50-18.3 Historic Resources Overlay (HR-O).

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this Section 50-18.3 is to preserve, protect and promote any areas, places, buildings, structures, lands, districts and other objects having a special historical, community or aesthetic interest or value. The Historic Resources Overlay:

1. Safeguards the heritage of the city by preserving properties that reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, engineering, visual or architectural history;
2. Protects and enhances the city's appeal and attraction to residents, visitors and tourists, while enhancing its economic viability through the protection and promotion of its unique character as related to its history and heritage;
3. Enhances the visual and aesthetic character, diversity and interest of the city;
4. Fosters civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past;
5. Promotes the preservation and continued use of historic properties for the education and general welfare of the people of the city;

B. Designation of historic resources.

1. Through the process for designating historic resources in Section 50-37.8, or its predecessor ordinance previously codified as Chapter 28A of the City Code, the heritage preservation commission has designated:
   (a) Two historic preservation districts: the Duluth Civic Center Historic District, and the Duluth State Normal School Historic District, whose boundaries are shown on Exhibits 50-18.3-1 and 50-18.3-2; and
   (b) Those designated historic preservation landmarks on file with the secretary of the planning commission;
2. The heritage preservation commission and planning commission may from time to time recommend, and the council may approve, additional historic preservation districts or landmarks pursuant to Section 50-37.8;

C. Review of construction/demolition activities.

Within those designated historic preservation districts shown on Exhibit 50-18.3-1 and those historic preservation landmarks on file with the secretary of the planning commission:

1. Construction and demolition activities, including all street and utility activities, shall be approved pursuant to Section 50-37.14;
2. The issuance of city permits to do any of the following shall be approved pursuant to Section 50-37.14:
   (c) Remodel, repair or alter in any manner that will change the exterior appearance;
   (d) New construction, including parking facilities;
   (e) Move a building;
   (f) Change the nature or appearance of a designated historic preservation landmark or district, including landscape features;
   (g) Demolition in whole or in part;

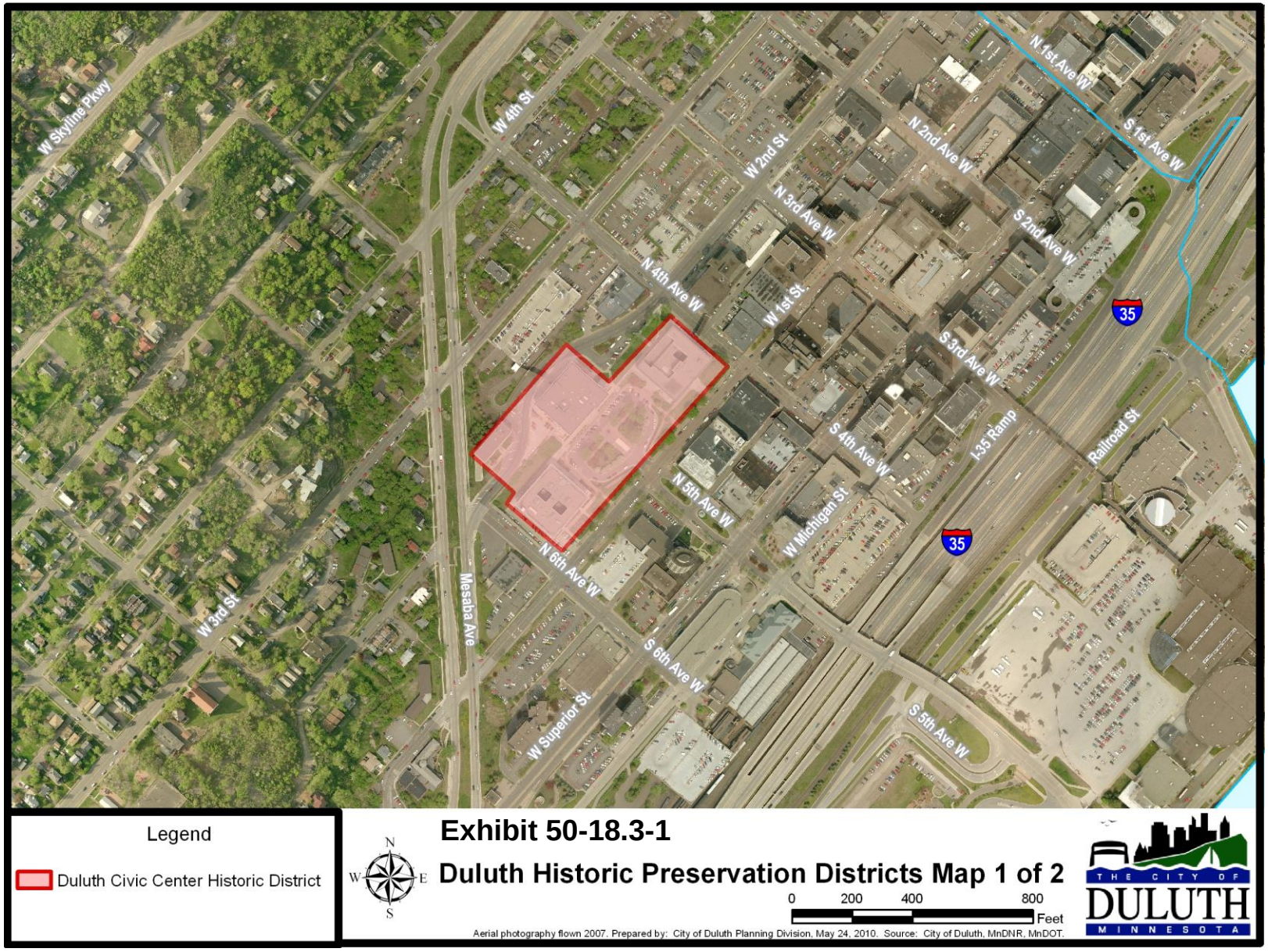
D. Emergency repair.

In emergency situations where immediate repair is needed to protect the safety of the structure and its inhabitants, the building official may approve the repair of only those items needed to ensure safety. Such repairs shall be limited to those necessary to correct the safety emergency. In the case of a permit issued pursuant to this subsection D, the building official shall require that the repairs be made in conformance with the U.S. secretary of interior's recommended standards for heritage preservation projects and adopted historic preservation guidelines for the landmark or district to the extent possible. In addition, the building official shall immediately notify the historic preservation commission of the action and specify the facts or conditions constituting the emergency situation;

E. Building code enforcement.

This Section 50-18.3 is also intended to encourage the sensitive rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization and preservation of historic buildings throughout the city. These rehabilitation and preservation efforts should provide for the upgrading and maintenance of the safety features of the building or structure to provide a practical level of safety to the public and surrounding properties. While ensuring this increased level of public safety, the enforcement authorities are encouraged to be open to acceptable alternative solutions and alternative compliance concepts, where practical, that will permit the continued use of existing buildings and structures without creating overly restrictive financial burdens on owners or occupants. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any exterior elements of any building or structure.

(Ord. No. 10041, 8-16-2010, § 4; Ord. No. 10044, 8-16-2010, § 6; Ord. No. 10096, 7-18-2011, § 14; Ord. No. 10225, 5-28-2013, § 3.)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Mesaba Ave
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W Superior St
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Legend
Duluth Civic Center Historic District
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Exhibit 50-18.3-1
Duluth Historic Preservation Districts Map 1 of 2
0 200 400 800
Feet
Aerial photography flown 2007. Prepared by: City of Duluth Planning Division, May 24, 2010. Source: City of Duluth, MnDNR, MnDOT.
THE CITY OF
DULUTH
MINNESOTA

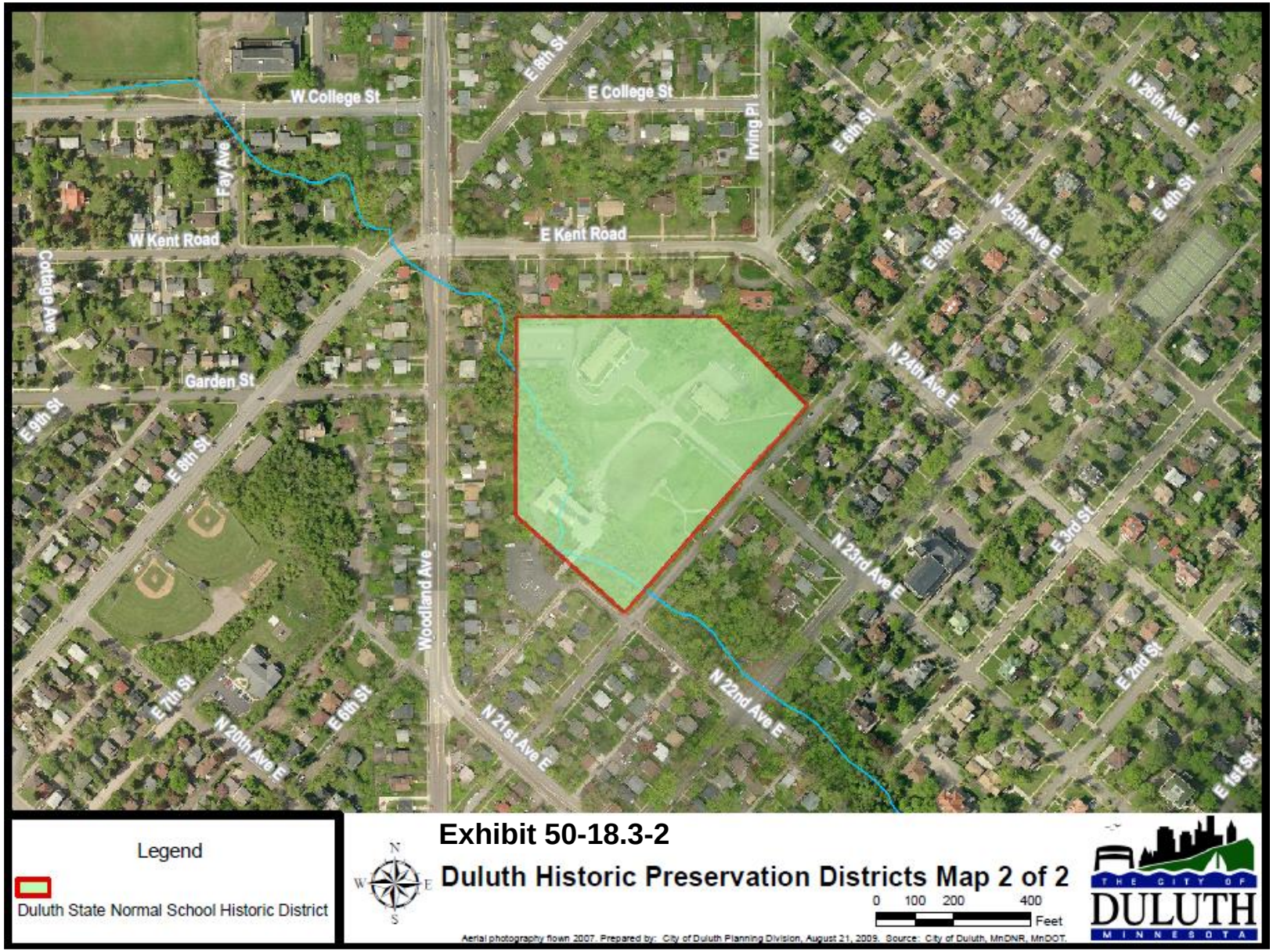

Exhibit 50-18.3-2

Duluth Historic Preservation Districts Map 2 of 2