



Public Administration Department Parks and Recreation Division

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Chester Park Shared Trail Use Stakeholder Meeting

07/08/2019

History of Process

City of Duluth Chester Park Mini-Master Plan (approved November 2014), and the Cross Country Ski Trail Master Plan (approved May 2015) call for a shared use trial period, allowing pedestrians to utilize the Cross Country ski trails at Chester Park. As the plan dictates, if pedestrians and skiers are unable to coexist, the plan calls for the City to bring a recommendation to Parks Commission on or before June 01, 2017 to either:

- Build a separate parallel pedestrian trail
- Limit Nordic skiing in all or major parts of Chester

Parks management extended the trial period to 2018, and again until 2019. During which time numerous stakeholder and public meetings were held, and a trail user survey was conducted. Based on stakeholder participation, public input, and the trail user survey, it is determined that pedestrians and skiers are unable to coexist, and therefore a recommendation, as called for within the Chester Park Mini-Master Plan, will be brought to Parks Commission.

Timeline of Process since 2018

Original Trail Signage Implementation – 2017/2018 Winter Season

Public Meeting #1 – February 20th, 2018

Public User Survey – Spring 2018

Stakeholder Meeting #1 – May 3rd, 2018

Public Meeting #2 – March 21st, 2018

Stakeholder Meeting #2 – October 25th, 2018

New Trail Signage Implementation – 2018/2019 Winter Season

Trail & Camera Installation – 2018/2019 Winter Season

Stakeholder Meeting #3 – May 29th, 2019

Stakeholder Site Visit – July 8th, 2019

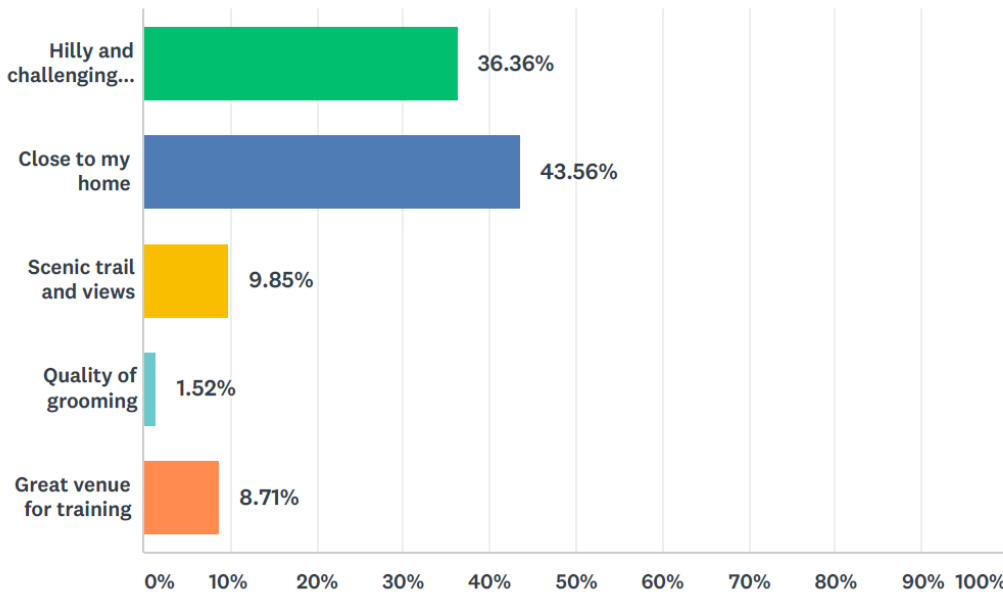
Next Steps

The Stakeholder group will conduct a site visit, reviewing problematic portions of trail, as well as areas of concern. Feedback from the Stakeholder group will determine which of the two options, set within the Chester Park Mini-Master Plan, should be presented; this determination will be incorporated into a recommendation which will be presented to Parks Commission at their August meeting, with action requested by the Commission at their September meeting.

2017/2018 Public User Survey Results

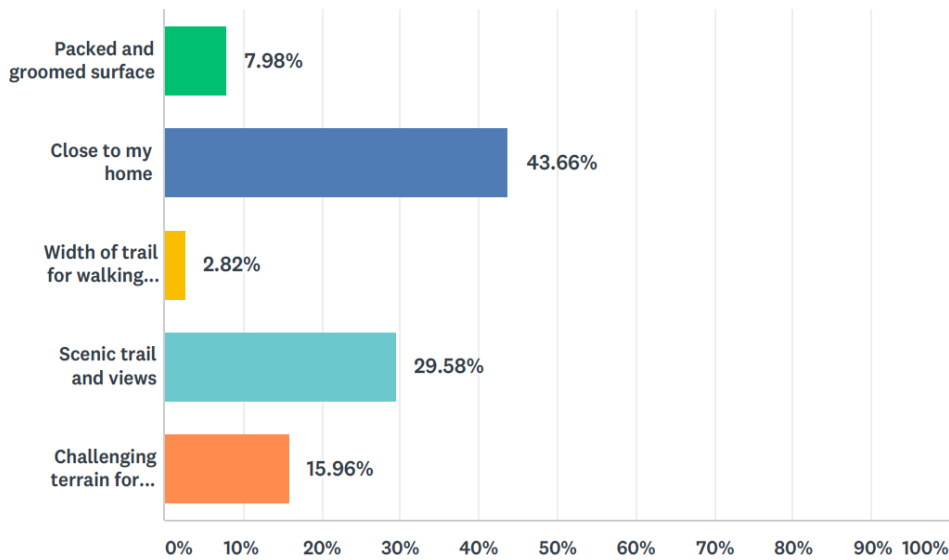
Q4 If you use the trail for CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, what do you like most about skiing at Chester Bowl?

Answered: 264 Skipped: 73



Q5 If you use the trail for WALKING OR RUNNING, what do you like most about walking/running at Chester Bowl?

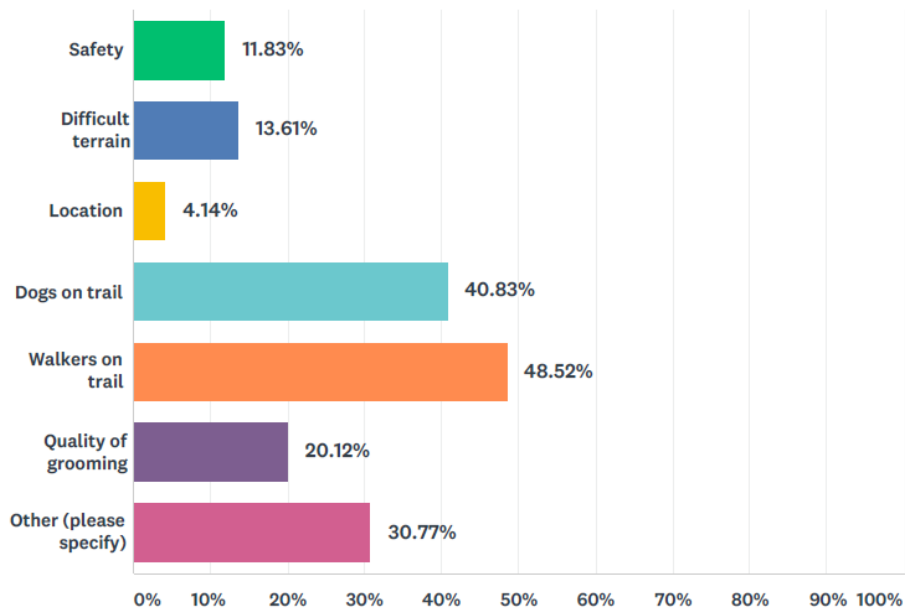
Answered: 213 Skipped: 124



2017/2018 Public User Survey Results

Q14 If you have used the Chester ski trail for skiing in the past but have stopped doing so, why do you no longer ski there?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 168



Footprints on the groomed trail have diminished my experience

- 93% of cross-country skiers strongly agree
- 7% of walkers/runners strongly agree

- 14% of cross-country skiers strongly disagree
- 86% of walkers/runners strongly disagree

Chester Bowl provides unique terrain unlike other areas in Duluth

- Of those that strongly agree with this:
 - 73% are skiers and 27% are walkers/runners

Chester Bowl is a great trail for training

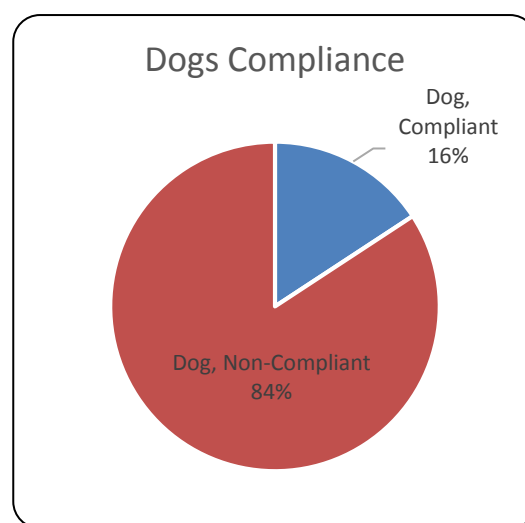
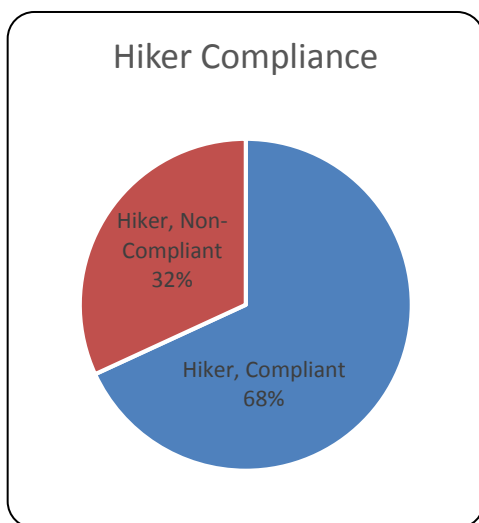
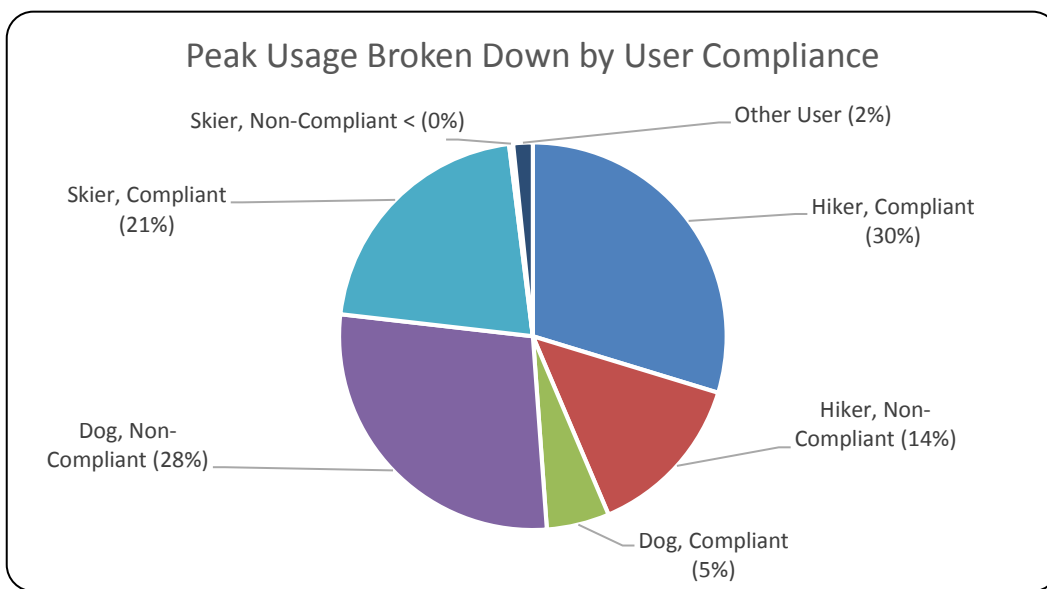
- Of those that strongly agree with this:
 - 74% are skiers and 26% are walkers/runners

The packed groomed surface is an important reason I use the ski trail

- Of those that strongly agree with this:
 - 82% are skiers and 18% are walkers/runners

2018/2019 Trail & Counter Data

Study Period	12/27/18 to 04/01/19	Base on skiable days of winter with 95% snow deck coverage and groomable depth of snow on trail surface
Days of Skiable Snow	91 Days	Start date based on first snowfall and first skier, and end date based on adequate snow coverage of ski deck to allow for a skiable surface with 95% snow coverage
Days of Groomed Ski Surface	80 Days	Assumes the day after the groomed surface is no longer suitable for skiing
Daily Average Usage	48 Users/Day	Mix of all users, includes dogs as an individual user



* Skier Compliance was greater than 99%
 **Data tabulated from peak usage periods

Trail Improvements - Duluth Traverse

The Duluth Traverse Trail (blue and red dashed trail with “red asterisks”) borders the North and West edges of the Park and is part of a city wide off road multi-use connecting trail system. Adding this trail will direct adjacent neighbors to the appropriate trail as they enter the North and West sides of the Park.

Nordic Trail Improvements / Pedestrian Improvements - Shared Use Trail *

* Shared use means the trail can be used by both pedestrians and XC skiers; no bikes

The City of Duluth has developed a Cross Country Ski Trail Master Plan which includes several suggested ski trail modifications. Comments received from both skiers and pedestrians initially identified the desire for a walking trail separate from the cross country ski trail. As the Plan developed, preference for a shared-use trail became more prevalent and resulted in the following preferred approach. While the proposed parallel pedestrian trail continues to be shown in the Plan, implementation of the Plan will occur as outlined in stage one and stage two:

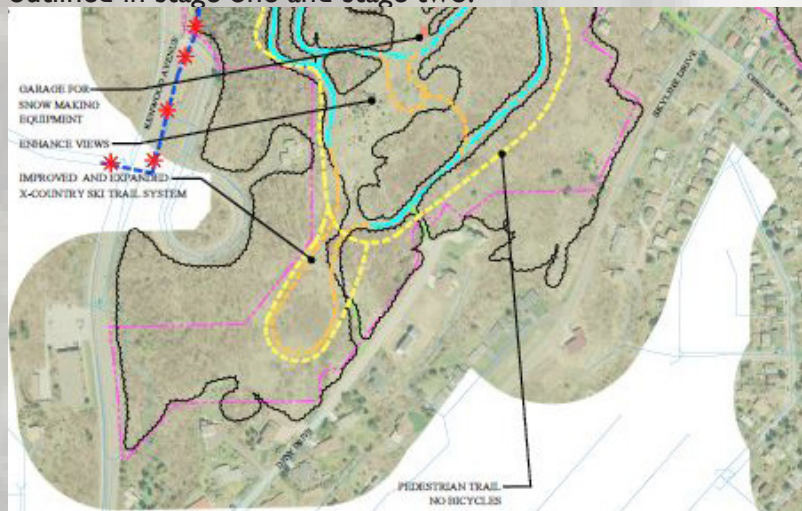
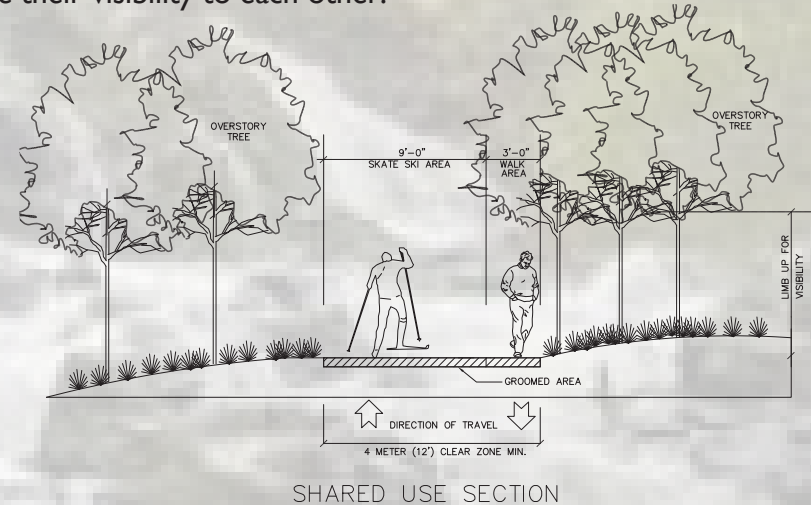


FIGURE #7

STAGE ONE

On a trial basis, pedestrians and skiers will share a trail that is:

- Widened to its original width of approximately 4 meters (slightly more where safety concerns dictate) by brushing, shrub and rock removal and moderate earth work along some edges;
- Re-designated and re-signed for shared use;
- Groomed for skating (classic in beginner loop only);
- Routed so that pedestrians and skiers would proceed in opposite directions to increase their visibility to each other.



SHARED USE SECTION

STAGE TWO

If pedestrians and skiers are unable to coexist in Stage One, the City will bring a recommendation to the Parks Commission on or before June 1, 2017 to determine proper action for Stage Two, Options include:

- Building a separate parallel pedestrian trail as in the current Plan;
- Limiting Nordic skiing in all or major parts of Chester.

IMPROVED AND EXPANDED X-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL SYSTEM

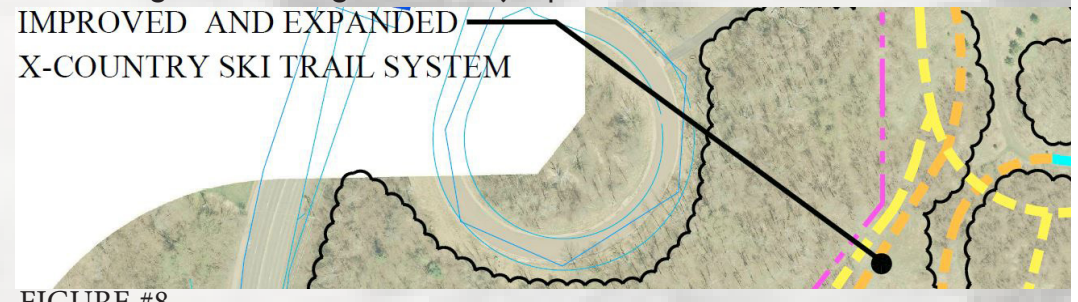










FIGURE #8

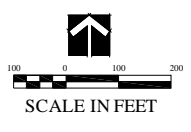


- LIMIT OF LIT X-COUNTRY LOOP WITH SNOWMAKING - APPROX. 1.5K
- IMPROVED FIELD TURF WITH IRRIGATION
- X-COUNTRY BEGINNER AREA
- SPEEDSKATING RINK
- NORDIC / SPEED SKATING / COMMUNITY BUILDING
- FUNCTIONALLY EXPAND AND IMPROVE CHALET ADD ADDITIONAL FLOOR FOR NEW APARTMENT
- RECONSTRUCTED POOL AND RIFFLE SYSTEM
- RE-PURPOSED HISTORIC DAM AS A NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
- NEW PICNIC SHELTER AND PATIO
- NEW AMPHITHEATER AND PERFORMANCE STAGE WITH REMOVABLE SUN STRUCTURE
- NEW ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN WALK
- IMPROVE PARKING (TYPICAL)

- SNOW GROOMER STORAGE GARAGE
- NEW PARKING AREA
- GARAGE FOR SNOW MAKING EQUIPMENT
- ENHANCE VIEWS
- IMPROVED AND EXPANDED X-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL SYSTEM

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  | PARK BOUNDARY |  | DULUTH TRAVERSE "SINGLE TRACK MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL" |
|  | YEAR ROUND PEDESTRIAN ONLY TRAIL |  | NEW OR RE-ROUTED X-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING X-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS |  | 2'-0" CONTOUR INTERVAL |
|  | X-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL WITH NEW LIGHTS AND SNOWMAKING |  | EXISTING PEDESTRIAN TRAIL |



CHESTER PARK PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN

SHEET M-1
25 MARCH 2014

Chester Park Trails



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles