**OPEN SPACE FOCUS GROUP**

**Meeting 2: Data Review and Policy Development**

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**TIMELINE**

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**Comprehensive Plan 2035 Timeline**

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<td><strong>Data Analysis &amp; Public Input</strong></td>
<td><strong>Policy Development &amp; Engagement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plan Comes Together</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finalization &amp; Implementation</strong></td>
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Social Media Outreach & Communication

- Social Media Event
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- Social Media Event

**Social Focus Groups**

- Social Focus Groups will be developed to focus on specific areas.
- These groups will meet regularly to discuss and provide input on specific topics.
- The focus groups will help provide a comprehensive and informed perspective on the plan.

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*The Vision Committee is a Mayor-appointed committee that oversees the Comprehensive Plan Process and ensures that the process is inclusive and transparent.*
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the definition of open space?
- Are our open space areas well-connected to our neighborhoods?
- Do we all have equal access to natural/passive open space areas?
- Do our open space and park areas adequately serve people of all cultural backgrounds?
- Does the urban form and distribution of open space promote healthy lifestyles?
- Where are ecologically important open space areas to be preserved?
- Is the quantity of and distribution of parks sufficient for a city of our size and shape?

MORE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Are there areas that put too much demand on infrastructure and services and are there areas with excess capacity?
- Are areas set aside for future phases of urban growth adequate for the community’s needs? (Tier 1, Tier 2)
- What tools could be utilized to make us a more resilient community with ever changing climate factors?
- What tools do we have available to preserve important open space areas permanently?
- Do we have the financial resources to sustain the planned amount of open and undeveloped space?
- Are our parks and open spaces adequate for surrounding densities?
- How do small parks/open spaces/plazas fit into the City's parks systems?
WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

- Playgrounds/neighborhood parks
- Urban plazas
- Scenic vistas
- Ecologically sensitive areas
- Recreation areas
ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

• **Quantity**
• **Distribution**
• **Amenities**
• **Barriers to open space**

**What we saw**
- Good park coverage overall.
- Most Duluth residents are within 1/2 mile of a City park.
- Busy roads, railroads, and creeks inhibit easy access to parks for some residents.
- There are needs for:
  - Better access and visibility to high quality/signature parks in the western part of the City.
  - Access to parks in the northwest part of the City.
  - An extensive parks system - more parks/capita than most cities.
  - Parks play a vital role in Duluth's economy and quality of life.

**Park Coverage and Gaps**

For Context:
- Number of Parks: 105
- Acreage of Parkland: 11,600 acres
what we saw

There is a greater need for convenient access to parks in the urban core and some central and western neighborhoods (low mobility areas).

Duluth has both seasonal and physical challenges to mobility: The winter challenges of ice, snow, and cold weather as well as the topographic challenges that hinder mobility.

The low mobility analysis focuses on individuals with limited mobility: children (5-14), the elderly (65+), those in poverty and those in households without cars.

Low mobility is calculated in two ways: based on the percentage of the total population in a census block group and based on the density of those population groups.

Dark orange color indicates areas where the percentage or density of people with low mobility is high compared to other areas of Duluth.

Data source: 2000 census data by block group. Modeled after work done by the Metropolitan Design Center for the Trust for Public Land Minnesota in June 2005.
RESILIENCY

ULI’s 2015 Report Focusing on the Miller Creek Watershed

RESILIENCY

- Enhance and reforest the headwaters
- Improve the affected stream valley
- Rechannel the streams
- Reduce the effect of large impervious areas on roofs and parking lots
- Improve stormwater management control of quantity and quality
- Remove built choke points
- Reduce thermal loading
- Incorporate complete reconstruction of Miller Creek from 2nd Street to beyond Michigan Street
ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF OPEN SPACE

- **Natural Resource Analysis** – conducted by UMD – Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI)
- **Used data from Natural Resources Inventory and MN County Biological Survey**
  - Land Cover Types
  - Patch size
  - Patch Shape
  - Plant Composition
  - Connectivity with other patches
- **Created a composite score and ranked existing non-developed patches for their ecological significance**
INFRASTRUCTURE

TALKING POINTS

• Park Point
• Atlas
• Other Areas?