



Project Overview



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A public planning process began in August 2016 to determine the future recreational uses of a mostly City-owned, 10-to12mile corridor along the St. Louis River between the Irving neighborhood and Jay Cooke State Park, in West Duluth. The study area includes an existing 3.3 mile long pedestrian trail, an historic rail bed, and five existing or planned river access points. A portion of the historic rail bed has been leased by the City of Duluth to the nonprofit Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad for seasonal fee-based rail excursions.

Overall Project Goals

The Master Plan's overall project goals include, but are not limited to:

 Increasing connectivity from adjacent neighborhoods to the St. Louis River and Estuary.

 Increasing recreational and development opportunities within and along the St. Louis River Corridor.

 Facilitating a stakeholder community engagement process to gain significant input on the future use of the area.

· Enhancing neighborhood quality of life.

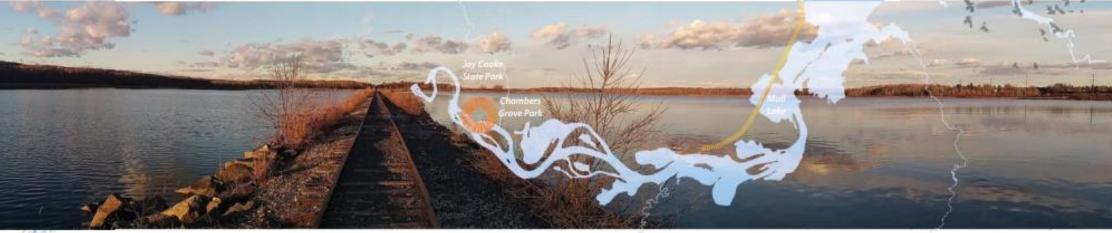
Restoring and protecting natural habitat along the trail corridor.

 Determine whether to retain and potentially improve the remaining riverfront rail line and renew the Lake Superior and Mississippi railroad's lease for excursion rail trips.

Master Planning Process

With these project goals in mind, the master planning process will explore options to:

- Extend and improve the Western Waterfront Trail as cited in the 1979 WWFT Master Plan.
- Re-brand the Western Waterfront Trail as a heritage trail that celebrates and interprets the rich culture and natural heritage of the corridor.
- Develop potential new river access nodes opposite Tallas Island and at the area known as Slag Point.
- Develop potential new canoe/kayak water trail entry points at Munger Landing, Boy Scout Landing, and Perch Lake.
- · Decide the future use of the City-owned riverfront.
- Create synergy between the Water Trail, the Western Waterfront Trail, and the excursion rail (if the City determines to extend the excursion rail lease).

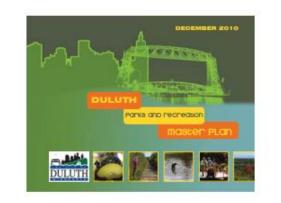


Prior Vision + Overlapping Initiatives





1979 Plan



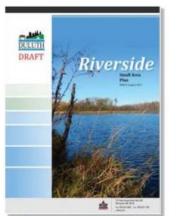
2010 Parks and Recreation Plan



2011 Bikes and Trailway Plan



2012 Morgan Park Neighborhood Revitalization Plan



2015 Riverside Small Area Plan & 2013 Gary New-Duluth Small Area Plan



2015-2020 St. Louis River Corridor Projects



Remediation and Restoration Sites in the St. Louis River AOC

River Restoration Remediation Sites in the St. Louis River AOC

Stakeholder Workshops Summary (2016-2017)





Summary

- Five workshop meetings occurred from September — January (3 hrs duration)
- Topics included:
 - 1. Planning for interpretation and branding implementation
 - 2. Riverfront green space
 - 3. St. Louis River access and put-in sites
 - 4. Trail extension and rail options
 - Planning for trail extension possibilities





Stakeholder Attendees (39)

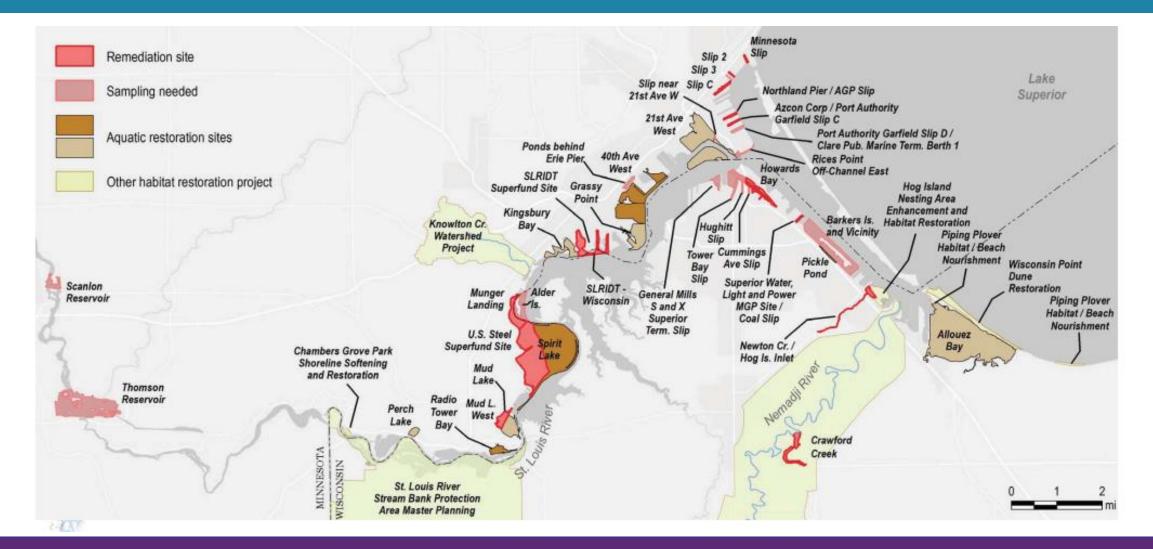
- Carole Newkumet, Riverside Community Club
- Andy Webb, Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad
- Dwight Morrison, Wheels on Trails
- Dave Moore, Railway Solutions/LS&M
- Joel Manns, Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad
- Dean Votgman, Parks and Rec Commission, District 5
- Mike Casey, Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails
- · Wayne Dupuis, Fond-du-Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Jill Hoppe, Fond-du-Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Jack Ezell, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
- Daryl Peterson, Minnesota Land Trust
- Hansi Johnson, Minnesota Land Trust
- Rick Staffon, Izaak Walkton League
- · Denette Lynch, Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails
- Charlie Staudahar, Spirit Lake Development
- Bill Majewski, Morgan Park Community Club SLRA
- · Amanda Crosby, Parks and Rec Commission Disability Rep
- Alison J. Clarke, Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails
- · Harry Hanson, Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails
- · Virginia Olson, Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails



- Joel Manus, Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad
- Brad Massengill, Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad
- Debbie Isabell-Nelson, Morgan Park Community Club
- Lisa Angelos, MnDNR Jay Cooke State Park
- John Lindgren, MnDNR
- Erin Endsley, MN Pollution Control Agency
- Glenn Merrick, Izaak Walton League
- David Bolgrien, Environmental Pollution Control Agency
- Deb DeLuca, Duluth Seaway Port Authority
- Will Munger, Izaak Walton League
- · Mike Bares, MN Pollution Control Agency
- Scott Cieniawski, Environmental Protection Agency
- Keith Okeson, Lake Superior Muskies
- Pat Okeson, Lake Superior Muskies
- Craig Sterle, Izaak Walton League
- Kevin Johnson, MnDNR Parks and Trails Two Harbors
- Charlie Nelson, Twin Ports Walleye Association
- Dave Nelson, Twin Ports Walleye Association
- · Russ Francisco, Marine General

River Restoration & Conservation Activities Map





St. Louis River Area of Concern Project

Funded by EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office, Minnesota PCA, Wisconsin DNR, and industrial partners in collaboration with U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Presented by: Casey Evenson Project Superintendent for J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.













Summer and Fall 2022 Progress

- Removed approximately 900 CY of material from the upland area at Munger Landing.
- Cleared debris from the work areas and utilized three dredges to remove approximately 53,000 CY of material from the St. Louis River.

Winter 2023 Progress

• Removed approximately 7,000 CY of material from DMU 4.









Summer/Fall 2023 Operations

- Wisconsin Dredging Late June to late July
 - Will utilize an 8 IN and a 12 IN hydraulic swinging ladder dredges with a common transport slurry line.
 - Two dredges will pump through three common booster pumps utilizing the common weighted pipeline to Hallett Dock #7.
- Minnesota Dredging Early August to early September
 - Will use the same two-dredge system as utilized in Wisconsin.
 - The areas remaining to be dredged are from Munger Landing north to Spirit Lake Marina.
- Cover Placement Early August to early October
 - Operations will begin in DMU 4 and then transition to the river portion of the project working downstream to upstream.
 - Cover material will be pumped hydraulically utilizing a separate weighted pipeline from Hallett Dock #7 to the patented Brennan Broadcast Capping System.









Fall/Winter 2023 Operations Dewatering and Water Treatment

- The dredges will convey sediment slurry to geotextile tubes located at the Hallett Dock #7 dewatering pad; the tubes may be stacked in three layers.
- A pump will pull water from the collection reservoir to be treated through filters and treatment vessels before returning to the St. Louis River.
- Water treatment and water quality monitoring will continue through the loadout of the 2023 dredge material to ensure the discharge meets water quality standards.









Fall/Winter 2023

- Demobilization
 - All dredging and cover placement equipment will be demobilized from the project.
- Material Loadout
 - Expected to be conducted from October to December.
 - Final demobilization will be conducted at the conclusion of loadout activities.
- Restoration
 - Hallett Dock #7 will be restored back to their pre-existing conditions.
 - Plantings and seeding are to take place in the Fall of 2023 and spring of 2024 at Munger Landing.

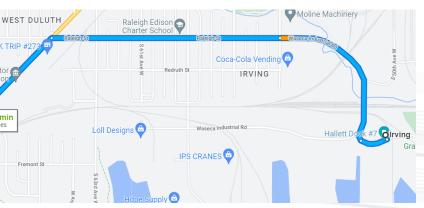




Truck Routes

- Munger Landing
 - Truck traffic to/from Munger Landing will use Grand Avenue to Clyde Avenue.
 - No permanent road closures are expected.
 - Public access to Munger Landing will be suspended until Spring 2024.
- Hallett Dock #7
 - Truck traffic to/from Hallett Dock will utilize
 Grand Avenue to Raleigh Street/Waseca
 Industrial Road (North Central Avenue once construction begins on Raleigh Street).
 - No road closures are expected.
- Speed limits will be strictly followed by all vehicles, and it will be emphasized to all drivers that there are residential areas near both sites and to be vigilant of all residents.











Safety Reminders

- Munger Landing
 - Munger Landing along with the upper and lower parking lots are closed throughout the project; please do not block access to this area.
 - Please stay clear of our floating equipment and work areas on the St. Louis River. Floating signage will be posted outside of the work areas.
- Hallett Dock #7
 - This is private property; no public access is allowed.





J.F. Brennan Contacts

For any operational questions, please contact:

Casey Evenson – Project Superintendent

cevenson@jfbrennan.com

For any safety-related questions, please contact:

Michael Slater – Site Safety and Health Officer

mslater@jfbrennan.com



Spirit Lake GLLA Project Update

Waabizheshikana Public Outreach Event Courtney Winter - U.S. EPA Great Lakes National

June 21, 2023

Agenda

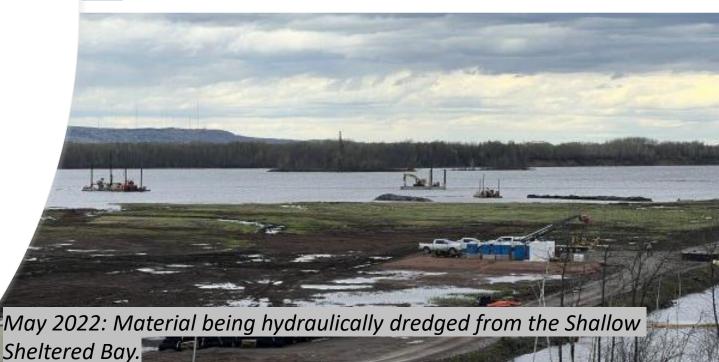
- Project Progress Update
- Upcoming Work
 - Pedestrian Trail Updates

Spirit Lake GLLA Project Progress Update

Completed work

- Dredging:
 - 1.3 million cubic yards remediated.
 - Approximately 460,000 CY of impacted sediment and soils were removed from the project area & stored in onsite CDFs
 - 425,000 CY of this, was dredged from within the river and Unnamed Creek (or over 100,000 loads in a full-size pick-up truck)





Spirit Lake GLLA Project Progress Update

Completed work

- Capping:
 - 850,000 cubic yards within the estuary and Unnamed Creek.
 - ~100 acres (or 76 football fields) capping within the estuary and Unnamed Creek.
- Enhanced Natural Recovery (ENR):
 - 12 acres of in-water work areas have been covered with a thin layer of clean sand to accelerate natural recovery processes in the sediment.



September 2022: A capping barge places material in the Shallow Sheltered Bay near the spit of land.



Spirit Lake GLLA Project Progress Update

Completed work

Shoreline Protection:

 ✓ 6,400 linear feet of shoreline was protected by rock, timber logs, or vegetation.

January 2023: A trench is made adjacent to the Delta Upland Cap to place logs for shoreline protection.



September 2022: Erosion control straw matting is placed on the shoreline of the Shallow Sheltered Bay to protect the soil and seeded areas.

Ongoing Work Spring through Fall 2023

- Railroad and pedestrian bridges are being constructed where Unnamed Creek meets the Shallow Sheltered Bay and where Wire Mill Pond meets the St. Louis River.
- □ Habitat restoration plantings will occur spring through fall of 2023.

□138 acres of aquatic restoration

Topsoil and clay will be placed on the Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) and they will be planted with native upland species in 2023.



June 2023: Plants are grown at the onsite greenhouse prior to planting in Wire Mill Pond and the Shallow Sheltered Bay.

May 2023: Overview of Unnamed Creek railroad and pedestrian bridges.



Pedestrian Trail Updates

Ongoing work:

Pedestrian trail, recreational features, new railroad bridge crossings

> The pedestrian trail will be completed in fall 2023

For safety, the trail will not be open to the public until all work is complete.

Thank you! Questions?







Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

What is Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance?

- RTCA is a regional community partnership program that provides technical assistance to communities, public land managers, and nonprofit organizations that are planning outdoor recreation or natural resource conservation projects.
- RTCA provides professional planning, design, and technical expertise to help achieve the project's conservation and outdoor recreation vision.



NATIONAL PARK

Services offered

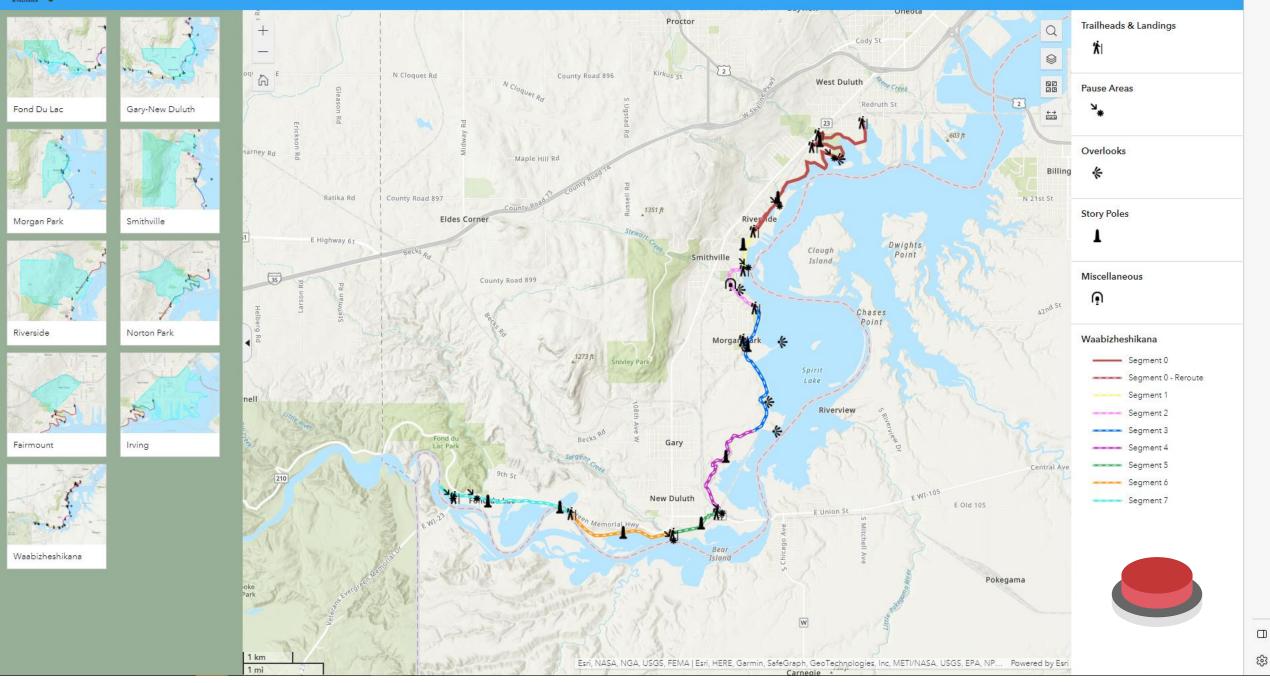
- Project Guidance
- Strategic Planning
- Partnership Development
- Trail, Greenway, and Water Trail Planning
- Park Planning
- Sustainable Tourism Planning
- Conceptual Plans & Design Renderings
- Funding Strategies
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Open Space and Landscape Conservation







Waabizheshikana (the Marten Trail) City of Duluth Parks & Recreation in collaboration with the National Park Service



Analysis: Water Access, Trails + Green Space



Lower Spirit Riverfront Cloug Island irit Lake Landin Spirit Lake Superior Municipa Forest Jay Cooke State Park chlak Т 4025 SCALE 1'= 2000

Existing mileage between access points:

ACCESS POINT	DISTANCE
Grassy Point to Indian Point Campground	1.9 miles
Indian Point Campground to Lower Spirit Riverfront	1.3 miles
Lower Spirit Riverfront to Spirit Lake Marina	.5 miles
Spirit Lake Marina to Munger Landing	.4 miles
Munger Landing to Boy Scout Landing	4.9 miles
Boy Scout Landing to Perch Lake Landing	1.5 miles
Perch Lake Landing to Historical Park	1.7 miles
Historical Park to Chambers Grove	.3 miles



ISLAND, SPIRIT MOUNTAIN, US STEEL, ESTUARY BAYS)

Plan Components



STORY THREADS

The big stories that shaped this place.

INTERPRETIVE APPROACH

Visitor experience goals and storytelling methods

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS

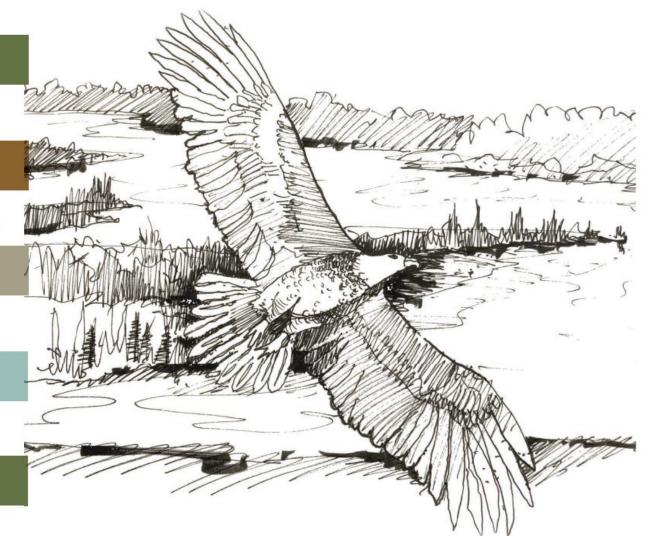
Creations that tell stories

RIVER PLACES

Profiling the places along the Waterfront

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Strategies and Estimated Costs



Migizi, 2020, John Koepke



Story Poles

• Durability

Steel honors the ore and steel making legacy of the area

Worldview

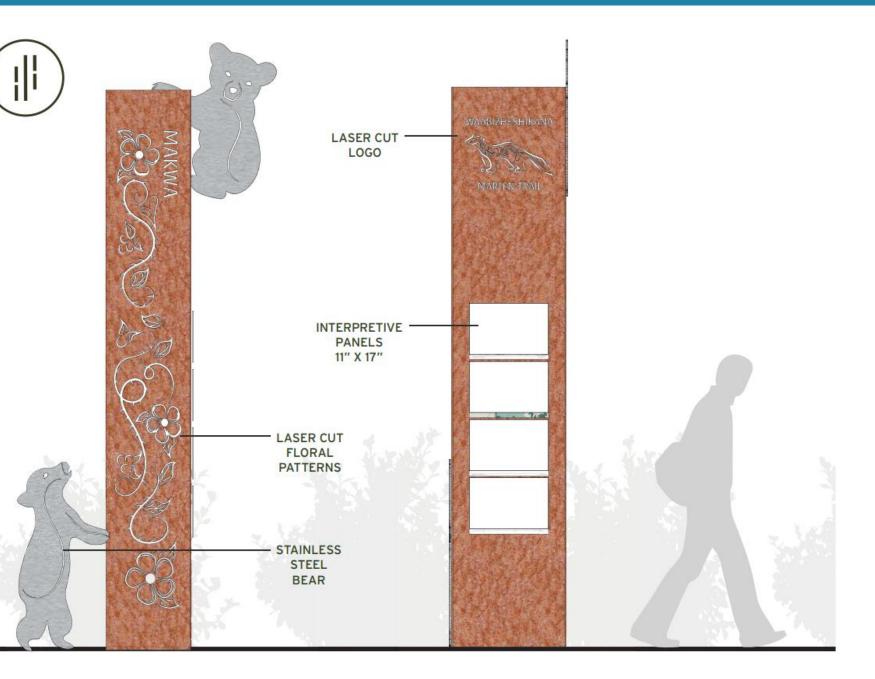
Ojibwe language and respect for the plants and animals of the Estuary

River Places

Panels tell stories of the people, places, and lifeways of the river

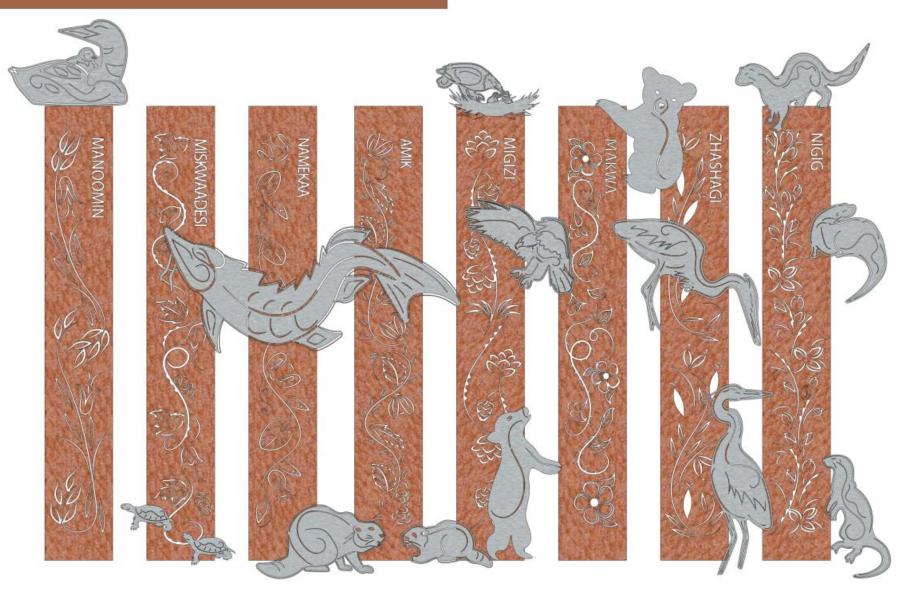
Landmark

Tells the story of a place through time.



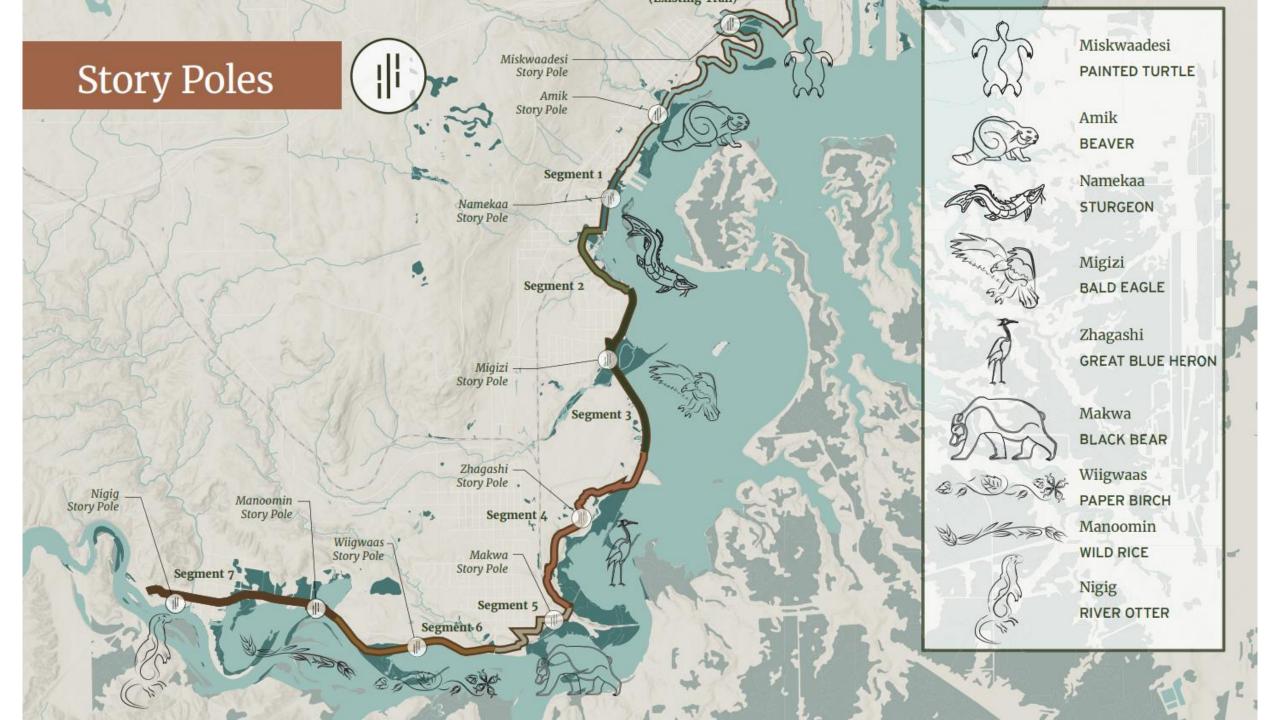


Plant & Animal Guides











Phase 1: Segment 0



- Accessibility and grade improvements
- Culvert/drainage repair
- Tate and Lyle (Spring Street) re-route
- Interpretation
- Indian Point Seven Fires Prophecy Pause Area
- Accessible trail to new DNR fishing pier





SEVEN FIRES STORYTELLING SPACE

Indian Point Campground 7000 Pulaski Street





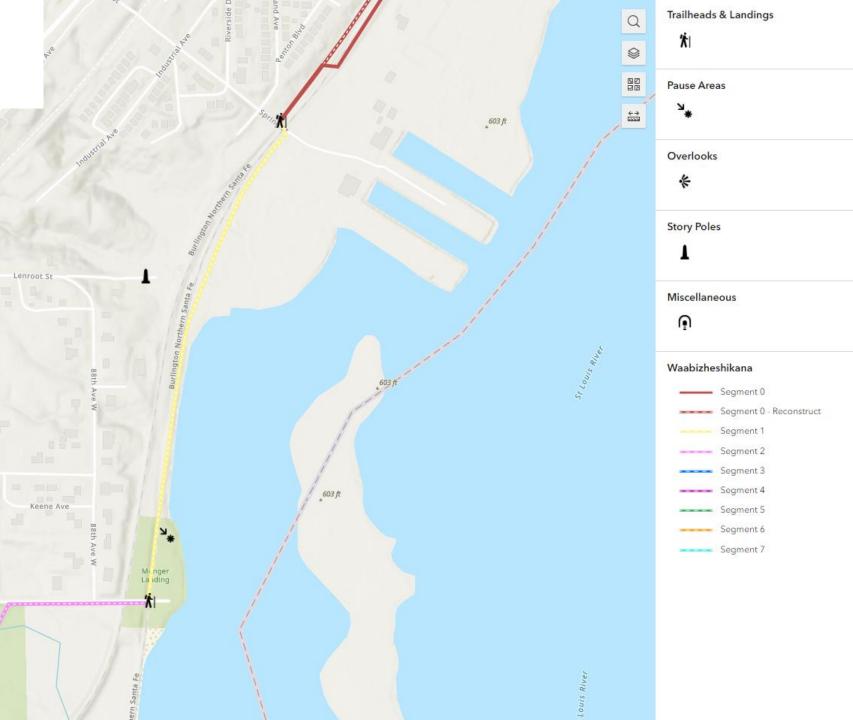
Phase 1: Segment 1

- Construct new trail from Spring Street to Munger Landing
- Rail relocation
- Wetland and shoreline impacts
- Munger Landing Improvements: parking, picnic, paddle, restrooms

Clyde Ave

- Interpretation
- IWWS Outdoor Classroom
- Signage and Wayfinding





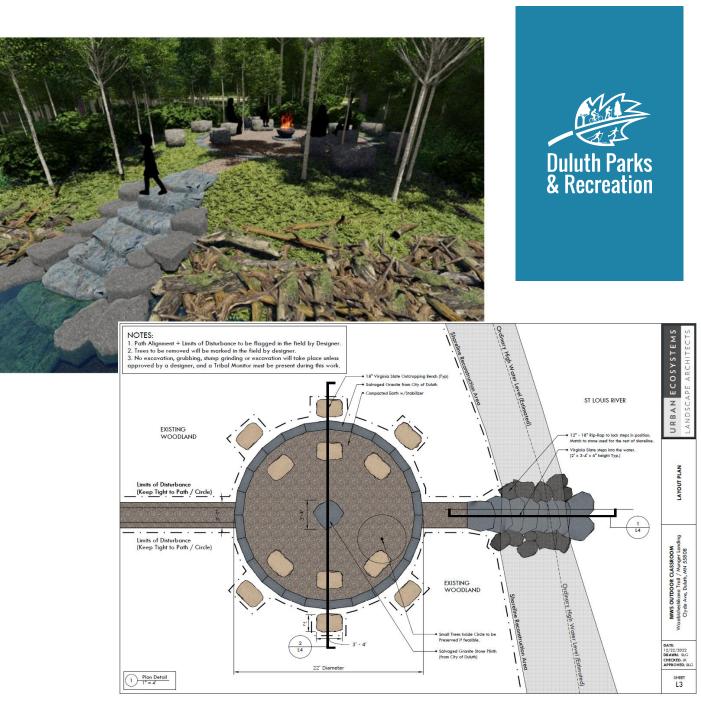




IWWS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Waabizheshikana Trail / Munger Landing Clyde Ave, Duluth, MN 55808

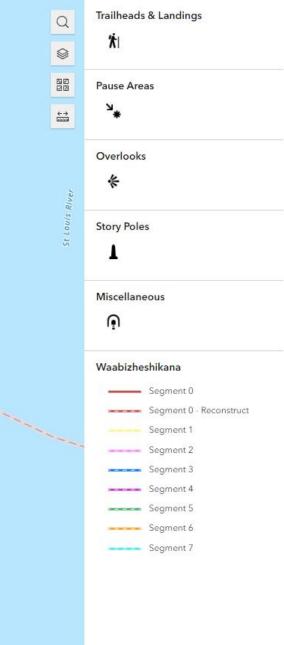




Phase 1: Segment 2

- Construct new trail from Clyde Avenue to Blackmer Park
- Inland route likely with tunnel under BNSF
- Wetland impacts
- Interpretation
- Turtle Mound interpretive landform and spur trail
- Blackmer Park trailhead improvements
- Signage and wayfinding





603 ft

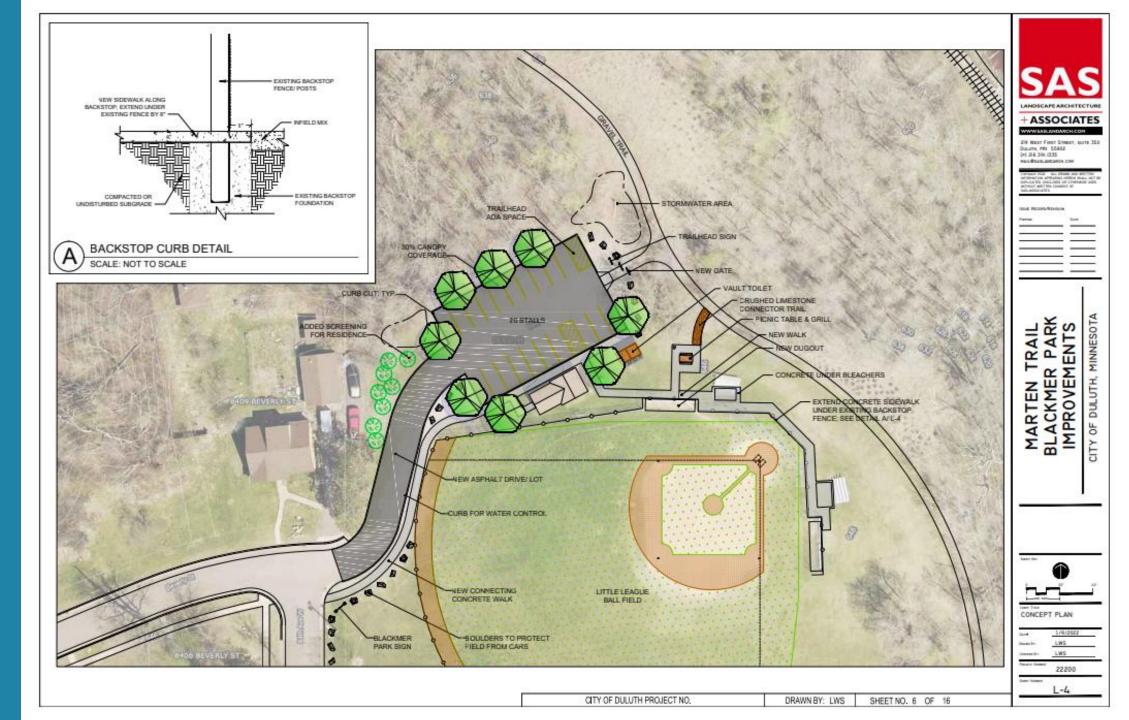
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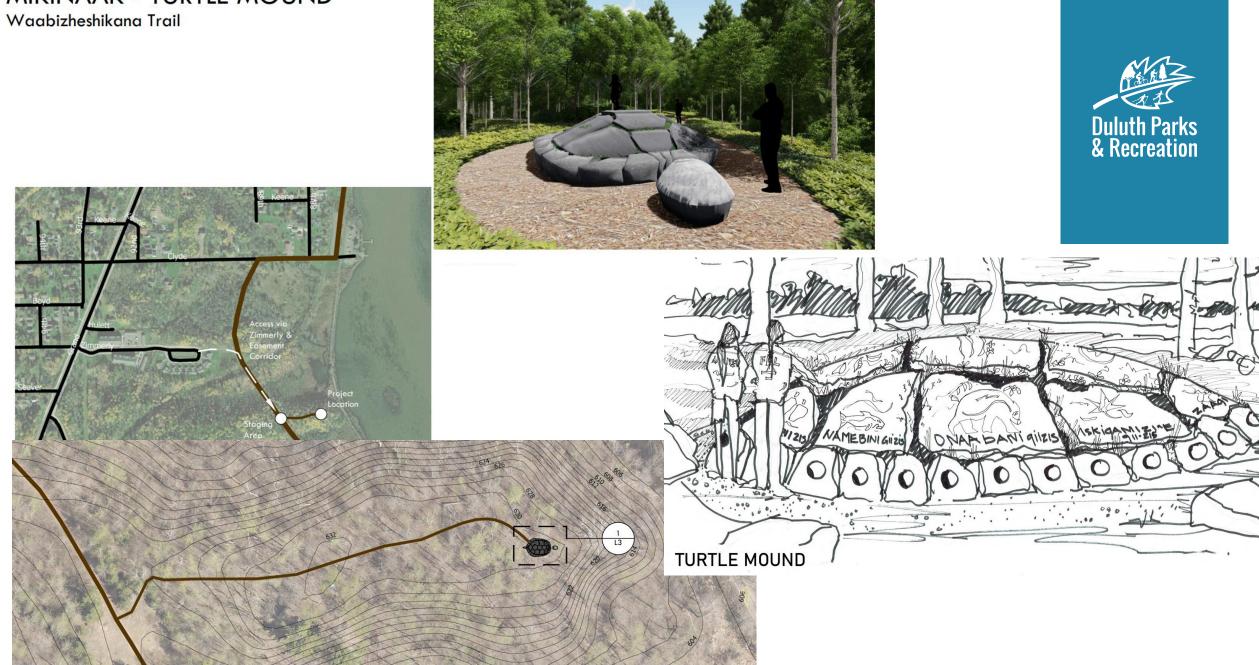
*

Morgan





MIKINAAK - TURTLE MOUND



Phase 1: Segment 3

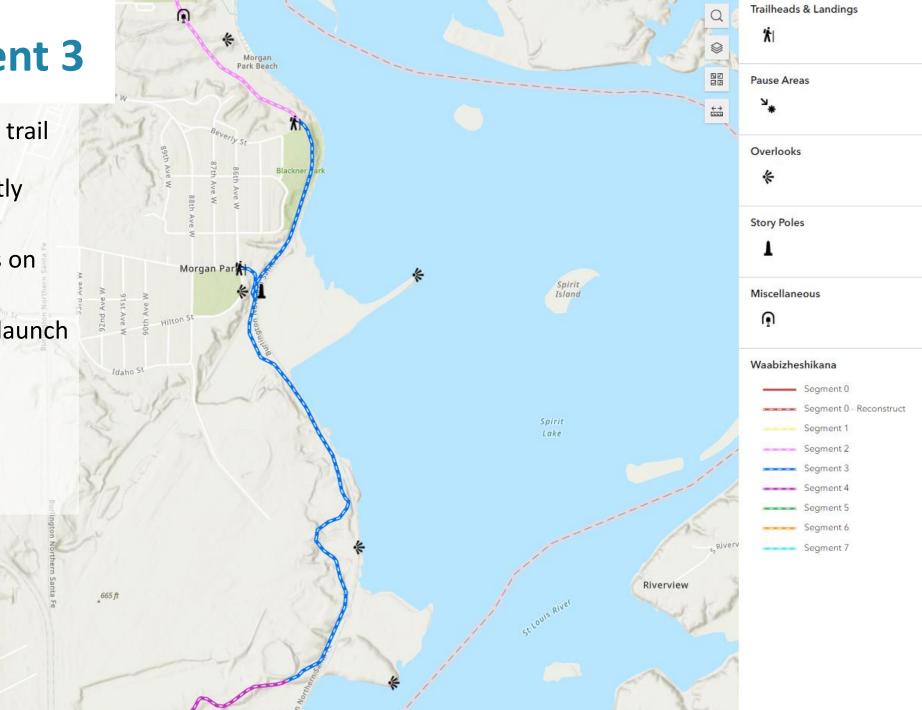
- US Steel to construct new trail from Blackmer Park to Boathouse Point – currently underway
- Spur trail and pause areas on Slag Point
- Prepped for future kayak launch

E Reis St

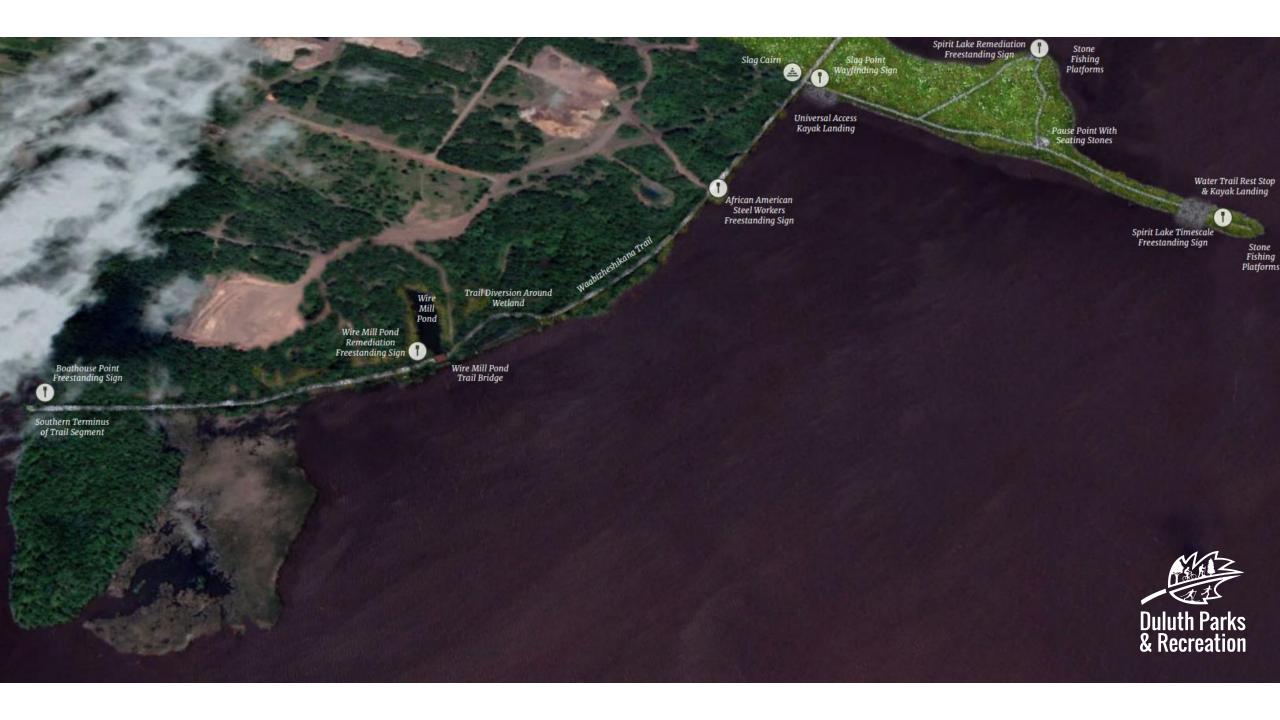
E Dickson St

- Interpretation
- Falcon Street trailhead improvements
- Signage and wayfinding









Phase 1: Funding Sources

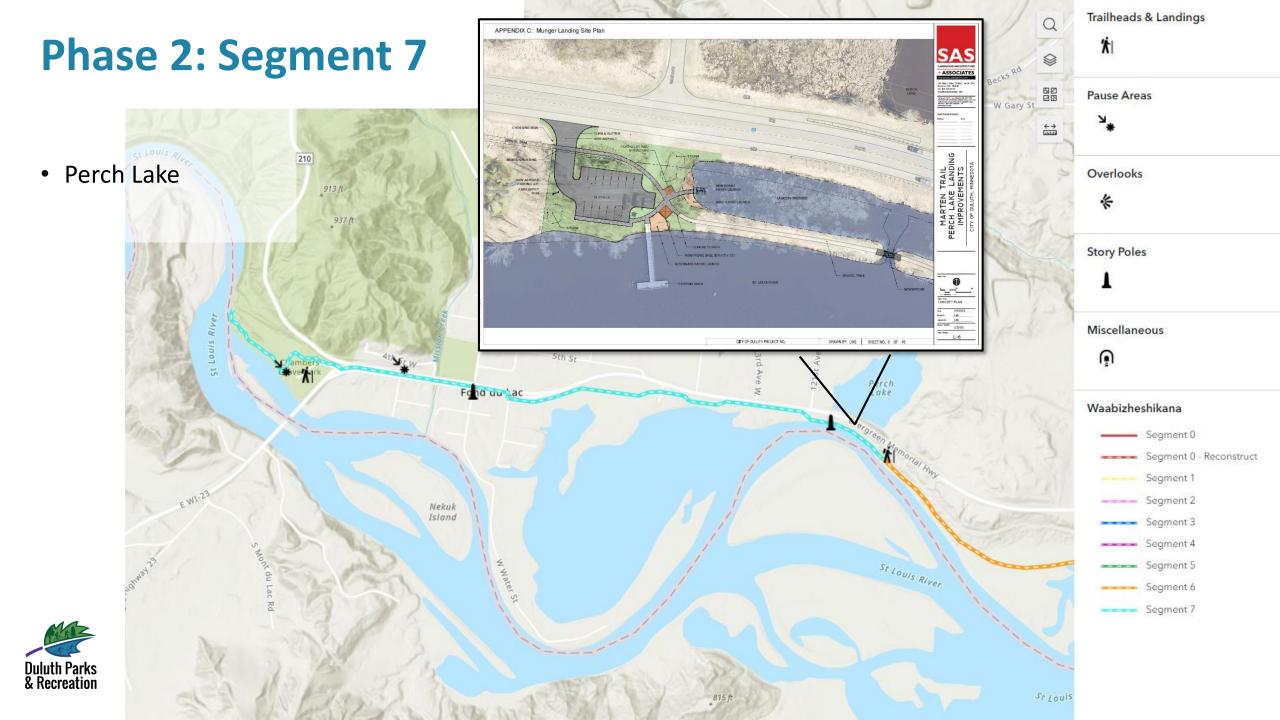


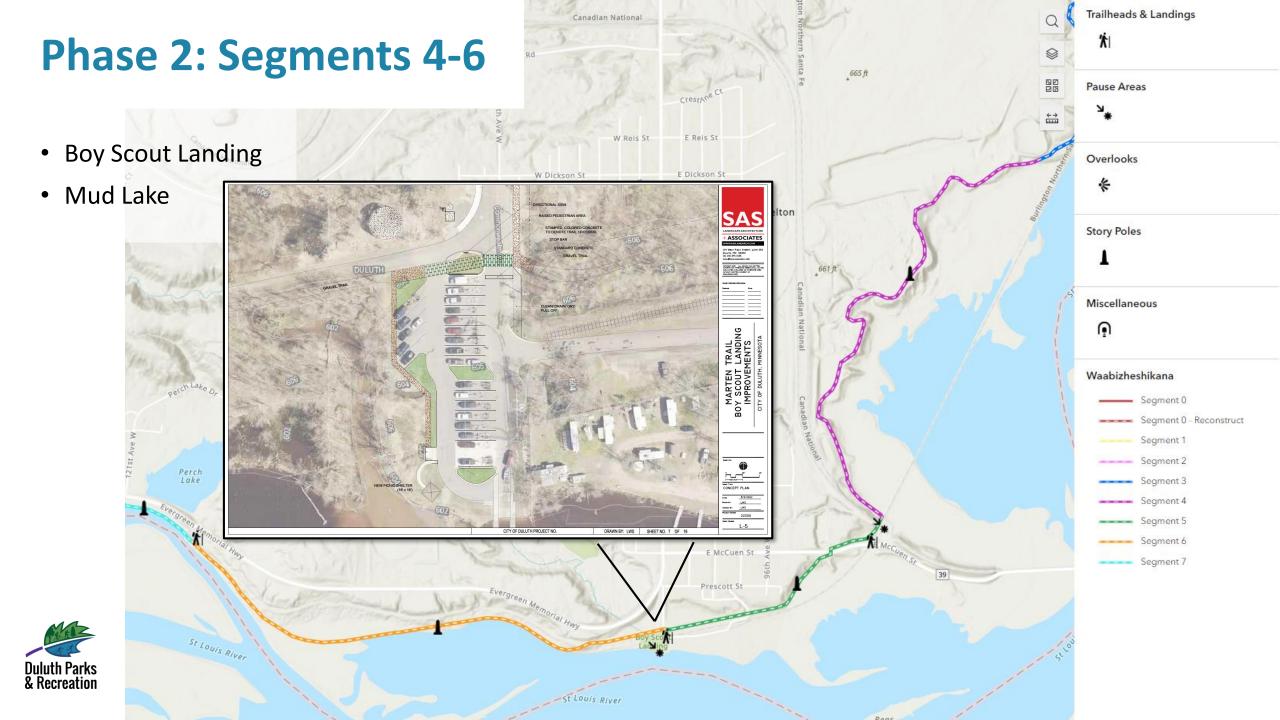
Amount	Partner/Organization	Funding Source	_					
\$1,493,434	Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC)	Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT					
\$1,875,000	Legislative-Citizen Commission on MN Resources (LCCMR)	MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund						
\$175,000*	National Park Service	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	Great Lakes RESTORATION					
\$131,000	Minnesota Historical Society	Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund	CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT					
\$400,000	City of Duluth	Parks Fund – ½ and ½ tax	HILL CHIL FRANCE					
TBD	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chipp							
\$10,000	Indigenous Women's Water Sisterhood							
*Currently awarded, with additional support anticipated for implementation and programming								

Phase 1: Timeline



 Summer 2023: Final design segments 0-2, pause areas, and Munger Landing and Blackmer P 				 Winter 2023: Bidding Spring 2024: Construction begins Summer 2025: Project completion 				
Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Winter 2023-24	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Winter 2024-25	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Design								
		Bidding						
				Construction		* * * * *		
								✓





Programming Opportunities



- Year-round activities offered by Parks & Recreation
- All ages
- Free
- Transportation to/from some activities
- Examples: canoeing, fishing, biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and more!







Programming Timeline



2023

- Canoeing opportunity for youth and/or families in the works
 - Details coming soon!
- Fall (September-December)
 - Hiring process/search begins for part-time Recreation Specialist to coordinate and oversee new programming
 - Part-time, year-round position created by this funding
 - Community engagement to inform future programming ideas, activities, and events
 - New hire to plan and prepare for 2024 programming

2024

• Variety of program offerings begins May/June 2024

Questions, comments, or ideas on future programming? Let's talk!

Sam Werle <u>swerle@duluthmn.gov</u> 218-730-4306





St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail Updates LCCMR Grant Funding Initiatives

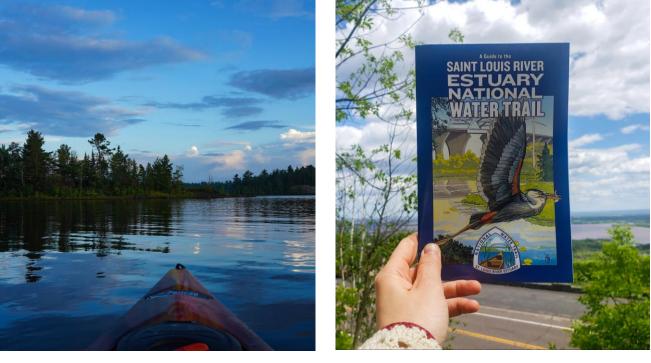


About the St. Louis River Alliance

The St. Louis River Alliance is a voice for the river, working to protect, restore and enhance the St. Louis River as well as connect people to this incredible resource.





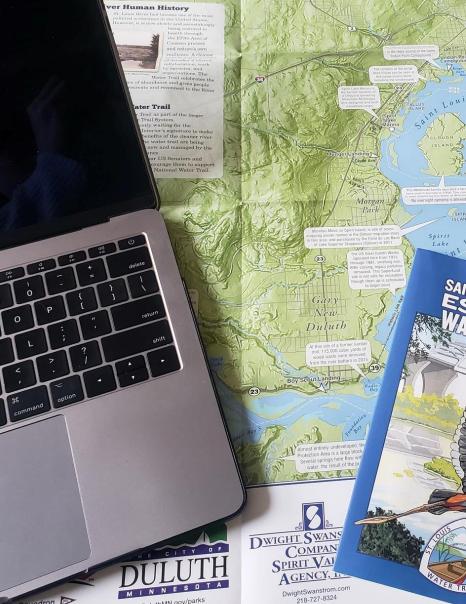




About the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail

- Nation's largest freshwater estuary
- National Water Trail is a multi-use waterway
- Designated in 2020
- 11 looped routes for paddlers of all skill levels and abilities

St. Louis River Estuary Water Irai



Increase Staff Capacity

- Hire a full-time
 National Water Trail
 Coordinator
- Hire two part-time Community Leaders
- Preference will be given to those living in the river neighborhoods





National Water Trail Coordinator

- Help implement the Master Plan using tools SLRA has already created
- Facilitate National Water Trail Advisory Council
- Continue to build on community partnerships
- Printing NWT maps
- Carry out four events per year to connect people to the river

Community Leaders

Hire two part-time Community Leaders

- Build neighborhood access and awareness to the National Water Trail
- Provide/collect valuable feedback on programming preferences of those living in river corridor neighborhoods





2023 Plans & Updates

- Create LCCMR timeline and begin hiring staff
- Distribute updated maps
- New signage
- Host events





Get Involved

- Attend an event
- Sign-up for our emails
- Follow @stlouisriveralliance on Facebook and Instagram
- Grab a map and tag #SLRENWT

www.StLouisRiver.org

Contact Information



Cliff Knettel Senior Park Planner City of Duluth - Parks & Recreation (218) 730-4312

cknettel@duluthmn.gov

Link for the project webpage: duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/progress-in-thepark/waabizheshikana-the-marten-trail-segments-0-3/

