



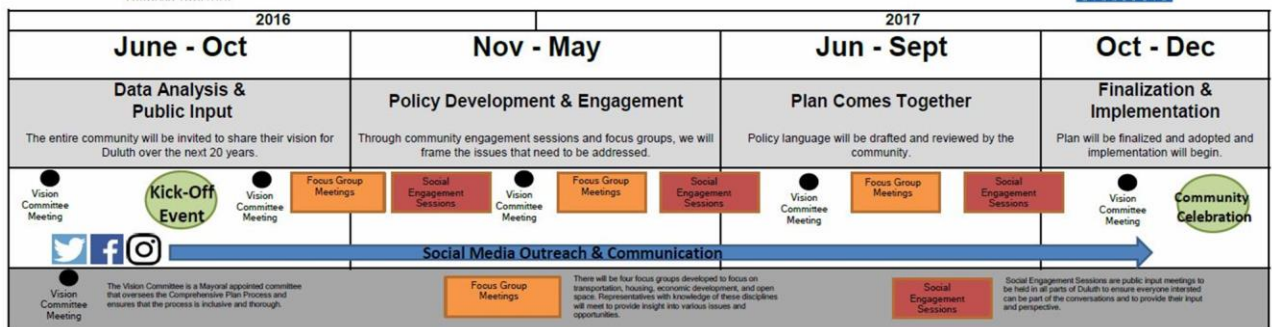
# OPEN SPACE FOCUS GROUP

MEETING 2: DATA REVIEW AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

## TIMELINE



### Comprehensive Plan 2035 Timeline





# 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?



# 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

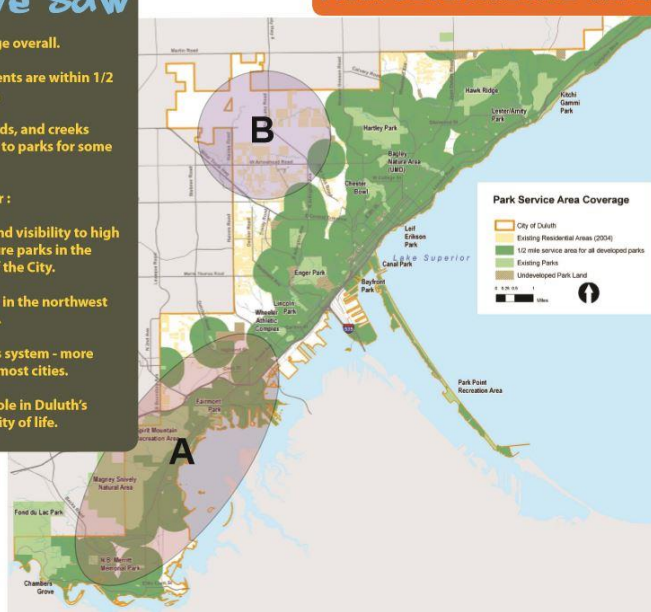


## what we saw

- ✓ 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 :
  - A** Better access and visibility to high quality/signature parks in the western part of the City.
  - B** 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.

FOR CONTEXT:  
Number of Parks: 105  
Acreage of Parkland:  
11,600 acres

## PARK COVERAGE AND GAPS



Duluth Parks & Recreation Master Plan

## 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.

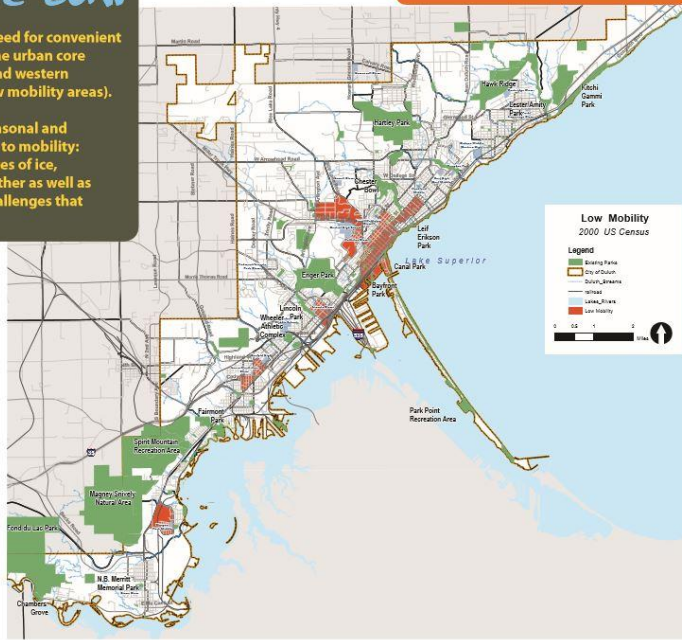
The low mobility analysis focuses on individuals with limited mobility: children (5-14), the elderly (65+), those in poverty and those in households without cars.

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 these population groups.

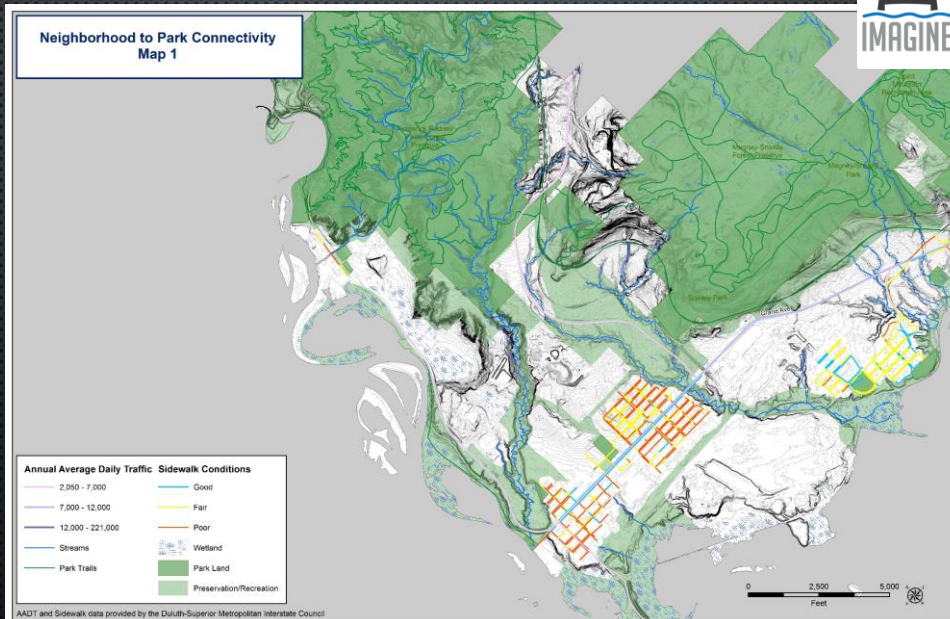
Dark orange color indicates areas where the percentage or density of people with low mobility is high compared to other areas of Duluth.

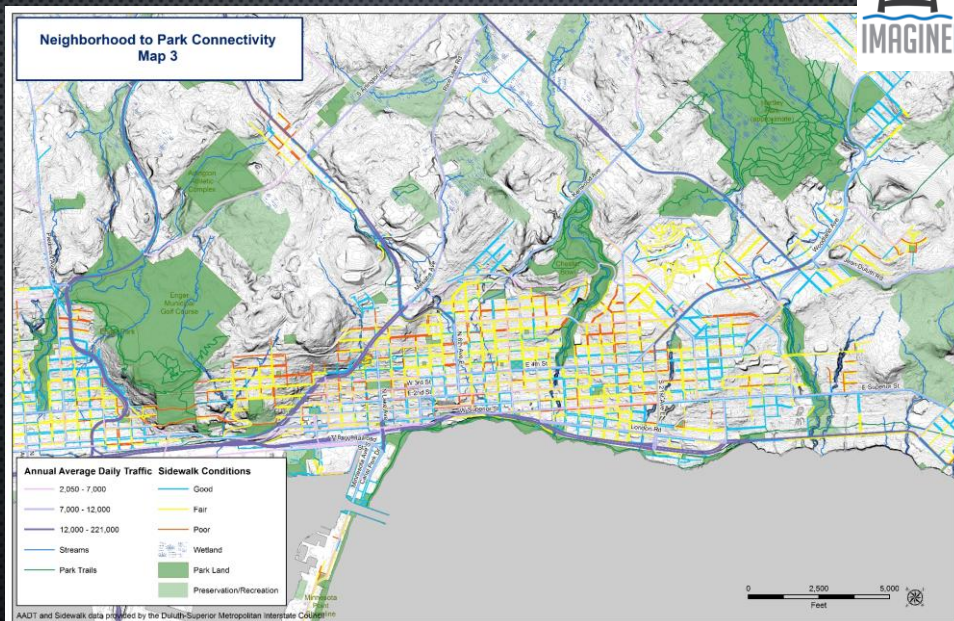
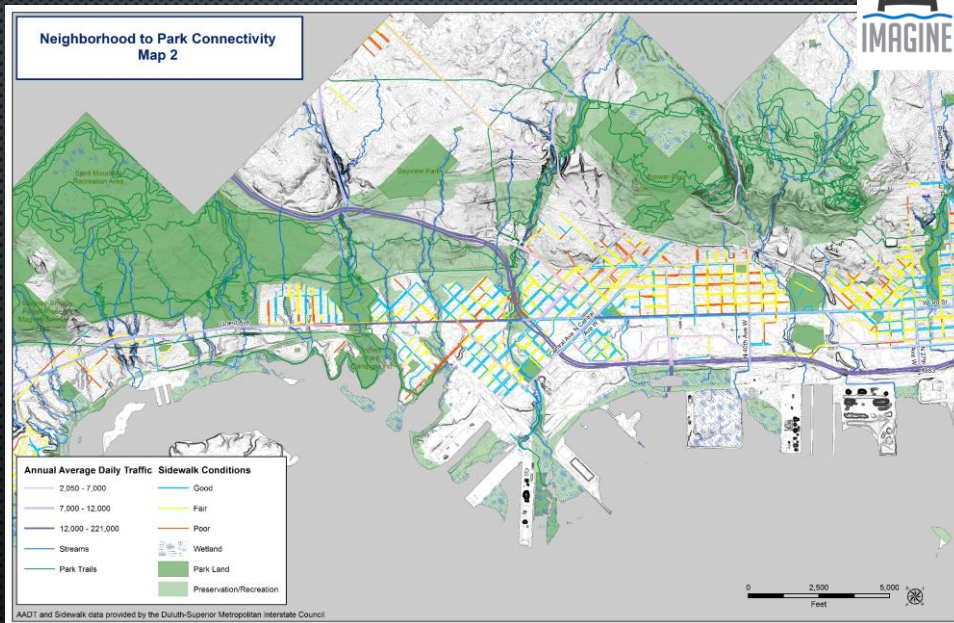
Data source: 2000 census data by block group. Modeled after work done by the Metropolitan Design Center for the Trust for Public Land Minnesota in June 2005.

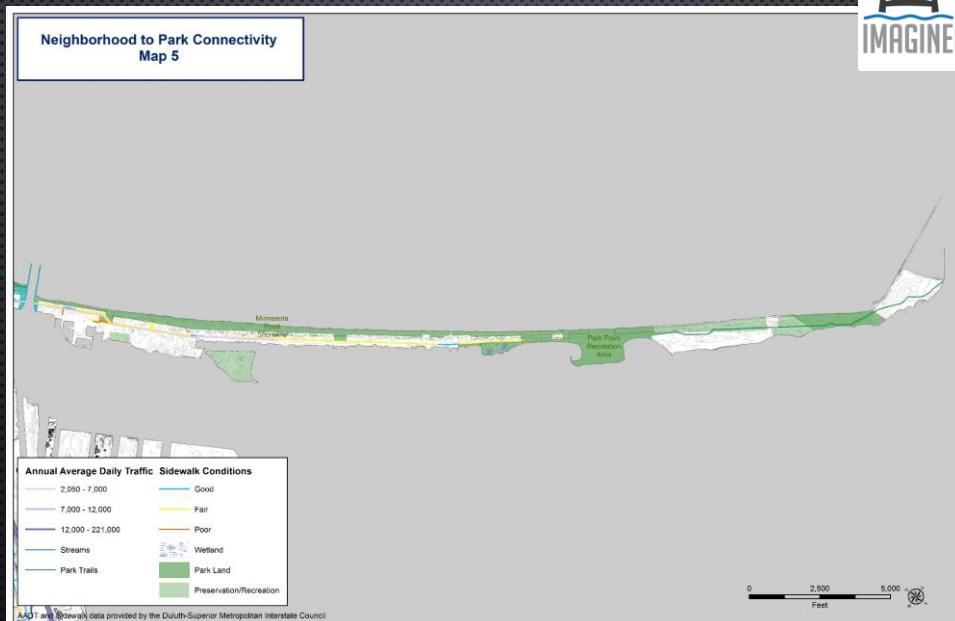
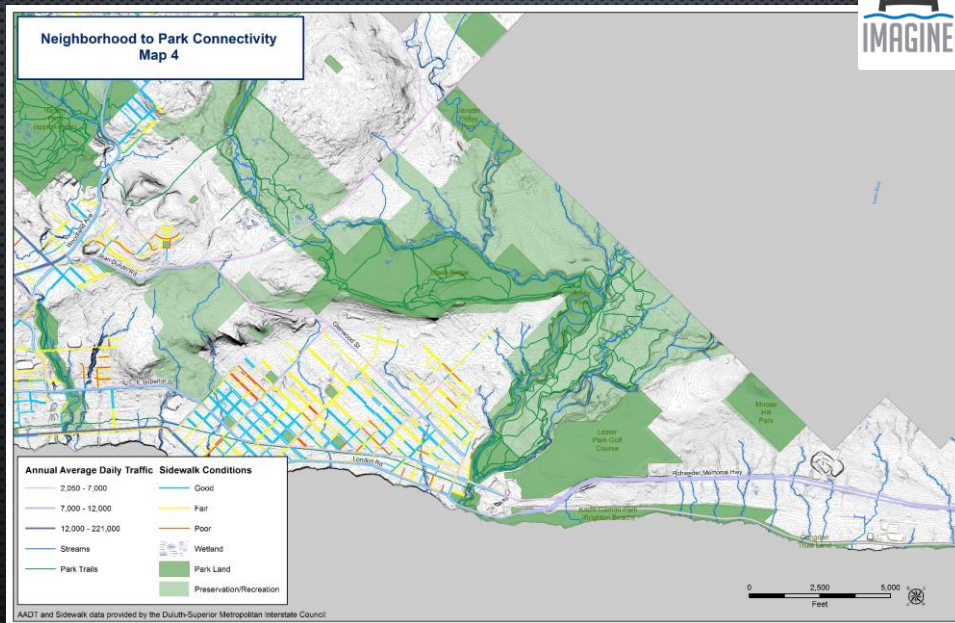
## LOW MOBILITY AREAS



Neighborhood to Park Connectivity  
Map 1

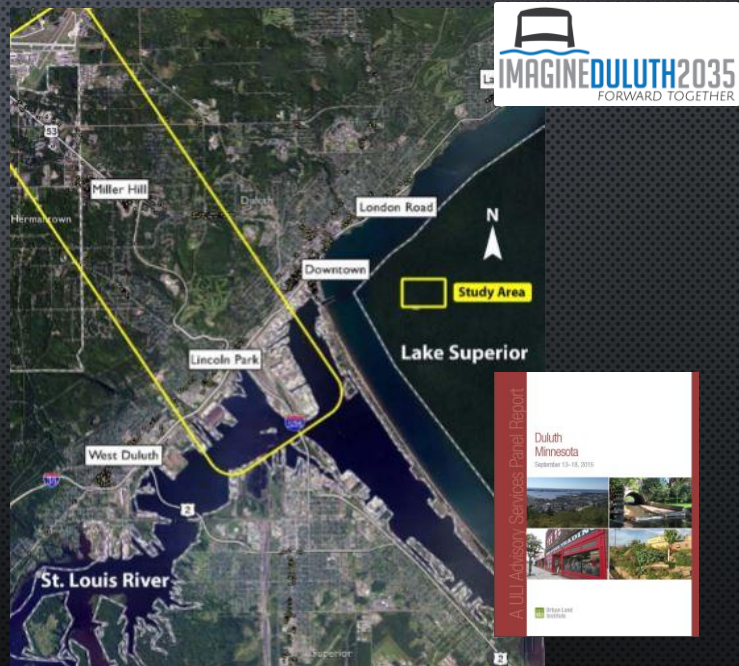






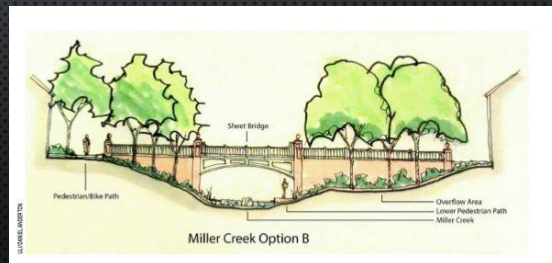
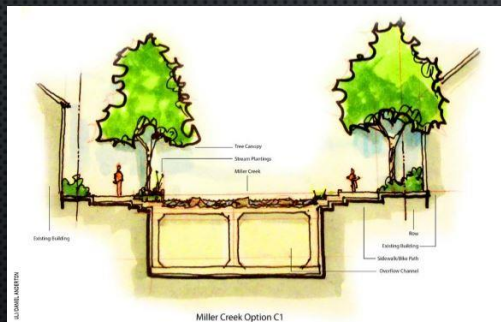
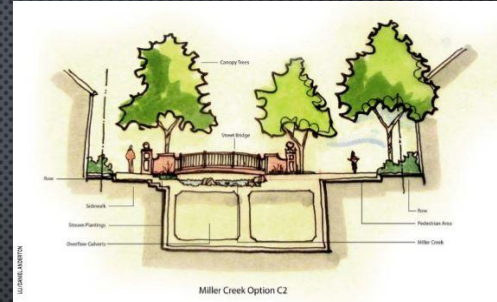
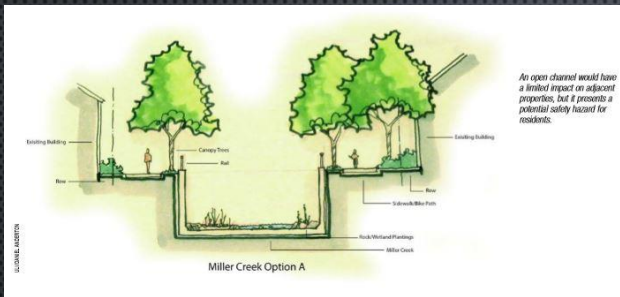
## RESILIENCY

ULI's 2015 REPORT FOCUSING  
ON THE  
MILLER CREEK WATERSHED



## RESILIENCY

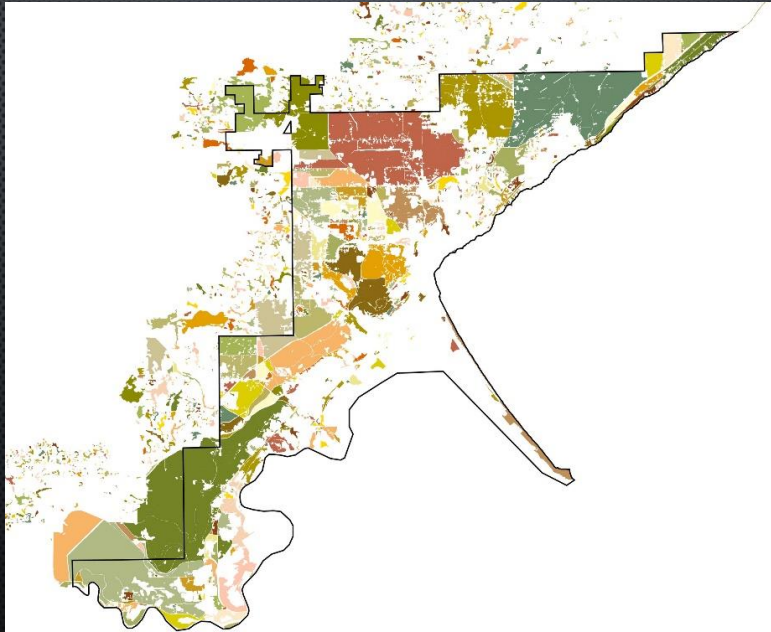
- ENHANCE AND REFOREST THE HEADWATERS
- IMPROVE THE AFFECTED STREAM VALLEY
- RECHANNEL THE STREAMS
- REDUCE THE EFFECT OF LARGE IMPERVIOUS AREAS ON ROOFS AND PARKING LOTS
- IMPROVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY
- REMOVE BUILT CHOKES POINTS
- REDUCE THERMAL LOADING
- INCORPORATE COMPLETE RECONSTRUCTION OF MILLER CREEK FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET TO BEYOND MICHIGAN STREET



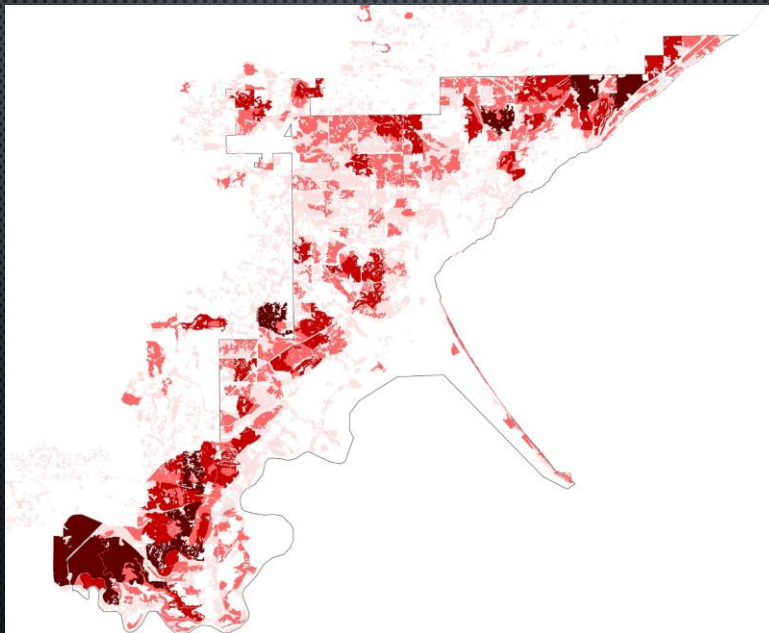
## ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF OPEN SPACE

- 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

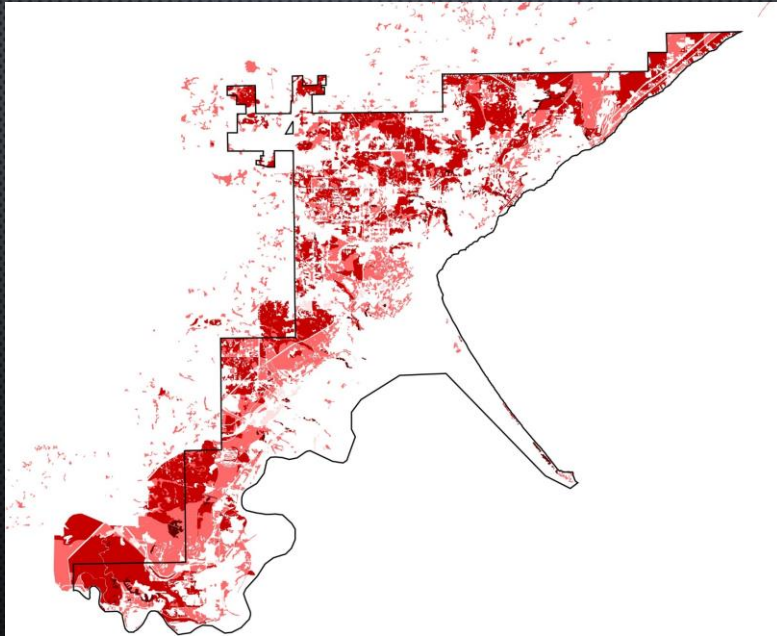
## CLUSTERS AT THE 10M CONNECTIVITY THRESHOLD



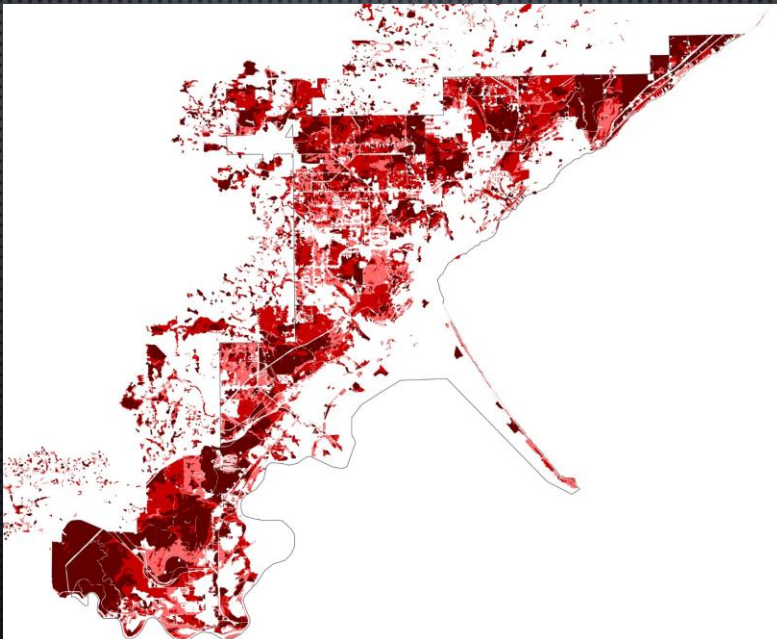
## STAND AREA



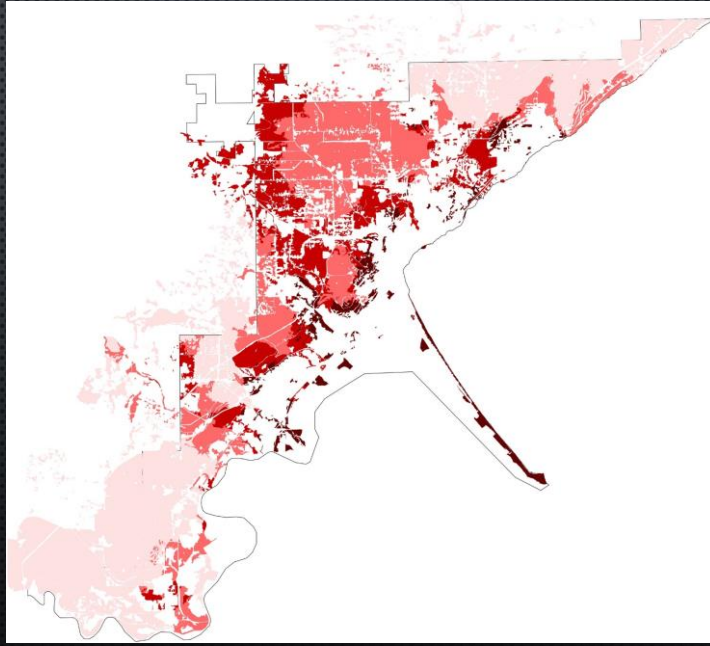
## TREE SIZE



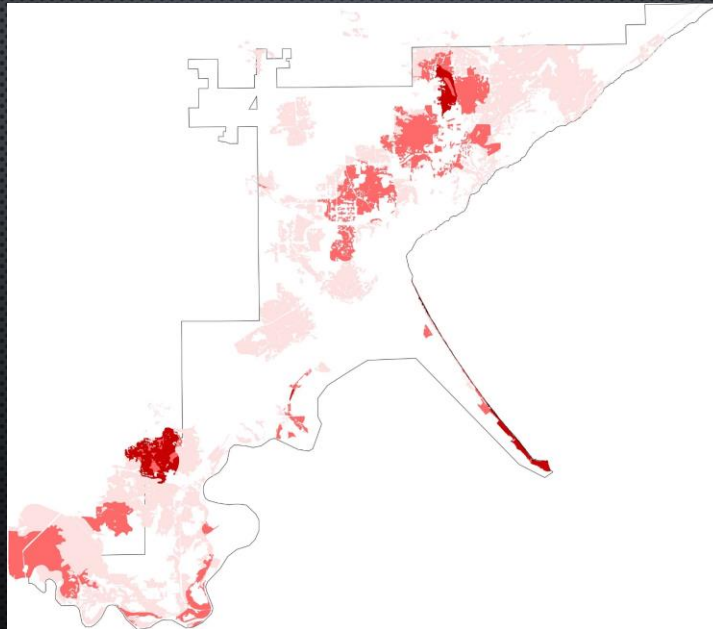
## STAND SHAPE



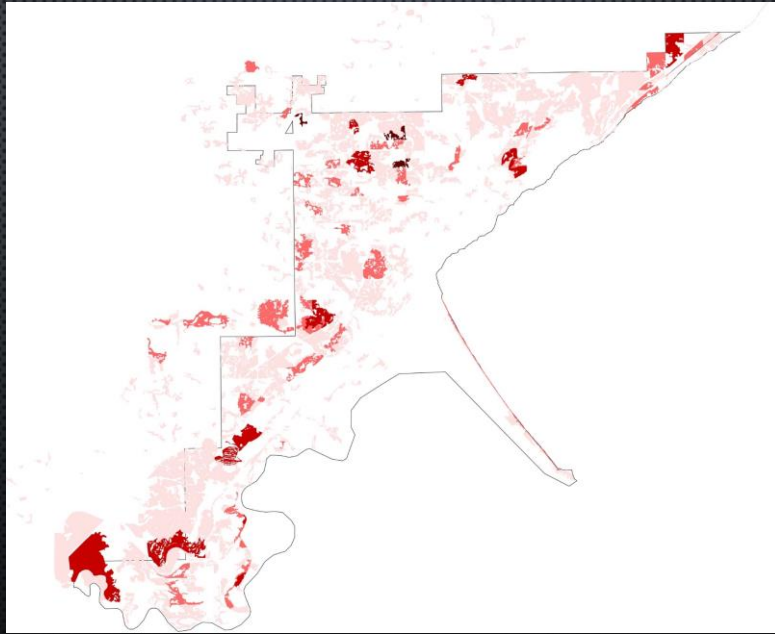
## STAND WATERSHED IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE



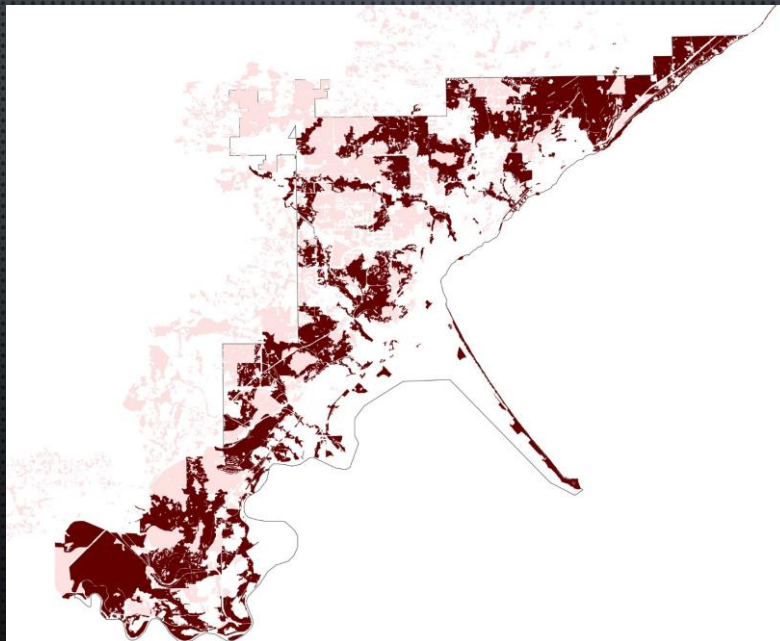
## STANDS WITH MN COUNTY BIOLOGICAL SURVEY RECORDS



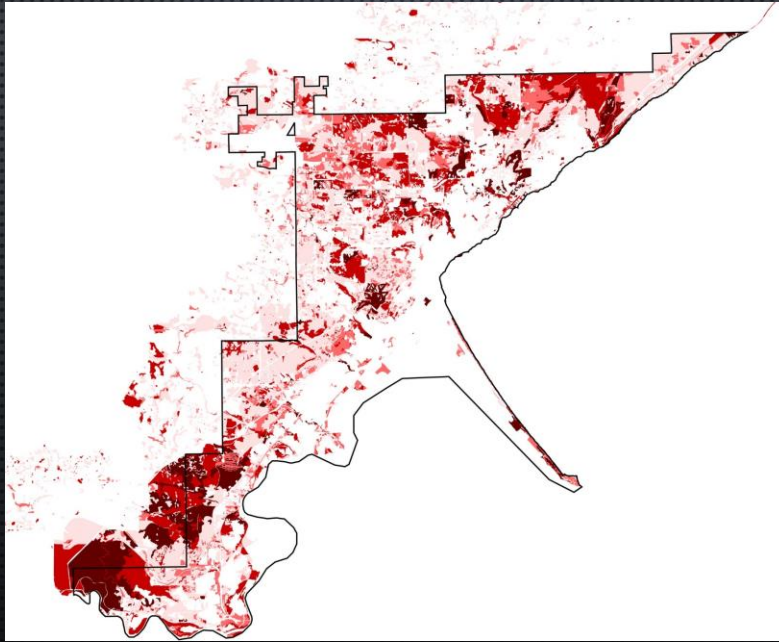
## STAND CONNECTIVITY



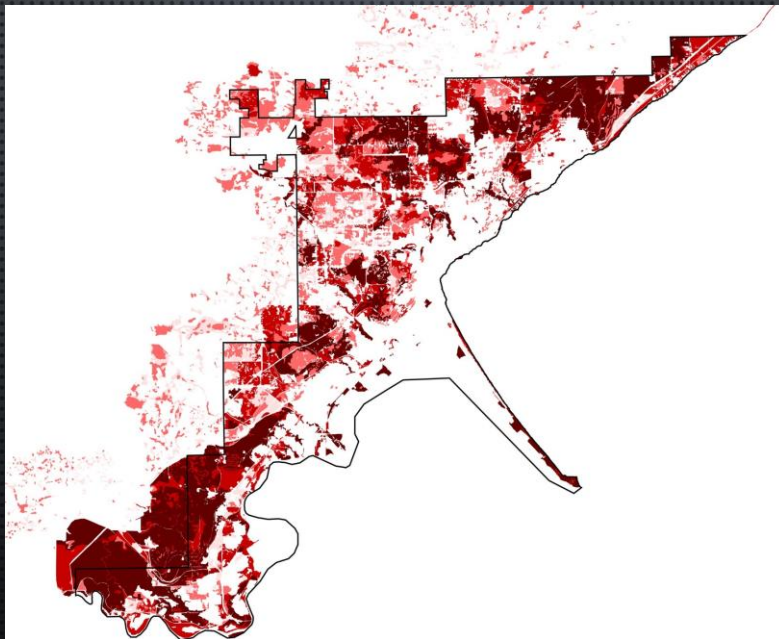
## STANDS PROXIMATE TO WATER

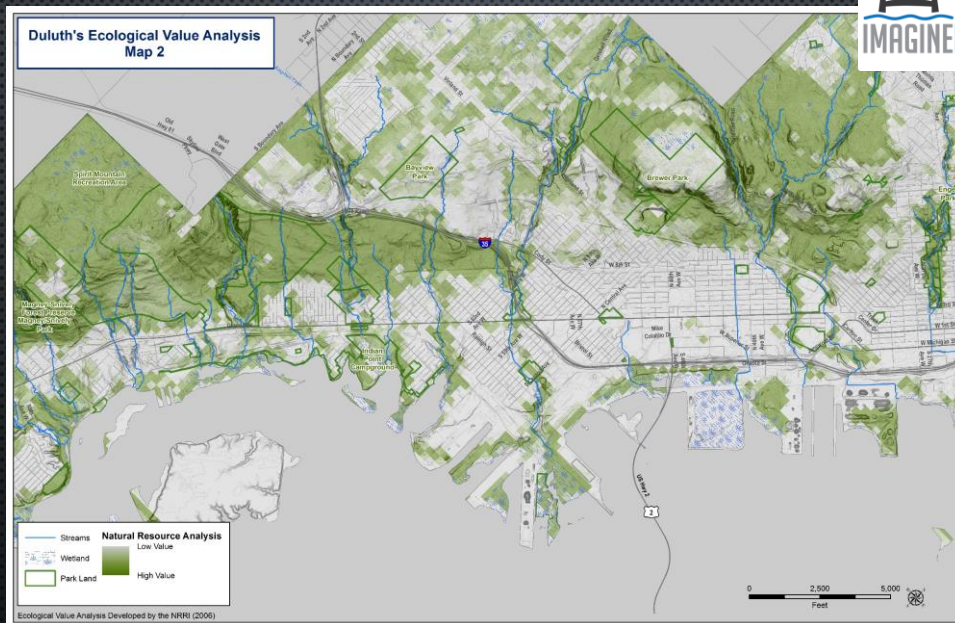
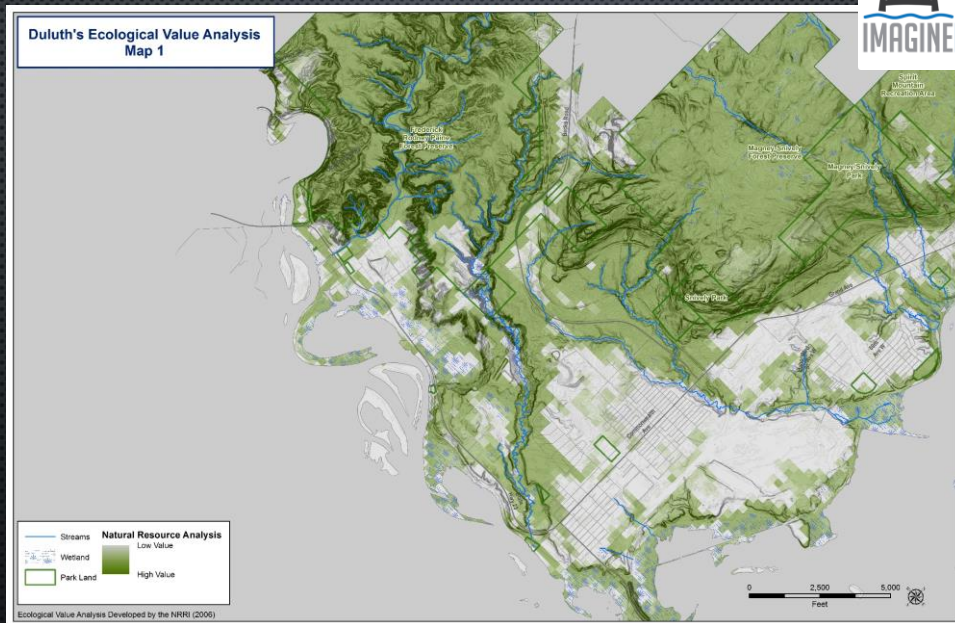


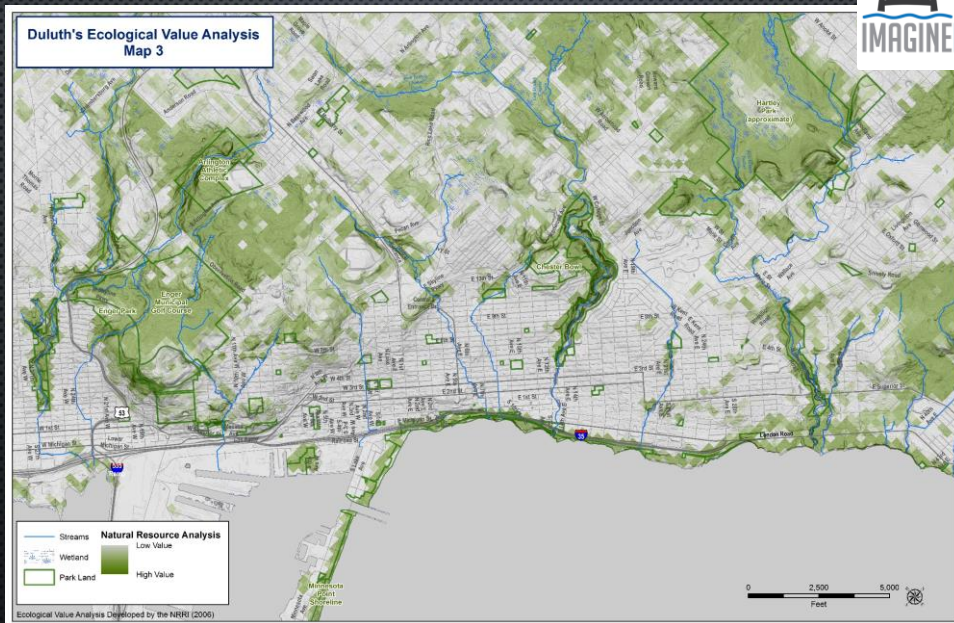
## FOREST TYPE BY STAND



## ECOLOGICAL VALUE FINAL SCORES









## INFRASTRUCTURE

### TALKING POINTS

- PARK POINT
- ATLAS
- OTHER AREAS?



