

2021 Annual Report



Our 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 in the future.



Our Vision

Continue 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.

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Bayfront Family Center

MESSAGES

From Parks and Recreation Commission President

Greetings!

And just like that, another year has come and gone. We made it! The Parks and Recreation Commission continued to operate throughout a global pandemic, and I must say we got pretty good at it. I find it commendable that virtual methods of meeting have not gotten in the way of the important decisions put before us. I am honored to report back on the great work done by our Parks and Recreation Commission members this past year.

2021 Highlights:

We had new commissioners join us this past year representing our District 2 and District 4 positions. It has been exciting to have new commissioners join us, and each one has contributed a unique set of skills. The Parks and Recreation Commission is still seeking a dedicated community member to fill its Community Education seat.

As you know, in 2020 we voted on the Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Mini Master Plan. This past year the commission received information and voted on the trail's Heritage Interpretation Plan presented by Parks and Recreation staff and Urban Ecosystems.

Progress with Duluth Public Golf continues to move forward, and some big decisions were made with the help of the dedicated Public Golf Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission members. Recommendations were made regarding land use at Lester, including conveyance of land parcels at Lester Park Golf Course from the City to DEDA. The Enger Park Golf Course Renovation Plan, approved by the Commission as well as City Council, focused on improvements to Enger's irrigation systems, fairways, and the clubhouse, as well as other course improvements.

We appointed two commissioners to join the Parks and Recreation Master Planning process as we embark on the journey towards our Essential Spaces: Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails plan. This long-range planning will guide the Parks and Recreation Department on program development and prioritization in our parks, trails, open space and facilities for the next decade.

In response to climate impacts, the Parks and Recreation Commission focused on key areas of our Lakewalk affected by stronger and more frequent weather events. Presentations and discussions on the Lakewalk and Seawall projects and the Baywalk, as well as preliminary designs for the Harbor Plaza were opportunities for Commissioners to learn and weigh in on these jewels in our park system. The Lakewalk improvements not only provided weather-related resilience they also built upon accessibility and universal design. The new Lakewalk platform in Canal Park was chosen for the State of Minnesota's celebration of the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, highlighted as a premier accessible space.

We had a ribbon cutting at the new section of the DWP (Duluth Winnipeg and Pacific) trail west of Beck's Road. The DWP corridor is a multi-use trail suitable for many different user groups, including biking, hiking, walking/running, cross country skiing, snow shoeing and equestrian use. This section of the trail has a sturdy and stable surface and grade and is accessible to all user groups. Presentations from our parks and recreation user groups are always a welcome addition to our agenda. This past year we had presentations from DAHA (Duluth Area Hockey Association) and the Duluth Citizen Climate and Energy Network on the City's Citizen Climate Action Plan. In addition, we received division reports and were kept up to date with progress in our parks. It is amazing to see all of the creative activities and comprehensive projects led by the Parks and Recreation staff.

In closing I would like to mention the importance of you, a Duluth citizen who has a passion for the 11,000+ acres of green space that holds hundreds of miles of trails and 129 parks to join us, engage with us. The public process and direction from community members is incredibly valuable, so let your voice be heard as we make decisions on our parks, trails and open spaces. It is important that we don't lose the community voice!

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." – Margaret J. Wheatley

Sincerely,



Amanda Crosby, President
Parks and Recreation Commission

MESSAGES

From Parks and Recreation Manager

Greetings from Parks and Recreation!

Whether you're seeking quiet respite, cruising a trail, or gathering with family and friends, Duluth's parks have a place for you, and you have a place in Duluth parks.

We all play a role in stewarding this amazing park system for all to enjoy. You'll find 2021 highlights in this year's Annual Report that showcase the extensive and impressive work throughout our park system last year.

The past year demonstrated the deep commitments and adaptability of volunteers and staff who share their time, talents, and expertise for the betterment of our park system and programs. Sports leagues enjoyed returning to play after pausing or limiting activities for a year. Day camps welcomed happy kids to parks across the City. Senior clubs and programs resumed—including a fan favorite, Bingo! Construction projects increased access to and improved parks and trails. Celebrations in park spaces once again filled the air with music, laughter, and a sense of togetherness that we'd been missing.

As a community, we kicked off the Essential Spaces Master Plan in 2021. Your input will shape how we collectively improve, maintain, and enjoy Duluth parks for the next decade. What makes our park system great? What can we do better? Where? We'll continue community engagement for Essential Spaces in 2022, and we look forward to a mix of some of our traditional ways of connecting with the community—workshops, in-person meetings—along with some online engagement as well.

Along the way, Parks welcomed a number of new staff to our team and citizen representatives to our Parks and Recreation Commission, and we're all eager to get to work alongside our community again.

We hope you enjoy recapping the past year with us as you read through the 2021 Annual Report that celebrates progress in your parks.

Sincerely,



Jessica Peterson
Parks and Recreation Manager

ABOUT US

Parks and Recreation Staff

Jessica Peterson—Manager
Alicia Watts—Assistant Manager
Matt Andrews—Trails Coordinator
Todd Armbruster—Parks Project Coordinator
Katie Bennett—Project Technician
Diane Desotelle—Natural Resources Coordinator
Bridget Erickson—Facility Coordinator
Jessica Haig—Admin Clerical Specialist
Cliff Knettel—Senior Planner
Megan Lidd—Recreation Specialist
Jarod Meyer—Recreation Specialist
Melody Morris—GIS Technician
Brett Odegard—Recreation Specialist
Abby Proulx—Recreation Specialist
Chris Severson—Permits Coordinator
Sam Werle—Recreation Specialist

Parks and Recreation Commission

Amanda Crosby—President
David Demmer—Vice President, Land Management
Tjaard Breeuwer—Secretary, District 1
Kala Pederson—District 2
Britt Rohrbaugh—District 3
James Jones—District 4
Barb Darland—District 5
Noah Kramer—Recreation Professional
Natalie Chin—At-Large
Jennifer Peterson—At-Large

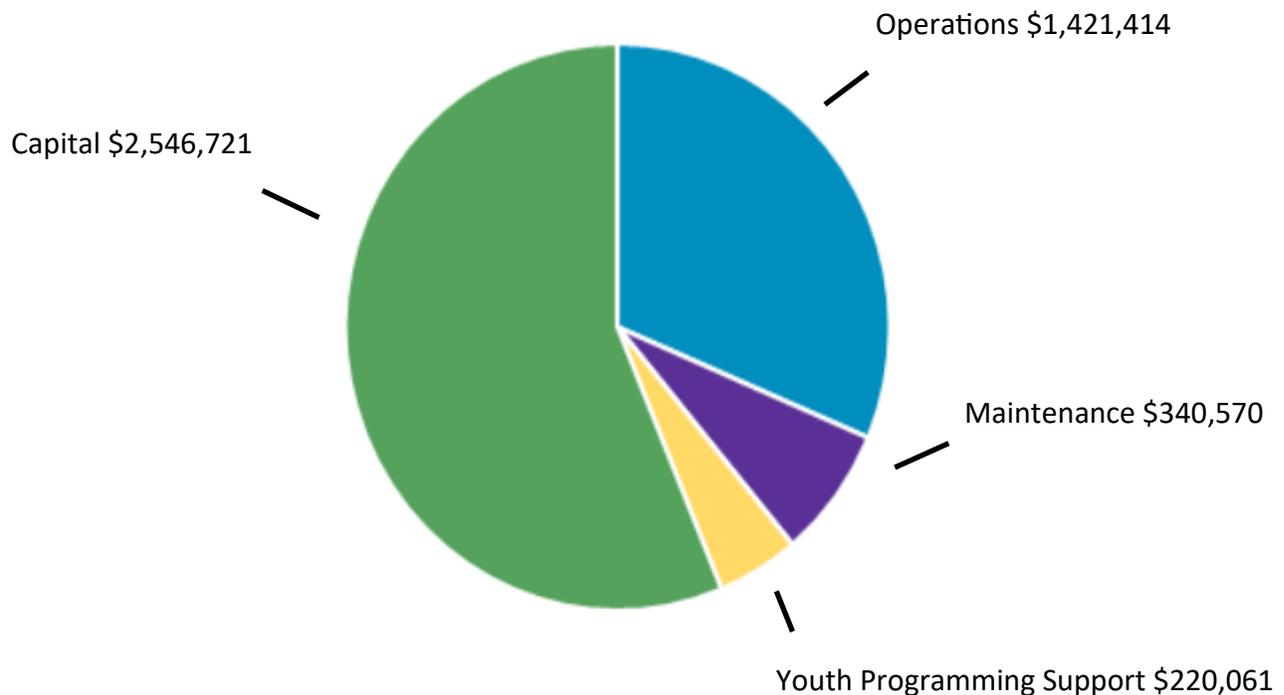
Park Maintenance Staff

** Dale Sellner—Parks and Grounds Supervisor
Cheryl Skafta—Operations Coordinator
Robert Dunsmore—Lead Worker (Parks)
Billy Davis—Lead Worker (Trails)
** Jack Schade—Lead Worker (Fields)
Clark Christenson—City Forester
Park Maintenance Workers:
Caleb Burst
John Capra
Trevor Christensen
Darin Franckowiak
Greg Hanson
Todd Halbakken
Abbie Hopper
Kevin Jentoft
Don Kienholz
Todd Kobus
Jenny Monroe
Anna Neu
Ben Sosniecki
Cory Wagner
Chris Walz
Wendy Wohlwend
Leah Mullin—Community Forestry Corps (AmeriCorps)

* *Retired



BUDGET



Operations

- Wages and benefits
- Equipment and supplies
- Marketing and printing
- Vehicles and mileage
- Membership and dues
- Special events and concerts
- Senior programming
- Training and education

Capital

- Community Center upgrades
- Trail repair and improvements
- Park improvements

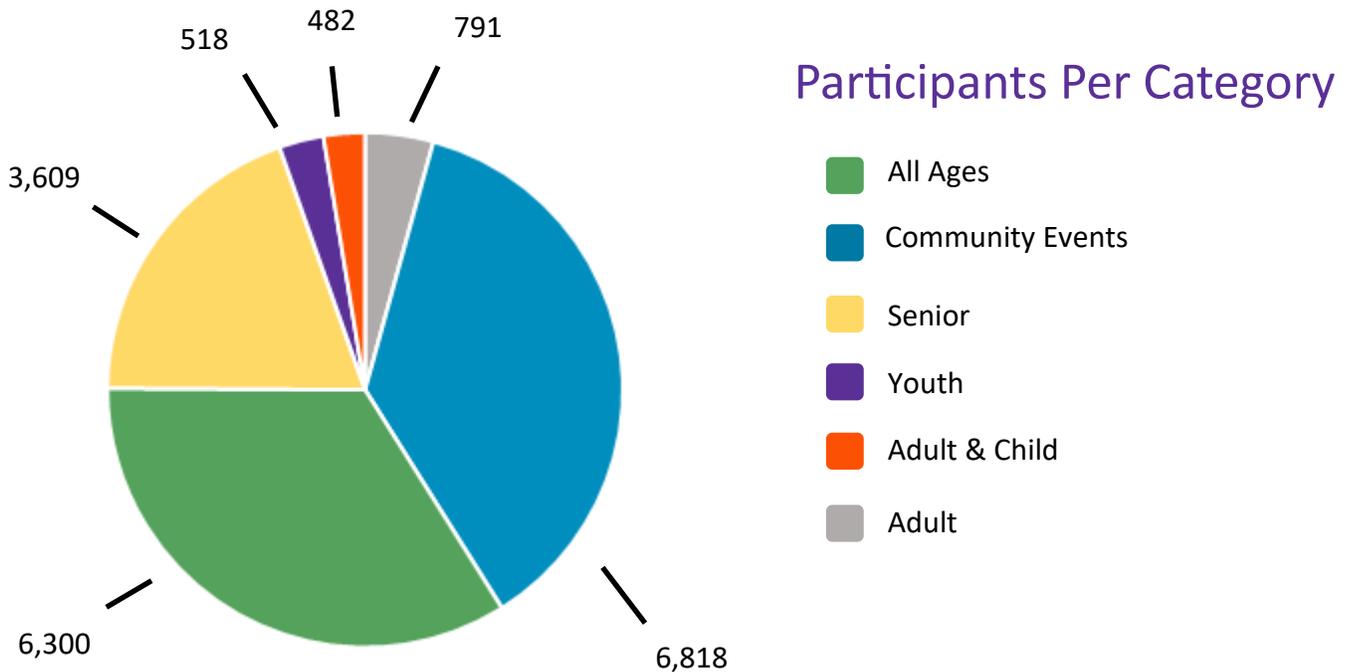
Maintenance

- Maintenance staff
- Cleaning, repairs and maintenance at parks, fields and community centers
- Invasive species removal team
- Training, certifications and licenses
- Forestry operations

Youth Programming Support

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Northland—Lincoln Park
- Chester Bowl Improvement Club
- Duluth Area Family YMCA—Gary New Duluth
- Duluth Area Family YMCA True North AmeriCorps—City-wide
- Duluth Community School Collaborative—East Hillside
- Neighborhood Youth Services—Central Hillside
- Valley Youth Center—West Duluth

PROGRAMMING



What We Do

Programming is delivered across our community through direct Parks and Recreation program delivery, Parks Fund-supported programming, and third-party leased operators in park spaces.

Parks and Recreation's direct program delivery spans all ages and is focused on connecting residents to open space and building a sense of community. Programming takes place via our Mobile Recreation, at community centers, trailheads and parks. With programming for preschool ages through seniors, there are multiple ways to experience the great things happening in your local park! Programs focus on topics related to nature, shared connections, and leisure and include activities such as hiking, concert series, play gym, archery, day camps, story and stroll, BINGO and much more!

Additionally, in 2021, Parks and Recreation supported youth programming in our community by providing direct funding support and delivering free programs to five youth-serving agencies. These include:

- Duluth Area YMCA – Gary New Duluth Recreation Center
- Duluth Community School Collaborative
- Boys and Girls Club of the Northland
- Valley Youth Center
- Neighborhood Youth Services - Life House

We are fortunate to have a great number of third-party operators programming in our parks. These organizations help deliver on our mission throughout the year.

PROGRAMMING

Sled Sheds

We gave the sled shed trend a try, and it was a huge success! This free opportunity allows park visitors to borrow a sled and return it to the shed when finished. Thank you to Property and Facilities staff for building the shed structures and Park Maintenance for deploying at Lincoln Park, Leif Erickson Park, and Portland Square. Neighbors surrounding these park spaces also donated their unused sleds to the sheds and helped maintain the sheds by removing sleds that were no longer sled-ready quality.



NFL Partnership for Flag Football League

We had the valuable opportunity to partner with the NFL for our Parks and Recreation youth flag football league this Fall. With this new partnership, all participants received NFL replica reversible jerseys. Additional equipment – footballs and flags – along with resources to aid in development of our coaches and instructions to the officials were provided. A total of 123 registered participants made up 20 teams this season.



Agents of Discovery

Agents of Discovery provided a new way for community members to enjoy and experience Duluth's parks in 2021. More than 1,500 participants logged on to learn in our parks via Agents of Discovery. Missions throughout the year taught participants about nature, Duluth, and their local parks in a fun, engaging way. These self-guided missions were featured in eight locations: Ely's Peak, Quarry Park, Lincoln Park, West Skyline Drive, Bayfront Park, Enger Park, Leif Erickson Park, and Lester Park.

PROGRAMMING

Summer Camps

Youth Day Camps in 2021 saw significant growth from previous years and engaged local youth in a variety of unique activities and experiences. Most camps filled to capacity with a waitlist of campers. Full-day camps at the start and end of Summer break augmented other programs and camp schedules, while a variety of half-day options added variety to the options available for youth throughout the Summer. Themes of the half-day camps included Archery, Wizards & Warlocks, Nature Detectives, Fishing, Make Things Fly, and Survival Skills.



Bayfront Park



Chambers Grove Park

Story & Play

The Summer Story & Play series tracked a total of 814 attendees in the 10-week series. Visiting a new park each Monday morning, Parks and Recreation provided fun games and activities for families to enjoy after a 30-minute storytime by the Duluth Public Library. The library used the series to promote their “Every Child Ready Duluth” program, while Parks and Recreation shared a variety of family-friendly activities. It was great to see the following of families who came out each week, with many of them sharing how they enjoyed going to parks in new places, as a result of intentional program location decisions to spread out efforts across East, Central, and West Duluth parks.



Memorial Park

PROGRAMMING

Wade Stadium



Adult Kickball

For the first time, Parks and Recreation hosted an Adult Kickball League at Wade Stadium. A total of 14 teams, nearly double the expected registration of eight teams, took to the turf under the stadium lights. During the Fall months, 200 kickballers played at Wade Stadium, concluding with a two-week playoff at the end of October.

Chester Creek Concerts

Chester Creek Concert Series was back this year and kicked off on June 15. This series was held every Tuesday for 10 weeks at Chester Bowl. We hosted a variety of music genres and more than 5,345 people came out to enjoy free music in the park.



Chester Park

PROGRAMMING

Senior Programs

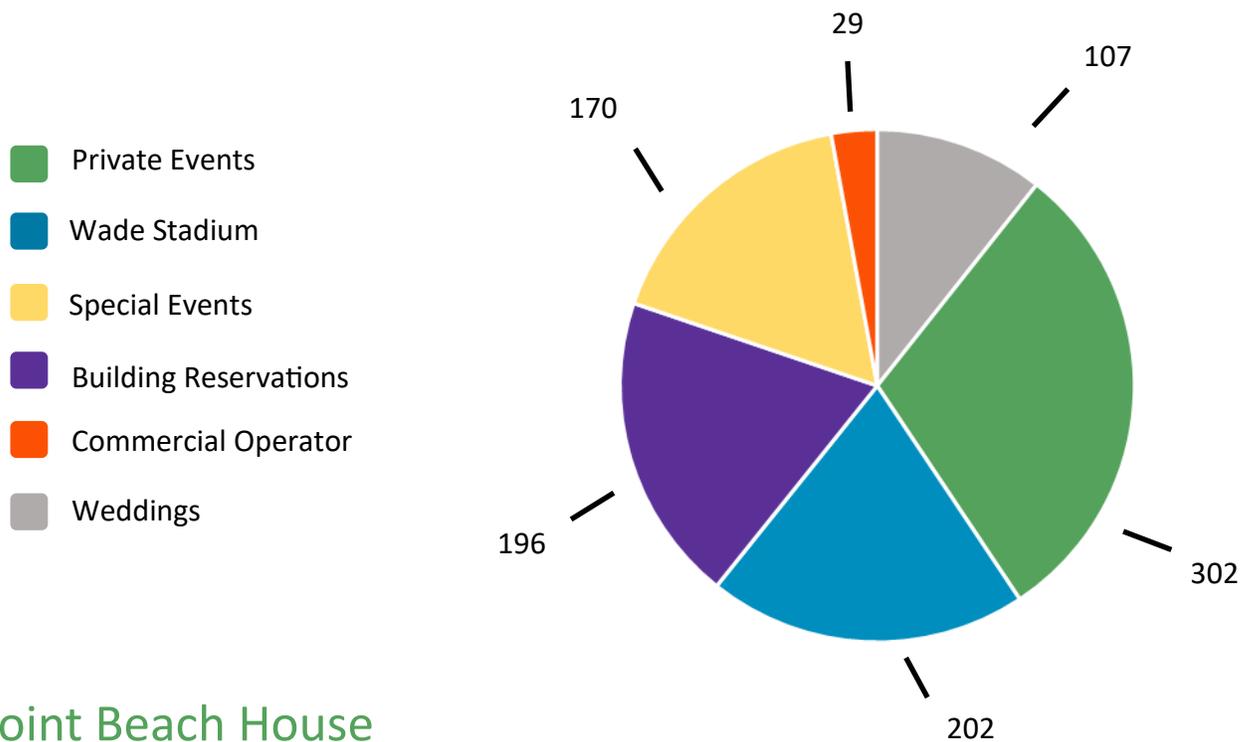
Senior programming began a phased reopening in Summer 2021. Evergreen Senior Center, Morgan Park, and Portman Senior Center welcomed the return of 10 Activity Clubs such as card groups, BINGO, and social groups. Senior Dining with AEOA returned to Evergreen as drop-off meals, with some seniors opting to eat onsite to enjoy some social time together. Special events were also hosted at the Senior Centers such as the Welcome Back Summer Celebration, All-City Senior Picnic, and the annual Holiday Party. These events featured games, BINGO, door prizes, food, entertainment, and lots of laughter!



In addition to activities at our Senior Centers, Parks and Recreation introduced a handful of day trips and offsite programs. In the Fall, two day trips to the Twin Cities for a River Cruise on the Mississippi and the Chanhassen Dinner Theater for a matinee performance were fun getaways. A weekly hiking series featured a different park each week. Based on the popularity of this program, participants requested a Winter continuation option that led to a snowshoe program in January 2022. We look forward to continued growth of our active senior programs in 2022!



PERMITS



Park Point Beach House

For many years, the Duluth Y provided high quality management and operations of the Park Point Beach House, which included building rentals, pavilion rentals, lifeguard and water safety responsibilities. In 2021, Parks and Recreation assumed management of all rentals and the Duluth Y focused on water safety services.

The Beach House is open from mid-May to late September. Before the 2021 season opening, significant updates occurred to the facility that included painting, resurfacing of the fireplace, removing planters to create more floor space, energy efficient lighting, new chairs and updates to restroom amenities. By the end of the season a total of 45 events were hosted that ranged from graduation parties, celebrations of life, business gatherings and of course wedding celebrations, which are the most popular type of event hosted at

The two pavilions at the Park Point Recreation Area were also busy with reservations in 2021. Of 83 permits issued for use of the pavilions, 79 were private events, three were wedding events, and one was a special event. In the reservation process, permittees report an anticipated attendance number for their event. Collectively, the pavilions hosted an anticipated attendance number of 3,775 people.



PARKS STEWARDSHIP

DWP

Completed DWP Trail Corridor work includes:

- Improvements to grading and stormwater management
- Limestone capping
- Rock scaling and removal from the tunnel and 23 rock cuts
- Construction of a dedicated trailhead on Beck's Road
- Restoration of railroad trestles
- Removal of two wood railroad bridges
- Restoration of Clyde Connector Trail
- Signage and wayfinding installation

Combined, this work has transformed the DWP into a universally accessible multi-use pathway.



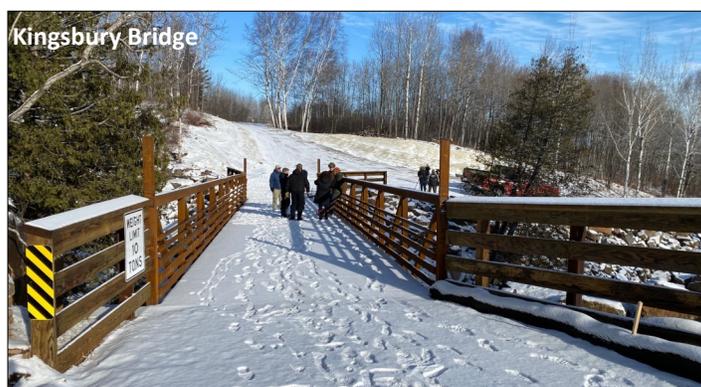
Frederick Rodney Paine Trailhead

Approximately 30 people gathered at the improved Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve trailhead on Becks Road to celebrate these accomplishments. Event speakers included Jessica Peterson and Jim Shoberg from the City of Duluth, Christa Maxwell representing the MNDNR Division of Parks and Trails, and Bill Majewski to speak on behalf of Friends of Western Duluth Parks and Trails. Riders of a variety of ages and abilities joined the group bike ride, and fun was had by all!

PARKS STEWARDSHIP

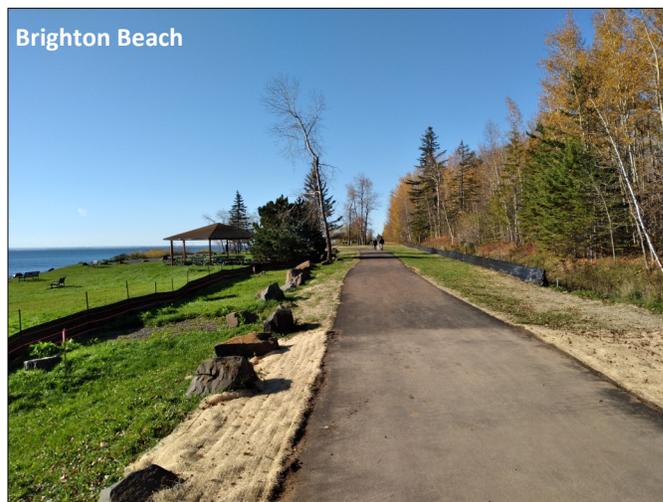
St. Louis River Corridor Snowmobile Trails

In collaboration with the Hermantown Night Riders, a ribbon cutting took place to highlight the fully restored Kingsbury Bridge as well as formally recognizing the significant improvements made to the St. Louis River Corridor snowmobile trails. Completed work included: new culverts, erosion repair, rock and stump pulls, trail brushing, and bridge restoration. These improvements revived a lost ridgeline snowmobile route above the Fairmount and Norton Park neighborhoods. The reclaimed trail offers incredible views of the St. Louis River Estuary and Duluth's Lake Superior Harbor, connects to the Cody neighborhood, and completes the link to the Hermantown trail system. Event speakers included Jessica Peterson and Jim Shoberg from the City of Duluth, Ward Wallin representing the MNDNR Division of Parks and Trails, Joe Bullyan of Hermantown Night Riders, and Duluth City Councilor Janet Kennedy.



Brighton Beach Lakewalk Extension

In Fall of 2021, extension of the Lakewalk trail through Brighton Beach Park was completed through a collaborative effort amongst the City of Duluth Engineering Department, Parks and Recreation, and Property and Facilities Management. This project was the first step in the larger Brighton Beach Mini-Master Plan implementation, which will continue in 2022-2023 with anticipated construction of a new access road, parking, shoreline restoration/resiliency, and park amenities.



PARKS STEWARDSHIP

Lakewalk Phase 3

Lakewalk restoration efforts in Canal Park wrapped up in June just in time for Grandma’s Marathon. This phase of the Lakewalk restoration focused on the shoreline and trail restoration from the corner of the lake towards the shipping canal where the boardwalk joins with a newly constructed multi-use viewing platform. This area had suffered extreme storm damage due to increasing storm intensity and frequency, compounded by higher lake levels. Construction Project Coordinator Mike LeBeau, from our Property and Facilities Team, was interviewed for a story published in the December 2020 issue of National Geographic, which featured the impacts of climate change, rising water levels, and the importance of resilient shorelines. This project is truly transformational from the standpoint of functionality, aesthetics and resiliency. We will be starting the next phase of this project from the corner of the Lake to 26th Avenue East in Summer of 2022.



Accessible Sidewalks

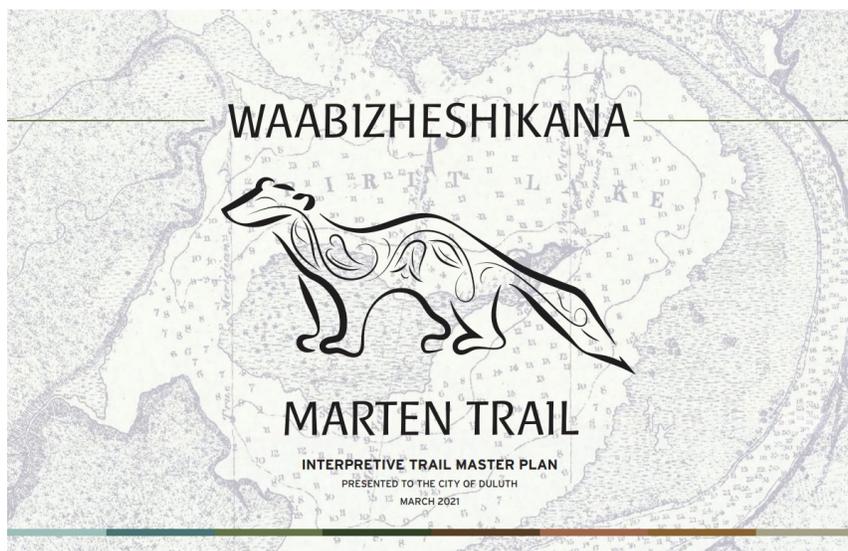
Accessible sidewalks at Park Point Recreation Area (PPRA) and Lester Park pavilions were installed in Fall of 2021. Now there are continuous five-foot wide accessible concrete sidewalks leading from the parking lot to the pavilions at each of these sites, two at PPRA and one at Lester Park, so visitors can better access the pavilions.



PARKS STEWARDSHIP

Waabizheshikana Interpretive Plan

The Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Interpretive Plan was completed in Spring 2021. This stakeholder-driven plan defines important themes of interpretation along Waabizheshikana, previously known as the Western Waterfront Trail. Waabizheshikana consists of an existing 3.3-mile segment that traverses the western shoreline of the St. Louis River. The trail will eventually be extended to a roughly 10-mile continuous recreational trail. The Interpretive Plan focuses on the themes, mediums, and stories of the people and its region, including the historical, cultural, spiritual, and ecological lessons the river has to teach.



Revisions to Chapter 35, Sections 12-25 Regarding Public Golf Courses

In 2021, simultaneous with the Enger Park Golf Course Renovation planning process, the Parks and Recreation Commission, with guidance from the Public Golf Committee and City staff recommended a suite of amendments to Chapter 35, Article III Public Golf Courses. Modifications to Article III (Public Golf Courses) of Chapter 35 (Parks and Recreation) adjusted the process for fee setting and distinguished between the rules of play and the policies applicable to land use and management of the public golf courses.

The public golf courses are operated under third-party contracts that require the operator to submit and have approved by City Council, an annual operating budget. By removing the public golf courses from the Parks and Recreation portion of the annual fee schedule, the third-party operator may more readily respond to trends affecting the financial operations of the course and be more aligned with other third-party operated facilities within the Parks and Recreation system.

Other revisions to this portion of City Code represent the current third-party operation of the public golf program, which was previously operated directly by City-employed staff. And, the amendments further distinguish and clarify appropriate uses of this parkland.

PARKS STEWARDSHIP

Enger Park Golf Course Renovation Plan

In April 2021, City staff and the Public Golf Committee set out to develop a renovation plan for Enger Park Golf Course. The planning process was based upon the ten critical items identified in previous golf study efforts and voted upon as the focus for renovation of Enger Park Golf Course. To ensure that each aspect of the project was well-informed, the City contracted with a team of consultants: Norby Golf Course Design Inc. for golf course architecture, design and renovation plans; Irrigation Technologies Inc. for the irrigation system, pump station, and irrigation pond; Architectural Resources Inc. for the clubhouse design and site layout; and Antares Golf LLC regarding golf course business and financial analysis. Three scenarios for course layout and two scenarios for the clubhouse were evaluated and final recommendations put forth in the plan.

Virtual public meetings, in-person review of concepts on display at the Enger Park Golf Course clubhouse, online comment submissions, and opportunity for public comment at each committee, commission, and Council meeting comprised the public engagement aspects of this planning process.

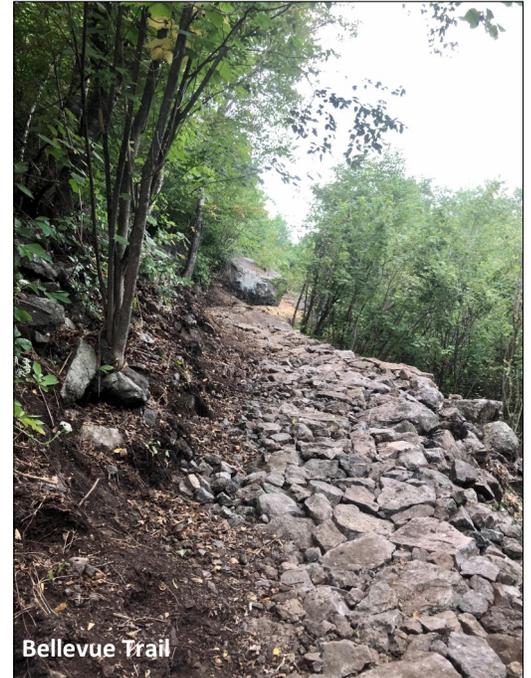
The findings and recommendations were presented in the Enger Park Golf Course Renovation Plan, which was presented to and approved by the Public Golf Committee, Parks and Recreation, and City Council.



Enger Park Golf Course

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

- Superior Hiking Trail: Sergeant Creek reroute & bridge removal
- Bellevue Park Connector
- Chester Park trail rehabilitation
- Cross-City Trail: Twin Ports Interchange Reroute
- Duluth Traverse
 - Twin Ponds Gap
 - Haines Road Gap
 - System-wide Maintenance
- Hartley Park: 2 bridge replacements



SuperTour

During December, SuperTour was hosted at the Grand Avenue Nordic Center presented by the National Nordic Foundation and CXC Cup. This event is a series of Nordic skiing events, open for competitors from all nations, to qualify for the Winter Olympics.

The Grand Avenue Nordic Center provides an extended ski season with artificial snow-making abilities and lighting, which is funded in part by the Federal Recreational Trail Program grant from the MN Department of Natural Resources. Construction phases continue for further expansion of the trail system and additional lighting. Hosting an event of this size and caliber is only possible thanks to generous funding secured for Grand Avenue Nordic Center, coupled with the efforts of Spirit Mountain staff and DXC and community volunteers.

Duluth Traverse 2021 Summer Visitor Profile

As part of a larger, state-wide effort to inventory, assess, and monitor trails in Minnesota, the Duluth Traverse Visitor Profile was prepared for Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission by Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota. The Visitor Profile utilized automated counters at eight locations across the trail system, and a systematic visitor intercept survey collected information on visitor characteristics. Results are representative of Summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day) visitors on the Duluth Traverse during 2021.

- Total Traffic Estimates: ranges from 26,500 trail users at Hartley Park to 8,500 at Haines Road
- Group size and composition: 26% of groups included children under 18 years of age
- Visitor rating of trail experience: overall rating 4.7 out of 5

SIGNAGE

The following parks and trails received new signage in 2021:

- Enger Park
- Cross City Trail
- DWP
- Keene Creek Park
- Merritt Park
- Piedmont Park



NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources Management Program Plan

The Natural Resources Management Program Plan's (NRMPP) mission is to identify, assess, and invest in the most meaningful tracts of 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. The project is funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and is being designed with City partners who share the mission of protecting and enhancing these lands. In the end, the NRMPP will include a set of adaptive tools designed to tell the ongoing story of natural resource work in the City, document the decisions for project prioritization and strategies, and map and collect data to help us better understand the state of our natural resources. The NRMPP will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission and City Council in early 2022, with anticipation of its adoption by both bodies.



Forestry

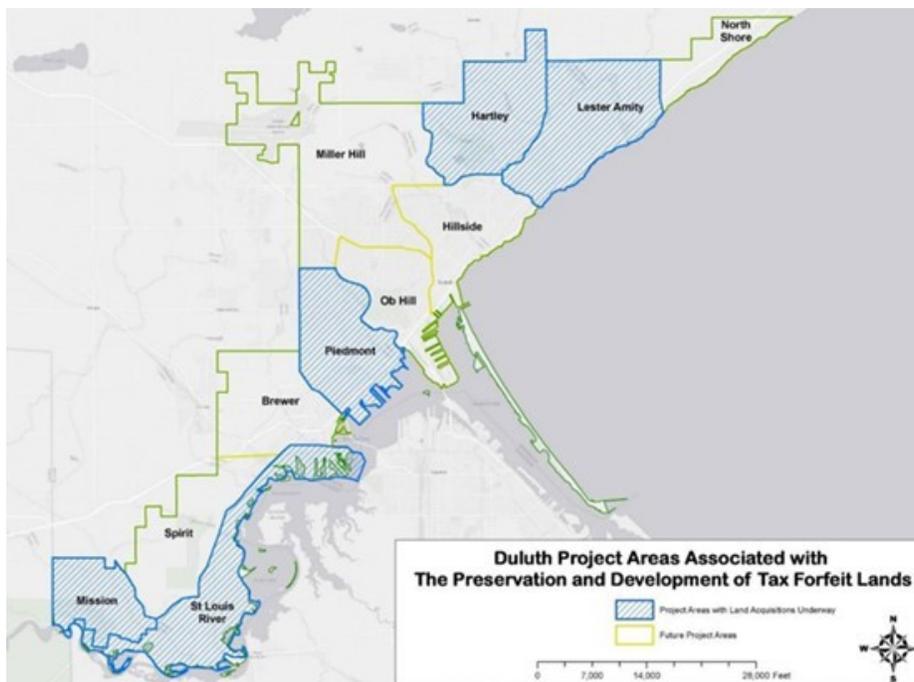
The following goals were completed by the Park Maintenance Forestry Program:

- 4,857 trees were pruned across the City
- 387 boulevard trees were planted in West Duluth
- 36 boulevard tree vaults were installed in West Duluth
- 455 Ash trees were removed along streets to combat Emerald Ash Borer and storm damage/aging

NATURAL RESOURCES

Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project

In support of the Imagine Duluth 2035 Comprehensive Plan, the City of Duluth and St. Louis County have jointly finalized a list of tax forfeit open space parcels with significant natural resource, recreation, and stormwater management value for the City to acquire and permanently protect. The acquisition process is currently underway for over 2,400 acres of land in the Lester/Amity, Hartley, Piedmont, Mission and St. Louis River project areas. Approximately 1,900 of these acres are intended to be designated as parkland in the coming years.



Kingsbury Creek Restoration and Native Plant Communities

Two projects related to natural resources restoration and assessments are happening in and around Kingsbury Creek and across the Brewer/Piedmont open space lands. First, approximately 30 acres were seeded and planted where buckthorn and honeysuckle have been removed over the last several years. The goal is to help establish a native plant community agreeable to bird nesting and migration needs. Second, GIS tools were piloted to map over 2,000 acres in the Piedmont, Brewer, and Kingsbury Creek area to classify habitat and characterize natural resources conditions. This project will be useful for future assessments and for analyzing if and where project work is needed.

COMMUNITY

Volunteer Program

Duluth Parks saw a significant increase in volunteer service in 2021 from 2020 levels. While still impacted by pandemic restrictions, the volunteer program was able to safely engage many more people this year in activities in our parks and on our trails.

Highlights:



Keep Duluth Clean—for a second year, Duluth Parks partnered with the Keep Duluth Clean initiative to host a Spring community-wide clean-up that engaged over 500 participants and removed an estimated seven tons of litter! Keep Duluth Clean asks people to clean up where they live, work or play, and to utilize their own supplies to do so. Collected garbage is either placed in personal receptacles or hauled through a partnership with Twin Ports Trailer Trash and WLSSD.



Clean and Green—Nearly 3,000 hours were reported by over 200 volunteers with the Clean and Green service initiative. Through Clean and Green, volunteers are equipped with bags, gloves, buckets, litter pickers, sharps containers and other supplies to assist in removing garbage from our parks and trails. Duluth Parks provided supplies and supported Spring clean-up efforts coordinated in Lincoln Park by Eco3, and a Spring Lakewalk clean-up coordinated by Friends of the Lakewalk.

Duluth Parks and the City Attorney’s Office: In 2021, Clean and Green re-started its collaboration with the City of Duluth’s Attorney’s Office. This Program allows clients of the Attorney’s Office to be assigned shifts with Duluth Parks to do litter clean-up as community service.

Duluth Parks and Youth Works: In 2021, Duluth Parks welcomed Youth Works back after a year-long hiatus due to the pandemic. Each week, from mid-June to early-August, Youth Works connects teams of middle school students and their adult advisors to service projects in the Duluth area. Since 2013, Duluth Parks has partnered with Youth Works on a variety of projects. In 2021, we focused Youth Works’ efforts on litter removal through Clean and Green. This past June and July, every morning, Monday through Thursday, a Youth Works team volunteered to pick up garbage in our parks.

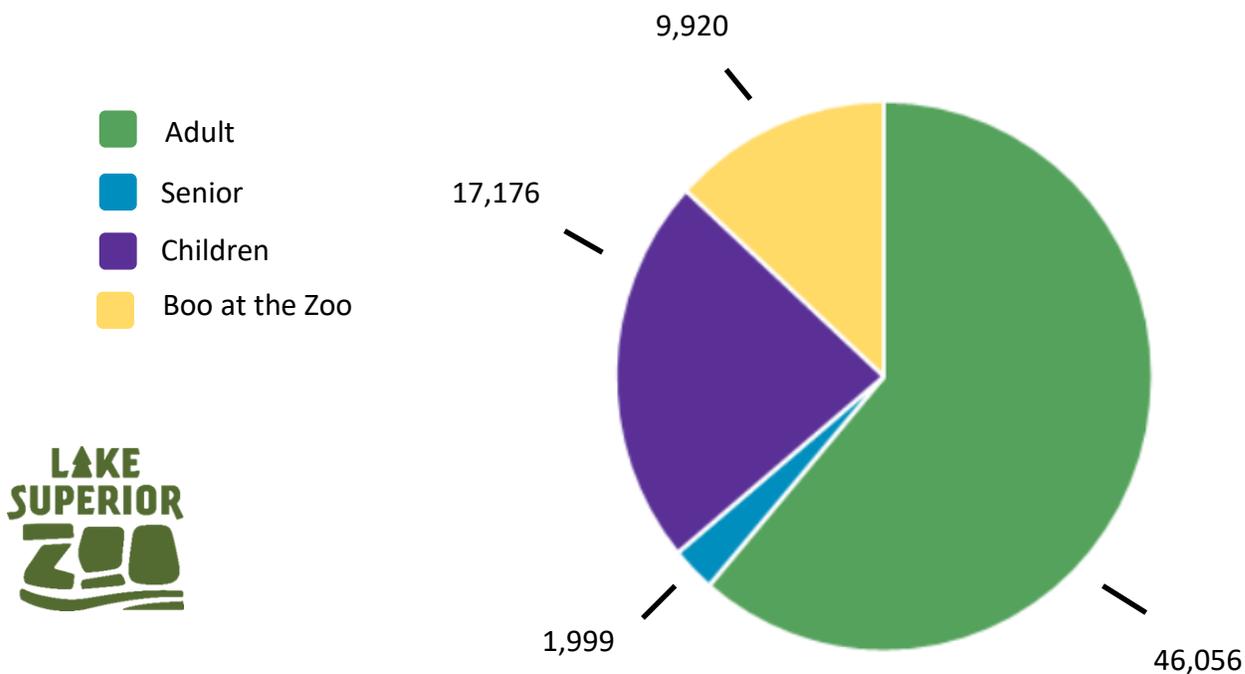


Duluth Invaders—This past summer, volunteers with the City of Duluth’s service initiative, Duluth Invaders, logged over 140 hours. Through a new reporting form, these volunteers showed they had removed invasive plants on over 440 acres of City property. Duluth Invaders aims to remove and properly dispose of invasive plants in our parks. Priority plants included buckthorn, wild parsnip, purple loostestribe and garlic mustard.

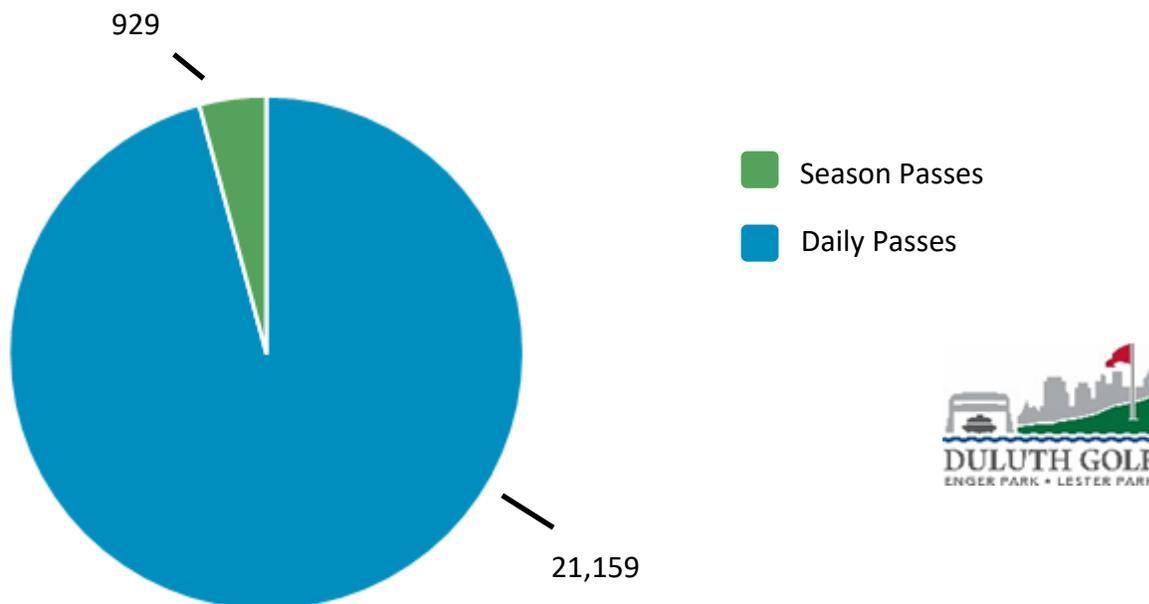
Duluth Parks was able to support and outfit many community organizations throughout the 2021 summer season to assist in a variety of volunteer projects, namely litter removal. Participating groups and volunteers are included in the Parks Partners list at the end of this year’s Annual Report.

COMMUNITY

Lake Superior Zoo Admissions



Duluth Golf Season & Daily Pass Sales



MASTER PLAN

Essential Spaces: Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan

The Parks and Recreation Division and Design Workshop are actively developing the Essential Spaces: Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan. Essential Spaces will establish the long-range vision and decision-making guide for Duluth's park system over the next 10 years. Community engagement is a key element in the planning process and is vital for understanding the needs, values and future aspirations of residents and park system users. The 2021 community engagement efforts included the formation and active participation of a Project Advisory Committee, focus group meetings with approximately 60 participants across a spectrum of interests, and a community survey with over 1,900 responses. These efforts, combined with extensive data collection and further community engagement efforts, will be the basis for the Essential Spaces plan recommendations. Essential Spaces is scheduled to be completed and adopted in 2022.



GRANT AWARDS

2021 Grants Awarded

MN Department of Natural Resources Shade Tree Program Bonding Grants (EAB)

\$99,081 – Grant to remove and replace Boulevard ash trees.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation

\$857,939 – Grant for Lakewalk reconstruction below Fitgers.

Minnesota Historical Society

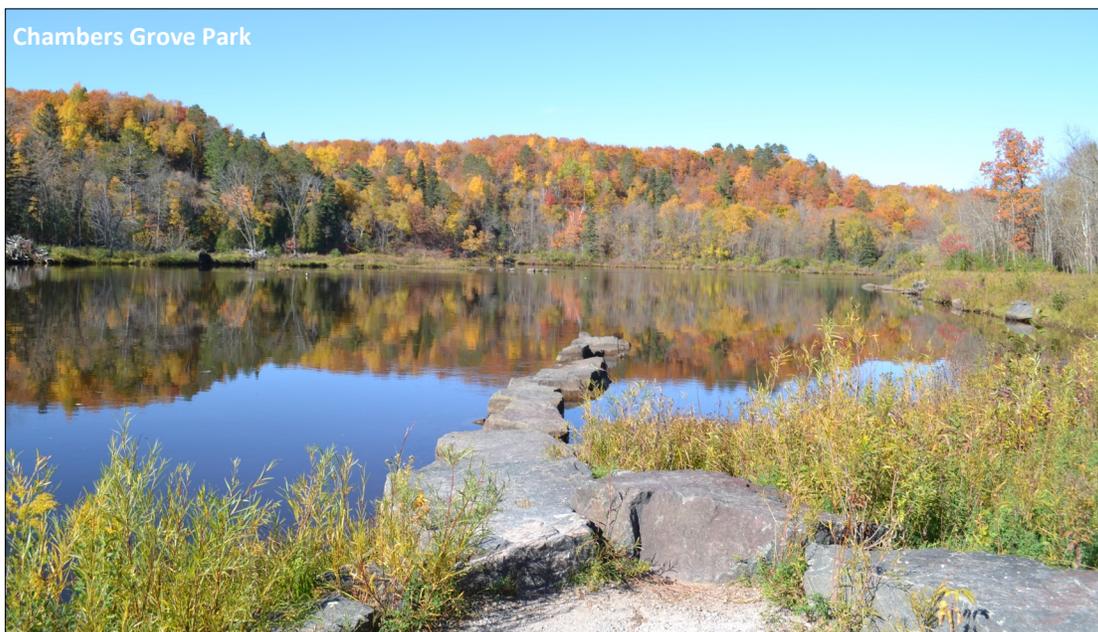
\$130,100 – Grant for Waabizheshikana, interpretive elements for Sections 0, 1, 2, 7.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails

\$1,200,000 – Grant for Spirit Mountain, trail infrastructure buildout: Duluth Traverse, Nordic Center, and Snowmobile.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Connecting People to the Outdoors

\$167,783 – Grant for mobile mountain bike fleet and classroom.



Thank you to the following organizations for helping us make progress in our parks!

1854 Treaty Authority	Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC)	Indigo Golf Partners	North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Age Well Arrowhead	Duluth Garden Flower Society	Irving Community Club	Northern Expressions Arts Collective
Alliance for the Great Lakes	Duluth Girls Fast Pitch Softball	ISD 709 Duluth Public Schools	Northern Minnesota Track Club
Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance	Duluth Huskies	Izaak Walton League	Northland Paddlers Alliance
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Duluth Invaders	Jungle Boy Boxing	Norton Park Community Club
Arrowhead Fast Pitch League	Duluth Little League	Lake Park Baseball	Park Point Community Club
Arrowhead Regional Development Commissions	Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation	Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad (LSMR)	Piedmont Heights Community Club
Arrowhead Transit	Duluth Monarch Buddies	Lake Superior Area Realtors	Portman Recreation Association
Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association (AYSA)	Duluth Preservation Alliance	Lake Superior Art Glass	Rainbow Community/Senior Center
ASDCO Construction Supply	Duluth Screen Printing Company, LLC	Lake Superior College	Riverside Community Club
Bentleyville Tour of Lights	Duluth Service Learning Camps	Lake Superior Disc Golf Community	Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT)
Boys and Girls Club of the Northland	Duluth Softball Players Association	Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (LSNERR)	RSVP Senior Corps
Central Hillside Community Club	Duluth Superiors Area Community Foundation	Lake Superior Rose Society	Senior Center Clubs
Chester Bowl Improvement Club	Duluth Ultimate Community	Lake Superior Zoo	Sierra Club
Cities of Service	Duluth Urban Watershed Advisory Committee	Lakeside-Lester Community Club	South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District
Clean Yer Creek (Loll Designs and Involta)	Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)	Lee Francisco - Skyline	Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority
College of St. Scholastica	Duluth Y	Life House	St. Louis County
Community Action Duluth	DWI Court - Sixth Judicial District	Lincoln Park Business Group	St. Croix Hospice
Corporation for National and Community Service	East Hillside Community Club	Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative	St. Louis River Alliance
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute	Ecolibrium 3	Longview Tennis Club	Stella Maris Academy
Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS)	Essentia Duluth Heritage Sports Center	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - Duluth	Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA)
Dan Proctor - Chester Park Trails	Essentia Health	Merritt Community Club	Temple Israel
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	The Stewardship Network
Destination Duluth	Fond du Lac Community Club	Minnesota Department of Health	True North Americorps
Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club	Friends of Duluth Public Golf	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Twin Ports Coastal Clean-Up - Partnership with the City of Superior
Duluth Amateur Hockey Association (DAHA)	Friends of Tennis	Minnesota Geocachers Association	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Duluth Amateur Youth Basketball Association (DAYBA)	Friends of the Lakewalk	Minnesota GreenCorps	University of Minnesota Duluth
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce	Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails	Minnesota Land Trust	University of Minnesota Extension
Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliances (DAHTA)	Gary New Duluth Community Club	Minnesota Point Preservation Society	U.S. Steel
Duluth Area Pickleball Association (DAPA)	GND Development Alliance	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Valley Youth Center
Duluth Area Youth Softball Association (DAYSA)	Grandma's Marathon	Minnesota Power	Visit Duluth
Duluth Audubon Society	Great Lakes Alliance	Minnesota Sea Grant	West Duluth Business Club
Duluth Bikes	Greater Downtown Council	Morgan Park-Smithville Community Club	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
Duluth Children's Museum	Harbor City International School	Monarch Healthcare Management	Western Little League
Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (Duluth CISMA)	Harrison Community Club	Mount of Olives Baptist Church - Duluth	Wheels on Trails
Duluth Climbers Coalition (DCC)	Hartley Nature Center	Nah-Gah-Chi-Wa-Nong Reservation	Woodland YMCA
Duluth Community Garden Program	Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory	National Bank of Commerce	Youth in Action - St. Louis County
Duluth Community School Collaborative	Head of the Lakes United Way	National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)	Youthworks
Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club (DXC)	Hermantown Night Riders Snowmobile Club	Neighborhood Youth Services	Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community
Duluth Dog Parks	Hike Duluth	North Shore ATV Club	
Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA)	Indian Point Campground	North Shore Display	