

# Duluth Trails Update

## 2021-2022



Presentation prepared by Matt Andrews,  
City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Trails Coordinator,  
for 05.10.2023 Parks Commission meeting



# Paved & Gravel Trails

- Duluth Winnipeg Pacific (DWP) Trail
  - Sergeant Creek Bridge
  - Stewart Creek Bridge
- Waabizheshikana- Spirit Cove
- Keene Creek Park trails restoration
- Grassy Point Trail
- Cross-City Trail
  - Twin Ports Interchange reroute
- Lester Stone Arch bridge restoration
- Lakewalk Canal Park restoration
- Kitchi Gammi (Brighton Beach Park)  
Lakewalk extension

# Paved & Gravel Trails



# Sergeant & Stewart Creek Bridges



# Brighton Beach Lakewalk Extension



# Natural Surface Trails

- Chester Park trails rehabilitation
- Chester Park- new pedestrian bridge
- \*Chester Park- new alpine access bridge
- Congdon Park- bridge maintenance
- Hartley Park- Fairmount Street trail erosion restoration
- Hartley Park- Nature Center bridges replacement
- \*\*SHT- Sergeant Creek reroute & bridge removal
- \*\*SHT- Knowlton stairs removal & trail reroute
- \*\*SHT- Keene Creek Tributary reroute
- \*\*SHT- Magney Stewart Creek reroute and road-walk removal

\*work partially funded by Chester Bowl Improvement Club

\*\*work funded and/or performed by Superior Hiking Trail Association

# 2021-2022 Trails Update

Construction and Maintenance Projects

## Legend

- MTB
- MTB downhill
- Other/Hiking
- Paved/Gravel
- Superior Hiking Trail

\*\*SHT- Sergeant Creek

\*\*SHT- Stewart Creek

\*\*SHT- Knowlton Creek

\*\*SHT- Keene Creek

Chester  
-trails rehab  
-new ped bridge  
-\*new alpine bridge

Hartley  
-bridge replacements  
-Fairmont St erosion

Congdon  
-bridge maint.

\*work partially funded by Chester Bowl Improvement Club  
\*\*work funded and/or performed by Superior Hiking Trail Association

# Natural Surface Trails (cont.)

- Construction
  - DT- Mission Creek / DWP Corridor
  - Short Line Park Connector
  - Fairmont Neighborhood DT
  - \*Brewer- Bellevue Park Connector (Snaggletooth)
  - Haines Road gap
  - Lyman Street gap
  - Twin Ponds gap
  - \*Central School DT
  - \*Piedmont- MeJumpolis

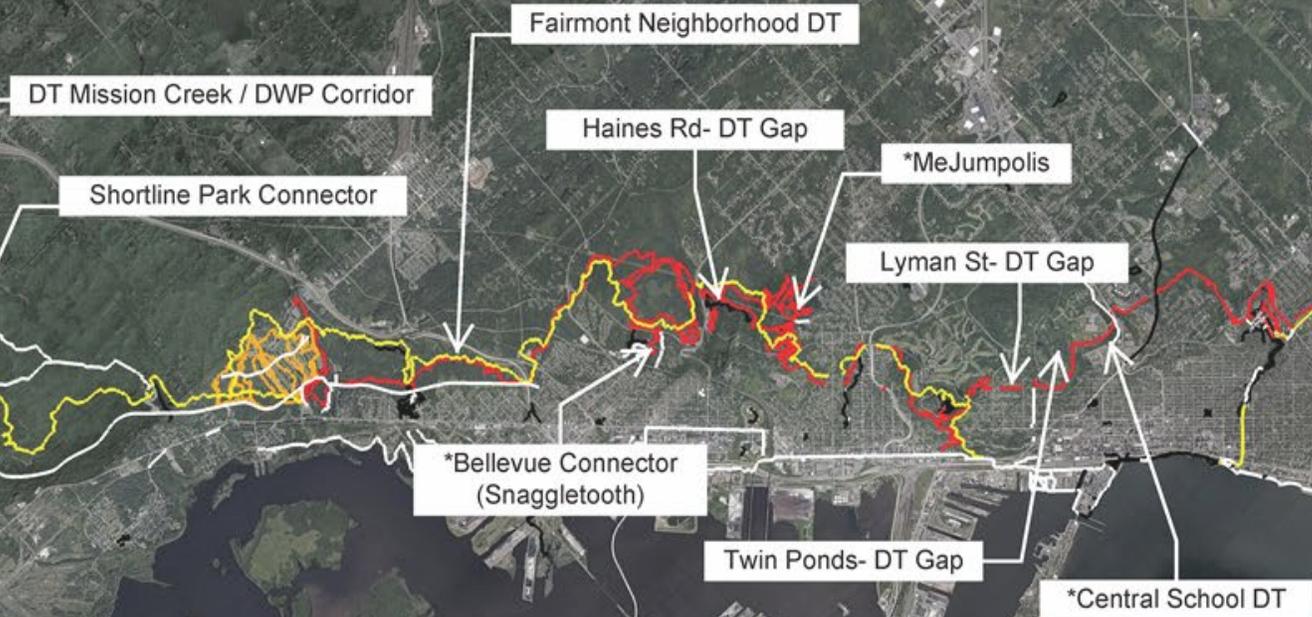
\*work funded by Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores

# 2021-2022 Trails

Construction and Maintenance

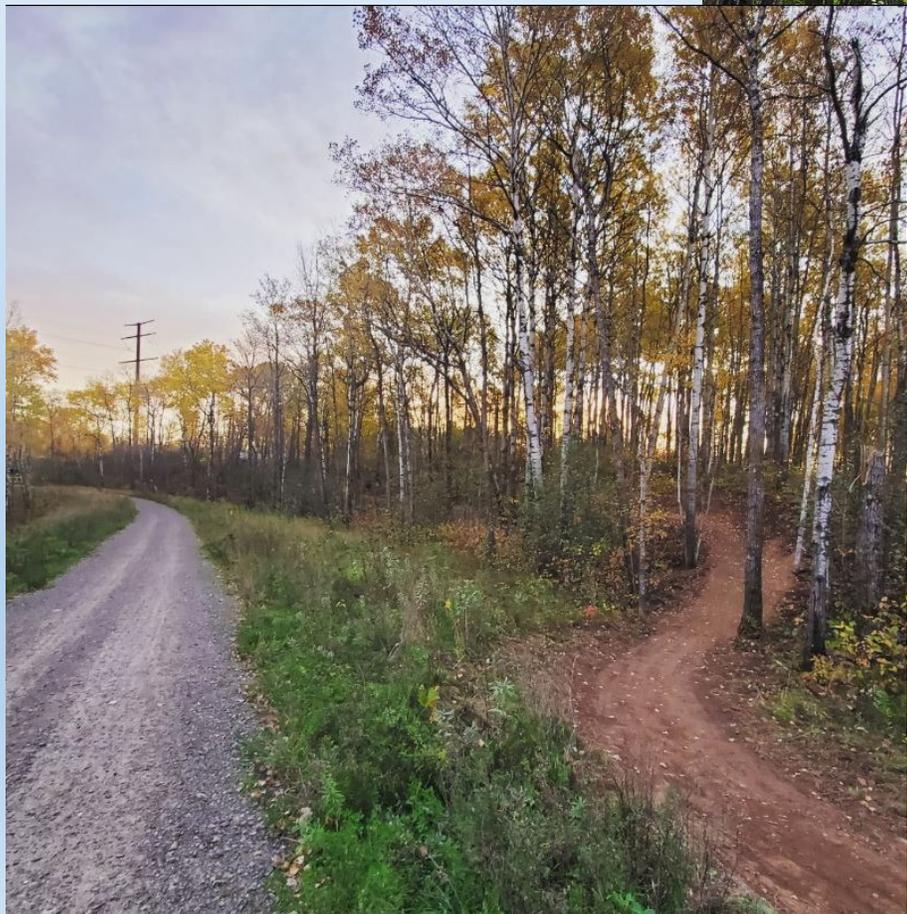
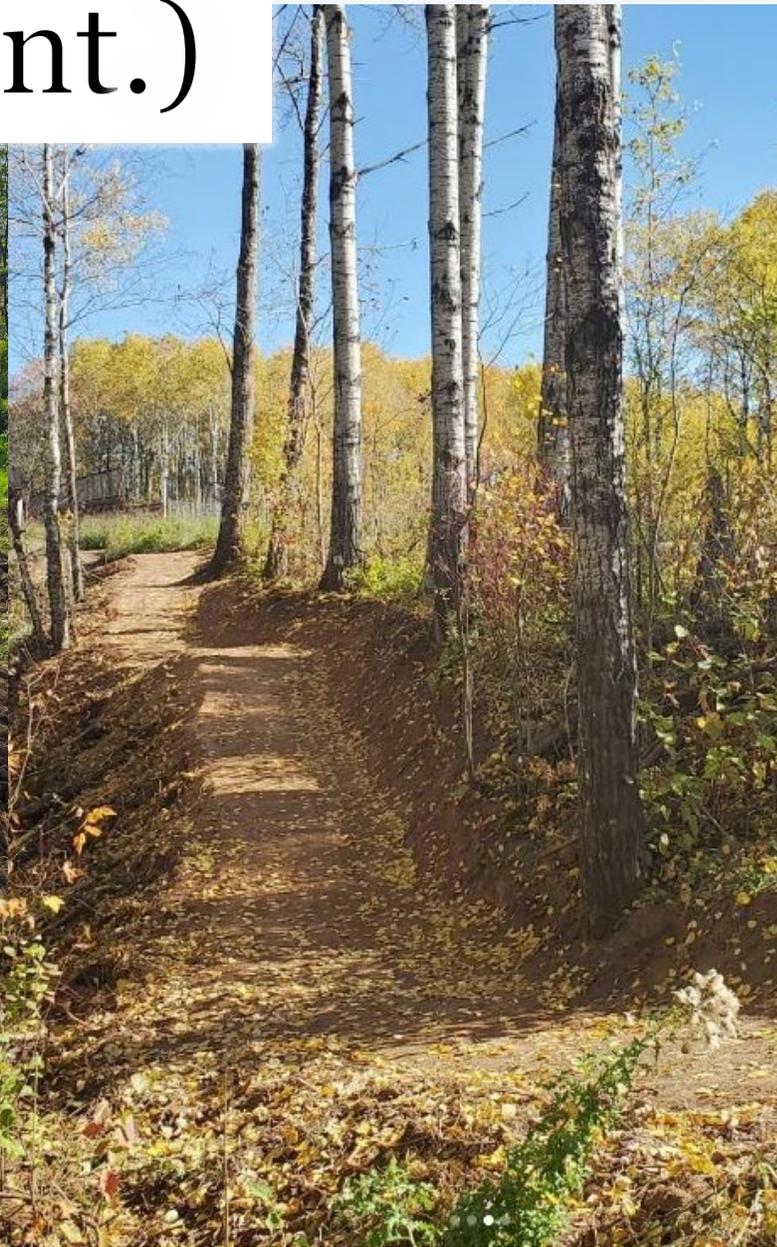
## Legend

- MTB
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\*work funded by Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores

# Natural Surface Trails (cont.)



# Natural Surface Trails (cont.)

- Duluth Traverse- Maintenance Projects
  - Maintenance & Resiliency (\$70k)
  - \*Mission- bridge/boardwalk restoration
  - \*Mission- Flyover Country extension
  - \*Mission Creek Parkway bypass (Portage)
  - \*Piedmont- Admiral Rockbar access from Skyline Parkway
  - \*Piedmont- Foxx Rocks B-Line realignment
  - \*Keene Creek improvements
  - \*Quarry Park improvements
  - \*Mission- Porcupine Pass improvements
  - \*Mission- Ninja Beaver maintenance & resiliency
  - \*Hartley- Cabbage Patch restoration
  - \*Hartley- Northfield Connector
  - \*Hartley- NW Hills Golf Course Reroute
  - \*Hartley- Wet Meadow bridge/boardwalk restoration

\*work performed by Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores

# Other

- Deeps Bridge
- Snowmobile Trail- upper Fairmount
  - Stewart snowmobile bridge
- XC Ski trail brushing
- Equestrian Trail resiliency (two \$5k grants)
- Hawk Ridge trail assessment
- Asset Management System inventory, GPS work
- St Louis River- National Water Trail Designation

# Signage & Wayfinding

- Park Entrance Signs
  - Keen Creek Park
  - Merritt Park
  - Piedmont Recreation Area
  - Lafayette Community Center
  - Piedmont Trail Center
  - Skyline Parkway SHT connector
- Cross-City Trail Segments 1 & 2
- Duluth Winnipeg Pacific (DWP) Trail
- Hartley Park
- Chester Park (upper)
- Other:
  - Ski Trail Signage- Hartley, Lester, Piedmont
  - Chester Hiking Signs
  - \*Hawk Ridge Wayfinding

\*work funded and/or performed by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

# Signage & Wayfinding



# Look Ahead

## Trails:

- Cross-City Trail Segment 3: Irving Park to Raleigh St
- Hawk Ridge trail reroutes, signage, and access improvements
- Spirit Mountain- Legacy Grant funded trails
- Campus Connector Trail Segment 6 (Congdon neighborhood)

## Signage:

- Lakewalk Speed Limits
- Lincoln Park
- Kitchi Gammi (Brighton Beach Park)
- Bayfront / Baywalk / Harbor Drive

# Duluth Trails Update

## 2021-2022

**Matt Andrews**  
**City of Duluth Parks and Recreation**  
**Trails Coordinator**  
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Presentation prepared by Matt Andrews,  
City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Trails Coordinator,  
for 05.10.2023 Parks Commission meeting



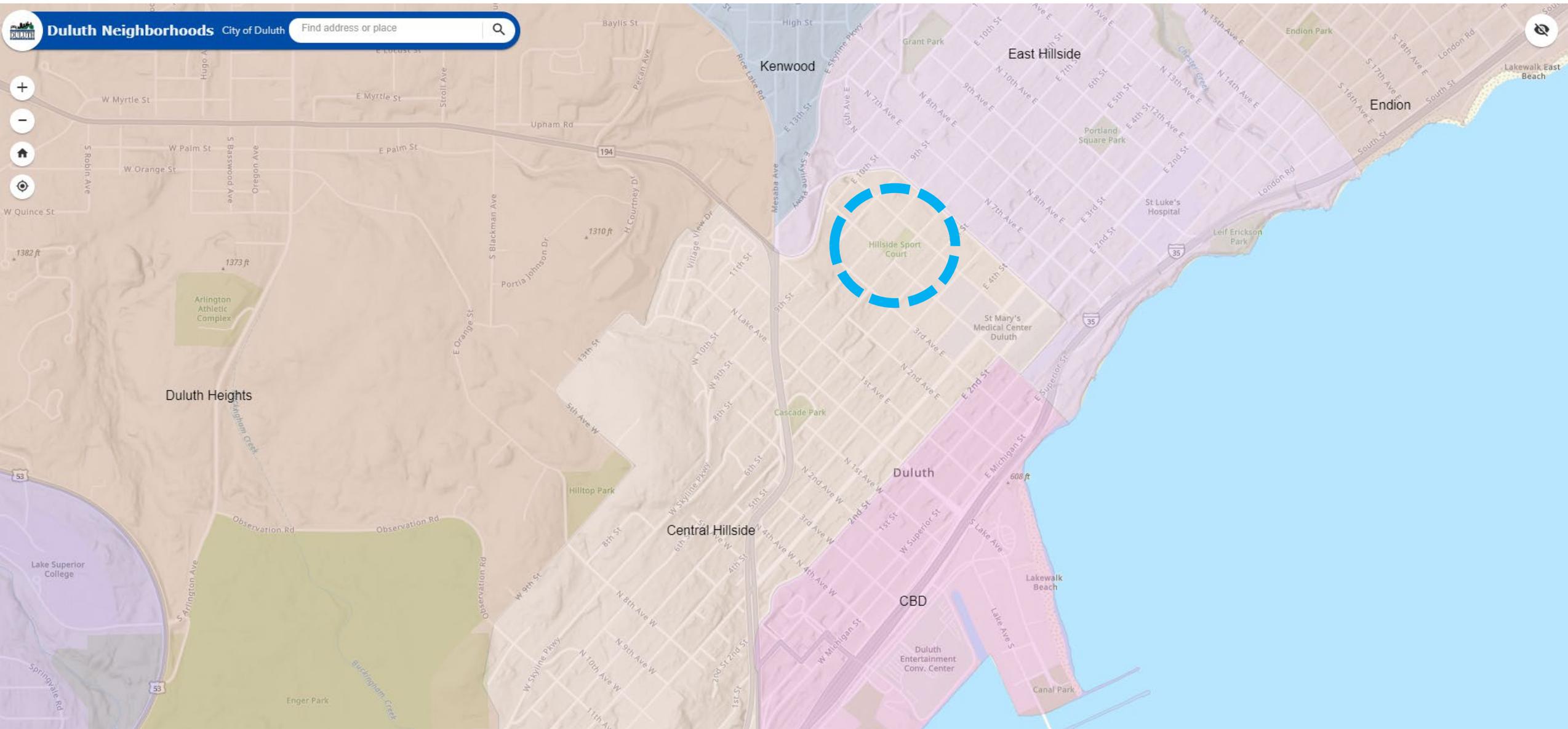
Presented to Parks and Recreation Commission  
by Katie Bennett, Project Coordinator  
May 10, 2023

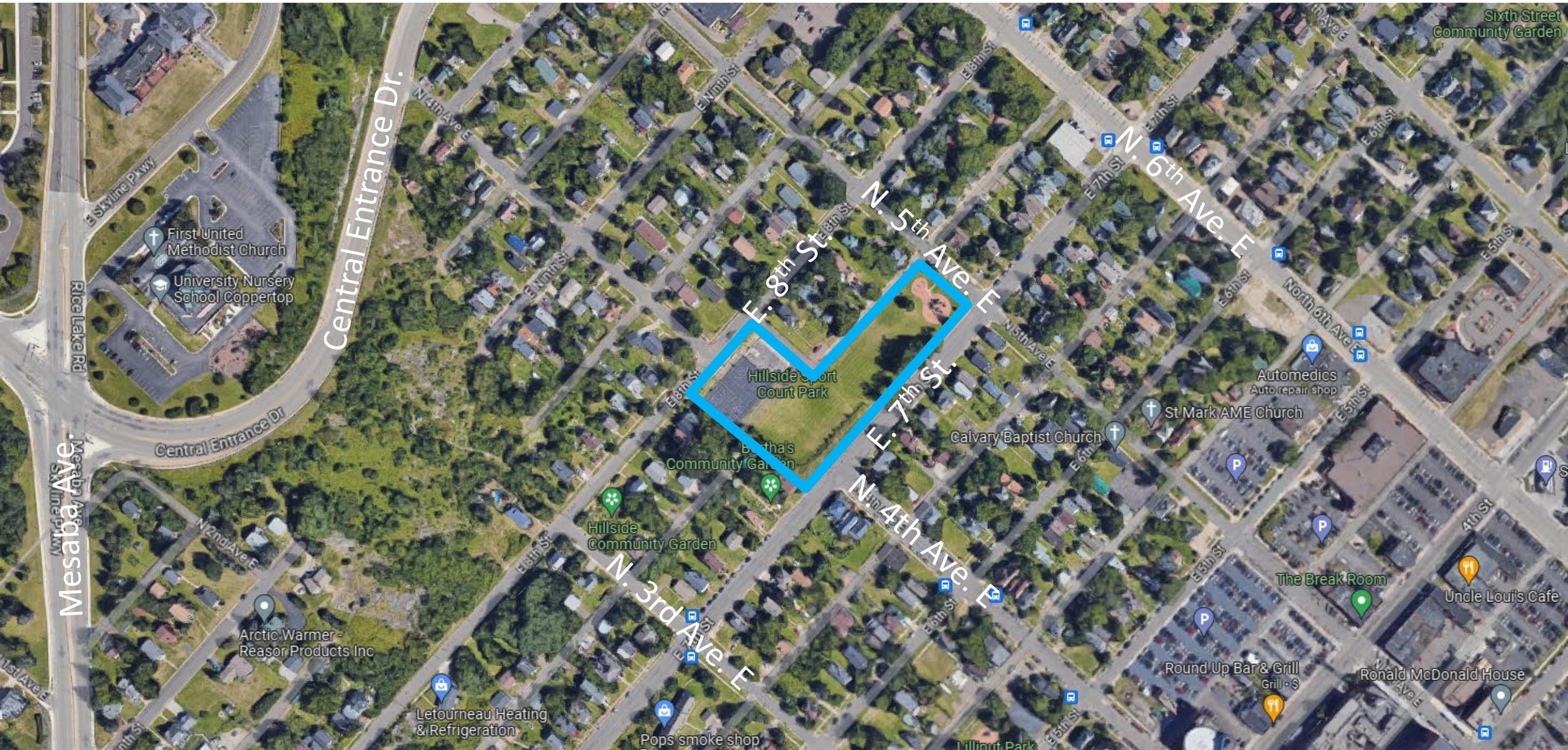


# Hillside Sport Court Park

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PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS







Sport Court



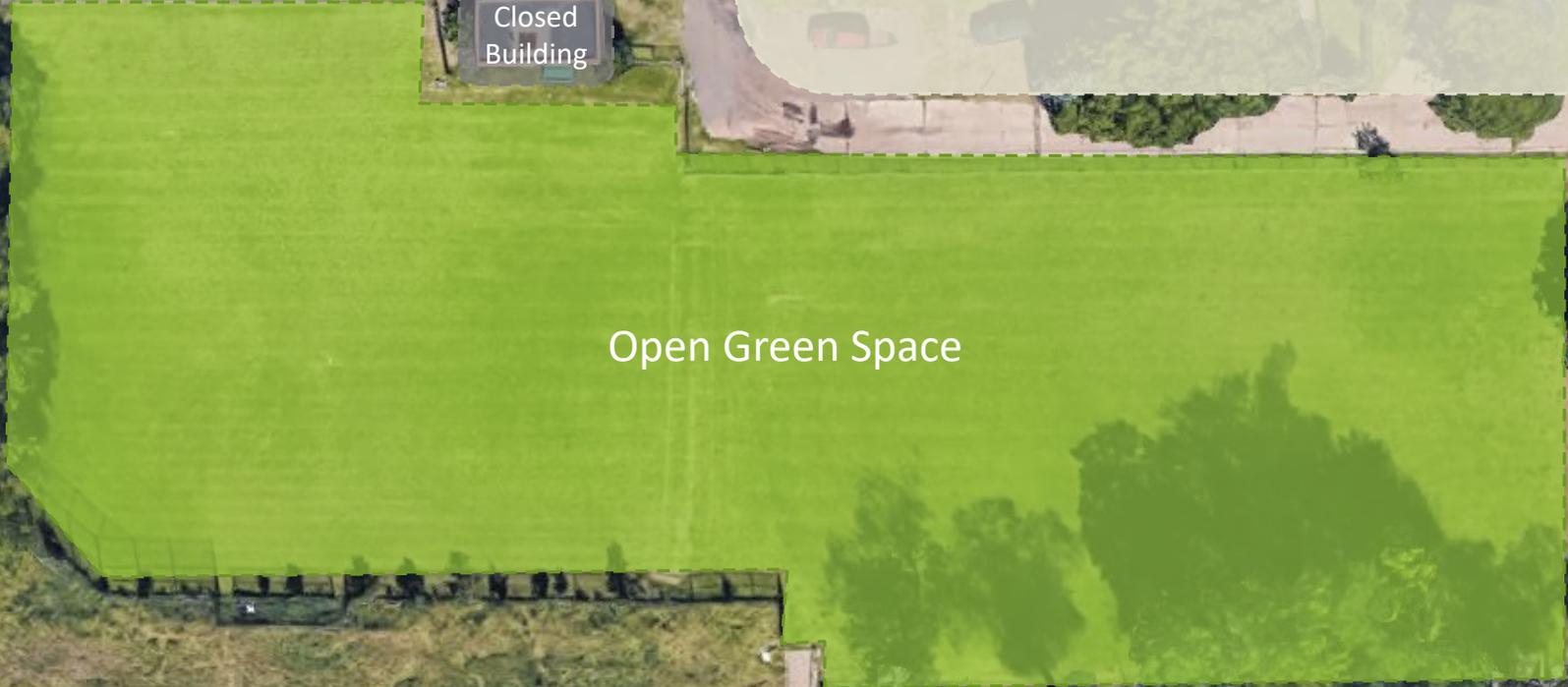
Parking



Closed Building



Residential



Open Green Space



Playground



# Hillside Sport Court Park Plan



*“Mini-master plans are designed to guide future development and restoration of their respective site or project. These plans describe opportunities and challenges that are relevant to their area, and detail strategies to improve the site moving forward. Mini-master plans inform subsequent design and construction projects.”*

- Duluth Parks & Recreation

**Goal: Adopt a new park plan for Hillside Sport Court** that balances:

- Essential Spaces: Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan goals
- Funding availability
- Input from City staff and leadership
- Community input and community-based needs

# Essential Spaces – Equity Focus

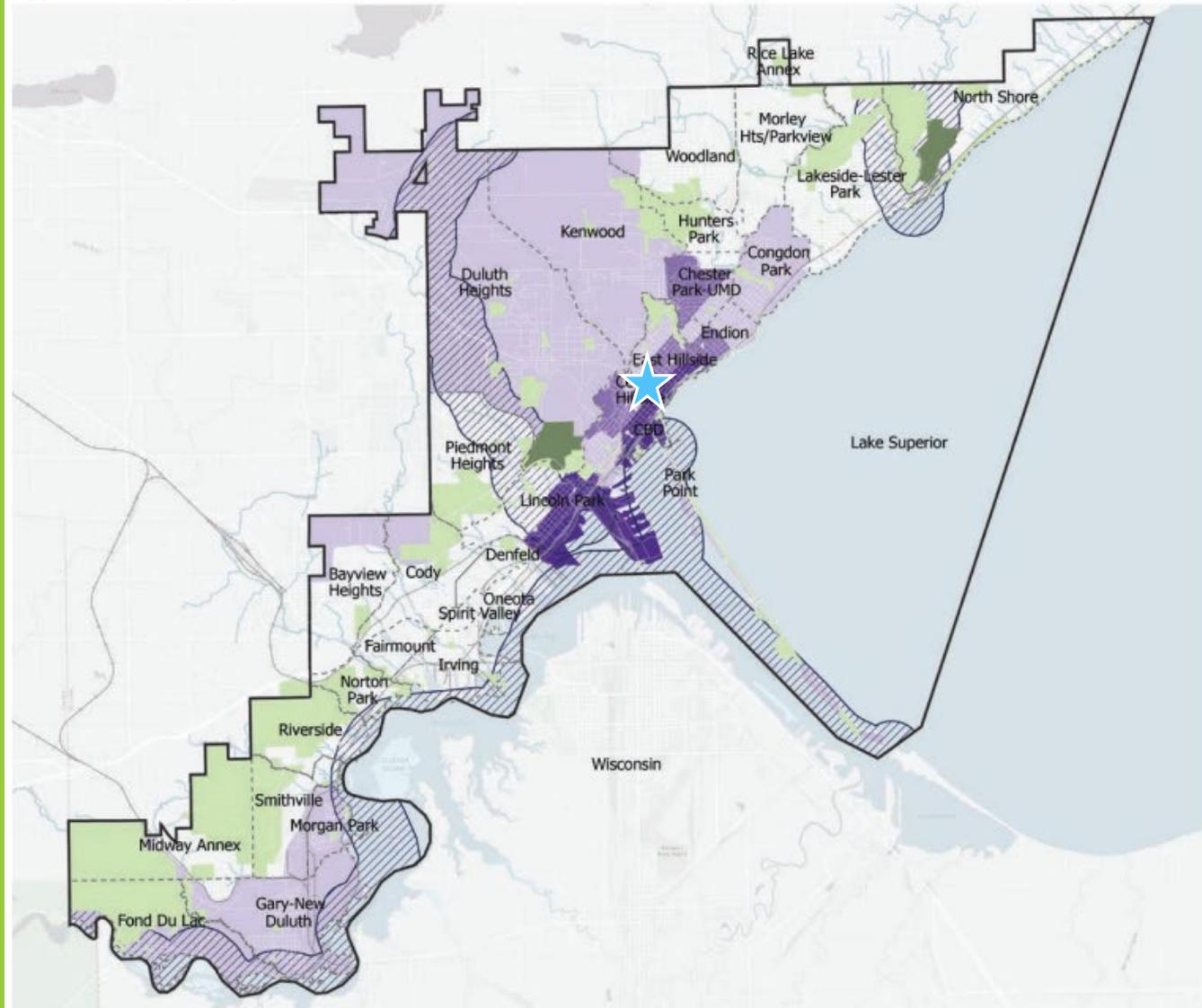
**ESSENTIAL SPACES**

**Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan**

Approved by the Duluth City Council on October 10, 2022

**Duluth Parks & Recreation**

Figure 6: Priority Equity Areas Map



**LEGEND**

**Equity Area**

- High-Priority Equity Area
- Medium-Priority Equity Area
- Low-Priority Equity Area
- Impaired Water Quality Zone

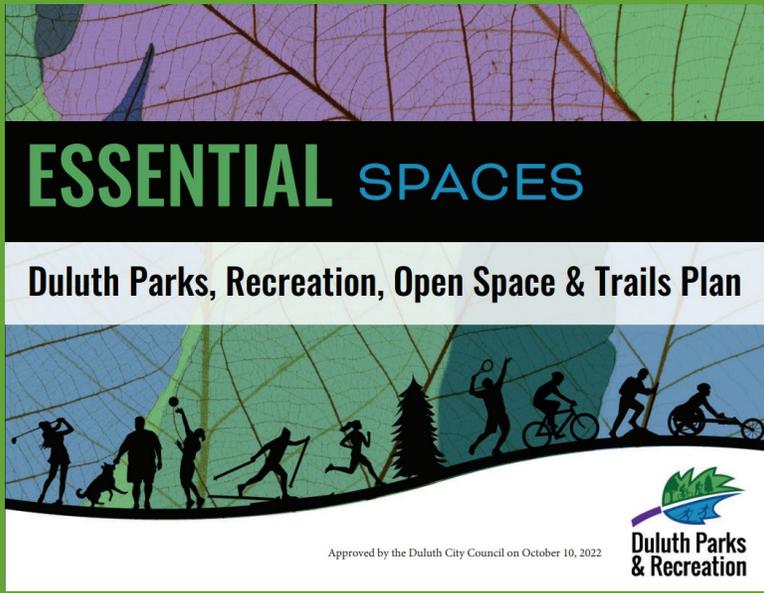
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- Open Space
- Golf Courses
- Streams
- Duluth City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Railroads

Factors informing the equity priority zones include median household income, race, physical activity levels, disability status, mental health, age, population density, and car ownership...

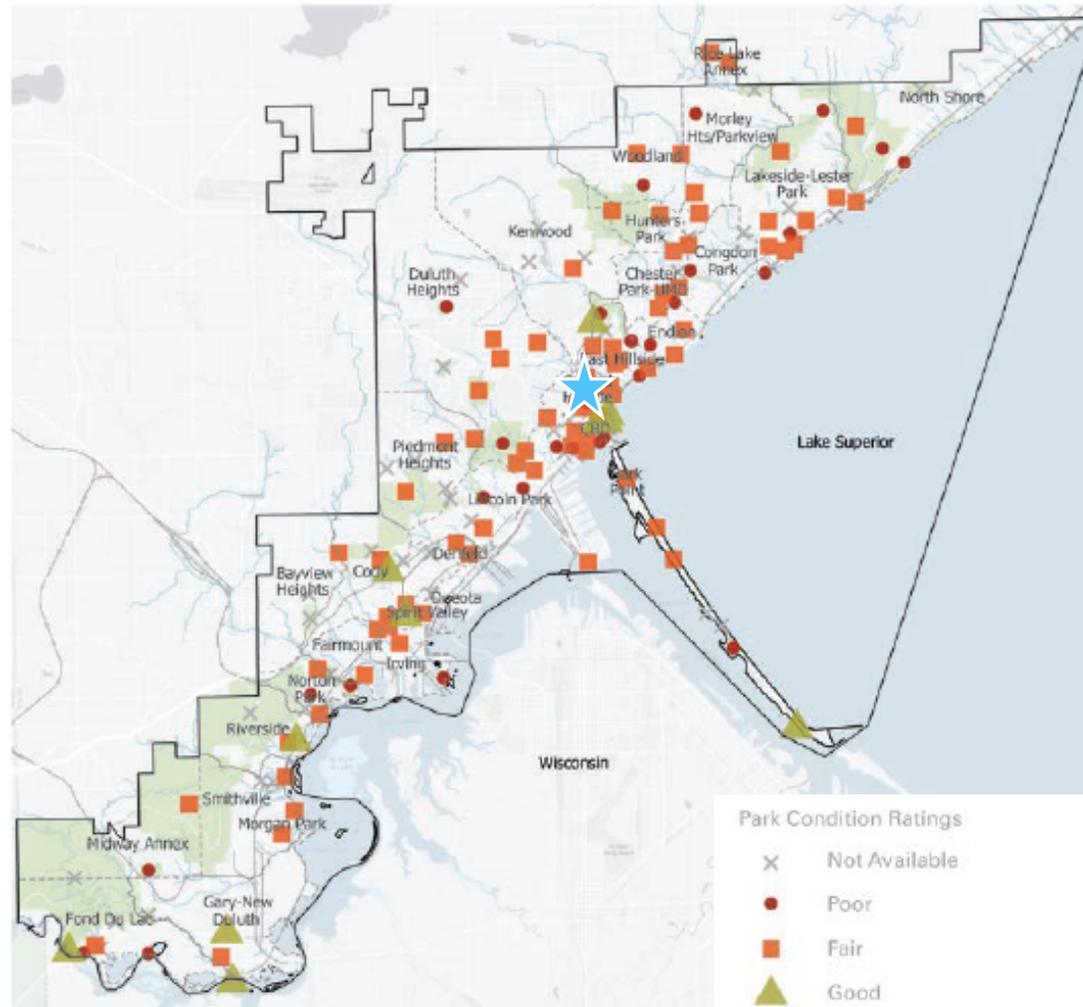
Source: Design Workshop Analysis, CDC SVI Data 2021

# Essential Spaces – Areas of Greatest Need 1st

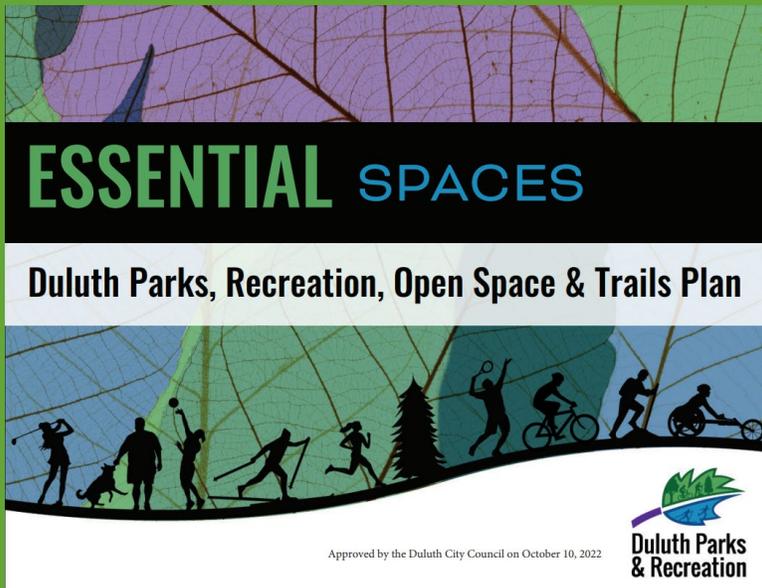


Western Duluth has the highest number and relative proportion of parks in good or fair condition when compared to other subareas. This reflects work completed under the direction of the 2010 Parks Master Plan and the St. Louis River Corridor Initiative, which identified investments in western Duluth parks as a community priority. Conversely, central Duluth has the highest number and relative proportion of parks that are in poor condition. Duluth Heights contains the fewest total number of parks, but also has a lower relative population. Notably, none of eastern Duluth's parks are in good condition, but eastern Duluth has the highest relative proportion of parks in fair condition.

**Figure 13:** Park Conditions Map



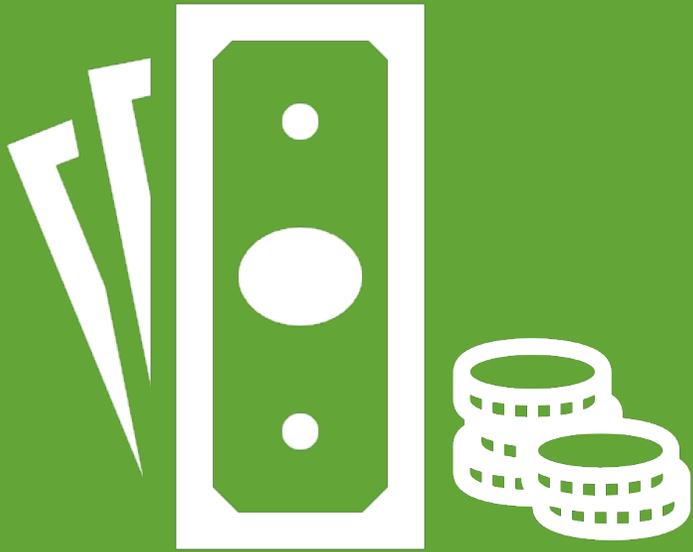
# Essential Spaces – Update Park Plans



**Table 23:** Central Duluth Subarea Action Items

ACTION ITEM
<p><b>C1:</b> Implement the Lincoln Park Mini-Master Plan including restored historic pavilion, rehabilitated picnic shelter and new playground, parking lots, nature playscape, accessible walking trails, sports field and sport court.</p>
<p><b>C2:</b> Ensure that the future renovations of the Chester Bowl Chalet continue to offer public restrooms, along with strategic placement of portable restrooms.</p>
<p><b>C3:</b> Enhance spaces for active recreation activities in Chester Park including improving the multi-use sports field and playground area.</p>
<p><b>C4:</b> Commence planning effort for Park Point Recreation Area to address aging infrastructure and climate impacts, to identify desired recreation options that are compatible and sustainable, to increase connectivity to recreation and water, and to strategize appropriate restroom and trash/recycling amenity locations.</p>
<p><b>C5:</b> Continue to implement “low mow” efforts at Park Point Recreation Area. Enhance green spaces with natural plants and pollinator gardens to support climate resiliency efforts.</p>
<p><b>C6:</b> Secure funding for upgrades to aging infrastructure in Cascade Park and Leif Erikson Park.</p>
<p><b>C7:</b> Develop mini-master plans for Central Hillside Park, Hillside Sport Court, Observation Park, Gichi-Ode’ Akiing, and Leif Erikson Park. Seek funding to support the implementation of plan outcomes.</p>
<p><b>C8:</b> Relocate and redevelop Midtown Park to mitigate impacts of the Twin Ports Interchange Reconstruction project.</p>
<p><b>C9:</b> Implement the Duluth Lakewalk Renewal plan to ensure safe public access to Lake Superior, coastal resiliency, and preservation of natural resources and characteristics near the shoreline.</p>

# Funding



- Secured:
  - \$300,000+ City Revenue Replacement funds
    - Support park improvements in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods
- Non-Secured, Potential Supplemental Funds:
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds
  - Equipment-specific grant awards
  - Community-led fundraising efforts
- Park needs will likely outweigh available funding resources
  - Prioritizing investments will be key

# Community Needs



Please join your neighbors for a

## HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

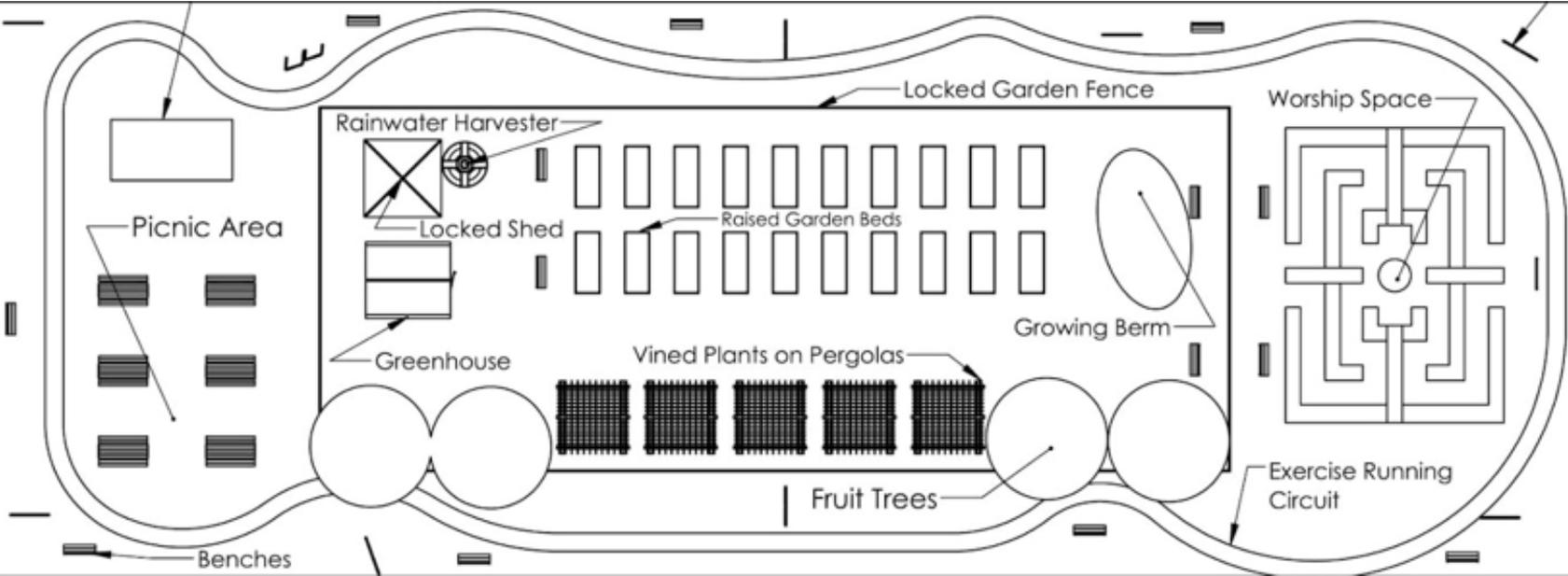
**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:00pm**

Central Hillside Community Center Classroom  
12 E. 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55805

Alternative activities for youth (ages 3 & older) provided. Call 218-730-4300 or email [parks@duluthmn.gov](mailto:parks@duluthmn.gov) to register for youth activities.



# Project Proposal – Community Garden



# Timeline



**May 17:** Community Input Session at Central Hillside Community Center

**June 14:** Draft Plan Presented to Parks and Recreation Commission

- 2-week public comment period on draft

**August 9:** Request Approval of Final Plan by Parks and Recreation Commission

**August 21:** Request Adoption of Final Plan by City Council

**Fall 2023 – Spring 2024:** Prepare construction documents, order equipment, and put project out for bid

**Summer – Fall 2024:** Project implementation

# Contact Info

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(218) 730-4317



**Duluth Parks  
& Recreation**



# Thank you!