Norton Park – Project Update

November 20, 2026

Project Overview

The project includes replacing the existing playground that is at the end of its useful life, installing a 20x20 pavilion with two picnic tables, adding an accessible route for the site, adding a concrete pad with a picnic table near the old building's location, sealing and restriping the basketball pad, regrading the multi-use field, adding stormwater management to the site to redirect water and improve drainage for the field, formalizing the turnaround for 81st Avenue West, and a new concrete pad and enclosure for a portable restroom. The existing shed and backstop fencing for the field will remain in place.

In 2025, the City of Duluth applied for and was awarded an Outdoor Recreation grant (LW27-01500) of $350,000 from the State of Minnesota - Department of Natural Resources to support this project. These funds are federal pass-through from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (P26AP00535) administered by the National Park Service. This grant is managed by Allison Brooks, Project Coordinator, and any questions regarding this grant or the Norton Park project can be sent to abrooks@duluthmn.gov.

Local funding for this project comes from the St. Louis River Corridor Initiative half-and-half tax, the Parks Fund, and the Storm Utility Fund.

2026 Progress

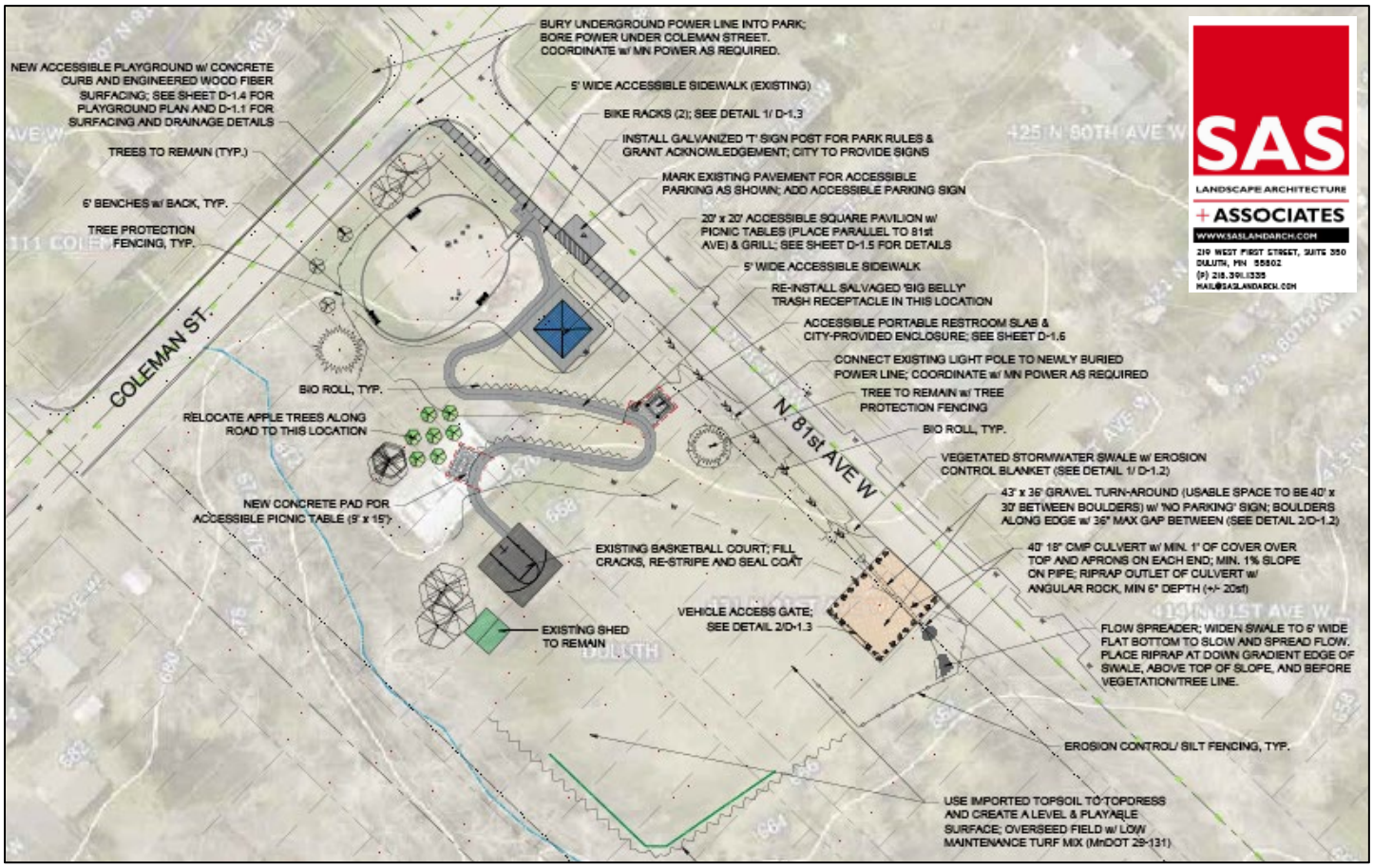
The Outdoor Recreation grant agreement was authorized by City Council on July 27 and then signed July 29, 2026. . Then, on August 10, we placed our order for the new playground equipment. The sign replacement is happening with a larger park signage project, and the old sign was removed and footers for the new sign were installed on September 29.

We issued an invitation to bid for construction of the Norton Park improvement project on September 14. We held an optional pre-bid meeting on September 29 for prospective bidders. Bids were opened on October 20, and we had four responsive bids. Veit & Company, Inc. was the low bid, and City Council authorized the construction contract on November 9. We've been lucky with a mild fall, but if we started work there would be a high risk of us creating a mess through the winter.

The new park sign is expected to be installed the week of November 30. After that, things will be quiet until the spring. Veit is getting their permits for construction and starting to order materials. The playground has already been delivered. As soon as the weather turns in the spring, we can get started.

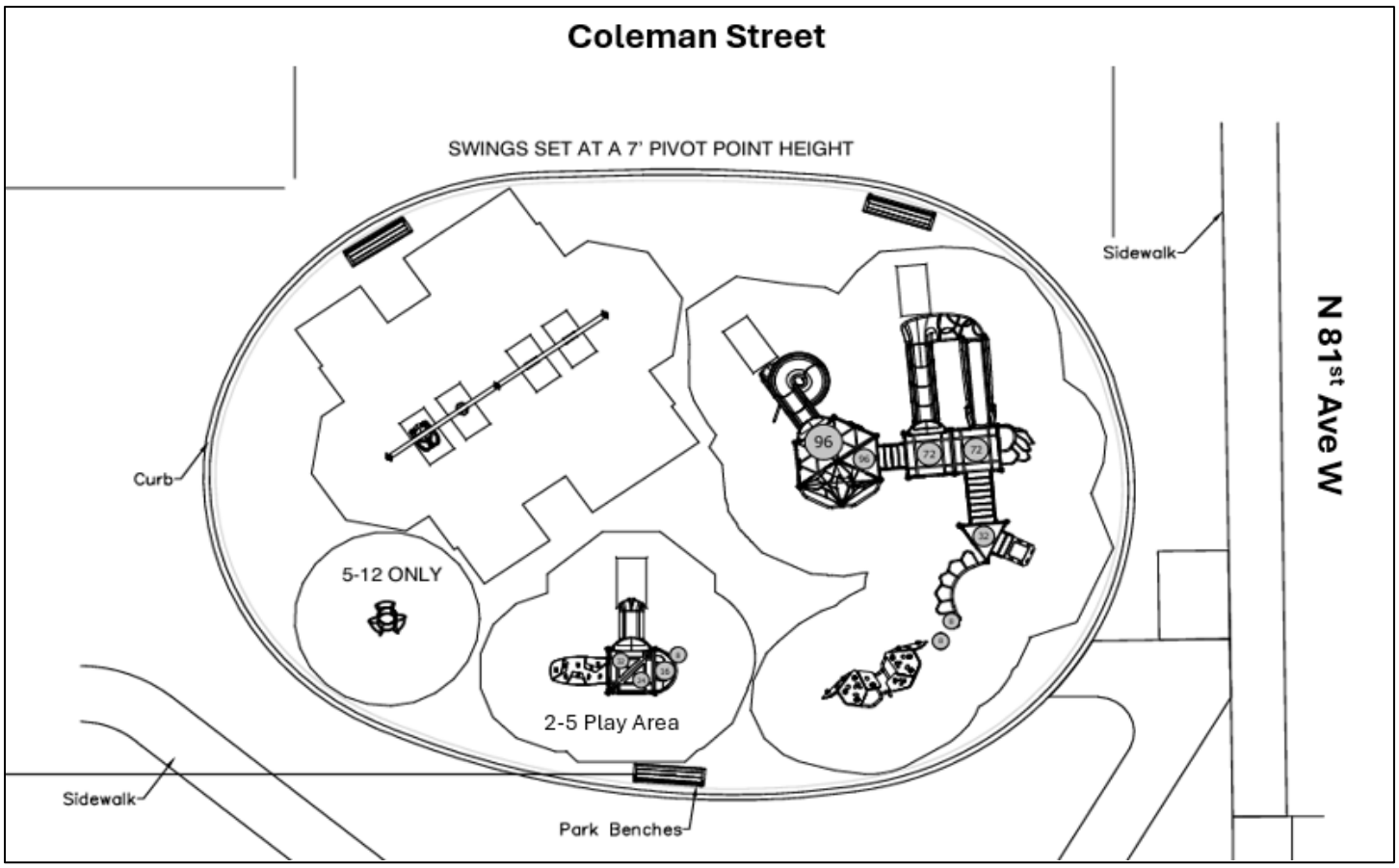
Site Layout

The design has not substantially changed from the community presentation in January 2026. A picnic table will be added where the building was previously based on feedback from the January meeting. The gravel turnaround was enlarged to better accommodate graders and emergency vehicles.



Playground Images

The playground renderings illustrate the equipment that will be installed at Norton Park. It features a play area for ages 2-5 and 5-12, which expands the age range served here from the previous equipment that primarily served ages 5-12 with two rockers for younger kids. Among other accessible elements, the new equipment features an ADA Loop Slide that has a connection at the bottom of a slide to a climbing apparatus that can be more easily navigated by children with mobility limitations.


Coleman Street
SWINGS SET AT A 7' PIVOT POINT HEIGHT
Sidewalk
N 81st Ave W
Curb
96
72
72
32
5-12 ONLY
2-5 Play Area
Sidewalk
Park Benches




NORTON PARK – FORMIS V2
PROPOSAL #: 100-210306-2-R1
Burke
PLAY THAT MOVES YOU
BCIBURKE.COM • 800.266.1250
COLOR KEY
GREEN
LIME
OCEAN
GRAY
OCEAN/BLACK
LIME/BLACK
ST. CROIX
RECREATION


PROPOSAL #: 100-210306-2-R1
NORTON PARK – FORMIS V2
Burke
PLAY THAT MOVES YOU
BCIBURKE.COM • 800.266.1250
360 Loop Slide - ADA
Formis Climber
2-5
Viper Slide
Freedom Swing - ADA
Comet II Spinner
ST. CROIX
RECREATION