in Duluth."

-Eric Larson

Project Advisory Committee Member



GOAL L. Strengthen Parks and Recreation's program offerings.

As a re-emerging recreation program provider, Parks and Recreation faces challenges related to optimizing program offerings, increasing participation, and expanding community awareness of these offerings. One cause of this challenge is that Parks and Recreation program offerings compete with local service providers who offer a variety of sports and outdoor recreation programming to the community. While it is important for Parks and Recreation to fill gaps in programming, it is imperative to find the right mix of services to offer the community. The following strategies focus on the operational and policy aspects of Parks and Recreation programming to add transparency, increase efficiency, and improve responsiveness to community needs.

STRATEGIES

- L1. Create an internal and external evaluation process to support a dynamic program plan for recreation programs and services to adjust the programming process as well as individual programs themselves.
- L2. Apply consistent metrics for programs such as a minimum numbers of registrants benchmark to ensure enrollment, budget, and revenues are fulfilling established goals.
- L3. Formalize a comprehensive policy manual that provides a framework for program administration, development, and implementation to determine if programs are viable and to report program outcomes.
- L4. Conduct an annual trends analysis of Parks and Recreation's programs to identify popular programming as well as programming that may be declining in popularity. Programs that are declining should ultimately be changed, updated, or discontinued.
- L5. Track program trends against regional and national offerings to ensure that programs are current and reflect evolving recreational interests.
- L6. Create a centralized opportunity for the public to submit community suggestions and requests for programs, and events.



The City partners with Hartley Nature Center to provide educational recreation opportunities.



GOAL M. Bolster relationships with partners who provide programming and recreation services and support opportunities that fill gaps in existing local programming options.

The City of Duluth is fortunate to have strong partners as external program providers. As Parks and Recreation continues to build its programming, it should consider opportunities, both internally and through fostering external partnerships, to fill gaps in services. Many external partners use the City's facilities to provide programming. These partnerships bring multiple opportunities for mutual benefits, such as sharing costs for supplies, equipment, facility space, staff, volunteers, programming ideas, participant databases, marketing, and promotions. The following strategies focus on building and enhancing these partnerships, while also strengthening the ability to maintain park spaces for continued public use. Strategies also carefully consider Parks and Recreation's role in permitting, programming, and operating, and how they can close gaps and provide the community with a robust and vibrant array of programming opportunities that support the well-being of all people.

STRATEGIES

- M1. Evaluate existing community program offerings to ensure Parks and Recreation is meeting community needs and that programming opportunities are distributed equitably geographically. The evaluation should result in the identification of gaps, potential new programming offerings, and areas well-suited for expanded partnerships.
- M2. Expand programming for entry-level opportunities to experience recreation activities, as well as opportunities for skill building and progression.
- M3. Expand programming related to cultural and environmental education.
- M4. Create more recreational opportunities for active older adults, and expand multi-generational programming.
- M5. Evaluate potential partnerships with the Duluth Transit Authority and other transportation providers for coupling public transportation passes with program registrations to ease access barriers.
- M6. Develop stronger relationship with the school district to maximize year-round program opportunities by sharing indoor and outdoor facilities with one another.
- M7. Establish a framework for the various levels of formal and informal partnerships that Parks and Recreation wishes to have and the process for establishing each type of partnership (may include memorandums of understanding, or contracts.)
- M8. Assess the opportunities and challenges associated with delivery of third-party programs and services.
- M9. Develop a fee policy document that applies to all partnerships. It should outline how charges should be applied consistently.
- M10. Evaluate and enhance written guidelines for scheduling rights and permitting.
- M11. Act as a "clearinghouse" for recreation programs and services provided by others in park spaces. This should involve evaluation of program performance and reach, promotion of activities, coordination of some programs, and scheduling of facilities.
- M12. Facilitate connections between recreation providers to maximize community awareness and access to recreation opportunities.
- M13. Establish effective communication strategies for receiving and responding to feedback from partners, disseminating information, and fostering communication among partners.
- M14. Collaborate with area colleges and universities to foster connections between students and various public, private, and non-profit partners to advance the long-term success of recreation and natural resource management in Duluth.



GOAL N. Promote and support strategically targeted volunteerism to efficiently increase the safe use and enjoyment of park spaces.

Supporting a culture of volunteerism in the park system helps with upkeep, shared responsibility, civic pride and belonging, championing, and stewardship of the city's expansive parks and recreation system. With focused dedication to engaging volunteer efforts, the City can bolster activities for habitat restoration, beautification, litter pickup, trail maintenance, and multi-generational learning.

STRATEGIES

- N1. Define and expand viable volunteer opportunities that support the stewardship, and/or care of recreational programs for both one-time volunteer groups (e.g., litter clean-ups) and on-going volunteers (e.g., adopt programs).
- N2. Publicly honor partner and volunteer contributions to community recreation, upkeep, and culture.
- N3. Nurture relationships with local user groups, advocacy groups, environmental partners, and volunteers supporting project development, implementation, programming, and maintenance efforts.
- N4. Identify staff and resources needed to provide expanded opportunities for engagement and volunteerism in stewardship and programming efforts.



Volunteers play a large role in helping the Duluth park system, including helping with maintenance and stewardship.



GOAL O. Increase community awareness of recreational opportunities in park spaces.

To maximize program offerings by Parks and Recreation as well as other community recreation service providers, Parks and Recreation should focus efforts on visibility and marketing. This goal includes strategies for the creation of a strong marketing effort to inform and promote the recreation programs and services that are available in the park system.

STRATEGIES

- O1. Develop a visionary multi-year marketing plan as well as a more detailed annual plan that outlines areas of focus, specific marketing tools and tasks, responsible staff members for implementation, financial resources that are required, and a thorough evaluation process.
- O2. Update and maintain Parks and Recreation's website to include detailed maps of park spaces by type and amenities, trail maps by season, a comprehensive list of programs by season and neighborhood, and a list with links to programs and services provided by other recreation providers.
- O3. Host popular activities in under-utilized park spaces that are well maintained to better activate and increase awareness of those park spaces.
- O4. Increase awareness of park spaces by utilizing park classifications to define and communicate their use and amenities.
- O5. Identify funds to support a marketing and communications staff member. This position would implement an overall communications framework by developing a comprehensive marketing strategy for all program and rental offerings and help promote the branding and mission of Parks and Recreation. Additional duties might include supporting engagement with community groups and volunteer efforts, and providing connections to the larger City marketing team.
- O6. Integrate marketing efforts with community partners, such as other service providers, the business community, social service and healthcare providers, etc. to do more targeted outreach. This outreach would aim to

meet people where they are already gathering and promote programs that may be of interest to them.

- O7. Identify opportunities to strengthen the relationship with and integration between Parks and Recreation and the City's Communication Officer, such as coordinating on a Comprehensive Marketing Strategy and/or Community Engagement Strategy.



The beach safety program at Park Point Beach helps young residents feel more comfortable near the water.



SUSTAIN TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS

Duluth's signature outdoor recreation experiences are natural resource based; that is, they depend upon the presence of reasonably intact, healthy, and safe natural resources. The city has an extensive trail network of over 350 miles of City-owned and maintained trails that encourages all-season recreation and promotes connecting people to open space. With 5,540 acres of natural / passive park lands, the City's land conservation and investment in nature-based recreation is a significant contributor to a strong sense of place and community values. There is often a misconception that these spaces require little to no maintenance or improvement. However, nature near urban areas requires stewardship to not only be protected or maintained, but to thrive. Thriving natural areas provide environmental benefits, such as supporting diverse wildlife, providing resilience to natural disasters, and improved air and water quality.

Public access to open spaces also provides to many human benefits such as a stage for environmental education, increased wellness, and spiritual and cultural connections. Sustaining the investment made in acquiring open space lands

requires additional resources and conscientious management actions to achieve desired performance goals.

Much of the public input collected in this planning process highlighted how trails and natural areas should be a top priority. Community feedback has emphasized that residents value the opportunities they have to spend time outdoors, connect with nature, protect the natural environment, and maintain and improve their health. As Duluth looks to acquire natural lands for permanent protection (including lands with existing trails and signage that the City currently maintains but does not legally own), it is critical to focus on implementing the City's Natural Resources Management Program Plan (NRMPP).



WHAT WE HEARD...

IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS

60% of residents feel there is about the right amount of unpaved trails for hiking and snowshoeing.

81% of residents selected walking, hiking, and running on trails as one of the top 5 ways that they use the park system.

VALUES

80% of residents identified enjoying nature and wildlife as one of the top 5 ways they use the park system.

88% of residents felt that protecting natural environments, wildlife, and providing environmental resiliency was an essential or very important purpose for the park system.

89% of residents felt that opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature was an essential or very important purpose for the park system.

TRAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Focus group participants stated that there should be ways to onboard new trail users to **increase education and stewardship**.

Source: 2021 Parks & Recreation Survey Report



GOAL P. **Protect and enhance our open spaces to restore and maintain ecological health, build resilience to natural disasters, and preserve the area's natural beauty.**

Duluth's 2022 Natural Resource Management Program Plan (NRMPP) charts a resilient future for the City's natural lands. It helps to identify, assess, and invest in the future of Duluth's publicly owned open space lands. Supporting and investing in the directives set forth by the NRMPP means preserving ecological functions and values, enhancing the ecosystem, and reducing impacts of natural disasters.

STRATEGIES

- P1. Support the on-going efforts of Duluth's Natural Resource Management Program Plan (NRMPP).
- P2. Establish a process to collect, and prioritize data that will be used to determine the most ecologically valuable open spaces.
- P3. Identify and prioritize habitats that offer critical ecological functions and develop mechanisms to protect, restore, and expand these habitats.
- P4. Work with the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and Indigenous Commission to identify lands within Duluth that have historical and/or cultural significance and identify a process for preservation, including designating as local landmarks.
- P5. Maintain and steward high-quality partnerships to help achieve the goals of the NRMPP.



Signage can help to alert users to preservation efforts and maintain ecological health.



GOAL Q. Increase climate-resiliency throughout our park and trail system through modern design and best management practices.

The impacts of climate change are significant to many aspects of our lives and come with a broad array of pressures on cities and their residents. Planning for climate mitigation with park systems includes considering how these spaces can best combat climate change effects and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to dramatic temperature fluctuations. Due to Duluth's unique seasonality, proximity to Lake Superior, and active local engagement in clean-energy infrastructure, the city is in a unique position to offer climate refuge. In order to ensure this resilience and confront the increasing effects of climate change, actions must be taken to encourage sustainable practices within the park system.

STRATEGIES

- Q1. Develop climate adaptation strategies and natural lands management practices that support high environmental quality and resilience.
- Q2. Increase the health of the urban forest to reduce heat island effect, improve air quality, and provide wildlife habitats. Implement urban forest management best practices.
- Q3. Continue to work with St. Louis River stakeholders to discuss needs and further action plans for St. Louis River restoration and preservation.
- Q4. Develop forest management plans for important forested areas, boulevard trees, and parks.
- Q5. If data is available, identify potential for park properties to be impacted by floods, rising water, and hazards through mapping. Identify mitigation tactics for future locations that may be impacted.
- Q6. Assess recreation impacts associated with warmer, shorter winter months and whether alternate facilities or services should be considered (ex: indoor ice rinks to extend skating and hockey season)



Best management practices, such as stormwater management techniques, are important to utilize in park design to help increase Duluth's climate resiliency.



GOAL R. Complete and maintain a comprehensive trail system offering safe, sustainable, and diverse user experiences.

Residents ranked trail use for walking, hiking, running, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing among their top uses of the park system. As use of the trails increases and more modes of use are introduced, it is imperative to create and maintain a safer, more accessible system. Local trail planning efforts should prioritize completing, connecting, and maintaining trails that are envisioned in the Duluth Trail and Bikeway Plan, 2015 Cross County Ski Trail Master Plan, Imagine Duluth 2035 Plan, Duluth Traverse Mini-Master Plan, and individual area plans.

STRATEGIES

- R1. Prioritize a list of trail enhancement and creation projects remaining to be implemented from previous trail plans and create a timeline for capital investments.
- R2. Link undeveloped, recreational land to existing parks through trail corridor connectivity.
- R3. Add trails that connect amenities such as residences, schools, and grocery stores to expand trail functions and benefits, and to advance efforts of environmental justice.
- R4. Implement signage standards that indicate trail type and uses to promote understanding and safety of all trail users.



Reassurance markers help to elevate the experience for trail users along the Superior Hiking Trail at Magney-Snively.



GOAL S. Promote a culture of respect for public lands, trails, and waterways, as well as other system users, through stewardship education initiatives.

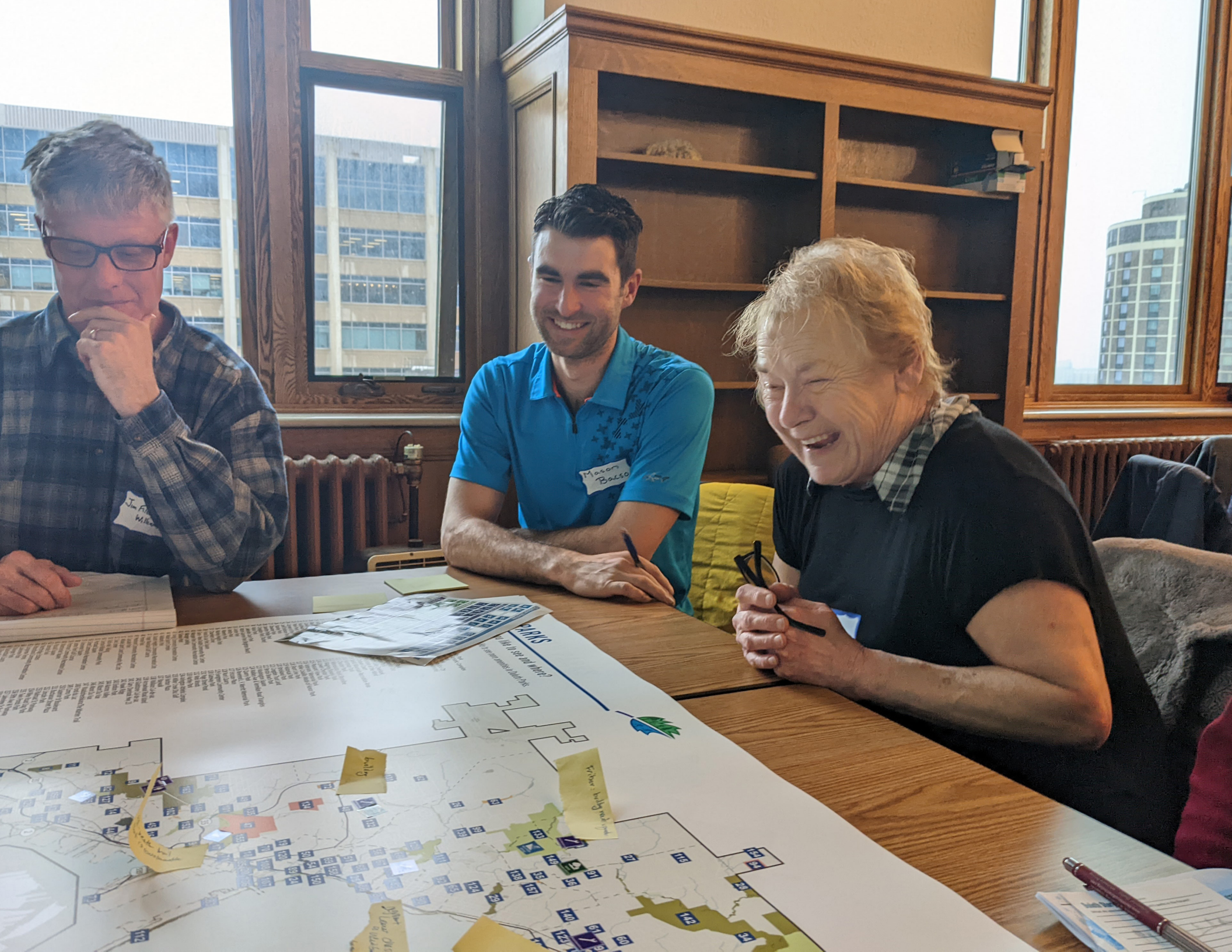
Conversations with focus groups that have a unique perspective on outdoor recreation and education opportunities in Duluth indicated that efforts are needed to educate new park and trail users on proper stewardship of natural lands. Educational efforts might teach new users seasonal best practice for care and upkeep. By encouraging residents to learn about the park system and participate in initiatives that steward, enhance, and maintain open space, Duluth's park system will improve and promote more activity.

STRATEGIES

- S1. Invite user groups to co-create a shared understanding of how to balance current and emerging trail uses to avoid conflict and to ensure a sustainable trail system.
- S2. Seek to reduce user conflicts by collaborating with trail user groups to provide education on etiquette expectations, and, where possible and appropriate, a plan for parallel trails.
- S3. Incorporate engaging and educational interpretive signage in natural areas to encourage land stewardship.
- S4. Partner with and educate trail users to become trail stewards, (i.e., proper trail etiquette, adapting to seasonal changes, leave no trace principles, etc.)
- S5. In collaboration with trails organizations, execute a trail maintenance plan to support "trail openings" for all four seasons, continue routine maintenance activities, and identify areas in need of invasive species treatment and restoration efforts.
- S6. Continue to formalize trail access points and ensure they are well-marked for trail entry to reduce social trails and protect surrounding natural lands.
- S7. Continue to support a culture of volunteerism to keep the trail system in a state of good repair throughout all four seasons.
- S8. Formalize design and maintenance standards based on industry best practices. Utilize various standards targeted to the specific uses for each trail type and use.
- S9. Build relationships among staff, other agencies and/or Tribal leaders to increase knowledge and practice of land management procedures that link to Indigenous life, stewardship, and culture.



Youth fishing at Chambers Grove is fun and teaches kids new skills.





CHAPTER 4 IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION CONTENTS:

- Implementation Introduction
- Action Plan
- Level of Service Standards and Guidelines
- Funding Recommendations

IMPLEMENTATION INTRODUCTION

PRIORITIES AND GUIDANCE

The Implementation Plan includes three sections: an Action Plan, Level of Service Standards and Guidelines, and Funding Recommendations.

Based on the themes, goals, and strategies outlined in Chapter 3, the Action Plan is intended to provide clear, tangible tasks and projects for implementation based on community input and prioritization criteria. It details system-wide efforts, as well as those based on the geographic planning areas of western, central, and eastern Duluth. Each action item indicates which plan themes are supported and which items will require additional funding resources.

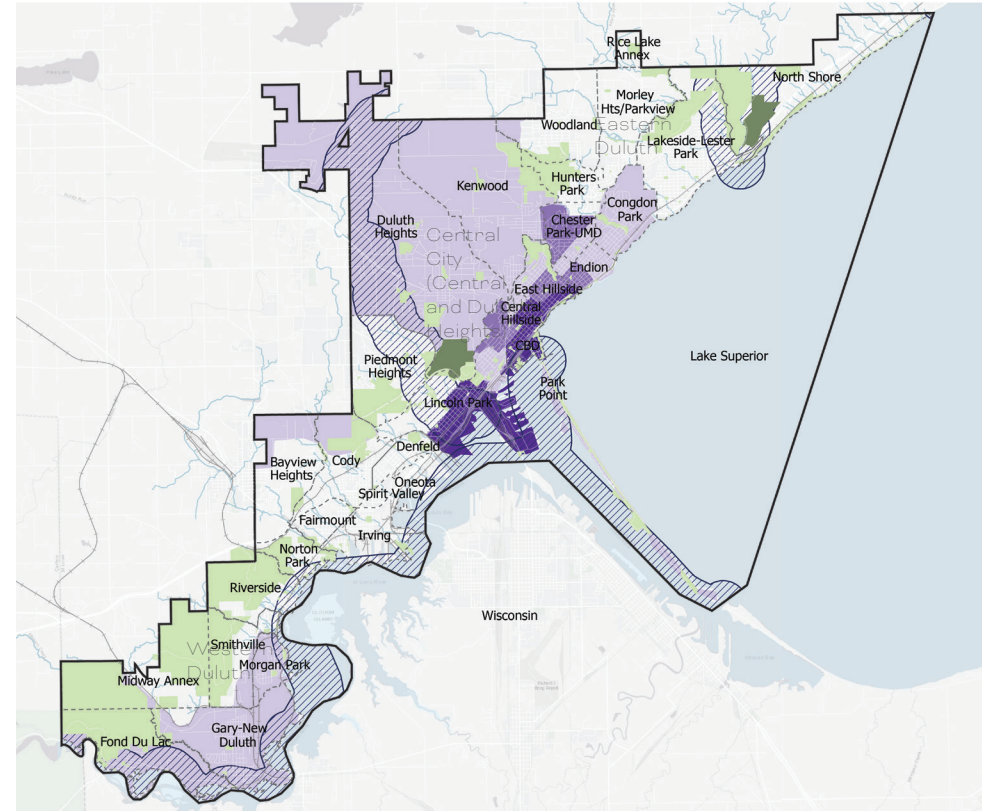
In developing action items, the following factors were considered:

1. Previous planning efforts to support ongoing proposed efforts;
2. The statistically valid survey of resident priorities, cross tabulated by respondent zip code;
3. Map-based exercise outcomes from community workshops;
4. Technical analysis and professional recommendations; and
5. Continuous feedback from community members and community partners.

Actions are prioritized based on the following criteria:

- **Funding and Resource Dependency.** Are funding/ resources available to undertake this action?
- **Equity Goals.** Is the project or program directed to a high or medium priority equity area (Figure 15) and/or will the actions address income, age, ability, race and ethnic diversity disparities?
- **Condition.** Is this park identified as having A low condition/quality rating?
- **Potential Impact:**
 - » Extent: Will the project, program, or action result in large scale impact throughout the city rather than being limited to a singular geography?
 - » Long-term Return: Does this action have the potential to result in significant long-term benefits?

Figure 15: Priority Equity Areas Map



Source: Design Workshop Analysis, CDC SVI Data 2021

LEGEND

Equity Area

- High-Priority Equity Area
- Medium-Priority Equity Area
- Low-Priority Equity Area
- Impaired Water Quality Zone

- Open Space
- Golf Courses
- Streams
- Duluth City Boundary






Factors informing the equity priority zones include median household income, race, physical activity levels, disability status, mental health, age, population density, and car ownership.

ACTION PLAN

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION ITEMS






The following recommendations are applicable to areas across the city with an aim of maximizing benefits for all Duluthians.

Table 20: System-Wide Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
SW1: Ask City Council to authorize a referendum that would, if approved by voters, increase funds generated by the existing Park Fund levy and allow them to grow over time by changing the levy from a fixed dollar amount to a fixed percentage of taxable property value. Prioritize the additional funds for parks capital maintenance.	X		X	X	X	X	X
SW2: Work in partnership with Duluth's Planning and Economic Development Department to codify development requirements for new residential construction. These may include park dedication and/or in-lieu fees that would be provided to Parks and Recreation and support system expansion that keeps pace with new developments.		X	X				
SW3: Create a dedicated "enterprise fund" for other heavily reserved areas, similar to the Bayfront Festival Park model, where user and rental fees are put back into maintenance and capital investments.	X		X		X		
SW4: Establish a more comprehensive asset management system and systematic framework for maintaining park assets that is connected to capital budgets and funding sources.		X	X				
SW5: Preserve, restore, and maintain natural lands in accordance with the Natural Resources Management Program Plan (NRMPP) recommendations.	X	X		X			X
SW6: Implement sustainable management plans to improve water quality, increase habitat, and reduce maintenance. Strategies may include mow/no-mow standards, transitioning parks and open spaces to more naturally functioning landscapes and stream bank restoration.	X			X			X
SW7: Stabilize steep slopes in park areas and work to mitigate/correct storm water runoff issues as appropriate for the conditions and work to prevent erosion thorough education, enforcement, and management actions.		X					X
SW8: Complete a needs assessment and reinvestment plan for public campgrounds in Duluth to determine whether and how to reinvest in the deteriorated city campground at Indian Point and whether, where, and how to invest in a new city campground at another location.		X	X	X			X






ACTION PLAN

Continued...Table 20: System-Wide Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
SW9: Develop and implement trailhead standards for level of service and types of amenities, built upon previous planning efforts.		X		X			X
SW10: Update the Duluth Trail and Bikeway Plan to reflect current conditions.	X			X			X
SW11: Update map of existing trails and planned major trails every 3-4 years. Ensure that these revised maps are distributed through partners, businesses, public places, and online.	X			X		X	X
SW12: Advance plans in the Duluth Traverse Mini-Master Plan to ensure continued development of mountain bike infrastructure for riders of all skill levels, and with an emphasis on less skilled riders.		X		X			
SW13: Assess, design, and finance solutions for challenging park infrastructure maintenance problems, based on scale, expense, structural design, cultural significance, and permitting challenges. Examples include Leif Erikson stage, major Cascade Park gazebo, Enger Tower, etc.		X	X	X			
SW14: Develop and implement a pavement management plan for paved trails and parking lots to ensure regular seal coating, overlay and/or replacement.		X	X	X			X
SW15: Develop and implement a system-wide lights standard for parks that complies with City energy standards, prioritizes safety, and, where possible, achieves “dark sky” principles.		X	X		X		
SW16: Develop an annual replacement cycle for deteriorated fencing and incorporate fencing replacement into park renewal plans.		X	X				
SW17: Continue to implement the Gate, Wayfinding, and Signage Plan, with greater emphasis on Indigenous language and cultural representation and a focus on ensuring that major, city-wide trail systems are well-signed to serve both locals and tourists in wayfinding efforts.		X		X	X		X
SW18: Create a guiding document for public art installation in park spaces, to work in conjunction with any future funding and maintenance procedures from the Duluth Public Art Commission.	X				X		
SW19: Prepare a resource guide for staff to utilize when language assistance or interpretation is needed on a case-by-case basis.	X				X		






ACTION PLAN

Continued...Table 20: System-Wide Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
SW20: Support City-wide efforts to effectively address health and safety challenges associated with unhoused individuals within park spaces.	X		X		X		
SW21: Complete an accessibility audit of parks, playgrounds, facilities, and amenities to benchmark and prioritize actions for elements in need of accessibility alterations or replacements.		X	X		X		
SW22: Develop and implement policies to solicit, accept, and allocate donations to support a scholarship program for individuals lacking financial means to participate in programming.	X		X			X	
SW23: Conduct an evaluation of internal and external programs. This should occur at multiple scales (city-wide and by neighborhood) and integrate staff assessments with those of the users and the general community.	X					X	
SW24: Identify staffing and information needs to support city staff to be a resource for recreation programs, special events and facility information within park spaces. Addition of staff may not be possible, in which case reallocation of existing staff may be necessary.		X	X			X	
SW25: Identify staff and resource needs to develop a multi-year and annual marketing plan for Parks and Recreation offerings. Addition of staff may not be possible, in which case reallocation of existing staff may be necessary.	X		X			X	
SW26: Create a social media campaign to advertise program registration, describe offerings, celebrate park improvements, and recognize park partners.	X				X	X	
SW27: Provide all-ages programming in densely populated neighborhoods in centrally located spaces.		X				X	
SW28: Establish a youth development and career path program for teens interested in the recreation profession.		X	X		X	X	
SW29: Expand seasonal event and program offerings for nature-based education, such as guided hikes with interpretation for youth, mountain bike camps, and snow shoeing excursions.	X			X		X	X
SW30: Reorganize Parks Maintenance staff to improve maintenance of athletic facilities across the city. Addition of staff may not be possible, in which case reallocation of existing staff may be necessary.		X	X			X	






ACTION PLAN

Continued...Table 20: System-Wide Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
SW31: Complete and implement a citywide community athletic facilities needs assessment and reinvestment plan that will cost-effectively improve the quality and equitable availability of fields, courts, rinks, and ancillary athletic amenities.		X	X	X		X	
SW32: Formalize a Parks and Recreation policies and procedures manual.	X					X	
SW33: Implement and uphold formal partnership agreements that identify roles, expectations, facility-scheduling, fees, operations, and maintenance.	X		X		X	X	
SW34: Implement and uphold permitting policies and practices. Review and update use agreements to assure appropriate return to the City and delivery of quality recreation services.	X		X			X	
SW35: Expand on the current Permit Guide to detail preferred uses of specific park spaces to encourage park activation.	X				X	X	
SW36: Activate plazas with programs and amenities of interest to improve quality and maximize use.	X				X	X	
SW37: Conduct a pavilion locations evaluation to better plan for equitable distribution and right-sizing of gathering spaces.	X			X	X		
SW38: Work with the Duluth School District to make sure that City parks near school sites also serve school recreation needs.		X	X		X	X	
SW39: Conduct a study to evaluate the possibility of adding an indoor playground space to an existing or proposed community recreation center.		X		X			
SW40: Conduct an analysis to identify appropriate places for locating splash pad(s) to provide residents opportunities for safe water access and refuge from urban heat islands.		X	X	X			
SW41: For all outreach activities provide a public record of the organizers, sponsors, outcomes, and range of views and ideas expressed.	X				X		

ACTION PLAN

Continued...Table 20: System-Wide Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
SW42: Identify appropriate open space sites that are well-suited to provide temporary water infiltration functions. Implement maintenance actions to support these sites functioning in this capacity during times of high lake water levels and flooding.							
SW43: Identify staffing and resource needs to develop area-specific forest management plans that include boulevard trees and that addresses species selection and succession, appropriate forestry management policies, and emergency procedures for events such as wildfire, disease/insect infestation, and windstorms.	X						X
SW44: Develop a Building Action Plan that identifies a framework for prioritizing investment in park buildings.	X		X		X		
SW45: Develop a Playground Action Plan that identifies a framework for prioritizing investment in playground equipment.	X		X		X		
SW46: Coordinate reporting tools and contact forms on the City website to consolidate and centralize the submission process for citizens. Refine process for reviewing, responding, and reporting out on action plans.	X		X		X		
SW47: Develop policies and procedures for the naming of parks, trails, and assets within the park system.	X		X		X		X
SW48: Develop a revised and right-sized memorial program that is sustainable and addresses replacement cycle needs.	X		X				

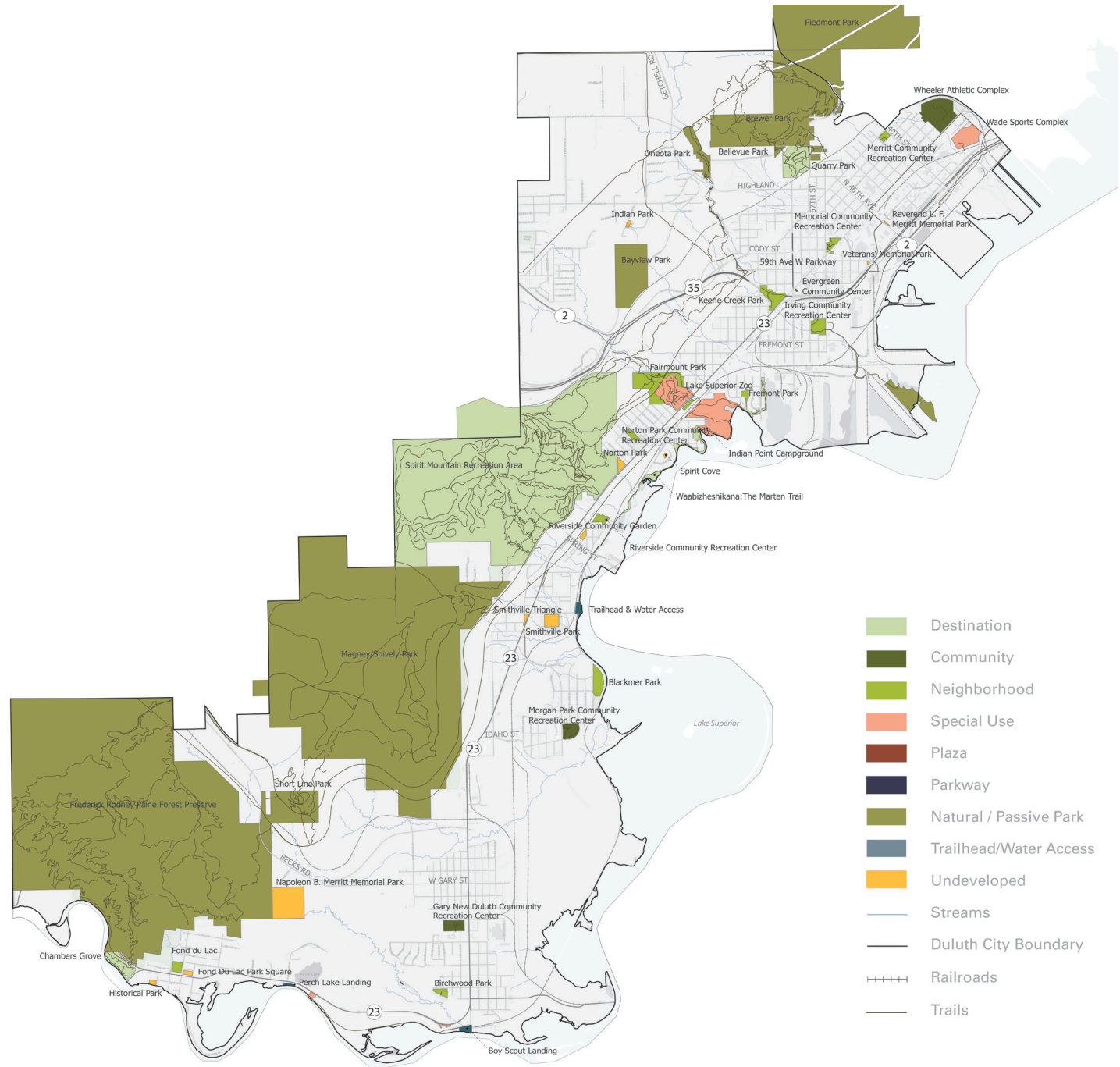
ACTION PLAN

WESTERN DULUTH

The neighborhoods that make up Western Duluth include Cody, Denfeld, Bayview Heights, Fairmount, Irving, Norton Park, Riverside, Smithville, Morgan Park, Gary New Duluth, and Fond Du Lac. Much of the populated, non-parkland areas of far western Duluth are identified as a low priority equity area.






A majority of the parkland in this subarea is classified as natural/passive areas, such as Fredrick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve and Magney-Snively Park. According to the 2021 Parks and Recreation Community Survey, a majority of the residences in this subarea are within a 10 minute walk from their parks.

A greater percentage of residents in Western Duluth than in other subareas use parks and recreation spaces for off-leash dog parks and playing at playgrounds.








ACTION PLAN

Table 21: Western Duluth Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
W1: Implement the interrelated plans for Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Mini-Master Plan, Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Interpretive Trail Plan, and the St. Louis River Estuary Water Trail.		X		X			X
W2: Acquire essential green space in the Brewer, St. Louis River, Mission Creek, and Spirit Mountain areas and designate those properties as protected parkland, in accordance with the Imagine Duluth 2035 plan and the Natural Resource Management Program Plan.		X		X			X
W3: Support Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority's implementation of Spirit Mountain Master Plan and pursue opportunities to connect Spirit Mountain to the citywide parks and trails system.		X		X		X	X
W4: Develop and implement a mini-master plan for Indian Point Campground that outlines necessary reinvestment in campground infrastructure and/or prescribes conversion to a park that may include a water access, swimming beach, improved parking, accessible trail connections, cultural gathering space, etc.		X		X	X		X
W5: Fulfill potential of National Water Trail by improving water access infrastructure and working with St. Louis River Alliance and the City's tourism promoters to promote the National Water Trail as a paddling destination.	X			X			X
W6: Evaluate the potential to encourage and increase all-level bouldering/ climbing opportunities in Short Line Park.		X		X			X
W7: Implement recommendations of citywide community athletic facilities needs assessment and reinvestment plan at major site in the western planning area.	X		X	X		X	
W8: Expand organized activities and special events offered in western Duluth, including the use of using Wheeler Athletic Complex for summer day camps delivered by Parks and Recreation.	X					X	
W9: Implement the Lincoln Park Mini-Master Plan including restored historic pavilion, rehabilitated picnic shelter and new playground, parking lots, nature playscape, accessible walking trails, sports field and sport court.		X	X	X	X	X	X
W10: Support Lake Superior Zoological Society's implementation of Lake Superior Zoo master plan and pursue opportunities to connect the zoo experience to the larger citywide parks and trails system.		X				X	

ACTION PLAN

Continued...Table 21: Western Duluth Planning Area Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
W11: Monitor condition of Wade Stadium, including the artificial turf, building, and other facilities, and prepare a funding plan in anticipation of whole or partial repair or replacement of the facilities.		X	X		X	X	

ACTION PLAN

CENTRAL DULUTH

Central Duluth is made up of neighborhoods including the Central Business District (CBD), Central Hillside, Downtown, East Hillside, Park Point, Chester Park, Endion, Kenwood, Duluth Heights, and Piedmont Heights (Figure 16). The neighborhoods in the northern part of this area have a low population density. Central Hillside, East Hillside, and Downtown are mostly within high and medium priority equity areas, making this an area of focus for actions.

Park types in Central Duluth span from destination and special use parks to neighborhood parks and plazas, with a few undeveloped parks in the northern area. Several of the smaller developed parks are in poor condition or challenging for residents to access by foot.

The top activities identified by residents in Central Duluth are enjoying nature, walking, running, and hiking. Compared to the rest of Duluth, a higher proportion of residents in the more centralized area said that they use the City's parks and recreation facilities for swimming, organized special events, and camping. In the northern area, a significantly higher percentage of residents use park and recreation spaces to play team sports and for organized special events.

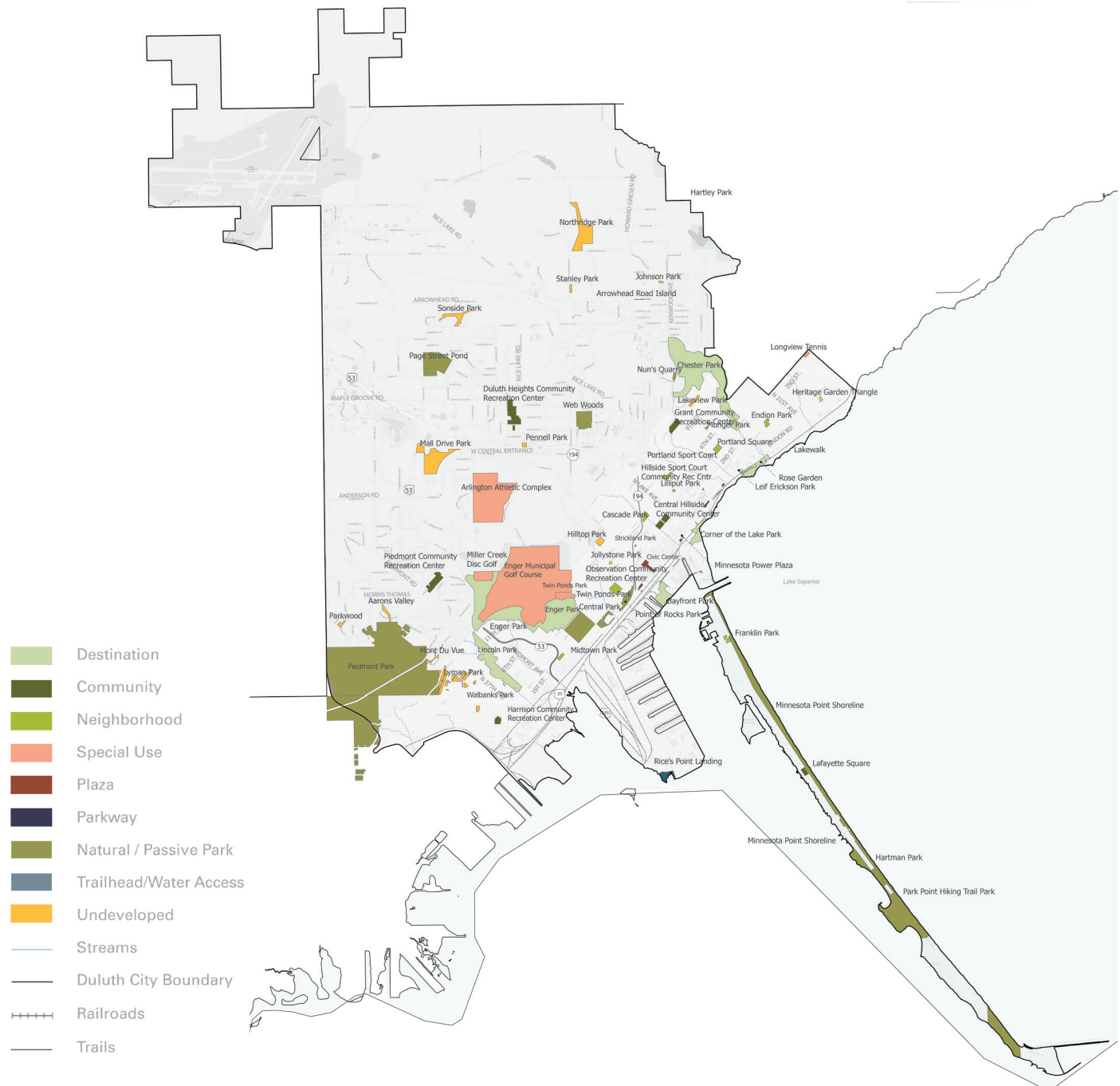







Figure 16: Central Duluth Planning Area Park System Map

ACTION PLAN






Table 22: Central Duluth Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
C1: Ensure that the future renovations of the Chester Bowl Chalet continue to offer public restrooms, along with strategic placement of portable restrooms.		X	X		X		
C2: Enhance spaces for active recreation activities in Chester Park including improving the multi-use sports field and playground area.		X	X	X		X	
C3: Commence planning effort for Park Point Recreation Area to address aging infrastructure and climate impacts, to identify desired recreation options that are compatible and sustainable, to increase connectivity to recreation and water, and to strategize appropriate restroom and trash/recycling amenity locations.		X	X	X			X
C4: Continue to implement “low mow” efforts at Park Point Recreation Area. Enhance green spaces with natural plants and pollinator gardens to support climate resiliency efforts.	X						X
C5: Secure funding for upgrades to aging infrastructure in Cascade Park and Leif Erikson Park.		X	X				
C6: Develop mini-master plans for Central Hillside Park, Hillside Sport Court, Observation Park, Gichi-Ode’ Akiing, Leif Erkison Park, and Park Point Recreation Area. Seek funding to support the implementation of plan outcomes.		X	X	X	X		
C7: Relocate and redevelop Midtown Park to mitigate impacts of the Twin Ports Interchange Reconstruction project.		X		X			
C8: Implement the Duluth Lakewalk Renewal plan to ensure safe public access to Lake Superior, coastal resiliency, and preservation of natural resources and characteristics near the shoreline.		X		X			X
C9: Implement recommendations of citywide community athletic facilities needs assessment and reinvestment plan at major site in the central planning area.		X	X	X		X	

Note that previous analyses separated Duluth Heights and central Duluth planning areas; action items in Duluth Heights and central Duluth Planning Areas have been combined into one section for purposes of implementation.

ACTION PLAN

Continued...Table 22: Central Duluth Planning Area Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
C10: Acquire tax-forfeit lands around Page Street Pond, Piedmont, and St. Scholastica to create formally protected, minimally developed natural parks.		X		X			X
C11: Conduct a feasibility study related to the possible acquisition of tax-forfeit properties for conversion to small neighborhood parks, specifically for areas with low park access that have experienced a large influx of residential development.		X	X	X	X		
C12: Pursue financing to complete construction of the Campus Connector Trail.		X	X	X			
C13: In partnership with other agencies and other City departments, continue to work towards beach preservation, natural resource management, and safe access points along the Minnesota Point Shoreline.	X			X		X	X
C14: Identify a Community Park in a High Priority-Equity Area to host a splash pad for safe water access and refuge from urban heat islands, while minimizing City resources (staffing, maintenance, etc.).		X		X			
C15: Convert space within an existing and underutilized park in central Duluth to include an enclosed, off-leash dog area.	X			X			
C16: Conduct an analysis to identify strategies to secure alternative funding for short-term and long-term maintenance of high-tourist destinations, such as Enger Park, Bayfront Park, Leif Erikson Park, Rose Garden, and Park Point Recreation Area, to better support long- and short-term capital and maintenance needs.	X		X		X	X	
C17: Evaluate long-term maintenance and site needs for water-based recreation delivered by third-party non-profits such as Duluth - Superior Sailing Association at the Park Point Recreation Area.	X			X		X	
C18: Implement the Enger Golf Course Renovation Plan.		X		X	X		

Note that previous analyses separated Duluth Heights and central Duluth planning areas; action items in Duluth Heights and central Duluth Planning Areas have been combined into one section for purposes of implementation.

Figure 17: Western Duluth Planning Area Park System Map

ACTION PLAN

EASTERN DULUTH

Neighborhoods included in eastern Duluth, for the purposes of this Action Plan, include North Shore, Morley Heights, Parkview, Lakeside-Lester Park, Congdon Park, Hunters Park, and Woodland (Figure 18). Only the neighborhoods closest to UMD are within a high-priority equity zone.

The eastern Duluth planning area includes undeveloped open land, community parks, destination parks, and special use parks. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Lester Park, and Hartley Park are some of the key parks and recreation spaces in Eastern Duluth. Also in Eastern Duluth is Lester River. The Walkshed Analysis Map (Figure 8, page 44) shows many of the residences in central Lakeside Lester Park, North Shore, western Morley Heights, and Park View are outside of a 10-minute walk from parks. Additional trail connections may improve this.

A majority of the residents in this subarea visit Duluth's parks and recreation at least once a week. Top activities include walking, hiking, running, and enjoying nature. A large majority of residents, as compared to the other subareas, also enjoy snowshoeing or cross country skiing, and sledding.

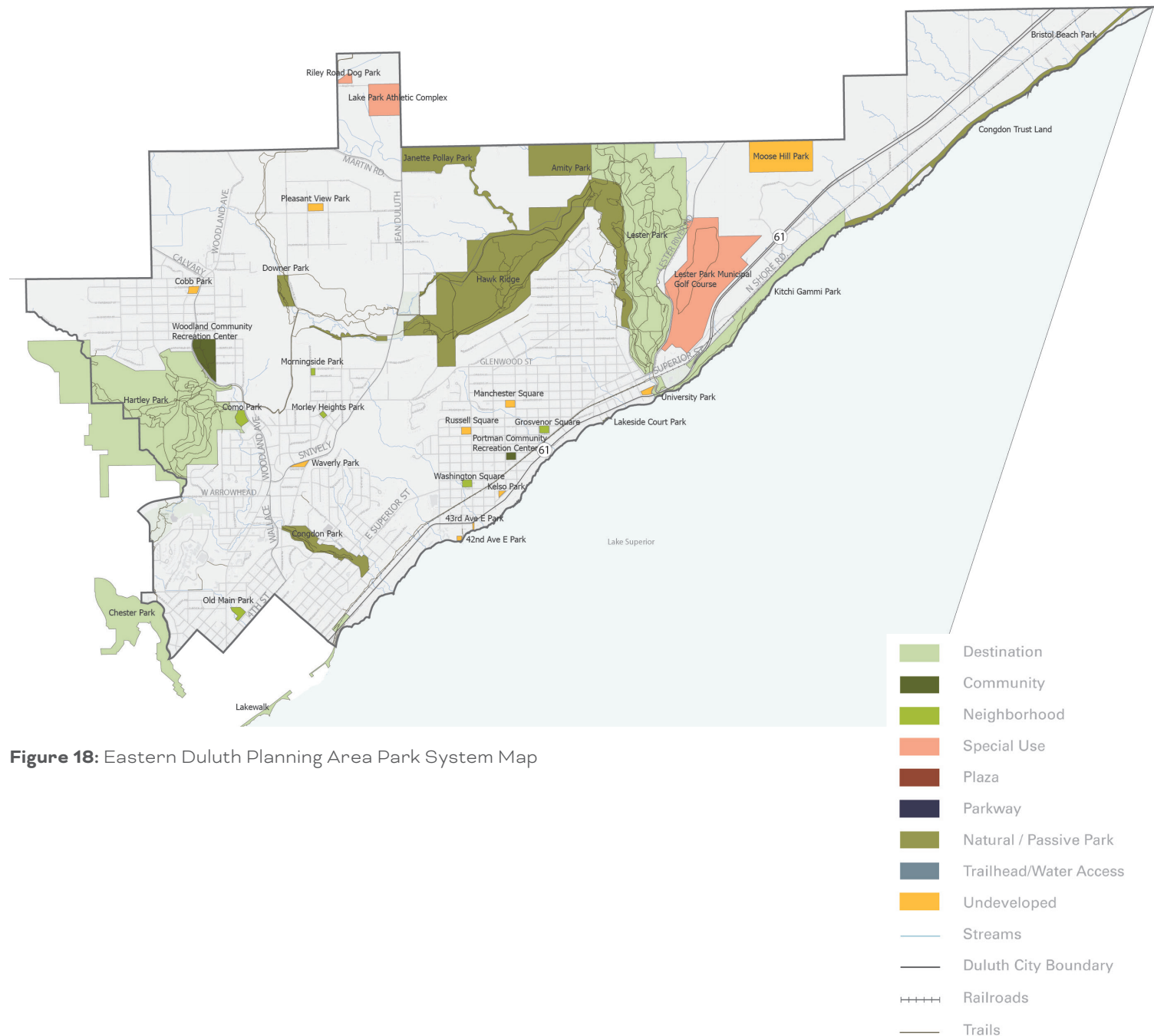







Figure 18: Eastern Duluth Planning Area Park System Map

ACTION PLAN

Table 23: Eastern Duluth Place Based Action Items

ACTION ITEM	WITHIN CURRENT FUNDING	ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED	THEME				
			INVEST IN DULUTH'S FUTURE 	UNIQUELY DULUTH EXPERIENCES 	PARKS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY 	PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, VOLUNTEERISM 	TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS 
E1: Develop a mini-master plan for future improvement and use of the 230-acre portion of Lester Park Golf Course that the City intends to retain as a protected park following permanent closure of the course.		X	X	X	X		X
E2: Implement recommendations of citywide community athletic facilities needs assessment and reinvestment plan at major site in the eastern planning area.		X	X	X		X	
E3: Protect, formalize, and improve existing unofficial neighborhood trail connections to parks by acquiring select tax forfeit and cemetery property then designating, maintaining, and, in some cases, improving the trails.		X	X	X			X
E4: Improve access points and formalized connections between residential areas and water bodies.		X	X	X			X
E5: Develop mini-master plans for Portman Community Recreation Area and Woodland Community Recreation Area.		X	X	X	X		
E6: Complete resilient restoration of Brighton Beach Park.		X	X	X			X
E7: Acquire essential green space in the Lester Park and Downer Park areas and designate those properties as protected parkland.	X		X				X
E8: Conduct a feasibility study to retain, remove, or modify the pond in Hartley Park to best balance recreation, aesthetics, history and ecology.		X					X



Duluth Coldfront Festival brings the community together for snow-filled activities.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

For management, planning and operations decisions, Level of Service Standards and Guidelines offer overall policy direction to guide Parks and Recreation in directing resources with a goal of providing a high-quality recreation system that meets community desires.

RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

A Recreation Program Assessment of the programs and services provided offers an in-depth perspective of program offerings and helps identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. The assessment also assists in identifying core programs, program gaps within the community, key system-wide issues, areas of improvement, and future programs and services for the community. This assessment requires time to explore options and initiate changes.

When developing or enhancing new programs, key questions to be asked include:

- » Does the Division have the knowledge and equipment to provide the program, service, or function? Will this be the most cost-effective method to obtain the program, service, or function?
- » What are the community benefits of this being provided by an alternative organization (e.g., inclusion, familiarity, social

connections, community capacity building and stewardship)?

- » Will the quality of the program, service, or function suffer if it is contracted to other organizations?

Every program should be evaluated based on the direct cost of offering the activity as well as the minimum number of registrants needed to conduct the program. Evaluating the need for the program, its market focus, and its ability to support the program plan and priorities of Parks and Recreation should also be considered.

In a Program Assessment, it is important to consider the following aspects within the lifecycle of a program. Developing criteria around the following will streamline program assessments over time:

- Program Development Plan
- Program Descriptions
- Program Classifications
- Program Lifecycle Analysis
- Volunteers Utilization
- Post Program Evaluations
- Partnership Agreements
- Promotional Methods
- Public Input Process
- Financial Standards
- Remaining Key Performance Measures

The results of the evaluation process should be utilized to adjust the programming process as well

as individual programs themselves.

The analysis should be tracked and reviewed on an annual basis. Programs should be placed into the following categories:

- New – programs in the start-up phase that are just starting to build in popularity.
- Mature – programs that have consistent high levels of registrations and are still growing in popularity.
- Old – programs that are seeing a decline in popularity

Program offerings should be reasonably distributed among these three areas to ensure a healthy and vibrant programming focus. Programs that are in the old category should ultimately be changed, updated, or discontinued.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF AMENITIES

The following Park Level of Service Guidelines provide recommendations for the distribution of specific park amenities. The recommendations in Table 24 are based on parkland classification descriptions (see Appendix B), popularity of use, resources required for upkeep and maintenance, and the distribution of park types within the existing system.

Table 24: Level of Service Guidelines by Park Type

PARK TYPE	ABUNDANT	MODERATE	LIMITED
Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Gathering spaces with amenities » Water access » Restrooms, lighting, trash receptacles » Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Multi-use trail system » Single-use trail system » All ages/abilities playgrounds » Interpretive signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sports fields and courts
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Multi-use courts and fields » Playgrounds » Multi-use ice rinks » Community garden » Gathering spaces with amenities » Lighting and trash receptacles » Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Skate parks » Age/ability focused playground » Community center » Grills » Interpretive signage » Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Single-use courts or fields » Pavilions » Sand volleyball » Disc golf » Dog park » Trail system » Water access/splash pad
Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Picnic tables and benches » Playgrounds » Open play space » Lighting and trash receptacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Water access » Multi-use sports and fields » Skate park » Community garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Community center » Multi-use ice rinks » Trails » Restrooms
Special Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Single-use amenity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Disc golf » Trails » Restrooms » Picnic tables » Off-street parking 	
Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Decorative elements » Seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parking » Gardens and orchards » Hardscapes that provide for vendors » Micro-mobility parking/docking stations, electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sports/recreation amenities
Parkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Landscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ornamental hardscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sports/recreation amenities
Natural/Passive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Trail System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Benches » Water access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sports/recreation amenities
Trailhead/Water Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ADA accessible elements » Map and wayfinding signage » Water vessel launch » Lighting and trash receptacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Restrooms » Benches » Interpretive signage » Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sports/recreation amenities

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR NUMBER OF AMENITIES

Table 25 provides a comparison of the number of recreation amenities provided on average in communities with a population of 50,000 to 99,999, as provided by NRPA. This benchmark serves as a tool for Duluth to evaluate the need for providing a different mix and/or additional amenities within the system.

Overall, Duluth provides a roughly average number of athletic fields of all types. The City lacks precise information on specific community needs, current levels of use, field types, and field conditions. Duluth should prioritize completion of a comprehensive athletic facilities needs assessment and reinvestment plan to better inform pending reinvestment decisions.

Duluth lacks the financial capacity to renew and maintain all of its park amenities. As a result, Parks and Recreation must reduce some types of park amenities. Table 25 points to amenity types that the City has in abundance, which enables removal of some amenities without needing to reduce services to substandard levels.

Duluth has just one artificial turf field – a baseball diamond. Artificial turf fields can support up to five times as much play as a comparable natural turf field. Rather than constructing new natural

turf fields, the City may wish to convert some existing natural turf fields to artificial turf fields. Converting natural turf to artificial turf does not require additional flat land (which may not be available) and may produce better return on investment measured in terms of hours of additional quality play.

*Note that while the NRPA averages differentiate amenities by youth use versus adult use, Duluth's park system inventory is not classified similarly. The count of soccer, baseball, and softball fields in Duluth's system are therefore "double-counted," meaning the number is the same for both youth and adult use

**Duluth Community Values are provided to guide the removal and addition of facilities. Upgrades are expected to occur for all maintained facilities as needed.

Table 25: Park Amenities Benchmark Comparison
NRPA Comparison of Communities with a population of 50,000 - 99,000

COMPONENT	NATIONAL AVERAGE	NRPA LEVEL OF SERVICE	DULUTH	SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	DULUTH COMMUNITY VALUES**
Playgrounds	1/per 3807	22.5	40	7.5	- *
Diamonds - Youth*	1 per 8095	10.6	18	7.4	/
Soccer - Youth*	1 per 8,224	10.4	22	11.6	/
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1 per 8,477	10.1	23	12.9	/
Softball - Youth*	1 per 11,688	7.3	18	11.7	/
Soccer - Adult*	1 per 16,231	5.3	22	16.7	+
Softball - Adult*	1 per 17,228	4.9	18	13.1	/
Diamond - Adult*	1 per 25,097	3.4	18	14.6	/
Football	1 per 30,599	2.8	1	-1.8	/
Lacrosse	1 per 37,763	2.2	0	-2.2	+
Community Gardens	1 per 49,351	1.7	21	19.3	+
Synthetic Field	1 per 34,104	2.5	0	-2.5	+
Dog Park	1 per 56,084	1.5	4	3.5	+
Outdoor Ice Rink Sites	1 per 28,000	3	8	5	/
Multi-use Fields	1 per 13,151	6.5	25	18.5	+

Key: + = add more, - = remove, -* = consolidate and upgrade, / = maintain.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR PARK ACREAGE

Compared to its benchmark communities, Duluth has average allocations of Community, Neighborhood, and Destination Parks, Parkways, and Plazas, and above average offerings of Natural Lands.

Significant portions of Duluth's parks and trails infrastructure are located on land owned by St. Louis County (including tax forfeit lands). The City is in the process of acquiring and permanently protecting open space that it does not currently own but that Parks and Recreation has, nonetheless, improved and maintained as if it were City-owned parkland. The City should continue to acquire such lands to ensure that the trails and open spaces that community members have come to know and cherish remain open and available for public use.

Table 26: Benchmarking of Park Acreage per 1,000 Population

CATEGORY	ACRES / 1,000 POPULATION IN 2020				
	DULUTH	BEND	ST. CLOUD, MN	FAYETTEVILLE, AR	BOZEMAN, MT
Population	86,697	100,421	68,001	87,590	86,697
Community Parks	1.4	6.5	0.0	2.5	1.4
Destination / Regional Park	32.8	21.2	0.0	36.1	0.0
Neighborhood Park	1.4	1.6	0.0	2.1	2.9
Parkways	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Plaza	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Special Use	3.1	0.6	0.0	1.6	2.3
Total Publicly Accessible Developed Recreation Parks	38.8	29.9	0.0	42.2	7.3
Natural/Passive	63.9	0.8	16.4	1.7	2.1
Trailheads/Water Access	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.0	0.7
Total Natural Lands, Trailheads and Water Access	64.0	1.0	16.4	3.7	2.8
Undeveloped	3.0	1.0	0.0	2.9	0.6
Grand Total	105.7	31.8	16.4	48.9	10.6

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

COMMUNITY CENTER LEVEL OF SERVICE GUIDELINES

The following amenities, services, and/or design features are recommended for every City-owned building that functions as a Community Center:

- Design for universal access
- Rooms designed for flexibility
- Gym or similar recreation space
- Spaces that serve senior, youth, and teen needs
- Kitchen space
- Design for year-round use, including heating and cooling needs
- Indoor restrooms
- Wi-Fi connectivity
- Use of renewable energy sources
- Storage
- Trail access
- Programming
- Adequate parking

AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS TO GUIDE FUTURE COMMUNITY CENTER INVESTMENTS

The following set of questions are provided to create a process for the planning and design of future Community Center investments. These questions are centered around the goal of providing recreation amenities that are tailored to the needs and makeup of surrounding neighborhoods. Just as important as identifying the known recreational activities is

identifying who may not be benefiting from this investment due to physical, social, or economic barriers.

Questions to ask when planning reinvestment activity:

- » Who lives in my Center's neighborhoods?
- » What do they want to do in the parks?
- » Who are active users of this park space? How do they use the park?
- » Who is not visible using the park? What are their recreational needs?
- » How is this neighborhood's desires alike or different from those in other parts of the city?

This inquiry requires the project team to identify a set of metrics that help to answer each question and guide the decision making process. Information should come from a variety of sources such as statistical datasets, input from the community, and observations of park spaces at different times of day and inquiring about who is and is not present.

The following resources offer additional tools for developing park spaces under a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) framework:

- [Gehl's Institute - Inclusive Healthy Places](#)
- [Trust for Public Lands - Toolkit for Health, Arts, Parks and Equity](#)
- [American Planning Association - Planning for Equity Policy Guide](#)



Holiday Party at Evergreen Community Center.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

UNIVERSAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

Universal design is a term used to describe spaces that are inviting and comfortable for all users, regardless of age or ability. Universal design incorporates design elements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), which focus on physical barriers, and also supports those who may have different sensory needs and preferences.

Per the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Professional Practice recommendations for universal design, park and plaza designs should consider the following:

- Connections to the street that integrate ramps and stairs with safe materials that are tactile, provide high contrast, and are not slippery when wet;
- Create a clear identity between the street and park space and integrate vegetation to buffer noise and other sensory information;
- Provide options for play, leisure, and relaxation; and
- Provide restrooms that are easy to locate and access.

Duluth currently has 40 playgrounds, nine of which are designed for ADA access. ADA elements such as gentle ramps, shade, seating, signage, and markings are important elements that

enhance comfort and safety in park spaces, particularly for the elderly and populations with low visibility.

Universal design considerations should be evaluated by staff when updating or developing all parks and recreation spaces. Emphasizing universal design will help to create spaces that are inclusive and welcoming and ensures that community members are able to utilize park and recreation spaces regardless of age or ability.



Universal design allows for spaces that are welcoming and inclusive to all community members despite age or ability. The top two images are examples from other communities, and the lower image is Duluth's renewed Lakewalk.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE GUIDELINES

Duluth's expansive park and trail system requires a great amount of resources to conduct basic routine maintenance activities across the entire system. Duluth's parks have been grouped into nine park classifications: Destination Park, Community Park, Neighborhood Park, Special Use Park, Plaza, Parkway, Natural/Passive, Trailhead/Water Access, and Undeveloped. Detailed park classification descriptions and examples can be found on pages 40 and 41.

Maintenance service and frequency should be determined and allocated consistently throughout the system informed by the park classification guidelines (see Table 27). Trail systems, such as the Cross City Trail, the Duluth Traverse and the Duluth, Winnipeg, and Pacific (DWP) trail, may go through various park classification types that receive varying levels and intensity of service, including natural/passive parks. Trails and their associated signage will receive consistent maintenance throughout the trail's route, regardless of the various park classifications they cross.

Maintenance services for grounds, amenities and buildings are delivered primarily through the Park Maintenance and Property and Facility

Management teams. Community partners and user groups also assist in maintenance activities, most notable with athletics and trails, often through formalized maintenance agreements. Volunteerism and community engagement is a critical strategy in stewarding our parks and trails. Individuals, organizations, businesses and park user groups frequently provide maintenance services to the system from litter removal, park beautification, gardening, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and more. Volunteer coordination, while beneficial, requires substantial staff time and resources to effectively schedule, facilitate and lead projects, ensure safety, provide equipment and necessary materials, and track contributions. Striking a balance between volunteer contribution and staff coordination is important in defining and expanding engagement opportunities in maintenance operations.

The seasonality of maintenance activities in parks and on trails is significant, and routine maintenance service are adjusted accordingly. Maintenance activities during the winter are typically limited to parks and trail-related snow removal, trail grooming, and ice rink maintenance. Park Maintenance is responsible for snow clearing on City-owned sidewalks which extend beyond the park system. Park Maintenance also holds responsibility for forestry work, including planting, watering, pruning

and removing trees, for both the parks and boulevards.

In addition to routine maintenance, Park Maintenance staff responds to graffiti reports, critical safety concerns, abandoned waste, deferred maintenance priorities, and special event requests on an as-needed basis across all park classifications.



Park Maintenance responds to special event requests, such as weddings, on an as needed basis.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Table 27: Routine Park Maintenance Guidelines

DESTINATION PARK

Generally have dedicated maintenance staff assigned for the daily care of the park for upkeep of facilities, amenities, grounds, and landscaping, including routine trash collection, restroom service, and mowing.

COMMUNITY PARK

Typically receive weekly maintenance services and upkeep of facilities, amenities, grounds, and athletic fields and courts, including routine trash collection, restroom service, and mowing.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Monitored by staff regularly and the staff will respond to conditions on an as-needed basis. Maintenance activities are focused on supporting the intended use of the park as defined by its features and amenities. These parks receive trash collection, restroom service, and mowing on a case-by-case basis as justified by their intensity of use. Should alternate resources become available to service Destination parks, this category of parks could receive more frequent levels of service.

SPECIAL USE PARK

Often actively managed by, or along with, a third-party partner, and maintenance responsibilities are defined and shared per formal or informal agreements. Maintenance service is variable and corresponds with the intensity, type, and frequency of use.

PLAZA

Often actively managed by, or along with, a third-party partner, and maintenance responsibilities are defined and shared per formal or informal agreements. Maintenance service is variable and corresponds with the intensity, type, and frequency of use.

PARKWAY

Generally receive limited routine maintenance service and tree management. These spaces are not serviced or mowed at a frequency necessary for recreational use.

NATURAL/PASSIVE PARK

Generally receive limited routine maintenance service and tree management. These spaces are not serviced or mowed at a frequency necessary for recreational use.

TRAILHEADS / WATER ACCESS

Monitored by staff regularly and the staff will respond to conditions on an as-needed basis, including trash collection, restroom service, and mowing.

UNDEVELOPED

Generally do not receive maintenance service.



Routine maintenance serves to ensure that parks and recreation amenities are welcoming and usable.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Parks and Recreation should consider seeking alternative revenue sources to enhance service and programs. This will require a significant and consistent effort by staff and political will. However, if successful, alternative funding sources could provide the means necessary to grow Parks and Recreation services and programs. These fund options should be considered in addition to advocating for a larger allotment of the dedicated property tax levy and tourism tax revenues. The following funding types could be pursued to diversify sources and increase support for the differing needs of the park system and recreation programming.

FUNDING SOURCES

The following descriptions are associated with and supplement strategies outlined in Chapter 3 (Invest in Duluth's Future and Park Spaces for Building Community).

Advertising sales

Advertising can occur within sports complexes, scoreboards, gym floors, trash cans, playgrounds, locker rooms, dog parks, trails, flowerpots, and as part of special events held in the City to pay for operational costs.

Business improvement district

A business improvement district (BID) is a defined area of a city that requires

a fee from businesses in exchange of improved services, such as trash and recycling upkeep and maintenance of park spaces. BIDs are most typically found in downtown settings where there is a high density of businesses and foot traffic.

Capital improvement fees

Many park and recreation systems add a capital-improvement fee onto an existing user fee when they develop or enhance major recreation facilities. This is usually applied to golf courses, aquatic facilities, recreation centers, ice rinks, amphitheaters, and special-use facilities like sports complexes. However, given the limited scope of facilities and price elasticity, it will likely take an above-average amount of time for the dollars earned to offset the cost of the capital improvement.

Corporate and personal giving

Corporate and personal giving involves the solicitation of corporate lead funds or personal lead gifts via a foundation partner or through personal contacts that are used to catalyze wider giving in support of a specific project, program, or operation. The lead donations set the precedent for additional giving over a period of one to five years.

Donations

Private donations are often used to pay for improvements to facilities, programs, and services that are highly visible and valued by the public. Donations can either be received directly by the city or channeled

through a foundation or conservancy aligned with the city's park, recreation, and trail priorities. Donations of cash can be made to a specific park or trail by community members or businesses. Depending on the project, donations can also include the gift of materials and essential supplies that help fund new construction, repair, or renovation of facilities.

Foundations

A Parks Foundation is a joint-development funding source or operational funding source between a foundation and the city. Foundations operate as a non-profit organization, working on behalf of the city to raise needed dollars to support its vision and operational needs. The dollars raised by the conservancy are tax-exempt. Foundations promote specific causes, activities, or issues that a park and recreation system needs to address. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects or programming, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, sales of park-related memorabilia, etc. Private donations may be received in the form of cash, securities, land, facilities, recreation equipment, art, or in-kind services. Donations from local and regional businesses as sponsors of events or facilities should be pursued.

"Friends of" associations

"Friends of" associations are typically formed to advocate and/or raise money for a single purpose, such as a park facility or program that will better

the community as a whole and, at the same time, meet special interests.

Grants

The grant market continues to grow annually. Having a strong grant writer and researchers are essential if Parks and Recreation is to pursue grants. The City of Duluth has a successful history of obtaining grants, however, one challenge is that most grants require some form of matching dollars that can be difficult to anticipate ahead of time and within the annual Capital Improvement Plan. This plan recommends creating a long-range plan with a schedule that identifies grant cycles and due dates.

Irrevocable trust

These trusts are established for individuals who typically have more than \$1 million in wealth. They agree to leave a portion of their wealth to a park and recreation system in a trust fund that grows over time. The system can use a portion of the interest earned to support specific facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

Legacy endowment fund

The Duluth Legacy Endowment Fund is a grant fund source through the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. The fund provides support to the City for public projects that fulfill the fund mission of supporting arts and culture, economic development, education, the environment, human services, and parks and recreation.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance endowment

This is a fund dedicated exclusively for park maintenance and is funded by a percentage of user fees from programs, events, and rentals. The fee is paid by players, teams, or other users and is added to a dedicated fund for facility and equipment replacement, such as athletic equipment, lights, artificial turf, and park-maintenance equipment.

Park, open space, and trail bond issues

Public entities typically seek park bonds to meet park-related needs. To be successful, it is extremely important that the use of debt financing through a bond is for a project that meets unmet needs and is clearly a community priority. It is best to propose a capital bond project that serves a variety of users and needs. It is also common that a specific future funding source or projected user revenue/fees would be sufficient to cover the debt payments.

Park dedication fee

Park dedication fees are collected through construction of new developments and are created to support funding for park system expansions. Typically park dedication fees are tied to the geographic area of new developments in order to support the additional provision of recreation services upon new growth.

Park revolving fund

This is a dedicated fund replenished on an ongoing basis from various funding sources such as grants, sponsorships,

advertising, program-user fees, and rental fees within one or more parks. The City could establish a revolving fund to support maintenance at multiple parks.

Partnerships

Partnerships are joint-development funding sources or operational funding sources formed from two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue-producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner.

Special sales tax bond issue

This is a funding mechanism the City has implemented in the past, which uses a local sales tax, as approved by the State legislature and City Council, to make payments on debt financing through a bond issuance. This could be for a specific project or a system-wide use or priority.

Tax increment financing

Commonly used for financing redevelopment projects, a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District involves the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to pay front-end infrastructure and eligible development costs in partnership with private developers and local businesses that benefit from the improvement.

PERMITTING AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

The following policy recommendations would facilitate permitting and commercial operations in park spaces. These changes could allow for additional revenue sources for Parks and Recreation.

Permit fees

This fee could apply to the exclusive and non-exclusive reservation of pavilions, sports fields, special events, and competition tournaments held in the city by other organizations. Permit fees include a base fee for all direct and indirect costs to provide the space on an exclusive basis plus a percentage of the fees charged. A cost accounting model is needed to assess if the City permit fees are undervalued.

Private concessions operating within City parkland

Contracts with private businesses to provide and operate desirable recreational activities and services provide compensation to the City through a land lease. Contractors may include coffee shops, grill and food concessions, small restaurants, ice cream shops, bicycle shops, farmers markets, and small businesses. Land leases are usually based on 15% of the value of the land plus a percentage of gross revenues from the contractor on an annual basis.

Catering permits and services

This allows caterers to work in the parks on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of food sales returning to the city. Many departments that have their own catering service contracts receive a percentage (10-15 percent) from the sale of food and drinks. This may be most suitable for large or special events occurring on City-owned properties.



APPENDIX

SECTION CONTENTS:

- Stakeholder and Public Input Results
- Park Classifications and Inventory
- Recreation Trends Memo
- Previous Plans Summary

A

APPENDIX A

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INPUT RESULTS

Duluth Parks and Recreation Focus Group Summary

August 9-10, 2021

Over 130 individuals representing different organizations, interests, clubs, and groups within the City of Duluth were invited to attend a series of six meetings. The meetings were held over a two-day period and were 90 minutes long. The focus group meetings were topical in nature and centered on specific areas of interest related to parks and recreation.

Focus Group meeting topics and attendance:

- Parks & Environmental Stewardship (23 invited/13 attendees)
- Youth, Recreation, and Programming (22 invited/9 attendees)
- Outdoor Recreation (22 invited/9 attendees)
- Social, Cultural, and Community Education (20 invited/10 attendees)
- Events and Activities Support (28 invited/12 attendees)
- Organized Sports & Leagues (20 invited/7 attendees)

The following document provides a summary of ideas and feedback that was expressed during these focus group meetings. The purpose of this document is to provide a record for attendees as well as opportunity for those who were not in attendance to understand the topics discussed.

If you would like to provide additional thoughts or feedback for the Project Team, please email Katie Bennet at kbennet@duluthmn.gov.

PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Topics discussed: City parks passive/natural lands strengths and weaknesses; habitat protection, biodiversity, and ecology; resiliency – natural disaster / climate change challenges; access to nature and parks equity; environmental outdoor programming; conserved lands, management and messaging/education; funding and partnership opportunities; community stewardship and volunteer opportunities; connectivity to parks, trails, greenways and other open lands; big ideas for parks and recreation.

- Flooding has caused damage to parklands and trails city-wide, especially surrounding Lake Superior and the Saint Louis River. This is a trend that is expected to continue. Restoration recommendations include implementing stormwater best management practices to slow the flow. This may include a range of least to more costly solutions (e.g, rainwater gardens, natural shoreline designs, reducing mowed areas,, enhancing vegetative buffers along streambanks, reducing impermeable surfaces relocating trails).
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Coastal Program is evaluating vulnerability and risk through National Park Service framework. Living Labs should be in place by June 2022.
- Opportunities to support ecosystems from threats and support all species including those are endangered, threatened or of special concern, native plant communities such as ash trees populations throughout the parks and along the Saint Louis River, water quality for cold water fishery and pollinator habitat.
- Parks should prioritize carbon neutral building practices, including LED lighting and solar power.
- City is acquiring 2500 acres of open space land and will needs to define and specify park areas and land usage within and adjacent to these lands..
- Equity

- Duluth neighborhoods are separated by many miles. If recreation or park access does not exist in a local neighborhood, transportation to another neighborhood where it does exist may be a challenge for some, making access an equity issue.
- Access to nature due to surrounding uses and connections is challenging in West Duluth.
- Bicycle and pedestrian connections would help improve park connectivity and access across Duluth.
- Homelessness encampments occur in hidden areas of parklands. Perception that the park is not safe. Presence of trash.
- Volunteerism and Partnerships
 - Does Duluth need a “core volunteer group?” Could address things like plantings and invasives. Corporate volunteer groups have been great to get so many out and learn maintenance techniques.
 - Create a Community Coordinator staff position to coordinate partnerships and volunteer activities.
 - There is not a lot of public recognition of all the volunteer hours that occur. Opportunity for mention in the newspaper or annual dinner, etc.
People are interested in doing monitoring type activities; can seek expertise and volunteers due to interest. Opportunities for Citizen Science.

YOUTH, RECREATION, AND PROGRAMMING

Topics discussed: Recreation program offerings and participation rates; Recreation trends related to parks and outdoor amenities; Encouraging youth to spend more time outdoors; City facilities use, quality and needs; Barriers to participation and program gaps; Management issues and strengths; Transportation access needs for fields/programmed parks; Serving a diverse community and differing abilities; Serving various age groups (toddler, elementary, middle school, high school, adults, senior citizens); Other key stakeholders that need to be involved; Youth rec. relationships, partnerships, support, information and training; Big ideas for parks and recreation; Parks and equity

Discussion

- Youth Needs
 - Programs that focus on early exposure and gateways capture participation at a young age that lasts throughout life.
 - Opportunities for free entry programs to cultivate use and enthusiasm early on that carries on through life.
 - There is a gap in participation for teenagers.
 - Children need places within urban area for skill building to ride bikes, canoes, kayaks, etc.
 - Barriers for children include the correct gear/clothing needed to be comfortable in winter; transportation; program times can pose limitations for working parents who cannot get children to/from activity during 8-5 schedule.
- Elderly Needs
 - Partnership opportunity between parks and rec and senior living centers. Staff at senior living centers are eager for activities. This is challenging during COVID but could be an opportunity.
- Funding
 - There is a capacity issue with parks; look for opportunities to reduce costs and burden of parks maintenance. There could be times when Duluth Parks needs to shrink its footprint.
- Representation and accessibility

- Appreciate increase in indigenous designations. This should continue and be elevated.
- Design elements that support elderly populations and those with dementia include sidewalks that are in good shape, hand rails, contrasting colors to help people orient, places to rest, water, shade, and restrooms.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Topics discussed: *Outdoor recreation trends; Parks experiencing over or under use; Parks facilities and locations to support outdoor recreation interests; Balancing natural environment care with outdoor recreation; User group conflicts or use challenges; Stewardship, volunteerism, and funding opportunities; Connectivity and access to parks and outdoor amenities; Serving diverse needs, abilities, and cultural interests; Parks and recreation equity; Recreation programs and clubs to support outdoor recreation; Big ideas for recreation*

- Parks/facilities experiencing overuse are campgrounds and trails.
- Many trails are specified as multi-use, but in practice are really designed for a single user group; growth in city and use creates conflict when multiple types of recreation use the facilities, such as on biking/hiking trails that are designed as bike-optimized single track trails.
- Having well-marked access points is important to keep people from putting in anywhere along trail corridor. Helps protect where access is and is not.
- Overall amount of trash reflects overuse and lack of education around stewardship. Bear proof trashcans needed.
- Need to find ways to “onboard” new users to educate them on stewardship, etc. Need to bring users along with care and upkeep while still encouraging access. For instance, it’s not uncommon to have to close trails in springtime when trails are wet but need to message that management decision is necessary for trail protection, while still motivating people to get outdoors.
- Opportunity to host events at smaller venues throughout the city.
- Focus of parks and recreation department should be on maintaining what we have - upkeep and replacing aging infrastructure.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Topics discussed: *History, natural and cultural resources to celebrate in our parks; Representation of cultural identities in park spaces; Recreation tourism; Existing programming/events successes and opportunities; Honoring Duluth’s indigenous heritage; Parks and equity; The future of park amenities and programming; Creating welcoming and inclusive parks and recreation system; Serving diverse needs; Programs that should have focused attention; Partnership and funding opportunities; Big ideas for recreation*

- The planning process needs to engage all of Duluth. Go to people who are underserved and underrepresented to engage about equity and diversity representation. Incentives and expressing how it benefits them or their loved ones may be helpful.
- Planning for parks may not be many people’s top priority, particularly for people of color who are working to dismantle systematic racism and indigenous people working to protect sacred lands.
- As we collectively move forward to advance racial and social justice in Duluth, there is a role for the parks system and Parks & Recreation Department. Parks programming, outreach, promotion, support, can be more thoughtful and intentional in advancing anti-racism, anti-homophobia, anti-classism. The public spaces that the Parks and Recreation Department provide should be an example of inclusion and reflect Duluth’s diverse citizenry.
- Need to not design parks spaces with the expectation that everyone has access to a car.

- The City of Duluth has great buildings that need upkeep and the history of them known. Ethnic groups have different stories about the parks to tell. Tell stories of immigrants and routes of transportation within the parks system.
- There is an opportunity to integrate and provide opportunities for residents to receive social services in parks and public spaces, such as HIV testing sites, biohazard dispensary boxes, and others.
- Parks can be a place for wealth building. Centrally located parklands could support vendors/a market that allows economic activities.
- Parks and storytelling
 - Many parks are located next to creeks and springs and natural spaces, which presents and educational opportunity to tell stories about our landscape and connections to it.
 - People that are experiencing homelessness have beautiful stories about the intergenerational experiences of their family. Opportunity for storytelling in parks through exhibits/art, etc. which creates acknowledgement and tolerance of homelessness as a reality for many in the community. Knowing people's history and speaking with each other can be helpful to build comfort.
 - People of different identities may not feel comfortable in the spaces because they don't feel welcome or have been actively discriminated against. This might be an important story telling opportunity that parks can provide.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SUPPORT

Topics discussed: *Special events and activities offerings and trends; Event and activities challenges and support needs; Partnerships, sponsorships, and funding opportunities; offerings equity; Opportunities to activate parks with programs; Recreation tourism; Facility usage and needs; Opportunities for smaller parks and neighborhood gatherings; Fostering events and activities all year-round; Big ideas for Duluth's parks and recreation*

- There are a variety of infrastructure improvement/deferred maintenance needs depending on the facility/event that should be a part of budgeting.
- DECC saw record year at Bay Front Festival and Park. Blues Fest set record; every other event has seen a double digit increase in participation. 35,000 visitors in 2012 and 145,000 in 2019.
- Visioning process is beginning that will plan to improve Bay Walk and growing cruise ship industry and ensure connectivity between Canal Park and Bay Front. Planned to be bike and walk only.
- Local events within neighborhoods would improve equity and get more people involved.
- Smaller programs and events in neighborhood parks is desirable and the community clubs would like to support this.
- Local neighborhoods have taken ownership of local parks fundraising. Opportunities to team up with other community clubs for events and/or fundraising and more communications with parks leadership would be useful .
- Interest in more improvements in Western End, such as transportation and general marketing of the area.

SPORTS AND LEAGUES

Topics discussed: *Sports offerings and participation rates; Recreation trends related to parks and outdoor amenities; Partnerships and roles of other agencies to provide for the community; Marketing and public communications; Serving all ages and abilities; Over/underuse of facilities; City facilities use, quality and needs; Barriers to participation; Transportation access needs for fields/programmed parks; Geographic*

areas or demographic groups that are underserved; Big ideas for parks and recreation; What will this plan need to provide/address in the future; Parks and equity

- Maintenance and upkeep of facilities varies for club sports. Some club sports are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of facilities that are being used through their program. These clubs get scheduling rights and are not charged for renting facilities (due to maintenance and upkeep responsibilities), while others pay the City for renting facility space, which comes with the City taking on maintenance and upkeep responsibilities.
- Youth sports all vie for the same space; school properties are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- Opportunity to meet with other rec providers to coordinate sharing facilities and equipment within facility rentals. Depending on participation, some clubs only use fields once or twice a week and the field goes underutilized otherwise.
- Opportunity for a centralized system for calendaring and event/program sharing could be helpful for scheduling and booking facility use.
- There is a need/demand for additional indoor and outdoor turf fields, especially with the shoulder season having wet conditions for several weeks. There is a desire to have more fields within neighborhoods, but this is challenging due to hilly terrain and the large geographic coverage of the City. Additional turf fields would increase opportunities for use. Currently many turf fields are managed by third party operators for an exclusive use, such as soccer. City owned assets that are managed by third party operations' agreements are managed per the agreement holders' best practices, which can lead to exclusive use for some users and may not fall under industry standards for use/maintenance. currently limit use to two games per day to decrease wear and tear. The addition of more turf fields could create an opportunity for shared facilities between uses, such as lacrosse and soccer.
- Baseball participating can vary by neighborhood and easy access to field. Cost is a barrier for participation. League must provide funding for field use, which shifts burden to users. There is a need to find a balance between potentially consolidating or downsizing the number of fields to create less maintenance costs with the desire to increase neighborhood participation by providing nearby access.
- Lacrosse is growing in participation, especially with targeted efforts. Historically has not used City of Duluth facilities due to lack of designated space. There are not currently high school teams but one co-op team shared between high schools due to lower participation rates in West Duluth.
- There is an expressed desire to have specific courts for Pickleball. This is a growing sport with interest, but lack of dedicated facilities.



City of Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan

Resident Survey 2021

Summary of Results

January 2022

ESSENTIAL SPACES

Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan

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Survey Administration

About the Survey

The City of Duluth contracted with the Design Workshop to help complete their Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan. As part of this effort, Polco's National Research Center (NRC) was engaged to survey residents and gather feedback on park system preferences and priorities in Duluth. The survey was part of a multi-faceted outreach and public engagement process to create a plan informed by the community.

Two survey efforts took place simultaneously. The first survey effort was a statistically valid survey, which will be referred to as the Address-Sample survey. The second survey effort was an open community survey, which will be referred to as the Open Participation survey. Both survey efforts utilized the same set of questions, and the data collected from the Address-Sample survey was kept separate from the data collected under the Open Participation survey.

The first Address-Sample survey mailing was sent on October 12, 2021. The Open Participation survey was publicized at the same time. Data collection ended on November 15, 2021.

Address-Sample Survey

To ensure results were representative of the entire population, 3,200 households within the City of Duluth were randomly selected to receive a mailed invitation to complete the Address-Sample survey online. Each selected household was contacted on two separate occasions to invite them to complete the survey online using a provided URL. A total of 370 residents completed a survey for a response rate of 12%. A typical response rate for this type of survey ranges from 5% to 15%. The margin of error for this Address-Sampled survey with 370 respondents is $\pm 5.1\%$.

Open Participation Survey

The City made concerted efforts to invite all residents to complete the Open Participation version of the survey. A total of 1,592 completed surveys were obtained through this outreach method.

Reviewing Survey Data

The survey data from both outreach efforts were compared to the demographics of the entire community and each were statistically weighted to adjust for under-response among certain demographic groups, a survey research best practice. The Appendices include full results for both the Address-Sample and Open Participation data sets, as well as a comparison of the two by respondent, household, housing type, and geographic characteristics.

Results for the Address-Sample provide a better reflection of the overall City population, as they were randomly sampled. The Open Participation outreach effort reflect those more engaged with the park system, as they were more likely to have heard of the survey through messaging from the Parks and Recreation Division and were more likely to be active users of the parks system. In the body of this report, results from the Address-Sample survey are provided first, followed by the results for the Open Participation survey.

Key Findings

- Most Duluth residents identified themselves as active users of the park system. 57% of the Address-Sample survey respondents said they visited Duluth's parks and natural areas once a week or more. Those responding to the Open Participation outreach were more active than the general population, with 76% saying they visited Duluth's parks and natural areas once a week or more.
- Collectively, trail use for walking, hiking, running, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing ranked highest as the most common uses of the park system, along with enjoying nature and wildlife, and relaxation and contemplation. This was similar for both outreach efforts.
- When asked about the importance of park systems and recreation activities, Duluth residents commonly valued opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature, to protect the natural environment and environmental resiliency, and to maintain and improve their health. This was also similar for both outreach efforts.
- Lack of information was the most frequent barrier that has prevented use of the park system and program offerings. 35% of residents cited unfamiliarity with programs or activities, and 18% cited insufficient signage and wayfinding as barriers. More than a quarter of respondents said there was nothing preventing their usage. For those responding to the Open Participation survey, 25% cited unfamiliarity with programs or activities, and 19% cited insufficient signage and wayfinding.
- Maintenance was identified as a priority among Duluth residents. About 6 in 10 respondents to both outreach efforts prioritized maintaining the existing park system over adding new facilities. Additionally, maintenance was identified by 48% of Address-Sample respondents, and by 42% of Open Participation respondents, when asked to write down what they thought was the most important issue to address over the next ten years.
- Over half of the respondents to both outreach efforts supported prioritizing maintenance of the parks and trails that were most in need, followed by prioritizing the parks and trails that were used the most. Only 1 in 10 felt that maintenance efforts should be spread out evenly across all parks.
- When assessing park facilities, Duluth residents were most likely to say there were too few restrooms (indoor and portable), dog parks, community gardens, public access points for water and paddling, splash pads, and off-leash dog parks; with 35% or more indicating there were too few of each. Residents were most likely to say there was about the right amount of unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing, and biking; paved trails for walking; picnic and small group gathering areas and playgrounds. This was similar for both outreach efforts.
- When asked to prioritize between the quality of parks (fewer, larger, destination-quality parks) or the quantity of parks (more, but smaller and lower-amenity parks, with less maintenance), residents showed a slight preference for quantity over quality, at 54% and 46%, respectively. This was similar for the Open Participation respondents, where 57% favored quantity over quality.
- When assessing Duluth Parks and Recreation programming, residents were most likely to say there are too few programs that provide entry-level opportunities and skill building for outdoor recreation activities, environmental education and nature exploration, and opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system. Very few residents felt there were too many of any given programming opportunity. Higher proportions of respondents to the Open Participation survey said there were too few of most of the programs, compared to the Address-Sample survey. For

example, 45% of Open Participation respondents felt there were too few programs that provide entry-level opportunities, compared to 36% of the address-sample respondents.

- Most residents preferred Parks and Recreation programming focus on diverse and evolving outdoor recreation opportunities (57% of Address-Sample and 64% of Open Participation), rather than more traditional recreation sports and activities. Just over two-thirds of residents preferred that outside organizations, rather than the City, provide a range of organized sports leagues and programs (about 7 in 10 for both survey efforts).
- A large majority of residents supported the creation of a Parks Foundation and the use of corporate sponsorships for funding park facilities. About half of Duluth residents would support increasing property taxes from the current level to support the park system. This figure was higher for the Open Participation respondents, at 63%.
- Responses to the survey were largely similar across various areas of the city, but residents in centrally located zip codes were more likely than residents in other areas to visit a park at least once a week, and to identify outdoor event gathering and swimming as top ways their households used the parks system.

Top Uses of the Duluth Parks & Recreation System (Address-Sample)

8 in 10 respondents placed walking, hiking, running on trails and enjoying nature in their top 5 uses of Duluth's park system.

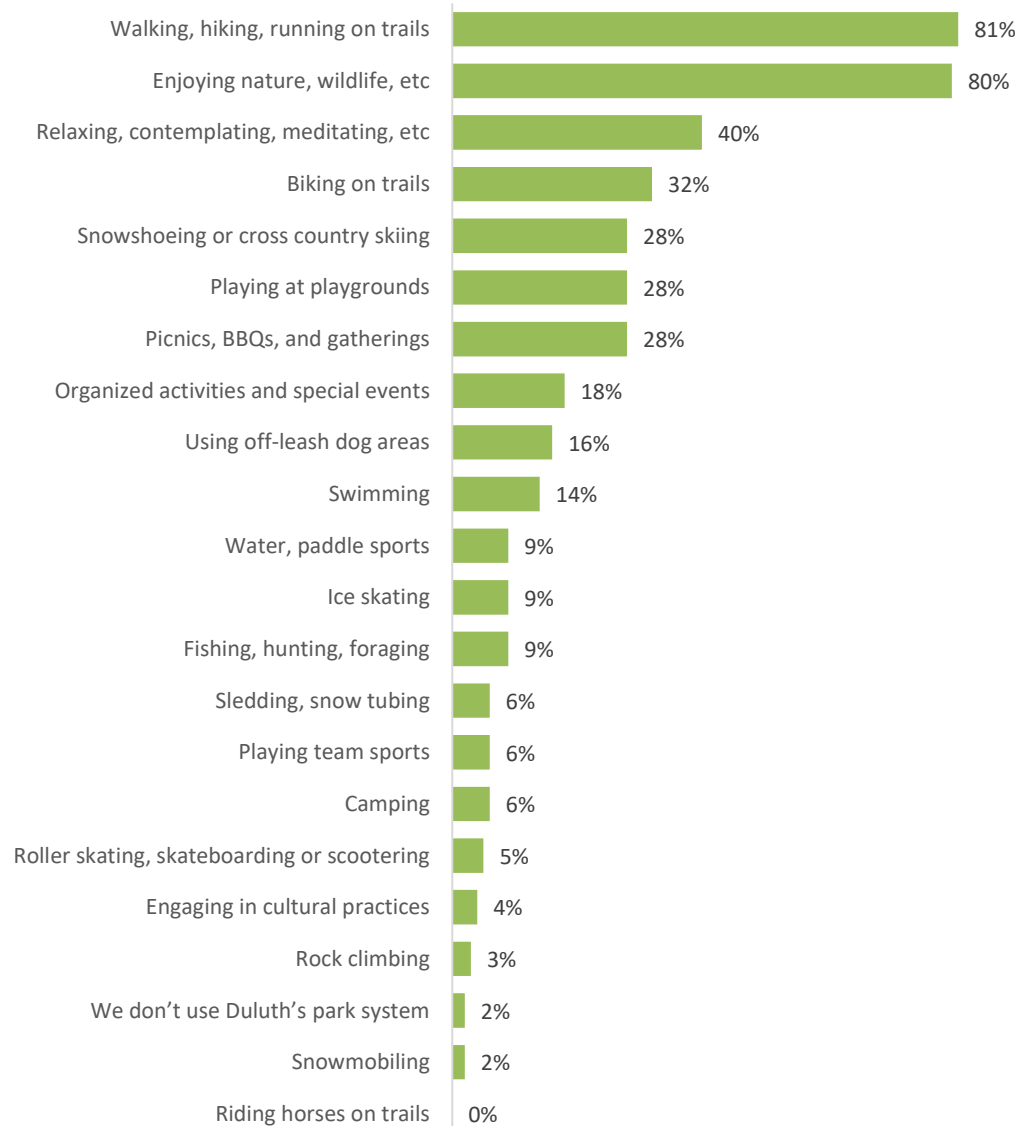
4 in 10 chose relaxing, contemplating, or meditating.

About 3 in 10 chose biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, playing, or gathering.

Organized activities and special events, using off-leash dog areas and swimming were in the top 5 for about 1 in 8 people.

Other options were top of the list for fewer than 1 in 10.

*What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all?
(Select up to 5)*



Q1



Top Uses of the Duluth Parks & Recreation System (Open Participation)

Enjoying nature and walking, hiking and running on trails, also topped the list for Open Participation respondents' top 5 uses of Duluth's park system.

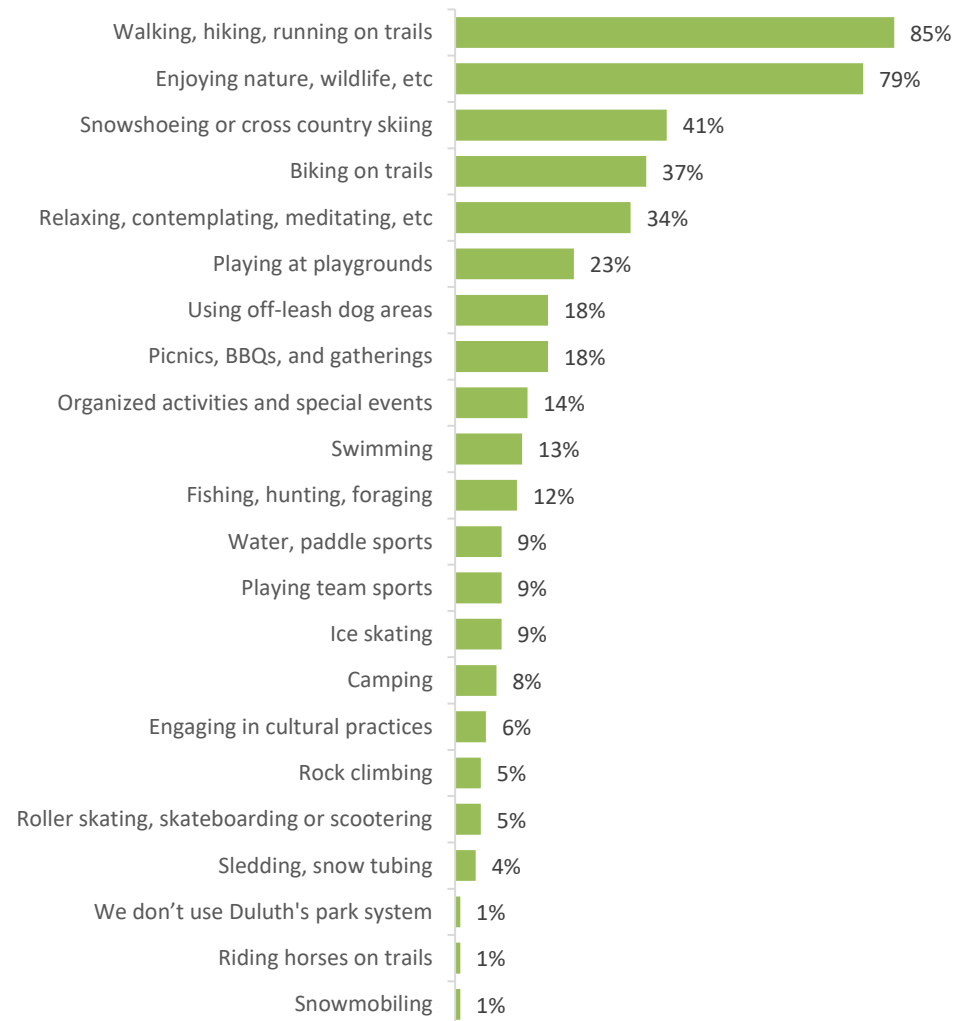
About 4 in 10 chose snowshoeing or cross-country skiing and biking on trails, while about one-third prioritized relaxing, contemplating, or meditating.

Roughly 2 in 10 chose playing at playgrounds, using off-leash dog areas, or having picnics, BBQs and gatherings.

Organized activities and special events, swimming and fishing, hunting and foraging were in the top 5 for about 1 in 8 people.

Other options were top 5 for fewer than 1 in 10.

*What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all?
(Select up to 5)*



Q1



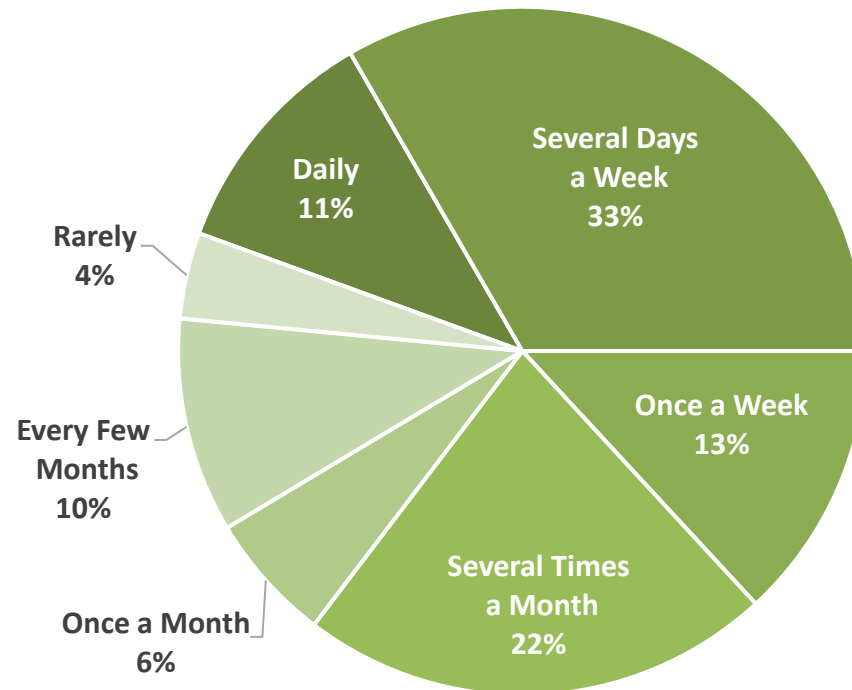
Frequency of Using Duluth Parks & Recreation System (Address-Sample)

57% of residents used Duluth's parks and natural areas once a week or more.

28% used Duluth's parks and natural areas once a month or several times a month.

15% used the parks less than once a month.

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?



Q2



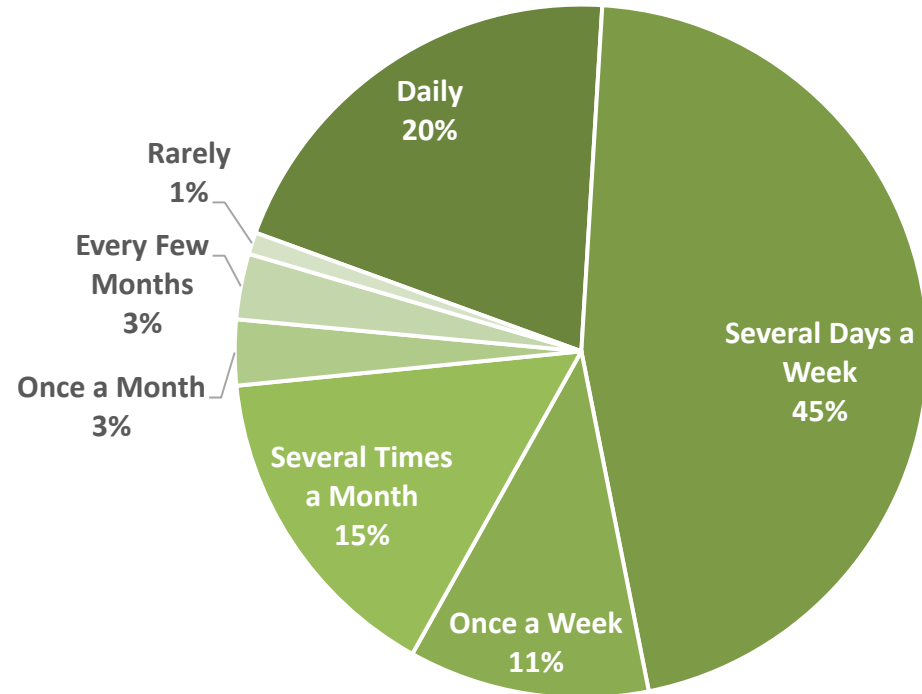
Frequency of Using Duluth Parks & Recreation System Amenities (Open Participation)

76% of Open Participation respondents used Duluth's parks and natural areas once a week or more.

18% used Duluth's parks and natural areas once a month or several times a month.

4% used the parks less than once a month.

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?



Q2



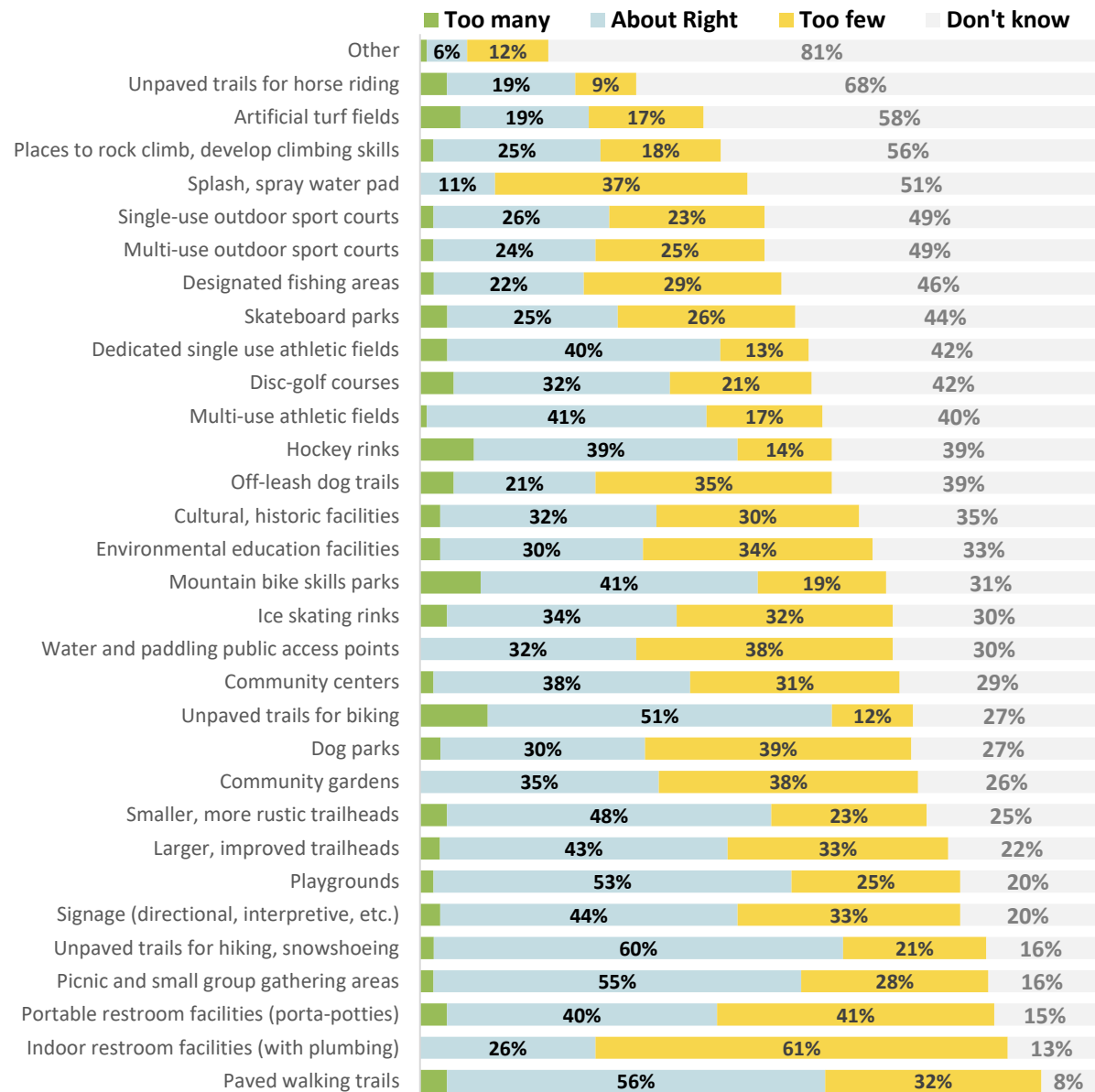
Satisfaction with Number of Specific Amenities in Duluth (Address-Sample)

For 13 of the 31 named park amenities, like trails for horse riding, splash pads and various types of fields or courts, about 40% or more of residents did not feel they knew enough to evaluate their availability.

Most (92%) felt they could evaluate the availability of indoor restrooms and a majority (61%) felt there were too few.

About 4 in 10 thought there were too few portable restrooms, dog parks, community gardens, water and paddling public access points, and splash pads.

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too few, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.



Q3

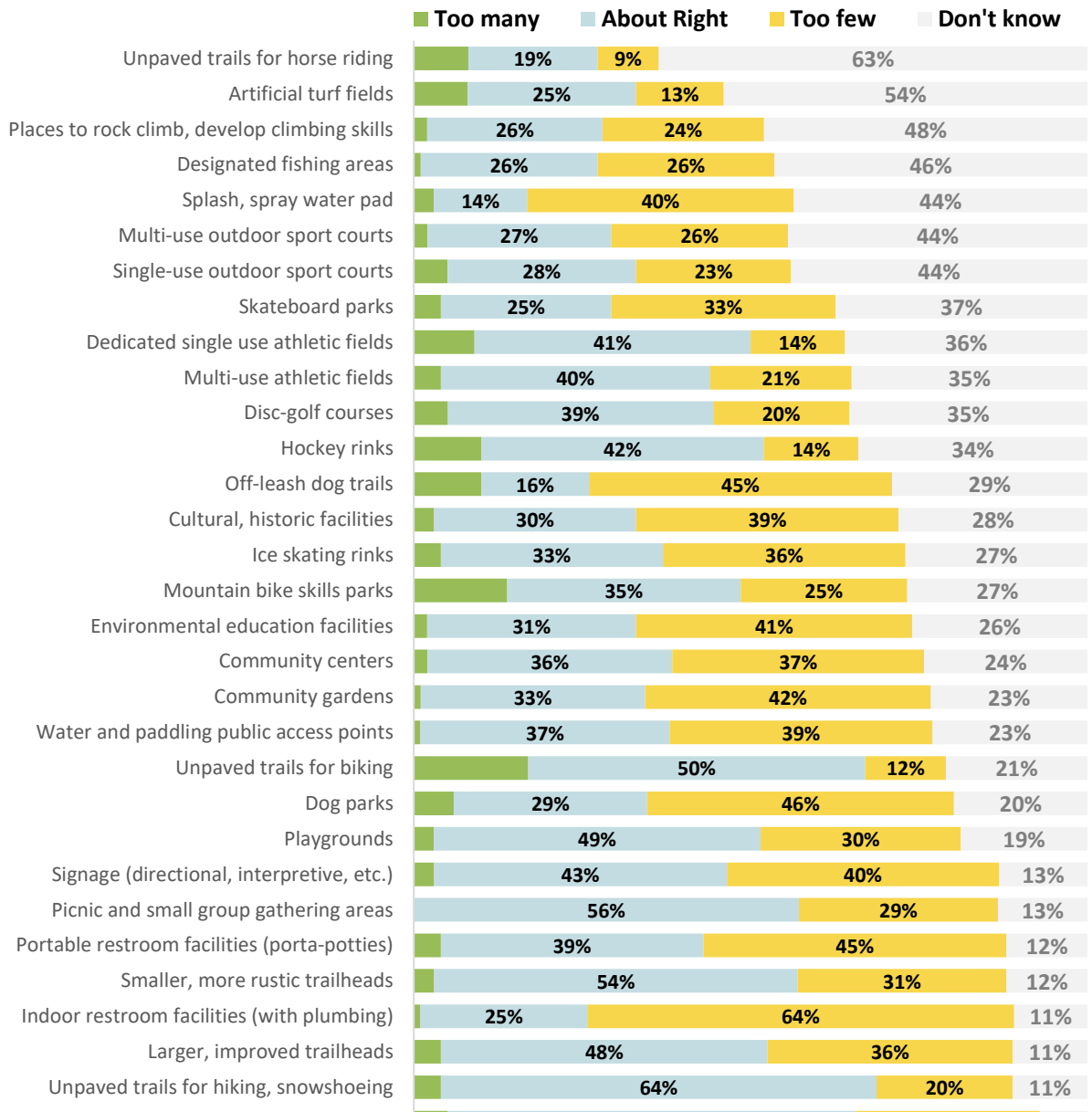


Satisfaction with Number of Specific Amenities in Duluth (Open Participation)

Open Participation respondents were a little more likely to have opinions (i.e., to not select Don't know) on the availability of amenities; for 7 of the 31 named amenities about 40% or more of respondents did not feel they knew enough to evaluate them.

Most (89%) felt they could evaluate the availability of indoor restrooms and a majority (64%) felt there were too few.

About 4 in 10 thought there were too few portable restrooms, dog parks, off-leash dog trails, culture or historic facilities, environmental education facilities, directional and interpretive signs, community gardens, water and paddling public access points, and splash pads



Q3



Satisfaction with Specific Amenities in Duluth for those with an opinion (Address-Sample)

When excluding responses from those residents that said they did not know enough to give an opinion, the ranking of the amenities changed somewhat.

Of those residents with an opinion about splashpads, 75% said there were too few.

Most people (69%) who felt they knew enough to evaluate the availability of indoor washrooms thought there were too few.

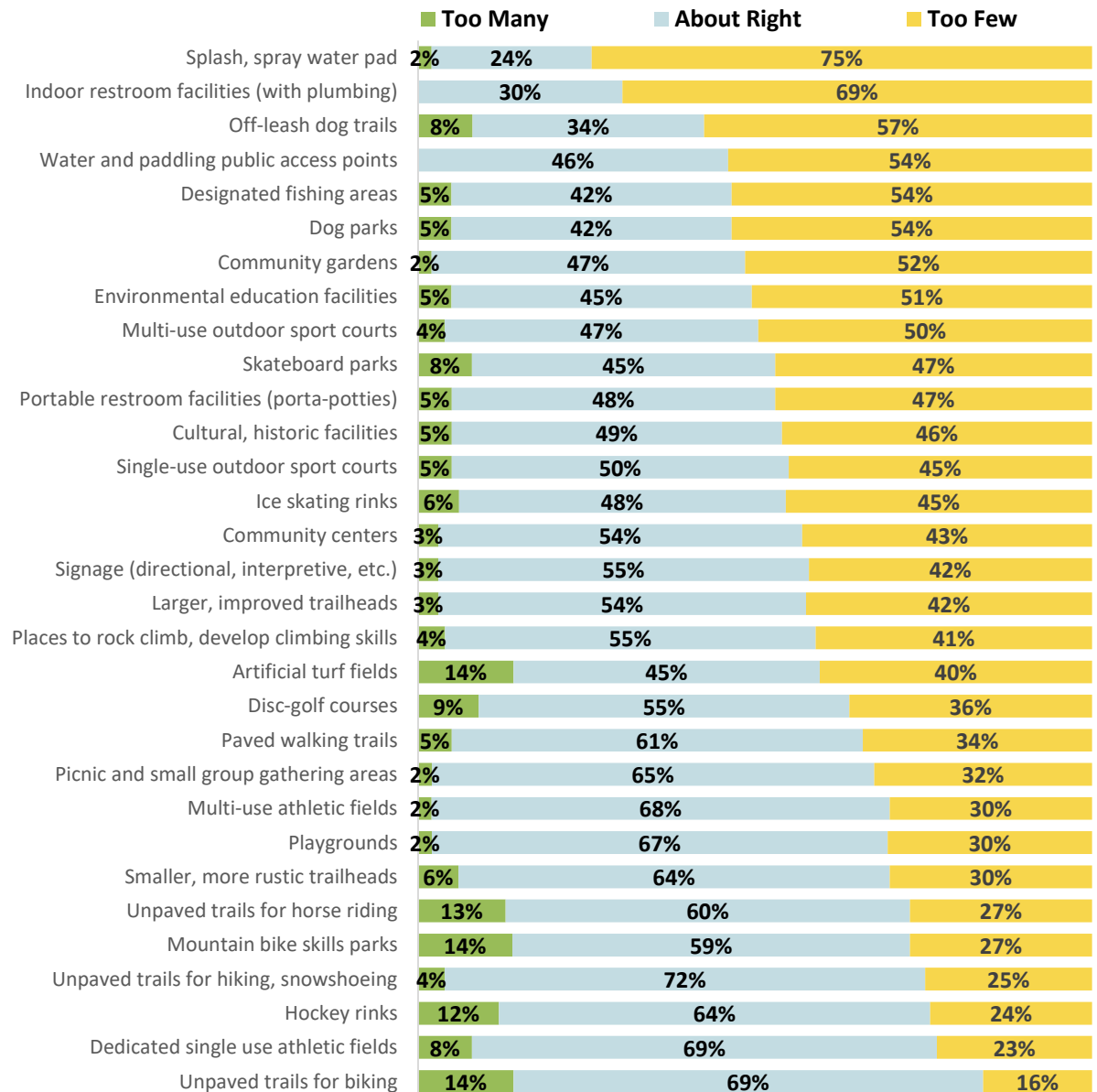
A large majority (7 in 10 or more) of those with an opinion thought there were about the right amount of unpaved trails for biking, hiking, and snowshoeing, designated single-use and multi-use athletic fields, hockey rinks, picnic and gathering areas, rustic trailheads, and playgrounds.

Q3

(Excluding "Don't know")



For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too few, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.



Satisfaction with Specific Amenities in Duluth for those with an Opinion (Open Participation)

Of those Open Participation respondents with an opinion about splashpads or indoor restroom facilities with plumbing, 71% thought there were too few of each.

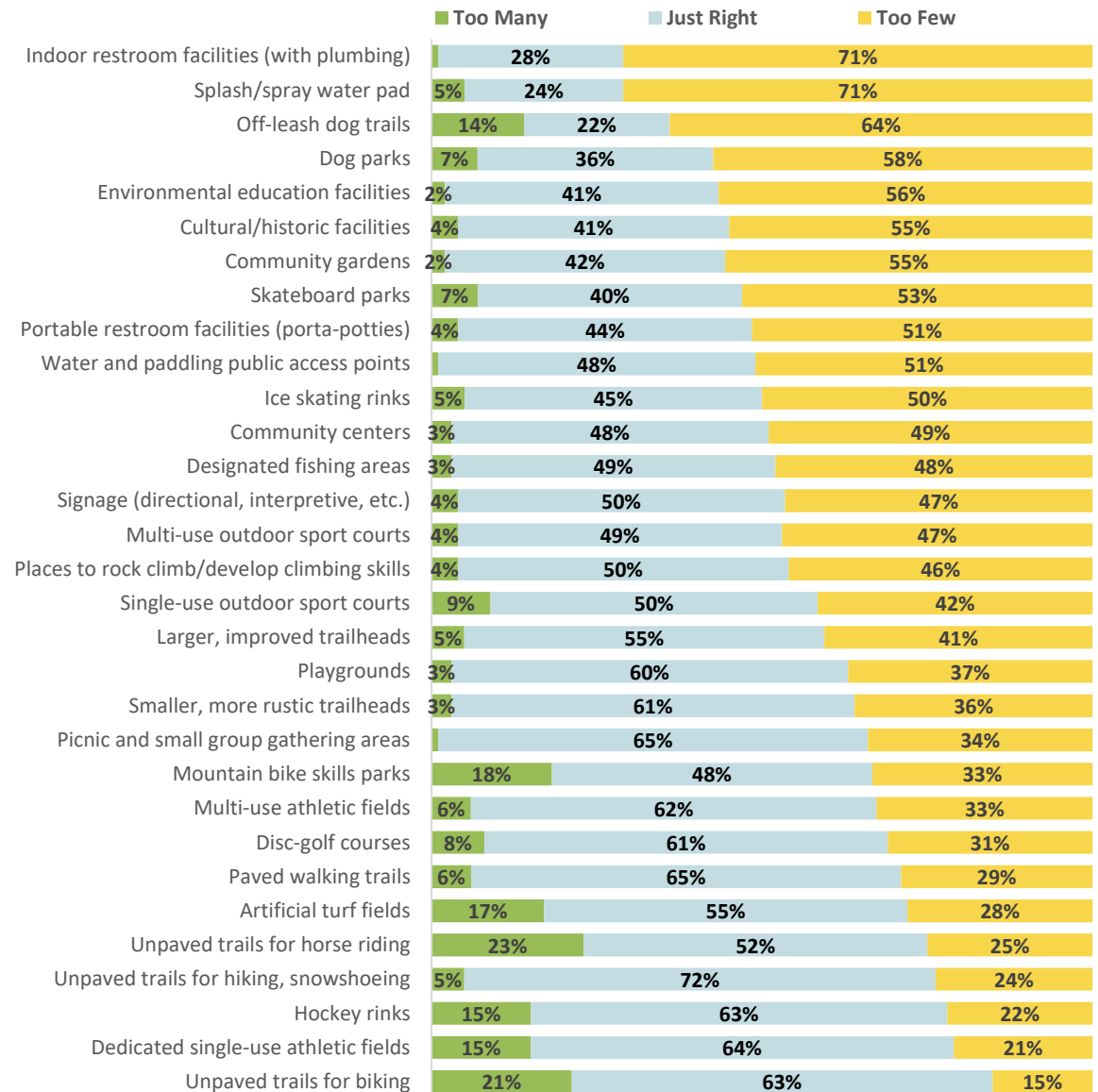
About 6 in 10 of open-participation respondents with an opinion felt there were too few dog parks and off-leash dog trails.

6 in 10 or more of the open-participation respondents who had an opinion about the availability of the amenity felt there were the right number of unpaved trails for biking, snowshoeing, or hiking, designated single use athletic fields, hockey rinks, paved walking trails, disc-golf courses, multi-use athletic fields, picnic and gathering areas, rustic trailheads, and playgrounds.

Q3

(Excluding "Don't know")

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too few, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.



Barriers Preventing Use of Parks, Facilities & Programs (Address-Sample)

Just over one quarter of residents said they experienced no barriers to using Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands.

Individually, the most experienced barrier was a lack of information related to programs or activities (35%). When combined with lack of information related to insufficient signage and wayfinding, the "lack of information" category is the overall largest barrier noted by respondents at 44% combined.

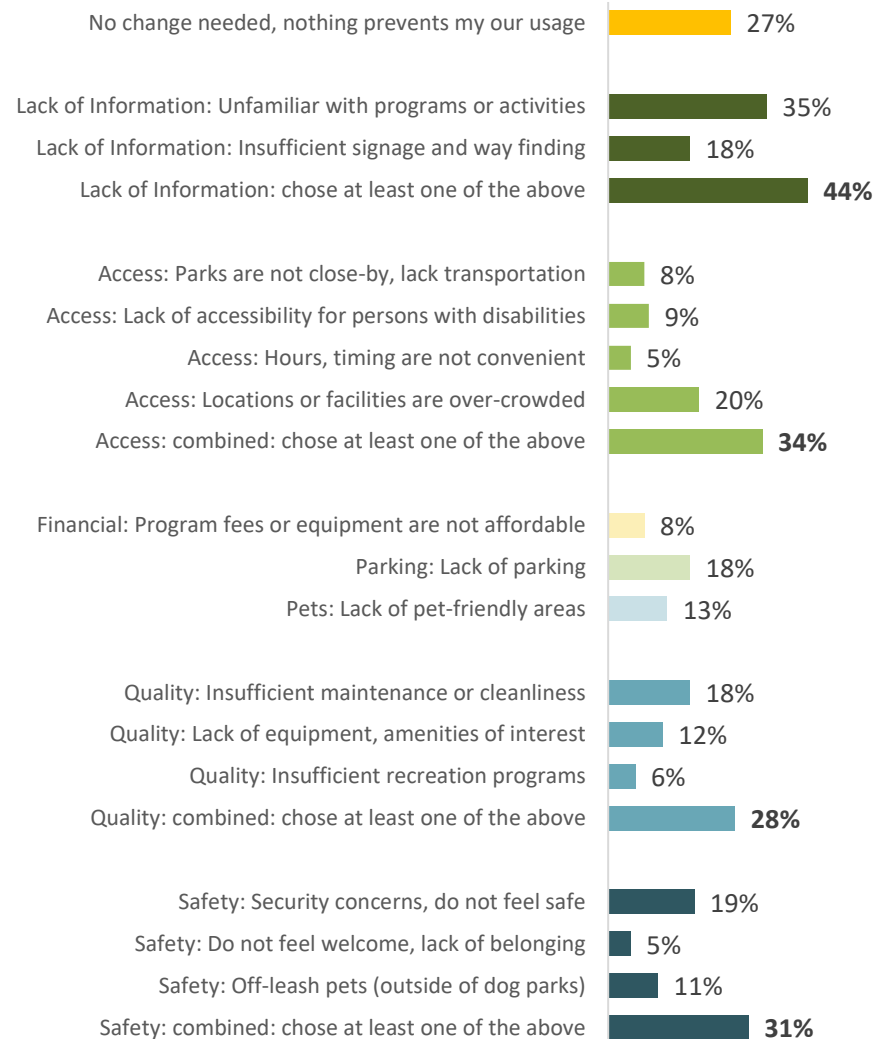
The second largest category of barriers identified by respondents, when combined, is that of access.

Only 5% of residents said that not feeling welcome or a lack of belonging was a reason why they didn't use the parks, facilities, or programs.

Q4



Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)



Barriers Preventing Use of Parks, Facilities & Programs (Open Participation)

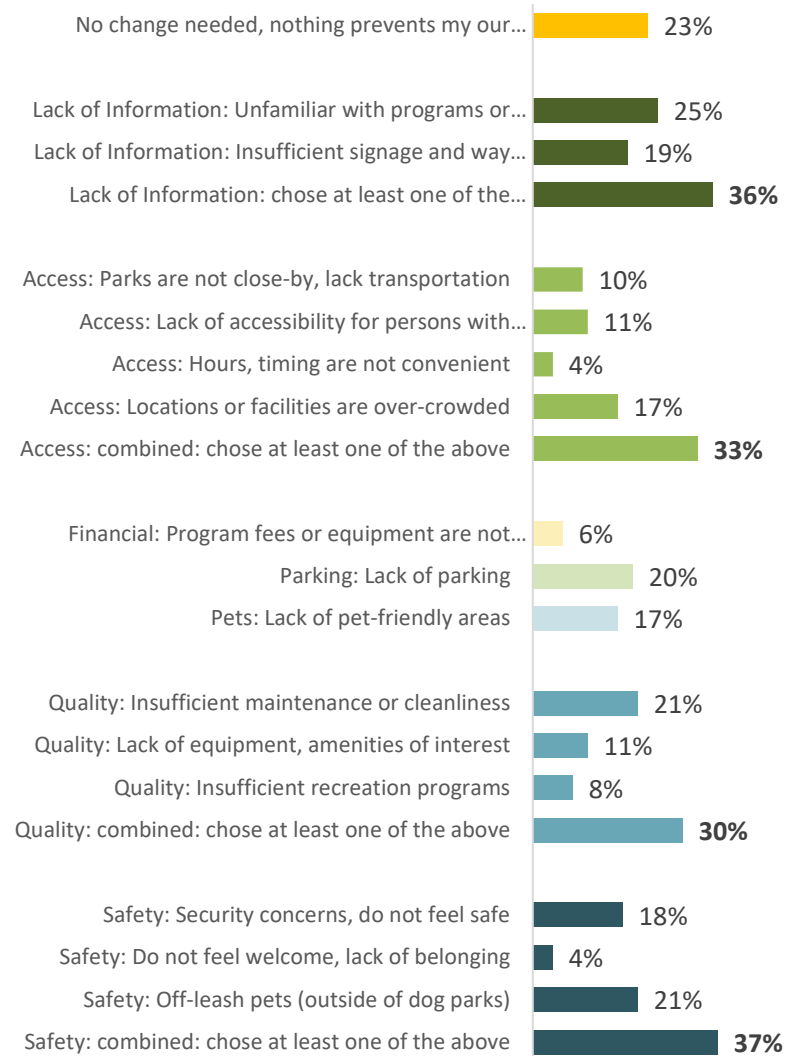
Just under one-quarter of Open Participation respondents said they experienced no barriers to using Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands.

Individually, the most commonly experienced barrier among this group was also a lack of information related to programs or activities, though less so than the Address-Sample group (25% compared to 35%, respectively).

When analyzed by category, lack of information barriers (36% combined) and safety barriers (37% combined) were the most commonly reported among Open Participation respondents.

The Open Participation group was more likely than the Address-Sample group to identify off-leash pets (outside of dog parks) as a barrier.

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)



Q4



Satisfaction with Amount of Parks & Recreation Program Offerings (Address-Sample)

Asked whether there were too many or too few of specific Parks and Recreation program offerings, half or more of residents said they did not know for a majority of the listed programs.

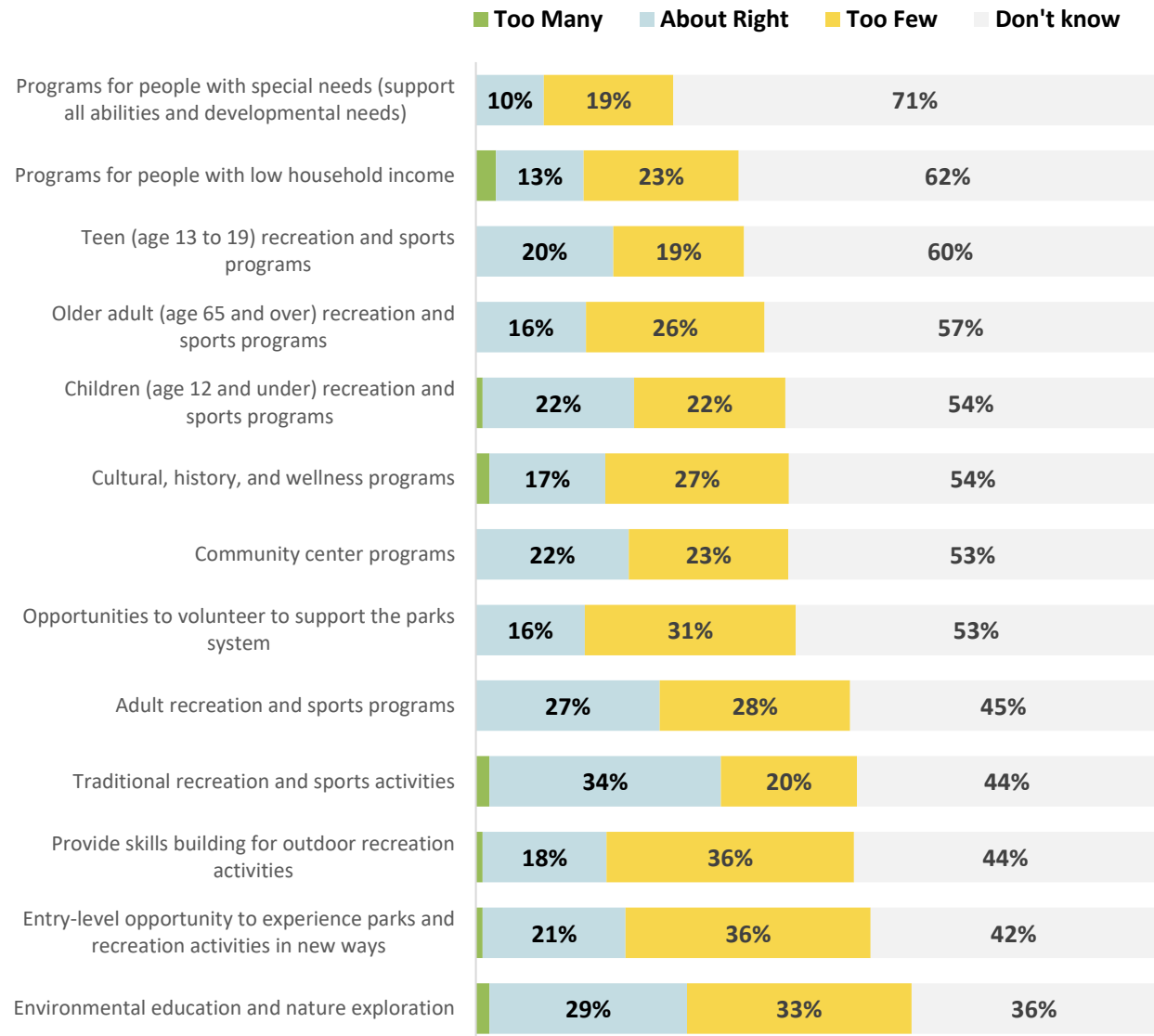
71% said they did not know if there were sufficient programs for people with special needs, and about 6 in 10 were not sure if there were sufficient programs for people with lower incomes, teens, or older adults.

While 44% said they did not know if there were enough programs to provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities, 36% of residents thought there were too few. 36% also thought there were too few entry level ways to experience new activities, and 33% felt there were too few environmental education and nature exploration programs.

Q5



Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too few, or the right amount of the following types of programs:



Satisfaction with Amount of Parks & Recreation Program Offerings (Open Participation)

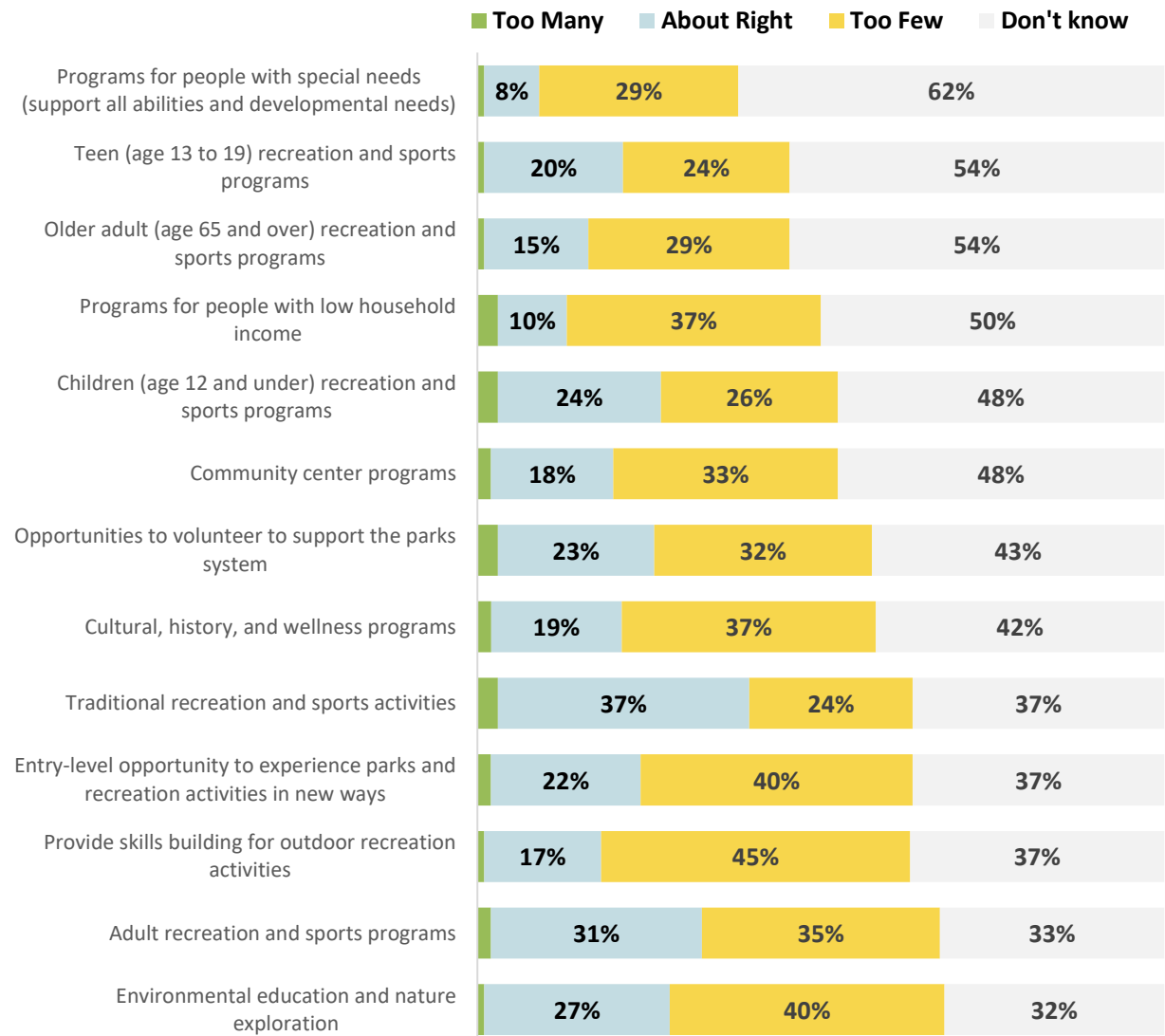
Most Open Participation respondents said they did not know if there were sufficient programs for people with special needs (62%), while about half said they were not sure if there were sufficient programs for teens, older adults, people with lower incomes, children under 12, or community center programs.

About 4 in 10 said there were too few programs to provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities, environmental education and nature exploration programs, or entry level ways to experience new activities.

Q5



Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too few, or the right amount of the following types of programs:



Satisfaction with Amount of Parks & Recreation Offerings for those with an Opinion (Address-Sample)

Looking at only those residents with an opinion, 6 in 10 or more felt there were too few opportunities to volunteer to support the parks systems (65%), programs to provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities (65%), programs for people with special needs, (64%); programs for older adults (61%) and entry level opportunities to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways (61%).

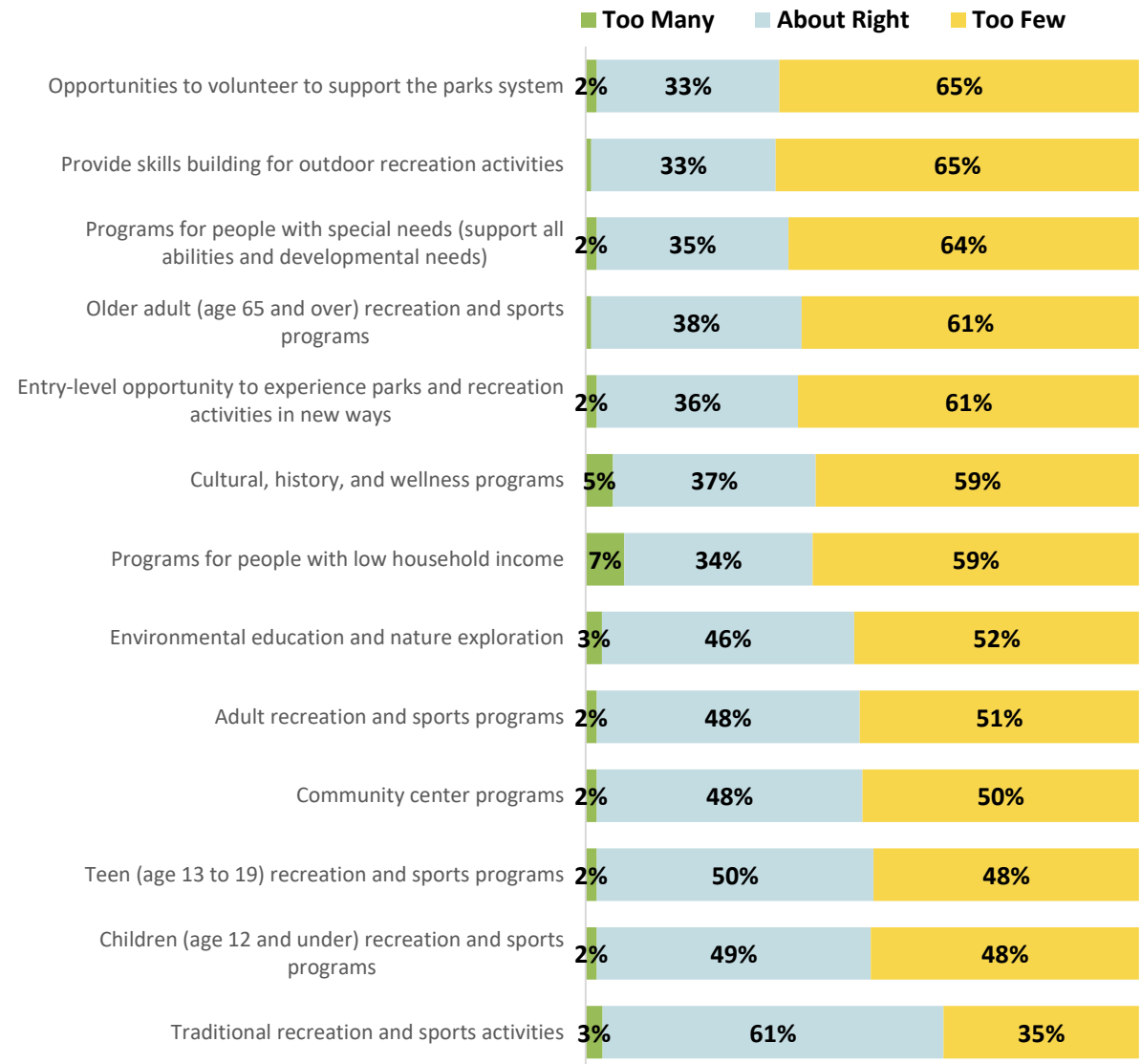
61% felt there was just the right amount of traditional recreation and sports activities, while about half thought there were enough programs specifically for children, teens, or adults as well as community center programs.

Q5

(Excluding “Don’t know”)



Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too few, or the right amount of the following types of programs:



Satisfaction with Amount of Parks & Recreation Offerings for those with an Opinion (Open Participation)

Of those Open Participation respondents who had an opinion about the provision of programs, three-quarters thought there were too few programs for people with low household incomes or special needs.

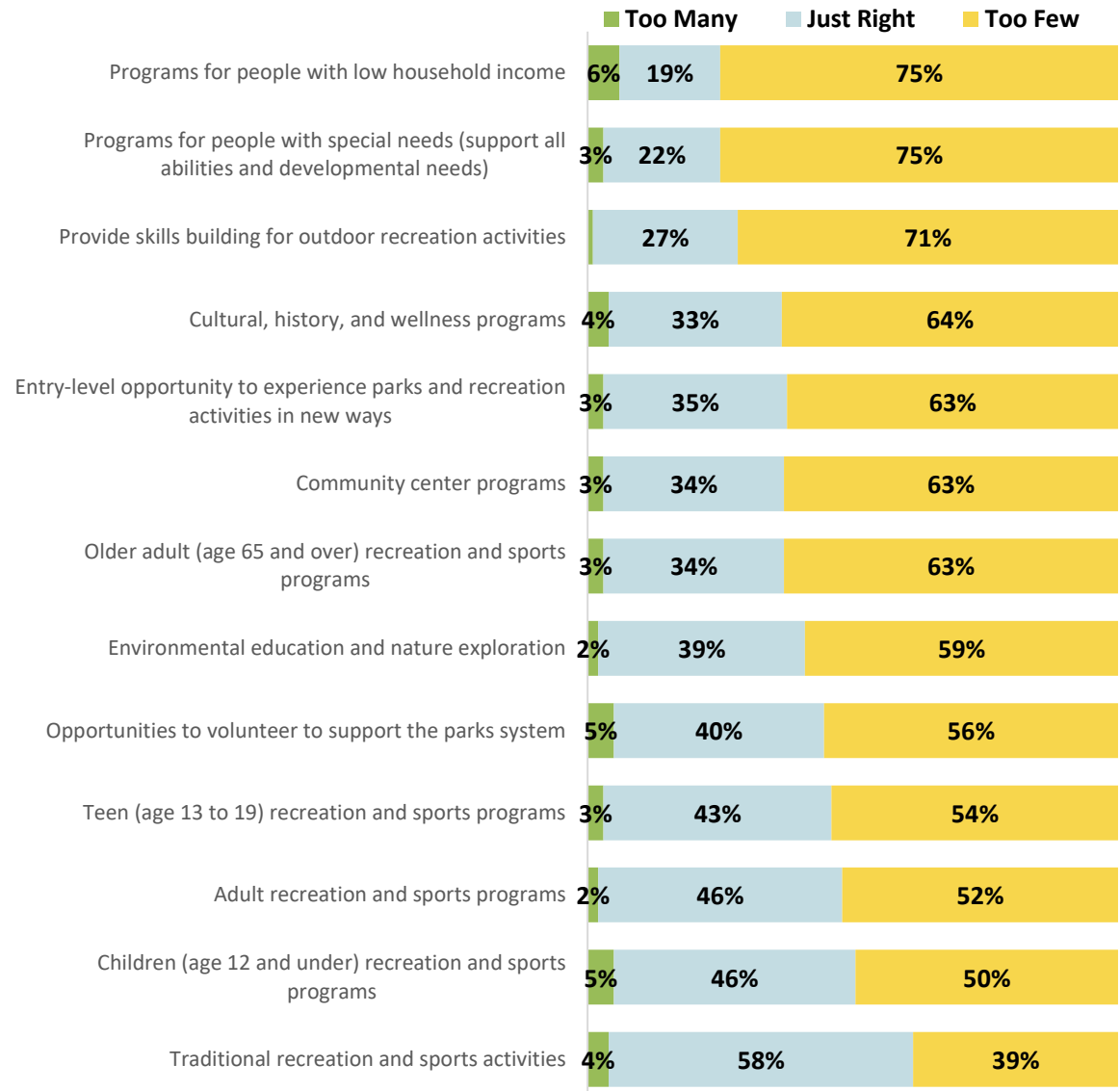
Fifty-eight percent felt there was just the right amount of traditional recreation and sports activities.

Q5

(Excluding “Don’t know”)



Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too few, or the right amount of the following types of programs:



Importance of Park Systems and Recreational Opportunities (Address-Sample)

9 in 10 residents felt that opportunities to connect with nature and to protect natural environments and wildlife were essential or very important purposes for the park system.

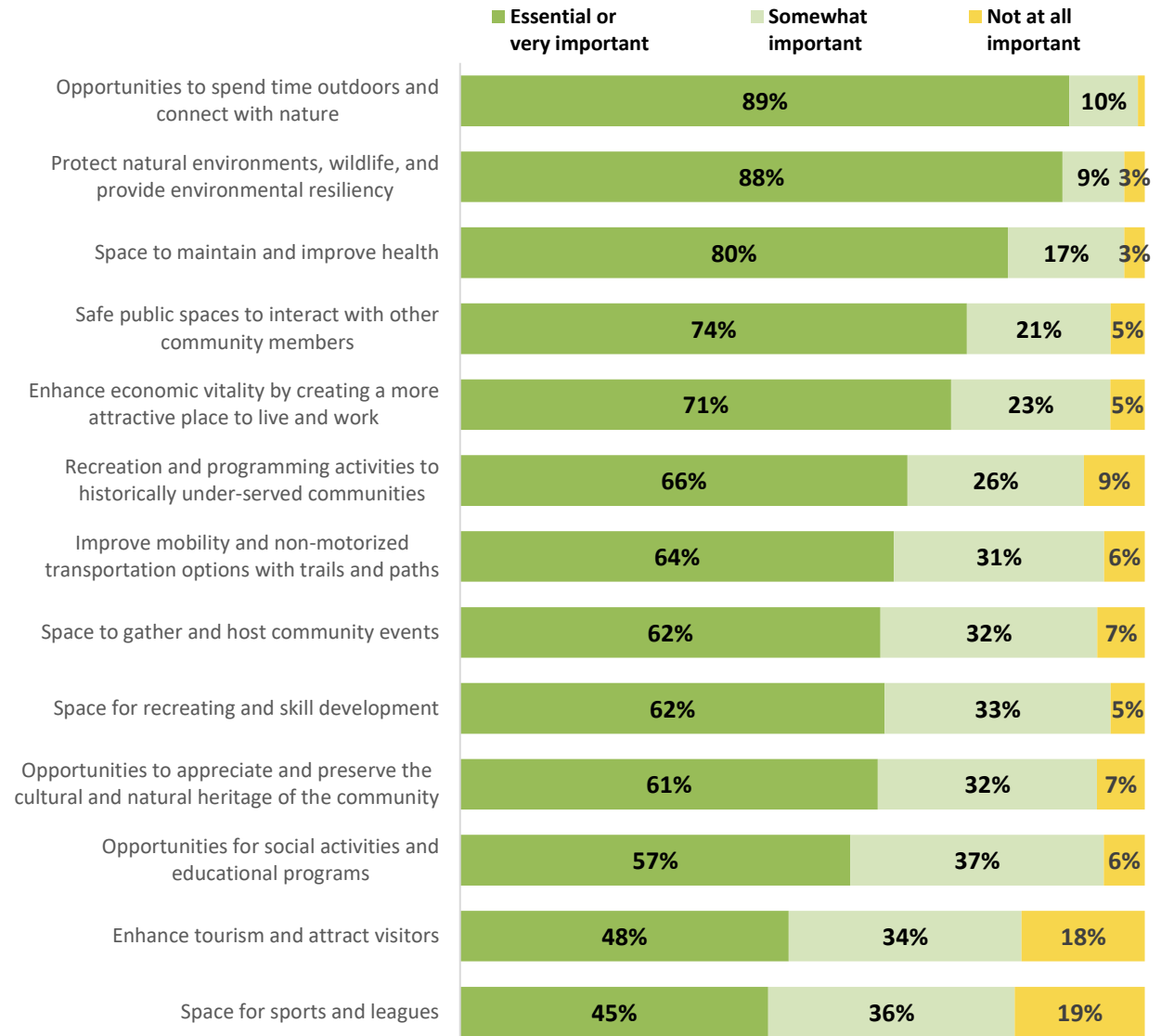
8 in 10 felt the park system had an essential or very important purpose in maintaining and improving health.

While considered an essential or very important purpose by about half of respondents, lowest on the list was providing a space for sports and leagues or enhancing tourism.

Q6



Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you?



Importance of Park Systems and Recreational Opportunities (Open Participation)

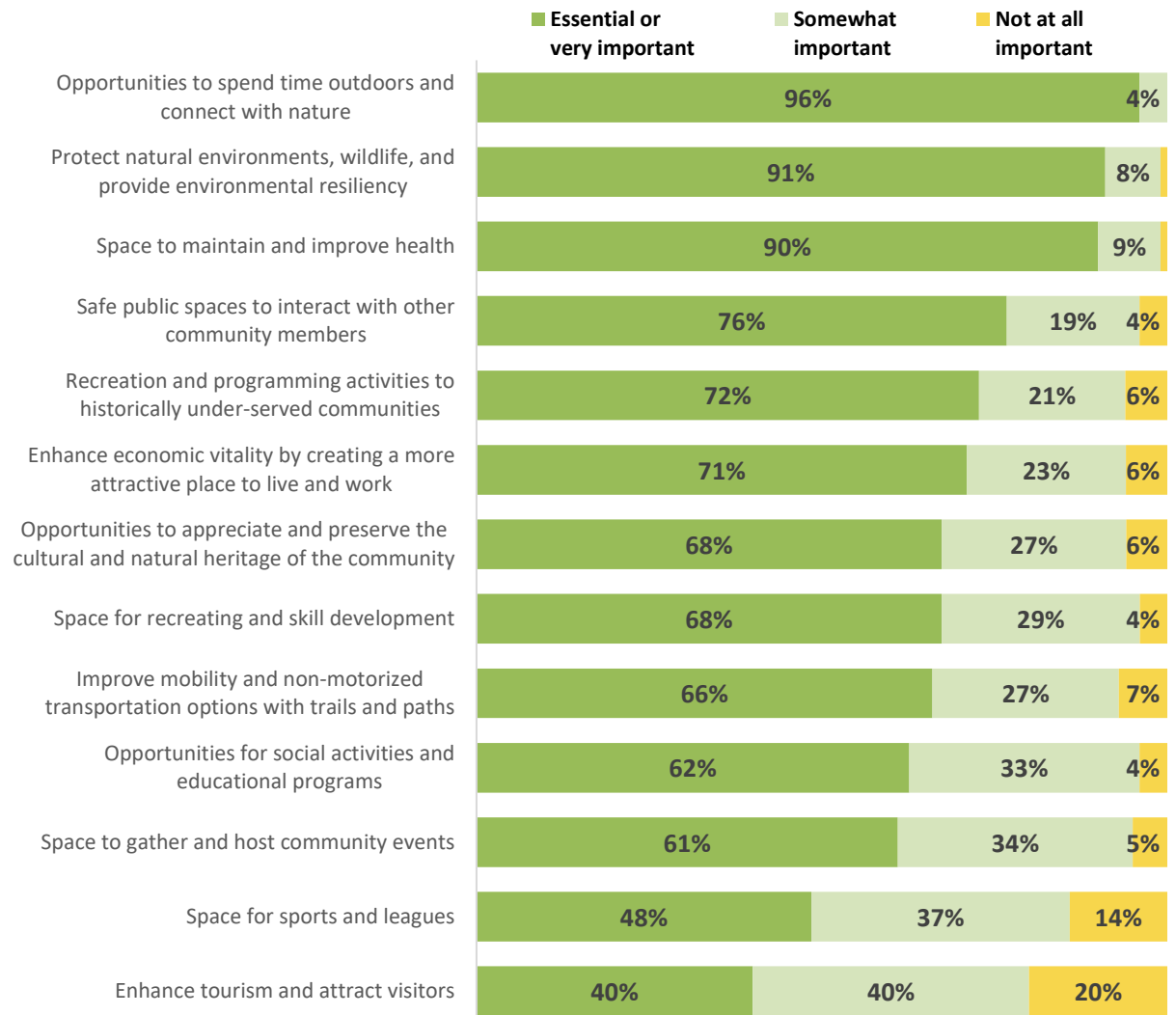
9 in 10 Open Participation respondents felt that opportunities to connect with nature; to protect natural environments and wildlife; or to have a space to maintain and improve health were essential or very important purposes for the park system.

7 in 10 felt the park system had an essential or very important purpose keeping public space safe to interact with others, programming activities to historically under-served communities, or in enhancing economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work.

Q6



Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you?



Prioritization of Parks & Recreation Resources (Address-Sample)

57% of residents preferred a focus on creating a wide array of activities, that each may serve a smaller number of people, over a focus on traditional activities that serve large numbers of people.

31% of residents thought the Parks and Recreation Division should be the provider of organized activities, leagues, and programs; while 69% of residents would prefer the Division provide the space and other organizations do the provision.

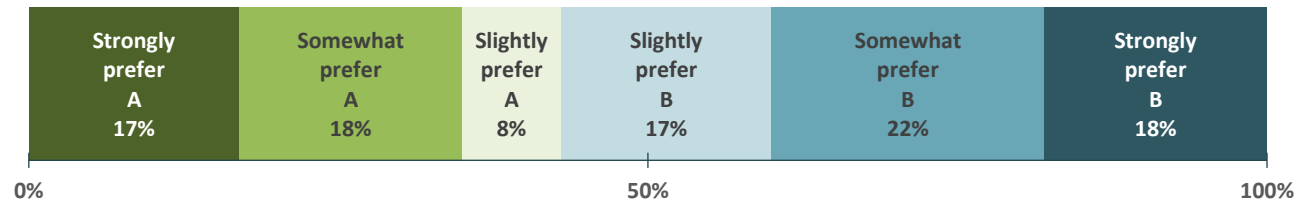
Q7 &
Q10



Parks & Recreation should

A) Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time

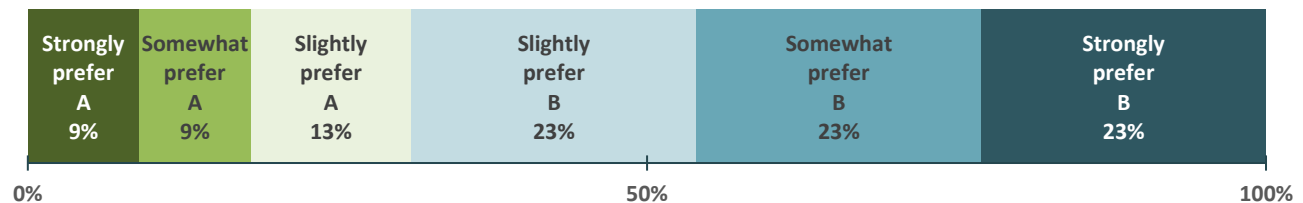
(B) Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.



Parks & Recreation should:

(A) Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs.

(B) Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations.



Prioritization of Parks & Recreation Resources (Open Participation)

64% of Open Participation respondents preferred a focus on creating a wide array of activities, that each may serve a smaller number of people, over a focus on traditional activities that serve large numbers of people.

27% of Open Participation respondents thought the Parks and Recreation Division should be the provider of organized activities, leagues, and programs; while 73% of residents would prefer the Division provide the space and other organizations do the provision.

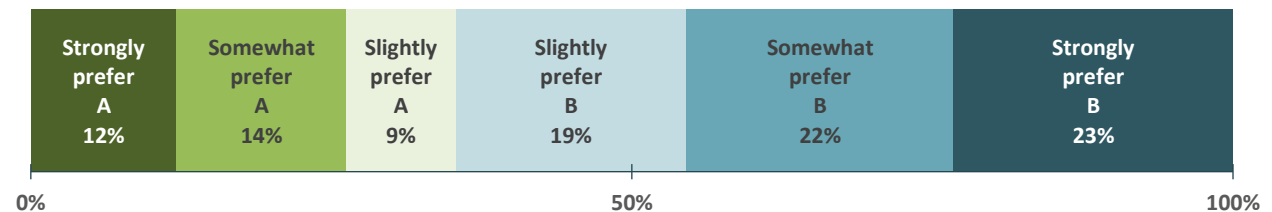
Q7 &
Q10



Parks & Recreation should

A) Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time.

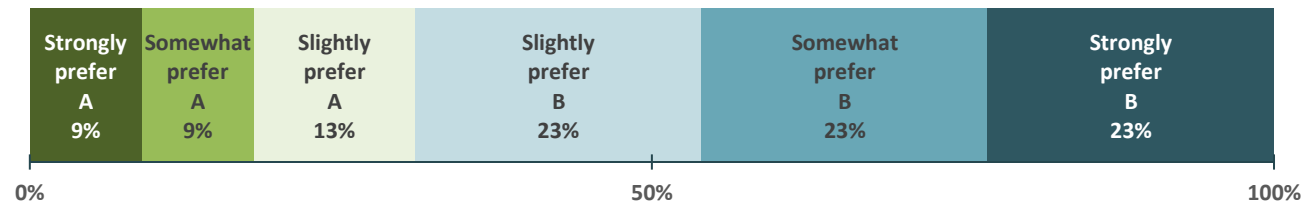
(B) Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.



Parks & Recreation should:

(A) Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs.

(B) Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations.



Prioritization of Parks & Recreation Resources (Address-Sample)

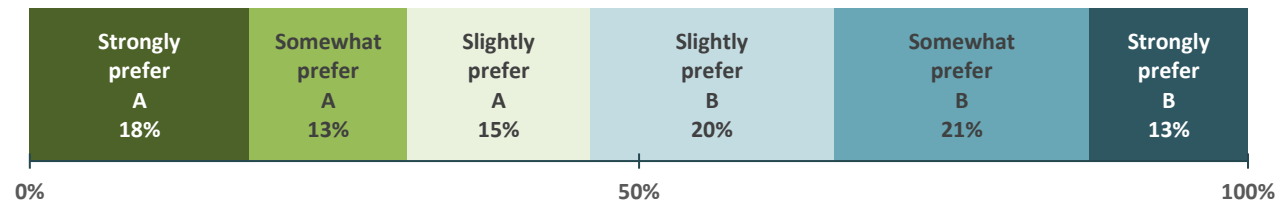
54% of residents prefer to invest in smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance, while 46% would invest in fewer but larger destination parks with better amenities.

62% of residents would choose a focus on maintaining and taking better care of established amenities over building and expanding.

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize

A) Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.

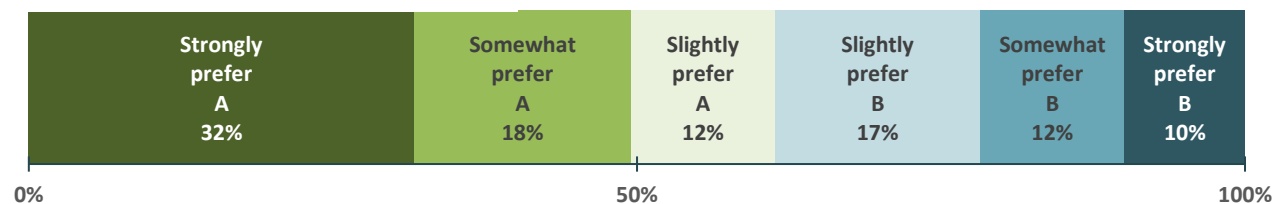
(B) Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.



Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize

A) Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.

(B) Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.



Q8 &
Q9



Prioritization of Parks & Recreation Resources (Open Participation)

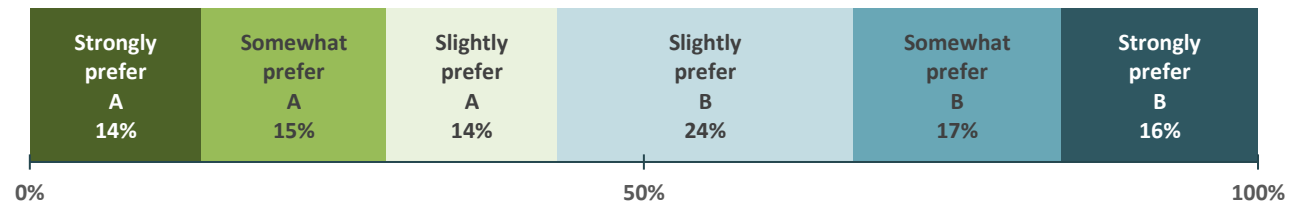
57% of Open Participation respondents prefer to invest in smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance, while 43% would invest in fewer but larger destination parks with better amenities.

59% of Open Participation respondents would choose a focus on maintaining and taking better care of established amenities over building new and expanding the system.

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize

A) Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.

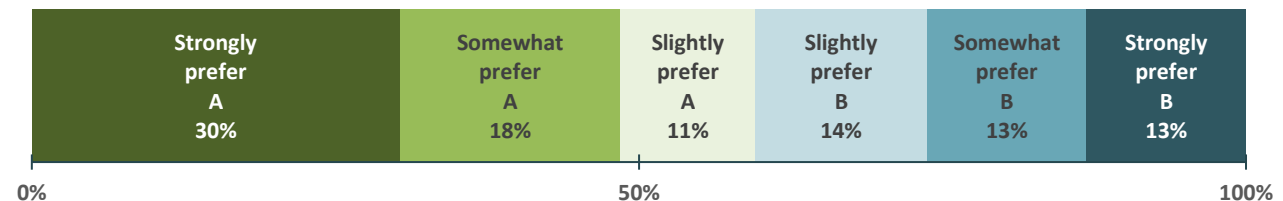
(B) Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.



Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize

A) Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.

(B) Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.



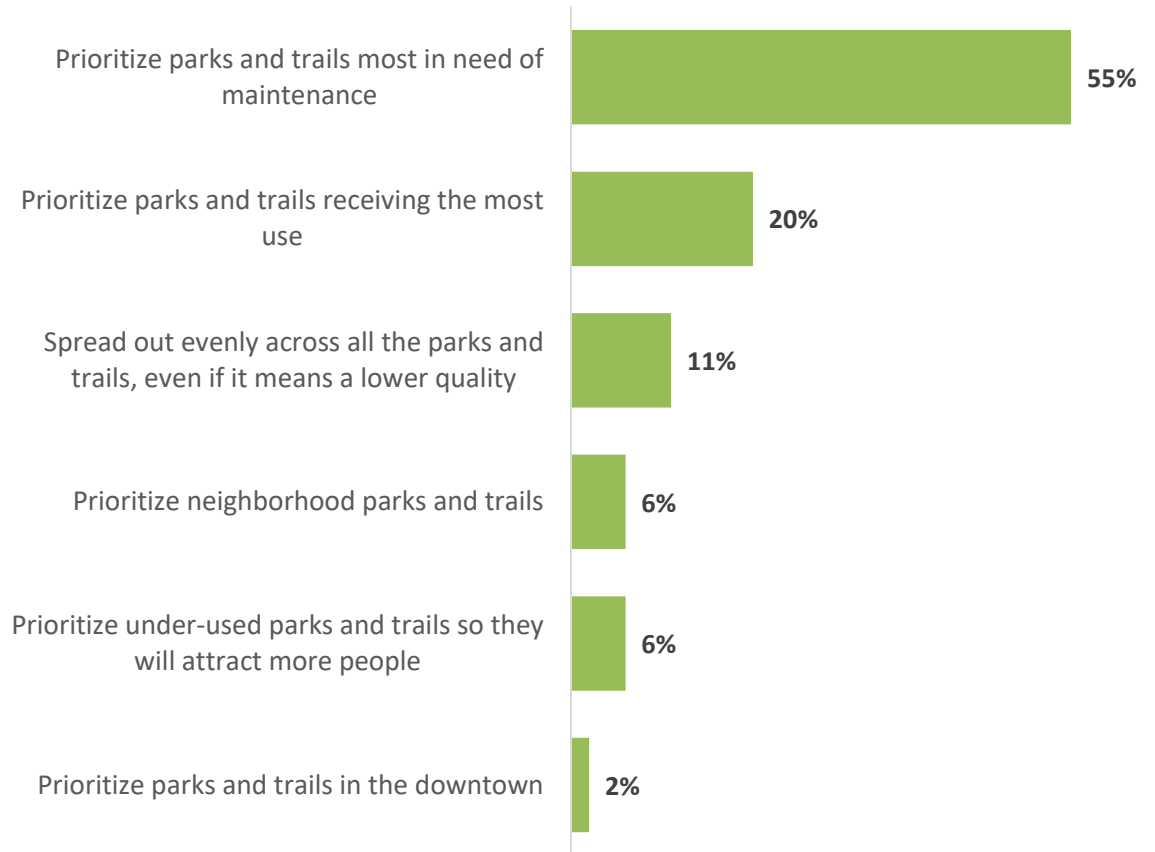
Q8 &
Q9



Park & Trail Maintenance and Improvement Plan (Address-Sample)

Just over half of residents' support prioritizing maintenance for parks and trails in most need (55%). About 2 in 10 would prioritize maintenance for the parks and trails receiving the most use (20%).

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)



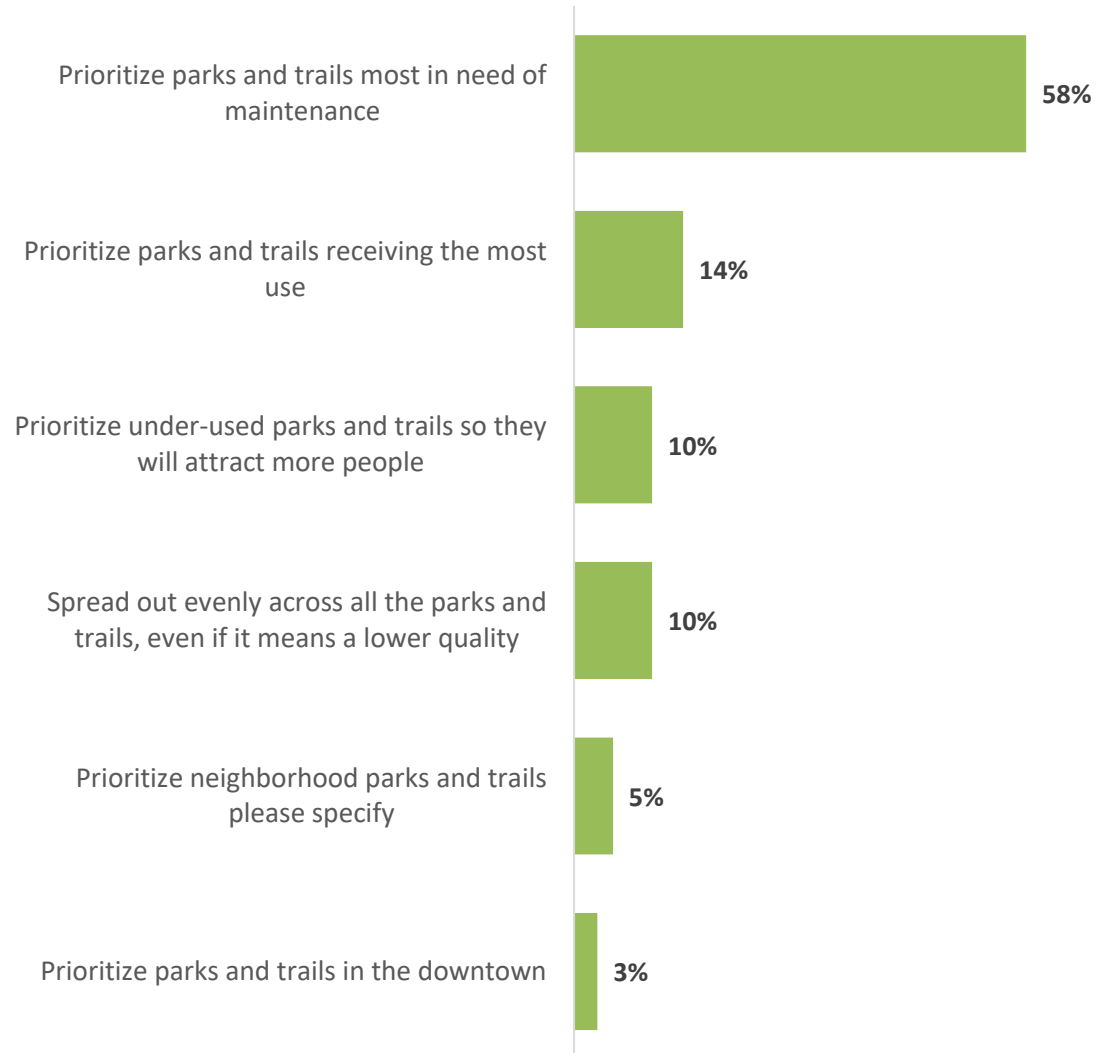
Q11



Park & Trail Maintenance and Improvement Plan (Open Participation)

58% of Open Participation respondents supported prioritizing maintenance for parks and trails in most need, while 14% would prioritize maintenance for parks and trails receiving the most use.

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)



Q11



Budget and Funding Approaches for Parks & Recreation (Address-Sample)

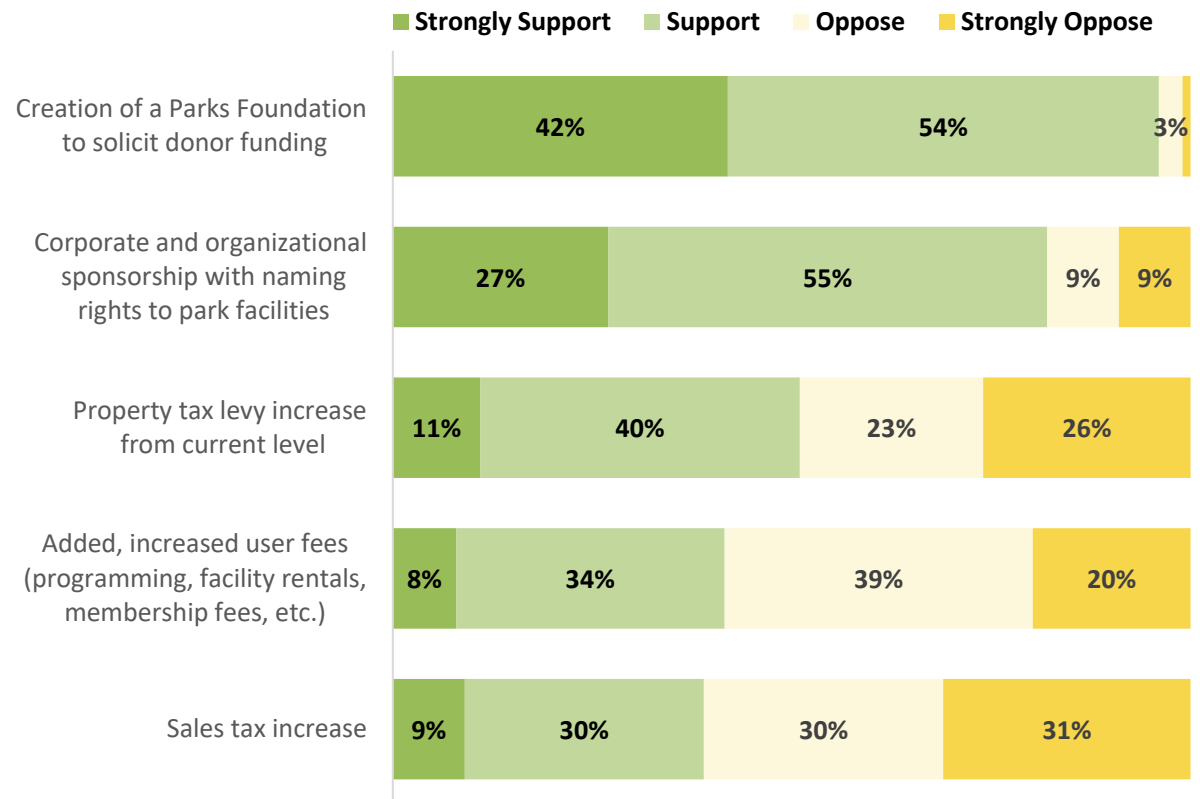
Over 95% of residents supported or strongly supported creating a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding.

More than 8 out of 10 residents strongly supported or supported giving naming rights to corporations that donate to park facilities.

A property tax levy increase from current level was nearly evenly split between supporters (51%) and non-supporters (49%).

Opposition was stronger than support for adding a new user fee or increasing a sales tax.

The budget for Parks & Recreation predominately comes from a property tax levy that is capped and has not increased since it was approved in 2011. Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?



Q12



Budget and Funding Approaches for Parks & Recreation (Open Participation)

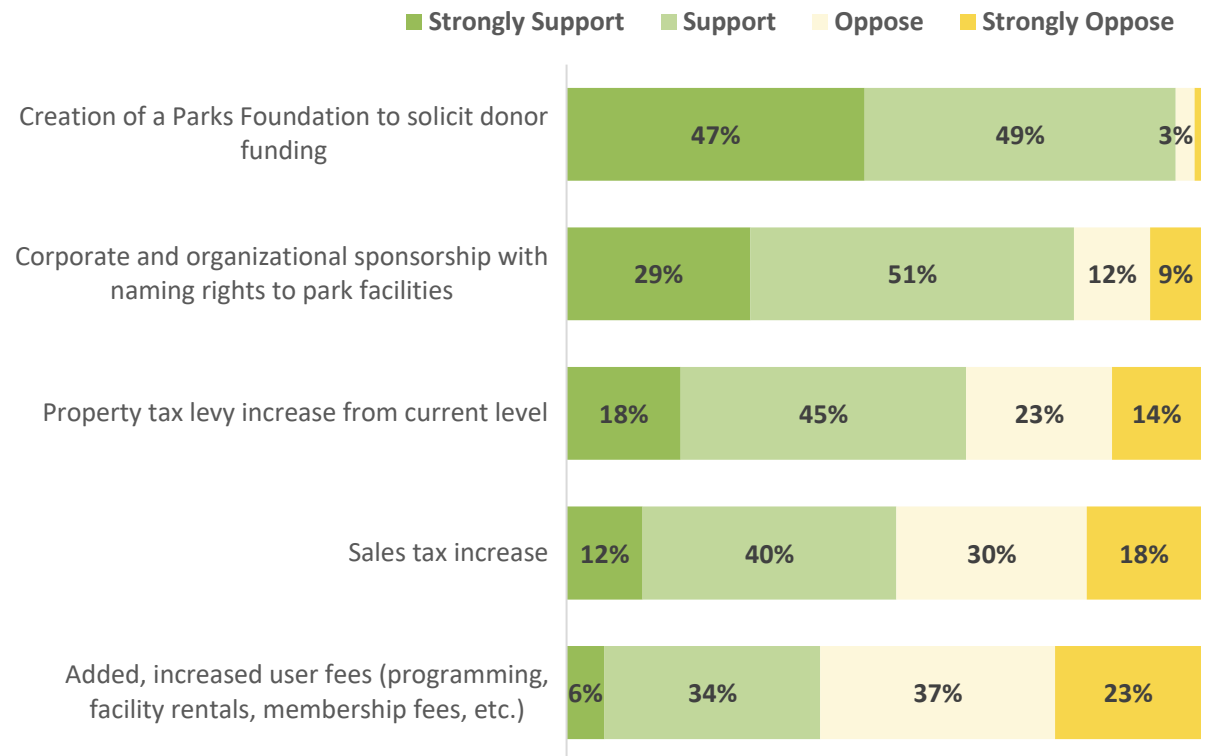
Over 96% of Open Participation respondents strongly supported or supported creating a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding, and 8 out of 10 strongly supported or supported giving naming rights to corporations that donate to park facilities.

A property tax levy increase from current level was strongly supported or supported by 63% of Open Participation respondents.

About half supported (52%) and opposed (48%) a sales tax increase.

Opposition (60%) was stronger than support (40%) for adding a new user fee or increasing a sales tax.

The budget for Parks & Recreation predominately comes from a property tax levy that is capped and has not increased since it was approved in 2011. Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?



Q12



Appendix A1: Frequency of Responses to All Questions (Address-Sample)

The full set of responses for each closed-ended question (a question in which a respondent chooses their response from a prefilled set of options) are displayed in the tables in this appendix. Some questions included a “don’t know” response option. For these questions, two sets of tables are provided in this appendix: the first with the “don’t know” responses excluded, to show the proportion of respondents with an opinion giving a response and the second with the “don’t know” responses included, to allow examination of the magnitude of unfamiliarity with certain items. Each table displays the proportion of respondents and number of respondents who gave each response. Verbatim responses to open-ended questions can be found in Appendix B.

Table 1: Question 1 (Address-Sample)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth’s park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Percent
Walking, hiking, running on trails	81%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	80%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	40%
Biking on trails	32%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	28%
Playing at playgrounds	28%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	28%
Organized activities and special events	18%
Using off-leash dog areas	16%
Swimming	14%
Water, paddle sports	9%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	9%
Ice skating	9%
Playing team sports	6%
Sledding, snow tubing	6%
Camping	6%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	5%
Engaging in cultural practices	4%
Rock climbing	3%
Snowmobiling	2%
We don’t use Duluth’s park system	2%
Riding horses on trails	0%
Total	100%

Table 2: Question 2 (Address-Sample)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Percent
Daily	11%
Several Days a Week	33%
Once a Week	13%
Several Times a Month	22%
Once a Month	6%
Every Few Months	10%
Rarely	4%

Table 3: Question 3 (Address-Sample)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Don't Know	Total
Playgrounds	0%	2%	53%	21%	4%	20%	100%
Splash, spray water pad	0%	0%	11%	15%	22%	51%	100%
Dedicated single use athletic fields	0%	4%	40%	10%	3%	42%	100%
Multi-use athletic fields	0%	1%	41%	14%	3%	40%	100%
Artificial turf fields	1%	5%	19%	13%	4%	58%	100%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	0%	2%	26%	20%	3%	49%	100%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	0%	2%	24%	22%	3%	49%	100%
Mountain bike skills parks	3%	6%	41%	13%	6%	31%	100%
Skateboard parks	1%	3%	25%	19%	7%	44%	100%
Dog parks	0%	3%	30%	30%	9%	27%	100%
Off-leash dog trails	2%	3%	21%	24%	11%	39%	100%
Water and paddling public access points	0%	0%	32%	30%	8%	30%	100%
Disc-golf courses	2%	3%	32%	16%	5%	42%	100%
Larger, improved trailheads	1%	2%	43%	28%	5%	22%	100%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	1%	3%	48%	19%	4%	25%	100%
Designated fishing areas	1%	1%	22%	22%	7%	46%	100%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	0%	0%	26%	44%	17%	13%	100%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	1%	3%	40%	30%	11%	15%	100%
Paved walking trails	0%	4%	56%	26%	6%	8%	100%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	0%	2%	60%	18%	3%	16%	100%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Don't Know	Total
Unpaved trails for biking	5%	5%	51%	11%	1%	27%	100%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	1%	3%	19%	7%	2%	68%	100%
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	1%	1%	25%	12%	6%	56%	100%
Hockey rinks	3%	5%	39%	12%	2%	39%	100%
Ice skating rinks	2%	2%	34%	24%	8%	30%	100%
Community gardens	0%	0%	35%	30%	8%	26%	100%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	0%	2%	55%	24%	4%	16%	100%
Environmental education facilities	1%	2%	30%	28%	6%	33%	100%
Cultural, historic facilities	1%	2%	32%	25%	5%	35%	100%
Community centers	0%	2%	38%	24%	7%	29%	100%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	1%	2%	44%	29%	4%	20%	100%
Other	0%	1%	6%	6%	6%	81%	100%

Table 4: Question 3 (Excluding Don't Know) (Address-Sample)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Total
Playgrounds	0%	2%	67%	26%	4%	100%
Splash, spray water pad	1%	1%	24%	30%	45%	100%
Dedicated single use athletic fields	1%	7%	69%	17%	6%	100%
Multi-use athletic fields	0%	2%	68%	24%	6%	100%
Artificial turf fields	3%	11%	45%	31%	9%	100%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	1%	4%	50%	38%	7%	100%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	1%	3%	47%	43%	7%	100%
Mountain bike skills parks	5%	9%	59%	18%	9%	100%
Skateboard parks	2%	6%	45%	34%	13%	100%
Dog parks	1%	4%	42%	42%	12%	100%
Off-leash dog trails	4%	4%	34%	39%	18%	100%
Water and paddling public access points	0%	0%	46%	42%	12%	100%
Disc-golf courses	4%	5%	55%	28%	8%	100%
Larger, improved trailheads	1%	2%	54%	36%	6%	100%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	1%	5%	64%	25%	5%	100%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Total
Designated fishing areas	3%	2%	42%	41%	13%	100%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	0%	0%	30%	50%	19%	100%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	1%	4%	48%	35%	12%	100%
Paved walking trails	1%	4%	61%	28%	6%	100%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	1%	3%	72%	21%	4%	100%
Unpaved trails for biking	6%	8%	69%	15%	1%	100%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	5%	8%	60%	20%	7%	100%
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	2%	2%	55%	27%	14%	100%
Hockey rinks	4%	8%	64%	20%	4%	100%
Ice skating rinks	3%	3%	48%	34%	11%	100%
Community gardens	1%	1%	47%	41%	11%	100%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	0%	2%	65%	28%	4%	100%
Environmental education facilities	2%	3%	45%	42%	9%	100%
Cultural, historic facilities	2%	3%	49%	38%	8%	100%
Community centers	1%	2%	54%	34%	9%	100%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	1%	2%	55%	37%	5%	100%
Other	2%	5%	31%	29%	34%	100%

Table 5: Question 4 (Address-Sample)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Percent
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	35%
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	27%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	20%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	19%
Parking: Lack of parking	18%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	18%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	18%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	13%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	12%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	11%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	9%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	8%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	8%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	6%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	5%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	5%
Total	100%

Table 6: Question 5 (Address-Sample)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Don't Know	Total
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	0%	1%	22%	17%	5%	54%	100%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	0%	0%	20%	11%	8%	60%	100%
Adult recreation and sports programs	0%	0%	27%	22%	6%	45%	100%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	0%	0%	16%	18%	8%	57%	100%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	0%	0%	10%	13%	6%	71%	100%
Programs for people with low household income	1%	2%	13%	16%	7%	62%	100%
Environmental education and nature exploration	1%	1%	29%	28%	5%	36%	100%
Community center programs	0%	0%	22%	17%	6%	53%	100%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	1%	1%	17%	22%	5%	54%	100%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	1%	1%	34%	14%	6%	44%	100%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	0%	1%	21%	27%	9%	42%	100%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	0%	1%	18%	27%	9%	44%	100%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	0%	0%	16%	21%	10%	53%	100%
Other	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	96%	100%

Table 7: Question 5 (Excluding Don't Know) (Address-Sample)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Total
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	1%	1%	49%	37%	11%	100%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	1%	1%	50%	29%	19%	100%
Adult recreation and sports programs	1%	1%	48%	40%	11%	100%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	1%	0%	38%	43%	18%	100%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	1%	1%	35%	44%	20%	100%
Programs for people with low household income	3%	4%	34%	41%	18%	100%
Environmental education and nature exploration	2%	1%	46%	44%	8%	100%
Community center programs	1%	1%	48%	37%	13%	100%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	2%	3%	37%	48%	11%	100%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	1%	2%	61%	25%	10%	100%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	1%	1%	36%	46%	15%	100%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	0%	1%	33%	49%	16%	100%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	1%	1%	33%	44%	21%	100%
Other	11%	11%	17%	21%	40%	100%

Table 8: Question 6 (Address-Sample)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you?	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not at all Important	Total
Space to maintain and improve health	41%	39%	17%	3%	100%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	16%	41%	37%	6%	100%
Space for sports and leagues	14%	31%	36%	19%	100%
Space for recreating and skill development	13%	49%	33%	5%	100%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	58%	31%	10%	1%	100%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	29%	32%	32%	7%	100%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	21%	45%	26%	9%	100%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	35%	39%	21%	5%	100%
Space to gather and host community events	16%	46%	32%	7%	100%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	60%	28%	9%	3%	100%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	25%	39%	31%	6%	100%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	32%	39%	23%	5%	100%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	19%	29%	34%	18%	100%

Table 9: Question 7 (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should (A) Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time OR (B) Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	17%
Somewhat prefer A	18%
Slightly prefer A	8%
Slightly prefer B	17%
Somewhat prefer B	22%
Strongly prefer B	18%
Total	100%

Table 10: Question 8 (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (A) Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired. OR (B) Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	32%
Somewhat prefer A	18%
Slightly prefer A	12%
Slightly prefer B	17%
Somewhat prefer B	12%
Strongly prefer B	10%
Total	100%

Table 11: Question 9 (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (A) Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by. OR (B) Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	18%
Somewhat prefer A	13%
Slightly prefer A	15%
Slightly prefer B	20%
Somewhat prefer B	21%
Strongly prefer B	13%
Total	100%

Table 12: Question 10 (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should: (A) Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs OR (B) Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	9%
Somewhat prefer A	9%
Slightly prefer A	13%
Slightly prefer B	23%
Somewhat prefer B	23%
Strongly prefer B	23%
Total	100%

Table 13: Question 11 (Address-Sample)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Percent
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	55%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	20%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	11%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	6%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	6%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	2%
Total	100%

Table 14: Question 12 (Address-Sample)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?	Strongly Support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Opinion/Don't Know	Total
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	25%	52%	8%	8%	7%	100%
Property tax levy increase from current level	10%	36%	21%	23%	11%	100%
Sales tax increase	8%	28%	27%	29%	7%	100%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	39%	51%	2%	1%	6%	100%
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	7%	30%	35%	18%	10%	100%

Table 15: Question 12 (Excluding Don't Know) (Address-Sample)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?	Strongly Support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Total
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	27%	55%	9%	9%	100%
Property tax levy increase from current level	11%	40%	23%	26%	100%
Sales tax increase	9%	30%	30%	31%	100%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	42%	54%	3%	1%	100%
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	8%	34%	39%	20%	100%

Table 16: Question 13 (Categorized Verbatim Responses) (Address-Sample)

What do you think is most important for the City's 10-year plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails to address?	Percent
Maintenance, cleanliness	48%
Parks amenities and programs	13%
Accessibility	11%
Hiking, Biking Trails, Green Space	11%
Specific activities: skateboarding, pickleball, disc golf, golf, hockey, sports, skating)	7%
Funding or taxes	6%
Safety: crime, feeling safe, homelessness	4%
Dog rules or amenities	1%
Other	19%
Total	100%

Table 17: Question 14 (Address- Sample)

How long have you lived in Duluth?	Percent
Less than 1 year	5%
1 to 4 years	19%
5 to 9 years	14%
10 to 14 years	9%
15 to 19 years	5%
More than 20 years	45%
I don't live in Duluth	2%
Total	100%

Table 18: Question 15 (Address-Sample)

Do you rent or own your home?	Percent
Rent	37%
Own	63%
Other	0%
Total	100%

Table 19: Question 16 (Address-Sample)

Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play/relaxation where you live?	Percent
Yes	22%
No	78%
Total	100%

Table 20: Question 17 (Address-Sample)

Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?	Yes	No	Total
Children (ages 12 and under)	28%	72%	100%
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)	14%	86%	100%
Adults (ages 20 to 54)	71%	29%	100%
Adults (ages 55 or older)	48%	52%	100%
Dogs	44%	56%	100%

Table 21: Question 18 (Address-Sample)

Please describe your annual household income:	Percent
Less than \$25,000	13%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	29%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	8%
\$125,000 or more	13%
Total	100%

Table 22: Question 19 (Address-Sample)

Which category contains your age?	Percent
12 or younger	0%
13 to 17	0%
18-24	7%
25-34	26%
35-44	17%
45-54	12%
55-64	16%
65-74	15%
75-84	7%
85+	1%
Total	100%

Table 23: Question 20 (Address-Sample)

Which gender do you identify as?	Percent
Male	49%
Female	46%
Non-binary	1%
Transgender	0%
Identify Another Way	0%
Prefer to Self-Describe	0%
Prefer Not to Say	5%
Total	100%

Table 24: Question 21 (Address-Sample)

Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%
Asian	3%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino, a, x	1%
Middle Eastern or North African	0%
Multiracial or Multiethnic	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	93%
Another race or ethnicity	3%
Total	100%

Appendix A2: Frequency of Responses to All Questions (Open Participation)

Table 25: Question 1 (Open Participation)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Percent
Walking, hiking, running on trails	85%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	79%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	41%
Biking on trails	37%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	34%
Playing at playgrounds	23%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	18%
Using off-leash dog areas	18%
Organized activities and special events	14%
Swimming	13%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	12%
Ice skating	9%
Playing team sports	9%
Water, paddle sports	9%
Camping	8%
Engaging in cultural practices	6%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	5%
Rock climbing	5%
Sledding, snow tubing	4%
Snowmobiling	1%
Riding horses on trails	1%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%
Total	100%

Table 26: Question 2 (Open Participation)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Percent
Daily	20%
Several Days a Week	45%
Once a Week	11%
Several Times a Month	15%
Once a Month	3%
Every Few Months	3%
Rarely	1%

Table 27: Question 3 (Open Participation)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Don't Know	Total
Playgrounds	1%	2%	49%	25%	5%	19%	100%
Splash, spray water pad	1%	2%	14%	19%	21%	44%	100%
Dedicated single use athletic fields	1%	8%	41%	10%	4%	36%	100%
Multi-use athletic fields	1%	3%	40%	16%	5%	35%	100%
Artificial turf fields	3%	5%	25%	8%	5%	54%	100%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	1%	4%	28%	17%	6%	44%	100%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	0%	2%	27%	20%	6%	44%	100%
Mountain bike skills parks	5%	9%	35%	16%	9%	27%	100%
Skateboard parks	1%	3%	25%	25%	8%	37%	100%
Dog parks	2%	4%	29%	35%	11%	20%	100%
Off-leash dog trails	5%	5%	16%	22%	23%	29%	100%
Water and paddling public access points	0%	1%	37%	30%	9%	23%	100%
Disc-golf courses	1%	4%	39%	15%	5%	35%	100%
Larger, improved trailheads	1%	3%	48%	29%	7%	11%	100%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	1%	2%	54%	25%	6%	12%	100%
Designated fishing areas	0%	1%	26%	20%	6%	46%	100%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	0%	1%	25%	44%	20%	11%	100%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	1%	3%	39%	35%	10%	12%	100%
Paved walking trails	1%	4%	60%	22%	5%	7%	100%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Don't Know	Total
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	1%	3%	64%	16%	4%	11%	100%
Unpaved trails for biking	6%	11%	50%	10%	2%	21%	100%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	3%	5%	19%	6%	3%	63%	100%
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	1%	1%	26%	19%	5%	48%	100%
Hockey rinks	3%	7%	42%	11%	3%	34%	100%
Ice skating rinks	1%	3%	33%	28%	8%	27%	100%
Community gardens	0%	1%	33%	31%	11%	23%	100%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	0%	0%	56%	25%	4%	13%	100%
Environmental education facilities	0%	2%	31%	31%	10%	26%	100%
Cultural, historic facilities	1%	2%	30%	29%	10%	28%	100%
Community centers	0%	2%	36%	29%	8%	24%	100%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	1%	2%	43%	31%	9%	13%	100%
Other	3%	1%	13%	8%	7%	69%	100%

Table 28: Question 3 (Excluding Don't Know) (Open Participation)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Total
Playgrounds	2%	2%	60%	31%	6%	100%
Splash, spray water pad	2%	3%	24%	34%	37%	100%
Dedicated single use athletic fields	2%	13%	64%	15%	6%	100%
Multi-use athletic fields	2%	4%	62%	24%	8%	100%
Artificial turf fields	6%	10%	55%	17%	11%	100%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	2%	7%	50%	31%	11%	100%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	1%	4%	49%	36%	11%	100%
Mountain bike skills parks	7%	12%	48%	22%	12%	100%
Skateboard parks	1%	5%	40%	41%	13%	100%
Dog parks	2%	5%	36%	44%	14%	100%
Off-leash dog trails	6%	7%	22%	32%	32%	100%
Water and paddling public access points	0%	1%	48%	39%	12%	100%
Disc-golf courses	2%	6%	61%	23%	8%	100%
Larger, improved trailheads	1%	3%	55%	33%	8%	100%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Total
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	1%	2%	61%	28%	7%	100%
Designated fishing areas	0%	2%	49%	37%	12%	100%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	0%	1%	28%	49%	22%	100%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	1%	3%	44%	40%	12%	100%
Paved walking trails	2%	5%	65%	23%	6%	100%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	1%	4%	72%	19%	5%	100%
Unpaved trails for biking	8%	13%	63%	12%	3%	100%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	10%	13%	52%	17%	8%	100%
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	1%	2%	50%	37%	9%	100%
Hockey rinks	5%	10%	63%	17%	5%	100%
Ice skating rinks	1%	4%	45%	39%	11%	100%
Community gardens	1%	2%	42%	40%	15%	100%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	0%	1%	65%	29%	5%	100%
Environmental education facilities	0%	2%	41%	42%	14%	100%
Cultural, historic facilities	1%	3%	41%	41%	14%	100%
Community centers	0%	2%	48%	38%	11%	100%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	1%	2%	50%	36%	11%	100%
Other	8%	4%	42%	24%	22%	100%

Table 29: Question 4 (Open Participation)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Percent
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	25%
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	23%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	21%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	21%
Parking: Lack of parking	20%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	19%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	18%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	17%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	17%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	11%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	11%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	10%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	8%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	6%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	4%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	4%
Total	100%

Table 30: Question 5 (Open Participation)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Don't Know	Total
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	1%	2%	24%	19%	7%	48%	100%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	0%	1%	20%	17%	7%	54%	100%
Adult recreation and sports programs	1%	1%	31%	27%	8%	33%	100%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	0%	1%	15%	20%	9%	54%	100%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	0%	1%	8%	19%	10%	62%	100%
Programs for people with low household income	1%	2%	10%	23%	14%	50%	100%
Environmental education and nature exploration	0%	1%	27%	30%	10%	32%	100%
Community center programs	1%	1%	18%	25%	8%	48%	100%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	0%	2%	19%	26%	11%	42%	100%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	1%	2%	37%	19%	5%	37%	100%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	1%	1%	22%	31%	9%	37%	100%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	0%	1%	17%	34%	11%	37%	100%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	1%	2%	23%	26%	6%	43%	100%
Other	3%	1%	16%	4%	5%	71%	100%

Table 31: Question 5 (Excluding Don't Know) (Open Participation)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:	Far Too Many	Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Far Too Few	Total
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	1%	4%	46%	37%	13%	100%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	0%	3%	43%	38%	16%	100%
Adult recreation and sports programs	1%	1%	46%	40%	12%	100%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	0%	3%	34%	45%	19%	100%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	0%	3%	22%	50%	26%	100%
Programs for people with low household income	3%	3%	19%	46%	29%	100%
Environmental education and nature exploration	0%	2%	39%	44%	14%	100%
Community center programs	1%	2%	34%	47%	15%	100%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	0%	3%	33%	45%	18%	100%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	1%	3%	58%	30%	8%	100%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	1%	2%	35%	49%	14%	100%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	0%	1%	27%	54%	17%	100%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	1%	3%	40%	45%	10%	100%
Other	9%	5%	55%	13%	18%	100%

Table 32: Question 6 (Open Participation)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you?	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not at all Important	Total
Space to maintain and improve health	56%	34%	9%	1%	100%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	21%	41%	33%	4%	100%
Space for sports and leagues	16%	32%	37%	14%	100%
Space for recreating and skill development	23%	45%	29%	4%	100%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	74%	22%	4%	0%	100%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	34%	34%	27%	6%	100%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	37%	35%	21%	6%	100%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	38%	38%	19%	4%	100%
Space to gather and host community events	21%	40%	34%	5%	100%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	69%	22%	8%	1%	100%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	26%	40%	27%	7%	100%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	37%	34%	23%	6%	100%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	17%	23%	40%	20%	100%

Table 33: Question 7 (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should (A) Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time OR (B) Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	12%
Somewhat prefer A	14%
Slightly prefer A	9%
Slightly prefer B	19%
Somewhat prefer B	22%
Strongly prefer B	23%
Total	100%

Table 34: Question 8 (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (A) Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired. OR (B) Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	30%
Somewhat prefer A	18%
Slightly prefer A	11%
Slightly prefer B	14%
Somewhat prefer B	13%
Strongly prefer B	13%
Total	100%

Table 35: Question 9 (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (A) Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by. OR (B) Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	14%
Somewhat prefer A	15%
Slightly prefer A	14%
Slightly prefer B	24%
Somewhat prefer B	17%
Strongly prefer B	16%
Total	100%

Table 36: Question 10 (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should: (A) Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs OR (B) Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations.	Percent
Strongly prefer A	7%
Somewhat prefer A	8%
Slightly prefer A	12%
Slightly prefer B	25%
Somewhat prefer B	25%
Strongly prefer B	23%
Total	100%

Table 37: Question 11 (Open Participation)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Percent
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	58%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	14%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	10%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	10%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	5%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	3%
Total	100%

Table 38: Question 12 (Open Participation)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?	Strongly Support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Opinion/Don't Know	Total
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	27%	48%	11%	8%	6%	100%
Property tax levy increase from current level	17%	41%	21%	13%	8%	100%
Sales tax increase	11%	38%	29%	17%	5%	100%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	45%	47%	3%	1%	4%	100%
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	5%	31%	34%	21%	9%	100%

Table 39: Question 12 (Excluding Don't Know) (Open Participation)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?	Strongly Support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Total
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	29%	51%	12%	9%	100%
Property tax levy increase from current level	18%	45%	23%	14%	100%
Sales tax increase	12%	40%	30%	18%	100%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	47%	49%	3%	1%	100%
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	6%	34%	37%	23%	100%

Table 40: Question 13 (Categorized Verbatim Responses) (Open Participation)

What do you think is most important for the City's 10-year plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails to address?	Percent
Maintenance, cleanliness	42%
Accessibility	16%
Parks amenities and programs	12%
Hiking, Biking Trails, Green Space	10%
Specific activities: skateboarding, pickleball, disc golf, golf, hockey, sports, skating)	10%
Dog rules or amenities	5%
Safety: crime, feeling safe, homelessness	4%
Funding or tax	3%
Other	22%
Total	100%

Table 41: Question 14 (Open Participation)

How long have you lived in Duluth?	Percent
Less than 1 year	5%
1 to 4 years	18%
5 to 9 years	15%
10 to 14 years	10%
15 to 19 years	7%
More than 20 years	43%
I don't live in Duluth	3%
Total	100%

Table 42: Question 15 (Open Participation)

Do you rent or own your home?	Percent
Rent	37%
Own	60%
Other	3%
Total	100%

Table 43: Question 16 (Open Participation)

Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play/relaxation where you live?	Percent
Yes	18%
No	82%
Total	100%

Table 44: Question 17 (Open Participation)

Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?	Yes	No	Total
Children (ages 12 and under)	33%	67%	100%
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)	17%	83%	100%
Adults (ages 20 to 54)	77%	23%	100%
Adults (ages 55 or older)	43%	57%	100%
Dogs	52%	48%	100%

Table 45: Question 18 (Open Participation)

Please describe your annual household income:	Percent
Less than \$25,000	12%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	18%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	21%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	12%
\$125,000 or more	16%
Total	100%

Table 46: Question 19 (Open Participation)

Which category contains your age?	Percent
12 or younger	0%
13 to 17	0%
18-24	9%
25-34	27%
35-44	20%
45-54	10%
55-64	16%
65-74	16%
75-84	2%
85+	0%
Total	100%

Table 47: Question 20 (Open Participation)

Which gender do you identify as?	Percent
Male	49%
Female	46%
Non-binary	2%
Transgender	0%
Identify Another Way	0%
Prefer to Self-Describe	0%
Prefer Not to Say	3%
Total	100%

Table 48: Question 21 (Open Participation)

Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	3%
Asian	1%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino, a, x	1%
Middle Eastern or North African	0%
Multiracial or Multiethnic	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	93%
Another race or ethnicity	2%
Total	100%

Appendix B1: Verbatim Responses to Survey Items Answered in Respondents' Own Words (Address-Sample)

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey or entered in the online survey form and have not been edited for spelling or grammar.

Responses are shown alphabetically.

The number in parenthesis shows how many people made this same comment.

Question 1: What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)

- biking at skatepark (1)
- Cross country skiing (1)
- Disc golf (1)
- gardening at Harrison Park (1)
- Geocaching (2)
- Golf (1)
- Golf ,when we had Lester park course! (1)
- Golf, although now that Lester Park is closed, I will be playing at Namadji (1)
- Golf. And why is that selection not above. (1)
- Golfing at lesterpark (1)
- golfing, concerts, dog parks, pavilion rentals (1)
- Golfing, until Lester Park Golf Course was closed! (1)
- Pickleball, golf (1)
- skiing at Chester Bowl (1)
- walking the dog with leash on trails (1)

Question 3: For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.

- . Chester Bowl summer biking. For all levels. It would be a great place for a skills park, flow trail, ect. It could be a great venue for kids mtn bike camps. Also, a skill park at Lester River Chalet. Spirit is a wonderful thing, but if we could have two more, it could be more accessible for the youth (1)
- Accidentally loaded response - no comment (1)
- Basketball courts, rollerblading, softball teams tournaments, handball walls,pool tables and ping-pong tables (1)
- Bike parking racks (2)

- Bulletin boards for (upcoming) park events (2)
- Camping/ RV parks (1)
- closing off 7-bridges in the winter. Only one sign (small and high up) on Occidental Ave. (1)
- Concerning signage, I've lived here so long that I know my way around and where I am, even with recent trail re-routes. I think the signage generally needs to be updated, especially if it is no longer accurate. (1)
- Designated use signs for trails + trail etiquette info (1)
- Duluth NEEDS ropes parks, rope climbing structures and the like. Great for all ages and FUN! Middle aged and big kids have nothing free and community centered to go to. Duluth Parks fails in this one critical area, and I am so grateful for this survey. While you're at it, bring back merry go rounds and geometric domes and the stuff that can compete with this town's addiction to Fortnite, FB and other. (1)
- Far too few resources provided for our golf facilities that have been severely neglected and are attracting visitors from throughout the country and this administration does not acknowledge the needs but are forefront in criticizing the activity instead of backing it like Spirit Mt, trails, bike lanes, etc. (1)
- Follow advice of professionals & re open Lester Park golf course. (1)
- Golf courses (1)
- Golf courses! (1)
- Info and access from Lake Walk to Brighton Beach, trash cans and outside facility for water and bathrooms. Safe for walking. (1)
- Love Duluth (1)
- More running trails separate from cycles (1)
- N/A (1)
- Please sell or lease Spirit Mountain to a group who has real experience and incentive with making a ski resort profitable. (1)
- public art in parks (1)
- Skin tracks and boot tracks for AT snowboarding and AT skiing. (1)
- there no sense having all of the bike trails that are very seldom used the same with the paved walking trails (1)
- We need another public golf course!, (1)

Question 4: Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)

- Amphitheater near Leif Erickson Park on the Lakewalk has homeless people (1)
- declining health (1)
- Drug paraphernalia, used drug needles , human waste has been seen and found by children and pets. Encountering and seen intoxicated people on alcohol and drugs. Seen people using illegal drugs. (1)
- I find it hard to get info on programs ie women hiking (1)
- I love parks. I can easily walk to many in my neighborhood and I love walks. But I have aggressive Crohn's disease. Unfortunately only 2 parks near me have bathrooms and they are boring for my 11 year old son. The better parks with access to nature have no bathrooms and that keeps us from enjoying them. I don't like cars so I don't drive, we go by bus or foot or carpool. Duluth has crappy public transit. On the boring note, almost all the parks need an upgrade.

Simple toddler worthy climbing structures and swings seem to be all we see. West Duluth has plenty of skate parks and bike trails but nothing near us has park recreation structures for middle to older kids. We would like to see some community engaging through playgrounds... and the bocce ball courts at Wheeler do not count, nor do all the disc golf courses. Free play and access, especially in the neighborhoods that need it most, is needed. We could improve Duluth with thriving community centers. We need karate lessons, cooking lessons, hang out space for teens with foozeball !! The YMCA and B&G Club shouldn't have to take on everything. Please invest in our Parks and Recreation like other major cities. (1)

- I won't support any park, I want the extra park fee removed from my property taxes, charge those that use the parks directly. (1)
- In some locations there are too many people impacting vulnerable resources. Some mountain bike trails traverse areas of with high erosion potential or are already eroding. Weeds are already a problem. Additionally they (MTB) are converting much of our open area into one single use. The DWP tunnel-Ely Peak area is being pounded to dust. There needs to be a concept of open space just being that...not every acre or square foot has to be turned into something. Piedmont has turned into a buckthorn infested mtb trail filled with dog feces. (1)
- Lack of bathrooms. Many people have bathroom issues and need access during a visit anywhere. When there are no bathrooms, we can't go. Porta potties are great! Please place more around town. (1)
- Lack of good public golf courses in city without Lester I will not play in Duluth 9082-2 (1)
- Lack of respect for other users. Walking on groomed ski trails, horses on hiking trails, biking on wet and soft trails, etc. Often out of ignorance, sometimes "because I pay taxes and can do what I want". Informational signs can help with the former. Fines for the latter. (1)
- Need more garbage cans (1)
- No access to bathrooms, even when bathrooms are on site, rec centers closed, no access (1)
- No public ATV trails to support businesses like Spirit Mountain and restaurants. (1)
- Safety: Need more lighting, especially lakewalk (2)
- The drug and homeless problem has really trickled over to our recreation areas. Seeing needles on bike trails is a very horrifying thing, especially when youth see it. It really ruins a ride/run/ or family walk when you see stuff like that. This past summer, I saw a guy taking a dump right off the Craft Connector on the middle section below skyline (you know where the tent and camp is..), and saw a woman smoking what it appeared to be meth out side of her tent on the lower section. The camp located at the top of Twin Ponds area too got out of control. The city needs to stop showing a blind eye to this. It's a bigger issue at play, but getting out of control and something really bad could happen to someone. I know of a lot of women that do not feel safe recreating alone on a handful of these trails, specifically to this issue. Also, it's very expensive to reserve spots at our city parks. Lower the cost and they will get more use. It's unnecessary. (1)
- Too many homeless. The lack of a panhandling law has turned Duluth into a wasteland of vagrants. (1)
- Trails are too close to each other so it doesn't feel like hiking, too much interruption from other trail use. Too many snowmobile trails overlap XC or snowshoe trails with no clear right of way signs is dangerous. (1)

Question 5: Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:

- Administrators that are more concerned about tourism than their own constituents. (1)
- allowing drug users and others to camp in the city parks. (1)
- Golf courses! (1)
- Need more camping areas and definitely ATV trails!!!! (1)

- Re-open Lester Park Golf course! (1)

Question 13: What do you think is most important for the City's 10-year plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails to address?

- Better upkeep. Attention to detail. (1)
- A wide variety of recreational opportunities that improve quality of life for the community (1)
- Accessibility for those with disabilities that prevent them from accessing parks. Such as wheelchair, walkers and canes. Keep the areas smooth and easy for them to access. (3)
- Accessibility for those who need mobility assistance/wheelchairs. Don't cut corners here---it is not right. (1)
- Acquire more space for public uses. Creating more fishing piers along the fish lake and island lake. (1)
- Acquire more space, expand trail systems (1)
- Acquire the land that is functionally part of the parks and trail systems but is not city owned or protected. (1)
- Add AARP fitness parks and advertise them (1)
- Add ATV routes there are private clubs that maintain and take care of the trails! (1)
- Address overcrowding & distance between new trails (focus on keeping further apart to increase enjoyment of outdoors/nature. (1)
- Affordable, accommodating access to outdoor spaces for classes and events: yoga, fitness, music, art - creates community, visibility and *helps prevent the spread of COVID* (2)
- Aiding underserved areas of Duluth and preserving natural spaces (2)
- As activities such as skateboarding, basketball, pickleball, koob etc. become more popular and the high need to have outdoor activities spaces available and safe to use, I feel that should be on the docket for discussion. (1)
- Ask people to remove all items they bring, drive safely to and from park, leash and pick up after pets, watch carefully for young children, pedestrians and bicycles to and from park. (1)
- attract as many people as possible, maintain as well as money allows, include accessibility for those with walkers or wheelchairs (1)
- Better maintain what we have. (1)
- Better maintenance of spaces (3)
- Bike lanes that aren't death lanes', that is parked cars on one side and traffic on the other. (1)
- Build New spaces that will attract tourism and support locals (1)
- Building community through play and nature. (1)
- Center on the vitality for moving and living here as well as a centre reason for visiting as a tourist to enjoy what is here. (1)
- Clean, safe, maintained parks are a reflection of our city. If we don't start curbing the vagrant and panhandling situation, it won't make a difference as people don't feel safe, the parks are littered with needles and trash, and it becomes difficult to maintain. (1)
- Community activities that aren't organized sports. Yoga meditation etc. (1)
- Community centers for our children (1)
- Community parks developed by the city with community responsibility to maintain grounds such as lawn care. (1)

- Continue to build Duluth up as a outdoor destination by preserving its outdoors spaces, expanding the trail systems, while finding the right balance to maintain the beautiful trails already put in place. (3)
- Continue to dedicate land to new parks, but shift the maintenance and care to community volunteer groups where applicable. (2)
- Create one way mountain bike trails and/or dedicated mountain bike only trails (1)
- Creating a safer environment that everyone can use. A lot of the spaces in Duluth are not safe to take children to or to go to alone. I cannot take my kids that I nanny to a park that has heroine needles on the ground and 20 feet away there is a couple doing heroine. Very unsafe and a serious issue. (2)
- Creating a vision and building a plan to effectively execute the vision- not sunshine and rainbows vision but a realistic well thought out achievable plan (1)
- creating and maintaining areas of high-quality habitat (full of native plant and tree species) and offering educational opportunities to help connect people with nature, as well as explaining why biodiversity is extremely important. (3)
- Creating opportunities for access to nature and for learning about the environment for youth and lower income people, such as more & better trails and guided hikes. (1)
- Decrease the tax burden on homeowners - especially those that don't use the parks and never will. A user fee for those that use the parks even if "low income", no free use for anyone or subsidies for anyone. (1)
- Develop a policy to establish and maintain informal neighborhood access points to parks. We live in west Woodland and while we are okay with the new developments we are seeing the real potential that all of our neighborhood access points to Hartley could disappear and require that we drive to the park in the future. I could see this having a significant effect on families and kids that live near Hartley and would be concerned that this could play out elsewhere having the effect of "formalizing" the parks and their boundaries rather than integrating them with the neighborhood. In general, we enjoy the urban wilderness thing and for the larger parks would discourage overbuilding amenities or use of tarred paths, etc. Overall I think Park and Rec does a great job, thanks for the survey. (1)
- do not let housing shortage use up our valuable green space, we should add green space (1)
- do not reduce what's available (1)
- do the best you can (1)
- Don't bight off more than you can chew. (1)
- Don't build new, make what we currently have better. (1)
- Don't know as the parks and spaces I use are well maintained, well used ie: Chester Bowl. Lake Walk, Bay Front (1)
- Don't sell or break up land it already owns e.g. Lester Park Golf course. Keep it as city park land even if it's not going to remain as a golf course. (2)
- Easy access - close to many neighborhood (1)
- Enhancing and sustaining existing facilities. (1)
- Ensure the parks we currently have are top notch, even parks that have been historically overlooked for long periods (e.g. Cascade Park) (1)
- Ensuring easy-to-understand signage on hiking trails and possibly creating more paved bike paths throughout the city, so that people can bike longer distances without biking on streets with traffic (2)
- Ensuring that everyone can safely and easily access their local parks and other natural areas. (1)
- Expand access to and engage with communities less often served by Duluth parks. Great work, and keep it up. Your work has had an indelible and supportive effect on my children's lives. Duluthians grow and live together in our parks! (1)

- Expand and improve them (1)
- Expand on educational and personal experiences in the parks (2)
- Expand parks and improve available open space. More playgrounds and a swimming pool for family friendly fun. We live in Duluth Heights and have never had a park or trail within walking distance from our house which Duluth claims all residents have. We do not have this. (1)
- Expand where the city expands. Create and maintain small neighborhood parks and gathering areas with weather shelters. (1)
- Expanding downtown parks and freeing rivers and streams from storm drains. (1)
- Expansion of trail systems for hiking and biking (3)
- Find ways to encourage activities that build communities and relationships. Park cleanliness esp. around playgrounds. (1)
- FINISH BIKE TRAILS THROUGH CITY (1)
- Fixing up existing parks to make them more useable/relevant for today's user. Dilapidated parks are very unwelcoming and even kind of creepy. I would hope user-ship would go up when the park spaces are more welcoming. Also! Community fundraise for maintenance and improvements! People are into their niche uses of the parks. If you tap into those communities I think you could fundraise [look at the success of COGGs!] for specific purposes, leaving more city money to support general parks or those in underserved areas. (1)
- Focusing on Duluth residents needs as taxpayers and NOT focusing on attracting tourists. (1)
- Free the parks! (3)
- Getting a nicer golf course (2)
- Getting children outdoors consistently. (1)
- Getting people to use the provided space rather than bike or run in the streets. Bike lanes are great but many do not use them. I do not drive on sidewalks, why do runners run in the street when there are clear side walks? (1)
- Golf courses (1)
- Good and regular maintenance and good signage (1)
- Growth and maintaining quality (1)
- Have no opinion (1)
- Having facilities/locations/amenities be more accessible by public transit services. (2)
- I believe the parks should be free for anyone to use and should be part of the budget. (1)
- I now it is not possible, but would like parks within walking distance for children. (1)
- I really wish there was more parks run programs. They're cheaper to participate in and I know they will be welcoming of all, unlike private organizations. (1)
- I see the need to improve certain neighborhood parks (such as Endion) where low-income kids live nearby and can walk there; they would use it more if there was more to offer, such as a splash pad, public pool, etc. (1)
- I think it's important to take a look at the Mini Master Plans that were created for each park and make sure any unfinished work that the community had included in those plans is also included in this new plan. It would be great if we could use the bathrooms at parks, that is one of the biggest reasons people don't visit or leave parks, many of them, like both parks in Lincoln Park, have 0 bathroom access. Who wants to spend the day at the park when they need

to leave as soon as they need to use the restroom? It would also be nice if the rec centers could be staffed, so folx can use the bathrooms, but also for providing activities for children and families to do together. I'd love to see more art in the parks, nature play activities, and community garden spaces. (1)

- I think that while youth sports is prevalent in the city, the options as you get older fall away. Both outdoor and indoor. (1)
- I think the money should be spent on different ethics and the minority should be included when they make recommendations and not forgetting that there is a strong minority presence in the communities and should use monies for sports they like to play knowing that if they practice enough they could become professional players. Time and time again shows that they can make careers out of the sports they including basketball, football, baseball, and including boxing to name a few. Hockey is good but everyone don't play hockey which is mostly played by one group of the population. Thank you for letting me join in this conversation and hopefully it will bring about inclusion of all the people who loves to play sports and enjoy the parks of Duluth. (1)
- I would like to see more toddler friendly (safe) parks and even some splash pads for summer. (1)
- I'd like the crosswalk from Walgreens area to Leif Erickson to be improved because it is a busy road and I go to Leif Erickson almost daily, but crossing it can be scary especially on rush hours and at night. The lights at Leif Erickson also constantly turn on and off. (2)
- If any new type of park is created, it should be a splash pad. It will draw from the whole city, and tourists alike. Weather patterns are changing and our community needs one of these. Also consider a natural swimming area like Cloquet has at Pinehurst Park. Also, We need a turf field with a dome or indoor for winter months. Maybe at Lester golf course? (1)
- If the city does not open Lester Park Golf Course. PLEASE do not sell it off. Once it is developed it is gone FOREVER. In the future when more money is available it could be transitioned into a park. There are so many uses without destroying the natural features of the area. With the recent explosion of pets in Duluth it would be nice to have a few more larger dog parks in the area. Please maintain/ develop Duluth's parks for the tax payers of Duluth instead of promoting them as tourist destinations only. Please do not add any more mountain bike trails. We have way too many as it is. (1)
- Improve and maintain what they have, before expanding which they don't appear to have the money to do. (1)
- Improve knowledge of parks, maps, wayfinding, and signage to include historic or contextual information. (1)
- improved access to parks and programs (1)
- Improvements to let people know about the facilities and support access to all people who live in/visit Duluth (1)
- Increase maintenance & safety & free access. - e.g. trails cross Arrowhead Road yet no crosswalks connect the 2 sides; need free parking to access Scenic Hiking trail & Bagley trails; encourage ALL Duluthians to utilize the trails (1)
- Increase more content things (2)
- Increased access (2)
- Increased maintenance on opaved bike trails (1)
- Increased program awareness. (1)
- Increasing funding to better support current parks (3)
- Informing community of all available outdoor activities. Attract people to new areas so current popular places aren't overpopulated. Dog parks. (2)
- Keep & improve what we have, MANY families are hoping for a splash pad (1)
- Keep Chester bowl clean garbage dumped and the grass cut. (1)
- Keep current parks and rec areas maintained. Why are you marking trees in Lester Park in red. If to cull them, then why haven't you done so? (1)
- Keep residents and low income families in mind please! (2)

- keep the interest alive and the parks well (1)
- keep them clean and safe for all to use at any time (1)
- Keep up the cleanliness of the parks & help the disabled. (2)
- Keeping our trails SAFE and clean. Free of all the drug paraphernalia!!! (1)
- keeping spaces in their natural state as much as possible. Add canoe/kayak launch into the Lake (not just the bay). Enforce dog leashing on trails and keep dogs and walkers off the ski trails. (1)
- keeping things clean (1)
- Kid friendly spaces. Access for small children is abysmal. Not enough playgrounds and those not in tourist areas are poorly maintained. Portland square is a prime example. (1)
- Less bike trails and more community focus (2)
- Less expansion, better maintenance (2)
- Lester Park is very popular and very crowded. Instead of selling portions of/all of Lester River golf course, turn it into public space for birding, hiking, and other outdoor recreation. It will be a shame if that wonderful parcel is turned into a subdivision and Lester Park will get even more crowded as a result. (1)
- Live within your budget. Do not put the cost burden on Duluth residence property taxes. If the parks are for tourist, a percentage of tourists tax should go to the city parks. Contact state of MN to introduce a license or tag for bike trails. (1)
- Maintain 18 holes of golf at both Enger and Lester Park. Resurface courts at Woodland and provide at least 4 dedicated pickleball courts. Repair fencing at Woodland. (1)
- Maintain a quality park system throughout the City. (1)
- Maintain and expand the amount of trails and space available to the public. (2)
- Maintain and improve neighborhood parks. Many look like they are in disrepair. (2)
- Maintain and/or improve what you already have before you acquire or build new. (1)
- maintain existing parks, add new green spaces where possible, make Lester Park Golf into a multi use area and sell the newest nine holes for homes if needed Quit trying to be politically correct with gender and race! We are all humans. (1)
- Maintain lester park golf (1)
- Maintain Lester Park Golf Course as a green space (community gardens, disk golf, walking, riding trails, maintainable trails in the winter, expand ski trails, slay rides, indoor warming club house, sliding hills, rentable club house etc. (1)
- Maintain or even expand publicly accessible forested park lands to serve as an antidote to the stresses of urban life. (1)
- Maintain or improve what we have. Keep them clean and free of illegal activity/camping. Do not add bike trails that restrict city streets and parking. (1)
- maintain parks , trails , etc. (1)
- Maintain recreation activities such as senior programs, and parks for children. (1)
- Maintain resilience of natural areas and existing facilities. (1)
- Maintain the Munger Bike Trail. (1)
- maintain the parks for recreation and to provide interesting activity areas for all ages. (1)

- Maintain viewsheds at observation points (1)
- Maintain what is already built before adding new. (1)
- maintain what they have (1)
- maintain what we already have (1)
- Maintain what we have and make improvements on most used (1)
- Maintain, keep clean & safe what we have. (1)
- Maintaining and community engagement. Hartley is overrun with buckthorn. Park point has more weeds and not functioning lights, broken brick then ever. If the city can't afford to staff the people needed then ask for certain community days. Idk make a friends of Hartley group and once a month provide the resources to remove buckthorn. Have the fire department practice control burns. Some of this stuff is going to get much worse the longer it goes uncared for (2)
- Maintaining and creating hiking, biking and walking trails. These are what make Duluth so attractive to me as a resident and help tourists appreciate Duluth's beauty. Ensuring these spaces are safe and environmentally sustainable is of utmost importance. (2)
- Maintaining and expanding to preserve the resources of Duluth. Even just making sure enough trash and recycling units are available for use and possibly some additional signage about how everyone can help keep the parks clean and preserved (3)
- Maintaining and fixing the ones that need it the most. (1)
- Maintaining current areas and making them available to more people (1)
- Maintaining Duluth's beauty (1)
- maintaining parks and expanding parks (1)
- maintaining public green space - don't sell off any of Lester Park Golf Course. (1)
- Maintaining the park system. (1)
- Maintaining what we have is most important. This community bows down to bike riders and focuses too much on the over extended trail networks while the playgrounds fall into disrepair. It's time that people who just want to use the park for their young kids get a little TLC too. You could fund anything you wanted if you would enforce the existing leash laws. The situation is the same with tourism. We focus on tourists at the expense of the people who live here. Feels like it should be the other way around. I understand that tourism is a big deal in Duluth and we need the tourism dollars, but at what point does Duluth belong to the people who live and pay taxes here? (1)
- Maintance (1)
- Maintenance & more space. (1)
- MAINTENANCE (1)
- maintenance (2)
- Maintenance (2)
- maintenance and environmental preservation of our green spaces and trails, (1)
- Maintenance and programming (1)
- Maintenance and safety (1)
- Maintenance and Safety (1)

- Maintenance and serving underprivileged youth (1)
- Maintenance and upkeep (1)
- Maintenance of current parks (1)
- Maintenance of existing parks that are most used (1)
- Maintenance of our existing parks (1)
- Maintenance of the parks and trails near me is good. Thanks. Until two years ago, I didn't use the parks very much. Now I am riding my bicycle to work every day. Every day (except rainy days). All year long. And I have discovered the park system as I ride home on various trails and routes. What a great mind clearing and relaxing thing at the end of the day. The designated bike lanes on the city streets and the signage (the signage could be better) are very good EXCEPT the bicycle death lanes (the bike lanes between parked cars and the regular car lanes. Car drivers opening their parked car doors do not look for bikes in the bike lanes, and bicycle riders are hard to see in side mirrors even if you are looking for them). I like riding on one way streets. (1)
- maintenance of the parks that we have before making more parks. (1)
- Maintenance of trails. While acquiring additional properties would be great, the city has a fairly sizable amount of public land and money spent maintenance and development of those parks would be a better use of funds. (1)
- Maintenance! Overgrown parks and underkept facilities bring down the outdoor experience. (1)
- Maintenance, safety (1)
- Maintenance. Stop building new parks and trails until we can afford to maintain and support them in meaningful ways. (1)
- Make sure to have some facility within walking distance in most neighborhoods. (1)
- Making it fun and drawing people in (2)
- making sure that we keep our green space and not look to sell our parks/green space for the sake of other issues (i.e low income housing). (1)
- Making sure the City has the same amount of green space as it has now or more. This includes maintaining all the trees in the City. (1)
- Making the spaces feel safe (1)
- Making trails accessible to everyone and maintaining them. (1)
- Marketing (1)
- Maximize the amount of green space available for all activities, especially in a linkable, cross-city corridor. (1)
- maximizing forest/green space, even though there is a lot, it is still important (1)
- McCabe Renewal Center is a retreat center. No one lives at McCabe (2125 Abbotsford Ave., Duluth, MN). I am the director of McCabe and so answered the questions as they pertained to what our retreat guests have experienced and a bit of my opinion. So, this survey is difficult to answer, especially the questions 19 to 26. (1)
- minimizing habitat fragmentation/ prioritizing stable habitat continuity throughout urban areas (2)
- Modify to golf plan to make Enger Park an 18 hole golf course, with added housing space availability and reopen Lester Parks 18 hole golf course. Then promote Duluth as a golf destination and increase the user fees at the golf courses to pay for needed structural upgrades. Should have been a priority for years now! (1)
- More accessibility and educational opportunities (2)
- More biking trails, community pools, updating parks and their amenities (1)

- more disability trails that young and old can handle no matter the disability (1)
- More information, maps, and opportunities for different ages (1)
- More lighting, powered by renewable energy (2)
- More sports facilities that draw out of town guests (1)
- More ways to get people involved and ways for them to feel comfortable using the parks (2)
- Most importantly safety and cleanliness. I want my grandchildren to feel safe in the parks. (1)
- Mountain biking is bringing a lot of people to Duluth. Continuing that momentum would be very smart. (1)
- Multi use spaces (1)
- N/A (3)
- Need more handicap accessible (1)
- need to finish skatepark/plaza (1)
- not sure (1)
- Not sure. (3)
- on going funding (1)
- Open up additional view points along the Skyline Blvd. by cutting some trees & brush and/or more parking areas with a good view. (1)
- Overall I am very pleased with the availability of the parks and their maintenance. (1)
- Park point and inner city parks. I walk out at park point daily and I cannot believe the dangerous condition of disrepair that the boardwalk closest to the airport is in. Boards splintering and broken. I was at Wisconsin point this summer and what a difference. (1)
- paved trails for walking , and biking trails, (1)
- Paved walking path from the shore to Miller Hill (2)
- preserve natural spaces that provide ability to do a variety of activities throughout the city (3)
- Preservation of all existing parks (1)
- Preservation of natural areas and environment (3)
- Preserve and safeguard neighborhood green spaces. Don't overdo development to the detriment of quality of the land. (1)
- Preserve the beautiful parks and trails we already have. (1)
- preserve what little green space we have before developers & hospitals RUIN it. preserve public access to shore of Lake Superior within the city limits. (1)
- Preserving natural spaces. I love living here because I can walk to trails that are away from cars. (1)
- Preserving natural wilderness spaces for hiking (1)
- Promote Duluth's reputation as a healthy, active city that is immersed in nature to attract and retain people who value the outdoors. (1)
- Properly maintain the current parks, recreation sites, open spaces, and trails we currently have in place. (1)
- Properly maintaining current trails and facilities before doing anything else is huge. A lot of great things have been done in recent years. I feel like there's not much room for anything grand, but we can certainly expand existing initiatives like the bike trail system. (2)

- Provide access and options for undeserved areas of the city. (1)
- Provide citizens and visitors with above average experiences that maximize revenues. Start charging for trails, etc. (1)
- Providing green spaces in lower income areas of the city. (1)
- Providing programming for children in as many neighborhoods as possible. I grew up attending a community center daily during the summer. I played with a lot of kids there. We took field trips to a pool and had many enriching activities happening all the time. We received lunch there as well and we could buy snacks. My nephew is 19. He grew up in the same neighborhood and there was no programming happening at the community center because funding was cut. Now my 8 year old daughter has a hard time finding any kids to play with at that same playground during the summer. Please prioritize getting staff at parks to do activities with kids. Even not in a building and just occasionally would be a step up. If it can be a regular scheduled thing than maybe kids will show up for it and bond with each other and learn new things. It was an amazing thing to have a playground full of kids all summer, it's like summer camp in your own neighborhood so everyone can walk there. I hope this can happen in as many neighborhoods as possible. I really think this kind of thing keeps kids out of trouble. I know it added to my happiness greatly. Maybe americorps workers could help fill the gap on how hard it is to afford staff for this. (1)
- Public restroom accessibility, updated signs throughout hiking trails, and current info on what programs the city offers for families (2)
- Removing garbage and maintaining existing structures (1)
- Re-open Lester Park Golf Course as an 18 hole course, Increase fees. (1)
- rescue the pathetic public golf in Duluth (1)
- Restore the wonderful facilities such as Portman and others like it. (1)
- Safety (1)
- Safety and usability (1)
- Safety- lighting trails so they can feel safe after dark. Creating more paved walking/biking trails throughout the city. Creating new trail systems where people can experience nature that is away from the city. There should be Hartley/Piedmont/Lester river type nature areas all over with lots of walking trails. There are plenty of cross country ski trails and biking trails that are well maintained. During the winter the cross country trails make it so many dog walkers lose a place to walk dogs and kids. There aren't enough sledding hills at all anymore and a lot of smaller hockey/ice skating rinks have lost funding. It's become a city for bikers and cross country skiers which is great, but this city should focus more on youth like it used to. People with kids and dogs need more areas to enjoy nature away from busy areas like the lake walk system. The new paved trails in hermantown is a good addition to the city- well done there! Most people don't mind paying a small fee to enjoy the outdoors. If money is needed just ask people who are using the parks to pay for parking or something and spread the dollar into the rural areas as able. The kids will want to stay, raise, and praise about a city that had the best places to be outside! (1)
- Security and removal of homeless users of public park areas. (1)
- Sell or lease Spirit Mt., and build a paved bike path that encirclces the city with connectivity to neighborhoods. (1)
- Sell Spirit Mountain and aquarium. (1)
- Separation of hike and bike trails. Rock climbing/bouldering usage areas. Clearing out and dedicating areas for skins and boot tracks for snowboarding and AT skiing. Beach areas on the harbor side of Park Point. (1)
- Stop the development of condo's, apartments, & housing that replaces any still standing wooded areas in Duluth metro (1)
- sustainability (1)
- Sustainability and usability (2)

- Take better care of what we have and keep the parks safe (1)
- Take care of parks we have..and quit supporting just one thing..ie..bikes, bikers, and bike trails.. That seems like that is all we care about now. Even to the point of plowing the trails first in the winter when peoples streets aren't plowed yet. Very much a sore spot and I know this first hand. (1)
- Taking the beautiful sky line we have and improving the area. Taking what currently exists and maintaining. (1)
- Tax the churches. (1)
- That we continue to promote broad and diverse usage of our parks system, and that we allocate the resources needed to preserve and maintain these cherished assets. (1)
- The city needs to find ways to increase revenue to support existing parks. The most obvious to me is to turn the unused soccer fields in the Park Point Recreation area into a city funded RV park. Raise the ground level at least 2 feet by accepting clean dredged material to fix the drainage issues there. I believe that the city of Two Harbors makes about \$400,000 profit annually from their RV park. This would increase tourism, tourism taxes and provide a new revenue stream to support parks. The additional tourism tax should also be directly invested back into the parks budgets. (1)
- The City's lack of action when presented options and benefits such as grants that would help improve funding for facilities. The infighting and petty bickering due to personal grudges and what ever else there is that's burdening rather than benefiting the parks. (1)
- The direction that the city has taken is already put the city on the national map for outdoor activity. Would like to continue to see improvement in that direction. (1)
- Times change with those who make use of our parks and trails, just as "tagging" can be directed into real and understandable messages. Think of going hungry while watching food commercials, then walking downtown with pocket change in the middle of the night with nowhere for water or bathroom. I saw tagging from one end of the town to the other. Three guys walking together from one place to another do not constitute a gang. Add alcohol or drugs and they are impaired, no matter the test. We need to provide for those less fortunate at the same time as rebuilding the bridges they trashed along the way. We can do this by an honest effort to understand. (1)
- To continue to push for more funding and focus on being outside (1)
- To maintain the parks trails and equipment (1)
- To maintain what we have and hopefully get more (1)
- To provide safe, clean areas that can be enjoyed by everyone. (1)
- To stop and realize that you all are doing a good job in a difficult situation. (1)
- Tough question! I think paying attention to parks in the downtown area is really important right now. There are ash trees damaged from EAB that, in my opinion, should have been treated for retention because there aren't many in this park (Lake Ave and 3rd St). That's a shame. Cascade Park and the aforementioned park should get new / repaired playground equipment, along with refreshed landscaping, trees, etc. Other comments:#9. I'm' embarrassed to say that I don't really know what Parks and Rec offers for programming. The activities I and my family are mostly involved with aren't city-led, as far as I know. Rather, the programs are led by DXC, COGGS, Nordic Northstar, DCT. Maybe I'm missing something, or maybe I just don't pay enough attention. Or, maybe Parks and Rec doesn't offer much programming and that's why I don't know about it? #10. There wasn't the option to write comments when selecting "other." #12. I would have liked to have examples of activities in A and B, especially B, to get my thoughts flowing. #16. I would have liked to be able to rank these. (1)
- Trail's maintenance (1)
- Use existing space....do not continue to crowd the lakefront blocking off parkpoint locals...tourism is very important to the city but NOT at the expense of destroying the natural beauty that does attract visitors....as a tourism ambassador I am very disappointed in finding no outlet for wisdom! (1)

- Using this space to make a financial suggestion: Ask local businesses give customers a chance to "round up" to the nearest dollar amount when paying the cashier, with the difference going to Parks & Rec (or the Duluth library system, etc.). I frequently 'round up' for organizations that I feel are beneficial while I am paying for groceries or even at a drive-thru. I would definitely round up for Parks or Library goals. Most people pay with cards, so having a donation jar for spare change is not as effective. Maybe there could be a choice given on which group the 'donation' goes to instead of stores featuring a single beneficiary for the month. If Parks & Rec is not considered a non-profit, then maybe there could be some sort of non-profit parks 'fan' club formed that could be donated to for specific park goals/ projects, and then in turn donate the proceeds to Parks for those earmarked projects. Just a thought- I really don't know much about it. (1)
- We need to invest in our neighborhoods. We need to make it easy to recreate close to home. (1)
- We would love to see an outdoor splash pad or an indoor playground. More options for kids and families during all seasons of Duluth. (1)
- With more users, I see the need for more amenities such as restrooms and garbage cans. Obviously these would need to be maintained regularly. (1)
- Would love to see a larger variety in facilities, such a bike park, designated beginner rock climbing area, pickleball court, etc. Everyone I know is looking for the newest sport or activity to try, learn, and enjoy! (1)
- You are losing me - give me some options (1)
- Young kid activities (2)

Appendix B2: Verbatim Responses to Survey Items Answered in Respondents' Own Words (Open Participation)

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey or entered in the online survey form and have not been edited for spelling or grammar.

Responses are shown alphabetically.

The number in parenthesis shows how many people made this same comment.

Question 1: What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)

- alpine skiing (2)
- Alpine Skiing (4)
- Alpine skiing (8)
- alpine skiing (remember, you own Spirit Mountain! Chester Bowl!). Mountain biking (again, Spirit Mountain) (1)
- Alpine skiing at Chester Bowl (2)
- Alpine Skiing at Chester Bowl (2)
- Alpine skiing at Chester Bowl in #1. How is this not listed on the survey??? (1)
- Alpine Skiing/Snowboarding (1)
- Alpine(downhill) skiing (2)
- archery (1)
- Archery hunting (1)
- Attending concerts (2)
- Avid disc golfer. Utilize area courses multiple times per week (1)
- Bird Watching (1)
- Bird watching (2)
- climate change resilience (1)
- Cross-country skiing, hiking, walking (1)
- Deer hunting (1)
- Didn't know where to add this. We take our grandkids into parks a lot all year as well. (1)
- Disc Golf & alpine skiing/snowboarding (at Spirit Mountain) (1)
- Disc Golf (13)
- Disc golf (19)

- Disc Golf 3+ days a week (1)
- Disc Golf in Lincoln Park (1)
- DISC GOLF! (1)
- Disc golf! (4)
- DISC GOLF! By far more than anything else. (1)
- Disc golf. The twin ports area is becoming a destination for disc golf. (1)
- Disc Golf. (1)
- disc golf. need more/better courses! (1)
- Disc golfing (1)
- Discgolf (3)
- Doc Golf. Duluth could become a destination for the fastest growing sport in the US! (1)
- Dog park (1)
- downhill ski at Chester (1)
- Downhill skiing (3)
- Downhill skiing at Chester Bowl (1)
- duluth city bowhunt (1)
- Duluth Community Garden (1)
- Enjoy the scenery and blooms in season at Leif Erikson Rose Garden and Enger Park. (1)
- Frisbee golf (1)
- Geocaching (1)
- golf (1)
- Golf (4)
- Golf at Enger (1)
- Golf! Not included on the list? (1)
- GOLF. which I notice is conveniently left off your list, even though it is experiencing an incredible boom. Will take our dollars to Two Harbors, Superior, Pike Lake, or Proctor after seeing the absolutely misuse and mismanagement the city has had in regards to golf. Absolutely awful. (1)
- Golfing (1)
- Golfing on the public golf courses (2)
- Ice Climbing (1)
- Jogging, hiking, rentals for special events. Biking! (1)
- Kicksledding (1)

- Lester park Golf, Portman baseball and basketball courts, Well we used to as least but the anti-parks department closed them all because they hate children and Lakeside in general (1)
- Make out (1)
- Meeting new people we wouldn't otherwise meet. (1)
- Nordic and Alpine skiing (1)
- On leash dog walking (1)
- One is right across the street from our house, so what happens there impacts us. (1)
- Painting/ drawing/photographs (1)
- Photography (3)
- Pickleball (11)
- Pickleball, basketball (1)
- playing pickleball (2)
- Playing Pickleball, golf (1)
- Playing pickleball. (2)
- Rollerskiing (1)
- Scavenger Hunts! (1)
- Skateboarding and spending quality family time! (1)
- Skiing (1)
- skiing at Chester Bowl (1)
- skiing- Nordic and Alpine (at Chester) (1)
- Skiing! (1)
- Snowboarding disc golf (1)
- Squatting (1)
- Study the roses at Leif Erikson Rose Garden (1)
- To walk on trails. (1)
- Using a shelter and space for family/group gathering (1)
- using the clean restrooms (1)
- Visiting Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory for their fall count and activities (1)
- Visiting the Rose Garden and Enger Park gardens and walking on the lake walk. (1)
- Walking the dogs on leash on the trails (1)
- Walking, hiking, picnicking (1)
- youth development program (2)

Question 3: For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.

- All locations need improvements and upkeep. (2)
- Anishinaabe directed cultural spaces. (1)
- Archery Hunting land for deer (1)
- ATV/OHM Trails (1)
- Biking trails, both unpaved and paved (1)
- Bow hunting (2)
- camping, camper cabins--too few (2)
- Can we have more dog poop bag boxes? The one at Grant Community Center is never ever filled. And garbage cans were not replaced after March 2020 Covid-rested shutting down of extra services. This space has become a garbage. (1)
- Community centers are all gone and it shows in the way we treat each other (1)
- Dedicated snowmobile and four-wheeler trails (1)
- didn't mean to comment (1)
- dog trash cans. there are signs about "NO POOP FAIRIE" but where are the CANS to put the poop in? if there's a sign, there better be a can pretty near by. why did all the trashes get taken away at hawk ridge? (1)
- Duluth should have a real public disc golf course. The quarry is an industrial wasteland, lsc course is on a landfill. Stop dumping money into spirit mountain and fund something that actually benefits lower income residents. Solution- turn snowflake into a disc golf course/dog park. (1)
- Enough with the hiking and bike trails already! Stop destroying our green spaces and tranquility. Bikers and hikers are very loud and have ruined the peace and quite in our neighborhood. They don't talk to each other with normal voices. They have to yell at each other for their voices to be heard by fellow bikers/hikers 100 feet away. Often times their conversations and language are not appropriate for children nearby listening to WAY too personal conversations. At least put up signage that says residential area ahead please keep voices down! Our houses were here long before the trails and residents enjoyed peace and quite, that's why we lived here in the first place! (1)
- Far too few gender neutral public restrooms. Single stalls are helpful for members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as families, single parents with children, and more. (1)
- Film Education (2)
- Flat area Roller Skate/In-line Skate trails or courts/rinks (1)
- forest management: NNIS is taking over and destroying our parks. common buckthorn in particular. (1)
- Garbage cans (1)
- Garbage receptacles (1)
- golf course is overused and crowed. Cities the size of Duluth have multiple courses (2)
- Golf course- not an option Preserve Lester 18 (1)

- Homeless populations are taking away from enjoyment of public spaces. The threat of harassment or encountering improperly stored sharps is a concern as I look to enjoy outdoor spaces. There should be no camping on public lands, except managed and designated areas. (1)
- Hunting land (1)
- I have noticed new trails going in but a lack of information about them (what activity they are for, a rough map, etc.) (1)
- In general I am concerned that developed areas are happening at a faster rate than green areas. I would like to see a policy of adding green spaces whenever undeveloped areas become developed areas; amount of new green space should equal amount of new developed space. (1)
- Indoor walking track, indoor or outdoor pool, splash pad (1)
- Indoor/covered off leash dog area (1)
- Information on ways the community can help volunteer and get involved. Social media does help, but use radio, tv and print media, too. (1)
- It would be wonderful to have more pleasure ice skating rinks, a splash pad, and a zip line! (1)
- Just figured I had to fill this field.... (1)
- Keep jt green, open to all, allow for community access, limit vehicle use, provide year round human powered travel surfaces (thru city nordic route, plowed/packed bike lanes, clear plow debris from ADA access points at intersections) (1)
- Lake Superior vistas for cars and disabled people to view. (1)
- Lester Park should have a bathroom facility. Chambers Grove has one! Ask Coggs to chip in since Lester is the eastern terminus of the Duluth Traverse. (1)
- Loss of ice rink and open space play areas in the Congdon/Tischer neighborhood (1)
- Minnesota Point beach connections from Minnesota Avenue. (1)
- More arts events in parks would be welcome (1)
- Multi-use, flexible urban design small park spaces for gathering, relaxing and resting. (1)
- Nice boat ramps (1)
- No fenced in sensory friendly all inclusive parks! (2)
- Outdoor events - Specifically at Lincoln Park (1)
- Outdoor gyms would be a great addition. Also, more water fountains and find a way to keep them operational during the winter (5)
- Outdoor sports fields are not maintained to a level that draws people to them. Duluth brings in tourism through hockey and mountain biking. It should also improve baseball fields to be capable of hosting more baseball and softball tournaments throughout the summer. (1)
- Parking areas for use of the trails (2)
- Parking in residential areas causes problems for residents. No trash cans or clean up - 42nd ave e park. (1)
- Paved bicycle trails. (1)
- Paved walkway like on the West Side of Chester bowl,. A lake walk on skyline would be great. The best way to fight type 2 diabetes. Other then that you are doing a great job. Skating rinks, ski hills and parks are all very nice! (1)
- Paved, protected or off-street bicycle lanes or paths (2)
- People (1)
- Pickleball courts (1)

- Public hunting land (1)
- Public swimming pool. (1)
- Quality skateboard parks like they have out west in california (1)
- Scenic overlooks (1)
- Signage in Ojibwa; need more handicap bathrooms/portapotties (1)
- Skyline parkway needs attention ... Dog beach would be nice (1)
- Snowmobile trails. There should be a cross city snowmobile trail that can also be used for ATV's and UTV's (1)
- Splash pads that are free like in st.cloud pain in Sauk Centre (1)
- Swimming Areas (1)
- Swimming pools/aquatic center (1)
- The "cultural" or historic facilities aren't very "culturally appropriate. We don't need more of the same. If there were to be more, they should be planned out by the Anishinaabe community. We don't need more war memorials or Leaf Erickson Statues. We don't need more burial grounds disturbed in the Twin Ports. We can do better than that and we should. How about some authentic Cultural Facilities that show Honor and Respect to Native communities. We could combine healthy activities with learning activities that also show respect in order to improve community health and understanding of treaty rights and reduce racism in our community. (1)
- The city needs to start investing in its youth and providing better multi-sporting and athletic complexes that offer to a wide range of activities and athletics. The city takes pride in its Hockey and which is also another area that does not have enough indoor rinks to even meet the needs of all these teams in the area. The baseball fields and community hockey rinks and football fields have totally been funded by the community, meaning the parents of these kids who participate and do all the volunteering and fundraising and taking care of these facilities. The city has not contributed to the youth facilities in any of these areas and leave it all up to the volunteers. Other cities throughout the state take pride in there facilities and complexes when it comes to INVESTING in youth sports and also getting big business and banks to invest in them which in turn bring in a ton of money to those areas with families going there for games and tournaments. These events bring in money to the hotels, restaurants, shopping in the area and other events going on. Duluth needs to do better in supporting and investing in there youth athletics. (1)
- There is much more potential for expanding (summer and winter) trails at Spirit Mountain! (1)
- There seems to be an over saturation of mountain bike trails that are ruining the natural outdoor experience. It seems that more trails are constantly being built everywhere for the enjoyment of so few. (1)
- Too few golf courses with one being closed for no good reason. (1)
- Too many signs signifying that one cannot use a certain trail. Too many signs designating "cross-country" ski trail only, especially at Chester Park. (1)
- Trash and Recycle receptacles (1)
- Trash bins along paved trails (1)
- Undeveloped park lands. As a city, our focus should be equitable access to outdoor recreation across the city. Everyone in the city should be within a 5-10 minute walk to a park (equivalent to the NRPA standard). We should perform an evaluation to ensure we are meeting this standard. Additionally, with our maintenance department being far below the amount of resources we should have for a park system of Duluth's size, we need to downsize on unnecessary spaces and improve/update the ones we have. (4)

- wayfinding Signage is bad. Non existent for many parks. Even recent signs have problems. For example Inaccurate, in wrong location. not facing the arrival road. Double sided when not needed. Ssingle sided when could be double. Signs on river trail in West Duluth is white paint on light colored wood, so very hard to read. Mileage marking is hard to understand. For example on dwp in is unclear where the mileage numbers relate to. Whole signage program and implementation needs to be more thorough, installation more closely monitored and more quickly corrected when errors are pointed out. So many issues, big and small. Better oversight and coordination and fresh eyes with user groups could prevent these errors. (1)
- Wayyyyyyyy too much dedication to parking. Eliminate cars from parks, and have more parks closer to housing. (4)
- We should not allow dogs in our city parks. They interrupt enjoyment for humans, and scare off wild animals. (1)
- What? (1)
- Wilderness/environmental restoration areas (1)

Question 4: Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)

- Car break ins (1)
- 1. My son has Down syndrome and few places to ride a bike safely on trails, and even if there was a safer trail, DOGS OFF LEASHES absolutely would spoil it. This is a larger issue than you think. Are we not able to enjoy the trails like everyone else? Do we need to continuously stress about DOGS OFF LEASHES? Certain owners will always believe these "laws" do not apply to them. No public swimming pools in Duluth is curious, as well. Mailing certain bike trails more inclusive for people who need to use a hand cycle, three wheeled cycle or who just need extra safety while riding a bike would be a huge help. Thank you for your time. William Haug, Jr, MD Resident of Duluth 701-330-3092 (1)
- Access/Safety: Lack of traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements on walking routes into parks (1)
- Age appropriate playgrounds- specifically for littles under 5 (1)
- All the squatters and people leaving their trash lay around, finding hypodermic needles that people use for drugs. My kids have found used condoms on the ground in some parks. There is garbage from masks everywhere. The amount of panhandlers. It's sad that people do not treat the parks respectfully. I don't feel safe just to let my kids run around in the Parks without being closely supervised (1)
- Bathrooms are in accessible with fragrances. All restrooms should be fragrance free, the park point restroom closes way too early before ground could freeze and Porto potties are impossible to breathe in, not hygienic and emit a constant smell of human feces covered in perfume downwind whatever direction the wind blows on the fresh outdoors. Feels disrespectful to nature to put a giant glade plug in essentially in wild spaces. Compostable would be so much better than Porto potties. This is an accessibility issue. The restroom access in canal park by the bridge sucks too- the maritime museum restroom smells like bug spray perfume chemicals too many industrial air fresheners for the size of the space. (1)
- Bike trails closed. This year both western trails closed, Munger and Cross City. Detour on unsafe Grand Ave. (2)
- Bike trails zig-zagging across areas that used to be nice walking paths. Bikers cross walking trails at dangerous speeds. (1)
- Bring back neighborhood recreation centers for the kids!!!! (1)
- Car break-ins at trailheads (1)
- Cars being vandalized (1)
- Closing the trails in winter for exclusive use of cross country skiers thereby, discriminating and preventing the majority of neighbors access to the trail (1)
- Concern about safety when I am a lone female hiker (1)

- Different user groups using spots that aren't for them. e.g. hiking on a groomed ski trail; horses on a hiking trail, etc. Partly a signage issue, partly an enforcement/education issue. (1)
- disc golfers being habitually treated poorly at Enger (3)
- Distance to travel. Minimal parks by mall area. (1)
- Do not feel welcome. Far too many signs stating that we should stay off unpaved trails. (1)
- dog poop everywhere (1)
- Duluth should have at least one off-leash nature park of similar size and quality to the ones at Minnehaha in Minneapolis and Battle Creek in St Paul. The existing off-leash parks are glorified runs, and there's a big problem with people letting their dogs off leash in the existing nature parks. Dog owners need someplace beautiful to legally unleash the hounds. (1)
- Duluth's parks are in poor condition. Many other cities of similar size in Minnesota where we have family have nice parks with clean bathrooms and well kept sports fields. (1)
- Excessive bike trails impact deer hunting in a negative way. (2)
- Extreme presence of homeless population makes some of these parks undesirable to go to. (4)
- Goes with safety but there are several lots I won't park in due to continual problems with break ins/thefts/car damage (1)
- High rental rates for space for nonprofit organizations. (1)
- Homeless (4)
- Homeless communities have taken over some trails, such as Chester Creek trail, which makes walking the trails uncomfortable and unenjoyable. Separate trails for off leash dogs would be nice, but only if off leash dogs are friendly and trained. (1)
- Homeless with their trash and needles it's out of hand. Lack of maintenance you can't take proper care of things now quite making stuff you can't take of. Trails how many do we need I've walked in the woods my whole life I didn't have trails quit destroying the woods (2)
- Horse trailer parking isn't sufficient; horse trails are limited and user conflicts are stressful (1)
- I dislike the amount of time Bayfront Park is tied up with setting up and tearing down Bentleyville. (5)
- I hold squatter's rights to some of the parks in town. That means that other people are using my parks and thus preventing me from using them as I see fit. (1)
- I know this is a choice, but I want to emphasize how off leash dogs that are not controlled impacts the user experience. There are areas of Chester Park I have to avoid because of the masses of dogs. And while running throughout the entire trail system I have had too many encounters with off leash dogs- I'm worried that one of these will result in myself or a dog or both getting severely injured. (1)
- I live a short distance from Hartley Park. I love to relax in the woods and enjoy what nature has to offer. Unfortunately I usually encounter bikers on the multi-use trails that do not follow the rules and have often forced me off the trail while they whiz by. Recently I was nearly hit by a biker on a very narrow, twisting trail to Rock Knob. I was walking up, he was coming down around a sharp curve at a very rapid speed. This is a common occurrence on the multi-use trails, danger to folks with small children, a danger to elders and a place where one cannot relax because you are always looking over your shoulder. Hikers and bikers need separate trails so all can enjoy their time in our parks. (1)
- I'm not sure if your question is only about Duluth Parks programming or inclusive of the many outdoor organizations? (1)
- Incessant car break-ins at some of the trailheads. (1)
- Inner city trails are gross because of dog poop bag littering so I use trails further out. (1)

- Insufficient park benches picnic tables & barbecue or fire pit (2)
- Jean Duluth dog park needs more parking people have to park on busy road same with SHT on Hanes rd (1)
- Lack of a City Park Pass - could be voluntary with proceeds improving access to all users.. (1)
- Lack of accessible land and/or the usable land being taken away a little more every year. (1)
- Lack of bathroom facilities (1)
- Lack of paid help at the playgrounds and organized programs for children (1)
- Lack of permanent or portable bathroom facilities (1)
- Lack of places to change clothes with privacy. (1)
- Lack of quality maps online (2)
- Lack of rest room (1)
- Lack of rest rooms or portable portapotties (1)
- Lack of restrooms (1)
- Lack of space provided for certain activities as opposed to others. (4)
- Lack of support for the golf courses, specifically for Lester Park. (2)
- Lack of toilets or porta potties. Lack of garbage cans (2)
- Lester Park Golf Course being closed for no reason the last two years has prevented my household from enjoying one of our favorite outdoor spaces. The laser focus on spending tens of millions on West Duluth tourist attractions is unfair to residents of Duluth who do not live on the West side or those who can't afford the steep prices. (1)
- Little lighting in dog parks to be able to use as it gets darker (1)
- Many have groups of homeless wandering around or with set up tents. There have been areas with lots of drug use and syringes. (1)
- Many of the park areas that are used by youth activities such as soccer, basketball, football have coaches that are lenient with groups, usually boys, who leave garbage after practice, or who help themselves to public areas. It's tough to dodge a ball, and the clothing, plastic bottles and food wrappers strewn about is a problem that needs fixing. It is not difficult to put things in the garbage. It's wasteful and contaminates the natural beauty of our parks and trails. I think that coaches and parents need to take more responsibility in having their children follow through in leaving the area as though they have never been there. I have walked my dog on trails and near parks that have food garbage strewn about. Dogs are quicker than people and don't let you inspect what they are eating, and getting very sick in the process. (1)
- Mt biking vs hiking. Lack of understanding of how to use trails together (1)
- Multi-use trails are designed for performance mountain biking, which has significantly changed the ability of many hikers, walkers, nature observers, less physically able people, etc. to relax and enjoy the woods. Despite the majority of mountain bikers being courteous, some aren't, and a lot of them are out there to bike hard and work on biking skills. Even if they want to be respectful of other users, they often cannot prevent careening up behind or toward people, forcing the non-bikers to jump aside, stop their walk and step aside, etc. (even though non-bikers are supposed to have the right of way). There are very few circle routes that don't allow bikes these days (I LOVE the SHT for through-hikes, but it isn't intended for the casual walker, forager, etc.). I seriously think there should be a question in this survey directed at this problem. I don't have the numbers, but I suspect that miles of trails per mountain biker FAR exceed miles of trails available for walkers, runners, strollers, wheel chair users, dog walkers, hikers, bird watchers, foragers, etc. My use of my closest park has changed radically since the mountain bike trails developed. Walking or running on those trails always gives me this very small feeling of

anxiety, wondering when one or more bikers will come up suddenly behind me. I go to the woods to relax and the number of truly relaxing trails, particularly in the winter when the ski trails are inaccessible to walkers, has dropped dramatically. Enough. (1)

- Need more horse trails and to connect to trail system- would bring more tourists/visitors to area (1)
- Need to improve security and monitoring at Trailheads. Far too many thefts and vehicle damage/breakins (2)
- No all inclusive fenced in sensory friendly parks (2)
- No bathrooms/portable toilets. Also some parking areas are too far for me to walk from parking to actual park or event area. (1)
- No bike parking available (1)
- No community pool or aquatic center in Duluth (1)
- No etiquette signage or mounting blocks on DWP, SKYLINE PKWY... (1)
- No neighborhood ice skating rink at Lafayette Square (1)
- No Porta potties at trailheads (1)
- No restroom facilities (1)
- No water for drinking; washing hands or scrapes when kids fall; or for putting out grill fires (1)
- Not enough disc golf courses (1)
- Not enough mountain bike skills part (great place for little kids to learn skills) (1)
- Not specifically my family, but for citizens who are left out of our parks. (1)
- nothing (1)
- Nothing prevents me from using the parks. I do see a need for neighborhood parks. When we grew up here there was a great park and community center run by a city employee for every neighborhood. A skating rink in the winter and fields in the summer. (1)
- off leash dogs in parks is an obstacle for us going to the parks and being confronted with dogs. (2)
- Off-leash dogs are very common on Park Point. I have found that the off-leash dogs belong to either the residents on the Point who know about the leash law, but don't care to implement it themselves, or the dogs belong to people visiting who don't know that there is a leash law. More signs would be helpful and reminders to the residents on the Point that there is a leash law on the beach. Another thing that would be helpful if someone periodically patrolled the beach. I know many residents have been given a 'warning' and that's it. The residents know they won't be ticketed and will just receive a warning, so they continue to have their dog(s) off-leash! I have encountered far too many dogs off leash, many that jump up onto me. Something needs to be done. (1)
- Only concerning thing is car break-ins at trailheads. (1)
- Overuse, trash, needles, fee for small groups, dogs of leash, poorly maintained (1)
- Quality Pickleball courts (2)
- Repeated car break-ins at trailheads, especially Becks Rd area. (2)
- Rule changes without sufficient input from users (1)
- Safe bike-ped access to parks (1)
- Safety - pickleball/Tennis court conditions (2)
- Safety of vehicle parked at trailheads from break ins and/or vandalism. (2)

- Safety: concern of car break ins at trailheads (1)
- Safety: Issues with too many cars driving in and near where people recreate. (4)
- SINCE 2005: NO ACCESS TO LAKEWALK IN FRONT OF BEACON PT AND LEDGES AS PROMISED TO CITIZENS BUT STOPPED BY LACK OF SPINE BY POLITICIANS. "CLIMATE CHANGE" IS A REDIRECT DISTRACTION, LOOK AT THE LAKE WALL BY FITGERS AND THE FRENCH RIVER WORK BUILT IN JUST 3 YEARS. C'MON DULUTH, DO THE HONEST THING AND KEEP THE PROMISE TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS. WEST AND EAST CAN AGREE, THIS LAKEWALK MUST BE FINISHED FOR ENJOYMENT BY RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS! (2)
- snowmobiling and ATV/Four-wheeler dedicated trails and signage and information where they are (1)
- Sometimes I'm concerned about car break-ins and prowling especially at remote trail heads or xc skiing at Lester after dark. (1)
- Sometimes it is unclear when trails are open/closed due to weather and under what conditions certain trails can be used, which type of use is allowed, etc. (1)
- Stories from others and face book about personal security of myself, spouse and kids on the trail such as needles, Intoxicated or living on the trail. (1)
- Tennis courts not maintained (1)
- The biggest issues are off leash dogs, lack of clear signage to separate activities like bikes/walkers, skier/walkers (1)
- The city is well aware that at 4pm the unofficial dog park at Chester Bowl is open for grumpy men and their off leash dogs, to whom the rules do not apply. Please follow through with disbanding them, those dogs are out of control. (1)
- The closure of the Duluth Height community center. Disgusted with the city, mayor & council members that you are spending so much money on trails etc. but can't fix this building for the kids, the Heights & seniors. (1)
- The dog parks in the city of Duluth are too small for bigger dogs. The dog parks outside of Duluth is a long Drive for me and many people do not watch their dog their. Also there are no off leash dog areas for timid dogs. I have one dog with anxiety around lots of dogs and needs to be in an area with more non social dogs and Duluth doesn't offer that. (2)
- theft and vandalism, rifle hunting in parks, atv use in our parks, Magney snively in particular and the general lack of enforcement of illegal activity in our parks despite many calls and complaints. The city leaves an impression that it does not care. (1)
- There are far to many miles of off road biking trails. They are taking over the wild spaces. (2)
- There is not a good Avenue to find out where the public use areas are for the average person (1)
- There's homeless people everywhere!!!! How can anyone feels safe in these areas! There is piles of **** all over this town from all these homeless people! How does no one recognize this is a problem! I should be able to feel safe in even a parking lot and I can't! Because all these people can come right up to me begging or who knows what they will do. They're sleeping on the trails, under bridges, and even on the lake walk! No place is safe. There is drugs everywhere kids can't even play in a park without needles all over the place. I'm ashamed to bring my family from out of town anywhere here because it's embarrassing to see all this stuff. All the money we pay in taxes this town should be in way better shape. Stop making bike lanes and take care of the real problems. (1)
- They are not kept clean and have found needles in these areas and do not want children and our grandchildren around them it's on safe (1)
- To many Hiking and biking trails through designated hunting areas (1)
- To many unwelcoming signs about trail access at Chester Bowl. The snow sliding area for children, that Has been in use by the athletic field for over 70 years, is now blocked off with sign staying stay off. (2)
- Too many bike trails impact opportunities to bow hunt legally per the Duluth Ordinance (1)

- Too many bikes on trails that are also used by pedestrians (1)
- Too many dogs off leash in supposed leash areas, and still too much dog waste on or near trails. We do appreciate the efforts Park & Rec have made to inform the public about the importance of responsible behaviors with pets. (1)
- Too many people, too many mountain bikes (1)
- Too many self made bike trails. (1)
- Too many single-use ski areas preventing safe hiking in winter (1)
- Too many trail closures in Chester Park for walking in the winter. Obeying these closures would make walking difficult. The park belongs to the citizens, not the skiers. (2)
- Trail maintenance (2)
- Trailhead security (break-ins) are an ongoing issue. Sad. (1)
- Trailheads that continue to have car break ins. Lack of dog waste stations and garbage cans. (1)
- Trails are overgrown and poorly maintained in 'park' nearest or house (Paige Pond). Community Centers and amenities, such as parking, are not well maintained across city and are in disrepair (Park Point, Duluth Heights, Woodland). (1)
- Trails aren't as safe as they were before bikers (1)
- unable to park at some trailheads due to break-ins and catalytic converter thefts (1)
- Unreasonable rules, no sticks on the ice for open skating when sticks are integral to balance and coordination in a young skater. (1)
- Unsure if my kids will find needles in the parks and my family has been harassed by homeless or transient people. We will no longer be going down by the lakewalk area which is too bad because it is really nice but my family shouldn't be worried about their safety on an outing. (1)
- Used needles and garbage a concern (3)
- Vehicle break ins (1)
- Vehicle break ins at trail heads (1)
- Very little accessible "natural land" left undisturbed (1)
- WAAAAAY too much of our natural areas are being carved up by trails. It prevents our family from using the areas for other reasons including, wildlife appreciation, hunting, photography, or simply exploring and enjoying. (1)
- Walking trails which are shared with bike trails (especially mountain bikes) sometimes do not feel safe for the walker. (3)
- Way too many off-leash dogs (1)
- Way too many people allow dogs off leash on running trails. Dogs frequently accost my wife when she is running. Dog owners who do this should be reported and fined. (1)
- We moved to Lakeside to raise a boy but the anti-parks dept closed the golf course, then they stopped taking the hockey boards down at Portman so we can no longer use the basketball court or baseball field. It's like we are in the Twilight Zone. Not sure if there is a more poorly run parks department in the country. (1)
- When Enger Park is busy, parking can be a problem. The Leif Erikson Rose Garden parking lot needs some re-surfacing. (1)

- while hiking, bikers are constantly being rude and expect my family and I to ALWAYS yield to them no matter the location. My little kids to like going to Hartley Park any more because they don't like having to jump into the brush or off the broad walks as bikers fly past. There are many respectful bikers but nearly every time we go into the park we have a negative experience with at least one biker. (1)
- Would community centers more but for meetings and programming but many of the community centers have been removed or closed by the City because of the cost of maintaining them. (1)
- Would like an off-leash dog exercise area that includes wooded trails and adequate acreage for larger, active breeds to socialize, roam, and/or swim. (2)

Question 5: Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:

- Alpine ski area need priority too (1)
- Bathrooms (2)
- cannot stress enough how NNIS is effecting the health of the city park forests, lack of enforcement and signage (no atv use/etc.) in west duluth parks. (1)
- Closing of Lester zPark Golf Course is forcing Duluth Golfers to drive to Superior. (1)
- Concerned with the number of homeless people who are camping in the parks. It's becoming a real problem!!! (2)
- Congestion and crowds on MN Point during prime time for tourists (1)
- Do not feel welcome.Way to many trails now with "keep off/Closed/Prohibited" posted at Chester Park. Way to many tyrannical signs at Chester Park stating that hikers, walkers, snow shoes users, are no longer UNWELCOME on certain trails during the winter. (1)
- Dog poop continues to be huge and terrible problem (2)
- Duluth city admin seems to not care or does not encourage use of open spaces unless it's for mtn bikers (1)
- Duluth lacks facilities for people with physical challenges... skyline parkway should be invested in. Bicycle riders, walkers and elderly can all use this. A Sunday drive for senior citizen &/or citizens who do not have the physical capabilities to do anything else is a wonderful way to enjoy nature & the great views of Lake Superior. (1)
- Existing community centers/clubs need to be better funded by city (1)
- Far west past Morgan park has no sidewalks to connect with rest of city. There is a stretch from Gary to Morgan Park where there is no side walk they have a skinny bike lane with turn lanes and a 45 MPH speed limit. No other road is available to travel on, Commonwealth, Grand Ave is the only route. The entire city is connected but not us. We have to drive to enjoy the city trails. Another example of going cheap on the far west end of town. A separate walkway on one side of the street would be welcomed. This was promised to happen when this roadway was upgraded years ago. (1)
- Homeless (4)
- Homeless are camping out along main trails, human feces on trails along with needles. These are found among inner city parks where families and children are introduced to nature, especially critical for at-risk youth. (1)
- Homelessness is not a crime, however doing drugs and harassing passerby's is. Again, the city is aware. The summer camp for kids at Chester had staff picking up used needles because lower chester is a free for all on doing drugs in the woods. (1)
- I enjoy being alone (or with my spouse) in nature. Many of the walking/hiking trials are now bisected by so many bike trials that it is no longer enjoyable to be on them. I also participate in the City Bow Hunt and usable land is getting smaller and smaller. (1)
- I support mountain biking, but am concerned about increased "ride anywhere" by some riders. (1)

- I think Duluth is doing great with its extensive park system. Thanks for all the city crews do to keep them a key asset of the greater Duluth community. (1)
- I wish more people obeyed the leas ordinances in the city (1)
- I would appreciate more benches/break spots along trails. That would make using the trails much more possible for folks who may need more rests. (2)
- Irresponsible spending on tourist attractions that lose money every year while closing facilities that Duluth residents actually use. (1)
- Lack of lighting and decent paths for handicapped, no toilet or porta potty, lack of garbage cans (2)
- Lack of restrooms (1)
- Lack of year round restroom access (1)
- Lester Park 18 w/Driving Range- Should be available for Eastern Duluth & tourists!!!! (1)
- Mixed use areas are nice but having horses on w skyline at hawk Ridge is unsafe and horse crap doesn't mix well with crowds. Horses are also using hiking paths in the area and doing damage to them (2)
- More dog parks in the eastern end of Duluth, only one and it's very crowded. (2)
- More seating areas in parks to be ADA compliant. Duluth MN is a very beautiful city that ALL should have the ability to enjoy.. Duluth needs to be geared to RESIDENTS; too much attention given to visitors. Residents are here for many more months than visitors and could boost our economy year around as opposed to occasionally. (1)
- More signage at dog parks for rules. (1)
- Most of the kids big toy playgrounds are small and old. With the exception of Playfront park. Which is great. There should be 3 more playfont park quality parks in Duluth (3)
- My father in law uses a wheelchair there are very few areas that are truly wheelchair accessible (1)
- My main concern when parking near a Duluth owned space, is getting my car broken in to. It seems like an unavoidable thing to happen. I am not sure if cameras would help or not. (1)
- N/a (1)
- N/A (1)
- Need a toy free dog park. Toys,are one if the top reason for fights - talk to AAHS. One of my dogs developed toy aggression, but loves playing with other dogs. Since the parks all allow toys, I can't bring her anymore. (1)
- Need more garbages available. (1)
- Need more playgrounds geared towards young kids/toddlers (1)
- No skating rinks, playgrounds closed by city of Duluth, especially in small communities (1)
- Not enough lighting and rules enforcement (1)
- Official off leash trails would be nice. There's defacto off leash trails for sure, but folks new to the area can't really use them because you have to just kinda know where they are. (1)
- Off-leash pets on multiuse trails is a danger to bikers, hikers, runners, and leashed dogs. Dog poop on trails. Horse poop on multiuse trails - Can horses be required to wear horse diaper or horse poop bag on multi-use trails? (1)
- Only "organized" "vocal" groups are listened to for changes to park uses. (1)

- Please develop a pedestrian walk / hike area along Skyline Pkwy from Copper top to Chester park. It is heavily used by walkers, bikers, joggers, dog walkers especially during the winter months. The Lakewalk is great for tourist but locals living in the hillside need a place to safely walk during our 7 months of winter. (2)
- See above. Too many bike trails. (1)
- SINCE 2005: NO ACCESS TO LAKEWALK IN FRONT OF BEACON PT AND LEDGES AS PROMISED TO CITIZENS BUT STOPPED BY LACK OF SPINE BY POLITICIANS. "CLIMATE CHANGE" IS A REDIRECT DISTRACTION, LOOK AT THE LAKE WALL BY FITZGERS AND THE FRENCH RIVER WORK BUILT IN JUST 3 YEARS. C'MON DULUTH, DO THE HONEST THING AND KEEP THE PROMISE TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS. WEST AND EAST CAN AGREE, THIS LAKEWALK MUST BE FINISHED FOR ENJOYMENT BY RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS! (2)
- SO many off leash dogs in areas that are not designated for them and very aggressive, rude dog owners. Recently we have had issues with ebikes on multiuse trails going too fast (1)
- The amount of people complaining about off-leash dogs and the amount of people that have their dogs off-leash is astounding. There needs to be middle ground with designated off-leash trails to avoid controversy (1)
- The city continues to push the bow hunters into smaller areas. They do not recognize the efforts we put in to enjoy these parks with virtually no visibility. Please cut back on the trail systems. They ask seem to ignore the sense of community that the local outdoor hockey rinks brings to our city. We are unique for continuing to have outdoor hockey. You need to invest in this & recognize the financial impact it brings to our region. (1)
- The city has demonstrated a colossal inability to manage city leash laws or just doesn't care about others safety. Use appropriate signage and enforce correctly. Stop pretending there is not a problem and hoping this major issue will go away without proper management! Clean up after your pet is a joke when the pet is off leash and so far away from owner that the owner never sees their dog make a mess. At least if dog was on leash there is a much higher likelihood of owner cleaning up (1)
- The City of Duluth has turned it's back on our community centers - you have let them deteriorate and you have cut all the programming. Zero investment into safe playing areas. Portman for example - dangerous playing area on the upper rink - that rink surface should be completely redone. There should also be a turf field at Portman. This is the center of our community - yet you have let it go! You have spent millions on spirit mountain, mountain bike trails, aquarium, etc. Selling off Lester Park GC is also a major disappointment. Selling the green space that should be dedicated to parkland! That is a decision that forever generations will feel. Terrible decisions. (1)
- the poop (1)
- The questions seem somewhat skewed to support of more structured/formal rec programs so don't adequately give space for needs of the silent sport communities. (1)
- The support for youth sports is not positive at all and needs to be seriously reconciled. (1)
- The tennis courts in west Duluth are unavailable to the public at after work hours for adults - the people who want to utilize it. Closed at 4? How does that make sense?? Kids are in school and adults have to work, should be open till 7/8 in the summer. Very frustrating and disappointing, especially since the courts on east side are open, not great message for the community (1)
- There is no park in our area of the city. Children in this area do not have any area to play in. (2)
- Too much garbage along hiking and water ways trails (1)
- Too many Off Leash Dogs is MAJOR safety issue (1)
- Too many people, too many mountain bikes (1)
- Want to emphasize that dogs off-leash is the worst problem and needs to be addressed. (3)

- We need places to skijour in town, Piedmont?? (1)
- We really need fenced in sensory friendly parks (indoor and outdoor) for all of the people here with different abilities. Nothing here is all inclusive, please do better. (2)
- What happened to flower gardens? (1)
- Would be nice if there were more biking trails that are kid-friendly. The cost of parking during the summer. (1)
- Would love to see bigger playgrounds (1)
- You stole the beach at Twin Ponds from the people. It's spring fed and clean swimming. You did habitat for fishing and made foliage that's encroaching over the 1/4 piece of beach left. Even took the benches. And now you put another bike raceway through there! At least put a caution sign for bikers that tear across the little bridge. Myself with a toddler were almost hit by silent speeding entitled rich *****. (1)

Question 13: What do you think is most important for the City's 10-year plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails to address?

- Make available for all people to use (2)
- (1) Environmental stewardship and adaptation to climate change. (2) Tax businesses with a presence damaging to parks. (3) Keep dog waste off trails by fining irresponsible dog owners. (1)
- * more operational support for youth team sports* the abysmal condition of our golf course(s) (2)
- 1. Please keep in mind good ecosystem practices and accessibility for all people, regarding of age or ability. 2. Every person in the city should be invited to visit the parks in all seasons. The parks provide the most services to bicyclists and skiers, but the city should focus on a more broad group that includes elders and people with disabilities. This means that trails should be groomed for walkers. The care and maintenance of trails for skiers and bikers requires much cutting of trees and widening of trails and this results in lots of erosion. The ski people and the park managers have polarized the community. Too many people are excluded from using the park in winter because casual use by the neighborhood is banned and this is just wrong. (1)
- 1.) Leash law.2.) No more trails. Maintain the exorbitant trail systems we already have (1)
- A clean and safe environment for all activities and people (1)
- A comprehensive plan for disc golf in the park system. (3)
- A lack of super easy mountain bike trails for young kids to learn on and more difficult trails to challenge dedicated riders. Improve the Hartley trails for mountain biking. Add berms and more B lines. (1)
- A mix of sustainable funding through corporate donations, foundations, volunteerism, and membership fees for programs. It doesn't make much sense to tax the population across the board when a lot of people don't use these amenities. I LOVE Duluth parks, but the people that use them should be the ones sustaining their upkeep. (1)
- A quality skateboard park. Youth activities! (1)
- A variety of options (3)
- A way to peacefully and humanely address the use of parks by people experiencing homelessness for their sake and for the safety and comfort of other users. (1)
- Access for all (1)
- Access for underserved (3)
- Access to all (1)

- Access to wider population (1)
- accessibility for all. (2)
- Accessibility & improvement of less used parks (1)
- Accessibility & programs in areas most in need (in my opinion related to students in our free and low cost lunch program areas) (1)
- accessibility (1)
- Accessibility (6)
- accessibility and walk-ability are keys to a strong community. Open street concepts like Enger Loop and Buchanan were successes and even before this, the GDC hosts the sidewalk sales where they shut down streets and have high pedestrian traffic so much that it's an annual event. Imagine our City's economic success if we did this regularly for tourists to shop and explore downtown city parks. (1)
- Accessibility for all. Our minority population, children and low income families should be priorities. (1)
- Accessibility for disadvantaged groups and more funding for activities that will attract younger people to the parks (4)
- Accessibility for everyone, especially historically underserved groups (1)
- Accessibility for locations where parks and recreation are more difficult to access (addition of linked trails, more smaller parks), maintenance, restroom availability. (1)
- Accessibility for the underprivileged (1)
- Accessibility to new space for changing recreation activities. Ongoing Maintenance of highly used spaces. (4)
- Accessibility to quality recreation areas in ALL neighborhoods. I love the Parks and Rec model in the cities with rec centers with programming for people across ages and demographics. (1)
- accessibility to underserved communities (3)
- Accessibility, signage, and maintenance (1)
- Accessibility/inclusion people with disabilities, special needs and diverse backgrounds including family structure, income level, culture, etc. for all parks and activities not just typically low income areas (1)
- Accessible playgrounds and natural areas for people with disabilities (1)
- Acquire, expand and maintain parks and park land so that ALL people across the city can enjoy the great outdoors. (1)
- Acquiring current tax forfeited lands as permanent park lands. (Cf. The large part of Upper Lester Park, etc.) (1)
- Actually LISTEN to the most frequent trail users, signage continues to be in appropriate, trail maintenance is done by volunteers, have the city do more. GROOM the ski trails based on recommendations from those who are using it daily and have the groomers put the reports directly on skinski not someone who sits behind a desk and gets it later. (1)
- Actually use research and data to determine what needs are vs. defaulting to what a small number of people are advocating for. For example, Lester Park Golf Course vs Enger. The decisions and decision making process were pitiful. (1)
- Adapting the Traverse Trail System to increased user base. (I.e One way adaptations to increase user flow) (1)
- Add additional facilities . (1)
- Add high quality disc golf courses (1)
- Adding high quality parks throughout the system that will attract young urban professionals to Duluth. (1)

- Adding in Disc Golf courses and keeping Spirit Mountain open. (2)
- Additional large unleashed dog park. (1)
- Address deferred maintenance; fix what is broke (1)
- Address non-sponsored changing of parks. Educate the community on the issues with cutting new trails. (1)
- Address parks/trails that have the greatest need so that individuals and families can utilize them and remain spread out rather than everyone always using the same park/ trail (1)
- Address the off leash dog situation in town. It is unsafe for both people and dogs. It is also out of control. It seems many people feel that all parks are "dog parks". The situation is even worse in winter. (1)
- Address vandalism in parking lots. (2)
- Addressing additional use (population growth, tourism, increased local traffic) through maintenance then amenities (4)
- Addressing nature and keeping our parks open enough, to draw nature to them. (5)
- Again, we truly need all inclusive places for people with all abilities to be able to enjoy along with those who don't have to worry about that kind of stuff. (2)
- Alleviate programming, simplify infrastructure and focus on improving its quality and longevity. Set maintenance, safety, and cleanliness expectations and standards for user-groups utilizing parks (i.e. hockey clubs, etc.) (1)
- Amenities, maintenance and events that support and promote Duluth as a Winter (Outdoor) City (1)
- An off leash,fenced in large dog area. Like the Minnehaha dog park in the twin cities. (2)
- Anything surrounded the lalewalk and in neighborhoods for kids everywhere (1)
- Areas for toddler aged kids, splash pads (1)
- As a 20 year skateboarder and a (former) 15 year duluth resident I think skateboarding could bring in big tourism dollars from traveling individuals/families all the way to hosting contests and traveling teams. Superior has one large skateboard facility while Duluth has several smaller onesmixed use spaces could be beneficial. It limited to classic style skateboard parks, but a place where skateboarding is allowed/encouraged in addition to other activities. I would encourage you to follow Minneapolis' lead with this i.e. Elliot park in Minneapolis. (1)
- As housing stock deteriorates, parks are a huge asset to neighborhoods. I'd like to sell my house (which is a total money pit), but love being near Chester Bowl. It's the only thing keeping me in the Hillside. Small neighborhood parks are a huge draw to families as well. Looking at how parks improve quality of life for residents is really important, and looking at how parks retain residents to specific neighborhoods or Duluth in general should be addressed. (1)
- As I mentioned above, city parks (other than designated dog parks) should be free of dogs. We have bad owners in Duluth who allow far too much off lease in Hartley, on Park Point and Lester Park. We shouldn't even need a Poop Fairy campaign. Just outlaw the dogs from the parks. (1)
- As someone that grew up in a place that is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, preserving green space is the most important. Duluth can only continue to be the great city it is if there is enough green space and single track for all to use. (2)
- Attract tourists year round. (4)
- balance across the city---acknowledging that the western portion has often been less supported in the past. (1)
- Balance between maintenance of current facilities and developing new facilities. (2)
- Balance the open space use for locals vs open space use as a destination for visitors. (1)

- Be aware of the city deer herd management hunt (1)
- Being good stewards of the environment. (1)
- Being involved with sports and nature is important for people to do (2)
- Being visionary, thinking long term based on the impact that climate change will have (1)
- Better access for families/kids/teens to Parks' activities, classes, and equipment by removing the newer barrier of asking them to pay more for these services. (1)
- Better and more tennis courts (1)
- Better bicycle infrastructure and access across the city for commuting. (2)
- Better information about trailheads and parking (1)
- Better maintained parks especially the one across from old central downtown. More long trails built!! (4)
- Better maintenance of what we have, while increasing when able. (1)
- Better quality play structures at parks, larger play structures with new and innovative attractions (such as a splash pad) and structures that serve multiple age levels. (1)
- Better signage on the multi-use trails. Education about trail etiquette, especially on trails shared with horse riders. (1)
- Bigger and better playgrounds! Play front is the only real destination park' but so crowded all the time. It would be nice to have a large destination park like what three rivers park district has done or what the Shoreview community center is currently building. Also more paved walking paths outside of the lake walk which for locals is cumbersome to get to and walk during high tourist times. (1)
- Bringing back community centers and ice rinks at the parks on the western half of the city. Places like Meritt, Memorial and Irving no longer have warming houses or ice rinks that used to be a staple of each neighborhood when I was a kid. I can believe they got rid of them. (1)
- Broad public support (2)
- Build a community center at the old Memorial site for organized sports, ice skating, clothing closet, food shelf. West Duluth needs this hub back for our kids!!! (1)
- Build advanced bike trails to meet demand from growing bike community. Build skills parks and pumptrack in Lester, woodland, Piedmont, keen (1)
- Build facilities and improve parks in a way that creates tourism and curb appeal for Duluth. The population of Duluth is growing at a rate slower than similar sized cities. (1)
- BUILD MULTI SPORTS COMPLEXES AND HOCKEY RINKS THAT BRING IN A LARGE AMOUNT OF TEAMS TO AREA. (1)
- Buy more land and build more trails. People should be using park trails and transportation to everyday destinations. (4)
- Buying land that will otherwise be developed. Maintaining public access to the lake. (1)
- Can (1)
- Capitalizing on tourist useage (1)
- Care of what we have and expand to preserve nature. (1)
- Chester Bowl, maintaining the ski/snowboard hill and lift.Maintaining biking/hiking trails that exist already. (1)
- Clean and maintain existing parks (1)

- Clean and safe (1)
- Clean bathroom facilities at Lester, Hawks Ridge, Chester, Peidmont, Magney, etc. Just like Chambers Grove. (1)
- Clean up downtown parks frequented to alcoholics and drug users. Support police. (1)
- Clean up parks and make safe day and night. (1)
- Clean up what we gave in place and keep neighborhood community clubs and areas useable (1)
- Clean up, make safe, and attractive for every age group and disability (1)
- climate change resilience, ecosystem health (1)
- Commitment to the long term vision of parks as an integral, unique part of the character of Duluth, as demonstrated by long-term projects like the St. Louis River Corridor Project and XC Ski Master Plan. Staying true to the long term belief in parks as essential to our character as a town that require dedicated funds like the Tourism Tax to support. (1)
- Community Centers are vital all over the city. A couple need attention (1)
- Community based and directed use rather than special interest groups pushing a minority's views and desires over the majority's desires (1)
- Community input, like this survey. I think maintenance should go towards parks frequently used. More dog parks would be good too! (1)
- Community pool option (1)
- Community space (1)
- complete cross town paved trail system (2)
- Connect the lake walk to the Munger trailhead so western Duluthians can bike across town safely (1)
- Consider how residents get to parks WITHOUT cars and then coordinate with the City's Planning and Engineering Departments to prioritize traffic calming and improvements to the walking and biking routes to park entry points. (1)
- Continual upkeep/maintenance of our parks and trails, playgrounds and community centers. Even if the City has to hire more staff to achieve this, and would be worth it for the City. Acquire more open space for future outdoor recreation. (1)
- Continuation of education and opportunities for outdoor activities. I do think it would be great to have an off-leash fenced off dog run area (like Elm Creek Park reserve has). (1)
- Continue citywide large and small park & Rev access and maintain broad opportunities for all to enjoy this beautiful community. Work for equity & inclusion. (1)
- Continue expanding and/or supporting the expansion of mountain biking trails and bike skills park facilities in Duluth. (1)
- Continue programs that bring community together to learn and play. (1)
- Continue to build and enhance existing destination worthy parks, recreation, open space and trails. (1)
- Continue to build more beginner friendly mountain biking trails throughout the city. Improvements at Spirit Mountain, specifically updating lodge and more high-speed lifts. (4)
- Continue to develop maintain trails that have strong volunteer groups backing them. Its pretty sad that Duluth does not have at least 2-3 quality skateboard parks located throughout the city. (1)
- continue to expand Duluth's trail systems as they have become one of the greatest assets of the city. (2)
- Continue to expand multi-use trails. Get organizations involved in trail maintenance. (1)

- continue to have safe, maintained trails (2)
- Continue to identify and cultivate activities/sports to flourish it's incredibly impressive the robust Cog system and the XC ski trails (tho would love a couple more lit trails for evening use!) I also think the SHT would greatly benefit from better signage through downtown and one or two campsites in the sht in Duluth. (1)
- Continue to improve accessibility and a wide range of trails. Avoid charging residents to use ALL public facilities, that can be made up through hospitality taxes due to tourism (ex: mountain biking trails). Could use more high quality ski trails as well. (1)
- Continue to maintain the beautiful outdoor spaces the city already has (i.e. better signage, path maintenance, parking lot maintenance, etc.) (2)
- Continue to maintain trails of all kinds. Would like to see a return to neighborhood parks to allow children a safe place to go close to their home. It's important to focus on tourists but please dont forget us locals! (1)
- Continue to work with outside organizations like COGGS to develop parks that both locals and tourists will use. (1)
- Continue your great programming that shows the wide range of geography of Duluth Parks & Rec; increased naturalist walks and hikes with local experts; bird hikes, geology hikes, tree identification hikes; increase day-long or 2-3 hour hiking groups; partner with the local healthcare community to promote wellness with activities in the parks yoga at different parks; increase marketing & promotional dollars by partnering with city businesses and non-profits; arts in the parks urban sketching in Duluth parks & recs locations; love the apple orchards! Brilliant! (1)
- Continued maintenance on mtn bike trails and XC ski trails (1)
- Continued parks programming that highlights the breadth of parks & trails, introducing people to new locations in their city or encourages trying the facilities/amenities available at their local park. If I hadn't sought out the Parks & Rec website and program guide I wouldn't have known about the hiking programming this fall or the unique events like Apple orchards and pumpkin palooza. Hopefully broadcast the offerings more widely or place the brochures in more areas. (1)
- Continuing high level maintenance (2)
- Continuing maintenance (1)
- Continuing to build on the success that mountain biking has brought to the City of Duluth. (3)
- Continuing to develop comprehensive, high quality recreational trail system that is free to all (1)
- Continuing to maintain and create more amazing places to enjoy nature in a variety of ways for all members of our community. Every neighborhood needs outdoor space that is easy to access and safe. Also please please create one or two places where there are no leash requirements for dogs. (1)
- Controlling off-leash dogs (5)
- Convert tax-forfeit land that we already think of as parks into formally being part of park system. (1)
- Cooperation and keeping the users in mind (1)
- Corporate investment with naming rights (1)
- Cost management and taxes (1)
- Counting to expand and maintain mountain bike trails! (1)
- Create a City or regional Parks and Recreation Authority with bonding authority to set financial structure in order to avoid totally relying on property or sales tax. This avoids the peaks and valleys of property tax and provides a regional governance and funding. (2)
- Create a space everyone can enjoy regardless of where they live. (2)

- Create accessible spaces, especially for historically underserved communities. (2)
- create additional dog parks (1)
- Create and improve neighborhood parks and trails. Everyone in the city should be in walking distance to parks and/or trails. Preserve natural spaces in the city. (1)
- Create and maintain beautiful spaces across the city (including some paved paths) with fun community programs/opportunities (1)
- Create and maintain green space to enjoy the surrounding in which we live (1)
- Create and maintain nature areas in every part of the city. (1)
- Create and maintain trail systems that connect all areas of the city. Cross city routes for hiking, paved biking, mountain biking and skiing. With improved parking and possibly better loops to prevent out and backs. (1)
- Create more dog parks. Make more trails and areas for dogs to be off leash. (1)
- Create the recreational space needed for activities that are growing in popularity like disc golf. (2)
- Creating a community facility at Lester River Golf Course! Develop a dining facility and winter skating facility and other public usage for the public. (3)
- Creating dedicated spaces for off-leash pets and enforcing leash laws on current trails where user-off leash dog interactions are becoming a safety concern for trail users. (1)
- Creating more accessible playgrounds for all ages and updating the current equipment in the older parks. (1)
- Creating more diverse spaces where communities can come together. (1)
- Creating more opportunities for all (1)
- Creating more pickleball courts (1)
- Creating programming that enhances traditional knowledge of the land the parks occupy. Cultivating a respect for nature. (1)
- Creating resilient and inclusive spaces that are accessible to all. (2)
- Creating spaces for the locals, not just tourism (1)
- Creation & maintenance of a park system that provides multiple uses for a broad diversity of interests and population. (1)
- cross city equity of amenities & programs. I recognize the difficulty in doing a comprehensive survey but this has been one of the worst. It felt like the questions & answers were written so as to give you the answer you want not necessarily what I want. (1)
- Cultural inclusivity. (1)
- Current Biking Facilities are awesome in Duluth, thank you. You should consider some areas for potentially dispersed camping or hike in camping opportunities. I think the City is missing an opportunity to capitalize on some beautiful remote tent camping (park point, spirit mountain, along the St. Louis River, hawks ridge). Make a tent pad, picnic table, fire ring, onsite biffy then create an online reservation system. I think it would get utilized a lot, recent summers have proved there is not enough camping anywhere. (1)
- Designated off-leash trails (1)
- Deteriorating infrastructure and park patrols. (1)
- Develop a long-term plan that clearly identifies the priorities for City parks based on user input and then work aggressively to secure funding to facilitate the plan's objectives. The plan should identify the needs of the current and future users. Adequate maintenance of existing trails and facilities should be a priority. However, there should be attention paid to emerging and other important recreational opportunities. (2)

- Developing activities that attract tourists from the Cities, like mountain biking, skiing, hiking, picnic areas. I love the public orchards but wish there were apple pickers for use. I also think birding should be publicized in Duluth, we have so many great locations. (1)
- Developing programs, facilities and resources that welcome and enable low-income families and people of color into the parks and into the programs. (2)
- Development of large, quality, destination multi-use park space near residential zones (i.e. potential combination of off-leash dog park, disc golf, green space, walking trails, playground, etc. in one location), separate from major category athletic fields/complexes (soccer, baseball, softball, hockey, football) which already seem well-established and widespread. More conveniently located and larger off-leash dog park on the Eastern half of town would be a plus. (1)
- Disc Golf (1)
- Disc golf courses very fast growing sport for the whole family (1)
- Disc golf is booming across the nation exponentially!!! More courses please! We have the beginning of a mecca here and people are already talking all over the country about Duluth/Superior being a destination must! (1)
- disc golf. (1)
- Disruption to neighborhoods, maintenance. (1)
- distribution area (1)
- Distribution problems (3)
- Diverse activities like disc golf (1)
- Diversity and equity related actions that get kids outdoors (2)
- Do a much better job supporting local youth sports organizations. (1)
- Do away with the facility lease agreements in place with the local hockey associations. In the big picture it does very little for the P&R budget. The lease agreements will only increase player fees and scare away families looking for a winter activity to enroll their children in. (1)
- Do not add facilities/parks Do maintain and enhance "Formalized" facilities. Balance this with another naturalized outdoor experiences like I unpaved trails. (2)
- Do not be trying to sell park land, including Lester golf course or Enger driving range! Just stop!! Focus maintenance on restoration and preservation of historic park elements, such as historic stonework and structures, trails and amenities. Hire people to run the Parks and Library division at city hall who have a parks background and understands and values parks in Duluth as something other than what can be sold to the highest bidder. Hire someone with a vision. Repair/reconstruct the bike trails (sorry, the "bike-optimized multi-purpose " trails) to be compliant with the standards for construction of such trails so that they can be used comfortably by various user groups (walkers, runners) (i.e. - without the severe cross slopes throughout the trail system (15% or more is not unusual) or replace all the great pedestrian trails that were removed when the bike trails were constructed! Stop the homeless camping in all the parks and public spaces. ENFORCE the off-leash dog ordinance How about some park improvements for the east end of Duluth? Disc golf course on Lester golf course (properly, creatively, professionally designed, not like the one at Enger G.C.) (2)
- Do not expand. Scale back with the funding you have, increase the funding to increase the ability to maintain current parks and trails, get rid of the useless patches and pocket of park land that can't even be maintained and can be put to better uses for the community, and focus on maintenance of what already benefits the city. (1)
- Do NOT sell off more publically owned property. Maintain properties and improve signage. (1)
- Do not sell public parkland ever. (1)

- Dog friendly areas for all dogs temperaments (2)
- Dog park in eastern duluth (1)
- Dog parks (1)
- Dogs: enforce leash laws on park trails, provide trails for off leash dogs, enforce cleaning up dog poop. (1)
- Doing an excellent job with natural surface trails (the reason we moved from Minneapolis to Duluth in 2016). Continue this work. Separately, I'm surprised there is no publicly owned outdoor pool for summer and no splash pads I am aware of. No one has private pools, for good reason, but a large outdoor public pool with simple slides would see widespread use for community members. (1)
- Don't spend time paving over everything. Keep as much green as possible. Better yet, focus on native plants instead of invasive ones. (1)
- don't change lester or hartley or hawk ridge (1)
- Don't cut out the smaller user groups like horses (1)
- Don't expand bike or ski trails any more. People still need places to walk with their pets and small children (1)
- Don't expand when current parks and facilities need so much needed attention. Anything done should be for the local communities before considering tourists. (1)
- Don't just focus on downtown/canal park. Put tax payer monies back into tax payer communities. Also, build parks in all communities/neighborhoods not just low income areas. (1)
- Don't know (1)
- Don't know. (2)
- Don't over develop trails, leave substantial natural space between them (1)
- Don't turn current green space including golf courses into houses in developments or apartments (1)
- Duluth has a variable and imbalanced volunteer force for different activities. I think promoting a balance among the communities would be healthy. (1)
- Duluth has many great parks and amenities but is seriously lacking quality skateparks. Skatepark activities are very accessible and inclusive, and would help in building a really strong and supportive community. (1)
- Duluth has so much green space in and around it that it's a shame that not everyone can take advantage of it. I think if there were bussing/other forms of public transit that went to various parks all over then more people would have the means of going. So I guess the accessibility portion. (4)
- Duluth should never have a decrease of parks/green space. (1)
- Duluth has so many parks..keep the ones we have maintained. We don't need anymore. (1)
- Educate Duluth citizens more on existing facilities and types of usage including occasional special educational programs. (1)
- Educating and enforcing dogs-on-leash ordinances (1)
- Elevate the needs of those that travel by foot - hikers, runners and horseback - to the same level of attention as the bikers. (2)
- Elevating Indigenous history and stories - creating an actual sense of place and community. (1)
- Enable more multi-use, unstructured areas/trails. (1)
- Enabling access to broader user groups than it currently serves. (1)

- Encourage people to enjoy nature while preserving greenspace and recognition of the inherent damage to the environment all trails have* Promote responsible usage to "leave no trace"*Increased efforts to control invasive species, AND planting of native plants/trees*Evaluate impact (done by qualified individuals) of creating new trails related to environmental damage; erosion, impact on native plants etc. (1)
- Enforce current rules on the trails ie. leash laws. Also parking lot security. (2)
- Enforce rules in place, parking spaces where needed, maintenance (1)
- Enforce the leash law (1)
- Enforce the leash law in all public parks and trails. (unless specified as dog park) (1)
- Enforcement of off leash dog laws, and sustainable trails (1)
- Enhance and expand parks (2)
- Enhance the current trail/parks, keep them safe, and protect the nature. (2)
- Enhance the natural environment (1)
- Enhance the quality and quantity of green space, parks, trails, and facilities in historically under-served areas; maintain and add neighborhood connections to the Duluth Traverse, Munger Trail, and other long trails (paved and unpaved) (2)
- Enhanced and additional sport courts, minimal opportunities for basketball. Address lack of field availability for traditional sports. (1)
- Enhancing inner city green space alternatives to cars and parking lots. Removal of I-35 east of Hwy 53. Indoor play areas for small kids during winter months. <https://www.edinamn.gov/1820/Edinborough-Park> (1)
- Enhancing the quality and inclusiveness of parks, trails, and open spaces. (2)
- Ensure the cross city trail is in good shape through ALL of Duluth, this is including the Munger portion. It serves as an access to many other trails and is used a lot but repairs are patchy. Trailheads lack restrooms and trashcans, this is especially true in spring. Not every trail needs this but sampling usage over the seasons would help. Provide signage for contacts so people can report repairs, or misuses without having to go online as most people would like these environments to stay nice.It would be nice if there was a model that allowed the parks to support themselves to a greater extent, as we can't exactly tax on hunting and fishing as done federally. Parking passes, donation links for online donations, a optional parks membership, charge appropriately for recreation that requires large infrastructure. Taxing the masses doesn't seem to be the right approach since a lot of people come from outside the city boundaries and many in the city do not use the parks. If having the opportunity to support the parks easier, I would. (1)
- Ensure the preservation of our green spaces. (1)
- Ensuring our footprint on nature is small and developing stewardship for nature. And my god please eliminate fragrances in public facilities. NOAA just released a study that fragrances RIVAL vehicle emissions for air pollution. And didn't we all see the Wildwoods post about the poor turtle someone threw in the Porto potty (1)
- Ensuring parks and open spaces remain a priority across the city and are not considered for development. (1)
- Ensuring there is enough resources and staff to regularly maintain existing parks. Overgrown grass, overflowing garbage cans, and piles of garbage in parks where cans have been removed has been the norm at Grant Rec, Portland Square, and Hillside Sport Court Park. (1)
- equality and diversity of park users (2)
- Equality between the parks on the west side of town (Lincoln Park historic buildings) VS Leif, or Lester or Congdon or Chester parks buildings (1)
- Equality. Chester park is great! Except that there is no safe way to get there from the poor side. Have you walked on the west side of the park on Skyline? It is not safe. How can a kid bike to camp(there are scholarships provided by the community)? Or walk to the ski hill(again, scholarships and free lessons are

there, but no accessible to all). How can kids get there? Oh yeah, have affluent parents that live on the East side, with the gorgeous and plowed sidewalk. (1)

- Equally serving all regions of the city (2)
- Equitable access for all citizens (1)
- Equity - giving time, effort, and funding to neighborhoods that have been historically excluded from access to high quality parks, as well as attention given to communities with health disparities. (4)
- equity and access for low income community members (2)
- equity and access for lower income families (1)
- Equity and accessibility. (1)
- Equity and safe access for all and climate change mitigation (1)
- Equity--providing more programs and maintain more spaces for use by marginalized populations and places where there are fewer resources (1)
- Establish a maintenance schedule and funding source that is maintainable so that the work to maintain our recreation facilities is predictable. (1)
- Everyone in the city's needs should be included. This is for our health! (1)
- Everything is catering tourists. We need to update the neighborhood parks to support the local community as well. That is the backbone of our economy. My local neighborhood, Norton park's "park/community center" is severely undermaintained and in need of updating as well as many other parks and amenities for youth and locals. (1)
- excellent maintenance of existing parks, trails, open space. (1)
- Expand on some of the all ages type things such as trails and disc golf courses. (2)
- Expand the systems to account for the increased use and demand by the public, tourists, etc. This has been happening over the past few years, and will likely continue to happen outsiders move to the area, many of them specifically for the fantastic outdoor spaces and park system. (1)
- Expand trail system to provide greater access to underserved areas (1)
- Expand/ maintain the mountain bike trails. Multi billion dollar industry and duluth has the groundwork to be a world class destination. (1)
- Expanding access and amenities to greater Duluth to ensure park quality is not dictated by the earnings of the neighbors immediately residing near the park. (1)
- expanding and preserving green space (1)
- Expansion of multi-use bike trails, and maintenance and upkeep of current trail system. (1)
- Expansion upon facilities that see the most use, so as to serve the largest number of community members (1)
- facilities maintenance and upgrades where needed (1)
- Facilities that have become unmanageable or unfunded should be closed or focused on. One example is the disc golf course at LSC. The design of the course has safety issues that range from throwing blind toward oncoming walkers, a lack of signage to guide mixed-use (dog walkers etc.) parties safely through the a disc course, and a construction landfill that creates opportunities for broken ankles and legs. It's unacceptable, and Duluth can make far better use of those baskets elsewhere and also do a better job of maintaining that area as perhaps an off-leash park or something. If it could be updated, redesigned and maintained, then I have not problem with it, but such is not the case. I feel like many of Duluth's parks follow this case example and it would just be nice to have less parks of higher quality than more parks that seem to be lacking. (3)

- Facility and trail maintenance with a focus in those areas of town with high populations of low-moderate incomes (1)
- Fair attention to parks across the city (1)
- Family usage, including those that are typically underserved or demographically and/or financially challenged. (1)
- Find a way to fund on going maintenance to keep at least what is currently being used first before any new additions, etc. (2)
- Finish trails/parks in Western Duluth. Trail completed to Brighton Beach which was very expensive but found the \$\$\$ (2)
- Fix the Duluth Heights community building. This area is being neglected by you!! (1)
- Fix what we have. (3)
- Fixing and maintaining current spaces, especially neighborhood parks and community center spaces that citizens and the City are proud of (1)
- Focus on helping the environment, not expanding and killing more. Create ways to have more sustainable parks. (1)
- Focus on items, spaces, parks, etc. that define Duluth's parks and recreation above the rest of MN. The lake and urban wilderness is super unique and should be the focus to benefit both local and tourist recreation. (1)
- Focus on Lake Superior - it's what makes Duluth unique. (1)
- Focus on preserving natural, native ecosystems, drawing attention to indigenous history and cultural practices, and providing a space for sports & recreational activities. (2)
- Focus on residents and neighborhoods, not tourism. (1)
- Focus on restoring native trees and plants, eliminating invasive trees and plants. Expanding/maintaining and enforcing walking-only trails. Enforce leash laws in all parks and on trails! (1)
- Focus on ubiquitous access. Duluth seems to have that in spades, my whole 44 yr life I've been walking distance from the woods. That's a crazy quality of life indicator IMO and it should be zealously nurtured. (1)
- Focus strongly on maintaining and protecting the parks. Without nature, we all suffer. (1)
- Focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion for all the parks throughout the entire city of Duluth. Making programming more accessible and known about for underserved populations. Particularly youth activities for children who likely have interest in participating in sports, recreation and environmental programs however may not have the financial or household support or knowledge to do so. (1)
- Focusing on maintaining and upkeeping the current spaces. Involving the community to take care of their park spaces. Advertising classes and events in the park and recreation spaces. (1)
- Follow through, learn from Superior parks dept. (3)
- Food security and climate resilience through edible landscaping and native plant restoration, such as a community food forest. (1)
- Free needles for homeless populations so they can self medicate. (1)
- Frisbee golf (Disc Golf) is one of the best sports for those of us that do not make enough money to afford normal sports. It gives family's the ability to play an engaging game that the whole family can play together and can be a great way to get exercise. When coupled with the ability to bring your dog to a course it gives people an excellent way to have fun for hours without breaking the bank. (1)
- Fully complete projects such as gaps in existing trail systems and complete recommendations in park masterplans that are currently passed by council. (1)
- Funding (2)

- Funding for maintenance of the Parks and Trails. Consider making the Parks fund a percentage of property tax and not a fixed rate so that the funding increases with property tax revenue to help offset inflation. This increased funding will also help to complete the Cross City Trail which will be used for not only recreation, but transportation and finally connect the western side of Duluth to downtown. (2)
- Funding for maintenance, especially natural resources (2)
- Funding mountain bike skills parks (look at Bentonville) (1)
- Funding. Leverage city funding through grants. Create an annual city park pass. The pass could be a vehicle sticker like the State Parks sticker. Promote as a voluntary program with fees going towards improving access. The city should explore changing the funding source to include a portion of the existing tourist taxes. :) (1)
- Fundraising via donations to a Parks Foundation allowing those with means to contribute and those without to avoid the burden. (1)
- Gain control of the parks that you already have. -There are way too many non-official trails that already exist and are continuing to be built in locations that are having negative environmental impacts such as damaging wetlands, and riparian areas. - In 30+ years of using the parks, I have yet to see any enforcement action on unleashed dogs, or not picking up after them when they defecate on the trail. -There is more and more garbage and specifically drug needles at parking lots, lets have a little staff presence to help keep these places cleaner and safer.-Invasive plants are EVERYWHERE. Between buckthorn and common tansy the parks are a native vegetation nightmare. Invasives are only going to continue to spread if they are not addressed. (1)
- Get away from the "we'll provide the space, you do everything else" approach for special interest uses of park spaces and city-owned land. The city hasn't taken enough agency in the park offerings it boasts about having, when most of these wonderful features have been constructed and maintained by volunteer interest groups (disc golf, bike trails, etc.). For example, what the City of Superior has offered up for the development of their Municipal Forest park (trail construction, mowing maintenance, traffic control features to minimize vandalism via off road vehicles, concrete teepads used by disc golfers, and so on) over the past three years puts to shame the "hands off approach" often used by City of Duluth for similar natural spaces. To close this thought, the City of Duluth needs to fill in gaps where volunteer groups are burnt out from constantly organizing routine maintenance days. (1)
- Get better signage for where dogs need to be leashed. I think more playgrounds is always good but they need to be monitored to be kept safe. Needles at playgrounds need to be avoided. Lastly, I think having parks and trails being set up as a way to increase bike commuting is very important. The streets in town are very dangerous to bike on but the trails don't always take the most direct path to minimize distance on streets. (1)
- Get homeless people out of our parks. They trash them (1)
- Get out and talk with people!! (5)
- Get public opinion (2)
- Get rid of underutilized City/park land. Take better care of less acres. (1)
- Getting kids out into the outdoors and getting them more active. (1)
- Getting the most people (1)
- Giving underprivileged neighborhoods a green space (1)
- Golf course and facilities improvement, that will be appreciated and enjoyed by Duluth residents and also appreciated and enjoyed by visitors to Duluth. Strong municipal golf courses can be one more reason to visit Duluth. Golf Duluth can be a unique experience for many visitors. (1)
- Good Maintenance (3)
- Hang on to the public land that it already owns. (1)
- Hang on to what we've got and accumulate more to ensure green space for our future (1)

- Having access to green space for all neighborhoods and people that LIVE IN DULUTH. Tourists don't maintain the green spaces that we have. Citizens do. Every year. Building and maintaining the trails. This trail system could not have been built without CITIZEN investment in the form of labor. The city should stop acting like they don't realize this. (1)
- having more bathroom and trash opportunities along park point. Would love an outdoor workout space on the beach or some equipment along trails for pull ups or an obstacle course. (1)
- Having unique and exciting things to do, especially with children. If families are considering moving here, especially with the hard winters, they will want to know that there are plenty of great opportunities to choose from. An INDOOR park seriously needs to be built as well, to get through winters. We are considering relocating because of how hard it is here in the winters with a 2 year old and 7 year old that we homeschool. We can take her to ice skating or swim class but then we have a feral two year old running around the building while we wait for her. More places to bring multiple kids of different ages, in the winter, would be great. (1)
- healthy, safe space for all to access and use. (1)
- Helping low income and new outdoorists have access and maintaining and supporting strong outdoor communities. (2)
- High quality off leash dog park. Real estate. Get clear legal relationship for that land that is being used for parks but maybe isn't City owned. This should include formal coordination with "good neighbor" private land owners, and credit to those private owners. (1)
- Hiking trail maintenance. More lighted cross country ski trails. More frequent cross country ski trail grooming. (1)
- Hire environmental education specialists to help interpret this place: do something with Irving Park for heavens sakes: work with the DNR to develop viable plans for the areas trout streams and provide fishing education to youth (these types of programs exist already, just no coordination): more emphasis on winter recreation. At one time, Irving hosted 14 hockey teams of all age groups with uniforms and equipment, Two hockey rinks, an Olympic size speed skating oval, a pleasure rink, Babe Ruth and American Legion hardball field, a softball field with leagues, football and soccer; all with minimal fees. What happened in the past, can work again! (2)
- Hire people to work in the parks not companies to overcharge for jobs in the parks. (1)
- How about you take the money from the failed Red Plan and actually use it to serve the community and not your shady financial interests/donors. Where'd that 80 million go? (1)
- Humans need more options for recreation. We don't currently place a high enough value on recreation and what it can do for our well being. (3)
- I believe natural spaces allow people to exist more happily. Expanding the trail system draws people into nature, and maintaining existing facilities can help people have creature comforts, even outside of the house, making a more pleasant experience overall. Designate more off-leash dog areas/trails and public garbage cans. Thank you! (1)
- I believe that Duluth is in a unique position to become a national destination for disc golf. The sport is blowing up due to covid, and Superior has put in a world class course. Duluth has 3 large colleges and all these kids playing the sport, but the only great courses in town are private. The public courses in town are short, nine holes, and not well maintained. If duluth were to dedicate an area to putting in a GREAT course, maybe two, it would bring a lot to the area. (1)
- I don't think the needs of the older generation are met. I may be unaware, But I don't understand why there aren't neighborhood senior centers in a city of this size. (1)
- I love the hiking and biking trails. I wish there were More basketball courts (1)

- I see parks as being the space where the community comes together to make connections with each other and the natural world. I also support NRPA's efforts around using parks as a place to model climate resilience. Parks and Rec should focus on engaging different community organizations around park improvement, use, and learning. (1)
- I think a stronger emphasis needs to be placed on open green spaces within the city and more discussion about ecological recovery/wildlife. Quality of life improves when our ability to interact with nature in a traditional way is preserved for the future. The founders of the Duluth park system understood this and created a system specifically based around that vision. I think it's time the parks return to that vision. Recreation is a good thing in a tourist town and helps the community engage with the people around them but without a strong emphasis on natural wonders, the system is not sustainable. It's time the city prioritizes nature first over the needs of people. Thus, people will ultimately benefit. We need to enhance and expand our access to green space, low impact trails, and places for nature itself to be restored. The city has two often been interested in handing away Park service land for private development. No more of that. (1)
- I think Duluth's parks are amazing but maybe try a wider variety. Let's get some larger playgrounds, splash pads, water parks etc. (1)
- I think it is important to keep the facilities usable to encourage as many users as possible. This has benefits for public health. (1)
- I think it is most important to improve accessibility for a diverse group of people including minorities and people with variable physical abilities. Providing infrastructure that supports inclusive use of parks and programming that invites community involvement by all area groups. (2)
- I think it should address making all of the parks/building uniform in signage or being able to recognize things (Morgan Park community center just recently got wifi, even though the parks and rec website has been saying that all buildings have wifi, things like that), but making sure any new parks/playgrounds made are much different than the ones offered around town. Some of the playgrounds feel like different versions of the same one, so it's nice when there is a playground that looks different and has different play equipment. (2)
- I think it's important to continue to embrace and showcase Duluth's natural beauty and environment - providing/improving public spaces and activities for the community to enjoy our beautiful city and lifestyle, but also improving and beautifying all areas of the city. This is important not only for tourism, but to make Duluth an attractive and enjoyable place to live, work, and raise families. (1)
- I think that the City should consult with its own Indigenous Commission to discuss culturally significant spaces and how to preserve those areas specifically as well as input on the type of development the City plans to attempt. (1)
- I think the city should focus on keeping up and maintaining the parks and trails we currently have and try to get more local businesses involved for uses. (1)
- I think the most important thing is maintenance with expansion following closely behind. Thirdly, I think communication with the public about what facilities the Duluth Parks and Rec department has to offer is very important in the plan. (2)
- I wish there were more fitness grounds and equipment in the park (1)
- I would like to see an indoor playground. Maybe with small membership fees or day passes. Very large. Equivalent to the ones in Edina and Woodbury. (1)
- I would like to see existing parks be restored, as close as possible, to the glory and grandeur of when they were dedicated. Meaning improving facilities and property to bring back the space to a true community asset. (1)
- Ice rinks and hockey rink including warming house need updating. (1)
- I'd love to see outdoor adult exercise equipment that all could use. (1)
- Idk (1)
- ies for residents who pay taxes for handicapped accessible bathrooms & facilities for taxpayers, not tourism! (1)
- If people can get hurt (3)

- Im new to Duluth but I enjoy the parks that are available to me I'm a single father of four kids ages 1,3,7 and 10 and live at the Steve o'Neil apartments I been to several parks in walking distance and even a few trails they are great and all differ at times but enjoy everyone we just happen to come back from the one by the aquarium today my kids had a blast (1)
- I'm not sure (1)
- Imagination (1)
- Implementing infrastructure for increased use of parks/trails/facilities because even if the Duluth population stays the same, we are attracting visitors from around the state who put additional wear and tear on our parks. Determining where and how to build sustainable trails along with developing restrooms and water fill stations for an increased number of users now will be important in the coming years. (1)
- Important to prevent overuse, causing erosion issues, lack of parking, littering. It is also disheartening to see tents and debris from homeless encampments. (1)
- Improve and expand. More public water access. (1)
- Improve and maintain our natural spaces (1)
- Improve and revitalize existing parks in lower income areas and make those parks feel safer, more welcoming and accommodating. (2)
- Improve existing parks, add parks and trails, limit spending on organized sports (1)
- Improve facilities at existing parks a never trails. (1)
- Improve functionality of our parks and keep them well maintained. (1)
- Improve maintenance and upkeep of existing spaces (1)
- Improve the parks we have all across Duluth. Increase safety such as cameras and lights for both users and their vehicles to be more protected. (2)
- Improve the trailheads- we could benefit by having amenities like water, changing stations, and restrooms. People travel from all around for our hiking and biking, let's make it even more appealing! (1)
- Improved neighborhood access to trails; reducing barriers for those who have been traditionally underserved/underrepresented in outdoor activity whether that be due to race, socio-economic status of disability (3)
- Improved wayfinding at parks (1)
- Improvement and expansion of natural outdoor spaces for all (1)
- Improvements for accessibility of our current facilities (ADA requirements). (4)
- Improvements to neighborhood parks over tourism parks. (2)
- Improving dog park facilities and creating more dog friendly areas including off leash areas (2)
- Improving infrastructure to make biking a safer and more accessible mode of transportation in Duluth. Fostering unity and community across trail and park user groups instead of user conflict and tension. ie. dog walkers and skiers or mountain bikers and trail runners or skiers and fatbikers This looks like creating spaces for all these user groups to flourish and have their needs met. One huge example of this is the lack of adequate off leash dog trails and areas (like the Minnehaha Falls Dog Park in Minneapolis) this causes more people to have their dogs off leash in public parks and trails which can lead to increased user conflict. (4)
- Improving neighborhood parks. The closest park to me, Observation Park, is in shambles. The neighborhood is changing: more young families moving in, housing improvements and a higher level of safety. The park should be a welcome, beautiful and fun space and right now it is not. It's underutilized, and not because of a lack of interest. (1)

- Improving on what we already have in place: ie. signage, clearing debris, increasing access (1)
- Incent users to get outside, appreciate and understand nature -- especially as global warming will destroy much of what we're trying to protect. (1)
- Inclusion and accessibility (1)
- Inclusion of all income levels. Get the youth put and about to help pave the way for a positive path for their future. (1)
- Inclusion of as many citizens as possible (1)
- Increase access for all Duluthians. (1)
- Increase accessibility and attractiveness of parks in underserved neighborhoods (1)
- Increase capacity to avoid over use. Don't over-advertise to tourist populations and overrun a good thing. (1)
- Increase funding to maintain these facilities at a higher level than they are currently being maintained. (1)
- Increase in options for families - addition of splash pads, pools, better playgrounds. Especially indoor play spaces for kids - the winter is long and hard for the young ones. We love the trails and use them regularly, but I things seem to be catered to the biking and skiing population when there are lots of families that are looking for more options. (1)
- increase maintenance, reduce number of under used parks, create funding through sale of none essential public land, provide adequate parking (1)
- Increase public access to Lake Superior. Enhance Lakewalk experience East of 21st Ave East (1)
- increase safety at all locations (lighting/fencing/parking) - increase the number of volunteer opportunities so folks can pitch in without it being a city liability. Create more dog parks/off leash trails systems that are LOW maintenance (1)
- Increase spending and maintenance on underserved parks and trails. (1)
- increasing accessibility for people of all walks of life (2)
- Increasing amount and access to natural areas (1)
- Increasing equitable access to Duluths outdoor opportunities. (1)
- Increasing green spaces in underserved and vulnerable neighborhoods. Ensuring that most (if not all) neighborhoods in Duluth have access to green space/public park/community garden/etc. (2)
- increasing safety, education and accessibility surrounding the resources are already available. (1)
- Increasing the number of neighborhood parks and providing at least benches and picnic tables so people can use them. (1)
- Indoor facilities that can be used all year! (Community centers) (1)
- Indoor facilities to go along with all the adjacent outdoor facilities for youth to access across the city. (1)
- Infrastructure at the Chester Bowl ski hill: lift and chalet. (1)
- Initiate events to create revenue that will help fund park maintenance for years to come. Also, revisiting city ordinances that hinder such events. (1)
- Installing a full 18 hole disc golf course for the community. We currently only have Lincoln park and quarry park disc golf courses on city park property. These courses are great but only 9 holes each. A lot of the disc golf community have been missing having a full 18 hole course for leagues/tournaments since the Miller creek course was reduced to a 9 hole. Superior has been doing a great job maintaining the municipal forest course that was recently installed. I'd like to see something like that happening in Duluth. (1)
- Instead of the worthless plastic equipment that relates to nobody put in some real slides monkey bars and swings all ages can use. Shame for taking out the merry go round at Chester bowl. (1)

- Institute youth programming at community centers. Prefer programming conducting on a regular, frequent basis by a private, organization such as the YMCA. (2)
- Invasive species management and utilization of native plants (1)
- Invest in the people that live here - community centers, protect our wild areas - do not sell Lester GC (1)
- Investing in community centers, parks, and green spaces in poorer areas of Duluth. I have seen too many community centers and parks areas neglected in the West end, verses the East Duluth :((2)
- Investment in maintenance and expansion. Keeping fees free or limited to residents. (1)
- Involve neighborhoods to help decide what is best for their areas (1)
- It is a good start. Enough of the mountain biking trails; and have more pedestrian hiking trails to be enjoyed by all. (1)
- It is most important to me that we continue to expand our green spaces and places for outdoor recreation in our city. In a world that is threatened by climate change, preserving more green space and providing people ample ways to connect with nature is imperative. (1)
- It is most important to preserve the existing parks for the future. Don't sell our public park lands for housing development. (1)
- It is ridiculous that we have to make these choices. I constantly hear about the millions spent on tourist attractions here, and you are asking us to choose if we should barely maintain the parks we have for the people who live here. We have family all over the state and everywhere we go the parks are cleaner and have more basic features like TRASH cans and BATHROOMS, and have wonderful places for sports teams to play and practice. Stop thinking small. We are already taxed at a very high rate. Prioritize the kids who live here, not the kids who visit a couple weekends a year. (1)
- It's a great system already. Keep it up and keep it going (1)
- It's important to have well maintained parks and playgrounds in all city neighborhoods. (1)
- It's time to consider the people that live, work and pay taxes here. You need to focus on places outside of downtown. Spend less time and money on tourists and tourist destinations. (1)
- Keep all trails open. I hike Chester many times per month. I've noticed new signs, forbidding me to hike on trails during certain seasons. I've also lately noticed the closing of some of the smaller trails at Chester, trails that have been there during the entire time I've lived in Duluth, 1996 to the present. As a hiker, a neighbor, and a property tax payer, I feel very, very unwelcome now at Chester Park with all the signs glaring at me, forbidding me along with the closing other trails. Very unwelcome. NO TRAIL should be limited to a very small number of users such as are the ski trails in Chester. This is public property, not a private club. I am disgusted with how Chester is run these days. (1)
- Keep an eye on the trends in outdoor recreation and update spaces to meet the needs of new activities (4)
- keep and maintain existing park including 2 golf courses (2)
- Keep as much green space as possible. Do not sell any park land. (1)
- Keep city deer hunt to maintain herd at tolerable level. (2)
- Keep expanding and preserving land for all activities (1)
- Keep homeless population out of these areas and clean up their mess (1)
- Keep in mind the ABA and bow hunters rights/importance (1)
- Keep Lester Park Golf Course open by keeping the original 18 holes intact and making a campground on the Lake Nine. (1)

- Keep Lester Park Golf Course open. Several people have shared new ideas for how the course could be further developed for other recreational use along with golf. The city seems closed minded to those; why not pursue those ideas? (1)
- Keep parks how they are and improve them to a point where others somewhat notice, but not so much as to completely change it. Also the fact that some places are used more than others is a starting point to where the maintenance should be kept a priority so others want to go there. (1)
- Keep the momentum going (2)
- Keep the natural feel to existing parks, the trails close to me are treasures. Add more trash cans and possibly more bathrooms, so users are encouraged to keep the parks clean and help out. (1)
- Keep them clean and safe. (1)
- Keep up the phenomenal work! Providing access to green, wild spaces for all Duluthians is key! (1)
- Keep up what we have as well as we are able, including by involving the community in clean up and maintenance volunteering; obtain more space before it becomes developed. (1)
- Keeping and even expanding access to our location's very unique natural features available to the PUBLIC instead of just those who can afford land. This includes Lake Superior shoreline, St. Louis River shore, the vista along Skyline Drive, the amazing waterfalls (Lester, Amity, Tischer, etc.), large tracts like Hartley and Hawk Ridge. (1)
- Keeping hunting land open for the Duluth city hunt. (1)
- Keeping open spaces- not fully developed parks. Access to wide range of people. Keep wilderness areas for plants and animals. Continue to work on invasive species eradication. Appreciate access for Duluth City Bowhunt (1)
- Keeping outside Duluth accessible to all. May be not every park, but accessibility somewhere in Duluth. Not too far away from home. (3)
- Keeping parks & facilities that exist now in good condition. (1)
- Keeping parks accessible for folks city wide in a variety of different income level. Sometimes the parks in wealthier areas get more attention and I appreciate it all being as even as possible. (1)
- keeping spaces clean and well maintained, buff Lester park (2)
- Keeping the areas clean, beautiful and safe is important. (1)
- Keeping them clean and safe while maintaining the history and evolving to meet the needs of the community. (1)
- Keeping them natural. Quit making everything about tourist (1)
- Keeping them open, usable and available to the public (1)
- Keeping things natural by not introducing new paved trails or cutting into the forests and woods. (3)
- Keeping up with maintenance issues, garbage and security. (1)
- land preservation (1)
- Larger parking areas at trailheads so users don't have to park on busy roads like the Haines Road (2)
- Leash law enforcement (1)
- Leash laws. You can make SO much money fining people for violating leash laws. DOGS ARE NOT CHILDREN. (1)
- Less or same dedicated hike trails (1)
- Let the space determine the use. Not the neighbors that live there. (1)

- Let's go Brandon (1)
- Limiting the further increase in density of land use. We do not need more activities packed into the limited natural spaces we have. (1)
- Lincoln Park master plan. Get that done! (1)
- Looking forward. The world is changing and so do people's outdoor activities. The parks should represent this. (3)
- Maintain & upgrade what currently exists. (1)
- Maintain and enhance "natural areas" close to neighborhoods, providing quick access to wild/nature and un-mechanized recreation. Encourage unfettered ecosystems for ecosystems resilience. (2)
- maintain and expand (2)
- Maintain and expand running /biking/ walking trails. (5)
- Maintain and improve the beautiful parks within our city (1)
- Maintain and manage what you got but improve it (2)
- Maintain and support existing parks and buildings. Enhance and support sports and playground activities. (1)
- Maintain and upgrade current park facilities (5)
- Maintain as much natural green space as possible (1)
- Maintain available green space. Monitor areas with high vandalism. MTB skills areas for beginners. (1)
- Maintain current and develop clear vision of goals. (1)
- Maintain current parks, create safe spaces, and enable user groups to thrive. (1)
- Maintain current properties to be useful. (1)
- maintain existing facilities (1)
- Maintain existing first, build ne second. (1)
- Maintain existing parks and don't sell any park land. (2)
- Maintain existing parks. Reestablish rec centers for youth throughout the summer and winter months, ice skating rinks, rec centers for painting, playing games etc. Establish a user fee for the Bike trails. Monies would go toward its maintenance. (1)
- Maintain high quality and accessible parks, recreation, open space and trails. (1)
- Maintain infrastructure we currently have, consider reducing/eliminating failing facilities and infrastructure (1)
- Maintain open space (1)
- Maintain or increase the space dedicated to getting people outside and protecting healthy habitats for all species. (1)
- Maintain our beautiful parks and DO NOT allow developers to obtain park land - Lester Park for example. Build a new chalet at Chester Bowl. (2)
- Maintain our parks and trails for optimum use. Do not expand access to users that are often abusive of the natural areas we value. Example: snowmobiles and four-wheelers. (1)
- Maintain park amenities that already exist (1)
- Maintain parks (2)

- Maintain resource stewardship (addressing erosion, invasive species); Avoid the more is better syndrome. (2)
- Maintain signature parks; Rose Garden, Enger, Bayfront and lake walk at a high level, since these are so heavily used and bring in tourism dollars to the community which provides economic stability for Duluth. Continue to develop and maintain hiking trails and neighborhood parks. (1)
- Maintain space for observation of wild life in nature including dog off leash parks (3)
- Maintain the beautiful and diverse parks and programs offered in our city. (1)
- Maintain the cross country ski trails - especially the most used ones. Once improved they will be easier to maintain. Allow groups to assist in maintain trails (cross country ski trails) like COGGS is allowed to do. Continue to engage the groups such as COGGS & DXC to develop and maintain trails. (1)
- Maintain the open spaces. Stop with the trail building. You cannot walk 10 feet in the woods without a stupid bike trail. (1)
- Maintain the parks and trails we have. Expand opportunities for the community such as Chester Bowl. (2)
- Maintain the quality of our park system (1)
- Maintain the spaces we have now so they can continue to be used and enjoyed by our communities in town. (1)
- Maintain the systems we already have, paying special attention to the environmental impact of the high use areas. Expand as we can but do it in a way that is healthy for our natural spaces. More programming opportunities for kids. (1)
- Maintain trails and facilities; provide more restrooms and port-a-potties; enforce keeping dogs on a leash! (3)
- Maintain under used places so they get used again (1)
- Maintain what we already have (2)
- Maintain what we currently have before building more areas (3)
- Maintain what we have as a top priority and emphasize financial sustainability (2)
- Maintain what we have, and add improvements where it will serve the largest numbers of Duluth families. (2)
- maintain what we have. more community involvement, making neighborhood users stewards of the local trails, but only by training them to all be stewards in the same way. (1)
- Maintain what we have. (2)
- Maintain what we have. Improve security at trail heads. Create better and longeroff leash dog trail areas. Boise Idaho Ridge to Rivers had an excellent model when we visit there. (2)
- Maintain what we have. Increase safety. Clean up trash and blight. (1)
- Maintain what we have. Make sure all neighborhoods have access to a park area; and keep our hiking, biking trails alpine slopes cross country trails well maintained. This is the beauty of duluth. Not more construction. People love the trails and this is what brings in tourism- the lake, the hiking, biking, cross country skiing and alpine skiing. If people want to shop they go to the cities. However, we do need more store for clothing and gear. Seniors are not going to shop online. They don't know how. I know this is a frustration of the retired and elderly. (1)
- Maintain what we have. Specifically paved walking trails (1)
- Maintain what we have. Tackle invasive species. (1)
- Maintain. During covid parks were not maintained, mowed or garbage provided and emptied. We did not use the parks as much as we did not feel good in an unkempt dirty area. (1)
- maintaining a balance of recreation access and habitat/green space for Duluth's nonhuman residents (2)

- Maintaining a natural space in the midst of the city. Places where people can take a break from work / school / life and relax and refresh in nature. (2)
- Maintaining a strong connection to local residents. Less focus on the transient users. (1)
- Maintaining and continuing to develop the trail systems, both mountain biking and hiking, that are making Duluth a destination for visitors and people looking to relocate. (1)
- Maintaining and creating high quality parks (1)
- Maintaining and expanding park access across the city - giving access to nature for everyone. (1)
- Maintaining and improving existing facilities (1)
- Maintaining and improving existing inventory or parks. (1)
- Maintaining and improving foot trails especially in low income neighborhoods (1)
- Maintaining and improving what we already have. (2)
- Maintaining and promoting our natural areas (1)
- Maintaining current quality of parks and programs. (2)
- Maintaining current spaces well (1)
- Maintaining existing trail systems and expanding/updating trail heads. (1)
- Maintaining existing treasures. Duluth already has wonderful outdoor opportunities that should be kept up. (1)
- Maintaining neighborhood parks (1)
- Maintaining neighborhood parks, so people living in all neighborhoods have access to natural outdoor spaces (1)
- Maintaining our current spaces for use by everyone (1)
- Maintaining our existing park system, especially the smaller parket parks. (3)
- Maintaining our parks (1)
- Maintaining parks and trails, utilizing the St. Louis River area by creating more access points for canoes and kayaks, possibly creating more marinas on the River. (1)
- Maintaining quality of current park/trail offerings and invest in expansion of park/hiking trail choices for the public. (1)
- Maintaining the current parks with regular trash pick up, making dog doo bags available and providing clean bathrooms, especially for heavily used areas like Park Point Beach. (1)
- Maintaining the Leif Erikson Rose Garden, Enger Park, Lake Place and Bayfront for public access and events/activities. (1)
- Maintaining the level of green space we have in Duluth. (1)
- Maintaining the natural environment, while making it accessible. (1)
- Maintaining the natural features of our parks and protecting them so they are sustainable (1)
- Maintaining the parks we have (2)
- Maintaining the spaces we have and not selling the land to developers. (1)
- maintaining the wonderful parks we have (1)

- Maintaining what we already have. Cleaning, mowing, structure upkeep. (1)
- Maintaining what we have (2)
- Maintains park and forest land in city limits (1)
- Maintenance (3)
- Maintenance & accessibility. Growth is very important but we must maintain the beautiful parks we have now and utilize them even more- like, Offering specific outdoor events to bring people in & enjoy nature/community Rentals, music, volunteer options!! I love seeing more events taking place outdoors in our parks! (1)
- Maintenance & cleanliness (needle problem, deterioration of facilities) (1)
- Maintenance (10)
- maintenance (2)
- Maintenance and access. (2)
- Maintenance and better upkeep of current and underused areas (1)
- Maintenance and continued public outreach (2)
- Maintenance and preservation so that all residents continue to have access to these precious spaces. (2)
- Maintenance and repair (1)
- Maintenance and safety (2)
- maintenance and support for use of existing spaces, including garbage, picnic areas/grills, (1)
- Maintenance is sidelined compared to quantity of trails (4)
- Maintenance is still very important. The tennis courts at Woodland have not been maintained for DECADES. Just ONE example. Wheeler is awful too, although I know there are now improvement plans. Expansion is important too to provide a safe user-friendly place for all people, young and old. Duluth is so lacking in sports recreational facilities and well-maintained parks. Thank goodness for the many wooded forests and sidewalks, paths around our colleges. (1)
- Maintenance issues need to be addressed (2)
- Maintenance of existing facilities. (1)
- Maintenance of existing gems (1)
- Maintenance of existing park assets and not focusing on new projects until current efforts are completed (e.g. Cross City trail). (1)
- Maintenance of existing parks and recreation areas. (5)
- Maintenance of existing parks and trails, plus programming and opportunities for historically underserved populations including disabled (2)
- Maintenance of existing parks and trails. Partnership with user groups. (2)
- Maintenance of existing parks, programs for diverse/low-income neighborhoods to encourage park use, park rangers, management of traffic especially speeding and parking. (1)
- Maintenance of existing space through the lens of sustainability (1)
- Maintenance of parks and trails. Creating small quality play areas in all neighborhoods (2)

- Maintenance of the awesome things we already have. (1)
- maintenance of the current park and natural areas (1)
- Maintenance of the wonderful trails that are already built. (1)
- Maintenance of what we have. (1)
- Maintenance on what we have. No more trails! Park rangers to deal with loose dogs (1)
- Maintenance, and a few more parks for kids to get outside and play and enjoy the outdoor. To many kids sit inside and play video game. Create activities/ events that parents and kids can go do together. Ex. Nature hikes and learn about plants and animals. Crafts ex. Building birdhouses, honey bee homes and bat homes. And when you charge for an activity be responsible. I have a family of 6 and can't afford to bring the family to events like that if there \$20,30 or \$50 a person. Have family plans. (1)
- Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance, I understand the new toy gets used the most but we have plenty of trails and parks in Duluth. If you update the old parks you can save money and check off many boxes at once, environmental protection, rework them for more uses, better access for all, better signage, ect, please don't eat up more green space to build new mowed areas or buildings. fix what we have. Promote what we have. You guys do a great job! (1)
- Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance. (2)
- Maintenance. Making sure what we have is maintained. Work better with user groups, in a real way. We have skills, knowledge and potential funding. Decrease use of consultants and pie in the sky plans that never get funded or built and the MMPs sit, wasted. OUR parks staff is surely capable of having some meetings and planning without hiring consultants. Process where the MMP consultant is then hired to plan and get paid based on a percentage of the cost is an incentive for the consultant to encourage more expensive plans, because when the are hired to do the plan implementation they make more money. Quit putting out plans, having a public meeting just to check off that box, when the plan has already been decided on by parks and city staff. Many of the public meetings are a waste, the decisions have already been made. (1)
- Maintenance. Making sure what we have is maintained. Work better with user groups, in a real way. We have skills, knowledge and potential funding. Decrease use of consultants and pie in the sky plans that never get funded or built and the MMPs sit, wasted. OUR parks staff is surely capable of having some meetings and planning without hiring consultants. Process where the MMP consultant is then hired to plan and get paid based on a percentage of the cost is an incentive for the consultant to encourage more expensive plans, because when the are hired to do the plan implementation they make more money. Quit putting out plans, having a public meeting just to check off that box, when the plan has already been decided on by parks and city staff. Many of the public meetings are a waste, the decisions have already been made. Consultants should be hired only for their expertise IE blue bridge should have a Lift Bridge consultant that had designed and built Lift bridges for 50 years or more. Shore restoration consultants should have ocean hurricane repair experience. (1)
- Maintenance. Repair potholes. Encourage visitors to carry out all they bring with them--trash blows everywhere. (1)
- Maintenance; adding lighting; more off leash dog trails; maintenance of dog parks (1)
- Make and keep parks accessible for all people, including those with handicaps, highlight indigenous origins in parks, and maintain parks in neighborhoods where people may not be able to drive to other places. (1)
- Make Avenza maps (the system used by the state parks) available for some of Duluth's longer/more remote trails (1)
- Make Duluth a safer place (2)
- Make it accessible to everybody (1)
- Make more water parks splash pads rubber play parks (2)

- Make some easier mountain bike trails in central and western Duluth and do better job of making paved trails to get from Piedmont to the new Hermantown trails and from Piedmont down to the trails in west Duluth (1)
- Make sure all neighborhoods are served equally. Our neighborhood provides a huge amount of property tax revenue for the city, yet has NO park or trails in the neighborhood. (2)
- Make sure that they are well maintained and opportunities for programs for all ages. (3)
- Make sure the parks can be used by people that cannot walk long distances. Do NOT close roads in the spring to motorized vehicles. I want to be able to enjoy the parks too. With the closing on LPGC and the closing of Brighton so you can no longer be able to park and enjoy the lake, I am second-guessing our decision to build a new home for retirement. (2)
- Make sure to take care of what we already have. Demographics are changing to what is popular and there will need to be changes made to what might not be as popular of a hobby to do now and in the future. Then investment might need to be made to support new ideas of Park uses (1)
- Make the parks accessible for the largest number of people doing the largest number of things. (4)
- Make the parks and recreation areas destinations for everyone. (3)
- Make the spaces usable, and have plenty of them to support group privacy and individual privacy. Nature is nature, it shouldn't be overrun with people just for profit. (2)
- Make the ten year plan open to all users and not minimize those that aren't bikers (1)
- Make them nice, clean and have access to bathrooms whether indoor or portable. You can't expect kids or anyone to come to a park, field, trail and not have use of clean and decent batheooms. (1)
- Make these trails safe for our families. (1)
- Making accessible if people can't pay fees (2)
- Making parks accessible to people in the inner city who don't have easy transportation access to enjoy our parks. And not selling our green spaces off for developement. We live in the Northland because we don't want to live in a big city. (1)
- Making parks more safe. As a woman who walks alone I have been harassed over and over again in Duluth parks (and every time I am in canal park). More cameras, better lighting and discouraging vagrants would help this. Many trailheads have a track record for having cars being broken into regularly and that prevents me from wanting to park at them (especially Ely's peak and west Duluth trailheads). (2)
- Making people feel safe in the parks (1)
- Making sure everyone has access; keeping fees low, lots of parks in every neighborhood, space for people to connect with nature (1)
- Making sure everyone is able to access the parks and enjoy them (2)
- Making sure not to forget parks in poorer neighborhoods (2)
- Making sure our parks are safe and welcoming. (1)
- Making sure parks, spaces, and trails accommodate all levels of mobility. Add multiple benches along trails, especially within the first mile or two. They could be large, natural rocks that are the height of a bench. Or some stone blocks. They wouldn't require maintenance and would blend in with the surroundings. (1)
- Making sure spaces exist for people to exist and connect with nature and be outside. Parks and green spaces are crucial for people like me who don't have cars to have a place they are allowed to wait outdoors. Also, making sure these spaces can be safe places for the large homeless population - Please please please do not make these spaces anti-homeless, they are in the most need of spaces they don't have to pay to be in, and they deserve access to nature and

recreation as well. Also please note that anti-homeless architecture is also ableist and makes it really difficult for many disabled people to access the city. (1)

- Making sure that recent developments under the leadership of volunteer organizations are maintained at a high level. (2)
- Making sure there's a plan to maintain the infrastructure that we have, and improving access/awareness of existing trails and parks. (1)
- Making the Parks and Rec opportunities accessible to underserved populations/communities within Duluth (BIPOC, disabled, low income, etc.) (2)
- Making things more attractive / adding splash pads / more modern (1)
- Manage off leash pets (1)
- Market our great outdoor space more, it is our greatest resource. (1)
- Marketing (2)
- More access/equal access to parks in residential neighborhoods (1)
- More advanced level mountain bike trails (1)
- More community playgrounds reopened with programs for area children (1)
- More dedicated pickleball courts. (2)
- More developed Trailheads, especially at the larger parks. Bathrooms, parking, drinking water, etc. The Chamber's Grove trailhead is lovely for example. They would be great all year round, but would especially be amazing in the winter. There are very few indoor/warm places to change or rest on our amazing ski trails. (1)
- More disc golf (1)
- More disc golf courses, it's exploding in popularity right now, low cost to start playing (just need a disc), anyone can play and a great family activity (1)
- More disc golf! The player base has doubled in the past year and a half alone! (4)
- more dog park options! (1)
- More dog park that get regular mowing (1)
- More dog parks and related programs. (1)
- More environmental and cultural education programming. And keeping existing bathrooms open and garbage cans serviced. We do not need more "destination parks" for tourists. (1)
- More farmers market, attract people from out of town(ie: fisherman, native traditional food, local meat, etc.)Fix existing rundown play parks (like on 7th st and central entrance) where the equipment was removed and make them more useful / fun for kids/families (1)
- More friendly areas for all - dog parks, ada accessibility, expanding parking, etc. (2)
- More hiking trails, better signage, make Duluth a destination hiking spot! (1)
- More indoor and outdoor areas for young families to utilize. Splash pad, indoor playground, indoor walking track and rec center. (1)
- More lowkey trails more for residents than tourists (1)
- More multi use and non-motorized trails. (1)
- More off leash dog parks! (1)
- More off-leash pet friendly areas. (1)

- More opportunities for kids, improved playgrounds, recreational programs (1)
- More outdoor spaces spread evenly across the city. (5)
- More park benches, connecting trails between parks for walking and biking, winter care of connecting paved trails (2)
- more parks and increased accessibility for underrepresented populations (2)
- More parks and playgrounds, indoor community centers, indoor public recreation area and workout facility (1)
- More paved bike trails (1)
- More paved walking trails and playgrounds for young families. There aren't enough play spaces around Duluth for toddlers/ young children. Think Webster's Dream Park in Superior but with more than one baby swing. (1)
- More playgrounds. There are only a couple 'good' ones that get way over crowded. Splash pads needed. (1)
- More programming. (2)
- More skateparks and amenities for the modern day family. No one uses these giant baseball and football fields. In fact there are hockey rinks that get used more for things like skateboarding than hockey. Play spaces and more art pieces / free activities for families would be great as well. (4)
- More ski trail maintenance/regular grooming in the winter. (1)
- more trails and parks for trained off leash dogs (1)
- More usage by everyone, nt just fee-payers (1)
- more walking hiking trails. add and improve tennis/pickelball courts (2)
- more/better access to a variety of activities, venues, trails, etc. for people/households without personal vehicles (1)
- Mountain bike trails and cross country ski trails upkeep! (2)
- Mountain bike trails from beginner to pro-level difficulty. Continue to expand existing and new systems with neighborhood access. Programs that grow the mountain bike community. Alwyas prioritise spirit mountain skiing. A true dirt jump bike park. Commitment to road cyclists with increased spur trail access for all cycling. Keep Duluth Dog friendly, it's a large selling point. We moved back to Duluth from Colorado just for the biking and access to skiing. (1)
- Mountain biking :) (1)
- Mountain biking trails are fun, but I would like to see the plan emphasize a greater diversity of outdoor and recreational facilities and opportunities rather than try to put mountain bike trails in every small bit of green space throughout the city. (1)
- move towards open use, ensure teams and leagues are paying appropriate fees to use facilities. (1)
- Multi use fields space. (1)
- Muti user access to the outdoors (1)
- My largest concern is the growing theft and vehicle damage occuring at trailheads. I am afraid to use the Superior Hiking Trail at many locations in town due to the frequency of cars getting windows broken and items stolen while unattended at a designated trailhead. (1)
- My life, health, and well being are based in recreating daily in Duluth parks and trails. I greatly value and appreciate extended trails (4-8 mile mileage) and see many people enjoying them in various ways. I love that I am exposed to natural surroundings within the city limits. I strongly encourage additional trail networks, as well as opportunities for me and my family to interact with nature. (1)
- Natural open green space saved the sanity of thousands of people during the pandemic. Make sure we keep/develop plenty of green spaces. (1)
- Natural resource and green space preservation (1)

- Neighborhood based sports, recreation and outdoor activities across the community (1)
- New to area, can't comment. (2)
- No comment (1)
- No more bike trails (1)
- no more bike trails. we are losing hunting ground every year to the bikers. (1)
- No more expansion just maintain what we have now (1)
- No more trails!!!! There's way too many! And, it serves only a limited population. We need to invest in the smaller community parks. Tax payer money should benefit everyone. That means, leagues, small community parks, basketball courts, tennis courts, golf courses, that are accessible and available for recreation to all mobility levels. Individual silent sports have received too much funding in recent years, and taken away funding for small community parks. MTB Trails are too expensive to maintain on a long term basis for the city to absorb with liability. Duluth used to have great facilities and programs for youth provided by the city. Portman in Lakeside used to be a shining success. Now it just looks rundown and dilapidated. The closing of Lester Park Golf Course, is a huge mistake, with the trend of millennials getting into it across the country. (1)
- Nordic skiing - there is a unique level of passion here for it and we have an outstanding and uniquely strong trail system. Seems it doesn't get the buzz of mountain biking at times, but should. (1)
- NOT LOSE THE PARKS WE HAVE! DO NOT DEVELOP LESTER PARK GOLF COURSE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I repeat.... (1)
- Not overspending while there are more important issues the city faces. Not increasing cost of living for lower income households. More diverse spaces would be great, an OHV Park or Trail System would attract a lot of tourism and could have fees for revenue. The US Steel site would be great for this. (1)
- not sure (1)
- Not to give away community park land. Keep Lester Park either as golf course or park. (1)
- Not to raise taxes on our heavily taxed city. Raise funds another way (1)
- Not turning over more of the open spaces and golf courses to developers for short term funding fixes. (2)
- Off leash dog areas, dog park in the West End area of the city. (2)
- Off leash dog trail... Maybe snivley Rd (1)
- Off leash dog trails (outside of fenced dog parks) (1)
- Off leash dog trails, accessibility, programming (1)
- Off leash dogs (1)
- Off leash dogs. Very frustrating how it's not enforced. (1)
- One of the features that attracts me and keeps me tied to Duluth is the outdoor activity opportunities it provides. My concern is that with 129 "parks" and so many diverse outdoor activities it is extremely difficult to appropriate funds, labor, and materials to the places that have the largest impact. Additionally now you are forced to balance the need of serving the local population alongside balancing the draw for tourism. How do you balance use and draw with not only maintenance, but continual improvement. This survey feels like it is experiencing the same issues. There are too many diverse parks to encompass a decision on funding them by increasing sales or property taxes. I would like to see the city divest of some items such as Wade Stadium and have a non or for profit organization own/run it. I am happy to have my citizen dollars increased, if I feel those dollars would be maximized, but with the diversity of the parks being managed by the city it feels as if that would be impossible. I visit other communities that continually improve playground amenities and features, but continue to see the same features within our parks. I cannot imagine the enormous job it is to balance all of these

requests from within the community and it is probably impossible to execute it. I am grateful for the people that make the park department work everyday as it definitely makes Duluth a great community to live in. (1)

- One: SPLASH PAD. With the limited beaches and poor water quality, it is needed. After 30 years, this summer I learned the park on 4th and 10th has a single jet. Two: OFF LEASH Dog areas. People from all over town drive to Jean Duluth more than once a day. Three: maintenance. We have wonderful spaces, focus on what needs the most work. Thank you. (1)
- Ongoing maintenance (2)
- Ongoing maintenance and trailhead safety (1)
- Ongoing park maintenance and having adequate bathroom facilities. (2)
- Open more areas throughout Duluth (even though we already have a good number of places) and provide more programs/activities (1)
- Open space available to most neighborhoods by walking, connect park and park like areas with walking/biking trails. Connect trails to schools to get kids more opportunity to be physical and have safe ways to school. Maintain what we have. Seek and support volunteers to do what the city cannot, recognize and honor them somehow. Find a way to engage neighborhoods to claim areas as their own for protection and maintenance, stuff gets done when you feel some kind of attachment (2)
- operate pro-actively (1)
- Order problem (3)
- Our local culture and preserving the environment. THAT is what's special about this place. (1)
- Our parks and trails are the centerpieces of life in Duluth! Keep on it, remain free and open, prioritize natural space over rec fields and clearings. Expand trail systems, winter amenities, coggs funding and collaboration.... (1)
- our parks are HEAVILY used by tourists and the locals pay for the parks. do not raise property taxes on households. Issues to address are stated above. NNIS and considering the health of our Duluth parks and more signage and enforcement of illegal activity. (1)
- Outdoor hockey/baseball/soccer/football & green space for bow hunting (1)
- Outdoor opportunities for all ages and abilities. (1)
- Overwhelming, maintenance, esp. toilet facilities and trash. Accept that we recreate in 4 seasons! (1)
- Park access for people of all income levels in all neighborhoods. (1)
- Park amenities that put our parks on par with other parks in other municipalities (1)
- Park facilities should be more and more considerate of the elderly and children (1)
- Park maintenance and getting trailheads out of residential neighborhoods. (1)
- Park Point Recreation Area should be turned into a state park. Park Point is highly visited and poorly maintained the condition is embarrassing to the city. What is the downside to the city if Park Point became a state park? (2)
- Parks for children. There needs to be a "playfront park" quality park in all areas of town (3)
- Partner with private groups who will help take care of park areas and treat them with equal respect for their services. No one wants to feel like their effort is not appreciated. (1)
- Partnering with neighborhoods/organizations for usage, and for priorities. (2)
- Paved access for all abilities to access parks (2)

- Pet etiquette: Leash laws and dog waste (1)
- Pet friendly and secure. (2)
- Pickleball (1)
- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport. We need dedicated courts in Duluth. (5)
- Playgrounds and green space accessible in all neighborhoods and on bus line. (1)
- Please do keep the entirety of Duluth's population in mind. Parks need to serve everyone, or upkeep will not be sustainable. Getting less served citizens out to parks, and engaging with diverse interests and the diversity of our city is key. Thank you! Keep up, expand, and improve the great work Parks is doing. The heart of our city is outside! (1)
- Please do not make wooden trails, nor put gravel on trails. (1)
- Please do not solely focus attention on parks and trails in wealthier Duluth neighborhoods. Some of the lower income neighborhoods can really benefit from well maintained, high quality parks and outdoor spaces. (1)
- Please don't turn it into disney world with expensive facilities and architecture. Part of what makes our parks great is that they are spread across the whole city, and are wild and rustic. (1)
- Please for the love of Bob create a splash pad or more swimming opportunities for youth! (1)
- Please prioritize garbage service, drinking fountains, and portable toilets especially at Lincoln Park and other parks in low income neighborhoods (1)
- Portman in Lakeside is a literal dumpster. Look at the photos of the cities website if you want to see what it's supposed to look like. The children of Lakeside have be bugged by the anti-parks department for far too long. Repave the basketball court and move the hoops so it overhangs farther into the court so you can keep the hockey boards up in the summer. Then get new plastic hockey boards for the baseball field that are lighter and easier to take down in the summer. Leaving the boards up in the summer is not acceptable and the epitome how lazy and evil the anti-parks department truly is. (1)
- Preservation and maintenance. (1)
- Preservation of current parks, trails and spaces (2)
- Preservation of nature (4)
- Preservation of our natural spaces, increasing neighborhood getaways. Equal access to these spaces with no fees or equipment necessary. (1)
- Preservation of our parks as irreplaceable natural resources and enforcement of dogs on leash ordinance. (1)
- Preserve additional lands and teach ecological preservation (2)
- Preserve ample space to continue the activities allowed today and don't sacrifice one activity with a smaller user group for another with a larger user group (1)
- Preserve and protect what we have. (1)
- Preserve and protect what we have. Increased signage on MTB trails and some one way trails. I think that would improve safety and attract more tourists. (1)
- Preserve as much open space for parks and natural areas as possible. Secure existing open spaces (e.g. Lakes Nine section of Lester Golf) for parks use, to preclude development of dense housing and more roads. Establish connectivity among park areas, for example, follow the lead of COGGS in linking designated biking areas. Think about how existing infrastructure can be used recreationally; for example, fight for safe biking routes for kids and families - the green painted bike lanes on Lake Ave. crossing the highway into canal park are at best a joke, and at worst nearly a death sentence. Imagine a family on bikes trying to bike to the beach on those bike lanes... (1)

- Preserve Duluth's precious outdoor spaces (1)
- Preserve for the future the parks and open space the city already has. Provide most support the the most used facilities. Renovate some of the most dilapidated facilities. Plan to develop some of the yet undeveloped facilities. (2)
- preserve open space and develop trail system to connect all neighborhoods (2)
- Preserve or expand green space. Keep the Lester Park golf course as a park NOT a development! (1)
- Preserve the natural wild areas (1)
- Preserve undeveloped green spaces and natural areas. (1)
- Preserving and expanding duluth parks- NOT letting big corporations/ "new housing" take over land that should be parks - hint- Lester river golf course. (2)
- Preserving and maintaining natural landscapes (2)
- Preserving as much green space as possible! (2)
- Preserving green space from devopment. (1)
- Preserving greenspace. (1)
- Preserving more land without much development. (1)
- Preserving natural areas, not developing them. (2)
- Preserving the natural environment and providing access to all. (1)
- Preventing existing green spaces and river corridors from becoming fragmented and turned into developments, i.e. keep the golf courses green. I also believe a balance between mountain biking and other forms of recreation should be achieved. The equestrian community has struggled to obtain trails, particularly safe ones. Please work on forms of education for trail usage, and reach out to COGGS to educate their users on sharing trails. I own both a mountain bike and a horse, and do not feel welcome in Duluth with a horse from other trail users. (1)
- prioritization of maintaining current resources like streams and forests (1)
- Prioritize public access to nearby parks for all residents where families can recreate affordably and safely; preserve/restore natural areas for hiking and wildlife (1)
- Prioritize taking care of the infrastructure that exists and expand your support to include more "regionally significant" parks. There are several community organizations that are struggling to keep programming going that was dropped by parks in 2008 due to aging infrastructure. I am biased as I work for one of these organizations but as a rule of thumb deferred maintenance is a huge problem for facilities maintenance. (1)
- Prioritizing all neighborhoods (1)
- Programming for kids in the neighborhoods they live (1)
- Promote the parks, parks that are more accessible by everyone, not just rich people in the canal park/downtown area, more parks in underserved areas of the community (2)
- Proper lighting and security in popular parks. Adequate bathroom facilities. (1)
- Protect from development for other uses - no home or commercial type changes (1)
- Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency (1)
- Protecting and monitoring parks for safety, maintenance, and vandalism. (1)
- Protecting preserving wild spaces, and encouraging enjoyment of such wilderness (1)

- Protecting the environment and natural spaces, sequestering carbon and protecting forests and wetlands (1)
- Protecting, preserving and expanding our trail systems (1)
- Protection and maintenance (1)
- Provide access and amenities for all season enjoyment of our unique geography. (1)
- Provide hiking without getting run over by mountain bikes (1)
- Provide more activities and programs (1)
- Provide off leash trails as part of the dog parks. Also expand Keene Creek and Observation dog parks. (1)
- Provide on-going, consistent coordination for volunteer activities by neighborhoods with project leaders in each; provide an enforcement officer (dumping, ATV, other issues in parks, messaging), provide continuous info/messaging on dos/dont's/fun opportunities in our parks, carefully prioritize funding/staffing with our partners on projects. (1)
- Provide opportunities for people of all abilities (3)
- Provide safe outdoor space for people to gather. (1)
- Provide safe, clean open spaces, playgrounds, trails and recreational opportunities to all Duluthians, but especially in underserved neighborhoods. An example - Lower Chester Park; this park could be so much more for so many other users instead of monopolized by a one user, one season - hockey program. Basketball hoops were purchased by NOLC several years ago. But they are no longer put out for use, in part because of the physical strength and ability necessary to move the hoops every Spring and Fall. There's no one to do this, yet the hoops are there, unavailable for use! Unlike the installed "temporary boards" placed in the park by the hockey program. These boards, according to our neighborhood plan, were to be removed in the Spring and replaced for the Winter. Instead, the temporary boards have remained in the same place now for many years. No one is enforcing the agreement. Additionally, there is also money in a playground fund for Lower Chester, but neighborhood volunteers became disillusioned by the neighborhood planning process that capitalized on the needs of one user (hockey) over the significant needs of the majority of neighbors. PLEASE help the underserved neighborhoods. Stop putting monies toward parks and programs that are not affordable and are geared toward higher income single use recreational opportunities. Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this 10-year plan. Please do not let ONE user group monopolize the process. Listen to the little guy - we matter too. (1)
- Provide services and spaces in a way that Duluthians become proud AND SUPPORTIVE of Parks & Recreation ideas, projects, programs, and services. (1)
- Provide space and facilities (restrooms, trash, etc.) for Duluth's unhoused population to utilize without being criminalized. (1)
- Providing activities to get engaged and expanding where needed. (1)
- Providing adequate funding to spaces owned by the City and managed by third-party organizations. It's important to note the deferred maintenance and lack of attention/prioritizing these areas and not expect third-party partners to absorb all of the costs for maintaining what is owned by the City of Duluth. (2)
- Providing adequate public space for a quality skatepark for youth and adults while maintaining and caring for that space. In general, show a little more care and acknowledgment of the many people that participate in the sports, activities, and/or arts that express creativity and individuality that are not as prioritized as traditional group and team sports. There are many of us here and we deserve an "adequate" and "quality" space to grow and thrive just as people that are more inclined toward traditional team sports do. Traditional and nontraditional activities are both important. (4)
- Providing clean, safe, maintained spaces for personal and community engagement and recreation. (1)
- providing neighborhood parks/facilities that cater to Duluthians and improve the quality of life for those who live in Duluth. (1)

- Providing park maintenance in all parts of town. We have noticed that parks in the western part of the city get far more attention to routine and emergency maintenance than those of the east end. Example: Tischer Creek still shows evidence of the 2012 flood. (1)
- Proving its worth to skeptical members of the community (1)
- Public water access and public waterfront spaces that are easily accessible. (4)
- publicity (1)
- Put money towards any and all parks that they can, NOT towards tourism and bike trails. (1)
- Put resources into what is already here. DON'T spread resources thin by adding more parks and activities. (1)
- Quality facilities making Duluth a recreational destination (2)
- Quality over quantity. We have everything, but not very many are above average. (1)
- Quality Skateboarding Parks like other cities in Minnesota and the whole country. Skateboarding is growing faster than many organized sports for young girls, boys and adults. Did you folks see the skateboarding in the olympics?! (3)
- Quantity (1)
- Quit wasting the woods with these trails it has gotten out of hand (2)
- re- vamp the existing run down parks. (4)
- Reasonable location (1)
- reasonable planning (3)
- Rec programming for age 11-14. (1)
- Recognize that not everyone who enjoys these areas, uses them for biking. Recognize the importance of preserving natural areas, and just because you can carve up areas with trails, doesn't mean you have to. This city has gotten way too carried away with biking trails. Our family bow hunts in the city, fishes the river and frequently hikes the area. We are considering moving from the area when I graduate from nursing school because of the changes that Duluth has undergone over the the last 10-15 years. Trails trails trails, every years there are more and more trails cut through areas that we have treasured for decades, and the year after that there are even newer trails cut in to connected to the other new trails. It's become absurd. Is the city aware that many of its citizens moved here and have chosen to make their lives here because they enjoy nature as it is and has been??? (1)
- Recreation (2)
- Recreational programing for youth and adults at community centers in low-income neighborhoods. Dedicated summer programs for youth in low-income neighborhoods (1)
- Reduce parks and improve quality. Keene creek park is a perfect example of what to do to future parks, not just maintain but improve and utilize the space (1)
- reduce upper management and spend that money on programs (2)
- regular and sustained maintenance (2)
- Regular maintenance and update play equipment. (1)
- Reinvest in activities that are already bringing communities like the hockey rinks (1)
- Remembering to devote space and funding for traditional activities, and not just the latest greatest bike park. (1)
- Re-open Lester Park Golf Course (1)

- Responding to the trends, changing interests and keeping you g families in mind providing quality playgrounds throughout the city. (2)
- Restore park programming that is inclusive for all with guidelines to which staff and volunteers are held accountable. The current situation with people who have a specific agenda or passion running community centers has resulted in underutilized buildings and/or difficulty for others to use the amenities in their neighborhood. (1)
- Resurface the tennis courts at Woodland and provide some dedicated Pickleball courts. This space is used by 30+ people on a regular basis to play pickleball on courts that are cracked and full of weeds. (1)
- Retain the wild nature of Duluth, don't become anywhere USA. Remember people live in the neighborhoods by the parks, they should not be negatively impacted, ie noise and pollution. (2)
- Return the community centers to the public. (1)
- Revitalize and maintain pickleball courts (1)
- Safe and accessible parks/ trails (1)
- Safe and equitable access for all community members (1)
- Safe and equitable access for undeserved communities. (1)
- Safe clean parks. Spaces for smaller groups to gather, focus on kids play areas. (1)
- Safe community access (1)
- Safe, clean, well-maintained neighborhood parks. Trail maintenance, trash pickup, park rangers. (1)
- Safer parks (1)
- Safety & Access for ALL users, law and rules being enforced (1)
- safety (1)
- Safety (2)
- Safety and access for everyone. (4)
- Safety and accessibility (1)
- Safety and equity for all users (1)
- Safety and not allowing homeless to permanently camp (1)
- Safety and quality (1)
- Safety at the beach so don't cut ur foot (2)
- Safety for the users. (1)
- Safety from gangs and drug dealers (2)
- safety problem (10)
- Safety. Personal and vehicle. (1)
- Safety. Seems like the homeless/drug issue problem is becoming commonplace. (1)
- Safety: 1. Trailheads are hotspots for car break-ins and thefts. 2. Many trails have significant evidence of recent homeless or drug related activities with garbage everywhere. Do not feel safe traveling through these areas alone. 3. Unleashed dogs are a significant personal safety issue. (1)

- securing land (1)
- Security order problem (3)
- Seek neighborhood volunteers. That park above hillside next to Mesaba needs top developed, I.e. Picnic tables. Porta potties (1)
- sell undeveloped park land with for housing. Especially small parks existing in a residential area. Better enforcing of alcohol, camping and vandalism policies. (2)
- Significantly increase the miles of "off leash" dog trails in the city of Duluth. By your own statistical admission on this survey start page, there are hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails, 30 miles of horse trails, and no mention of off leash dog trails. From my recollection, there are maybe 3 off leash trails totaling ~10 miles in length. This greatly underserves the dog owners of Duluth. This is the northland, not downtown Minneapolis, where a few dog parks work fine. Many of us own sporting breeds suited for our northland lifestyle, and there are not enough places to legally run off leash. Section 6-36-2 of the Duluth city code references off leash trails, but the city has neglected to serve this tax paying user group. There is obviously a need for more off leash trails, just look at your off leash complaint totals and multiply the incidence level by 10. The cities haste to develop mountain bike and hiking trails completely left out the dog owner group who likes to exercise their sporting breed canines. The multi use trails are a no win situation for all of us (bikers, hikers, off leash dog owners, and the horse owners). We have over 11,000 acres of land with hundreds of miles of trails, we need to dedicate more miles to off leash dog use. Push the off leash license fees, sign a waiver for any city liability of dog fights and injuries associated with this activity. No question more people get hurt on bicycles, skis, or rollerblades in our parks than dog related issues. You can easily improve this by declaring non groomed bike trails "off leash" trails in the winter months easy start. Well, thanks for the opportunity to vent a bit on a very serious shortcoming in our city parks system. (2)
- Simply don't lose what we currently have, while looking to make facility improvements. Add some community centers that can be rented out or used for programming/meetings. (1)
- SINCE 2005: NO ACCESS TO LAKEWALK IN FRONT OF BEACON PT AND LEDGES AS PROMISED TO CITIZENS BUT STOPPED BY LACK OF SPINE BY POLITICIANS. "CLIMATE CHANGE" IS A REDIRECT DISTRACTION, LOOK AT THE LAKE WALL BY FITGERS AND THE FRENCH RIVER WORK BUILT IN JUST 3 YEARS. C'MON DULUTH, DO THE HONEST THING AND KEEP THE PROMISE TO CITIZENS AND VISITORS. WEST AND EAST CAN AGREE, THIS LAKEWALK ON THE LAKE SIDE MUST BE FINISHED FOR ENJOYMENT BY RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS! (2)
- Skateboard park with full sized concrete swimming pool to skateboard (1)
- Ski and bike trails are what I enjoy the most, so maintaining the quality and access we currently have (1)
- Smaller spaces with easy walking distance in neighborhoods. Also, any kind of walking trails within the mall area would be nice, the area in general is very unfriendly to walking. (2)
- So much underused (accessible) area on skyline and west Duluth creeks!!!! (1)
- Some areas have historical WPA or CCC fire pits, swings, picnic tables, buildings and bridges. It would be good to take care of that craftsmanship and repair what is available. I think that we've lost a lot of the parks feel in opening areas, taking down mature trees, it has the Fast Food effect; loud signs of sponsorship, shoddy equipment, agoraphobic non-private space for couples or families. The parks out east get more attention that those out west and the community centers destroyed in the flood took precious space from kids that are often high risk due to poverty. (1)
- Some of the parks are in great disrepair or not being fully utilized. Would love to see affordable housing go up in partnership with the parks so that the population in housing has access to the park. Ex. Observation hill soccer field would be amazing site for public housing. Small in fill city parks could have patio cottages 400 ft2 as public housing to increase housing assortment. Would love to see a splash pad added to the Bayfront playground area! (1)
- Some parks have structures that are decaying and should be maintained - Lincoln Park, Cascade Park, Portland Square are examples. These are high traffic parks that represent our city. Increasing camping opportunities would help with equity for visitors and may be a viable income stream. (1)

- Some process for listening to neighborhood users not just "organized" groups. (1)
- Some sort of toddler friendly water park would be nice. Or an outdoor pool like the one in Cloquet. (1)
- space for off-leash dogs (1)
- Spirit mountain needs to be a priority and ran correctly. Skate parks should be finished. Wheeler park is only a third finished and was supposed to be done 12 years ago. Too many team sports (why do we need so many soccer fields?) not every kid can afford or wants to play organized team sports. Skateparks, disc golf, spirit mountain is important. Vandalism/ theft is a huge issue in parking lots and Boat launches. (1)
- Spirit Mtn needs help. They are missing boat on events, etc. They need better management up there. Also keep to parks clean....better playgrounds (1)
- Splash pads (1)
- Stabilizing long term funding within the Parks System. As a taxpayer, I'm happy to pay for better parks! (1)
- Stepped up maintenance of neighborhood parks with plans to replace the equipment in them. Some are on the edge of tipping into decay -- ie., pavement, fencing conditions at Woodland tennis/pickleball, Endion tennis/basketball courts. (1)
- Stop building more bike trails and maintain/improve existing park infrastructure. (1)
- Stop cutting into hillsides with open dirt trails for bikes. Work with DNR to open section of MUNGER TRAIL from Becks Rd to Buffalo House. That 1/2 or so section is a no Brainerd for destination access to BH. Switchback off trail head is done and MTRA has provided funding to DNR for wider mowing... (1)
- Stop dumping money into spirit mountain. Let it close if the city has to keep funding it. Create a public disc golf/dog park that is free, accessible, and of moderate difficulty. (1)
- Stop expanding (1)
- Stop focusing on mountain biking. (4)
- stop funneling money into things that will never give back despite saying they will (3)
- Stop making bike trails! They create a ton of erosion and certain people don't feel the need to stay on the trails which in turn creates more erosion and kills thousands more natural plants, some of which will never grow back. As a member of the Duluth city deer hunt from the first year, our hunting areas have been drastically affected by so many bike trails carving back and forth through the hunt zones. We have safe distance guidelines we must follow and every time a new trail is made it reduces the area available to the hunters. The hunt was originally created to reduce the size of the deer within Duluth city limits, and by hampering our efforts by making it harder for us to do our job you are allowing the deer herd to increase in size which creates a bigger hazard to motorists. By creating so many bike trails that go Willy billy all over, you are catering to only one organization, with little to no concern for the city hunt, and that's not right. The city hunt was here first so please give us more consideration when planning and implementing the use of Duluth's green spaces. (2)
- Stop making park improvements till our roads are repaired (1)
- Stop selling land (Central High School, Lester Golf Course) for development and use it for open space and recreation. There were tennis courts and ball fields galore at Central, why couldn't they have been retained for public use? Let's retain Lester for open space and recreation too. (1)
- support for local skateparks (1)
- Support/increase partnerships with groups that can help manage parks property. Example, work with Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory better - support what they are doing. (1)
- Supporting park use & programs for diverse & underserved people in the community. (1)
- Sustainability (7)

- sustainability and eco-friendly. (1)
- sustainable practices. stop paving! hire designers to solve problems and provide site specific weather considered solutions. realize that to feel comfortable in a public park people needs spaces to feel enclosed and like they have some sort of independent privacy. your playground parks are horrendously designed for public engagement, diverse use, enjoyment. just go stand in one - how ***** awkward! if you observe you'll notice even kids feel the oddity of how uncomfortably exposed the space is. (1)
- Sustainable, resilient upkeep and restoration (1)
- Take advantage of the exploding disc golf community. Build and maintain your courses and people will come from all over and spend their money at local businesses (1)
- Take away all unwelcoming signs on the trails at the city parks, especially at Chester Park. (1)
- Take care of and improve what we already have. (1)
- Take care of the parks we have. (3)
- take care of the spaces you already are responsible for (3)
- Take care of what we have and perhaps let other organizations use the parks with a cost for their events. I like the sponsorship idea. Hopefully, down the road, Duluth can aquire more park space as that is what Duluth is known for and brings in visitors. (1)
- Take care of what we have, and don't develop our public lands. We don't always need a trail to go for a walk in the woods, but we need the woods!Put some garbages out by more trail entrances. (1)
- Take care of what we have. Create maintenance jobs for youth summer jobs. (1)
- Take care, and if necessary, improve what we already have before adding any additional activities, especially if those activities already have a presence. Duluth's x-country ski trails are fantastic and to me, are the best run of those type of activities (when snow conditions allow). Grooming is usually very, very good. It would be nice to see that type of care and maintenance done for all park activities, regardless of time of year or activity being done in whatever particular park area. I'm not sure if Parks and Rec have anything to do with city golf areas (and I'm not a golfer), but it is a shame that the care and maintenance of both civic courses has not been kept at the same level as other parts of city-run outdoor activities or areas. Thanks for putting out this survey. Let's hope it helps make good decisions for our beloved city outdoor attractions! (2)
- Take great care of what we already have established. Expand only when appropriate and funding is known without taking away from current parks. (2)
- Thank you for providing this survey. Engage early with the community on creating this and other future plans, listen, and follow through with their ideas, suggestions, and input. You have park staff that do a great job, but the Department is continiously very short on staff and have a revolving door of managers and your parks and recreation professionals. Those in the community better know the parklands, open spaces, and recreational usage and want a consistent message. Often the engagement happens after your plans are already drawn up. Reachout to the stakeholders and ask "what do you think about possibly this ...?" and "With limited budgets, what alternatives are there?" (2)
- That's difficult. My family uses the mountain bike trails almost daily for biking. However, we are COGGS members and volunteer weekly for trail maintenance. I'd love to see more biking trails(obviously), but I really think that more community members need to be invested in the upkeep and promotion of their preferred activity. (1)
- The ability of Duluth and surrounding area citizens to use our parks safely; more emphasis on what's good for our community rather than what's good for tourists. (1)
- The Adventure Gap. Serving under represented groups in the outdoors. Connects to question 14. (1)

- The attraction to Duluth is mainly due to the preserved green spaces. It's important to focus on creating and promoting a "Green City" legacy. It's also the best thing to do for our future health of our green environment. (1)
- The city is going to continue growing over the next 10 years as climate change migration happens. The city needs to have long term goals for creating a legacy parks program that will withstand a large influx of people, for future generations to enjoy. The city should be thinking about all neighborhoods having access to park space as well as preserving the larger, wilder parks that are an essential part of what motivates people to move here. (1)
- The City needs to become the owner of the land on which our parks are located. Some is tax forfeit, some is owned by county, some in private hands. Lock it down now! (2)
- The City of Duluth has many trails that are under-utilized. Every house in Duluth is within a quarter-mile or less of a hiking trail from what I've heard but a lot of people don't know the hiking areas around them. Could be a lack of signage or education potentially. (1)
- The City of Duluth should continue to work closely with its community partners. There has been a recent shift with Parks and Recreation getting involved again in programs that are already provided by community partners. We also have great momentum in trail development. I hope that continues to be maintained and improved in key areas. (1)
- The equity and belonging gap. We need everyone, especially people from marginalized communities to feel safe, welcomed, and have a sense of belonging in all spaces. (1)
- The facilities at Portman need to be upgraded. The basketball court is dangerous to play on and the warming house in the winter is dirty and old. (1)
- The homeless population. (1)
- The increased usage of parks by a variety of people taking part in diverse activities - making sure all of the park users can co-exist peacefully (1)
- The lack of athletic facilities for a community our size and the lack of city maintenance at the current facilities. It's embarrassing! (1)
- The lack of skateparks (1)
- The most important aspect for the City's 10-year plan should be programs, facilities, and planning to increase the experiences of youths in nature. (3)
- The need for cleanliness. More garbage cans would be so nice! (1)
- The neighborhood community centers that were closed. Update and open vital to neighborhoods. (1)
- The new signs look great. We need to support the rest of the infrastructure. It may make sense to have fewer so-so parks and focus on a few, better parks. Maybe neighborhood groups can form an adopt a park program. (1)
- The number of off-leash dogs is a huge problem. I also think a substantial mountain bike skills progression park is a high priority, especially with the volunteer support of the mtb community. (1)
- The Parks and Recreation Department has always had concern and well-being of our community members as it's for most mission. I hope that the city plans include expanding the budget to care for our beautiful parks and outdoor spaces. Preserving our one of a kind naturescapes for those who come in the future. I hope the city addresses the safety and cleanliness of Lincoln Park, and follows through with expanding the playscapes, community gathering spaces for our community. (1)
- The preservation and acquisition of more green spaces, including parks, trails, etc. And preventing the clearing of such spaces for projects that build middle class single family homes. (1)
- The quality and quantity of parks (4)
- The urban parks and squares, excluding the forested, more wild parks, need to be re-planted with trees, and then plant a new tree each time an existing tree is removed. A landscape and use plan should be created for each of these urban parks identifying the long term vision for each where the city and

residents can fundraise to implement each park's plan. Public art, active place spaces, cultural/historical references, and green infrastructure should all be considered in these plans. Do not focus on the past and how the parks were used, focus on the future and the current trends of park use demand. The park system should be evaluated on the existing uses of each park and where those uses are most compatible with the surrounding land uses. Louder use types (skateboarding, hockey, basketball, etc.) should not be located in quiet sections of a residential neighborhood but be along busier streets where there's existing higher levels of noise. Parks that need motor vehicle parking should be focused on the parks that have a regional draw, such as Enger Park, the sports fields, rinks, courses etc. Do not spend limited resources on creating and maintaining off-street parking spaces in parks, especially for the squares and smaller urban parks. (1)

- the value of unspecified use areas for people to just enjoy nature and the outdoors..and the inclusion of playgrounds within any new residential development, including sidewalks and community space.... (1)
- there are enough trails (1)
- There are more than just privileged, wealthy bikers who want to use trails. PLEASE focus on access to all citizens of the city rather than white, rich mountain bikers. Create access for those with less privilege. (1)
- There are not enough Community Centers and programs east/north of the Downtown. Woodland and Duluth Heights Community Centers are underutilized. There is nothing (that I am aware of) in the Endion and Congdon neighborhoods. Create more community parks and centers more evenly distributed across the City. (1)
- There are very limited options for the dead of winter. We have tons of spaces that are vacant that could be turned into an indoor park. (1)
- There are way too many bike trails being cut in our woods. We need to preserve the wooded areas that we have left. The amount of bike trails that we have in this city are unbelievably high and unnecessary. STOP ALLOWING NEW BIKE TRAILS!!! (1)
- There needs to be some waste bins put along all hiking trails for garbage and dog waste. (1)
- There's so much to do! All the work has been focused on mountain biking, Canal Park, Bayfront, and the Lakewalk. Let's get back to our neighborhoods. We need our neighborhood parks improved. They should have safe play equipment, trash cans and poop bags. Encourage neighbors to adopt a park to help keep clean. Minneapolis is beautiful for families because every neighborhood has a park. (1)
- They need to maintain ALL the parks, Twin Ponds needs at least a porta potty, and some equipment, lots of children there in the summer. Also keep indoor bathrooms open year-round for those who are out and about. The amount of trash in our parks is disgusting, so every park should have at least one large trash and one large recycle container (1)
- This is a really hard question, since there are so many options. But what really comes to mind for me is balance and equity. We need ADA accessible trail that go to scenic natural areas, but we also need rugged challenging trails that are not accessible for everyone, but provide a great day for locals that like to be challenged and regional tourists that are looking for a unique adventure that they can't find in the more manicured, flatter areas of more Southern MN/WI. It is really important to make sure people in all areas of Duluth have access to green spaces, playgrounds and trails of reasonable quality. Rustic, simple spaces are great. Fancy is not a requirement just a basic level maintenance. It is important to make sure that all user groups have a say in development. It is important that there are a variety of trails for a variety of interest and skill levels. For example, it would be boring for everyone if all of the trails in Duluth were bike-optimized medium difficulty trails. There needs to be areas for beginner hikers, bikers, skiers to learn and areas for experts to hone their skills. We need to maintain some purpose built trails for hiking and running, some for horse-riding, various levels of playgrounds, etc. We need signage and programs that constantly acknowledge the indigenous origins of the land we use and incorporate those groups into every-day park experiences. Perhaps most importantly, when looking at project and trail development, all interested parties should be involved and communicated with. While there are a lot of parks in Duluth trail corridors are often tight and outdoor recreation is becoming more popular. It is important that all interested users be included in trail building and reroutes at the beginning to optimize the experience for all without a lot of retroactive work. We all want to keep the woods in our trails. (1)

- This is big. Keeping Duluth's parks, beach, and trails wild, keeping and acquiring open space, supporting all the groups-COGGS, DSSA, DRC, SHT, etc. and working together. Work with the youth agencies for programming. Downsize some of the neighborhood community centers and provide support for some trail centers, lots of ideas (1)
- This may be bigger picture than you are looking for, but homelessness and drug use. The increased problem of people making their homes in the woods/parks is a challenge for everything parks and recs is trying to do and will greatly affect how parks are used in the next 10 years, so there needs to be some interagency thinking to plan for this. (1)
- This survey too long and extensive- I'm done! (1)
- To be good stewards of the amazing land we have the opportunity to live in. (1)
- To create a better park system for those that live here while expanding and building new parks that will suite both residents and tourists. (1)
- To create a big government parks department that hamstrings the city's budget. (1)
- To create safe, environmentally friendly spaces for folks to enjoy for decades. (1)
- To ensure a sustainable economic strategy. (1)
- To have a plan that addresses all the parks and green spaces in the city, from listing them all with their facilities, their needed maintenance to suggested improvements, treating the parts of the City with people with lower incomes first. (1)
- To have them remain the jewels that they are. (2)
- To help provide opportunities for a variety of activities/uses across all areas of the city, especially underserved communities. (5)
- To keep the parks open for all. Kept clean and up to date. Also the history of the parks maybe would help people understand how important they are to the city (1)
- To maintain and improve existing (1)
- To maintain improve and create new parks. Emphasizing on equal access throughout the entire city, improving human powered travel options between green spaces allowing for natural green tracks. Improving winter human powered travel options throughout the city. this could be done by allowing for packed snow trails rather than plowing and deicing mitigation efforts. (1)
- To maintain the amount of park and create more. Don't let development take parks away from Duluth. (4)
- To maintain what we already have (1)
- to make children happy (1)
- To make sure natural spaces are available to all people and to respect and honor indigenous lands. (1)
- To make sure our beautiful part of the world is preserved, and sustained for generations to come; to make sure ALL people feel welcome and invited to every space, recreation activities, etc. provided by Parks & Rec (1)
- To NOT limit access to the trails especially during the winter when neighbors need exercise and socialization. By giving special favored access to cross country skiers, you deprive a large segment of the population access to a PUBLIC NEIGHBORHOOD park. (1)
- To preserve natural spaces. Not everything needs to be developed (1)
- to preserve some of the untouched spaces. maintaining current trails and building new ones in new areas instead of new ones in the same areas/reroutes. Make sure that multi use trails are TRULY multi-use and not just for bikers. (1)

- To prioritize spaces that support the local community members and are welcoming to diverse communities, and that preserve the natural beauty and features of the park and trail spaces rather than overdeveloping. (1)
- To Provide safe maintained parks and trails Provide a shelters for the homeless so they don't have to take over our parks. If we want to attract tourists, we need to also clean up our city. (1)
- To put it simply, Duluth needs more quality skateparks. The parks we do have are outdated, rundown, and even dangerous to use. (1)
- To revive recreation centers for our children! (1)
- to stress the importance of accessibility for all. Don't worry about paving trails, paved trails are counter productive for sustainability. (1)
- To take a good look at the map of Duluth & recreatiional spaces. .The city has heavily invested in Spirit Mt, Wade, Wheeler Fields & Denfeld Soccer Stadium & now Enger. Please be more inclusive of East, Lakeside, Lester Park & Lakewood. Rethink Lester Park Golf Corse as a year-round community facility 18 holes w/driving range AND a community meeting place i.e. music,clubs, , tutoring , a mentorship hub, CC Skier lodge, biker/hiker lodge, Farmer's Market in Parking area, etc. Let's make Lester Park Course an all-inclusive hub for our beautiful city!!!!!! (1)
- To take care of what we have .enough with the bike trails down the middle of the street. Such a waste of money. The golf courses are a disgrace. Who oversees the management co. Taking care of them. (1)
- To truly invite more users in. Look for creative funding to do so, but also to fund and keep amenities valid and high quality. (1)
- To work on invasive species management to keep our forests healthy, better skateparks, and more public trash cans. (2)
- To work on people's mental health first. Clean up Lincoln park... (1)
- Too many bikers (1)
- Too many trails, too many mountain bikes. Take care of what we have and quit building new mountain bike trails (1)
- Traffic, parking lots (2)
- Trail and garbage maintenance- either from city employees or a network of trail stewards and volunteers (1)
- Trail Safety: Prevention of vehicle break-ins at the trailheads. For example, the Munger Trailhead parking lot on Becks Road should be located right next to Becks to deter vandalism. Cameras similar to those attached to stoplights should be installed at trailheads. Address the homeless population that live along the trails. (1)
- Trailhead security and safety improvements, Park rangers for city code citation/enforcement, quality spaces and amenities, quality educational/ introductory programming (1)
- Trails. Buckthorn removal. Walking through a forest of buckthorn is annoying. Walking through a native landscape is much more enjoyable. (2)
- Turf fields for organized sports. (1)
- Understand who the users are and how to reach all income levels to provide good experience. (1)
- Understanding that the main core value of living in Duluth revolves around Duluth's parks and natural amenities. (2)
- Unsure (1)
- Update and maintain current parks. Make recreational supports areas (1)
- Update/renovate the neighborhood parks and buildings and give kids a clean and safe place to play all year. We live in the Lester Park neighborhood and we spend significant time at Portman Park in the winter playing hockey, but we don't even consider it in the summer months due to the poor condition. The baseball field is in terrible condition, the basketball court is a safety hazard and the basketball hoops are outdated. The Lester Park Elementary School

is over capacity, guaranteeing there are significant amounts of young kids in the Portman Park area. These kids could benefit from a great park, that is safe to play at. (1)

- Updating what is currently available (1)
- Upgrading parks and locations that have been ignored because attention has been given to "higher priority" parks (2)
- Upkeep and signage (1)
- Use fees to support very specific uses like skiing, horse riding, mtn bike riding, etc. Preserve parkland like the scenic golf course space at Lester (don't sell parks to fund city services!). Maintain parks to support the expanding general use. (1)
- Use what trails you have (2)
- Utilizing corporate sponsors/ community groups/ civic groups to create and maintain smaller neighborhood parks within the city in neighborhoods. (1)
- vision (1)
- walkability to city parks/playgrounds. Safe playgrounds to maintain young families (1)
- We are an outdoor city. Fund parks at a high level. They serve all of us! (1)
- we have a sufficient number of parks, no additions unless more funding becomes available. And most important, maintain what exists. (1)
- We MUST maintain our current parks and trails BEFORE building/acquiring new. What is the long-range plan for keeping our parks and trails in the best condition for the longest period of time possible. We need to make a long-term investment in our properties. (1)
- We need a large scale community Rec center with pool, water slide, splash pad, indoor gyms, domed turf field for winter use. (1)
- We need accessible parks. This means keeping them low cost and open for people to use outside of work time. Also, our community doesn't get the chance to mingle with other community members from other neighborhoods, class, background, etc. Having events that cater to non-sports interests are appreciated as they bring people together and spark partnerships and collaboration. Examples of this include Brewfests, concerts, cultural fairs, political protests/engagement activities, community gardening, and so on. (1)
- We need less focus on attracting tourists and more attention on meeting the needs of the community. (1)
- We need more protected bike infrastructure to facilitate connections to parks and businesses throughout the city. (4)
- We need neighborhood parks. Focus on Duluth residents rather than tourism (1)
- We need to maintain our current parks, ensure accessibility, create nice parks and park services in low income neighborhoods. (1)
- We need to make certain that the environment that draws people to live and vacation here is prioritized while it is being made accessible. (1)
- We need to revitalize our hockey rinks and preserve our identity as a hockey town. Outdoor refrigerated rinks have become common in the Minneapolis area, and would help extend the season (4)
- We really need skating rinks again (2)
- We should value and preserve our parks and natural areas and commit to preserving and enhancing what we have. Duluth is virtually a city within a park-- we should take pride in being the Wild City of the North! A dedicated source of funding would only help. Also--Duluth's open space is an essential part of our infrastructure, providing for stormwater management, water quality, and quality of life. (2)
- welcoming to bi-poc community (1)
- West duuth, we get nothing (1)

- What you are doing here....truly listen to the town's citizens ... but seek out the people who are not currently using parks to find out why not. This survey should not just be filled out by people who are already heavy users and have a vested interest. Parks need to be for every type of user and reflect a balanced approach to hearing from and inviting new users who are not part of organized special-interest groups, don't have easy access to nearby parks, or don't have special skills that get them out to parks. (1)
- Woodland Courts (2)
- Work on what we have along with slow growth more community outreach and volunteer work (1)
- Working in the outdoor arena I am constantly coming into contact with people moving to our area specifically for the trails and outdoor access we have. This does not include developed arenas, tennis courts, hockey rinks etc., thus, improving access and maintaining green space is the utmost priority. (1)
- Working with COGGS to expand the trail networks in Duluth. We have a geography that is the envy of MN and people will come from all over to ride and bring in tourists. (1)
- Would like to see more horse only trails (1)
- Would love off-leash dog trails, maintain existing trails. (1)
- XC skiers have their own dedicated trails, Hikers have their own dedicated trails, equestrian riders have their own dedicated trails, but the mtn bikers DO NOT have their own dedicated trails and this has led to far too many user complaints. PLEASE CREATE SOME MTN BIKE SPECIFIC TRAILS! (1)
- Youth and adolescent programs that can teach great life skills. (1)

Appendix C: Selected Survey Responses by Sample Type (Address-Sample versus Open Participation)

Understanding the Tables

For ease of comparison between subgroups, the questions show summarized responses for only the proportion of respondents giving a positive answer; for example, the percent of respondents who “strongly or somewhat agreed” or gave a rating of “very or somewhat positive” or “more favorable”. Those who chose “Don’t know” or “Not applicable” are not included in the percentages – it is the percent of respondents “with an opinion.”

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of responses to the random address survey by responses to the Open Participation survey. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, in *Table 49: Question 1 by Sample Type***Error! Reference source not found.**, the Address-Sample respondents are marked “A” and Open Participation respondents are marked “B”.

- “Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing” is statistically significantly higher for the Open Participation (B) respondents than the Address-Sample (A) sample respondents and so a capital letter A is shown in column B to indicate that B is statistically larger than A.
- “Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.” is statistically significantly higher for the Address-Sample (A) sample respondents compared to the Open Participation (B) respondents and therefore a capital letter B is shown in column A to indicate that A is statistically larger than B.

Table 49: Question 1 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	(A)	(B)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	81%	85%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	80%	79%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	28%	41%
		A
Biking on trails	32%	37%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	40%	34%
	B	
Playing at playgrounds	28%	23%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	28%	18%
	B	
Using off-leash dog areas	16%	18%
Organized activities and special events	18%	14%
Swimming	14%	13%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	9%	12%
Ice skating	9%	9%
Water, paddle sports	9%	9%
Playing team sports	6%	9%
Camping	6%	8%
Engaging in cultural practices	4%	6%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	5%	5%
Rock climbing	3%	5%
Sledding, snow tubing	6%	4%
	B	
Snowmobiling	2%	1%
Riding horses on trails	0%	1%
We don't use Duluth's park system	2%	1%
	B	

Table 50: Question 2 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	(A)	(B)
At least once a week	57%	77% A
At least once a month	28% B	19%
Less than once a month	14% B	4%

Table 51: Question 3 by Sample Type

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Address-Sample	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Playgrounds	31%	37%
Splash/spray water pad	75%	71%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	23%	21%
Multi-use athletic fields	30%	33%
Artificial turf fields	40% B	28%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	45%	42%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	49%	47%
Mountain bike skills parks	27%	33% A
Skateboard parks	47%	53%
Dog parks	53%	58%
Off-leash dog trails	58%	64%
Water and paddling public access points	54%	51%
Disc-golf courses	36%	31%
Larger, improved trailheads	42%	41%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	30%	36%
Designated fishing areas	54%	48%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	70%	71%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	47%	51%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Address-Sample	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Paved walking trails	35% B	29%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	25%	24%
Unpaved trails for biking	17%	15%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	27%	25%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	41%	46%
Hockey rinks	24%	22%
Ice skating rinks	46%	50%
Community gardens	52%	55%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	33%	34%
Environmental education facilities	51%	56%
Cultural/historic facilities	46%	55% A
Community centers	43%	49%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	42%	47%
Other	63%	46%

Table 52: Question 4 by Sample Type

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Address-Sample	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	35% B	25%
No change needed, nothing prevents my our usage	27%	23%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	18%	21%
Parking: Lack of parking	18%	20%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	11%	21% A
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	18%	19%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	19%	18%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	20%	17%

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Address-Sample	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	13%	17%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	12%	11%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	9%	11%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	8%	10%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	6%	8%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	8%	6%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	5%	4%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	5%	4%

Table 53: Question 5 by Sample Type

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Address-Sample	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	49%	50%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	48%	54%
Adult recreation and sports programs	51%	52%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	60%	63%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	64%	75% A
Programs for people with low household income	59%	75% A
Environmental education and nature exploration	51%	59%
Community center programs	50%	63% A
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	58%	64%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	35%	39%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	62%	63%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	65%	71%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	65%	56%
Other	61%	32%

Table 54: Question 6 by Sample Type

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Address-Sample	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Space to maintain and improve health	80%	90% A
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	57%	62%
Space for sports and leagues	46%	48%
Space for recreating and skill development	62%	68% A
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	89%	96% A
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	61%	68% A
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	66%	72% A
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	74%	76%
Space to gather and host community events	61%	61%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	88%	91%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	63%	66%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	71%	71%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	48% B	40%

Table 55: Question 7 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	42%	35%
B Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	58%	65%
	B	A

Table 56: Question 8 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	62%	60%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	38%	40%

Table 57: Question 9 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	46%	44%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	54%	56%

Table 58: Question 10 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	31%	27%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	69%	73%

Table 59: Question 11 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	(A)	(B)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	55%	58%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	20% B	14%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	11%	10%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	6%	10% A
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	6%	5%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%

Table 60: Question 12 by Sample Type

	Address-Sample	Open Participation
Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	(A)	(B)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	82%	79%
Property tax levy increase from current level	51%	63% A
Sales tax increase	39%	52% A
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	97%	96%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	41%	40%

Appendix D1: Selected Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics (AddressSample)

Understanding the Tables

The tables in this appendix contain the crosstabulations of the survey questions by various respondent demographic characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. (For example, see Table 22 on the next page where < \$50,00, \$50,000-\$99,999 and \$100,000 + are marked with A, B and C, Female and Male also marked with A and B, 18-34 years old, 35-54 years old, and 55+ years old are marked with A, B and C.)

For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, on the next page, residents who are age Female (Column A) were statistically significantly more likely to rate Picnics, BBQs and gatherings in their top 5 (35%) compared to Males. This is denoted with a “B” in the cell for Males. However, in the cells for those age 18-34, 35-54 and 55+ no other letters are shown, so these ratings were not different from each other. In addition, there was no letter “B” in the cell for those age 55+, so differences between those age 35-54 and those age 55+ were not statistically significant.

Select Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Table 61: Question 1 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	81%	83%	82%	82%	81%	77%	79%	93% A B	82%	75%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	89% B C	75%	76%	79%	83%	85%	76%	76%	80%	72%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	41%	32%	43%	41%	40%	52% B C	35%	22%	39%	45%
Biking on trails	35%	36%	27%	24%	40% A	26%	29%	46% A	32%	24%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	32%	24%	26%	36% B	21%	31%	30%	16%	28%	31%
Playing at playgrounds	31%	39% C	19%	31%	25%	29%	29%	30%	29%	23%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	20%	31%	37% A	25%	30%	13%	30% A	51% A B	28%	25%
Organized activities and special events	21%	14%	13%	20%	14%	24% C	14%	10%	18%	17%
Using off-leash dog areas	19%	15%	16%	20%	14%	16%	16%	21%	16%	21%
Swimming	25% C	13%	7%	14%	12%	18%	14%	10%	14%	13%
Water, paddle sports	13%	7%	8%	9%	10%	5%	13%	15% A	9%	15%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	9%	11%	10%	7%	11%	11%	9%	7%	8%	23% A
Ice skating	9%	11%	8%	10%	7%	10%	9%	8%	10%	3%
Playing team sports	6%	10%	5%	4%	10% A	6%	6%	8%	6%	10%
Sledding, snow tubing	6%	10%	4%	7%	3%	5%	9%	2%	6%	6%
Camping	8%	5%	4%	4%	7%	10%	3%	0%	6%	0%

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
						B				
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	10%	2%	3%	4%	7%	10% B	3%	0%	4%	12%
Engaging in cultural practices	4%	1%	3%	4%	2%	5%	3%	0%	2%	15% A
Rock climbing	5%	3%	1%	1%	5% A	4%	0%	4%	3%	0%
Snowmobiling	3%	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	5%	2%	3%
We don't use Duluth's park system	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	0%
Riding horses on trails	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 62: Question 2 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
At least once a week	70% C	61%	46%	56%	57%	58%	57%	60%	56%	69%
At least once a month	26%	25%	33%	28%	30%	30%	25%	29%	29%	23%
Less than once a month	4%	14% A	20% A	16%	13%	12%	18%	10%	15%	8%

Table 63: Question 3 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Playgrounds	28%	37%	27%	38% B	23%	29%	34%	30%	30%	38%
Splash/spray water pad	76%	86% C	61%	82% B	65%	76%	73%	83%	76%	66%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	24%	26%	20%	30%	20%	25%	24%	24%	22%	39%
Multi-use athletic fields	31%	28%	29%	31%	29%	32%	30%	31%	29%	39%
Artificial turf fields	44%	39%	30%	45%	37%	40%	46%	33%	41%	36%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	45%	44%	45%	54% B	38%	45%	45%	46%	44%	53%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	54%	45%	46%	60% B	42%	55%	45%	47%	49%	52%
Mountain bike skills parks	29%	40% C	13%	22%	30%	26%	21%	35%	27%	27%
Skateboard parks	52%	44%	41%	55% B	39%	67% B C	36%	26%	46%	53%
Dog parks	58%	46%	54%	58%	47%	60%	50%	47%	53%	59%
Off-leash dog trails	59%	59%	52%	63%	52%	60%	53%	61%	59%	47%
Water and paddling public access points	64% C	52%	44%	57%	54%	59%	51%	54%	54%	53%
Disc-golf courses	36%	27%	48% B	44%	31%	42%	35%	30%	37%	26%
Larger, improved trailheads	36%	52%	40%	45%	41%	32%	46%	54% A	43%	32%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	17%	44% A	29%	25%	33%	30%	27%	35%	31%	21%
Designated fishing areas	44%	65%	51%	45%	60%	50%	57%	56%	53%	63%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	66%	74%	69%	78% B	59%	67%	77%	65%	71%	62%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	32%	48%	58% A	52%	41%	45%	52%	38%	48%	40%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Paved walking trails	33%	25%	40%	40%	31%	41%	33%	28%	36%	26%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	21%	26%	28%	17%	32% A	24%	24%	30%	25%	25%
Unpaved trails for biking	13%	21%	17%	10%	20% A	20%	12%	18%	16%	22%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	27%	35%	18%	30%	25%	35% C	36% C	7%	31% B	4%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	38%	55% C	26%	39%	41%	46%	32%	50%	42%	31%
Hockey rinks	17%	29%	25%	25%	24%	23%	25%	22%	23%	29%
Ice skating rinks	39%	47%	47%	54% B	37%	43%	48%	42%	44%	60%
Community gardens	59%	51%	47%	55%	49%	59%	50%	47%	52%	56%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	26%	31%	39%	37%	27%	37%	34%	23%	32%	44%
Environmental education facilities	56%	48%	47%	62% B	42%	61% C	48%	38%	52%	46%
Cultural/historic facilities	44%	49%	42%	51%	40%	56% B	36%	42%	44%	60%
Community centers	45%	39%	49%	53% B	32%	43%	47%	39%	44%	37%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	23%	54% A	48% A	48% B	33%	35%	49%	33%	42%	37%
Other	83%	46%	68%	64%	66%	65%	80%	40%	65%	46%

Table 64: Question 4 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	47% B	27%	34%	42% B	31%	36%	36%	36%	35%	36%
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	28%	22%	32%	21%	35% A	27%	25%	28%	28%	17%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	34% B C	18%	10%	20%	19%	23%	18%	18%	20%	20%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	10%	29% A	18%	23% B	13%	17%	21%	23%	18%	29%
Parking: Lack of parking	11%	23%	20%	20%	16%	15%	21%	19%	19%	14%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	14%	22%	18%	16%	19%	10%	23% A	25% A	19%	8%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	15%	14%	20%	17%	19%	14%	21%	14%	18%	15%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	14%	13%	12%	16% B	9%	16%	9%	14%	12%	24%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	12%	15%	9%	13%	10%	11%	17% C	4%	12%	10%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	10%	15%	8%	14%	8%	10%	13%	9%	11%	17%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	4%	10%	10%	12% B	5%	11%	10%	2%	7%	21% A
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	9%	7%	9%	9%	6%	9%	6%	10%	8%	15%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	13% C	9%	2%	8%	6%	13% B	6%	0%	7%	16%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	6%	5%	8%	8%	3%	8%	5%	4%	6%	0%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	16% A
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	6%	6%	4%	6%	5%	8%	3%	5%	6%	0%

Table 65: Question 5 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	54%	54%	37%	52%	42%	38%	60%	51%	51%	32%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	36%	56%	48%	49%	48%	39%	53%	56%	49%	41%
Adult recreation and sports programs	52%	49%	51%	57%	44%	44%	59%	50%	50%	52%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	54%	51%	67%	69% B	49%	58%	63%	59%	61%	55%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	61%	69%	60%	71%	54%	61%	66%	64%	62%	71%
Programs for people with low household income	55%	64%	65%	60%	59%	67%	53%	57%	60%	48%
Environmental education and nature exploration	54%	54%	51%	56%	49%	56%	47%	54%	53%	40%
Community center programs	46%	50%	55%	62% B	36%	53%	53%	40%	52%	37%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	57%	64%	55%	64%	52%	67% C	59%	42%	58%	65%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	37%	41%	28%	40%	31%	41%	37%	32%	34%	48%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	61%	63%	62%	63%	61%	62%	64%	59%	62%	61%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	63%	75%	62%	68%	62%	65%	72%	60%	65%	68%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	83% B C	58%	54%	69%	63%	71%	66%	60%	67% B	42%
Other	.	100%	35%	100%	26%	38%	80%	.	55%	100%

Table 66: Question 6 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Space to maintain and improve health	85%	83%	79%	81%	79%	78%	81%	84%	79%	92%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	59%	61%	53%	61%	55%	65%	54%	58%	57%	61%
Space for sports and leagues	42%	45%	52%	43%	50%	42%	46%	57%	45%	47%
Space for recreating and skill development	65%	62%	62%	57%	69% A	58%	67%	67%	63%	56%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	88%	95%	90%	91%	87%	89%	86%	93%	89%	86%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	69%	61%	54%	68% B	56%	67%	61%	54%	61%	65%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	71%	64%	61%	73% B	60%	72%	64%	59%	64%	82% A
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	79%	70%	75%	82% B	65%	79%	74%	67%	73%	83%
Space to gather and host community events	66%	57%	60%	68% B	56%	66%	57%	64%	60%	74%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	88%	90%	89%	89%	88%	91%	84%	91%	89%	78%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	64%	60%	66%	69% B	58%	72% B	58%	61%	63%	63%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	67%	77%	72%	71%	72%	65%	75%	81% A	72%	59%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	38%	54% A	51%	44%	53%	41%	53%	52%	48%	48%

Table 67: Question 7 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	34%	42%	50% A	40%	44%	34%	47%	51%	42%	43%
B Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	66% C	58%	50%	60%	56%	66%	53%	49%	58%	57%

Table 68: Question 8 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	53%	60%	71% A	65%	59%	63%	54%	67%	61%	73%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	47% C	40%	29%	35%	41%	37%	46%	33%	39%	27%

Table 69: Question 9 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	60% C	43%	38%	42%	50%	48%	45%	46%	46%	51%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	40%	57%	62% A	58%	50%	52%	55%	54%	54%	49%

Table 70: Question 10 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	30%	32%	31%	33%	30%	29%	36%	32%	31%	29%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	70%	68%	69%	67%	70%	71%	64%	68%	69%	71%

Table 71: Question 11 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	60%	57%	54%	61%	51%	57%	57%	53%	56%	46%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	19%	14%	23%	16%	24%	19%	18%	20%	20%	17%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	11%	13%	8%	8%	14%	10%	10%	13%	10%	21% A
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	5%	5%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	2%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	4%	8%	5%	7%	4%	7%	7%	4%	6%	9%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 72: Question 12 by Respondent Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	84%	84%	77%	88% B	76%	76%	87%	85%	82%	88%
Property tax levy increase from current level	57%	55%	46%	52%	52%	49%	47%	61%	52%	34%
Sales tax increase	44%	36%	42%	34%	43%	38%	37%	43%	39%	38%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	96%	96%	98%	96%	97%	95%	97%	99%	97%	95%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	34%	40%	49%	39%	43%	31%	47% A	55% A	41%	47%

Select Survey Results by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Table 73: Question 1 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	75%	83%	80%	81%	82%	78%	79%	80%	81%	79%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	73%	83% A	65%	83% A	82%	76%	77%	81%	77%	81%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	28%	45% A	39%	41%	38%	46%	46%	35%	33%	44% A
Biking on trails	31%	30%	40%	29%	37% B	22%	26%	35%	30%	32%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	26%	30%	34%	29%	29%	28%	30%	27%	30%	27%
Playing at playgrounds	70% B	15%	24%	28%	33% B	19%	21%	31%	35% B	22%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	22%	28%	35%	25%	26%	26%	33%	25%	27%	26%
Organized activities and special events	12%	20%	16%	19%	17%	20%	15%	22%	13%	22% A
Using off-leash dog areas	12%	19%	15%	19%	18%	12%	15%	22%	34% B	6%
Swimming	22% B	11%	21%	13%	20% B	3%	7%	19% A	14%	14%
Water, paddle sports	10%	8%	6%	10%	11%	6%	8%	11%	11%	8%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	12%	8%	15%	9%	11%	5%	9%	10%	11%	8%
Ice skating	14% B	6%	12%	8%	10%	6%	7%	10%	6%	9%
Playing team sports	7%	6%	14%	6%	9%	4%	6%	7%	8%	6%
Sledding, snow tubing	17% B	2%	19% B	5%	7%	3%	6%	6%	7%	6%
Camping	1%	7%	2%	6%	6%	4%	3%	8%	4%	7%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	3%	7%	4%	6%	6%	2%	3%	8% A	5%	5%
Engaging in cultural practices	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%	2%
Rock climbing	1%	4%	2%	3%	4%	1%	0%	5%	1%	4%

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
								A		
Snowmobiling	7% B	0%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%
We don't use Duluth's park system	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	0%	2%	1%
Riding horses on trails	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

Table 74: Question 2 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
At least once a week	68% B	54%	60%	57%	65% B	41%	48%	66% A	59%	57%
At least once a month	25%	30%	35%	27%	26%	33%	34% B	23%	32%	26%
Less than once a month	7%	16% A	5%	15%	9%	26% A	18% B	10%	9%	17% A

Table 75: Question 3 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Playgrounds	37%	28%	42%	29%	31%	31%	34%	27%	35%	28%
Splash/spray water pad	89% B	68%	89%	71%	79% B	61%	64%	77%	80%	67%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	27%	21%	33%	23%	26%	27%	20%	25%	25%	20%
Multi-use athletic fields	34%	26%	34%	27%	32%	28%	28%	28%	32%	24%
Artificial turf fields	40%	39%	45%	37%	39%	38%	31%	40%	52% B	28%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	50%	40%	71% B	37%	43%	50%	46%	41%	49%	39%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	55%	47%	52%	46%	48%	51%	48%	47%	53%	45%
Mountain bike skills parks	23%	27%	38%	22%	34% B	6%	17%	30% A	30%	23%
Skateboard parks	40%	50%	59%	48%	48%	48%	45%	49%	39%	54% A
Dog parks	39%	60% A	53%	56%	53%	54%	56%	56%	56%	50%
Off-leash dog trails	56%	57%	64%	56%	57%	55%	56%	57%	72% B	40%
Water and paddling public access points	62%	51%	41%	52%	55%	49%	46%	55%	45%	62% A
Disc-golf courses	27%	38%	36%	34%	33%	50%	46% B	28%	34%	33%
Larger, improved trailheads	36%	46%	49%	41%	44%	44%	42%	40%	42%	43%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	25%	33%	45%	29%	30%	32%	31%	31%	29%	34%
Designated fishing areas	56%	51%	66%	53%	53%	60%	58%	52%	44%	64% A
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	75%	68%	72%	69%	69%	71%	69%	67%	72%	66%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	43%	48%	55%	47%	40%	62% A	60% B	37%	48%	46%
Paved walking trails	29%	35%	25%	35%	28%	47%	44%	26%	32%	36%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
						A	B			
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	19%	28%	20%	26%	24%	32%	27%	22%	23%	26%
Unpaved trails for biking	12%	16%	24%	14%	17%	18%	19%	11%	12%	18%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	25%	30%	43%	29%	31%	24%	20%	33%	36%	19%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	48%	39%	61%	39%	45%	37%	34%	43%	37%	44%
Hockey rinks	23%	25%	30%	23%	25%	25%	24%	24%	24%	23%
Ice skating rinks	42%	49%	55%	46%	45%	50%	48%	44%	45%	47%
Community gardens	47%	57%	45%	55%	56%	50%	50%	56%	53%	51%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	16%	38%	39%	33%	28%	44%	40%	28%	37%	32%
		A				A	B			
Environmental education facilities	48%	54%	54%	54%	51%	51%	51%	54%	50%	52%
Cultural/historic facilities	38%	48%	65%	45%	45%	47%	44%	50%	47%	46%
Community centers	47%	44%	38%	47%	44%	52%	45%	44%	47%	42%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	39%	43%	52%	40%	39%	51%	47%	36%	37%	45%
Other	60%	63%	59%	66%	53%	74%	64%	66%	48%	71%

Table 76: Question 4 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	35%	37%	34%	36%	38%	31%	32%	38%	39%	34%
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	23%	27%	16%	28%	27%	27%	26%	28%	21%	29%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	26%	21%	21%	23%	25%	15%	10%	30% A	22%	22%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	18%	19%	27%	18%	18%	23%	20%	17%	19%	18%
Parking: Lack of parking	20%	19%	14%	20%	16%	24%	22%	15%	21%	17%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	23%	17%	32% B	16%	19%	15%	18%	17%	22%	17%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	11%	21% A	12%	19%	15%	25%	25% B	12%	15%	21%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	7%	16% A	14%	14%	14%	12%	12%	16%	28% B	4%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	17%	10%	12%	12%	15%	9%	9%	13%	16%	10%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	9%	14%	20%	12%	13%	11%	10%	13%	11%	12%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	5%	10%	13%	9%	7%	13%	13% B	6%	13% B	6%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	14%	6%	6%	8%	6%	10%	7%	8%	7%	10%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	12%	8%	3%	10%	10%	4%	5%	11% A	9%	7%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	10%	4%	5%	6%	6%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	5%	6%	7%	6%	5%	8%	6%	6%	7%	4%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%	4%	5%	5%	8%	3%

Table 77: Question 5 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	62% B	38%	63%	48%	54% B	34%	44%	58%	56%	43%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	51%	47%	79% B	42%	50%	46%	48%	50%	52%	42%
Adult recreation and sports programs	45%	57%	62%	54%	50%	58%	53%	55%	60% B	41%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	39%	68% A	66%	62%	53%	71% A	69%	54%	70% B	53%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	45%	73% A	82%	70%	63%	72%	66%	72%	68%	63%
Programs for people with low household income	51%	64%	79%	59%	61%	60%	61%	61%	66%	51%
Environmental education and nature exploration	60%	50%	48%	52%	53%	47%	48%	55%	53%	48%
Community center programs	59%	47%	62%	48%	47%	59%	57%	45%	48%	47%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	59%	60%	84% B	55%	59%	58%	59%	59%	52%	64%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	35%	37%	51%	35%	39%	32%	33%	41%	44% B	28%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	63%	63%	74%	62%	62%	61%	63%	65%	65%	62%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	74%	63%	86% B	63%	68%	62%	63%	66%	65%	66%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	66%	69%	78%	66%	69%	60%	57%	73% A	68%	65%
Other	51%	82%	100%	78%	59%	65%	63%	100%	72%	74%

Table 78: Question 6 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Space to maintain and improve health	80%	80%	83%	80%	82%	74%	78%	84%	82%	79%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	66%	56%	66%	55%	57%	57%	55%	58%	58%	56%
Space for sports and leagues	48%	44%	60%	44%	44%	50%	51%	43%	48%	43%
Space for recreating and skill development	72% B	58%	71%	61%	64%	61%	61%	64%	64%	60%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	86%	88%	96%	87%	91% B	81%	87%	89%	89%	87%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	57%	66%	68%	63%	63%	60%	57%	66%	64%	61%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	58%	70%	73%	66%	68%	66%	64%	68%	65%	66%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	81%	74%	91% B	72%	75%	75%	75%	73%	73%	75%
Space to gather and host community events	65%	59%	67%	58%	62%	59%	59%	58%	58%	61%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	82%	91% A	92%	88%	89%	85%	88%	89%	90%	86%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	54%	67% A	66%	62%	63%	65%	69%	59%	60%	64%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	58%	75% A	76%	71%	72%	70%	74%	70%	74%	69%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	43%	49%	53%	46%	45%	51%	51%	45%	49%	48%

Table 79: Question 7 by Household Composition (Address- Sample)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	49%	38%	48%	40%	38%	47%	48% B	37%	45%	41%
Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	51%	62%	52%	60%	62%	53%	52%	63% A	55%	59%

Table 80: Question 8 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	59%	59%	61%	61%	57%	66%	69% B	56%	58%	63%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	41%	41%	39%	39%	43%	34%	31%	44% A	42%	37%

Table 81: Question 9 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	46%	45%	41%	45%	51% B	31%	37%	51% A	51%	41%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	54%	55%	59%	55%	49%	69% A	63% B	49%	49%	59%

Table 82: Question 10 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	39% B	27%	32%	29%	30%	32%	31%	31%	30%	28%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	61%	73% A	68%	71%	70%	68%	69%	69%	70%	72%

Table 83: Question 11 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	55%	57%	55%	58%	58%	59%	50%	57%	51%	57%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	15%	19%	19%	17%	19%	15%	22%	17%	21%	16%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	13%	11%	1%	12% A	10%	9%	10%	12%	13%	10%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	5%	7%	10%	6%	5%	7%	7%	7%	5%	7%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	10% B	4%	9%	6%	6%	7%	8%	5%	8%	6%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	1%	3%	6%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 84: Question 12 by Household Composition (Address-Sample)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	89%	81%	79%	82%	83%	79%	80%	81%	86%	79%
Property tax levy increase from current level	55%	49%	51%	50%	55% B	41%	44%	56%	47%	55%
Sales tax increase	33%	41%	43%	39%	43%	33%	38%	43%	35%	42%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	97%	97%	99%	96%	96%	98%	97%	95%	98%	95%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	43%	39%	41%	38%	37%	42%	46% B	33%	48% B	35%

Select Survey Results by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Table 85: Question 1 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent (A)	Own (B)	Yes (A)	No (B)	4 years or less (A)	5 to 9 years (B)	10 or more years (C)
What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)							
Walking, hiking, running on trails	79%	82%	74%	83%	79%	92%	80%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	85% B	76%	83%	78%	85%	90%	75%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	52% B	32%	43%	39%	42%	36%	40%
Biking on trails	27%	35%	22%	34% A	26%	42%	33%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	32%	26%	37% B	25%	29%	23%	29%
Playing at playgrounds	22%	32% A	22%	30%	17%	36% A	31% A
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	12%	38% A	16%	31% A	27%	15%	32%
Organized activities and special events	23% B	14%	31% B	14%	18%	20%	17%
Using off-leash dog areas	21%	14%	14%	17%	17%	19%	15%
Swimming	18%	12%	11%	15%	22%	13%	12%
Water, paddle sports	5%	12% A	2%	11% A	14%	6%	9%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	10%	9%	14%	8%	9%	12%	9%
Ice skating	7%	10%	8%	9%	13%	5%	8%
Playing team sports	5%	7%	8%	6%	8%	7%	6%
Sledding, snow tubing	4%	7%	1%	7%	4%	6%	7%
Camping	11% B	2%	10%	4%	13% C	0%	4%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	9% B	2%	9%	4%	8%	4%	4%

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Engaging in cultural practices	7% B	1%	7% B	2%	4%	3%	3%
Rock climbing	4%	1%	4%	2%	1%	11% A C	1%
Snowmobiling	0%	3%	0%	3%	1%	2%	3%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Riding horses on trails	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 86: Question 2 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
At least once a week	62%	55%	65%	55%	68%	56%	54%
At least once a month	28%	29%	19%	31% A	25%	34%	29%
Less than once a month	10%	16%	16%	14%	7%	10%	17%

Table 87: Question 3 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Playgrounds	34%	29%	37%	29%	25%	37%	31%
Splash/spray water pad	74%	75%	82%	73%	66%	72%	78%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	27%	22%	38% B	20%	22%	16%	24%
Multi-use athletic fields	33%	28%	41%	27%	31%	15%	32%
Artificial turf fields	46%	37%	51%	37%	36%	51%	39%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	43%	46%	50%	44%	33%	36%	52%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	54%	47%	64% B	46%	52%	47%	49%
Mountain bike skills parks	29%	26%	33%	25%	22%	39%	25%
Skateboard parks	65% B	33%	69% B	40%	53%	36%	47%
Dog parks	65% B	46%	67% B	51%	68% B	34%	53%
Off-leash dog trails	71% B	51%	69%	55%	59%	53%	57%
Water and paddling public access points	61%	50%	75% B	49%	69% C	49%	50%
Disc-golf courses	40%	33%	45%	33%	31%	29%	40%
Larger, improved trailheads	35%	46%	46%	42%	37%	31%	46%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	27%	32%	43% B	28%	32%	11%	33% B
Designated fishing areas	52%	56%	61%	52%	43%	43%	60%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	68%	70%	71%	70%	61%	71%	72%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	46%	48%	39%	49%	36%	37%	53%
Paved walking trails	37%	33%	30%	36%	22%	32%	41% A

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	27%	23%	35% B	22%	23%	24%	25%
Unpaved trails for biking	16%	17%	20%	16%	14%	14%	19%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	28%	27%	40%	26%	21%	25%	31%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	47%	38%	57% B	36%	54% B	17%	44% B
Hockey rinks	24%	24%	38% B	21%	32%	16%	23%
Ice skating rinks	48%	45%	61% B	43%	63% B C	36%	43%
Community gardens	62% B	47%	67% B	49%	66%	49%	48%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	45% B	26%	45% B	30%	34%	24%	33%
Environmental education facilities	68% B	39%	69% B	46%	54%	38%	53%
Cultural/historic facilities	54% B	40%	60% B	42%	40%	47%	47%
Community centers	51%	40%	58% B	40%	49% B	23%	47% B
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	37%	43%	59% B	37%	45% B	21%	45% B
Other	67%	61%	68%	61%	30%	50%	69%

Table 88: Question 4 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	39%	34%	44%	33%	47% B	24%	33%
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	23%	30%	18%	29% A	28%	31%	25%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	25% B	16%	26%	18%	32% C	16%	16%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	17%	20%	25%	17%	18%	17%	19%
Parking: Lack of parking	14%	21%	6%	22% A	13%	17%	21%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	15%	20%	20%	18%	14%	12%	21%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	15%	20%	16%	18%	19%	17%	17%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	14%	13%	20%	12%	12%	11%	15%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	12%	12%	12%	12%	7%	14%	14%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	15%	9%	18% B	9%	15%	13%	10%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	13% B	6%	14% B	7%	5%	7%	10%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	9%	7%	10%	8%	9%	7%	8%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	14% B	4%	20% B	4%	12%	4%	7%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	7%	5%	10%	5%	4%	5%	7%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	7%	4%	10%	4%	5%	1%	7%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	6%	4%	9%	4%	3%	2%	7%

Table 89: Question 5 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	43%	51%	63%	46%	47%	38%	51%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	35%	54% A	53%	47%	10%	28%	59% A B
Adult recreation and sports programs	54%	48%	67% B	47%	44%	50%	52%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	68%	56%	73%	58%	61%	30%	65% B
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	73%	57%	76%	59%	43%	46%	71%
Programs for people with low household income	68%	53%	62%	58%	40%	64%	62%
Environmental education and nature exploration	64% B	43%	73% B	46%	52%	45%	53%
Community center programs	55%	48%	73% B	45%	34%	32%	58%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	70% B	52%	83% B	51%	45%	68%	60%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	43%	32%	46%	33%	36%	27%	36%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	67%	58%	71%	59%	65%	57%	61%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	68%	64%	81% B	61%	69%	55%	66%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	77% B	57%	77% B	60%	79%	67%	58%
Other	51%	66%	0%	78%	.	100%	53%

Table 90: Question 6 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Space to maintain and improve health	82%	79%	83%	80%	91% C	86%	75%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	67% B	51%	67%	55%	61%	66%	54%
Space for sports and leagues	43%	47%	44%	46%	39%	52%	46%
Space for recreating and skill development	60%	64%	52%	65% A	58%	71%	62%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	92%	87%	89%	89%	90%	96%	86%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	71% B	55%	66%	60%	71% C	70%	54%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	79% B	57%	72%	64%	71%	75%	62%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	81% B	70%	84% B	71%	78%	71%	74%
Space to gather and host community events	64%	59%	67%	59%	50%	77% A	62%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	93% B	85%	86%	89%	92%	83%	88%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	73% B	57%	72%	61%	69%	57%	63%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	72%	71%	66%	73%	68%	85%	69%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	47%	49%	43%	49%	39%	58%	49%

Table 91: Question 7 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	28%	51% A	28%	46% A	41%	40%	43%
Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	72% B	49%	72% B	54%	59%	60%	57%

Table 92: Question 8 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	54%	66% A	52%	65% A	54%	61%	65%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	46% B	34%	48% B	35%	46%	39%	35%

Table 93: Question 9 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	50%	44%	35%	49% A	51%	54%	43%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	50%	56%	65% B	51%	49%	46%	57%

Table 94: Question 10 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	30%	32%	30%	31%	24%	26%	36%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	70%	68%	70%	69%	76%	74%	64%

Table 95: Question 11 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	58%	54%	55%	55%	58%	62%	53%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	16%	21%	14%	21%	17%	20%	20%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	12%	10%	10%	10%	7%	13%	12%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	7%	6%	10%	6%	10%	3%	5%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	5%	7%	6%	6%	6%	0%	8%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 96: Question 12 by Housing Characteristics (Address-Sample)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	77%	85%	80%	83%	79%	93%	80%
Property tax levy increase from current level	62% B	45%	55%	49%	61%	51%	47%
Sales tax increase	51% B	33%	42%	38%	49%	36%	36%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	96%	97%	91%	98% A	96%	100%	96%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	30%	47% A	38%	42%	36%	47%	42%

Select Survey Results by Area (Address-Sample)

There are 10 zip codes within the City of Duluth which were tracked in the survey. As response for any one area was too low for a robust statistical comparison, zip codes were grouped into 4 areas for examination of differences. For the most part, residents in all four areas responded similarly across most of the questions.

Overall, the most frequent uses of the park included: enjoying nature and wildlife, relaxing and meditating, biking on trails, and picnics and BBQs. Zip codes “55807 and 55808” used the parks for playing at the playgrounds more often than other areas, while zip codes “55802, 55805, 55806 and 55812” used the parks for outdoor event gathering, swimming, and camping more than other zip codes.

About half of residents in three of the areas visited the parks at least once a week, compared to 67% of those in area “55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802.”. Most residents in all zip codes thought there were too few restrooms with indoor plumbing and splash/spray water pad areas. Residents in zip codes “55802, 55805, 55806 and 55812” were more likely to say there were too few single-use and multi-use athletic fields, skateboard parks, water and paddling public access, ice skating rinks, community gardens, environmental education facilities and cultural/historic facilities points than those in other zip codes.

When residents were asked whether the city should focus on traditional sports that serve a larger number of people or focus on smaller, more diverse activity opportunities, those in zip codes “55802, 55805, 55806 and 55812” were much more likely than those in the other areas favor a focus on more diverse activity opportunities (77% versus 50%). Those in other zip codes were evenly split between the two choices.

Lastly, when asked about funding for improvements, a strong majority of residents in all zip codes supported the idea of corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities but support was slightly higher in “55810 and 55811”.

Table 97: Question 1 by Areas (Address-Sample)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	77%	88%	80%	76%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	85%	77%	75%	80%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	44%	33%	42%	45%
Biking on trails	31%	33%	28%	33%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	35%	25%	21%	30%
Playing at playgrounds	18%	30%	27%	49% A
Snowshoeing or cross country skiing	22%	37%	28%	18%
Organized activities and special events	23% B	9%	25% B	15%
Using off-leash dog areas	20%	13%	13%	24%
Swimming	20% C	19% C	2%	6%
Water, paddle sports	7%	11%	4%	18%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	10%	9%	7%	12%
Ice skating	10%	9%	9%	7%
Playing team sports	6%	4%	14%	4%
Sledding, snow tubing	3%	9%	7%	2%
Camping	12% B	2%	2%	5%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	9%	5%	0%	4%
Engaging in cultural practices	5%	2%	3%	6%
Rock climbing	5%	2%	1%	0%
Snowmobiling	0%	4%	3%	1%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%	1%	5%	0%
Riding horses on trails	0%	1%	0%	0%

Table 98: Question 2 by Areas (Address-Sample)

	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural Areas?	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
At least once a week	67%	51%	53%	56%
At least once a month	22%	36%	26%	29%
Less than once a month	11%	13%	22%	14%

Table 99: Question 3 by Areas (Address-Sample)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Playgrounds	35%	27%	35%	29%
Splash/spray water pad	78%	77%	71%	66%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	37% B	11%	27%	21%
Multi-use athletic fields	44% B C	20%	14%	40%
Artificial turf fields	49%	34%	39%	41%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	47%	43%	51%	40%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	54%	41%	52%	56%
Mountain bike skills parks	35%	30%	14%	16%
Skateboard parks	59% B D	36%	51%	28%
Dog parks	59%	46%	60%	51%
Off-leash dog trails	68%	52%	45%	65%
Water and paddling public access points	68% B	48%	51%	42%
Disc-golf courses	45%	33%	29%	26%
Larger, improved trailheads	41%	48%	35%	39%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	32%	36%	24%	19%
Designated fishing areas	52%	48%	71%	57%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	71%	71%	74%	59%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	40%	50%	61%	44%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Paved walking trails	35%	32%	45%	28%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	32%	22%	23%	15%
Unpaved trails for biking	22%	15%	12%	13%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	25%	21%	17%	57% B
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	51%	42%	28%	24%
Hockey rinks	24%	17%	28%	36%
Ice skating rinks	52% B	31%	55% B	57%
Community gardens	66% B	38%	46%	55%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	37%	26%	28%	44%
Environmental education facilities	66% B	33%	54%	60%
Cultural/historic facilities	59% C	40%	31%	48%
Community centers	44%	36%	53%	47%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	45%	42%	45%	30%
Other	67%	59%	43%	100%

Table 100: Question 4 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	34%	34%	30%	52%
No change needed, nothing prevents my our usage	25%	30%	29%	23%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	24%	18%	10%	26%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	20%	18%	20%	16%
Parking: Lack of parking	15%	23%	24%	8%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	16%	21%	18%	16%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	17%	18%	17%	22%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	18%	12%	7%	13%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	13%	9%	11%	18%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	14%	13%	3%	11%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	11%	4%	14%	7%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	9%	8%	12%	1%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	12%	3%	7%	7%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	6%	4%	10%	4%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	5%	5%	4%	11%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	7%	5%	0%	6%

Table 101: Question 5 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	53%	47%	57%	34%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	59%	46%	45%	37%
Adult recreation and sports programs	57%	46%	55%	42%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	62%	52%	68%	69%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	72%	51%	68%	68%
Programs for people with low household income	75% C	57%	36%	53%
Environmental education and nature exploration	59%	47%	53%	44%
Community center programs	57%	45%	49%	50%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	79% B	45%	56%	52%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	37%	24%	45%	48%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	62%	58%	58%	74%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	73%	59%	60%	72%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	73%	55%	72%	61%
Other	21%	.	83%	.

Table 102: Question 6 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Space to maintain and improve health	83%	80%	77%	80%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	67%	52%	54%	52%
Space for sports and leagues	43%	40%	53%	57%
Space for recreating and skill development	57%	65%	62%	70%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	94% D	89%	85%	80%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	69%	53%	63%	62%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	79% B D	53%	72%	57%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	79%	71%	79%	66%
Space to gather and host community events	67%	57%	59%	62%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	92%	87%	85%	88%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	73%	59%	61%	52%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	69%	75%	71%	66%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	44%	49%	56%	43%

Table 103: Question 7 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	23%	50% A	52% A	55% A
B Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	77% B C D	50%	48%	45%

Table 104: Question 8 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	58%	64%	70%	54%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	42%	36%	30%	46%

Table 105: Question 9 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	41%	48%	51%	47%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	59%	52%	49%	53%

Table 106: Question 10 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	35%	26%	33%	33%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	65%	74%	67%	67%

Table 107: Question 11 by Areas (Address-Sample)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	60%	49%	50%	65%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	15%	27%	16%	19%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	11%	11%	12%	7%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	5%	8%	9%	4%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	5%	5%	13%	5%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	4%	2%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 108: Question 12 by Areas (Address-Sample)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	77%	80%	94% A	85%
Property tax levy increase from current level	58%	49%	47%	40%
Sales tax increase	49%	33%	43%	27%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	94%	98%	100%	95%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	32%	45%	52%	40%

Appendix D2: Selected Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Select Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Table 109: Question 1 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	85%	87%	83%	89% B	81%	78%	87% A	90% A	87% B	63%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	85% B C	75%	77%	80%	77%	83% C	80% C	73%	79%	77%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	35%	42%	47% A	40%	43%	28%	41% A	55% A B	43% B	18%
Biking on trails	35%	43% A C	34%	30%	44% A	27%	35% A	50% A B	38% B	21%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	38% B	24%	41% B	36% B	31%	46% B C	34% C	25%	33%	50% A
Playing at playgrounds	22% C	37% A C	14%	26% B	21%	15%	24% A	31% A B	23%	29%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	18%	18%	18%	23% B	13%	20% C	19% C	13%	17%	24%
Using off-leash dog areas	20%	18%	16%	23% B	12%	20%	18%	16%	18%	12%
Organized activities and special events	13%	14%	14%	17% B	10%	14%	16% C	10%	14%	15%
Swimming	13%	19% A C	8%	18% B	7%	15%	13%	13%	13%	17%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	13%	12%	11%	6%	17% A	15% B	9%	13%	12%	12%
Ice skating	10%	12% C	7%	9%	10%	8%	10%	10%	10% B	2%
Playing team sports	8%	14%	6%	9%	9%	4%	10%	12%	9%	13%

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
		A C					A	A		
Water, paddle sports	7%	8%	13% A	9%	9%	5%	12% A	9%	10%	6%
Camping	14% B C	3%	5%	7%	9%	15% B C	6%	5%	8%	7%
Engaging in cultural practices	8% B	3%	5%	3%	9% A	13% B C	3%	2%	3%	30% A
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	9% B C	4% C	1%	4%	6%	8% B C	4%	2%	5%	5%
Rock climbing	10% B C	2%	1%	2%	8% A	5%	4%	6%	5%	2%
Sledding, snow tubing	3%	5%	3%	5% B	2%	4%	2%	5% B	4%	2%
Snowmobiling	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Riding horses on trails	1%	1%	2%	2% B	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2% B	0%	0%	1%	1%

Table 110: Question 2 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
At least once a week	80% C	80%	74%	75%	78%	74%	77%	81% A	77%	70%
At least once a month	15%	18%	21% A	21%	17%	18%	20%	17%	19%	20%
Less than once a month	5% B	2%	5% B	4%	5%	8% B C	3%	2%	4%	9% A

Table 111: Question 3 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Playgrounds	33%	35%	43% A B	41% B	31%	36%	36%	37%	37%	34%
Splash/spray water pad	63%	77% A	77% A	84% B	57%	63%	74% A	76% A	74% B	51%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	19%	27% A C	15%	20%	22%	18%	21%	22%	20%	28%
Multi-use athletic fields	32%	39% C	26%	35%	30%	30%	30%	38%	32%	41%
Artificial turf fields	23%	38% A C	25%	33% B	25%	15%	30% A	42% A B	29%	20%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	36%	46% A	43%	50% B	36%	35%	43%	43%	42%	37%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	44%	52%	44%	55% B	40%	36%	52% A	48% A	48% B	36%
Mountain bike skills parks	41% C	40% C	17%	31%	34%	35%	28%	42% B	33%	36%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Skateboard parks	57%	51%	52%	60% B	48%	61% B C	51%	47%	54%	44%
Dog parks	62%	56%	55%	66% B	50%	57%	61%	55%	58%	54%
Off-leash dog trails	65%	65%	62%	75% B	54%	64%	63%	64%	65% B	47%
Water and paddling public access points	48%	53%	55%	58% B	44%	50%	51%	54%	52%	42%
Disc-golf courses	32%	35%	27%	29%	33%	25%	35% A	33%	32%	23%
Larger, improved trailheads	45% B	37%	40%	40%	43%	38%	42%	42%	42% B	31%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	36%	30%	40% B	34%	35%	42% B C	34%	30%	36%	32%
Designated fishing areas	42%	49%	55% A	49%	48%	51%	44%	50%	50% B	31%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	70%	70%	75%	77% B	65%	65%	76% A	70%	73% B	59%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	43%	49%	64% A B	56% B	46%	49%	54%	49%	52% B	41%
Paved walking trails	31%	27%	29%	34% B	24%	29%	31%	26%	29%	25%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	24%	21%	25%	22%	24%	27%	23%	20%	24%	21%
Unpaved trails for biking	19% C	19% C	8%	12%	17% A	17%	13%	19%	15%	16%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	28%	26%	19%	30%	22%	30%	23%	21%	25%	26%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	57% C	47% C	31%	51% B	42%	48%	45%	47%	46%	47%
Hockey rinks	23%	20%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	21%	21%	29%
Ice skating rinks	39%	50% A	65% A B	57% B	43%	41%	55% A	52% A	51%	42%
Community gardens	60%	52%	57%	59%	51%	64%	53%	50%	56%	48%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
				B		B C				
Picnic and small group gathering areas	33%	30%	39% B	39% B	29%	36% C	36% C	27%	34%	32%
Environmental education facilities	65% B C	53%	49%	63% B	51%	63% C	59% C	44%	57%	47%
Cultural/historic facilities	62% C	58% C	45%	64% B	46%	59% C	57%	48%	56%	49%
Community centers	44%	54% A	51%	55% B	41%	47%	50%	49%	49%	48%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	42%	48%	50%	49% B	42%	40%	51% A	47%	47%	38%
Other	33%	53% A	57% A	57% B	40%	25%	60% A	47% A	50% B	27%

Table 112: Question 4 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	28%	24%	25%	31% B	19%	29%	26%	22%	25%	33% A
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	22%	22%	27%	20%	28% A	23%	22%	28%	24%	20%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	18%	25% A	23%	20%	23%	18%	22%	24%	22% B	10%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	19%	21%	23%	18%	23%	22%	22%	16%	21%	20%
Parking: Lack of parking	23% B	16%	18%	21%	18%	17%	23% A C	16%	19%	22%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	18%	18%	22%	21% B	16%	19%	20%	17%	18%	23%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	21% C	18%	14%	19% B	15%	23% B C	16%	14%	18%	19%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	19%	18%	16%	22% B	12%	18%	18%	14%	17%	19%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	17%	20%	15%	18%	16%	15%	19%	17%	17%	17%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	12%	8%	13% B	13% B	8%	18% B C	9%	7%	10%	21% A
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	11%	13% C	7%	11%	11%	8%	14% A C	8%	11%	13%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	15% B C	8%	6%	9%	9%	19% B C	7%	5%	9%	17% A
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	7%	9%	7%	10% B	5%	8%	8%	6%	8%	11%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	6%	6%	4%	5%	5%	11% B C	3%	3%	5%	9%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%	3%	4%	9% A
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	6% B C	2%	3%	4%	4%	8% B C	2%	2%	3%	7%

Table 113: Question 5 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	33%	57% A	62% A	54%	46%	38%	52%	57% A	53% B	24%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	44%	61%	59%	66% B	44%	50%	54%	59%	58% B	30%
Adult recreation and sports programs	54%	49%	52%	57% B	47%	55%	52%	50%	54% B	32%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	41%	53%	80% A B	72% B	56%	50%	75% A C	55%	68% B	30%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	70%	77%	81%	90% B	65%	65%	86% A	75%	81% B	36%
Programs for people with low household income	72%	75%	79%	84% B	67%	72%	82%	68%	82% B	25%
Environmental education and nature exploration	59%	64%	55%	66% B	54%	57%	66% C	49%	62% B	29%
Community center programs	52%	74% A	66%	76% B	50%	55%	69%	68%	68% B	27%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	58%	70%	65%	78% B	53%	60%	68%	65%	67% B	37%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	38%	50% C	29%	48% B	31%	30%	41%	43%	39%	32%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	54%	64%	73% A	71% B	56%	55%	71% A	60%	66% B	32%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	62%	76% A	78% A	81% B	61%	60%	77% A	72%	76% B	29%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	53%	55%	58%	69% B	45%	51%	59%	57%	58% B	36%
Other	30%	42%	19%	30%	33%	22%	48%	17%	37%	22%

Table 114: Question 6 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Space to maintain and improve health	90%	91%	88%	91%	89%	88%	90%	91%	91% B	81%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	69% B C	61% C	54%	66% B	59%	70% B C	61%	56%	62%	68%
Space for sports and leagues	50%	50%	44%	44%	54% A	46%	48%	53%	47%	60% A
Space for recreating and skill development	72% C	71% C	59%	64%	73% A	67%	69%	67%	68%	63%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	96%	96%	97%	98% B	95%	97%	97%	95%	97% B	89%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	71%	64%	68%	73% B	63%	77% B C	65%	64%	67%	75%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	76%	71%	69%	79% B	66%	79% B C	71%	68%	72%	69%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	80%	75%	74%	81% B	72%	80% C	76%	73%	77%	74%
Space to gather and host community events	62%	62%	60%	69% B	55%	62%	65%	57%	61%	70% A
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	92%	90%	91%	94% B	88%	92%	92%	91%	91%	88%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	71% B	62%	65%	69% B	64%	72% C	69% C	58%	67%	64%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	68%	70%	75%	68%	76% A	59%	75% A	77% A	71%	72%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	34%	41% A	45% A	34%	49% A	36%	39%	46% A	40%	41%

Table 115: Question 7 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	35%	37%	34%	36%	34%	30%	34%	40% A	34%	48% A
Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	65%	63%	66%	64%	66%	70% C	66%	60%	66% B	52%

Table 116: Question 8 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	52%	62% A	64% A	61%	58%	58%	59%	62%	59%	66%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	48% B C	38%	36%	39%	42%	42%	41%	38%	41%	34%

Table 117: Question 9 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	48% C	44%	37%	39%	50% A	38%	44%	49% A	44%	40%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	52%	56%	63% A	61% B	50%	62% C	56%	51%	56%	60%

Table 118: Question 10 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	31% C	28%	22%	30% B	25%	30%	28%	24%	27%	34%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	69%	72%	78% A	70%	75% A	70%	72%	76%	73%	66%

Table 119: Question 11 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	61% C	59%	52%	58%	56%	56%	59%	59%	58%	53%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	11%	15%	16%	13%	16%	10%	14%	19% A	14%	14%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	10%	11%	10%	9%	11%	11%	11%	9%	10%	9%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	12%	8%	9%	11%	10%	13% C	9%	7%	9%	18% A
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	3%	5%	8% A	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	6%	2%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	2%	1%	5% B	2%	3%	5% B C	2%	1%	3%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 120: Question 12 by Respondent Characteristics (Open Participation)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	Age			Gender identity		Annual household income			Race/ Ethnicity	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	< \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+	White alone	Hispanic/ other race
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	81%	79%	77%	80%	80%	77%	79%	82%	79%	80%
Property tax levy increase from current level	66%	66%	60%	65%	63%	60%	66%	66%	64%	60%
Sales tax increase	51%	57%	50%	52%	53%	49%	53%	57%	52%	55%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	96%	96%	98%	97%	96%	95%	97%	96%	97% B	90%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	33%	45% A	43% A	35%	45% A	27%	41% A	48% A	39%	44%

Select Survey Results by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Table 121: Question 1 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	80%	87% A	84%	86%	87% B	81%	83%	85%	87% B	83%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	76%	81% A	76%	81%	79%	78%	76%	82% A	78%	80%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	35%	44% A	36%	42%	40%	41%	44%	40%	42%	40%
Biking on trails	37%	36%	48% B	35%	40% B	27%	33%	38% A	37%	37%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	21%	41% A	26%	37% A	31%	44% A	39% B	33%	29%	39% A
Playing at playgrounds	66% B	6%	20%	23%	26% B	16%	14%	27% A	24%	23%
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	18%	19%	21%	18%	18%	20%	18%	19%	13%	23% A
Using off-leash dog areas	9%	22% A	16%	19%	19%	17%	16%	18%	36% B	1%
Organized activities and special events	12%	15%	13%	15%	13%	17%	15%	14%	10%	18% A
Swimming	18% B	11%	25% B	11%	15% B	9%	9%	14% A	15% B	11%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	12%	12%	11%	11%	12%	12%	11%	12%	12%	11%
Ice skating	12% B	8%	12%	9%	11% B	5%	7%	11% A	10%	9%
Playing team sports	17% B	6%	16% B	8%	10%	7%	7%	10%	10%	9%
Water, paddle sports	6%	10% A	8%	9%	8%	13% A	12% B	7%	10%	8%
Camping	5%	9% A	10%	8%	8%	7%	6%	9% A	6%	11% A
Engaging in cultural practices	8%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%	7%	3%	8%

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
	B									A
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	5%	5%	6%	5%	6% B	3%	2%	6% A	5%	5%
Rock climbing	2%	6% A	4%	5%	6% B	2%	1%	7% A	4%	5%
Sledding, snow tubing	8% B	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Snowmobiling	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2% B	1%
Riding horses on trails	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2% B	1%	2% B	0%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%

Table 122: Question 2 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
At least once a week	81% B	75%	73%	77%	79% B	70%	72%	80% A	81% B	75%
At least once a month	16%	20%	22%	19%	17%	24% A	22% B	17%	17%	20%
Less than once a month	2%	5%	4%	4%	3%	6% A	6% B	3%	2%	5% A

Table 123: Question 3 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Playgrounds	38%	37%	38%	37%	34%	43% A	43% B	34%	35%	39%
Splash/spray water pad	79% B	66%	76%	69%	70%	74%	75%	68%	74%	69%
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	25% B	17%	29% B	17%	22% B	14%	19%	20%	21%	19%
Multi-use athletic fields	38% B	30%	44% B	29%	32%	34%	29%	33%	35%	31%
Artificial turf fields	39% B	23%	44% B	25%	30% B	20%	27%	27%	31%	26%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	45%	39%	53% B	39%	41%	39%	44%	39%	39%	44%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	46%	45%	54% B	44%	47%	41%	46%	45%	46%	44%
Mountain bike skills parks	40% B	31%	41% B	32%	40% B	17%	19%	40% A	36%	31%
Skateboard parks	46%	55% A	62% B	51%	55%	46%	50%	54%	52%	54%
Dog parks	50%	61% A	56%	60%	59%	57%	57%	60%	67% B	49%
Off-leash dog trails	56%	65% A	62%	62%	64%	59%	63%	61%	78% B	45%
Water and paddling public access points	47%	51%	52%	50%	51%	49%	54% B	47%	54%	48%
Disc-golf courses	29%	32%	31%	31%	33%	27%	27%	33%	30%	32%
Larger, improved trailheads	37%	43% A	40%	42%	42%	41%	40%	42%	41%	42%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	26%	39% A	32%	35%	33%	41% A	41% B	32%	35%	36%
Designated fishing areas	44%	49%	46%	49%	46%	53%	54%	47%	49%	48%
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	68%	72%	73%	70%	70%	75%	74% B	69%	69%	72%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	44%	53% A	51%	51%	47%	61% A	61% B	45%	51%	50%
Paved walking trails	30%	28%	28%	29%	30%	27%	30%	28%	29%	30%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	20%	25%	25%	23%	23%	25%	26%	22%	23%	25%
Unpaved trails for biking	16%	17%	14%	17%	18% B	10%	10%	18% A	18%	14%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	23%	26%	29%	24%	26%	23%	22%	26%	26%	22%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	52% B	43%	48%	46%	52% B	31%	32%	51% A	44%	48%
Hockey rinks	27% B	18%	22%	21%	22%	23%	23%	19%	21%	23%
Ice skating rinks	50%	49%	59% B	47%	46%	62% A	64% B	41%	52%	48%
Community gardens	49%	58% A	48%	57% A	56%	54%	56%	55%	53%	58%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	30%	36% A	36%	34%	32%	40% A	40% B	31%	36%	32%
Environmental education facilities	57%	56%	54%	57%	58%	52%	51%	61% A	58%	56%
Cultural/historic facilities	57%	55%	54%	56%	60% B	45%	47%	60% A	57%	53%
Community centers	51%	48%	55%	47%	50%	47%	51%	49%	51%	48%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	37%	50% A	44%	47%	46%	46%	49%	44%	45%	48%
Other	34%	55% A	65% B	44%	42%	54%	59% B	37%	56% B	38%

Table 124: Question 4 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	26%	27%	24%	27%	26%	25%	25%	27%	24%	29% A
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	23%	24%	23%	24%	23%	30% A	25%	22%	23%	23%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	18%	23% A	19%	21%	21%	20%	23%	20%	20%	23%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	21%	20%	20%	20%	20%	24%	23%	19%	18%	24% A
Parking: Lack of parking	19%	20%	21%	20%	20%	19%	20%	21%	18%	21%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	15%	22% A	17%	20%	18%	22%	21%	19%	17%	22% A
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	16%	18%	16%	17%	18%	17%	14%	19% A	18%	17%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	12%	19% A	15%	17%	18%	14%	16%	16%	32% B	4%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	20% B	15%	19%	16%	17%	15%	16%	18%	20% B	14%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	9%	10%	12%	10%	11%	10%	13%	11%	10%	12%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	15% B	9%	14%	10%	11%	9%	9%	11%	11%	10%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	9%	10%	8%	10%	11% B	6%	7%	12% A	9%	11%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	9%	7%	10%	7%	8%	5%	8%	7%	8%	7%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	7%	4%	9% B	5%	6%	3%	5%	6%	4%	7% A
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	6%	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	5%	4%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	5%

Table 125: Question 5 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	51%	46%	52%	48%	45%	57%	58%	48%	50%	48%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	47%	58%	63%	50%	53%	53%	58%	54%	58%	51%
Adult recreation and sports programs	41%	56% A	52%	50%	51%	52%	54%	50%	54%	49%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	27%	74% A	52%	63%	50%	81% A	80% B	44%	65%	61%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	62%	82% A	78%	73%	77%	71%	80%	72%	77%	74%
Programs for people with low household income	55%	84% A	78%	72%	76% B	63%	78%	71%	78%	68%
Environmental education and nature exploration	55%	63%	60%	60%	61%	54%	54%	63%	63%	57%
Community center programs	60%	67%	83% B	63%	64%	67%	66%	62%	64%	64%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	61%	64%	60%	63%	64%	61%	67%	64%	63%	64%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	43%	37%	49%	38%	42% B	27%	31%	44% A	39%	38%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	55%	64%	66%	61%	59%	69%	70%	60%	64%	61%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	61%	72% A	71%	69%	70%	70%	76%	67%	76% B	63%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	49%	64% A	53%	61%	56%	66%	59%	54%	56%	57%
Other	27%	38%	27%	32%	40% B	6%	29%	24%	47% B	21%

Table 126: Question 6 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Space to maintain and improve health	87%	91% A	90%	90%	91%	89%	87%	91% A	89%	90%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	67%	63%	59%	64%	65% B	57%	54%	67% A	62%	63%
Space for sports and leagues	54% B	45%	55% B	47%	49%	50%	43%	51% A	48%	49%
Space for recreating and skill development	73% B	66%	73%	67%	70%	66%	58%	72% A	66%	70%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	93%	98% A	94%	97%	96%	97%	96%	96%	96%	97%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	62%	71% A	63%	69%	68%	70%	68%	68%	70%	65%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	70%	74%	78% B	71%	74% B	65%	68%	75% A	74%	71%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	73%	78%	74%	78%	77%	76%	75%	78%	76%	78%
Space to gather and host community events	61%	63%	62%	63%	61%	66%	60%	64%	61%	64%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	89%	93% A	90%	92%	92%	90%	91%	92%	91%	92%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	62%	69% A	61%	68% A	67%	67%	66%	68%	63%	70% A
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	69%	73%	72%	73%	69%	81% A	74%	70%	70%	74%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	38%	43%	40%	41%	37%	52% A	44% B	38%	38%	43%

Table 127: Question 7 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	43% B	32%	32%	35%	34%	40%	35%	35%	36%	34%
Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	57%	68% A	68%	65%	66%	60%	65%	65%	64%	66%

Table 128: Question 8 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	61%	58%	62%	59%	57%	67% A	64% B	57%	55%	62% A
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	39%	42%	38%	41%	43% B	33%	36%	43% A	45% B	38%

Table 129: Question 9 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	46%	44%	46%	45%	47%	41%	37%	47% A	42%	46%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	54%	56%	54%	55%	53%	59%	63% B	53%	58%	54%

Table 130: Question 10 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	30%	26%	30%	27%	28%	26%	24%	29% A	26%	29%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	70%	74%	70%	73%	72%	74%	76% B	71%	74%	71%

Table 131: Question 11 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	57%	60%	55%	59%	61% B	53%	51%	62% A	57%	59%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	15%	13%	16%	14%	13%	20% A	16%	12%	16%	14%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	10%	10%	13%	9%	10%	9%	11%	11%	10%	10%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	10%	9%	5%	10%	9%	8%	9%	10%	9%	10%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	6%	5%	8% B	5%	5%	5%	8% B	4%	6%	5%
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	5% A	5% B	2%	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 132: Question 12 by Household Composition (Open Participation)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	Children (ages 12 and under)		Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)		Adults (ages 20 to 54)		Adults (ages 55 or older)		Dogs	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	84% B	78%	80%	79%	80%	82%	77%	80%	79%	80%
Property tax levy increase from current level	61%	65%	63%	64%	65%	62%	60%	67% A	62%	65%
Sales tax increase	52%	52%	57%	51%	55% B	43%	51%	52%	54%	50%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	95%	96%	96%	96%	96%	95%	97%	96%	97%	95%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	45% B	37%	36%	40%	39%	40%	41%	38%	40%	39%

Select Survey Results by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Table 133: Question 1 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent (A)	Own (B)	Yes (A)	No (B)	4 years or less (A)	5 to 9 years (B)	10 or more years (C)
What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)							
Walking, hiking, running on trails	82%	86% A	89% B	84%	83%	86%	85%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	83% B	77%	79%	79%	85% C	85% C	76%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	29%	49% A	30%	43% A	43%	43%	40%
Biking on trails	29%	41% A	26%	39% A	38%	44% C	35%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	45% B	28%	40% B	33%	46% B C	28%	32%
Playing at playgrounds	14%	30% A	13%	26% A	13%	28% A	27% A
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	21% B	16%	18%	18%	12%	18%	19% A
Using off-leash dog areas	17%	18%	22% B	17%	20%	23% C	16%
Organized activities and special events	18% B	12%	14%	14%	11%	16%	14%
Swimming	12%	13%	13%	13%	9%	14%	15% A
Fishing, hunting, foraging	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Ice skating	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%	12%	9%
Playing team sports	6%	11% A	7%	10%	6%	9%	11% A
Water, paddle sports	8%	10%	7%	10%	7%	7%	10%
Camping	14% B	4%	17% B	6%	14% C	8%	6%
Engaging in cultural practices	11%	3%	9%	5%	9%	4%	5%

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
	B		B		C		
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	7% B	3%	9% B	4%	6%	3%	5%
Rock climbing	7% B	4%	6%	4%	10% B C	4%	3%
Sledding, snow tubing	2%	5% A	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Snowmobiling	0%	2% A	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%
Riding horses on trails	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%

Table 134: Question 2 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
At least once a week	74%	79% A	79%	76%	77%	82%	77%
At least once a month	21%	17%	17%	19%	17%	16%	20%
Less than once a month	5% B	3%	4%	4%	6% C	2%	3%

Table 135: Question 3 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Playgrounds	38%	36%	38%	36%	29%	38%	39% A
Splash/spray water pad	62%	77% A	66%	72%	61%	70%	75% A
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	18%	23%	23%	21%	18%	18%	23%
Multi-use athletic fields	27%	36% A	30%	33%	29%	31%	34%
Artificial turf fields	14%	37% A	20%	30% A	11%	31% A	34% A
Single-use outdoor sport courts	36%	45% A	38%	42%	35%	40%	43%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	43%	49%	52%	45%	39%	40%	50%
Mountain bike skills parks	34%	32%	28%	34%	39% C	45% C	28%
Skateboard parks	60% B	48%	64% B	51%	47%	58%	54%
Dog parks	59%	57%	66% B	56%	60%	65%	56%
Off-leash dog trails	64%	64%	70% B	63%	58%	71% A	64%
Water and paddling public access points	50%	52%	50%	52%	55%	53%	49%
Disc-golf courses	30%	32%	43% B	29%	27%	35%	32%
Larger, improved trailheads	42%	40%	46%	40%	49% C	41%	38%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	39% B	33%	43% B	34%	37% B	25%	37% B
Designated fishing areas	47%	49%	56% B	47%	48%	41%	49%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	72%	71%	78% B	70%	65%	70%	74% A
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	49%	53%	56%	50%	45%	45%	55% A
Paved walking trails	27%	30%	29%	29%	28%	29%	29%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	21%	24%	25%	23%	27%	24%	22%
Unpaved trails for biking	16%	15%	10%	16% A	23% C	19% C	12%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	29% B	21%	34%	24%	26%	21%	24%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	48%	43%	54%	45%	55% C	51%	43%
Hockey rinks	21%	22%	24%	22%	19%	14%	24% B
Ice skating rinks	41%	56% A	49%	51%	38%	40%	57% A B
Community gardens	59% B	52%	74% B	51%	59%	58%	53%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	36%	34%	38%	33%	34%	35%	34%
Environmental education facilities	60%	54%	67% B	54%	61%	64% C	53%
Cultural/historic facilities	57%	53%	66% B	53%	57%	61%	54%
Community centers	47%	50%	48%	49%	47%	40%	52% B
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	45%	48%	42%	48%	47%	54% C	45%
Other	35%	55% A	47%	46%	30%	56%	52% A

Table 136: Question 4 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	29% B	23%	24%	26%	31% C	25%	24%
No change needed, nothing prevents my usage	23%	24%	23%	24%	24%	18%	24%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	19%	23%	19%	22%	19%	25%	22%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	22%	20%	23%	20%	19%	17%	23%
Parking: Lack of parking	22%	18%	19%	20%	18%	29% A C	18%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	20%	18%	16%	20%	23% C	18%	17%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	20%	17%	22% B	17%	15%	25% A C	17%
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	18%	16%	18%	17%	17%	19%	17%
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	17%	18%	17%	17%	14%	20%	18%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	17% B	8%	18% B	10%	14%	10%	10%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	11%	10%	13%	10%	9%	6%	13% B
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	16% B	6%	20% B	7%	13%	9%	9%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	8%	7%	7%	8%	6%	4%	9%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	7%	5%	11% B	4%	6%	4%	6%
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	4%	4%	8% B	4%	3%	5%	5%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	6% B	2%	8% B	3%	3%	3%	4%

Table 137: Question 5 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	37%	56% A	53%	49%	35%	30%	57% A B
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	48%	59%	70% B	52%	35%	44%	61% A
Adult recreation and sports programs	48%	54%	58%	51%	52%	46%	54%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	63%	65%	68%	63%	45%	45%	72% A B
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	76%	76%	79%	75%	54%	87% A	82% A
Programs for people with low household income	77%	74%	90% B	73%	61%	74%	81% A
Environmental education and nature exploration	57%	61%	63%	58%	50%	51%	63%
Community center programs	57%	66%	66%	62%	48%	67%	67% A
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	62%	66%	75%	62%	60%	69%	65%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	35%	41%	47%	37%	33%	38%	41%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	63%	64%	71%	62%	48%	54%	69% A
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	69%	72%	84% B	69%	53%	69%	76% A
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	54%	56%	60%	55%	51%	51%	57%
Other	28%	34%	59% B	26%	25%	22%	38%

Table 138: Question 6 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Space to maintain and improve health	90%	89%	91%	89%	92%	93%	88%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	68% B	59%	66%	61%	68% C	62%	60%
Space for sports and leagues	48%	49%	48%	48%	51%	42%	49%
Space for recreating and skill development	69%	67%	69%	67%	69%	68%	67%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	98% B	95%	98%	96%	96%	98%	96%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	73% B	64%	76% B	66%	71%	70%	67%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	75% B	70%	77%	71%	74%	78%	71%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	82% B	73%	83% B	75%	76%	79%	76%
Space to gather and host community events	64%	60%	69% B	60%	55%	61%	64% A
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	92%	90%	95% B	90%	92%	95%	90%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	73% B	62%	77% B	64%	70%	68%	65%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	67%	74% A	64%	73% A	70%	69%	72%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	36%	42% A	32%	42% A	38%	31%	42% B

Table 139: Question 7 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	30%	39% A	32%	36%	31%	34%	37%
Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	70% B	61%	68%	64%	69%	66%	63%

Table 140: Question 8 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	58%	61%	54%	61% A	56%	60%	61%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	42%	39%	46% B	39%	44%	40%	39%

Table 141: Question 9 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	45%	43%	48%	42%	49% C	45%	40%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	55%	57%	52%	58%	51%	55%	60% A

Table 142: Question 10 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	28%	27%	32%	26%	29%	27%	27%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	72%	73%	68%	74%	71%	73%	73%

Table 143: Question 11 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	60%	56%	63% B	56%	67% C	62% C	53%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	10%	16% A	6%	16% A	11%	16%	14%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	9%	11%	10%	10%	7%	10%	11%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	14% B	7%	12%	9%	10%	8%	10%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	2%	8% A	4%	6%	3%	4%	7% A
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	5% B	2%	5% B	2%	3%	0%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 144: Question 12 by Housing Characteristics (Open Participation)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	Tenure		Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play, relaxation where you live?		Years in Duluth		
	Rent	Own	Yes	No	4 years or less	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	77%	81%	76%	80%	76%	84%	79%
Property tax levy increase from current level	67% B	62%	67%	63%	71% C	62%	61%
Sales tax increase	50%	54%	47%	53%	53%	51%	52%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	96%	97%	99% B	96%	96%	98%	96%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	35%	43% A	29%	42% A	39%	33%	42% B

Select Survey Results by Area (Open Participation)

Table 145: Question 1 by Area (Open Participation)

What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (Select up to 5)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Walking, hiking, running on trails	88% D	87%	87%	79%
Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.	83%	77%	76%	79%
Snowshoeing or cross country skiing	41% D	53% A D	44% D	28%
Biking on trails	37%	40%	38%	33%
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.	41% B	26%	33%	30%
Playing at playgrounds	17%	30% A	22%	34% A C
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	19%	16%	17%	18%
Using off-leash dog areas	18%	18%	13%	27% C
Organized activities and special events	13%	13%	14%	13%
Swimming	15%	15%	10%	12%
Fishing, hunting, foraging	11%	12%	12%	14%
Ice skating	10%	11%	10%	9%
Playing team sports	7%	12% A	15% A D	6%
Water, paddle sports	11%	7%	7%	12%
Camping	11% B	3%	6%	8%
Engaging in cultural practices	6% B	2%	2%	1%
Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering	5%	2%	6% B	8% B
Rock climbing	5%	5%	6%	1%
Sledding, snow tubing	3%	5%	2%	4%
Snowmobiling	1%	2%	3%	1%
Riding horses on trails	1%	1%	2%	0%
We don't use Duluth's park system	1%	0%	0%	1%

Table 146: Question 2 by Area (Open Participation)

	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural Area2s?	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
At least once a week	82% C	79%	72%	74%
At least once a month	15%	19%	24% A	20%
Less than once a month	3%	3%	4%	6%

Table 147: Question 3 by Area (Open Participation)

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Playgrounds	34%	42%	35%	36%
Splash/spray water pad	63%	75% A	85% A	83% A
Dedicated single-use athletic fields	20%	23%	22%	23%
Multi-use athletic fields	29%	37%	34%	37%
Artificial turf fields	23%	41% A	32%	26%
Single-use outdoor sport courts	38%	47%	49%	36%
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	46%	56% D	56% D	34%
Mountain bike skills parks	32%	37% D	36%	22%
Skateboard parks	59%	52%	54%	46%
Dog parks	61%	62%	51%	55%
Off-leash dog trails	68%	65%	58%	68%
Water and paddling public access points	50%	56%	50%	43%
Disc-golf courses	33%	33%	25%	26%
Larger, improved trailheads	43%	38%	47%	39%
Smaller, more rustic trailheads	38%	32%	33%	34%
Designated fishing areas	44%	56%	42%	44%

For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs. (Percent too few)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
		A		
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	72%	70%	74%	72%
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	53%	50%	46%	59%
Paved walking trails	26%	26%	36%	38%
Unpaved trails for hiking, snowshoeing	23%	27%	20%	12%
	D	D		
Unpaved trails for biking	15%	15%	18%	8%
Unpaved trails for horse riding	23%	24%	17%	12%
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills	46%	48%	46%	39%
Hockey rinks	19%	21%	21%	28%
Ice skating rinks	53%	54%	46%	51%
Community gardens	57%	52%	52%	62%
Picnic and small group gathering areas	32%	35%	31%	40%
Environmental education facilities	61%	51%	53%	67%
	B			B
Cultural/historic facilities	60%	54%	50%	55%
Community centers	50%	50%	43%	54%
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	48%	48%	50%	37%
Other	38%	72%	40%	58%
		A C		

Table 148: Question 4 by Area (Open Participation)

Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	24%	23%	28%	29%
No change needed, nothing prevents my our usage	24%	25%	19%	22%
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	26% D	22%	21%	13%
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	21%	22%	21%	22%
Parking: Lack of parking	17%	21%	24%	23%
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	19%	17%	19%	15%
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	18%	12%	20% B	22% B
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	15%	18%	11%	24% C
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	16%	19%	16%	15%
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	12%	10%	8%	14%
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	9%	11%	13%	12%
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	13% B	6%	8%	7%
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	10%	5%	6%	9%
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	7% B	2%	5%	10% B
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	5%	3%	5%	5%
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	4%	1%	4%	3%

Table 149: Question 5 by Area (Open Participation)

Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs: (Percent too few)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	57%	51%	51%	38%
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	66%	54%	59%	37%
Adult recreation and sports programs	56%	57%	41%	54%
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	68%	68%	60%	64%
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	86%	78%	73%	80%
Programs for people with low household income	91% B D	75%	73%	68%
Environmental education and nature exploration	63%	50%	69%	74%
Community center programs	68%	69%	61%	73%
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	71%	59%	59%	80%
Traditional recreation and sports activities	36%	44%	32%	51%
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	68%	61%	65%	70%
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	77%	74%	70%	73%
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	60%	54%	65%	54%
Other	35%	14%	50%	74%

Table 150: Question 6 by Area (Open Participation)

Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you? (Percent essential or very important)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Space to maintain and improve health	93% D	91% D	90% D	80%
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	65%	61%	58%	67%
Space for sports and leagues	47%	49%	49%	50%
Space for recreating and skill development	68%	69%	71%	63%
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	98% D	97%	97%	94%
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	74% B	65%	64%	70%
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	80% B C	70%	68%	73%
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	83% B C	73%	71%	75%
Space to gather and host community events	67% B	53%	60%	64%
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	95% B D	89%	91%	87%
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	72% B D	64%	66%	60%
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	70%	74%	64%	74%
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	39%	42%	32%	41%

Table 151: Question 7 by Area (Open Participation)

	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
Parks & Recreation should. (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time	31%	37%	40%	39%
Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.	69%	63%	60%	61%

Table 152: Question 8 by Area (Open Participation)

	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.	59%	56%	60%	66%
B Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.	41%	44%	40%	34%

Table 153: Question 9 by Area (Open Participation)

	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.	41%	44%	48%	41%
B Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.	59%	56%	52%	59%

Table 154: Question 10 by Area (Open Participation)

Parks & Recreation should (Percent Strongly, Somewhat or Slightly Prefer)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
A Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs	25%	26%	31%	31%
B Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations	75%	74%	69%	69%

Table 155: Question 11 by Area (Open Participation)

As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance	58%	57%	64%	63%
Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use	12%	19% A D	12%	7%
Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality	11%	10%	7%	9%
Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people	9%	8%	11%	11%
Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails please specify	5%	4%	6%	10% B
Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown	4% C	2%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 156: Question 12 by Area (Open Participation)

Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches? (Percent strongly support or support)	55806, 55805, 55812 and 55802	55803 and 55804	55810 and 55811	55807 and 55808
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	75%	82%	78%	85% A
Property tax levy increase from current level	69% C D	64%	57%	56%
Sales tax increase	56%	53%	48%	44%
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	97%	97%	98%	93%
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	37%	42%	41%	38%

Appendix E: Survey Methodology

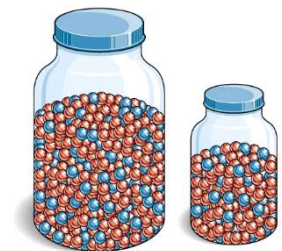
About the Survey

In 2021, the City of Duluth developed a Parks and Recreation survey to help guide future improvements to make sure the facilities, programs, and amenities offered meet community needs, and to make sure that improvements were economically sustainable. The City of Duluth, MN contracted with Polco's National Research Center (NRC) to conduct a survey of residents to learn about residents' the goals, wants and appropriate funding outlets the community. Questions about the survey can be directed to Jenna Bowman, City of Duluth Strategic Communications and Engagement Director, at jbowman@Duluthmn.gov.

Selecting Survey Recipients

Two efforts were made to recruit residents to participate in the survey. The first was a targeted random sample of resident households, to ensure results were representative of the entire population. One of the first steps taken to ensure survey results are representative of the target population is to use a source from which survey recipients are selected that provides adequate to good "coverage" of the target population. This source is referred to as the "sampling frame" in the survey research industry. For a survey of residents, a list of addresses based on the United States Postal Service delivery sequence file is the most comprehensive list of households.

Since it is cost prohibitive to survey every household in Duluth, a random selection of records from the sampling frame was made. An example that may be familiar from a math or statistics class is the jar or bowl of marbles of various colors. If the jar has two-thirds red marbles and one-third blue marbles, a random selection of marbles from that jar should result in a similar proportion of red and blue marbles as in the original jar.



The addresses were geocoded (mapped to a specific latitude and longitude) and compared to the boundaries of Duluth. Addresses identified as being outside of the city limits of were excluded. Additionally, the zip code within which each household was location was identified. A total of 3,200 households were selected to receive the survey. Multi-family housing units were oversampled to compensate for single-family housing unit residents' tendency to return surveys at a higher rate.

The second effort to recruit residents to the survey was an open participation survey, which the City publicized and to which any resident was invited.

Administering the Resident Survey

As mentioned above, the 3,200 households randomly selected to receive mailed invitation to participate in the survey. This survey was conducted purely online with no paper option. Residents received the first mailed postcard inviting the household to participate. The next week, a reminder postcard was sent. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the online survey. All follow-up mailings asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from completing the survey again. The first mailings were sent on October 12, 2021. The open participation survey was publicized at the same time. Data collection for the survey was ended on November 15, 2021. Responses from surveys completed on Polco were downloaded to be weighted and analyzed.

A total of 370 completed surveys were received from the random sample survey recipients, for an overall response rate of 11.5%. A total of 1,592 responses were received from the open participation survey recruitment.

When a survey is administered to a sample of randomly selected recipients of the larger population being studied (known as a "probability sample"), a margin of error can be calculated that estimates the precision of the survey results based on that sample. This margin of error quantifies what is known as the "sampling error." A margin of error at the 95% confidence level can be calculated for any sample size, and indicates that in 95 of 100 surveys conducted in a similar manner, a result would be found that is within the "margin of error." The practical difficulties of conducting any resident survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to sampling error. Despite the best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all households, some selected households will decline participation in the survey (referred to as non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error).

The margin of error for this survey, with 370 probability sample respondents, is ± 5 . In essence, this means that, 95% of the time, any statistic given in this report will be within 5% percentage points of what the entire adult population would have given had they all been surveyed.

Analyzing the Results

Weighting and Blending the Data

The results from the random sample and the open participation effort were independently adjusted through a process known as weighting to be as reflective of Duluth's overall adult (18+) population, as possible, using information available from the 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. Statistical weights were applied to adjust the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents (tenure [rent vs own], housing unit type [attached vs detached], ethnicity, race, sex, and age) to match the sociodemographic/geographic characteristics of the City. No adjustments were made for design effects.

The responses to the survey were then compared for the random sample recipients and the open participation survey respondents. As might be expected, those who responded to the open participation survey were more likely to report using Parks & Recreation offerings. The results of the weighting for the random sample and open participation survey are presented in the table on the next page. The results presented in the body of the report are based on the statistically valid responses only, but the open participation survey responses are included in the appendices to the report.

Statistical Analysis

The electronic dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions are presented in the body of the report. The complete sets of frequencies for each survey question are presented in *Appendix A1: Frequency of Responses to All Questions*. Comparisons of responses to questions by respondent characteristics and geographic location can be found in *Appendix D1: Selected Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics*. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of selected survey questions. A "p-value" of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent "real" differences among those populations. Where differences between subgroups are statistically significant, they have been marked.

Table 157: Duluth, MN Parks & Recreation Planning Survey Weighting Table 2021

Characteristic	Population Norm	Address-Sample		Open Participation	
		Unweighted Data	Weighted Data	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing					
Rent home	40%	25%	37%	17%	37%
Own home	60%	75%	63%	80%	63%
Race and Ethnicity					
White alone, not Hispanic	92%	92%	91%	91%	92%
Hispanic and/or other race	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%
Sex and Age					
Female	51%	37%	46%	33%	46%
Male	49%	57%	49%	62%	49%
18-34 years of age	40%	19%	36%	29%	37%
35-54 years of age	28%	32%	31%	47%	31%
55+ years of age	31%	49%	34%	25%	32%

Appendix F: Survey Materials



Ground Floor
411 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94

Dear Duluth Resident,

It won't take much of your time to make a big difference!

You have been selected at random to participate in this important survey about the future of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Duluth!

Go online and complete the **confidential survey** at:

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

You will need the following access code for the online survey: **XXYYZZ**

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. The City is also conducting a separate survey that is open to all residents.

For completing this survey, City of Duluth is offering you the opportunity to participate in a drawing for one of twenty gift cards with a \$20 value. To opt in, please fill out the pertinent information at the end of the survey.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call Katie Bennett at 218-730-4300 .

Thank you for helping plan the future of parks in Duluth!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Peterson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jessica Peterson, Manager
City of Duluth Parks and Recreation



Parks & Recreation

Ground Floor
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

218-730-4300

parks@duluthmn.gov

October, 2021

Dear City of Duluth Resident:

Please help us shape the future of Duluth Parks! You have been selected at random to participate in this important survey about the future of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Duluth!

Please complete the survey online as soon as possible at:

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

You will need the following access code for the online survey: XXYZZ

It will only take a few minutes and your participation in this survey is very important—especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed.

Your answers to this survey will help guide how parks, trails and open spaces in Duluth are preserved, developed and enjoyed over the next 10 years.

A few things to remember:

- Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.
- To hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. If a youth in your household would like to complete the survey, a parent should be present.
- Once you complete the survey, you will have the *option* to register on Polco to participate in future research efforts with the City.
- Whether you use these resources often or rarely your input is essential!

For completing this survey, City of Duluth is offering you the opportunity to participate in a drawing for one of twenty gift cards with a \$20 value. To opt in, please fill out the pertinent information at the end of the survey.

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. The City is also conducting a separate survey that is open to all residents.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call Katie Bennett at 218-730-4300.

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

Jessica Peterson, Manager
City of Duluth Parks and Recreation



Duluth Parks
& Recreation

www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Duluth Parks and Recreation Survey

1. What are the top 5 ways your household uses Duluth's park system, if you use it at all? (*Select up to 5*)

- ☐ We don't use Duluth's park system
- ☐ Enjoying nature, wildlife, etc.
- ☐ Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc.
- ☐ Engaging in cultural practices
- ☐ Playing at playgrounds
- ☐ Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings
- ☐ Playing team sports
- ☐ Organized activities and special events
- ☐ Walking, hiking, running on trails
- ☐ Biking on trails
- ☐ Riding horses on trails
- ☐ Rock climbing
- ☐ Roller skating, skateboarding or scootering
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Water/paddle sports
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Fishing, hunting, foraging
- ☐ Using off-leash dog areas
- ☐ Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing
- ☐ Ice skating
- ☐ Sledding/snow-tubing
- ☐ Snowmobiling
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2. How often do you visit Duluth parks or natural areas?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Several days a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Several times a month
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Every few months
- ☐ Rarely

3. For each of the types of facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.

	Far Too many	Too many	About right	Too few	Far Too few	Don't know
Playgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Splash/spray water pad.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dedicated single-use athletic fields.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Multi-use athletic fields.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Artificial turf fields	1	2	3	4	5	6
Single-use outdoor sport courts.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mountain bike skills parks	1	2	3	4	5	6
Skateboard parks.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dog parks	1	2	3	4	5	6
Off-leash dog trails	1	2	3	4	5	6
Water and paddling public access points	1	2	3	4	5	6
Disc-golf courses.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Larger, improved trailheads	1	2	3	4	5	6
Smaller, more rustic trailheads.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Designated fishing areas.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Indoor restroom facilities (with plumbing)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Portable restroom facilities (porta-potties)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Paved walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unpaved trails for hiking/snowshoeing	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unpaved trails for biking	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unpaved trails for horse riding.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Places to rock climb/develop climbing skills.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Hockey rinks	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ice skating rinks	1	2	3	4	5	6
Community gardens	1	2	3	4	5	6
Picnic and small group gathering areas.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Environmental education facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultural/historic facilities.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Community centers.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other	1	2	3	4	5	6

4. Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Duluth's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No change needed, nothing prevents my/our usage | <input type="checkbox"/> Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and wayfinding | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality: Lack of equipment/amenities of interest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality: Insufficient recreation programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access: Parks are not close-by/lack transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety: Security concerns / do not feel safe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety: Do not feel welcome/lack of belonging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access: Hours/timing are not convenient | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking: Lack of parking | |

5. Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too little, or the right amount of the following types of programs:

	Far Too many	Too many	About right	Too few	Far Too few	Don't know
Children (age 12 and under) recreation and sports programs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Teen (age 13 to 19) recreation and sports programs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adult recreation and sports programs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Older adult (age 65 and over) recreation and sports programs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Programs for people with low household income	1	2	3	4	5	6
Environmental education and nature exploration	1	2	3	4	5	6
Community center programs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultural, history, and wellness programs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Traditional recreation and sports activities	1	2	3	4	5	6
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities in new ways	1	2	3	4	5	6
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	1	2	3	4	5	6
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other	1	2	3	4	5	6

6. Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Space to maintain and improve health	1	2	3	4
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	1	2	3	4
Space for sports and leagues	1	2	3	4
Space for recreating and skill development	1	2	3	4
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	1	2	3	4
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	1	2	3	4
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	1	2	3	4
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	1	2	3	4
Space to gather and host community events	1	2	3	4
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	1	2	3	4
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	1	2	3	4
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	1	2	3	4
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	1	2	3	4

With a limited budget, and significant community desires, difficult decisions and trade-offs are often necessary. For the next four questions, which of the two statements presented most closely represent your opinion?

7. Parks & Recreation should

(A) Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time OR

(B) Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor recreation interests that individually may serve a smaller number of people at a time.

- ☐ Strongly prefer A
- ☐ Somewhat prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer B
- ☐ Somewhat prefer B
- ☐ Strongly prefer B

8. Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize

(A) Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired. OR

(B) Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.

- ☐ Strongly prefer A
- ☐ Somewhat prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer B
- ☐ Somewhat prefer B
- ☐ Strongly prefer B

9. Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize. . .

(A) Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by. OR

(B) Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.

- ☐ Strongly prefer A
- ☐ Somewhat prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer B
- ☐ Somewhat prefer B
- ☐ Strongly prefer B

10. Parks & Recreation should:

(A) Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues and programs

(B) Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations.

- ☐ Strongly prefer A
- ☐ Somewhat prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer A
- ☐ Slightly prefer B
- ☐ Somewhat prefer B
- ☐ Strongly prefer B

11. As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Please check one only)

- ☐ Spread out evenly across all the parks and trails, even if it means a lower quality
- ☐ Prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance
- ☐ Prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use
- ☐ Prioritize under-used parks and trails so they will attract more people
- ☐ Prioritize parks and trails in the downtown
- ☐ Prioritize neighborhood parks and trails

12. The budget for Parks & Recreation predominately comes from a property tax levy that is capped and has not increased since it was approved in 2011. Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No opinion/Don't know</u>
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Property tax levy increase from current level	1	2	3	4	5
Sales tax increase	1	2	3	4	5
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	1	2	3	4	5
Added/increased user fees (programming, facility rentals, membership fees, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

13. What do you think is most important for the City's 10-year plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails to address?

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely confidential and optional and will be reported in group form only.

14. How long have you lived in Duluth?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 to 4 years
- ☐ 5 to 9 years
- ☐ 10 to 14 years
- ☐ 15 to 19 years
- ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ I don't live in Duluth

15. Do you rent or own your home?

- ☐ I rent
- ☐ I own
- ☐ Other

16. Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play/relaxation where you live?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

17. Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?

	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>
Children (ages 12 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults (ages 20 to 54)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults (ages 55 or older)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Please describe your annual household income:

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$124,999
- ☐ \$125,000 or more

19. Which category contains your age?

- ☐ 12 or younger
- ☐ 13 to 17
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75-84
- ☐ 85+

20. Which gender do you identify as?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ I identify in another way
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

21. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ American Indian and Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Multiracial or Multiethnic
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Another race or ethnicity

22. Please provide your name, email address and phone number, if you would like to be entered in our drawing for a \$20 gift card and/or if you would like to receive further information and updates related to the Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan process.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

23. Please tell us how you would like your contact information to be used (check all that apply)

- ☐ Enter me in the drawing for a \$20 gift card
- ☐ Add me to the contact list for to get updates on the Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan process

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEMORANDUM

To:

From: Anna Laybourn, Callie New, Emily Pixberg, Ashley McKnight: Design Workshop

Date: May 12, 2022

Project Name: Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Project #: 6648

Subject: Survey Summary

Community Engagement – Public Workshop 1: Survey and Keypad Polling Results

Overview

The objective of Community Engagement Public Workshop 1 was to share an initial draft of the plan's proposed themes and goals for community input. Duluth residents were invited to attend one of three separate in-person public workshops where multiple methods of engagement were utilized including in-person Mentimeter keypad polling and an interactive map-based activity. The public workshops were held on April 13th & 14th, 2022. A total of 102 participants attended the three events. To supplement the in-person workshops, an online survey was open from April 13th through May 10th. The questions mimicked those asked in the public workshops. The survey received a total of 170 participants. In all, there 272 people participated in the workshops and survey. This engagement followed focus group meetings with specific representative stakeholders and a community-wide, statistically valid survey that gathered information about the park system use and needs; these prior engagement activities were fundamental in creating the draft themes and goals that were presented in the public workshops and survey. The survey activities helped the project team understand the public's overall opinions on the plan's potential themes and goals.

The map-based activity included a tabletop discussion among in-person workshop attendees. Participants were asked to locate areas within the park system that could use improvement or enhancement, choosing an amenity from a sheet of stickers. The stickers contained a variety of amenity types and were created based on feedback from the community survey. The stickers included amenities ranging from sports courts, restroom facilities, water access points, and environmental education and signage. This memo concludes with a summary of findings from the map-based exercise.

There were reoccurring responses highlighted in the public survey results that allow for key conclusions to be revealed. These conclusions are as follows:

1. Financial investment in the park was selected numerous times as a priority of participants. This may reflect community thoughts that additional funding is needed for the current parks are not being adequately maintained or invested in.
2. Many of the top choices involved maintenance and improving quality. Respondents prefer for efforts to be placed in reinvesting what is currently there rather than developing new amenities.
3. "Completely agree" and "agree" were the top selections on the questions asking how much participants agreed with the five potential themes, conveying approval of the themes.

The following provides a summary of responses from all 272 participants in both the in-person polling and online survey. The summary emphasizes when there is a significant different between the online and in-person results. The colored boxes indicate the highest chosen options.

Questions

1. What is your age?

Responses from both outreach methods indicated that most participants, 76 (32%), are aged 35-44 followed by adults aged 25-33 (21%). This age group combined makes up over half of all public outreach participants.

Age Range	In-Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Under 18	2	0	1%
18-24	2	3	2%
25-34	19	32	21%
35-44	25	51	32%
45-54	8	29	15%
55-64	13	19	13%
65-74	15	15	12%
75+	7	1	3%
Prefer not to say	0	0	0%

2. Where do you live?

Results show that most participants, approximately 47%, live in East Duluth followed by 21% living in West Duluth. The least number of respondents were from Duluth Heights.

Neighborhood	In-Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
East Duluth	41	72	47%
Duluth Heights	8	15	10%
West Duluth	25	25	21%
Central Duluth	12	28	17%
I do not live in Duluth	5	10	6%

3. How long have you lived in Duluth?

Most participants (54%) have lived in Duluth for 16 or more years. These participants likely have a strong foundational knowledge of the system.

Neighborhood	In-Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Less than 1 year	1	4	3%
1-4 years	3	27	18%
5-9 years	1	22	13%
10-15 years	9	14	13%
16 or more years	18	72	54%

4. How often do you typically visit a park or recreation facility in Duluth?

Many participants indicated that they visit parks in Duluth several times a week (58%) followed by those who visit parks once a week (34%). This frequency reflects that the workshop captured those who use Duluth's parks in their everyday conditions rather than for a monthly or annual event. These results are similar to those gathered by the community-wide statistically valid survey, underscoring the importance of Duluth's park spaces to residents' day-to-day lives.

Visitation Rate	In-Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Several times per week	20	83	58%
Once a week	5	32	20%
Several times per month	4	20	14%
Once a month	1	9	5%
A few times per year	1	5	3%

5. What do you think are the most critical items for the Duluth Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan to address? (Select top three)

The top critical items residents think the plan should address are park and facility condition/quality (21%), funding and resources (19%), and environmental sustainability and resilience (15%). Written comments for "other" varied, and include dog parks, disc golf, and more bathrooms.

Critical Items	In-Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Funding and resources	70	56	19%
Park and facility condition/quality	50	86	21%
Adding parks and natural lands	17	34	8%
Access, inclusion, and mobility to parks	26	39	10%
Insufficient information about the parks	7	9	2%
Safety within parks	16	31	7%
Adding park amenities	22	30	8%
Improving/expanding programs	15	13	4%
Environmental sustainability and resilience	31	68	15%
Other	9	21	5%

6. Which of these most popular ways to use Duluth's parks, recreation facilities and trails do you enjoy doing regularly? (Select all that apply)

Participants were asked to select all the ways in which they interact with Duluth's parks, recreation facilities and trails regularly from a provided list of activities. The top responses convey the preference of outdoor-oriented recreation uses. Results showed that walking, hiking, and running on trails is the most popular way residents enjoy Duluth's parks and facilities followed by enjoying nature and wildlife and biking on trails. This question was not asked on the online survey.

The following set of questions followed information describing the five plan themes, with information provided about the types of goals that might support them.

Uses	In Person Count	Total Percent
Walking, hiking, and running on trails	73	19%
Enjoying nature and wildlife	57	15%
Relaxing in parks and natural settings	41	11%
Biking on trails	56	15%
Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing	45	12%
Playing at playgrounds	15	4%
Picnics, BBQ and gatherings	16	4%
Organized activities and special events	27	7%
Using off-leash dog areas	26	7%
Other	22	6%

7. How much do you agree with including this theme - “Invest in Duluth’s Future”?

A majority of participants in both surveys completely agreed or agreed with this theme (90%). The number of those who completely disagreed versus those who disagreed was significantly more with a 4% difference.

Level	In-Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Completely Disagree	6	6	5%
Disagree	2	1	1%
Neutral	7	3	4%
Agree	28	39	28%
Completely Agree	49	102	62%

8. How much do you agree with including this theme “Nurture Connections to the North Shore / Northern Waters”?

During the first public workshop event, participants were asked if they agree with the theme “Nurture Connections to the North Shore.” While 41%, or 15 of the 40 participants agreed with this statement, 25% or 9 participants were neutral and 8% both disagreed or completely disagreed. Comments during the event indicated that this theme did not capture the correct wording therefore the theme name was changed during the second and third workshop events. During these events participants were asked if they agree with the theme “Nurture Connections to the Northern Waters.” Of the 62 participants from workshop 2 and 3, a total of 42 participants completely agree or agree

which 10 are neutral and 4 disagree. Feedback indicated that the wording was still not addressing the sentiment of the community.

Participants from the online survey were asked if they agree with the theme titled “Nurture Connections to Northern Waters.” Similar to the in-person survey, “Completely Agree” was chosen by most (52%) participants. Overall, this theme captures broad support (77% completely agree or agree), but additional dialogue suggests that the project team should seek to find more appropriate wording to better convey the theme’s intent.

Level	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Completely Disagree	3	2	1%
Disagree	7	6	4%
Neutral	19	25	17%
Agree	32	40	26%
Completely Agree	31	78	52%

9. How much do you agree with including this theme - “Strengthen Programs and Partnerships”?

Of the 102 participants from the public workshops, 42 people selected agree, followed by 37 people who completely agreed with the theme “Strengthen Programs and Partnerships.” Thirteen participants were neutral, and one person completely disagreed with the theme.

Among the results from the online survey, many of the respondents, a total of 76 people, completely agreed with the theme followed by 56 people who agreed with it. Combined, 88% of participants completely agree or agree with including this theme in the plan.

Level	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Completely Disagree	1	3	2%
Disagree	0	4	3%
Neutral	13	11	7%
Agree	37	56	37%
Completely Agree	42	76	51%

10. What is most important going forward for sports courts (tennis, pickleball or basketball)? (Select up to two responses)

As an additional question related to the theme “Strengthen Programs and Partnerships,” participants were asked to select up to two action items from a list that were most important related

to sports courts. Among both in-person and online participants, the top desire is better care and maintenance (30%). For workshop attendees, other priorities for sports courts are upgrade or replacement (12 people) and managing for more use and access (8 people). For online survey takers, the second top choice was to add indoor facilities. Several respondents choose “No opinion,” which might indicate that these respondents do not use the sports courts and therefore do not feel informed enough to voice an opinion.

Action Item	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Better care and maintenance	20	66	30%
Upgrade or replacement	12	24	11%
Add sports courts	0	23	10%
Add indoor facilities	7	32	15%
Managing for more use and access	8	22	10%
Reduce the number of courts	3	9	4%
Fine as is	5	5	2%
No opinion	8	39	18%

11. What is most important going forward for sports fields (soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, football, or multiuse)? (Select up to two responses)

Participants were asked to select up to two items that were most important related to sports fields. Participants shared that their top preferences are for better care and maintenance (21%) and to design for multiuse (19%).

Action Item	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Better care and maintenance	15	51	22%
Upgrade or replacement	7	16	7%
Add sports courts	1	18	8%
Add indoor facilities	5	26	11%
Artificial turf	6	12	5%
Managing for more use and access	10	23	10%
Consolidate fields	2	5	2%
Design for multiuse	12	45	19%
Fine as is	1	8	3%
No opinion	5	31	13%

12. What types of programs do you think Duluth Parks and Recreation should provide? (Select all that apply)

Participants were asked to select all the apply from a list of programs that should be provided in Duluth Parks and Recreation. Of the programs, the most popular selections were free programs (18%), followed by outdoor skills building programs (16%), and outdoor educational programs (16%).

Program	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Outdoor skills building programs	18	82	16%
Outdoor educational programs	18	81	16%
Youth day camps	24	70	14%
Senior programs	15	48	10%
Paddle sports	7	41	8%
Partner for arts, history and culture programs	15	58	12%
Free programs	26	93	18%
Other	2	23	5%
None of the above	1	8	2%

13. How much do you agree with this theme - “Park Spaces for Community Building”?

Many of the participants completely agreed (53%) and agreed (31%) with the theme “Park Spaces for Community Building,” showing consensus for this theme. For those in person, another top selection, chosen by 22 people, was neutral. This was the only theme where agree or completely agree were not chosen significantly more than neutral.

Level	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Completely Disagree	1	3	2%
Disagree	2	2	1%
Neutral	22	19	13%
Agree	29	47	31%
Completely Agree	28	79	53%

14. How much do you agree with this theme - “Sustain Natural Areas”?

Almost all participants, 71% completely agree with this theme. In total, only 5 respondents either completely disagreed or disagreed with the theme, showing overall approval.

Level	In Person Count	Online Count	Total Percent
Completely Disagree	1	2	1%

Disagree	1	1	1%
Neutral	7	6	4%
Agree	26	34	23%
Completely Agree	60	107	71%

Map Activity Summary

A tabletop exercise provided participants with a set of maps displaying Duluth's park system and a sheet of stickers containing different park amenities. Participants were instructed to place stickers on the maps to represent potential park investments or enhancements. Table 1 displays the results from this activity. The top responses indicated a need to invest in restroom facilities, mountain biking, parking, and maintenance.

Table 1: Stickers by Category		
Category	Number of Stickers	Percentage
Restroom Facilities	47	10.6%
Mountain Biking	29	6.5%
Parking	29	6.5%
Maintenance	27	6.1%
Safety	24	5.4%
Land Preservation	15	3.4%
Splash Pad	14	3.2%
Camping	13	2.9%
Hiking	13	2.9%
Water Quality Improvements	13	2.9%
Other - Dog Park or Off-Leash Trail	13	2.9%
Playground	11	2.5%
Identity and Culture	10	2.3%
Paddling	10	2.3%
Multi-use Sports Courts	9	2.0%
Community Gardens	8	1.8%
Nature Education	8	1.8%
Outdoor Events Space	8	1.8%
Other - Trails	8	1.8%
Bouldering	7	1.6%
Wayfinding and Signage	7	1.6%
Access to Recreational Equipment	6	1.4%
Beach Access	6	1.4%
Swimming	6	1.4%
Multi-use Sports Field	5	1.1%
Disc Golf	5	1.1%
Indoor Gathering Spaces	5	1.1%

Wildlife Habitat Enhancements	5	1.1%
Other - Changing Station	5	1.1%
Other - Horse Trails	5	1.1%
Other - Potable Water	5	1.1%
Accessible Parks	4	0.9%
Historic Sites	4	0.9%
Pleasure Rinks	4	0.9%
Sledding Area	4	0.9%
Other - Enforcement	4	0.9%
Boating	3	0.7%
Cross County Skiing	3	0.7%
Fishing	3	0.7%
Pavilion	3	0.7%
Public Art Installations	3	0.7%
Safe and Welcoming	3	0.7%
Other - Golf	3	0.7%
Single Sport Court	3	0.7%
Other - Beer Gardens	2	0.5%
Other - Electric Skateboard	2	0.5%
Other - Pollinator Garden	2	0.5%
Single Sport Field	1	0.2%
Hockey Rink	1	0.2%
Skate Park	1	0.2%
Other - Activate Space	1	0.2%
Other - Birding	1	0.2%
Other - Commercial Operator	1	0.2%
Other - Reduce Congestion	1	0.2%
Other - Dog waste	1	0.2%
Other - Dome	1	0.2%
Other - Ecological Restoration	1	0.2%
Other - Facility Rental	1	0.2%
Other - Information	1	0.2%
Other - Music in the Park	1	0.2%
Other - Programming	1	0.2%
Other - Resiliency	1	0.2%
Other - Trail /park ambassador program	1	0.2%
Other - Trail etiquette/education	1	0.2%

Table 2 breaks the results down by the top five locations with the most stickers and a summary of the top desired items. Lester Park Golf Course received the most attention followed by general city-wide comments.

Table 2: Summary of Stickers by Park			
Location	# of Stickers	%	Top Items

Lester Park Golf Course	27	6.1%	Camping, Mountain Biking, Golf, Community Garden, Disc Golf, Indoor Gathering Space
General Comment - Citywide	24	5.4%	Restroom Facilities, Enforcement, Beer Gardens, Mountain Biking
Piedmont Trail System	23	5.2%	Parking, Restroom Facilities
Park Point Recreation Area	21	4.7%	Multi-use Sports Field, Wildlife Habitat Enhancements
Lester Park	20	4.5%	Restroom Facilities, Changing Station, Mountain Biking, Sledding Area
Magney/Snively Park	20	4.5%	Restroom Facilities, Parking
Chester Park	16	3.6%	Chester Park
Hartley Park	15	3.4%	Hartley Park
Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center	12	2.7%	Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center

Table 3 shows the top 10 stickers that were most chosen. It also highlights the locations that they were most commonly placed in. The top desires from the community were restroom facilities, mountain biking and parking.

Table 3: Summary of Stickers by Category			
Location	# of Stickers	%	Locations
Restroom Facilities	47	10.6%	Piedmont Trail System, Kitchi Gammi Park (Brighton Beach), Magney/Snively Park
Mountain Biking	29	6.5%	Enger Park, Chester Park, Lester Park Golf Course, Spirit Mountain Recreation Area (Bike Skills Parks at Chester Park, Keene Creek Park, and Lester Park / Lester Park Golf Course)
Parking	29	6.5%	Piedmont/Brewer Trailhead, Hartley Park, Piedmont Neighborhood Trailhead, Magney/Snively Park
Maintenance	27	6.1%	Community Recreation Centers (Duluth Heights, Morgan Park, Portland, Woodland), Central Hillside Community Park, Spirit Mountain, Lincoln Park
Safety	24	5.4%	Point of Rocks (unsheltered persons), Short Line Park (vehicle break-ins), Central Park, Lakewalk, Magney/Snively Park, Piedmont Trail System (all mainly parking area related)
Land Preservation	15	3.4%	Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve, Magney/Snively Park, Park Point Recreation Area
Splash Pad	14	3.2%	Widespread - Portland Square was the only duplicated response, parks generally in the central area of city were identified most
Camping	13	2.9%	Lester Park Golf Course, Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve, Hartley Park
Hiking	13	2.9%	Widespread - Enger Park was the only duplicated response

Spring 2022 Community Engagement – Survey Written Comments

1. Q6. If any, what changes or additions would you like to see made to the themes and goals? (Open response)

1. Prioritize the goal of sustaining natural areas over the goal of increasing accessibility.
2. More emphasis put on team sport activities and facilities. I think we have enough trails and bike paths.
3. Funding has been slashed year over year for parks & facility maintenance to the point where existing buildings that need fixes are being torn down. The parks & library was intended to provide additional funding for the parks & library system not as the primary source of funding. This has been an unfortunate shift that has a negative impact for parks.
4. Add funding for natural resource protection, restoration and management.
5. Improve dog parks. Make Endion a dog park. Make a dog park at park point where they can swim in the water like they do in the twin cities at the Mississippi river. Encourage pet friendly business's like in Portland, Oregon. With all the pets adopted over the pandemic, making Duluth a pet friendly city would bring tourism.
6. Support COGGS
7. Include indigenous aspects in all themes, including discussion on how to sustain natural areas, etc. if not already doing so.
8. They are excellent. Would like to see more language focused on supporting natural systems and encouraging nature viewing.
9. Improve access to trails and more bike trails both road and mountain bike.
10. Invest in improving safety and security on the trails and in parking lots.
11. Goal in theme 3 to strengthen programs & partnerships should also be inclusive of existing partners of nature areas, such as Hartley, Hawk Ridge, & Chester Bowl.
12. Artificial turf urban dog park in central city.
13. We have amazing outdoor trails systems and nature based opportunities. I feel we could do a great deal more to support outdoor sports related opportunities. Examples would be tennis courts, basketball courts and pools. These tend to be very limited across the community and/or managed by other entities that makes cost and availability difficult for a number of residents. It would be considerably more expensive, but indoor public facilities that offer these options would be even better.
14. More activities for youth, including art and skateboard parks.
15. Connect to Nature (not just water)
16. Allowing bike trails in parts of Magney Snively Natural area
17. I am a bit concerned that partners could mean hockey clubs who prioritize a singular use of the park (that limits its use by others).
18. Create parks that encourage social recreational activity! i.e. Disc Golf course on the old Lester Golf course once closed. It would be low cost and easy to maintain.
19. Enforce dog leash laws. This is the only reason we avoid the parks and trails.
20. Additional support to community groups maintaining mountain bike trails such as COGGS.

21. Would love to prioritize a trail system that allows/encourages off leash pets.
22. Enforcement of dog leash law.
23. We need less development and more natural parks and wild spaces that are maintained in healthy condition.
24. More signage for leave no trace.
25. Make one trail an off leash trail for dogs and dog owners.
26. Goal of protecting wooded/green space from new development, such as the housing developments near Hartley Park. Possibly through the creation of new parks and expansion of existing parks.
27. Easily accessible dog parks.
28. Trail signage and better maps of all trails including spur trails.
29. Care more about citizens than tourists.
30. there needs to be enforcement of off leash dogs and people not cleaning up after their dogs
31. Theme 4: Park Spaces for Community Building-add "park runs" every Saturday in our local parks. Usually they consist of a free 5k to promote community building and being active. Volunteers help make it possible. This is very common in the UK but it also looks like a few locations in the twin cities area have already adopted this! Check it out. I think it would be a great addition to bring the community together.
32. Encourage active, healthy transportation by building pedestrian and bike paths to connect to more parks and along transportation corridors.
33. More volunteer opportunities for caring for and sustaining trails and forests might be good for accomplishing multiple goals. We already have some of this. For example, how about making "mud season" when trails are closed an opportunity for getting out and maintaining trails?
34. "Support water recreation through managed access" - add that we need a greater number of legal access points to the bay and lake.
35. I would like to see more emphasis on building our relationship to other species, bodies of water, etc. Protecting water, for example, not just for recreation. Or, restoring ecologies, but for their own sake, not just for our human resilience.
36. Signage to truly honor the culture, storytelling, art and history of Indigenous Peoples.
37. Stronger ties to youth sports. The children currently participating in organized sports are the future workforce for Duluth. We have found ourselves in an era where there are not enough workers to fill open positions in for the companies in town. Who would have thought! We need to build a strong foundation of citizens in Duluth and it's surrounding suburbs to support our businesses. This starts with strong organized youth programs that will keep our children engaged in this great area and be less likely to leave when they come of age.
38. Focus on what you have and get those to healthy areas first which you have all these areas already except the more water sport access and support which can come in the future. Allowing current buildings be condemned because donate want to put money into it which helps a recreation (hockey) being lots of revenue maybe not directly to you but to your Duluth businesses. Also, you restrict us on the property to continue maintenance because you are not doing the maintenance is crazy. Some of the property is only utilized certain time of year and sit abandoned for other parts of the year. Figure a way to use them year round.

39. Appropriate signage, education, enforcement of rules and more.

2. Q9. What types of programs do you think Duluth City Parks and Recreation should provide? (Other)

1. Provide more funding for existing nonprofits running programming.
2. don't compete with existing agency partners, Zoo, HNC, YCamps, etc. Spend more on restoration of existing park facilities
3. Dog parks, even indoor.
4. Introducing new people to trails.
5. Bike skills clinic. Road bike safety.
6. Mountain bike skills areas and more family trails for riding.
7. Increased mountain biking.
8. A decent skateboard park.
9. Disc Golf
10. Volunteer stewardship/caretaking events.
11. introductory courses for understanding parks and trails system.
12. There should be more bike programming.
13. Trail for off leash.
14. Bike skills parks
15. Connecting with local healthcare providers for programs focusing on nature's role in helping with mental health struggles.
16. Men's hiking group as Duluth has a women's hiking group but nothing for men that enjoy the outdoors.
17. Coordinate with existing organizations.
18. Huge mistake closing Lester park golf course.
19. Park runs
20. Middle/High School programs and adult programs.
21. Building a relationship to nature/stewardship/reciprocity with the land
22. Transportation to parks for kids in after school programming. Possibly work with afterschool programs at the area schools.
23. Nothing is Free. Provide the facilities and request volunteer-based help

3. Q10. What do you think are the most critical items for the Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan to address? (Other)

1. Stop selling tax forfeit land adjacent to park space.
2. Off leash areas and trails for dogs.
3. More connected multiuse trails between parks or connecting multiple parts of town.
4. Adding more mountain bike trails that are easy and family friendly.
5. Proper maintenance of current facilities in trails
6. A decent skateboard park

7. Bathrooms!
8. Disc Golf facility on east end. Status quo is utterly despicable.
9. Dog parks and disc golf courses.
10. Safe parking at trailheads.
11. Remove parking lots from residential neighborhoods.
12. Pedestrian and biking infrastructure improvements on frequently used routes to park entrances and other park access points.
13. More indoor options for year round use.
14. Dog parks and off-leash trails.
15. Add a sports dome with turf.
16. We need 2 golf courses.
17. Enforcement of off leash dogs.
18. I realize that all of the above rely on adequate funding and staff resources.
19. Real restrooms at Brighton Beach would be great.
20. Your partnership and support to your community clubs/volunteers need to be stronger. Get out there with us and see what we do. I am guessing park and Rexâ€™s has no idea how much time and our own money we put into the parks for you!
21. Enforcing rules, dogs on leash, walking on ski trails, etc.

4. Q11. What else would you like to have considered for inclusion in drafting the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan over the next few months? (Open response)

1. Supporting community gardening efforts
2. Manage wild spaces where possible while balancing that with some areas maintained for people to use for congregating.
3. Look at ways to make us a parks and rec. Mecca -- like Fargo or Mankato
4. Build, upgrade and maintain sports facilities we can be proud of.
5. Address the fact that parks funding is done differently than every other city department. Fix that. Prioritize climate action plan and the natural resources management program plan.
6. Pet friendly!!!!!!! Invest in the dog lovers. It will be big for tourism.
7. Focus on center city parks™ safety and cleanliness- so many needles
8. I would like to see the Lester park golf course remain an open space.
9. Being mindful about how and where parking lots are constructed, if there's a more environmental friendly option (gravel or dirt versus asphalt), and better surveillance of parking lots
10. Greater park connectivity. Allowing users to walk, run, bike a safe multiuse trail across Duluth. Greater access for neighborhoods over the hill.
11. Trail parking lot surveillance, more bathroom and changing facilities.
12. Bike playgrounds
13. Adding loop riding trails off the traverse will draw more people to Duluth to visit our area
14. Create more natural surface and/or gravel trails for multi-use and foot only travel

15. I would consider adding some content marketing (blogs/social posts) about the Duluth parks. When you search things to do in Duluth they give you attractions which are great, but the locals love the parks. It is so special to have the volume of parks that we do. For example, it could be a post like 5 pickleball parks in Duluth, MN or best urban hikes in Duluth, MN. If this is out of the city's scope i think it is imperative for visit Duluth to do this to support the city.
16. Building youth crews to help with park maintenance over the summer months (similar to/in partnership with conservation corps programs)
17. Meeting with representatives from major park partners
18. Off leash dog trails/parks
19. Proper maintenance of current facilities and trails
20. As stated in a previous questions, our outdoor trails and nature opportunities are wonderful and sufficient. We could use better courts and sporting facilities, preferably indoors due to the environment in our region. Detroit lakes, MN, has a great example of the type of community center(s) that could exist in Duluth. The only change i would make to their facility is more multi-use courts and turf (vs hardwood courts).
21. Additional connections between parks, including sidewalks and bike trails
22. The mountain biking community is booming. If the city doesn't get a head start on increasing collaboration with local and regional bike organizations like COGGS, you can expect to see people riding mountain bikes where they don't belong, and possibly unsanctioned trail building which is at odds with environmental sustainability. Mountain bikes really belong on their own trails, just like hikers. Multi-use trails are a recipe for conflict.
23. Duluth has invested in poorly designed, unsafe, and unfun skateboard parks for decades. Lets finally make a decent skateboard park. Our kids and elderly skaters deserve an awesome skatepark!
24. For both sports fields and sports courts, more smaller scale examples needed spaced more evenly.
25. Restrooms and changing areas at trailheads
26. Some bicycle playgrounds would be neat. Also, upgrade the "standard" playgrounds around town. They are all very dated.
27. Bathrooms!
28. Please include a disc golf facility in the redevelopment plans for Lester golf course.
29. It is important that parks goals are aligned and coordinated with other goals for the city. Affordable housing is (rightly so) a huge push right now - can we coordinate to make sure that access points to parks and trails are maintained even as new housing is put in?
30. Indoor domed facility for youth sports
31. Disc golf course at Lester golf course once the golf is has ended.
32. Create a public disc golf course for all skill levels.
33. Enforcement of leash laws.
34. More disc golf courses.

35. Enhancing connections between trails, parks, and communities should be a high priority - too many places without access, or access is prohibited due to lack of connections to neighborhoods/lack of trail access corridors. Everyone in Duluth should be able to easily walk to a trail from their house.
36. Updated signs at portman
37. Public art and/or partnerships with artists.
38. Attention to the pre-colonial history / history of sacred sites / partnership with tribes to protect and maintain culturally significant areas
39. Places to rest / sit / be outside (we have so few park benches)
40. International bridge to connect Lester ski trails to Lester golf course trails, Samella chalet in place of clubhouse.
41. Pet friendly off leash trails
42. We need green spaces/turf options that are available for public use. We have lots of fields through 709 that were paid by tax payers but not available for use. Is there an actual soccer field in Duluth that is available to play/practice? We have lots of rinks in the winter open, but any field that's maintained is reserved.
43. Enforcement of dog leash law.
44. Adding soccer fields and better use of existing soccer fields. The purpose of the Jean Duluth soccer fields seems to be to grow especially lush grass, rather than allow kids to play and practice soccer. A waste of money and space. They are used for games but the use could be expanded without degrading the quality of the field.
45. Real solutions for drug use and off leash pets
46. Equine
47. Restricted parking in residential neighborhoods for parks--especially the old Hartley road entrance. The current situation has ruined the neighborhood. Parks and rec did not do what they told the neighborhood they would do during the master plan public input sessions. It is a disaster!!
48. Bicycle play grounds, lone funding towards maintained of Duluth traverse
49. A few bike skills parks that are accessible to all Duluth residents. More connector trails to provide neighborhood access to the Duluth traverse.
50. Goals and strategies for collaboration with the city's planning and public works departments on bike and pedestrian safety improvements and infrastructure. Residents within the 5 or 10 minute walking distances to parks often have to contend with routes designed to prioritize vehicles over non-motorized access.
51. Indoor parks
52. Protect as much remaining green space in Duluth as possible. New developments have destroyed lots of natural areas around Duluth and parks could be added/enlarged to protect more natural areas.
53. Would love the grand rec skatepark to be finished this year - this dynamic community project has added so much value to the west part of town and has raised so much in grants and private funding, is there any way the city can help them push to the finish line
54. Turn the abandoned tracks in Morgan park into a hiking trail connecting the western waterfront trail to Gary new Duluth and fond du lac

55. Add turf fields
56. Invest in community centers and citizens more than tourists.
57. East / west equity
58. Create a public use track
59. We need both Enger park and Lester park golf courses
60. Enforcement of off leash pets and not cleaning up after pets
61. Designated hammock areas to reduce impact to trees.
62. Park runs/walks-5ks every Saturday in our local parks
63. Restrooms other than port a potties
64. More spaces with educational value--Hartley does a lot of this--but how exciting would it be if more of our parks and natural areas were outdoor classrooms and living, interactive natural history museums? Consider what St. Paul has done with just a small forest in Como park:
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/natural-resources-education/como-woodland>
65. Is it possible for city to facilitate creation of an indoor recreation space by a private entity, preferably using a vacant space like the old ShopKo? Duluth has no indoor turf for soccer, lacrosse etc to use in winter. Could include indoor playground too most cities this size have at least 1 facility. Kids travel from here to the cities for soccer training; the proctor facility is nice but not enough.
66. Congdon neighborhood lacks winter park space, please consider bringing ice rink back. It is a multi-generational venue and this neighborhood lacks a multi-generational gathering space.
67. Again, one step past sustainability and resilience to relationship with other species and the land. Also more emphasis on building and maintaining carbon sinks.
68. Considering what will be important for the future, not just now
69. Funding for youth team sports
70. Enforcing rules, smoking, dogs on leash, walking on ski trails, have fines!! Enforce it!

B

APPENDIX B

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND INVENTORY

DULUTH PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS, INVENTORY AND AMENITIES

The following information presents inventory of the parks and recreation managed by the City of Duluth’s Park and Recreation Master Plan.

These parks have been grouped into 9 classifications that can be reviewed in Table 1. Classifications were developed based on the characteristics of the park, such as size, amenities offered, access, and length of stay. The City’s total acreage is approximately 9,166 acres. In terms of acreage, Natural/Passive lands make up the largest classification about 5,540 acres. The city also has an extensive trail network of 353 miles. Table 5 shows the different parks classification and their acreage per population in Duluth. The data in this table presents the acreage per 1,000 residents in 2020 and 2035. With the population projected to increase by approximately 3,300 people by 2035, a total of 317 additional acres of parks will be needed by 2035 to maintain the current provision of 106 acres per 1,000 residents. Duluth offers a broad array of amenities through its parks. Table 7 summarizes these amenities. The City’s parks offer playgrounds and playscapes (47) sport fields including soccer, baseball/softball, and multiuse fields (42), and sport courts including basketball, pickleball and tennis (25).

Table 1. Park Classifications

CLASSIFICATIONS	ACREAGE
Community Park	118
Neighborhood Park	121
Plaza	5
Parkway	6
Destination Park	2,840
Special Use	266
Natural/Passive Park	5,540
Trailhead/Water Access	13
Undeveloped Park	259
Total	9,168

Table 2. Trail Classifications

CLASSIFICATIONS	LENGTH (miles)
Hiking and Biking	83
Mountain Biking	16
Climbing	1
Disc Golf Trail	7
Horseback	31
Hiking	65
Multi-Purpose	66
Multi-Purpose Snowmobile	22
Road	5
Snowmobile	19
Cross Country Skiing	35
Cross Country Skiing Lighted	3
Total	353 Miles

Table 3. Park Amenities

AMENITY	QUANTITY
Park Pavilions & Gazebos	18
Soccer Fields	11
Baseball/Softball Fields	18
Multiuse Fields	23
Basketball Court Sites	24
Tennis Court Sites	8
Pickleball Court Sites	3
Multiuse Court Sites	2
Playgrounds	39
Toddler Playgrounds	5
Accessible Playgrounds	9
Hockey/Pleasure Rinks	7
Pleasure Skating Only Sites	2
Skate Parks	6
Restrooms	12
Total	187

Table 4. Parkland Classification Standards

SIZE	PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	SERVICE AREA	ACCESS
Plazas				
2 acres or less	Provides opportunities for recreation close to home, particularly where access to larger parks is limited/not feasible. Includes plazas with limited recreation development. Plazas can be rented for private events.	Comprised of large proportion of hard surfaces. Suitable for events, but do not contain restrooms, their own parking, play areas, courts, fields, etc.	1/4 mile	Easily accessible to neighborhood residents. Found in an urban setting, usually in or near downtown/ Canal Park or other neighborhood commercial areas.
Neighborhood Park				
2-15 acres	Intended to provide both active and passive recreation for residents for short daily leisure periods, such as court/field games, skating, sports play, leisure activities, and small gatherings. Should provide for most intensive use by children, family groups, and senior citizens. Accessible to neighborhood population and geographically centered with safe walking and bicycle access.	On-street parking is typically adequate. Ideally, these parks are linked by pathways and sidewalks and respond to the need for basic recreational amenities close to peoples’ homes and are ideally located adjacent to schools.	1/2-mile radius, free of major barriers such as major highways or steep topograp hy.	Centrally located and easily accessible to neighborhood residents. Safe walking and biking access. Generally, no off-street parking.
Community Park				
15+ acres	Serves as a focal point for community-wide activities and provides facilities that serve a broad purpose, balancing active and passive recreation needs. Allow for group activities not feasible nor desirable at the neighborhood level due to noise, lights, traffic, etc. Considered a hub for recreational programming. May include programmed sports facilities such as athletic complexes or fields, large swimming pools, multipurpose playground equipment or large play structures, informal and formal fields for youth play, paved areas for court games, trails, picnic shelters, plazas, and community buildings. Often adjoining other community-oriented facilities (libraries, community centers, schools, etc.). Portions of land may include areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, picnicking. May include natural features such as water bodies or features and gardens	Portions of the site should have gentle topography to accommodate active sports fields and open turf areas. Special site features such as streams, lakes, reservoirs, rock outcrops, or historic sites may add to the park’s character.	1 - 2-mile service radius or more to account for people walking, biking, or driving to parks.	Easily accessible to neighborhood served, and adjacent to school or community-oriented facility when feasible. Direct access from an arterial street is ideal, though parks may be located along corridor streets. Parking should be provided off-street or shared with other uses. Access to regional trail system and public transit is desirable.

SIZE	PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	SERVICE AREA	ACCESS
Destination Parks				
Varies	Large park with multiple uses. Serves as a tourist destination. Provides facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve city residents as well as the surrounding region. Typically, destination parks protect large expanses of land with natural resource values of regional significance. These areas should provide recreational opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation as well as features such as playgrounds, shelters, restrooms, walking trails, and athletic facilities. Botanical gardens and arboretums, winter sports, bicycle trails, theaters, and cultural exhibits could also be supported by destination parks.	Emphasis is on achieving a balance between resource protection and public use. Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facilities. Effective utilization of woodlands, open lands, meadows, and particularly water features are important in the layout. Site features such as streams, lakes, reservoirs, rock outcrops, or historic sites may add to the park's character.	Community-wide, regional, and tourist use	Site specific
Special Use Parks				
Varies	Purpose built to serve a particular community need. Examples include campgrounds, zoos, Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, and single-use facilities such as baseball/softball, basketball, pickleball, tennis, rock climbing, golf, and skateboarding amenities.	Varies based on requirements of the park purpose. Location of special use properties must be carefully planned to ensure that access, traffic control, and lighting and noise issues do not negatively impact neighborhoods.	Entire community	In most cases, good access from an arterial or collector street. Parking should be off-street.
Natural/Passive				
Varies	Open areas and natural areas typically used for passive recreation. May include paths, mature trees, nature areas, gardens, hiking and biking trails, foraging, gathering, and areas for observing nature. Some properties do not provide a recreational purpose and may not have development or trails due to conditions (rock outcroppings, slopes, remoteness), but provide value to the parks system through their environmental benefit.	Natural land areas are designed to protect environmentally sensitive features, such as steep slopes, unstable slopes, and riverfront areas, or provide “naturalized” park setting within surrounding urban development. Use may be restricted by geography.	Community-Wide	May have trailheads, but they are typically unpaved with little to no parking.

SIZE	PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	SERVICE AREA	ACCESS
Trailheads & Water Trail Access Points				
Varies	Trailheads are paved or unpaved surface that serve as an access point to a designated open space corridor allowing for pedestrian and bicycle commuting and recreation use. Water Trail Access Points are boat launch or landing pads and generally found along Lake Superior or the St. Louis River Corridor.	Paved or unpaved surfaces that contain facilities such as maps, bicycle maintenance stations, boot brushes, etc. that support walking, jogging, or cycling. Paved or unpaved surfaces that contain a boat launch or land pads. Might contain kayak rentals or storage.	Neighborhood, city, or broader region	Easily accessible to neighborhood served with connectivity to adjacent trails, parks, or open space.
Parkways				
	Landscaped areas of distinct quality within or adjacent to the public right of way	Widened landscaped areas with turf and trees, unique landscape features or enhanced naturalistic landscaping. Can include plazas of ornamental hardscape	Not Applicable	Generally located adjacent to city streets, but not providing direct recreational opportunities or connections to them.
Undeveloped				
Varies	There are two different types of park properties that fall within the “undeveloped” park classification. 1) Undeveloped green space in a neighborhood or urban area that may be used actively by residents but has no amenities. These properties might be maintained and/or mowed. Some might be considered “excess” due to parcel or right-of-way divisions, be irregularly shaped, and have no redevelopment or resale potential while others may be candidates for disposal. 2) Dedicated park space in a recently built subdivision that has yet to be built out. These properties will be reclassified as their planning evolves.	Varies. Some properties might include green space that may be mowed/maintained, and some may be natural/undeveloped areas within subdivisions. Dedicated park space in a recently built subdivision that has yet to be built out. These properties will be reclassified as their planning evolves.	Community Wide	Typically, easily accessible by neighborhoods or adjacent to businesses.

Table 5. Publicly Accessible Parks and Acreage per Population

Parks	Number of Properties	Publicly Accessible Property Acres	Acres / 1,000 Population in 2020 (86,697)	Acres / 1,000 Population in 2035 (Around 90,000)
Community Parks	13	118	1	1
Destination Park	19	2,840	33	32
Neighborhood Park	27	121	1	1
Parkway	11	6	<1	<1
Plaza	7	5	<1	<1
Special Use	13	266	3	3
Total of All Developed Park Types	90	3,356	39	37
Natural/Passive	29	5,540	64	62
Trailheads/Water Access	4	13	<1	<1
Total Natural Lands, Trailheads and Water Access	33	5,553	64	62
Undeveloped	39	259	3	3
Duluth's Grand Total	162	9,168	106	102

Table 6. Park Name and Size Organized by Park Classification

NAME	ACRES
Community Parks	118
Wheeler Athletic Complex	32.20
Harrison Community Recreation Center	2.56
Gary New Duluth Community Rec Center	8.65
Morgan Park Community Recreation Center	8.68
Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center	14.24
Piedmont Community Recreation Center	9.14
Central Hillside Community Park	2.76
Grant Community Recreation Center	5.18
Portman Community Recreation Center	2.75
Woodland Community Recreation Center	26.56
Lafayette Square	1.84
Washington Community Recreation Center	2.76
Evergreen Community Center	0.22
Destination Parks	2,840
Bayfront Park	14.97
Corner of the Lake Park	6.20
Leif Erickson Park	7.94
Kitchi Gammi Park (Brighton Beach)	107.69
Lester Park	471.02
Chambers Grove	15.93
Gichi-ode' Akiing	4.35
Rose Garden	4.29
Lakewalk	35.71
Enger Park	135.23
Spirit Mountain Recreation Area	1116.52
Chester Park	135.23
Lower Chester Park	1.67
Quarry Park	29.81
Hartley Park	684.04
Harbor Plaza	2.20
Baywalk	0.64
Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail	23.17
Lincoln Park	43.54

NAME	ACRES
Natural/Passive	5,540
Bayview Park	72.22
Brewer Park	166.40
Oneota Park	19.15
Central Park	31.59
Southworth Marsh	11.76
Park Point Hiking Trail Park	30.99
Downer Park	14.88
Janette Pollay Park	68.85
Congdon Park	41.81
Lakeside Court Park	0.30
Amity Park	247.24
Grassy Point	26.74
Point of Rocks Park	12.98
Carson Park	6.27
Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve	1936.61
Bellevue Park	2.46
Hartman Park	19.27
Minnesota Point Shoreline	69.36
Magney/Snively Park	1613.73
Short Line Park	76.07
Congdon Trust Land	55.62
Bristol Beach Park	0.14
Ericsson Place	0.42
Nun's Quarry	1.33
Page Street Pond	34.56
Web Woods	16.84
Hawk Ridge	395.15
Piedmont Park	507.95
Park Point Community Recreation Center	60.16

NAME	ACRES
Neighborhood	121
Blackmer Park	9.86
Norton Park Community Recreation Center	2.97
Riverside Community Recreation Center	3.95
Birchwood Park	3.07
Keene Creek Park	10.90
Memorial Park	3.88
Merritt Community Recreation Center	2.57
Observation Community Recreation Center	5.50
Morley Heights Park	1.15
Irving Community Recreation Center	8.54
Cascade Park	2.41
Hillside Sport Court Community Recreation Center	2.45
Portland Square	2.76
Grosvenor Square	2.75
Munger Park	0.43
Lilliput Park	0.40
Fremont Park	2.57
Fairmount Park	31.35
Franklin Square	1.74
Morningside Park	1.15
Old Main Park	4.27
Midtown Park	1.29
Veterans' Memorial Park	0.37
Washington Square	2.75
Endion Park	1.90
Fond du Lac Park	3.86
Como Park	5.76

NAME	ACRES
Parkway	6
Wallace Cul-de-sac	0.14
Arrowhead Road Island	0.36
Gladstone Cul-de-sac	0.06
Superior St. Boulevard	1.52
Railroad St. Parkway	0.71
59th Ave. W Parkway	1.27
Lakeview Drive Parkway	0.81
6th Ave & 2nd St Traffic Island	0.10
47th & London Triangle	0.19
Tioga Triangle	0.15
Granitoid Memorial Park	0.15
Plaza	5
Civic Center	3.53
Minnesota Power Plaza	0.39
Lake Superior Plaza	0.14
Fountain of the Wind	0.06
Ordean Court	0.19
Gateway Park	0.80
Buchanan Street Plaza	0.16
Special Use	266
Indian Point Campground	50.79
Wade Sports Complex	17.05
Enger Municipal Golf Course	294.87
Lester Park Golf Course	251.10
Longview Tennis	1.08
Portland Sport Court	0.30
Rail Park	0.10
Lake Park Athletic Complex	40.06
Lake Superior Zoo	27.78
Arlington Athletic Complex	105.29
Miller Creek Disc Golf	11.44
Riley Road Dog Park	4.21
Twin Ponds Park	7.80
Trailhead and Water Access	13
Boy Scout Landing	2.77
Munger Landing	3.08
Rice's Point Landing	6.30
Perch Lake Landing	0.95

NAME	ACRES
Undeveloped	259
Napoleon B. Merritt Memorial Park	38.93
Indian Park	0.84
Hilltop Park	2.75
Stanley Park	1.11
Kelso Park	1.02
Waverly Park	2.27
Fond Du Lac Park Square	1.52
Walbanks Park	1.24
Pennell Park	1.19
Manchester Square	2.75
Russell Square	2.75
Sonside Park	7.92
Northridge Park	28.16
Lakeview Park	2.25
Jollystone Park	0.52
Mall Drive Park	31.67
Parkwood	1.43
Spirit Cove	0.51
Smithville Park	6.98
Riverside Community Garden	1.35
Heritage Garden Triangle	0.69
University Park	2.50
42nd Ave. E Park	0.98
Cobb Park	2.79
Johnson Park	0.53
Moose Hill Park	80.97
Lyman Park	15.96
43rd Ave. E Park	0.46
Norton Park	2.58
Pleasant View Park	4.48
Mike Colalillo Medal of Honor Park	0.19
Historical Park	1.27
Strickland Park	0.18
Wallace Ave. & Vermilion Road Triangles	0.17
Reverend L. F. Merritt Memorial Park	0.29
Aarons Valley	2.67
Mont Du Vue	1.79
Buffalo Park	2.01
Smithville Triangle	1.01

Name	Acres	Basketball Court Sites	Tennis Court Sites	Pickleball Court Sites	Multiuse Court Sites	Baseball/Softball Field	Soccer Field	Multiuse Field	Athletic Lighting	Sand Volleyball Court	Bocce Ball Court	Horseshoe Court	DISC Golf Course	Skate Park	Hockey Rink	Pleasure Rink	Sledding Hills (SH = Sled Shed	Climbing/Bouldering Routes	Cross Country Ski Trails	Mountain Bike Trails	Hiking Trails	Snowmobile Trails	Horse Trails	Motorized Boat Launch	Non-Motorized Boat Launch/Take-outs	Fishing Pier	Community Garden (F=Flower, Community Orchard (S=stage)	Large Pavilion	Medium Pavilion	Small (Gazebo)	Picnic Tables	Benches	Grills	Dog Park	Play Lawn	Nature Playscape	Playground	Toddler Playground	Accessible Playground	Accessible Path/Trail	Beach/Swimming Access	Water Body	Decorative Fountain	Interpretive Signage	Permanent Restroom Facility	Off-Street Parking (L = Limited)	Community Center	Building Other			
Natural / Passive Parks, Cont'd																																																			
Piedmont Park	507.95																																																		
Point of Rocks Park	12.98																	X																																	
Short Line Park	76.07																	X		X	X		X																									X			
Southworth Marsh	11.76																																								X										
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Blackmer Park	9.86					X		X																								X	X	X				X										L			
Cascade Park	2.41																														X	X	X	X				X													
Como Park	5.76					X			X						X	X																														X	X		X		
Endion Park	1.90	X	X																													X	X			X		X								X					
Fairmount Park	31.35																				X											X		X			X		X							X					
Fond du Lac Park	3.86	X	X				X	X																				X				X	X			X		X			X										
Franklin Square	1.74																																X					X		X						X					
Fremont Park	2.57																																																		
Grosvenor Square	2.75							X																												X															
Hillside Sport Court Community Rec Center	2.45	X				X		X																									X	X			X		X								L			X	
Irving Community Recreation Center	8.54	X					X	X																									X	X	X		X		X	X							X			X	
Keene Creek Park	10.90	X	X											X																			X	X	X	X				X							X				
Lilliput Park	0.40																										P								X	X	X														
Memorial Park	3.88					X		X	X																		F			X			X	X	X		X		X	X								X			

[illegible]

C

APPENDIX C

RECREATION TRENDS MEMO

DESIGNWORKSHOP

Landscape Architecture

Planning

Urban Design

Strategic Services

120 East Main Street

Aspen, Colorado 81611

970.925.8354

designworkshop.com

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Duluth Parks and Recreation
Department: Cliff Knettel and Katie Bennett

From: Design Workshop: Anna Laybourn,
Callie New

Date: October 14, 2021

Project Name: Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Project #: 6648

Subject: Recreation Trends Memo (part 2 of Task 3.1: Demographic Analysis and Recreation Trends Research)

MEMORANDUM PURPOSE

This interim internal memorandum is intended to capture all currently available data regarding recreation use and an analysis of what this means for Duluth's recreation planning. Key information from memo will be selected for inclusion in the final document and some information may be used to express the existing conditions and broad overview of opportunities in public engagement/information efforts.

This report addresses the following:

- Key Findings
- Parks and Recreation Offerings
- Economic Impacts of Recreation
- Minnesota and Duluth Activity Trends
- National Changes in Activity
- Trends in Parks and Recreation
- Demographics and Recreational Trends
- Recreational Challenges and Opportunities

In your review of this memo please look for:

- Any gaps or misrepresentation in recreation interests and trends.
- Questions found in margins that confirm or update key stats or info.
- Additional data sources to cite.
- Highlight interesting or key information to bring forward in external documents or communications.

KEY FINDINGS

- According to Minnesota's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP 2019 and Outdoor Activities Survey 2017):
 - Outdoor activities are an increasingly important part of most Minnesotan's lives; 70 percent of survey responders stated that outdoor activities are very important

- (“very important” response increased from 54 percent in 2004). Nearly two thirds of Minnesotans report recreating outdoors more than twice per week.
- Favorite activities for adult recreation include mostly passive recreation - “relaxing in the outdoors,” “walking or hiking,” “relaxing by the water,” and “picnicking outdoors.” The top winter activities are sledding / snow tubing and ice fishing. These findings indicate that Minnesotans prefer activities that require less equipment or advanced skills or that they have not had the opportunity to develop interests and skills to participate in other activities.
 - Seasonality plays a large role in Minnesota’s outdoor recreation participation trends. Minnesotans participate in fewer winter activities than all-season and three-season activities. Whereas 1.4 percent of Minnesotans reported that they had not participated in any three-season activities during the previous year, and 1.1 percent did not participate in any all-season activities, a full quarter of Minnesotans did not participate in outdoor activities that are only available in winter.
- Information released through the Sports and Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) 2021 (based on data collected in 2020) Topline Report on Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities reveals that the most popular sport and recreational activities nationally include walking for fitness, treadmill, free weights, running/jogging, and hiking. Youth ages six to 12 are the most active cohort, with inactivity rates in 2020 at 13.7 percent. Comparatively, all age groups (13 to those 65+) had an inactivity rate of 15% or above¹. This age group of youth has the highest participation rates in most sports, except for fitness and water sports. The one sport category where youth participation rates significantly exceed that of other groups is team sports.
 - The Physical Activity Council’s 2021 annual study shows how inactivity is reversely proportional to income, with individuals earning under \$25,000 showing an inactivity rate as high as 41.4 percent.
 - The most heavily participated individual sports nationally for 2020 were bowling (40.1 million), golf (36.8 million) and tennis (21.6 million). Specific to the pandemic effects, the popularity of these sports can be attributed to the ability to compete with a relatively small number of participants. Also over the last year, the activities that grew most rapidly throughout the nation were road biking, skateboarding, and surfing. A statistic that is extremely relevant to Duluth is that in 2020, hiking (57.8 million), fishing (14.5 million), bicycling (44.4 million), and camping (36 million) had the largest number of participants in the outdoor recreation category.
 - According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2019 outdoor recreation in Minnesota generated over \$9.1 billion, which accounts for 2.4 percent of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP). Outdoor recreation also provided more than 99,000 jobs in the state of Minnesota, which is about 2.6 percent of the state’s employment. This amounts to about \$4.5 billion in wages and salaries, and \$2.3 billion in State and Local Tax Revenue. Minnesota was ranked as 18th nationwide in value added, 21st in employment, and 18th in compensation for Outdoor Recreation.
 - The activities that add the most economic value to Minnesota’s GDP is boating and fishing (\$627,496), motorcycling/ATVing (\$550,623) and hunting/shooting/trapping (\$381,444). Supporting Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA), the measure of the economic activity generated by outdoor recreational activities, those that contribute to the core activities and include such things as construction, travel and tourism, local trips, and government expenditures, make up a majority (43%) of the overall Outdoor Recreation value.
 - According to data provided from Minnesota State of the Trails 2018-2019 Report, Minnesota’s paved state trail system is in good condition, but conditions are declining without any action. Measured in the report, 75% of trails (447 miles) were rated excellent or

good, 20% (121 miles) were rated fair, and 6% of trails (32 miles) were rated as poor or very poor. If current trends continue, only 50% of state trails are projected to be in good or excellent condition by 2030.

- In Duluth specifically, Munger Trail was rated as good and/or excellent. In other cities the trail tended to be rated mostly fair.
- Equity and Services:
 - According to the State SCORP, in general, younger Minnesotans participate in more activities—in total, and more frequently— than older Minnesotans. Minnesotans with higher incomes and higher levels of education, too, participated in more activities, on average, than those with lower household incomes and lower levels of education.
 - A survey conducted by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) shows that up to 60 percent of respondent Parks and Recreation agencies are supporting food distribution and pantries, daycare for children of essential workers and first responders, and safe places for learning. This is a result of the pre-established community trust and familiarity for Parks and Recreation. In this vital role, it is important for departments to acknowledge any social and racial disparities, how those disparities have impacted parks and recreation services, and work towards implementing solutions.
 - According to Aspen Institute's Project Play, there is a significant difference between children in low- and high-income households being physically active. Only 28 percent of youth 13-17 living in homes with an income under \$25,000 consistently played sports, compared to 47 percent in homes over \$100,000. Kids from the lowest-income homes are more than three times as likely to be physically inactive. Equal access recreational opportunities play a great part in this disproportionality.
 - In Minnesota, Black, Indigenous, and other adults from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are twice as likely (30 percent compared to 14 percent) as white adults to rate nearby parks and outdoor recreation areas as either fair or poor (APM Research Lab, 2021).
- Trends to consider in Parks and Recreation planning: impacts from the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19), climate change, technology, health and health equity, accessibility.

PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS

Introduction

Minnesota has long been known for its vibrant and abundant outdoors scene. In fact, Minnesota's 66 state parks, that include lakes, forests, rivers, and other geographic features, attract more than nine million annual visitors, making the state a prime destination for many outdoor enthusiasts. That is also true to the Northeast region of the state where the Duluth is located. The region offers thousands of acres of green space alongside the great Lake Superior, pristine wilderness, and small-town spirit. The diverse and refreshing landscapes of the region contribute to a high quality of life and are a good reason why many visit or choose to live there. According to Visit Duluth, the city receives over 6.7 million visitors per year. Higher visitation rates translate to more stress on parks, natural areas, sensitive landscapes and wildlife habitats, more wear-and-tear and higher maintenance costs, and more crowding and competition for access to trails and recreation facilities. It is critical to think ahead and plan now to address these challenges and keep these spaces in the pristine and diverse condition that makes Minnesota a one-of-a-kind state and Duluth a place with high quality of life.

Summary of Duluth's Recreation Offerings

With the vision of being a “high performing, resilient, and efficient system”, the City of Duluth supports passive and active recreation for its residents and visitors in a variety of ways. Much of Duluth’s properties focus on recreational opportunities that are desirable and compatible with their open spaces and natural settings. These include passive recreation activities, like hiking, walking, and biking which can offer constructive, restorative, and enjoyable opportunities outdoors.

Today, Duluth’s parks, open spaces, and trails offer a broad variety of outdoor recreation activities that are growing in diversity. Due to the city’s proximity to Lake Superior, the St. Louis River, and many smaller creeks, both the City and private operators in Duluth offer unique water-based experiences such as sailing, charter fishing, rafting, canoeing, and kayaking. Notably, the St. Louis River Estuary, which is designated as a National Water Trail within the National Park Service, falls within the City’s recreation profile. The City’s parks and facilities offer other activities like sports, arts, event space, and therapeutic recreation services. Residents and visitors can enjoy almost 9,000 acres of green space, 129 parks, and trails for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and skiing. Additionally, the city has an array of sports and recreation facilities, including 20 basketball courts, 15 ice rinks, 16 tennis courts, softball/baseball fields, disc golf courses, skating rinks, dog parks, golf courses, picnic areas, and community centers. Some of the key parks and open spaces in Duluth include the Western Waterfront Trail, The Lakewalk, Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, and Gichi-Ode’ Akiing (Lake Place Park). The City’s Parks and Recreation Division hosts a number of events including marathons, concerts, car shows, and races.

Parks and Recreation also offers a variety of free recreational opportunities, including guided hikes, snow stompers, Trivia Trails, a Visual Egg Hunt, Joke Trails, Halloween Hunt, Turkey Search and a Holiday Walk.

A Brief History of the Parks and Recreation System

Prior to the 19th century, various Native Nations, including Assiniboine, Ojibwe, Cree, Cheyenne and Dakota, inhabited the land now known as Duluth, Minnesota. European settlement began to infringe on these lands towards the early 1800s. In 1854, the Lake Superior Ojibwe entered the 1854 Treaty of La Pointe with the United States, which ceded lands in what is now northeastern Minnesota, including the Duluth area². From there, Duluth’s parks began in a similar fashion to many other park systems established in the 19th century. ³ It started as town squares - unimproved tracts of land in a central area used by the community as a public gathering place. As Duluth began to grow, those residing in the townsite set aside two platted parks: Cascade Square, a four-acre parcel in the heart of downtown, and Central Park (sometimes called Zenith Park) a thirty-acre parcel high on the rocky hillside west of downtown.⁴ William K. Rogers can be credited for the preservation of much of the lands that make up Duluth’s current park system, which included scenic hillside parkway and connection to a number of parks along Lake Superior’s shoreline. Roger’s park system plan was officially adopted in February of 1888 with Duluth’s first Board of Park Commissioners created shortly after in 1889.

However, it was not until the late 1890’s that the Park Board began making real progress due to the aid of the community. ⁵ The citizens of Duluth utilized the parks and also helped to acquire land, make improvements, and maintain facilities. Today, despite the many changes to the Parks and Recreation system and its decision makers, Duluth has maintained that legacy and commitment to its parks. The Parks and Recreation Department has the mission to “promote the health and well-being of our community, environment and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities and natural resources now and into the future.”⁶

Duluth’s comprehensive plan, Imagine Duluth 2035 seeks to “connect where people live, work, and play in a vision of vibrant, walkable, neighborhood centers and a thriving downtown, all with diverse housing options and served by modern streets, good sidewalks, efficient utilities, and

transit.” The plan works to create solutions to the challenges of persistent inequality, a significant amount of untaxable property and land, challenging geography, and uphill connectivity. In summary, the goals that the City has set in relation to its Parks and Recreation are as follows: Duluth would like to enhance its multi-mobility options, connectivity, and networks, improve publicly owned open space, encourage urban food growth, improve disaster resiliency, increase incentives, public involvement, and efficiency for better overall energy use and conservation and integrate fairness into the fabric of the community.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF RECREATION

The outdoor recreation industry has a significant role in the State of Minnesota’s economy. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2019 outdoor recreation in Minnesota generated over \$9.1 billion, which accounts for 2.4 percent of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP). Outdoor recreation also provided more than 99,000 jobs in the state of Minnesota, which is about 2.6 percent of the state’s employment. This amounts to about \$4.5 billion in wages and salaries, and \$2.3 billion in State and Local Tax Revenue. Minnesota was ranked as 18th in value added, 21st in employment, and 18th in compensation for Outdoor Recreation.

Much of the value added to Minnesota is through boating and fishing (\$627,496), motorcycling/ATVing (\$550,623) and hunting/shooting/trapping (\$381,444). Supporting ORSA activities, those that contribute to the core activities and include such things as construction, travel and tourism, local trips, and government expenditures, make up a majority (43%) of the overall Outdoor Recreation value.

Throughout 2020, about 15,488 adults in Duluth spent money on sports and recreation equipment, a percentage of the population slightly above the national average⁷. Figure 1, below, includes Market Potential Data (MPI) that measures the probable demand for a product or service in a certain geography (in this case for Minnesota) or the likelihood that an adult resident of the area will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national average (as displayed in Figures 2, 3, and 4). For the purposes of this metric, the national average is 100 and therefore numbers below 100 represent a predicted lower-than-average participation rate, while numbers above 100 represent a predicted higher-than-average participation rate. MPI data also provides a comparison between the estimated percentage of the U.S. population and local population that participate in each activity. High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate that there is a greater potential that residents will participate in programs and have a need for related facilities. The MPI and estimated participant numbers are helpful tools for estimating resident participation in identified activities and projecting the need for facilities in the future. Readers should use caution when reading this data; the number of adults expected to purchase sports/recreation equipment is not precise and excludes the important youth demographic.

Figure 1 displays a breakdown of Duluth resident’s expenditure on sports and recreation equipment, revealing that nearly eight percent spent between \$1 to \$99 for sport and recreation equipment. Six percent of the Duluth population spent between \$100-\$249 and nearly eight percent spent \$250 or more. This information may help the City better tailor their recreation offerings to meet their resident’s expenditure trends.

Spending Range	Number of of Adults Expected to Purchase Equipment	Percent of Population	Market Potential Data (MPI)
\$1-99	5,588	7.7%	132
\$100-\$249	4,343	6.0%	107
\$250+	5,557	7.7%	104

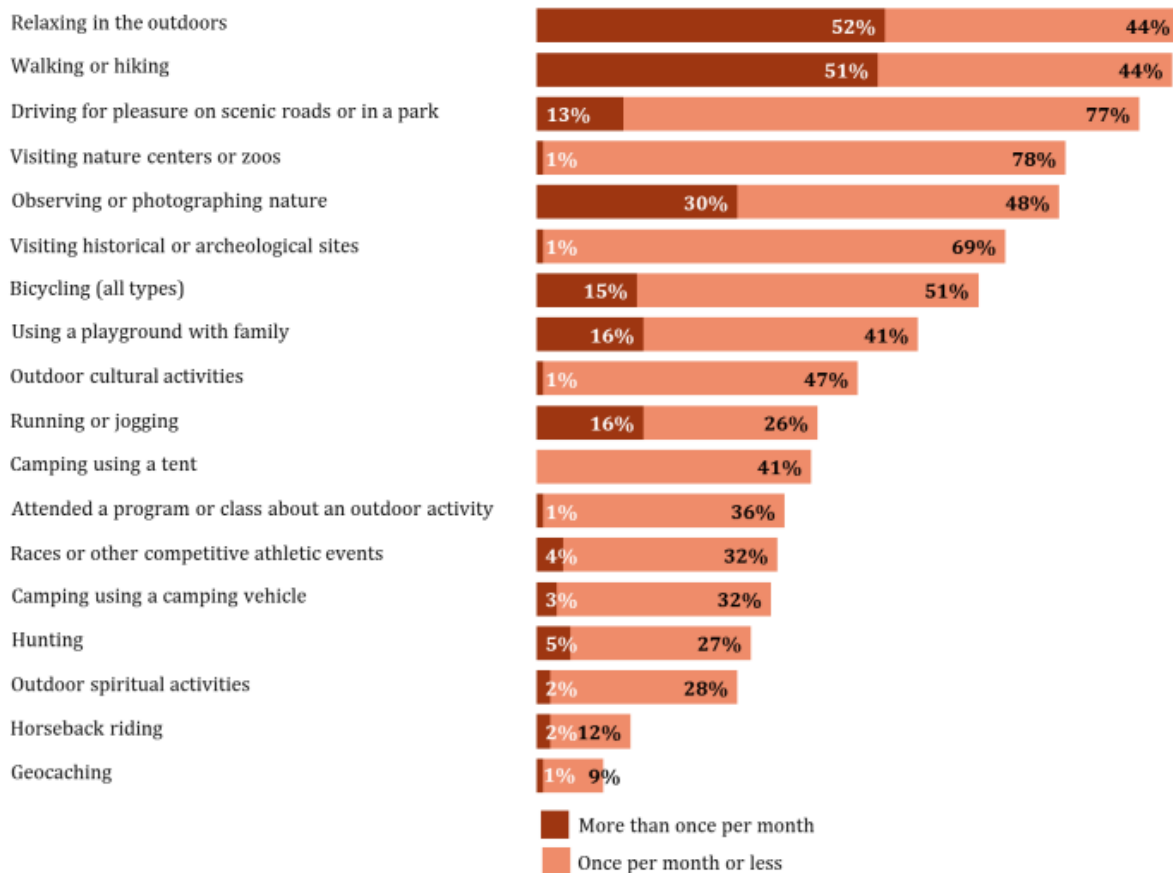
*Figure 1: Table of Local Participatory Market Potential Spent on Expenditure for Sports/Rec equip in last 12 months
Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report 2021*

MINNESOTA AND DULUTH ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Minnesota Recreation Trends & Popular Outdoor Activities

The 2022-2024 *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Plan (SCORP)* indicates that in a 2017 Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Household Survey, 70 percent of survey responders think outdoor activities are very important. This is a 16 percent increase from the 54 percent in the 2004 report, indicating a growing importance. In the same survey, nearly two thirds of respondents also stated that they recreate outdoors more than twice per week. According to the report, Minnesotan's favorite activities include "relaxing in the outdoors", "walking or hiking", "relaxing by the water" and "picnicking outdoors. The 2022-2024 report also contains results from a Local Recreation Provider Survey stating that a majority of providers (77 percent) reported increased visitation to their parks and facilities in the past five years and plan to develop new infrastructure in the next five years. The top winter activities are sledding / snow tubing and ice fishing. Figure 2 provides a summary of participation in outdoor recreation activities and frequency from the 2017 State survey of adults.

*Figure 2. On average, Minnesotans participated in 9 of the 19 year-round activities (47 percent) listed in the survey.
Source: 2017 Minnesota Outdoor Activity Survey Report on Findings*



Minnesota Activity Trends

Figure 3 shows data from ESRI 2020 that breaks down the participation rates of several recorded activities in Minnesota. Walking for exercise, attending sports events, swimming, hiking and jogging/running have the highest percentage of participants, and shows a higher market potential for all activities than the U.S. national average. Canoeing/kayaking, golf, boating, fishing, hunting and shooting are the most significantly higher than national trends.

Top 10 Activities by # of Participants in Minnesota and 6 Other Activities with High MPI Values			
Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults Participated in Last 12 months	Percent of Population	Market Potential data (MPI)
Top 10 Activities by Participation			
Walking for exercise	1,135,908	25.4%	107
Attended sports events	769,178	17.2%	111
Swimming	745,340	16.7%	109
Hiking	589,280	13.2%	109
Jogging/Running	585,162	13.1%	107
Fishing (fresh water)	556,925	12.5%	114
Weightlifting	500,332	11.2%	109
Bicycling on the road	448,368	10%	109
Bowling	428,854	9.6%	110
Golfing	420,208	9.4%	118

Activities more Popular in Minnesota than National Trend			
Canoeing/Kayaking	333,655	7.5%	118
Golfing	420,208	9.4%	118
Boating (power)	218,093	4.9%	115
Fishing (fresh water)	556,925	12.5%	114
Hunting (rifle)	201,423	4.5%	114
Shooting (targets)	227,253	5.1%	114

Figure 3: Minnesota Sports and Leisure Market Potential

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report 2020

Duluth Sport and Market Potential

Figure 4, produced from data by ESRI Business Analyst 2020, provides an input into the most popular activities in Duluth. The top section of the table marks the 10 most popular activities by number of adults who have participated in them in the past 12 months. Walking for exercise is the number one most popular activity in Duluth. The other activities that many adults participate in are swimming, jogging/running, fishing, weightlifting, and hiking. While top activities are similar to that of the state's top activities (minus attending sports events), slightly smaller percentages of Duluth residents participate in these activities.

The second section of the table shows other activities that are also quite popular in Duluth, even though the percentage of participation is relatively low. Some of the activities that residents of the city are typically more engaged in than the national average includes tennis, ice skating, Frisbee, Pilates, and basketball.

Top 10 Activities by # of Participants in Duluth and Other Activities with High MPI Values			
Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults Participated in Last 12 months	Percent of Population	Market Potential data (MPI)
Top 10 Activities by Participation			
Walking for exercise	41,003	23%	107
Swimming	26,233	14%	111
Jogging/running	20,826	11%	109
Fishing (fresh water)	20,667	11%	109
Weightlifting	20,538	11%	107
Hiking	20,236	11%	114
Bowling	17,201	9%	109
Bicycling (road)	16,971	9%	109
Golf	15,137	8%	110
Yoga	14,865	8%	105
Activities more Popular in Duluth than National Trend			
Tennis	3,640	5.0%	140
Ice Skating	2,871	4%	140
Frisbee	3,645	5.0%	136
Soccer	4,032	5.6%	132
Pilates	2,285	3.2%	124
Basketball	6,969	9.6%	123
Fresh water fishing	9,365	13%	119
Football	3,938	5.4%	117
Bowling	7,334	10.1%	116
Archery	2,185	3.0%	115
Canoeing/kayaking	5,279	7.3%	115
Golf	6,649	9.2%	115

Weight Lifting	8,550	11.8%	115
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Figure 4: Duluth's Sports and Leisure Market Potential

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report 2020

Duluth Event Space Trends

Two Park Point Recreation Area pavilions offer event space for the community including memorial services and celebration of life events. The trend of utilizing parks for these memorable gatherings increased due to COVID-19 and is anticipated to continue through 2021. Another facility, Wade Stadium hosts baseball tournaments and private gatherings/events. Through most of 2020 the stadium, like many businesses and facilities that closed in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, was repurposed from its traditional use of hosting the Duluth Huskies and was available for public use. In spite of 2020's circumstances, Parks and Recreation was able to offer users safe and comfortable ways to utilize the parks.

NATIONAL CHANGES IN ACTIVITY

Overview of National Trends

Supplemented with input from Duluth residents, a study of national recreation trends is helpful for understanding changing needs and informing decisions about the activities that may need additional accommodation in the future. Information released through the Sports and Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) 2021 (based on data collected in 2020) Topline Report on Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities reveals that the most popular sport and recreational activities include walking for fitness, treadmill, free weights, running/jogging, and hiking. Most of these activities appeal to both young and old alike, can be done in most environments, are enjoyed regardless of level of skill, and have minimal economic barriers to entry. These activities also experienced an increase in popularity from previous years. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to participate in these activities alone or socially distanced from others was a significant contributing factor to their increased popularity. The report also shows that the rate of inactivity in America, for the first time since reporting, dropped throughout every income bracket. Nevertheless, there is still a significant gap between inactivity at the lowest income level (14.4 percent) and inactivity at the highest income level (41.4 percent).

As noted in previous sections, many recreation shifts can be credited to the COVID-19 pandemic and the advised social distancing measures that were advised in an effort to stop the spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV). Activities that showed a decreased rate of participation in 2020 are team sports, activities that take place indoors, and those that require close contact. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, participation rates dropped as Americans struggled to figure out how to adapt to restrictions. However, coming on the heels of the nationwide "lockdown" in March, May of 2020 was the most active month of the year. 78.2 percent of the population reported doing at least one physical activity. Other recreation activities, particularly those done in the outdoors, have witnessed an increasing level of participation. In fact, many national parks reported unprecedented numbers of visitors the summer of 2020.⁸

The SFIA Report is organized into several categories for a better understanding of trends. This report analyzes fitness sports (activities participated in specifically to workout), outdoor recreation

(only sports able to be done outside), individual and team sports, and lastly, the sports/activities that respondents plan to participate in.

National Trends in Fitness Sports

The SFIA Report groups together aerobic, conditioning, and strength activities under Fitness Sports. This category includes activities such as walking for fitness, Cross-Training, running/jogging, yoga, and free weights. National participatory trends in fitness have experienced some strong growth in recent years but stayed steady in 2020.⁹ This lack of a significant increase in participants has more to do with the decrease of equipment use, such as weight/resistance machines and treadmills, than the actual decrease of overall fitness participation. The second most popular activity (outdoor sports) had a 52.9 percent participation rate. Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest among people to improve their health by engaging in an active lifestyle. These activities also have very few barriers to entry – they are relatively inexpensive to participate in and can be performed by nearly anyone with no time restrictions. The most popular fitness activity by far is fitness walking, which had over 114 million participants in 2020 according to the SFIA report's inferred forecasts.¹⁰ Over the last year, the activities that grew most rapidly were road biking, skateboarding, and surfing. In total participants, road biking gained 5.1 million, skateboarding gained 2.3 million, and surfing gained 0.8 million additional people.

National Trends in Outdoor Recreation

The second most popular of the activity groups was outdoor sports/recreation, with more than 52.9 percent of people reporting that they participated in such activities in 2020.¹¹ Much like the general fitness activities, outdoor recreation activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or with a group, and are not limited by time restraints. In 2020, hiking (57.8 million), fishing (14.5 million), bicycling (44.4 million), and camping (36 million) had the largest number of participants in the outdoor recreation category. Most outdoor activities had an increase in participation over a five-year period. Only seven out of the 23 outdoor activities in the report showed a slight decline in participation rates, over the past five years, including climbing and hunting/shooting.

National Trends in Individual and Team Sports

The most heavily participated individual sports for 2020 were bowling (40.1 million), golf (36.8 million) and tennis (21.6 million).¹² The number of participants for each of these activities is well above the other activities in the other individual sports category including archery, ice skating, boxing, horseback riding, skateboarding, and pickleball. The popularity of these sports in 2020 can likely be attributed to the ability to compete at a distance and with a relatively small number of participants. Golf also appeals to a wide age spectrum and is considered a life-long sport.

In terms of core numbers, the amount of people who participate on a regular basis, Basketball and ultimate Frisbee had the largest increases. These sports can be played in informal settings without a specified number of participants.¹³ Basketball's success can also be attributed to the limited amount of equipment needed to participate and the limited space requirements necessary, which makes basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at many American dwellings as a driveway pickup game.

Other notable individual and team sports that were popular in 2020 include skateboarding, pickleball and table tennis.¹⁴ These activities have seen strong growth in the past year with skateboarding increasing by 34 percent, pickleball by 21.3 percent and table tennis up by 13 percent. Adventure racing experienced the largest decline in participation rates – seven percent over the past five years. It is important to note that team sports had an extremely difficult year. Only five of the 23 team sports had total participation increases.

National Intent to Participate

The SFIA report also includes a chapter that shows which activities people wanted to continue, start, or end in the next 12 months. For most age segments, fishing, running, biking, and hiking were aspirational activities. Swimming for fitness was also a popular activity that people older than 35 years aspired to start doing. When aspirational activities were viewed by income, fishing, hiking, and working out with weights were amongst the top activities for all income groups. Fishing and hiking were most popular amongst lower income groups, whilst working out with weights and hiking were at the top for higher income groups.

National Trends in Youth Sports

It should be noted that the following statistics are derived from data that precedes the COVID-19 pandemic; it can be expected that some changes in youth sports have resulted from the pandemic similar to those reflected above. Project Play: State of Play 2020 is a report on national trends in youth sports. According to the report, in 2019, nearly 61 percent of kids played team sports on at least a casual basis – the highest on record dating back to 2012, and an eight percent increase from 2018. Sports with the steepest inclines among youth ages 13-17 were softball (12 percent), lacrosse (8 percent), field hockey (8 percent), volleyball (8 percent). Those with the steepest decline were tennis (5 percent) and cheerleading (4 percent).

An important trend for parks and recreation organizers to consider is the transition of children from elementary to middle school ages.¹⁵ In 2019, the youth sports ecosystem lost almost 3 million kids during this transition. The sport with the largest loss by middle schoolers was baseball, with almost two million fewer participants for ages 13-17 than ages 6-12. Structural characteristics can be attributed to this loss. For instance, Little League and other forms of community-based play are most popular through age 13. However, as the competitive pitching level increases, players move onto larger fields, and the presence of travel teams increases, which often requires a financial contribution to participate. In turn, this increase of competitiveness and financial commitment may deter participants.¹⁶ Some sports such as gymnastics are intentionally structured to be better suited for younger kids. On the other hand, sports such as tackle football are designed more for older youth. The individual sports that gained middle school participants are tennis, swimming, and track and field.

The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan nonprofit think tank that offers interdisciplinary research, found that lacrosse is growing in popularity among children. Between the 14 team sports that were evaluated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association in 2018, lacrosse had the highest percentage of newcomers and return participants (55 percent) among kids aged six to 12. Even as the sport had lost 36 percent of its players from 2017, it remained with a net gain of 19 percent which was higher than any other sport, surpassing track and field (16 percent) and wrestling (11 percent).¹⁷

Moreover, the report also states that while participation has increased for both males and females in sports overall, the gap between them widened. Males played sports more regularly than females by 6.4 percentage points at ages 6-12 and by 8.7 percentage points at ages 13-17. This growing gap may be due to factors including personal choices, family circumstances, changing interests, societal stereotypes, gender biases, and community offerings.¹⁸

TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

The NRPA looks at hot topics and trends that parks and recreation departments may see become a focus in their localities in the coming year, citing those elements in the annual Top Trends in Parks and Recreation Report. The 2021 list includes some interesting topics that may apply to Duluth:

Pandemic-Based Changes

The NRPA states that certain changes caused by COVID-19 will continue to stay in place. One of the largest impacts of the pandemic was to workplaces. Practices such as working remotely, virtual learning and meetings, and contactless transactions will survive post-pandemic. Other transformations were made to our society, economy, and transportation systems. The NRPA estimates that trends – both beneficial and unfortunate – will continue. On one hand, patterns like declining mass transit systems, altering land-use patterns and the shrinking number of brick and mortar businesses, and a widening social inequality gap will continue. On the other, changes to public spaces such as the expansion of pedestrian spaces, converting street portions for outdoor dining and bike lanes, and the instillation of parklets, will also remain.

Another impact of the pandemic is on economic conditions¹⁹. COVID-19 delivered a crushing blow on the budgets of states and localities. According to NRPA, one third of all park and recreation budgets will see cuts of 25 percent or more in 2021-2022 budgets, and even greater in 2022-2023 budgets, without robust financial aid from the government.

- Parks, trails, and natural spaces act as critical infrastructure to the public, serving physical, mental, and emotional needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the importance of close-to-home access to nature and outdoor recreation, further expanding the relationship between people and public spaces. Likewise, there are growing opportunities for outdoor public spaces to be utilized in response to lingering effects of the pandemic, including: Providing flexible, adaptive, and expansive outdoor spaces for classes and programming that cannot safely be provided indoors;
- Using trails to fill gaps in public transportation;
- Addressing overcrowding by expanding resources in high demand areas and raising awareness of and spreading the love to less popular locations;
- Providing opportunities for “distanced” activities and addressing social isolation for vulnerable populations; and
- Addressing the disconnect between youth and sports and athletics, fear in managing physical interactions in youth sports, and underserved populations facing the inability to ‘pay-to-play’.

The NRPA Youth Sports at Park and Recreation Agencies report states that nearly all (97 percent) park and recreation respondents noted that many of the COVID-19 based innovations their agencies made to health and wellness programs will continue post-pandemic. Among the top

lasting transformations are those to outdoor health and wellness programming (e.g., exercise classes) (offered by 80 percent of agencies), mental health programming (e.g., yoga, tai chi, mindfulness) (55 percent) and providing social connection opportunities for older adults (53 percent).

Climate Change Impacts

The effects of climate change are inevitable and will be felt by all. Among the National Climate Assessment's findings for the Midwest were: More than 20 million people already breathe air that fails to meet national ambient air quality standards, there is an increase of major heatwaves (3x as many from 1900-2010), and extreme rainfall and flooding events have increased during the last century and will continue to persist.²⁰ In turn, it is crucial for outdoor recreation and parks and recreation agencies to adapt to these changes. There are plenty of challenges for parks and open space that will arise due to the extreme heat, but there are also plenty of opportunities that these spaces can offer when facing climate change. Most new parks will be designed with resiliency at their forefront²¹. They can provide multi-benefits for flood protection, stormwater filtering, and cooling. Trees and green infrastructure are recognized not only for their recreational uses but also for their importance to health and well-being, specifically in a climate-changing world. The NRPA reiterates that parks provide natural infrastructure that help communities reduce urban heat island effect and mitigate the impacts of extreme heat. They also predict that underground and abandoned structures such as unused tunnels, mall garages and big box stores will be converted to park and recreation uses. They can provide structures for skateparks, farmers markets, and program areas. All places will feel the effects of climate change, but according to data from ProPublica, St. Louis County will be far less critically impacted than others²².

NRPA also notes that climate change is increasingly being recognized as a racial justice problem. The weight of climate change will affect low-income and minority communities the most due to its greater influence on economic and health within them. These communities are often lacking parks and green space which is vital in preventing destructive impacts. This information is crucial for Duluth's resiliency to such changes.

Technology

Another theme that continues to prevail in the NRPA's trends report is technology. For the past three years, the Association has highlighted advancements that present parks and open spaces with both opportunities and challenges. In 2020, a company introduced a security system that includes motion and vibration sensors and monitoring drones²³. Coupled with the amount of data already collected from park patrons, including financial data for programs and user fees, photos and facial recognition software, and medical profiles provided for programs, this type of security monitoring could forever alter the security of parks. For instance, some cities are already using data to see where, when, and how long people use the amenities in their parks. More typical, however, is parks and recreation systems already in the process of incorporating new technology such as robotic cleaning systems, line-painting vehicles, and autonomous mowing and drone equipment.

The NRPA's 2019 report discussed another important technological trend. The report found that Micromobility Devices in Parks, such as self-balancing devices, e-rollerblades, and e-bikes, and how "mobility culture" is profoundly impacting urban design and personal transportation.

According to NRPA, the traditional ways that people access parks today has been completely upended.²⁴ This, in turn, has affected park planning and design standards in a plethora of ways. E-scooters, e-mountain bikes, and other motorized personal mobility devices that may be bothersome to some administrators and visitors, have opened new recreation opportunities in parks and bridged access barriers for beginners, elders, and/or people with disabilities. This has triggered different administrative actions across the nation; responses range from introducing technology barriers such as geofences while others that embraced new technologies and are even developing amenities like shared bicycle docks.

Improving technology can present parks and recreation systems the opportunity for increased security and complex data analyses. From a single patron, financial data, facial recognition software, and temperature scans can be collected and utilized for user fees, location tracking and medical histories²⁵. This data provides new opportunities for park and recreation administrators, such as user locations, but also poses risks to security as well. The NRPA predicts that park and recreation agencies will begin to track and identify the movement and location of park patrons through cellphones and that such critical data may be compromised in the year of 2021 through a ransom attack or data breach incident.

Health and Health Equity

The health and well-being of communities was magnified during the pandemic. Recent NRPA Parks Snapshot surveys have shown that up to 60 percent of respondent agencies are supporting food distribution and pantries, daycare for children of essential workers and first responders, and safe places for learning²⁶. Due to parks and recreation's characteristic of being already established in and trusted by a community, it will take on a key role in supporting an area's health and well-being. In this vital role, it is important for departments to acknowledge instances of social and racial inequities and disparities, identify how and if previous decisions may have been rooted in system racism or prejudice and impacted parks and recreation services, and work towards improving them. Examples might include identifying communities that are under-resourced or lacking in access and connections to park and recreation opportunities, strategizing outreach tactics to understand the needs and desires of underrepresented groups or historically excluded people, and designing spaces to be accessible to all ages and abilities, and safe, inclusive, culturally relevant and welcoming to all.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND RECREATIONAL TRENDS

Recreation Trends Across Races

APM Research Lab, American Public Media group, conducted a study of Minnesotans to gather input about their feelings and experiences of inclusion. According to this study, there are clear differences in the way that different racial and ethnic groups feel regarding their experiences with parks. Asians (excluding Hmong) and Latinx Minnesotans, on average, are more likely to rate nearby parks and recreation as either excellent or good, compared to Black, Indigenous, and especially Hmong Minnesotans who rate them poorly. When comparing adults from diverse backgrounds to white adults, non-white Minnesotans are twice as likely (30 percent compared to 14 percent) as white Minnesotans to rate nearby parks and outdoor recreation areas as either fair or poor. Despite differences in real and perceived conditions of parks, a majority of respondents (roughly 60 percent) answered that they spend their free time enjoying parks and outdoor recreation areas at least once a week.²⁷ However, the report states that Indigenous Minnesotans are notably less likely to spend time in parks and outdoor recreation. Twenty-nine percent of

Indigenous Minnesotans reported recreating outdoors “less often” than once or twice a month or “never.”²⁸

Recreation Trends Across Generations and Income Levels

The Physical Activity Council’s 2021 annual study for sports, fitness, and recreation participation shows that fitness, outdoor, and individual sports have the highest participation rates among Americans for the past six years at rates reaching 67 percent, 51 percent, and 45 percent, respectively. Of note, when broken down by generation, there is a significant difference in team sports popularity. Among people under 20, the participation rate is 56.6 percent. The participation rates lower for each generation with only 30.4 percent for millennials and getting as low as 4.9 percent for those ages 55 and older. When asked about which activities they are most interested yet do not participate in, younger individuals (ages six to 17) predominantly chose fishing and basketball. People 45 and older expressed more interest in fishing and hiking. This information is critical in understanding Duluth’s large young and elderly populations’ outdoor and recreation needs. These activities do not require intense skills and only call for a limited amount of equipment. They can also be done alone or in social settings.

The report also shows how inactivity is reversely proportional to income, with individuals earning under \$25,000 showing an inactivity rate as high as 41.4 percent. As respondents’ income increases, their inactivity decreases; participation rates among individuals making \$100,000 and above is as low as 14.4 percent. Fishing and hiking are the two activities people of lower income expressed most interest in, compared to hiking and working out with weights on the other side of the income spectrum. This should influence the City’s decisions towards facilitating access to recreational opportunities to lower income communities and allocating different offerings in a more equitable manner. The fact that each income group and age group have different physical or financial abilities should be a significant consideration in decision making.

According to the 2020 *Healthy Aging in Parks Survey* by the NRPA, 84 percent of park and recreation agencies offer in-person fitness and exercise programs, while 75 percent agencies offer virtual fitness and exercise programs. Further, recreational agencies programming includes arts and theater (76 percent), family engagement opportunities (68 percent) and mental health programming (55 percent). Parks and Recreation agencies also play a crucial role in nutritional health, with many offering community gardening (49 percent), nutrition education opportunities (47 percent), and nutritional programs for youth (28 percent) and for older adults (35 percent)²⁹. Many agencies form outside partnerships to support these offerings. Some of these partnerships are with community-based organizations, libraries, health care providers, faith-based groups, and housing authorities. It is nearly impossible for Parks and Recreation Departments and groups to provide the needs and desires of a community entirely on their own. Developing partnerships that enable organizations to leverage resources and assets is key in working towards overlapping goals.

Youth Recreation Participation Rates

Based on Physical Activity Council’s 2020 report on US participation, youth are the most active cohort. In 2020, inactivity rates were around 14.3 percent for people between 6 to 17, compared to other age groups where inactivity was as high as 34 percent³⁰. This group, which today can be grouped under Gen Z, also has the highest participation rates in most sports, with the exception of fitness and water sports. The sport category where youth participation rates significantly exceed

that of other groups is team sports. In 2020, 56 percent of people below the age of 20 stated they participated in team sports. The second age group after them, people between 20 and 40 years of age (Millennials), had a 34 percent team sport participation rate³¹.

Many youths are introduced to sports and recreation through physical education and sports programs in schools³². Participating in gym class/physical education (PE) at school has a direct link to activity levels in adulthood. While school PE participation might have been restricted for the duration of the pandemic, the significance of physical activity during the day did not dwindle. Youth who engage with physical activity in school were also more likely to participate outside of school as well.³³ As compared to their non-physical education attending classmates, one out of eight youths who attended PE were likely to participate in a high calorie activity during the year. Contrastingly, almost 20 percent of youth respondents who did not attend PE during 2020 reported being inactive. These benefits can follow the youth throughout their lives. Participating in gym class/physical education (PE) at school has a direct link to activity levels in adulthood³⁴.

Equal Access to Recreation

Equity is at the heart of access to youth sports. According to Youth Sports at Park and Recreation Agencies 2020 Report, 86 percent of park and recreation professionals agree that they and their peers can contribute to a fair and just future for youth sports by identifying inequities in access to these activities. However, 90 percent of park and recreation professionals report that their agencies face challenges that hamper their mission to deliver youth sports activities to all community members. A majority of these problems stem from insufficient resources such as a lack of volunteer coaches, fields and courts, and funding.

Unfortunately, across the nation there are significant disparities in who has access to youth sports opportunities, both in terms of proximity to sports fields and courts and the ability to afford registration fees. According to the Aspen Institute, kids from lower-income homes face increasing participation barriers. Only 28 percent of youth 13-17 living in homes with an income under \$25,000 consistently played sports, compared to 47 percent in homes with an income over \$100,000. Kids from the lowest-income homes are more than three times as likely to be physically inactive. Further, the difference between inactivity among households of the lowest and highest income grew by 140 percent between 2012 and 2018, showing an even greater challenge to equal access to recreational opportunities.

While it is greatly attempted, not all parks and open space agencies succeed at closing gaps in youth sports opportunities³⁵. For example, a third of park and recreation professionals indicate that their agencies do not always achieve the goal of locating leagues close to where kids live. This suggests that there is a significant number of youths who do not live within proximity to sports activities and face the constant disadvantage to accessing such opportunities. This situation can be heightened in areas with inadequate public transportation. As a result, for the youth living in lower income households, participation rates will be lower. Furthermore, almost 95 percent of park and recreation agencies require a registration fee for youth participation in select or all organized activities, with only about two-thirds of agencies offering reduced fees to lower income residents³⁶. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated these funding challenges and put extra pressure on the ability of park and recreation agencies to offer or partner with other providers to offer low-cost youth sports programs to everyone.

Other Challenges and Opportunities to Youth Recreation

The NRPA's *Youth Sports at Park and Recreation Agencies* report highlights challenges for youth sports administrations in providing better recreational opportunities for their communities. As previously stated, topping the list was the fact that these agencies did not have enough volunteer coaches or sports fields/courts. Another point was that these agencies had to also compete with private travel sports leagues.

Other challenges picked up from the Aspen Institute's report are highlighted in the table below, along with their corresponding responses ("The Play"). These sections suggest innovations like "prescribing" physical activity to kids, creating spaces that are tailored for free play, and providing community-based, low-cost leagues and programs that are accessible to all kids — not just youth with the resources and ambition to participate on travel teams. The report also cites the importance of multisport as it encourages no specialization until 14 or 15 years old.

Figure 8: Table of the 8 Strategies for 8 Challenges in Youth Sports
Source: The Aspen Institute - Project Play. State of Play 2020 Trends in Youth Play Report

8 Strategies for 8 Sectors that Touch the Lives of Children in Youth Sports	
Challenge	The Play
Youth sport is organized by adults	Ask Kids What They Want
Overstructured experiences	Reintroduce Free Play
Sameness and specialization	Encourage Sport Sampling
Rising costs and commitment	Revitalize In-Town Leagues
Not enough places to play	Think Small
Too much, too soon	Design for Development
Well-meaning but untrained volunteers	Train All Coaches
Safety concerns among parents	Emphasize Prevention

OUTDOOR RECREATION CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Outdoor recreation is an important sector in Minnesota that touches many other business sectors. It is very much a part of the state's identity and culture. Given how vital outdoor recreation is to the state's identity and continued economic prosperity, SCORP identifies the state's top priorities for outdoor recreation are acquiring land for parks, trails, and conservation; maintaining and improving natural resources; maintaining parks and trails facilities; providing more programming and events; providing more and improved features (e.g. equipment and accessible infrastructure), and creating greater awareness and marketing of parks, trails, and programming. Local recreation providers' priorities include:

- developing new infrastructure such as new trails, playgrounds (including nature play);
- athletic fields, and trailhead amenities;
- focus on fitness programs and inclusion and diversity efforts; and
- providers ranked natural resource management-related activities as the highest priority for the next five years.

SCORP also details the top barriers that are negatively impacting parks and open spaces across the state, hindering participation in outdoor recreation. These include pests (bugs), time, and convenience.

The report identified Minnesota's slowed rate of growth since the 1950s as another trend affecting the state's Parks and Recreation. Although the state's overall population is increasing, growth rates are projected to continue declining over time. This population trend may translate to lower population-driven demands for park expansions within communities. Separately, nearly 11 percent of Minnesotans are living with a disability; the most common type of disability is ambulatory difficulty (mobility impairment). The percentage of Minnesotans living with a disability will increase over the next few decades as the average age increases. Recreation providers will therefore need to increase investments for accessibility improvements to accommodate and welcome people with disabilities.

State Priorities for Consideration

Duluth will also be taking cues from *SCORP* and identifying its own priorities for outdoor recreation, potentially aligning with the state's goals. The *SCORP* report identified four strategic directions for its improvement goals to fall within. These are:

1. Connect People and the Outdoors
2. Acquire Land, Create Opportunities
3. Take Care of What We Have
4. Coordinate Among Partners

The plan also identifies several current and future trends that are expected to continue to affect outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Trends are as follows:

1. Issues around public health
2. Addressing diversity, equity and inclusion challenges
3. Demographic changes in Minnesota's population
4. Climate change impacts
5. Accessibility

Each of the five priorities are met with a series of recommendations that will help the state best plan for and manage such trends. They are:

1) For the public health benefits of outdoor recreation, outdoor recreation providers should consider how to enhance their operations in ways that promote visitor health and well-being. Leveraging this connection is important for outdoor organizations of all scales because it has potential for innovative programs, new funding, fresh marketing and improved infrastructure.

2) In order to serve all Minnesotans equitably in outdoor recreation spaces, Minnesota's nature-based recreation providers must continue to develop more programs and facilities that serve everyone, including individuals with disabilities; members of multicultural, racial and ethnic communities; individuals identifying as LGBTQ; and refugees and new immigrants. To overcome obstacles to this, providers can find and develop new ways of mitigating these challenges through policy integration, accountability and partnerships. Agencies should seek out opportunities to connect with under-served and under-represented communities and enhance outreach efforts to better address their needs and ideas.

3) Because Minnesota's demographics are skewing older, outdoor recreation providers should consider how their services will need to adapt in order to reach and provide for an older audience in the upcoming decades. The growing age cohort represents an opportunity for providers. They

offer a group that may have more free time and interest in programming and activities that promote the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation. Additionally, the growth in populations of color presents an opportunity for outdoor recreation providers to connect to a new, more diverse audience. Providers should seek ways to better serve a more diverse suite of communities by increasing access to, and seeking a greater understanding of, the recreation opportunities desired by a wide spectrum of communities. Recreational providers will also need to consider what changes they could make in the type of activities they support that may be more attractive to a more diverse, next generation of users.

4) Recreation providers will need to adapt to changing climate conditions and seek to mitigate climate change impacts. Some possible actions may include practices like adopting non-carbon-based energy sources (e.g., solar and wind power); using electric vehicles for facility operations; reducing energy and water use at facilities; and providing charging stations for privately owned electric vehicles. Agencies can take actions that reduce their climate impacts, and in some cases reduce long-term costs, in concert with promoting environmental stewardship messages to their visitors.

5) Agencies will need to significantly increase their investments for accessibility improvements to keep pace with Minnesota's growing need for facilities and opportunities that accommodate, and are welcoming for, people with disabilities

Taken together, these trends, strategic directions and strategies represent both challenges and opportunities for Minnesota's outdoor recreation providers for the next five years.

Several near and long-term priorities for agencies within the state to focus on were identified by the SCORP to encapsulate the above recommendations. These are:

1. Acquiring land for parks, trails, and conservation
2. Maintaining and improving natural resources
3. Maintaining parks and trails facilities
4. Providing more programming and events
5. Providing more and improved features
6. Creating greater awareness and marketing of parks, trails, and programming.

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D

APPENDIX D

PREVIOUS PLANS SUMMARY

DESIGNWORKSHOP

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Related Plan Summary

To: City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department
 From: Design Workshop
 Date: August 25, 2021
 Project Name: Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 Subject: Related Plan Summary

Below is a summary of plans that have been completed in recent years within the City of Duluth and are considered to be relevant or related to the Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan effort. Due to the quantity of related plans, comments are confined to a briefly summary (50-100 words) and recommendations that directly and indirectly impact the current planning effort.

Plan / Document Name:	Duluth 2035
Department Issuing:	City of Duluth
Location:	Duluth, MN
Publication Year:	2018
Active Time Period:	10 years
Summary (50 – 100 words):	Imagine Duluth is a collective plan that works towards a people- and nature- oriented city. The plan works to shift away from the past auto-and industry-centric development and instead, helps prepare the city for future transformation. The plan balances preservation and new growth through innovative approaches that align with the community's vision.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent inequality - Significant amount of untaxable property and land - Challenging geography, geology, and weather - Aging infrastructure - Lack of density for efficient transportation and utilities - A big hill <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a year-round indoor public space - Increase uphill connectivity - Identify redevelopment opportunity to create a public market/indoor space - Prioritize key viewsheds – Views of the lake, the estuary, the hill, or landmarks - Preserve and expand economic opportunities within Duluth's industrial waterfront - Desire for connected core investment areas - Imagine Canal Park - Reuse previously developed lands - Increase park maintenance - Declare the necessity and secure the future of undeveloped places (47% of land)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a healthy community - Take sustainable actions - Recreational assets (specifically indoor community needs) - Limit development in Tier 3 Greenbelt Areas and create an Urban Services Boundary
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining what already exists - Carry out previously identified downtown plans and investments - Improving what already exists - Promote reinvestment in neighborhoods - Developing new opportunities - Twin Cities tourism promotion - Economic Development: The policies under this section works towards fostering the growth, skills, and availability of jobs - Housing: Duluth wants to see an increase in the current opportunities, density, and quality of housing - Encourage mix activities, uses, and densities - Core investment areas - Support private actions for public areas
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity • Maintenance/Preservation • Access • Natural Environment • Equity • Economic development • Sustainability • Resiliency <p>Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation: Duluth would like to enhance its multi mobility options, connectivity, and networks - Open-Space: The city would like to assess its publicly-owned open space, encourage urban food growth, and improve disaster resiliency - Energy and Conservation: The policies include increasing incentives, public involvement, and efficiency for better overall energy use and conservation - Integrate fairness into the fabric of the community
Key metrics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing cost burden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renter vs owner occupied - Housing burden by income level - Number and percentage of households burdened by census tract • General housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent/own by racial demographic - Race, homeownership, and median income by census tract - Neighborhood housing value • Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment rate - Job creation statistics • Poverty and homelessness rates • Health, healthcare, and food access

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life expectancy - Grocery store access - Residents with health care coverage • Resilient community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather related damage - Miles of bike lane - Brownfield sites and remediation/redevelopment efforts
Pull quotes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Imagine Duluth 2035 connects where people live, work, and play in a vision of vibrant, walkable, neighborhood centers and a thriving downtown, all with diverse housing options and served by modern streets, good sidewalks, efficient utilities, and transit”

Plan / Document Name:	City of Duluth Cross Country Ski Trail Master Plan
Department Issuing:	Trail Advisory Group, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council
Location:	City of Duluth
Publication Year:	2015
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	Duluth’s Cross Country Ski Trail Master Plan is a plan created with the passionate skiers of Duluth at the forefront. The plan acknowledges the leading issues of each trail, as gathered through community input. The plan also contains recommendations to improve the trails and rectify the current concerns.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event center - Additional and level-varying skiing opportunities • Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates to grooming: more frequent, timely, and wider grooming - Keep walkers off trails - Better signage and wayfinding • Key Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedestrian use - Wayfinding/Signage - Lighting - Maintenance - Parking - Event center
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining what already exists • Improving what already exists • Developing new opportunities
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User-friendliness • Maintenance • Access • Natural Environment • Development
Pull Quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fun places, great spaces!”
Questions for Parks and Recreation Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any of these been implemented?

Other Plans Referenced & Data Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini plans
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Plan / Document Name:	Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Department Issuing:	Parks Department
Location:	City of Duluth
Publication Year:	2010
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	Duluth's Master Plan is centered around implementable recommendations to improve the parks and recreation network. This plan serves to guide future development within Duluth for an increase in the area's parks and recreation. In turn, this will benefit tourism, jobs, and the overall quality of life.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide Safe, Clean, Fun and Beautiful Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Park investment – not expansion ○ Enforcement and regulation ○ Four season use - Ensure adequate and stable funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diversify sources ○ System approach – prioritize an asset management plan ○ Efficient and sustainable practices - Build partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Empower volunteers ○ Partner with schools and neighboring communities ○ Collaborate - Ensure equitable access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overcome economic limitations through partnerships ○ Address geographic gaps ○ Ensure quality facilities and reasonable access ○ Provide access for those with physical limitations ○ Support and educate for multi-cultural involvement - Connect the Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Become a premier trail city ○ Create an interconnected multi use trail network ○ Become bike friendly through addition of bike lanes and complete streets tactics ○ Enhance continuity and implementation of Skyline Parkway ○ Partner on maintenance with trail groups - Connect with Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manage and improve access ○ Preserve and protect natural areas ○ Coordinate and partner with the county - Continue to meet evolving needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create viable indoor recreation systems ○ Plan for multi-use fields ○ Manage off leash dog use ○ Continue to assist outdoor ice skating efforts ○ Improve access to recreation programs ○ Emphasize support of self-directed recreation - Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A formal park stewardship program ○ Improve existing trails with maintenance issues through sustainable standards

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manage natural resources ○ Educate ○ Encourage community gardens
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and upkeep • Funding • Partnerships • Equity • Connectivity • Sustainability
Key metrics:	
Questions for Parks and Recreation Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any key metrics?
Pull quotes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Blueprint for a High Performing, Resilient, and Efficient System”

Plan / Document Name:	Duluth Trail and Bikeway Plan
Department Issuing:	Trail Advisory Group, City Council, Parks and Recreation
Location:	
Publication Year:	2011
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	This plan serves as a road map to guide the development and management of Duluth's trails and bikeways. In turn, a comprehensive, connected, and sustainable network to serve the greater community will be created.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting and maintaining the trail system - Raising awareness and improving trail access - Adding bikeways in a built environment - Enforcement of current ordinances - Challenges of terrain, climate, and soils <p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a coordinated and connected system of trails, bikeways, and trailheads - Guide trail and bikeway improvements, maintenance, and operations - Improve safety and enhance trail and bikeway use - Create a sustainable system of trails and bikeways <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four differing cross-city trail experiences - New trails in underserved areas - Up and down trail routes for connectivity - Trailheads and wayfinding signage - On-road bike lanes, bike boulevards and bike routes
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skyline Parkway Corridor Management plan
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Connectivity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-mobility • Maintenance • Enforcement
Key metrics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Become a trail city as measured by political, resident, business. City staff, and partner commitment - Until off road trail network is complete, the addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Two miles of paved trail/year o Four miles of unpaved multi-use trail/year o Two miles of bikeway facilities/year - Add two miles of bikeway facilities/year until the on-road network is complete - Minimum of two or more miles of accessible trails each year and add/upgrade at least one trailhead per year to include handicapped accessible toilets and drinking fountains - Install wayfinding on a test section within two years - Eliminating erosion problems and repairing/restoring two miles of trail/year - Increase city resources for trail maintenance by 15% in three years - Increase biking by 15% within three years - Obtain bronze level certification as Bicycle Friendly Community - Create two new trail centers and two new/renovated trailheads within the next five years
Questions for Parks and Recreation Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you kept up with the metrics and should we incorporate them?
Pull quotes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...comprehensive, connected, and sustainable system serving residents, businesses, and visitors" • "Duluth should be the premier trail city in North America"

Plan / Document Name:	Management Plan for Magney Snively Nomination – Duluth Natural Areas Program
Department Issuing:	City of Duluth in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy
Location:	
Publication Year:	2003
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	This document serves to guide managing and maintaining the features behind the reason for which Duluth was nominated for the Magney Snively Nomination. At the time of nomination, the features were in good condition. The purpose of this document is to keep them in such condition and maintain the ecological integrity of the areas natural species and landforms.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	Trail protection strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate the need for additional trails - Create Task Force or volunteer group to help with maintenance, health problem identification, and upkeep - Education and Information about the nominated area - Special uses such as horseback riding may be permitted - Consider an adopt-a-trail program
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illegal use by all terrain vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Signage, gates, education, and patrolling - Increase non-hunting enforcement - Work with volunteer groups to alleviate dumping and littering

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrict graffiti and vandalism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with citizen task force or other groups to create cleanup and restoration o Increase law enforcement at high risk times o Timely removal - Invasive species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Train volunteers to recognize infestations o Avoid introducing other uses into the area - Insect and disease outbreak: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assemble a team of those who can recognize issues o Diversify the landscape - Have seasonal crews/volunteers aid trail maintenance - Possible cleanup around trails for natural disasters - Assess parking compatibility based on popularity with the habitat's health - Coordinate Task Force to develop management plan for overlooks - Evaluate the need for additional trails
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance • Protection • Preservation • Ecology • Education • Volunteers
Questions for Parks and Recreation Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any of these recommendations been implemented? • Have metrics been determined?

Plan / Document Name:	Nomination of the St. Louis River Natural Area to the Duluth Natural Areas Plan
Department Issuing:	City of Duluth in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy
Location:	
Publication Year:	2019
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	The objective of this plan is to inventory the conditions of the natural resources in the area and determine site management tactics and restoration goals.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erosion: Treatment and ongoing monitoring, removal of social trails, erosion control activities - Off trailing/unsustainable trail usage: Explore stormwater management solutions, reduce OHV trail usage -
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invasive species: Monitor and treat as needed - Diseases: Ongoing monitoring and follow up treatment - Continue restoration - Heavy grazing: Herbivore hazing or enclosure fences
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance • Protection • Preservation • Ecology

Plan / Document Name:	Hartley Natural Area Native Plant Community Management Plan
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Department Issuing:	Duluth Natural Areas Program, Duluth Parks and Recreation, Hartley Nature Center
Location:	
Publication Year:	2020
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance for maintaining and improving the ecological function of the natural features for which the area was nominated to the program
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	<p>Ecological threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stream impoundment at Hartley pond - Invasive species - Human uses – Vegetation damage, soil erosion and compaction, trail widening <p>Next Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generate external support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to collaborate with partner organizations and volunteers to advance priority projects 2. Secure resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop funding/grant applications - Explore new partnership opportunities and commitments - Explore expanding the use of volunteers for long-term management 3. Measure progress and adaptively manage
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	<p>Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Native plant communities: Classification of NPC's - Prescription burning for fire mitigation - Allowing natural patchy windthrow - Ongoing monitoring and control of invasive species - Manage for mature growth stages with limited presence of non-native species - Natural windfalls - Mechanical removal - Water level management to mimic natural patterns - Early detection and treatment plan - Tischer Creek/Hartley Pond Feasibility Study - Tischer Creek/Hartley Pond Restoration - Invasive species control in priority areas - Development plant community management restoration plan - Conifer plantation conversion - Northwest hills trails and forest management - Vernal pool identification mapping
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance • Protection • Preservation • Ecology
Key metrics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document field conditions - Evaluate performance through monitoring - Prepare annual written reports
Questions for Parks and Recreation Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any of these restoration plans been implemented? • Is this different than the Native Plant Community Management Plan?

Plan / Document Name:	Climate Vulnerability and Climate Adaptation Strategy Report
Department Issuing:	City of Duluth, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota DNR, Metropolitan Council, City of Minneapolis
Location:	
Publication Year:	2018
Active Time Period:	
Summary (50 – 100 words):	This report describes how climate affects the region today and into the future and identifies goals and strategies to mitigate those effects into the future of Duluth.
Recommendations that <u>directly</u> impact this plan:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider available resources and opportunities 2. When implementation is limited, apply strategies towards vulnerable areas/groups 3. Consider carbon emission reduction strategies 4. Study anticipated equity impacts 5. Conduct appropriate engagement for buy-in 6. Identify those capable of taking lead for strategy implementation 7. Select “no regrets strategies” 8. Explore use and effectiveness of existing city owned facilities to meet emergency shelter and cooling center functions 9. Strengthen emergency management capacity 10. Improve the capacity to understand, respond, and prepare for climate impacts 11. Secure funding for adaptation efforts 12. Decrease heat island 13. Strengthen cohesion and networks during extreme events
Recommendations that <u>indirectly</u> impact this plan:	<p>Primary Issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impacts on agriculture 2. Extreme weather/temperature 3. Forest composition 4. Public health risks 5. Increased rainfall and flooding 6. Air quality impacts 7. Vector borne disease 8. Food insecurity 9. Water quality/quantity
Key takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable individuals • Land, economic, and development resiliency • Sustainability • Natural disasters • Climate change • Food insecurity • Education • Funding
Key metrics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate resilience Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic stress Health Environmental justice Social vulnerability Housing burden

Questions for Parks and Recreation Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any of the next steps been implemented? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specifically water system assessment, blue spot flash flood mapping, and the Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan
Pull Quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It’s a collective endeavor. It’s a collective accountability”