

Open Space Implementation Steps

Implementation	Implementation Step	Strategy	Partners	Resources Needed	Timing
<i>OS-1: Improve Duluth's resiliency to flooding and natural disasters.</i>					
OS-IS-1	Actively participate in the Regional Storm Water Protection Team (RSPT) to educate the community about Duluth's streams and flooding risks.	1a	City Engineering Division, Storm Water staff	Staff time	
OS-IS-2	Actively participate in the Duluth Urban Watersheds Advisory Committee (DUWAC) to provide guidance on watershed planning and flooding.	1a	City Engineering Division, Duluth Urban Watershed Advisory Committee (DUWAC), MN-SeaGrant	Staff time	
OS-IS-3	Continue to advise on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) documents for streams in Duluth.	1a	City Engineering Division, Duluth Urban Watershed Advisory Committee (DUWAC), MN-SeaGrant	Staff time	
OS-IS-4	Advise on the preparation of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) documents for streams in Duluth.	1a	City Engineering Division, Duluth Urban Watershed Advisory Committee (DUWAC), MN-SeaGrant	Staff time	
OS-IS-5	Implement WRAPS through ordinance amendments.	1a	City Engineering Division, Community Planning Division	Staff time	
OS-IS-6	Obtain grant/loan funding for WRAPS implementation.	1a	City Engineering Division	Staff time, cash and/or in-kind match	
OS-IS-7	Review updated FEMA maps and adopt into UDC.	1b	Community Planning Division	Staff time	
OS-IS-8	Evaluate existing infrastructure and determine if infrastructure improvements are needed to handle greater flood volumes.	1b	City Engineering Division	Staff time, hired consultant	
OS-IS-9	Pursue state and federal programs to purchase property and remove structures in areas with significant flood risk and high value improvements to reduce the chances for loss of life and property in those areas.	1b	Community Planning Division	Staff time, in-kind, cash match	
OS-IS-10	Identify important wetland, flood plain, stream corridors, and forested areas of tax forfeited land to be preserved in the Implementation step below.	1c (also 2a)	Community Planning Division	Staff time, GIS consultant	
OS-IS-11	Retain in City/State ownership or preserve through conservation easement those tax forfeited lands needed for protection in the Implementation Step above and/or adopt a Memorandum of Understanding on transfer/management of those lands.	1c (also 2b)	Community Planning Division	Staff time, funding to purchase land/easement	
OS-IS-12	Establish enhanced detention wetlands to store storm water above the bluff line (Storm Water Rate Control Zone A) partially paid for by land conversion fees from the Implementation Step below.	1d	City Engineering Division	Staff time, funding to construct	
OS-IS-13	Enact a land conversion fee for development of undeveloped land above the bluff line and utilize the revenue generated to pay for creation of the enhanced detention wetlands. Fees would be higher for conversion of wetland and forested areas to pavement and lower for conversion to turf grass.	1d	Community Planning Division	Staff time	
OS-IS-14	Amend the UDC to require additional detention of storm water on sites above the bluff line at time of development.	1d	City Engineering Division, Community Planning Division	Staff time	
OS-IS-15	Amend the UDC to enhance wetland protection on development sites by requiring wetland buffering and hydraulic modeling to show how the wetlands will remain post-development.	1d	Community Planning Division	Staff time	

OS-IS-16	Seek funding to assist in the preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for those parts of Duluth deemed by the Fire Department to be at risk to wildfire. This will include an assessment of general risks of the larger area followed by a house-by-house risk assessment to help property owners understand what they need to do to be prepared for a wildfire	1e	Fire Department	Staff time, grant match
OS-IS-17	Employ property and right of way management practices that limit the spread and, removal of, invasive species whenever practical	1f	Public Works & Utilities Department, Property and Facility Management Division	Staff time, funding
OS-IS-18	Amend the UDC Sustainability Checklist to give points for invasive species removal and site restoration	1f	Community Planning Division	Staff time
OS-IS-19	Amend the UDC to require projects that would trigger a tree inventory to also inventory the worst invasive species and preparation of plans to limit the spread.	1f	Community Planning Division	Staff time

OS-2: Examine the value and need for all of Duluth's publicly owned open space.

OS-IS-20	Establish a process to collect, collate, and create data that will be used to determine most valuable open space.	Strategy 2a.	City, SLC, MN Sea Grant, NRRRI, DUWAC	Staff time, GIS resources
OS-IS-21	Utilize the process established by the 2011 Mayor's Task Force to begin the review of land, public input processes, and recommended transaction process.	Strategy 2a.	City, SLC, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, DUWAC	Staff time, GIS resources
OS-IS-22	Complete land transactions, gain easements, and pursue other methods to more permanently protect these lands.	Strategy 2a, 2d.	City, SLC, MN Land Trust, State of MN	Staff time
OS-IS-23	As part of the process for OS-IS-22, also work to identify the preferred path forward for holding land that is ecologically important.	Strategy 2b.	City, SLC, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, DUWAC	Staff time
OS-IS-24	As part of the process for OS-IS-22, also work to identify any land that should be considered for the Duluth Natural Areas Program.	Strategy 2c.	City, SLC, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, DUWAC	Staff time
OS-IS-25	Work with HPC and Indigenous Commission to identify lands within Duluth that have significance and identify a process for preserving; including designating as local landmarks.	Strategy 2e.	City, Indigenous Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, SHPO, tribal leadership	Staff time
OS-IS-26	Create resource management plans for these designated sites and districts, including interpretative programs, and promote Duluth's rich heritage tourism opportunities.	Strategy 2e.	City, Indigenous Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, SHPO, tribal leadership	Staff time, consultant
OS-IS-27	Continue to work with St Louis River stakeholders to discuss needs and develop an action plan for Saint Louis River restoration and preservation.	Strategy 2f.	City, DNR, MPCA, Army Corps of Engineers, Port Authority, MN Sea Grant, SLRA, and other stakeholders.	Staff time
OS-IS-28	Identify groups to partner with, communicate with them, determine common goals, work toward achieving common goals, measure progress, adjust strategies	Strategy 2f.	City, SLRA, MN SeaGrant, MPCA	Staff time
OS-IS-29	Amend the WLSSD Urban Services Boundary to cover only those areas of the community where sanitary sewer is planned to be extended.	Strategy 2g.	City, WLSSD, City Engineering Division	Staff time
OS-IS-30	Following the completion of OS-IS-21, when ecologically important lands are identified, review UDC regulations and propose changes that will protect these lands.	Strategy 2h.	Community Planning Division	Staff time
OS-IS-31	After OS-IS-21 is completed, assist in land transactions for development and encourage auction/sale of public lands.	Strategy 2i.	City, SLC	Staff time
OS-IS-32	Work with DEDA and HRA staff to identify parcels to acquire for strategic development initiatives that implement the Comprehensive Plan.	Strategy 2j.	City, HRA, DEDA, Community Planning Division	Staff time, resources

OS-IS-33	Create and embark upon a viewshed management plan that includes recommendations for a viewshed overlay in the UDC, purchase/transfer of development rights program, and urban design standards.	Strategy 2k.	City, Planning Commission	Staff resources
OS-IS-34	Work to promote the "Duluth views" as a tourism resource.	Strategy 2k.	City, Visit Duluth	Staff time
OS-3: Remove barriers to accessing parks and open space.				
OS-IS-35	City Engineering Division and Parks and Recreation Division should prioritize and begin implementation of the wayfinding plan and develop an implementation schedule.	Strategy 3a.	Parks & Recreation Division, Engineering Division, neighborhood groups	Staff time, funding for wayfinding elements
OS-IS-36	Develop marketing and educational efforts that help to ensure residents and visitors in Duluth can find and utilize parks.	Strategy 3b.	City, Visit Duluth, COGGS, SHTA, Spirit Mtn, other recreation centered groups	Staff time
OS-IS-37	As neighborhood hubs/nodes/centers are enhanced, they should be reviewed for their connections to open space.	Strategy 3c.	City	Staff time, funding for improvements
OS-IS-38	As parks are improved, also incorporate improvements in connections to residential areas.	Strategy 3c.	City	Staff time, funding improvements
OS-IS-39	Solicit for additional public/private partnerships to expand programming and conduct outreach at neighborhood community centers and park sites. Establish partnerships to help provide recreation equipment; such as the Duluth Area Family YMCA bicycle program.	Strategy 3e, 3d, 3f.	Parks & Recreation Division, Variety of youth and neighborhood partners.	Staff time to coordinate outreach
OS-IS-40	Review connection points to the shore of Lake Superior and Saint Louis River and work with all neighborhoods to identify potential new access points.	Strategy 3g.	City, Saint Louis River partners	Staff time, GIS resources
OS-IS-41	Identify funding sources for new access points.	Strategy 3g.	City, Saint Louis River partners	Staff time, match funding
OS-4: Improve the delivery of parks and open space services to the community				
OS-IS-42	Update the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master plan and include the following tasks: a.) Assess the work completed from the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and those items yet to be completed. b.) Review current environmental, economic, demographic, and recreation trends update strategies accordingly. c.) Consider transitioning some parks to a minimum maintenance/passive park status with few facilities and where little maintenance is required. d.) Review recreation area hubs approach and modify as needed to reflect changes made to facilities since 2010. e.) Incorporate recent work on the Saint Louis River corridor, mini master plans, and trails. d.) Assess the future maintenance costs of parks and trails facilities and propose capital improvements and operational budgets for future years.	Strategy 4a	City Parks staff, Community Planning staff, consultants, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission	Staff time, consultant
OS-IS-43	Introduce and gain support for a Council resolution committing to returning Parks funding in the City budget to the level that voters approved in 2011 when adjusted for inflation, and resolve to continue the inflation-adjusted funding level in the future.	Strategy 4b	City Parks staff, Parks and Recreation Commission	Staff time
OS-IS-44	Contact surrounding communities to gauge interest in creation of a regional parks district. Determine which parks to include and the costs and benefits of cooperation. Discuss options for decision-making structures. If the communities find it advantageous, seek legislative support for a statute amendment to allow for the creation of the regional parks district.	Strategy 4c	City Parks staff	Staff time
OS-IS-45	The City should dedicate appropriate resources to plan for and manage trees in street rights of way, parks, and public open space areas.	Strategy 4d	City	Funding

OS-IS-46	<p>The City should investigate the possibility of managing some forest resources for timber value as a part of managing a sustainable forest. The City needs to retain professional forest management staffing to establish appropriate plans for each forest area in the city in addition to plans and policies for trees in street rights of way and parks. Such plans and policies should address species selection and succession, appropriate regular forestry management policies as well as emergency procedures for events such as wildfire or disease/insect infestation as well as following a windstorm.</p>	Strategy 4d	City Forestry staff	Staff time, consultant
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OS-5: Encourage urban food growth.

OS-IS-47	<p>Study the demand for community garden lots throughout the city and utilize existing City, State, School District land where additional space is needed</p>	Strategy 5a	Duluth Community Garden Program, City Community Planning Division	Staff time
OS-IS-48	<p>Investigate the need for a coordinating body that maximizes efficiencies and assists in the development of community gardens, urban agriculture, and small-scale value-added food production.</p>	Strategy 5b	City Community Planning Division	Staff time
OS-IS-49	<p>Study where the keeping of animals for food production fits into urban agriculture as well as rural areas and amend the Unified Development Chapter (UDC) accordingly.</p>	Strategy 5c	City Community Planning Division	Staff time
OS-IS-50	<p>Incorporate edible landscapes in parks, where appropriate</p>	Strategy 5d	City Parks staff	Staff time, funding