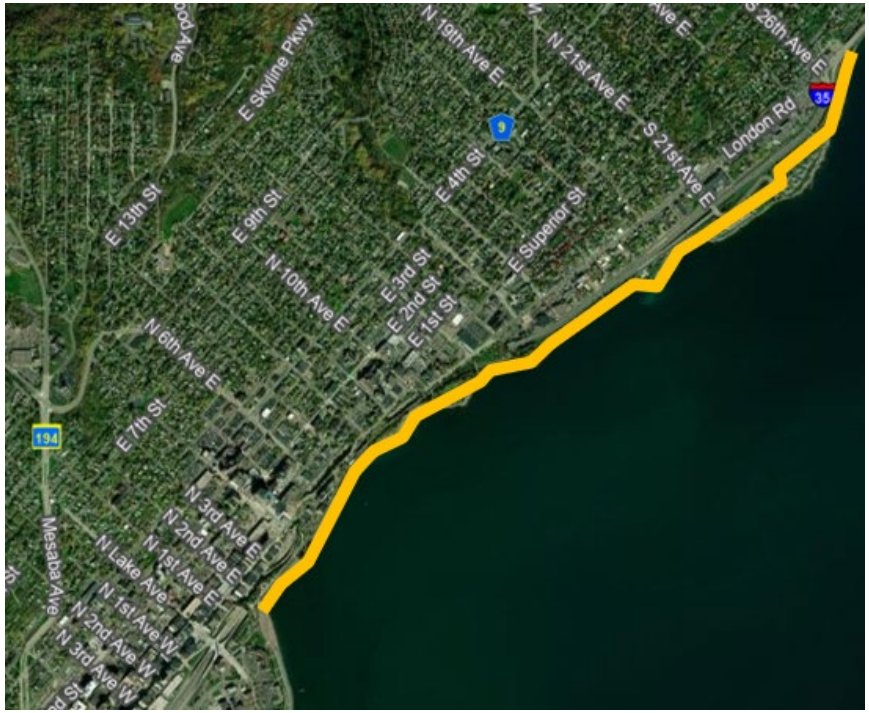
Lakewalk & Coastal Improvements Project Update

October 30, 2026

The project will better protect the Lakewalk, as a popular public greenspace and critical transportation route, and downtown from Lake Superior storms while addressing safety and access problems and improving user experience between Endion and 27th Ave E.

Project scope includes:

- Full trail reconstruction – repaving, replacing fencing, widening at key pinch points
- Retreating trail from shoreline where possible
- Improving sightlines, turning radius, and accessibility
- Coastal restoration – bank stabilization, consolidating and improving water access points
- New wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Updated pause areas and amenities – picnic tables, bike racks, and benches



For more information, please visit the project webpage at https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-trails/current-projects/lakewalk-coastal-improvements/

Leif Erikson Park

Construction of the new bypass trail through Leif Erikson Park is progressing well despite wet conditions.

In September, contractors hauled out excavated soils and installed temporary shoring to protect the bridges and Angel of Hope Memorial and prepare for construction of the three retaining walls. Through October, contractors placed foundations and began building the retaining walls. Next, they'll keep building the walls below each bridge into the park, backfill, seed, and prepare for reopening the new trail alignment with temporary gravel surfacing.



Temporary shoring and wall base installed for the western bridge into park (10/28/26)



Building the wall for the eastern bridge into park (10/28/26)

Leif Erikson Park – Angel of Hope

The retaining wall below the Angel of Hope Memorial has been constructed and temporary shoring was removed. Next, contractors will backfill between the memorial and wall, then seed for restoration.



Above: shoring and wall base installed (10/07/26)





Above: wall completed and shoring removed (10/28/26)

Left: wall completed, view from future trail towards memorial (10/28/26)

Water Access

The contractor has started building the first set of steps for access from the Lakewalk to the shore. Social trails (informal access routes) are being blocked with natural materials and seeded for restoration.

Steps are built into the bedrock with timber and bluestone and are custom to each location. The first set of steps going in are roughly below S 14-15th Ave E.



Timber steps looking towards Lakewalk (10/28/26)



Steps looking towards Lake Superior (10/28/26)