

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation Division

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DATE: 6/5/2017

SUBJECT: Public Meeting to Discuss Western Waterfront Park and Trail Master Plan

**BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office** 

## Public Meeting to Discuss Western Waterfront Park and Trail Master Plan

## A St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

[Duluth, MN] - The community is invited to attend the final public meeting for the Western Waterfront Park &Trail Master Plan hosted by the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation division. The City has been leading a public process to determine future recreational uses of a mostly City-owned, 10-to12-mile corridor along the St. Louis River between the Irving neighborhood and Chambers Grove Park.

The public meeting will take place on:

Tuesday, June 13th

5:30-7:00 pm

Morgan Park Community Rec Center

1242 88th Ave W

The meeting format will be a presentation by staff, administration and consultants on recommendations and cost estimates. The presentation will be followed by an open house for the public to review design concepts and ask additional questions.

The planning area includes an existing 3.3-mile multi-use trail, a historic rail bed, and five existing or planned river access points. The Master Plan's overall goals include:

- 1. Increasing connectivity from adjacent neighborhoods to the St. Louis River and Estuary.
- 2. Increasing recreational and development opportunities within and along the St. Louis River Corridor.
- 3. Facilitating a stakeholder community engagement process to gain significant input on the future use of the area.
- 4. Enhancing neighborhood quality of life.
- 5. Restoring and protecting natural habitat along the trail corridor.
- 6. Determining 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.

For more project information, or to submit a comment, contact Lisa Luokkala, Project Coordinator, at <u>lluokkala@duluthmn.gov</u> or (218)730-4312. Details of this project are available at <a href="http://www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor/western-waterfront-planning/">http://www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor/western-waterfront-planning/</a>

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## About

The St. Louis River Corridor Initiative invests in public park and trail improvements from Lincoln Park to the Fond du Lac neighborhood. The overall goals of the Initiative are to support the natural environment, enrich neighborhood quality of life, attract new home buyers, establish new visitor destinations and stimulate appropriate development. Initiative projects are funded in part by \$18 million in bonds, collected through the ½ and ½ tourism tax approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2014. These funds will leverage additional dollars through community partnerships and grants.

