



OPEN SPACE FOCUS GROUP



Agenda

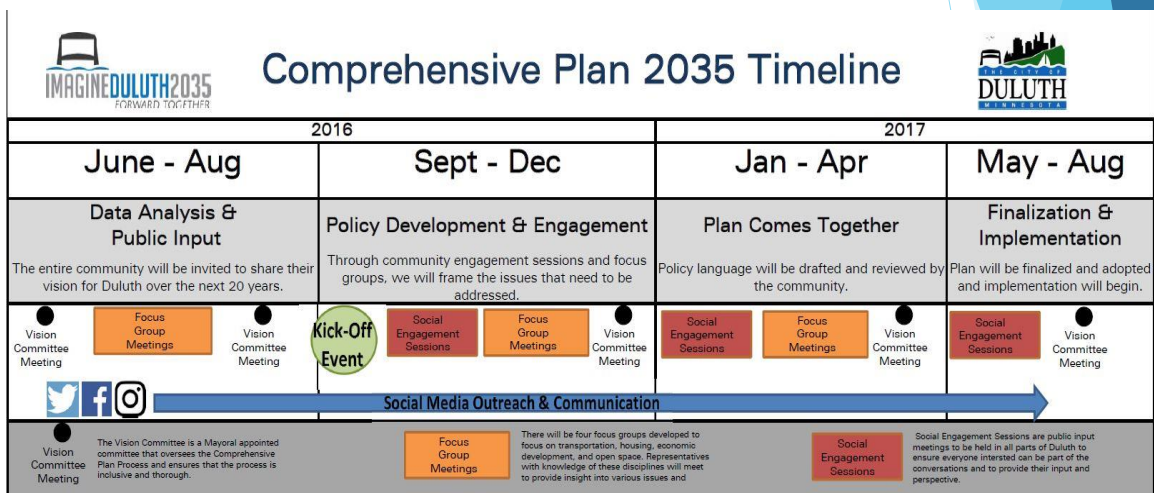
- ▶ Welcome & Introductions
- ▶ Brief Overview - Timeline & Process
- ▶ Review implementation strategies
- ▶ Review research questions
- ▶ Review preliminary data gathering/identify other resources
- ▶ Discuss other emerging issues
- ▶ Wrap-up & Next Steps



Open Space Focus Group?

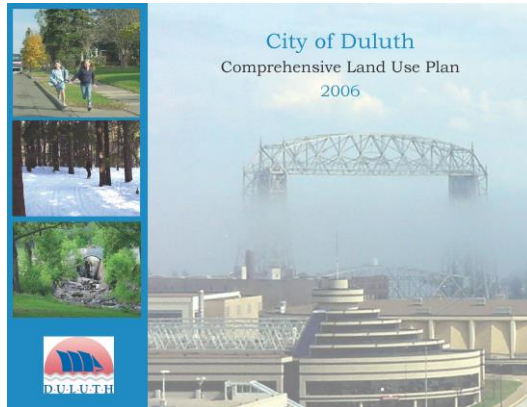


Timeline & Process





2006 Plan: Implementation Review



2006: Preservation and Protection Policy Highlights

- ▶ Protect streams, wetlands, and shorelines
- ▶ Enhance Skyline Parkway
- ▶ Use science to define natural areas to be protected
- ▶ Protection strategies, including acquisition, TDR, conservation easements
- ▶ Protect resource with appropriate development standards
- ▶ Connect green spaces
- ▶ Develop a forest management plan
- ▶ Create Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program
- ▶ Protect views of and from the hillside
- ▶ Take a watershed approach



2006: Parks and Recreation Policy Highlights

- ▶ Create a plan for park land and facilities for reasonable access
- ▶ Update the Spirit Mountain Master Plan
- ▶ Create a plan for an interconnected trail system
- ▶ Create a capital improvements and maintenance plan for parks and trails
- ▶ Promote non-motorized commuting
- ▶ Consider stream corridors, the river, and Skyline Pkwy as trail corridors



Research Questions

- ▶ How do we preserve sensitive land permanently?
- ▶ Are our open space areas well connected to our neighborhoods?
- ▶ Is the preservation of resources fair between neighborhoods?
- ▶ Do we all have equal access to enjoying resource areas?
- ▶ What are the direct and indirect costs to our region of holding land as undeveloped for preservation and open space?
- ▶ Can we sustain the amount of open and undeveloped space on our tax base?
- ▶ Can we sustain the current infrastructure network?
- ▶ Are there areas that put too much demand on infrastructure and services?
- ▶ What tools could be utilized to make us a more resilient community with ever changing climate factors?

What are the two best community assets in Duluth? Choose no more than two options.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Small neighborhood parks and playgrounds	7.1%	262
Parks and open space	24.0%	885
Trails	23.0%	850
Neighborhood commercial areas that are easily	5.0%	185
Proximity to Lake Superior	51.4%	1894
Many different transportation options	2.1%	76
Neighborhoods with all types of housing options	4.0%	149
Variety of biking assets or facilities	4.2%	154
Social assets, such as gathering places to connect with	7.4%	272
Natural scenery or great views	43.7%	1610
Employment opportunities	5.1%	187
Medical assets or facilities	10.3%	379
Educational assets or facilities	8.0%	295
Variety of spiritual opportunities	0.9%	33
Other (please specify)	5.9%	219
<i>answered question</i>		3688
<i>skipped question</i>		16

What type of outdoor recreation opportunities should the city focus on? Choose no more than two options.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Small neighborhood parks and playgrounds	29.7%	962
Pedestrian trails	31.7%	1026
Mixed use bike and pedestrian trails	41.4%	1342
Dog parks	13.2%	427
Mountain bike opportunities	9.4%	306
Winter recreation opportunities	18.2%	591
Water based recreation opportunities	32.8%	1063
Opportunities for team based recreation	10.1%	326
Other (please specify)	9.4%	303
<i>answered question</i>		3240
<i>skipped question</i>		464

What should be the City of Duluth's highest priorities over the next 20 years? Choose no more than two options.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Improve our existing water, sewer, and storm water	18.4%	583
Improve our existing road network (even if it means	26.9%	853
Better transportation options (more bus routes, more	15.9%	504
Attract new employers	34.0%	1080
Encourage the growth of existing employers	14.7%	466
Lower taxes or fees (even if it means less maintenance	4.0%	126
Provide more recreational opportunities (more parks,	11.5%	365
Provide incentives to increase housing options	13.7%	433
Support efforts to reduce homelessness	14.5%	459
Preservation of natural resources or open space	23.9%	757
Historic or cultural preservation	7.3%	231
Support efforts to promote youth enrichment	9.6%	306
Other (please specify)	8.8%	278
<i>answered question</i>		3172
<i>skipped question</i>		532

Tax Forfeit Property

PRELIMINARY



City of Duluth	46,315 acres
Tax Exempt Property	15,555 (34% of city)
Tax Forfeit Property	6,096 acres (13% of city)
Total Tax Forfeit & Ex-empt	21,651 (47% of city)

Legend	
	Park
	Tax Exempt Property
	Tax Forfeited

