

# **City of Hibbing**

## **Parks & Trails**

### **Master Plan**

#### **2023**



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# Letter from the Mayor

## Why did we make this plan?

December 12, 2023

Over the past 12 months, the City of Hibbing has been going through the process of updating its Parks & Trail System Master Plan & Implementation Plan. With the help of Barr Engineering, Ballard\*King & Associates, and Northspan, the city undertook this endeavor with a few key highlights and goals in mind:

- Establish a clear, 10- year vision for the Hibbing parks, trails, mine view overlook, bus museum, municipal golf course, open/public spaces to ensure that it is positioned to meet future community needs.
- Evaluate the existing Park System features and amenities and develop a prioritization strategy to guide decision-making and investments in the Park System.
- Identify and prioritize Park System needs, desires, and interests of the community today and the next 10 years based on anticipated demographic, economic, and recreational trends and preferences, and social changes.
- Establish a detailed implementation program for achieving the plan vision including identifying funding opportunities and gaps, anticipated needed staff resources, and producing high-level cost estimates for identified high-priority actions.
- Identify best practices for ensuring the Park System is managed, maintained, and developed with sustainable focused approach.
- Involve community and stakeholder engagement as part of the process.

The City of Hibbing has a lot of great assets that the community should be immensely proud of. This plan has ensured the citizens of Hibbing received an opportunity to voice their opinions, ideas, concerns, and provide their vision of how the park system should look in the future and where we allocate our resources.

This is a project we are very passionate about, and we hope the citizens of Hibbing share that same passion. Our goal is to not just put this plan on a shelf to collect dust. It is truly about putting the plan in action and implementing the vision of the citizens to provide an excellent quality of life for the residents of Hibbing.

We hope everyone finds value and a renewed excitement for the City of Hibbing parks and trails system!

Sincerely,

**Pete Hyduke, Mayor of Hibbing**



# Acknowledgments

## **City of Hibbing City Council**

Pete Hyduke, Mayor  
James Bayliss, Councilor, Ward 1  
Justin Fosso, Member-at-Large  
Jennifer Joffman Saccoman, Councilor, Ward 3  
John Schweiberger, Member-at-Large  
Jay Hildenbrand, Councilor, Ward 2  
Chris Whitney, Councilor, Ward 4

## **City of Hibbing Staff**

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Candie Seppala, City Clerk/Deputy Administrator



NORTHSPAN

## Section 1

# Executive Summary

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The City of Hibbing has a unique history directly tied to its landscape. In the boom of the mining industry in the early 1900's, new wealth brought an opportunity to purchase land and operate a park system far exceeding typical towns of similar size. Over time, changes in park management along with shifting demographics in the region have led to a need to reevaluate how the park system moves forward into a new generation of park development and trends. This document summarizes the condition of the Hibbing Parks & Trail System in 2023, provides an overview of demographics and park trends, and suggests opportunities for organizational improvements to support the community moving forward. This master plan is intended to provide the baseline data to the city for further study and improvements.

The Master Plan should be reviewed biannually beginning in 2025 to ensure the Plan is accountable to residents of the community as changes occur .



# Demographics and Recreation Trends

Based on the 2020 census, Hibbing has 16,267 residents, with nearly 80,000 people in the broader Iron Range who may come to use the Hibbing parks system. Relative to the state and nationally, the population in Hibbing and the Iron Range is shrinking and aging, which impacts how parks are used and often results in a lower rate of participation in most recreation activities. In addition, household income impacts residents' ability to pay fees to use parks and recreation facilities.

Outdoor recreation and fitness have high market potential for participation by Hibbing residents in all age groups. Based on a study over the last ten years, fitness-related activities have increased, while participation in traditional team sports have decreased. Due in part to COVID-19, outdoor activities have experienced large increases.

## Opportunity

The proximity to unique landscapes alongside outdoor recreation trends, Hibbing has a distinct opportunity to draw visitors based on its parks and recreation. Informed by a resident survey, there is high value in providing better connectivity between the great assets Hibbing has with the larger regional systems. Great trails exist in Hibbing that should be communicated to residents and visitors. Making physical connections to regional trails and outdoor recreation hubs will be important for Hibbing long-term.



# Resident Input

As part of this master plan, a community survey was developed to gather input from residents. This statistically valid survey resulted in over 700 responses. A consensus building workshop with key stakeholders and a community open house was held to build on those responses. A synopsis of the key themes of residents' wants are:

**Improved communication** about parks, facilities, recreation programming, and clarity in signage throughout the parks system.

Top priorities for improvements are those **in most need of maintenance**, as well as those that have the most use.

Development of an **indoor recreation facility** that is open year-round, has staffed hours outside of work hours, and is available for public use is a significant priority for residents. This facility should include playgrounds, fitness opportunities, swimming pools, and indoor sports fields to allow for year-round team sports.

**Lack of information or being unfamiliar** with programs or activities is the number one reason preventing residents' use of Hibbing's parks system.

Hibbing should take a **strategic approach** to their planning, focusing on quality, investing in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destinations.

Residents want **improved maintenance of parks and facilities**, with a consistent maintenance schedule or communication.

## Recreation Programming

The community survey indicated a low level of satisfaction with recreation programs (51% gave it a low mark) and recreation facilities (50% gave them a low mark). Recreation programs, facilities, and services are a mix of city, school district, and other organizations in the area, with a lack of guiding principles to help determine how residents can find more information. In this document, suggestions are made for clarity in programming, facilities, and communications.

Community organizations, non-profits, and volunteer-led groups provide a significant amount of programming services within the city, most connected to a specific park facility. These self-organized entities are critical to the function of programming within the parks system and are often driven by motivated residents. An example is the development and maintenance of the RC Car track at Wells Woodland/Townline park. This type of interest and energy is important to support and assess as parks are being considered for improvements.



## Parks Inventory and Condition Assessment

Hibbing has 33 parks totaling approximately 1,890 acres. This is a ratio of 118 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is over 10x the national average of 10.8 acres per 1,000 residents. These park spaces range from developed with active uses to tracts of undeveloped land. Ultimately, the city must balance the maintenance expectations of residents with available staffing based on budget. As suggested in the community survey, the city should focus on fewer key parks for improvements and maintenance. To accommodate this, a few strategies come to the forefront:

1. Reduction of the number of parks or reduced overall acreage that require regular maintenance. Redevelopment could be considered as well as expanded partnering with adjacent landowners or non-profit groups who support park- and trail-related activities (e.g. horseshoe club, radio-controlled car club, Nordic ski club, mountain bicycling club, etc.).
2. Reduction of facilities to focus maintenance time on those parks with the most activities or higher quality facilities.
3. Reduction of turf mowing areas and replacement with low-maintenance vegetation.

During this work, a significant effort was put toward Geographic Information Systems (GIS) inventory and mapping of the park system and its assets. This baseline information is critical to support the city in developing an asset management system for long term management. The maps and associated data will provide a baseline for further analysis of connectivity, condition tracking, and finding efficiencies in maintenance and replacement. Digital maps have been developed to easily post to the city website to initiate the information requested by residents and visitors alike.

The condition assessment confirms that maintenance is stretched between many parks and facilities. This can be correlated to a strong reliance on the city's general fund for operations and maintenance funding with 87% of the total coming from this source compared to 61% nationally.

# Organizational Structure and Staffing

Staffing within the City Services Department is divided into 3 primary areas (based on 2023). These include 14 full-time positions, 4 seasonal and 14 summer staff. This is a relatively low level of staffing for current operations of parks and other facilities but a relatively high level of commitment to the Memorial Building. Establishing an overall staffing philosophy for City Services will be important. This should be tied to levels of service for parks and facilities as well as for recreation programs. It should also reflect what operations and programming tasks will be contracted to other organizations or providers.

The city should consider organizing City Services into four distinct areas: Recreational Programming and Services, Golf Operations, Parks Maintenance, and Memorial Building Maintenance, to focus staff time and track maintenance and operations expenditures carefully. Additionally, creation of several full-time staff positions would provide benefit across the organization. These positions are additional Maintenance staff, a Special Events Coordinator, and a Marketing/Communications Coordinator.

## Funding

Approximately 13% of the City Services operations and maintenance budget is covered by fees and charges generated through programs and services compared to 22% nationally. The information provided within this master plan outlines potential funding available to support allocations to the parks system. To diversify the ways to pay for parks and recreation operations and capital projects, other forms of funding have to be identified. Beyond the allocation of funds from the city's general fund for ongoing programs, maintenance, or the passage of bond issues for capital projects, there are other local, state, and national taxing sources available. Additionally, non-tax sources such as a parks foundation or naming rights could support the parks system, and the community survey supported the notion of considering these options.



## Section 2

# Introduction

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## History of the Parks in Hibbing

### 1920's - 1950's

Based on its proximity to a booming iron ore mining industry, Hibbing was founded as a village in 1893. In the 1920s through early 1950's, parks and recreation in Hibbing included such notable offerings as lion cages at Bennett Park, ski jumping at Highland Park and ski-slide with tow-rope at Maple Hill. However, it was not until February 9, 1954 that a formal Joint Recreation Board was created as a means to organize overall recreational programming and facilities for the Village of Hibbing, Stuntz Township and the Hibbing School District. The Village and Township were given levy authority to finance the board's activities; whereas the school district drew from its general funds. Director B. G. Leighton was credited for embracing this "big time" vision for recreation amongst all three entities.

### 1960's

Under the Joint Recreation Board, by 1959 there were 100 employees (full-time, part-time and seasonal) who maintained and programmed a youth center, boxing, skating, winter sports (including 35-foot ski jump, toboggan ride and bump-and-bumps slide), school-sponsored sports (football, basketball, hockey and track), recreational basketball, volleyball, badminton, paddle tennis, bowling, bridge and square dancing, swimming at Kelly Lake, softball, horseshoes, bocce ball, archery (indoor and outdoor), golf (9-hole course, plus two indoor driving sets), thirteen playgrounds, trapshooting and tennis. Even then, it was "hard to keep things status quo;" however, the attitude was that "a program that does not go forward will go backward." (Annual Joint Recreation Board Report, January 1, 1959 to December 31, 1959, Hibbing, Minnesota)

By 1962, the annual attendance at supervised playground activities was over 40,000. Baton twirling and other activities were added, as was a winter sports building at Highland Park. At this time, the population was growing and a large number of parks and recreational opportunities were available for children, youth, men, women and "golden age" (60+ years old) residents. A community education program was added in 1977.

### 1980's

However, by the early to mid-1980's, a national downturn in the steel industry resulted in a reversal of historical population growth and prosperity for Hibbing residents. Many businesses closed and a lot of young families moved elsewhere. In 1985, formal participation numbers in park and recreation activities seems to have fallen by commensurate levels (e.g., only 5,000 registrations for Community Education programs, in comparison five-digit participation in previous decades).

In the mid-1980s, the governance of recreation in the City was done under a Joint Powers Board that included the City of Hibbing, School Board and Hibbing Community College. A "Community Recreational Facilities Plan" was drafted in August 1985 by a group of architects, engineers and planners from Minneapolis named Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. This plan focused almost exclusively on the needs at the schools and the Memorial Building. The efforts to implement this plan resulted in some the most recent improvements to recreation opportunities in the City, including the newest gymnasium and pool at Hibbing High School, the football practice field at the Lincoln Middle School and various improvements at the Memorial Building.

The Joint Recreation Board was dissolved in 1994 and lost its levy authority. At that time, the planning and operations of the recreational facilities at the public schools and community college reverted to Independent School District 701 and Hibbing Community College, respectively. City-owned assets, along with planning and operations, were folded under the City of Hibbing's Parks and Recreation Department and were funded under budgets approved by the City Council rather than a separate tax levy.

## 1990's

In 1994 and 1995, an Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment was performed by Architectural Resources, Inc. This assessment was conducted to help guide potential City investments at Carey Lake Park, old North Hibbing, Vic Power Park and throughout the city so they would provide the greatest benefit to the park system and Hibbing residents. The assessment compared the acreage and amenities of Hibbing's parks to national averages and made suggestions to correct deficiencies that were identified. The assessment suggested acquisition of a new neighborhood park (to complement Hibbing's 13 existing neighborhood parks) at 39th Avenue so that all Hibbing children could walk less than 1/3rd mile from their homes to get to amenities such as playground equipment, skating, picnicking, etc. It also recommended major improvements in soccer and football fields, along with minor improvements in baseball facilities<sup>1</sup>. For the first time, trails or linear parks were considered to accommodate hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. Development of Carey Lake was from an "urban conservancy" to a "community-wide park" was strongly recommended. Further study was recommended to assess funding partnerships (with the public school and community college), volunteer and political support, functional assessments of each individual park, development of more "community-wide parks," increased public relations and balancing of municipal and private recreational programming. This plan was intended to guide park developments through 2005 or so.

Several individual park- or facility-level plans have been developed over past six decades (e.g. 1964 and 1982 Carey Lake Master Plans; 1998-1999 Carey Lake golf course feasibility study and design; plans to renovate and expand that Memorial Building from 2014 through present); however, no system-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plans have been conducted for Hibbing since 1995. This Plan is intended to address that 28-year gap.

## Present Day

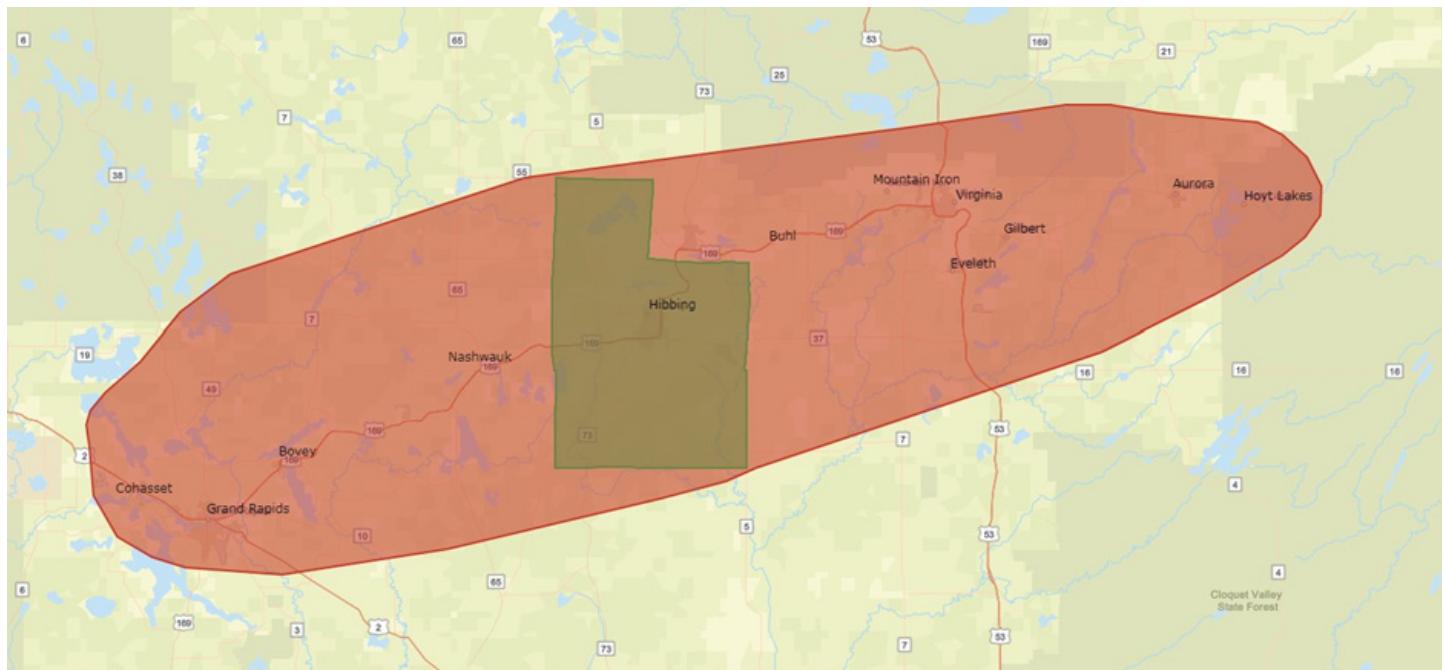
In the time since Hibbing's last Master Planning effort, the community's demographics, industries, recreational trends and preferences have changed, as well as the park facilities themselves. In general, Hibbing's population has been shrinking since the mid 1980's, but its economy has diversified to include significant health care, light manufacturing and service industries as well as continued mining. The population is generally older, less wealthy and less educated than state and national averages. The demographic-based and national recreational trends show a shift away from many traditional ball sports (e.g. softball, baseball, basketball, football, golf, etc.) and toward more individual, outdoor recreation (e.g. hiking, cycling, kayaking, etc.) and indoor recreation (e.g. yoga, weightlifting, etc.). Many Iron Range cities have embraced these changes and, partnering with state agencies, have constructed new destination-quality sports facilities (e.g. Tioga and Redhead Mountain Bike Parks in Cohasset and Chisholm, Lake Orebegone and Sherwood Forest Campground in Gilbert and the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia). This Master Plan provides additional detail on each of these trends, a current assessment of the community opinions, an assessment of Hibbing's current parks and recreation offerings and a series of recommendations to be considered for implementation over the next three to ten years.

<sup>1</sup> Sufficient numbers of tennis courts, pools, and hockey rinks were found along with an overabundance of softball fields and basketball courts

# Demographics

Demographic characteristics within the City of Hibbing, as well as the larger Iron Range, were evaluated as part of this study. A full report is provided in Appendix A.

The population within the City of Hibbing is just over 16,000, but the addition of the other Iron Range communities (Secondary Service Area) pushes the population to over 78,500.

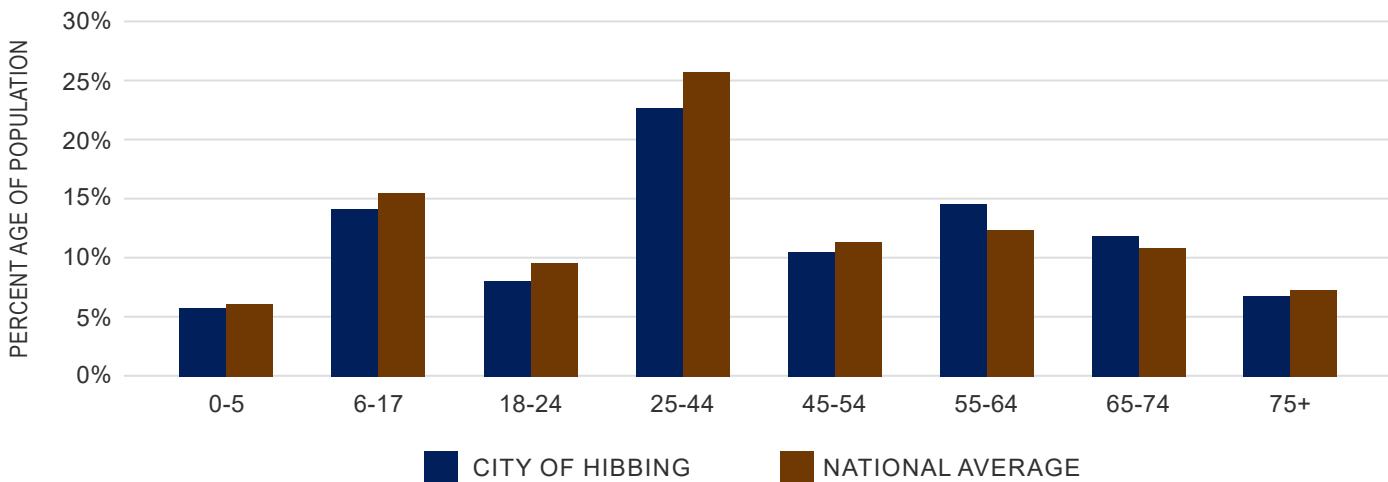


**Figure 2.1** Demographic area of study

## Demographics at a glance

Relative to the state and nationally, the population in Hibbing and the Iron Range is aging, which often results in a lower rate of participation in most recreation activities. A smaller percentage of households with children is important, as younger age groups are significant users of programs and services. A lower median household income is also an important determinant in use of recreation opportunities due to cost of participation.

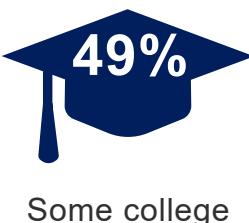
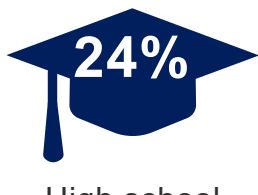
**Graph 2.1** Age of Hibbing Population vs. National Average



## KEY FACTS



## EDUCATION



## BUSINESS



## INCOME



## EMPLOYMENT



### Households by Income

Largest group: \$50,000 - \$74,999 (20.4%)  
 Smallest group: \$150,000 - \$199,999 (2.5%)

INDICATOR	VALUE	DIFFERENCE	CHART
<\$15,000	12.3%	+ 1.8%	
\$15,000 - \$24,999	11.3%	+ 3.1%	
\$25,000 - \$34,999	6.1%	- 0.4%	
\$35,000 - \$49,999	10.5%	- 1.0%	
\$50,000 - \$74,999	20.4%	+ 0.4%	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.9%	+ 0.4%	
\$100,000 - \$149,999	20.1%	+ 0.7%	
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.5%	- 3.0%	
\$200,000+	2.8%	- 2.1%	

# Recreation Trends

As part of the demographic study (Appendix A), review of national trends in sports and recreation was completed. Fitness and outdoor recreation activities are the most popular, with a decrease in traditional team sports. The table below shows changes in participation in particular sports over time. Through review of the Market Potential Index for adult participation in activities in Hibbing, outdoor activities are higher than the national comparison, particularly those including freshwater.

**Table 2.1** Sports activity participation over time

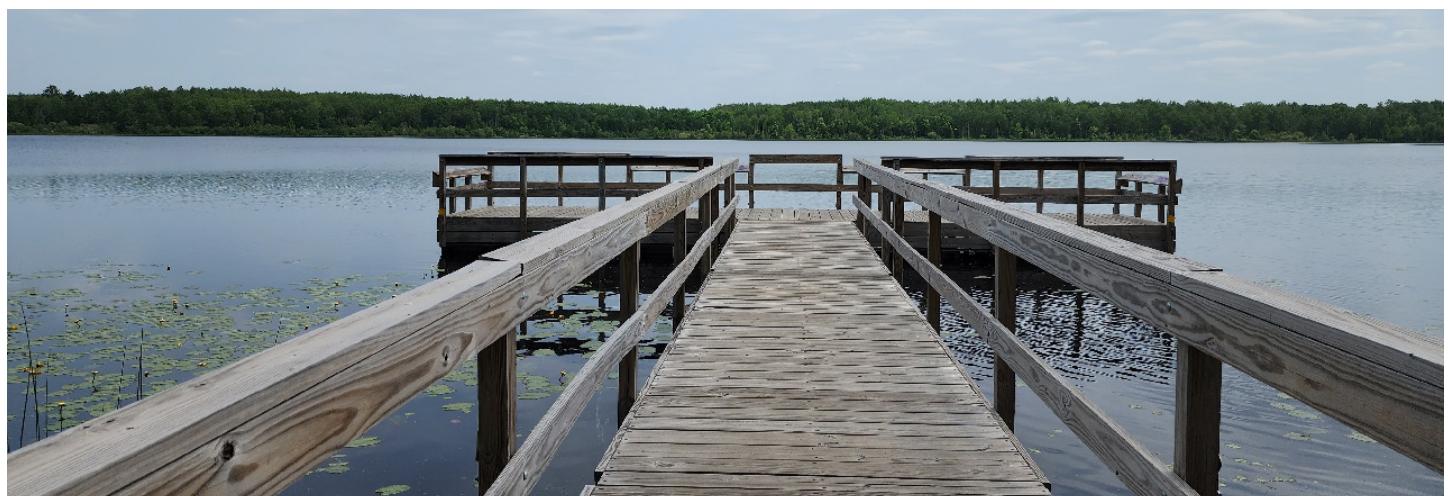
SPORTS ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION OVER TIME	2012 PARTICIPATION	2021 PARTICIPATION	PERCENT CHANGE
Kayaking	7.2	11.5	+ 59.7%
Hunting w/ Bow & Arrow	5.1	6.9	+ 35.3%
Yoga	22.9	30.7	+ 34.1%
Skateboarding	5.4	6.7	+ 24.1%
Exercise Walking	102.1	125	+ 22.4%
Weightlifting	31.1	37.5	+ 20.6%
Hiking	42.2	48.8	+ 15.6%
Running/Jogging	40	45	+ 12.5%
Wrestling	2.8	3.1	+ 10.7%
Mountain Biking (Off-road)	5.5	6	+ 9.1%
Bicycle Riding	39.3	42.8	+ 8.9%
Backpack/Wilderness Camping	11.7	12.4	+ 6.0%
Soccer	13.7	14.5	+ 5.8%
Water Skiing	3.6	3.8	+ 5.6%
Volleyball	10.3	10.8	+ 4.9%
Target Shooting (Airgun)	4.9	5.1	+ 4.1%
Tennis	13.6	13.8	+ 1.5%
Exercising w/ Equipment	57.7	57.2	- 0.9%
Swimming	48.6	47.1	- 3.1%
Fishing (Fresh Water)	30.8	29.5	- 4.2%
Baseball	12.1	11.3	- 6.6%
Golf	21.1	19	- 10.0%
Fishing (Salt Water)	10.7	9.6	- 10.3%
Softball	10.5	9.3	- 11.4%
Football (Touch)	9.3	8.2	- 11.8%
Basketball	25.6	22.5	- 12.5%
Target Shooting (Live Ammo)	21.7	18.8	- 13.4%
Boating (Motor/Power)	17	14.6	- 14.1%
Football (Tackle)	7.9	6.7	- 15.2%
Hunting w/ Firearms	19.4	16.4	- 15.5%
Football (Flag)	6.7	5.4	- 19.4%
Workout @ Club	35.2	24.6	- 30.1%

**Table 2.2** Top activities with intent to participate by age

The most popular activities that all age groups intend to participate in are generally fitness or outdoor recreation related.

AGE 6-12	AGE 13-17	AGE 16-24	AGE 25-34
Fishing	Fishing	Workout w/ Weights	Fishing
Camping	Swimming for Fitness	Running/Jogging	Camping
Soccer	Basketball	Workout w/ Machines	Workout w/ Weights
Running/Jogging	Running/Jogging	Cardio Fitness	Running/Jogging
Swimming for Fitness	Martial Arts	Yoga	Cardio Fitness
Hunting	Workout w/ Weights	Basketball	Yoga
Sledding	Camping	Hiking	Hiking
Shooting	Cardio Fitness	Shooting	Workout w/ Machines
Baseball	Soccer	Camping	Basketball
7 on 7 Football	Hunting	Volleyball	Shooting

AGE 35-44	AGE 45-54	AGE 55-64	AGE 65+
Fishing	Fishing	Fishing	Fishing
Camping	Camping	Shooting	Camping
Workout w/ Weights	Cardio Fitness	Camping	Cardio Fitness
Cardio Fitness	Workout w/ Machines	Workout w/ Weights	Swimming for Fitness
Workout w/ Machines	Workout w/ Weights	Swimming for Fitness	Workout w/ Machines
Yoga	Hiking	Hunting	Workout w/ Weights
Running/Jogging	Shooting	Workout w/ Machines	Shooting
Swimming for Fitness	Swimming for Fitness	Hiking	Yoga
Shooting	Yoga	Cardio Fitness	Hunting
Hiking	Hunting	Running/Jogging	Hiking



## Section 3

# Community Engagement

As part of the Parks & Trails System Master Plan, designers created and managed a community engagement process. The approach was two-fold. It included a statistically valid community survey and a face-to-face community session.

The goal of the process was to gather input on Hibbing's current facilities and programming and learn the desires for the parks and recreation plan. The process included a community survey and a consensus building workshop/community engagement session.

## GOAL



Gather input on Hibbing's current facilities and programming and learn the desires for the parks and recreation plan.

## Public Input Survey Summary

A statistically valid community survey was developed to gather input on Hibbing's current facilities and programming and learn the desires for the parks and recreation plan. The survey, which included 35 questions, opened on April 24, and closed on June 26, 2023, **with 714 responses and a completion rate of 89%**. All responses were tallied included in Appendix B.

Results from the survey suggest trails (paved and unpaved), sports fields, and playgrounds hold important roles in residents' use of the parks system. Swimming pools, restroom facilities, and swimming beaches are deemed to be lacking in the city. Residents desire places to rock climb and develop climbing skills, both indoors and outdoors, and a high percentage of respondents want indoor playgrounds, swimming pools, and youth programs.

Many voiced a desire for a "community center"/"YMCA"/"field house." Hibbing residents would like an indoor, year-round facility and prefer Hibbing take a strategic approach to their planning, focusing on quality, investing in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destinations.

To assist in development planning for Carey Lake Park, two specific questions were included in the survey. Results from these questions suggest the city prioritize the cleaning of the beach, improve the water quality, and continue to enhance both paved and unpaved trails. Respondents also noted the need for improved restrooms and facilities, and they expressed a desire for a campground.

Hibbing residents would like an **indoor, year-round facility**



# Focus Group Session Summary

While the survey was running, the city hosted a community engagement event at the Memorial Building Labor Quarters on June 16. The noon event was a consensus building workshop of key stakeholders in the Parks and Recreation system hosted by Northspan. Notes from the focus group session can be found in Appendix B. The session was attended by a dozen stakeholders who answered the question: **What should the Parks and Recreation plan focus on in the next three to five years?** The results were in seven themes:

-  Organized, central communication
-  Upgrades and maintenance plan
-  Year round, indoor, climate-controlled facilities
-  Hiring a full-time community activities director
-  Improve signage and visibility
-  Carey Lake recreational improvements
-  Add new park options such as dog parks with water, and pickleball courts



# Public Open House Summary

Following the focus group session on June 16, 2023, a public open house was hosted at the Memorial Building. The open house included a gallery walk of maps and photos (see Appendix C) of all the parks to allow for park-specific input, as well as conversations about the overall park system.

Generally, visitors were interested in the overall park system map, as many weren't familiar with the extents of the system or where some of the parks were located. Comments noted bike route signs that exist in town without a clear destination, and emphasized how valuable it would be to connect existing bike routes such as Redhead and Mesabi Trails.

Communication and clarity around programming was also discussed. Some facilities that are

managed by the school district are not available for community use. Registration for various activities is unclear, depending on who manages the programming. There is high demand for indoor facilities. Early and late-season team sports that have weather-dependent practices struggle to be competitive with regions that have more indoor facilities for use in the fringe of the season.

Park-specific features were noted by some visitors of the open house. When the city plans to make changes to the functions or amenities park, it is recommended that site-specific engagement occurs to inform those changes (e.g. development of a mini Master Plan for each park or groups of parks that is being improved).



# Overall Themes and Recommendations

Coupled with insights gathered with the community survey, at the consensus building workshop, and the open house held on June 16, there are some immediate actions desired by the community as well as common themes.

## PARK VALUES

**47%** of respondents placed walking, running, rollerblading, or biking on **paved trails** as their top use of Hibbing's parks and recreation offerings.

**3 in 4** respondents noted **space for recreation, sports, and leagues** regardless of season and opportunities to **spend time outdoors and connect with nature** were important to them.

## IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS

**Improving communication** was recommended in both the consensus building workshop and the survey.

**Need better cleaning and maintenance** of existing facilities.

## THERE ARE TOO FEW...

In reviewing outdoor facilities, **swimming pools** were considered as "too few," with **76% of respondents** rating them as such.

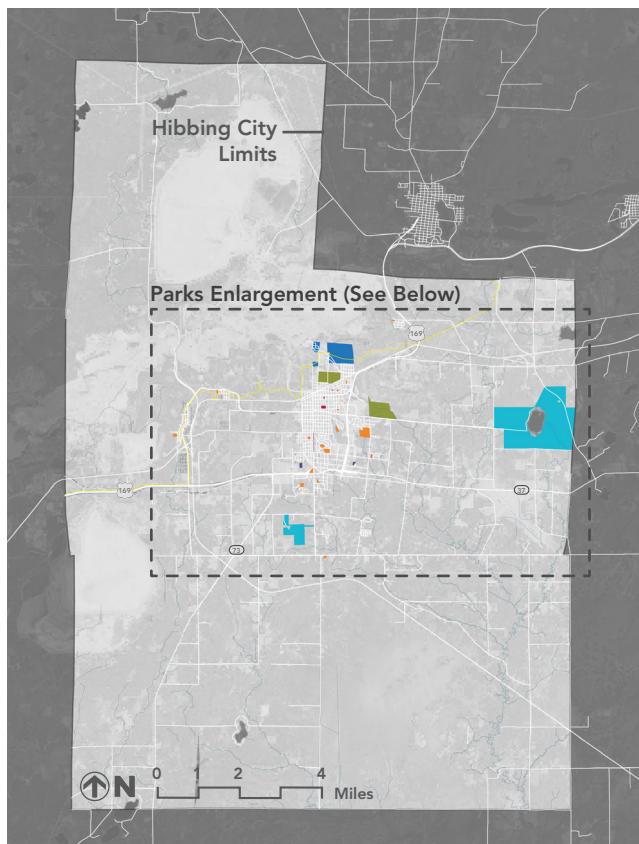
**Restrooms** were also considered too few by **~66% of respondents** and was also highlighted in the consensus building workshop.

For indoor and outdoor facilities, **places to rock climb, develop climbing skills** came up as too few.

**3 in 4** respondents noted the need for **swimming pools** and **indoor playgrounds**.

## Section 4

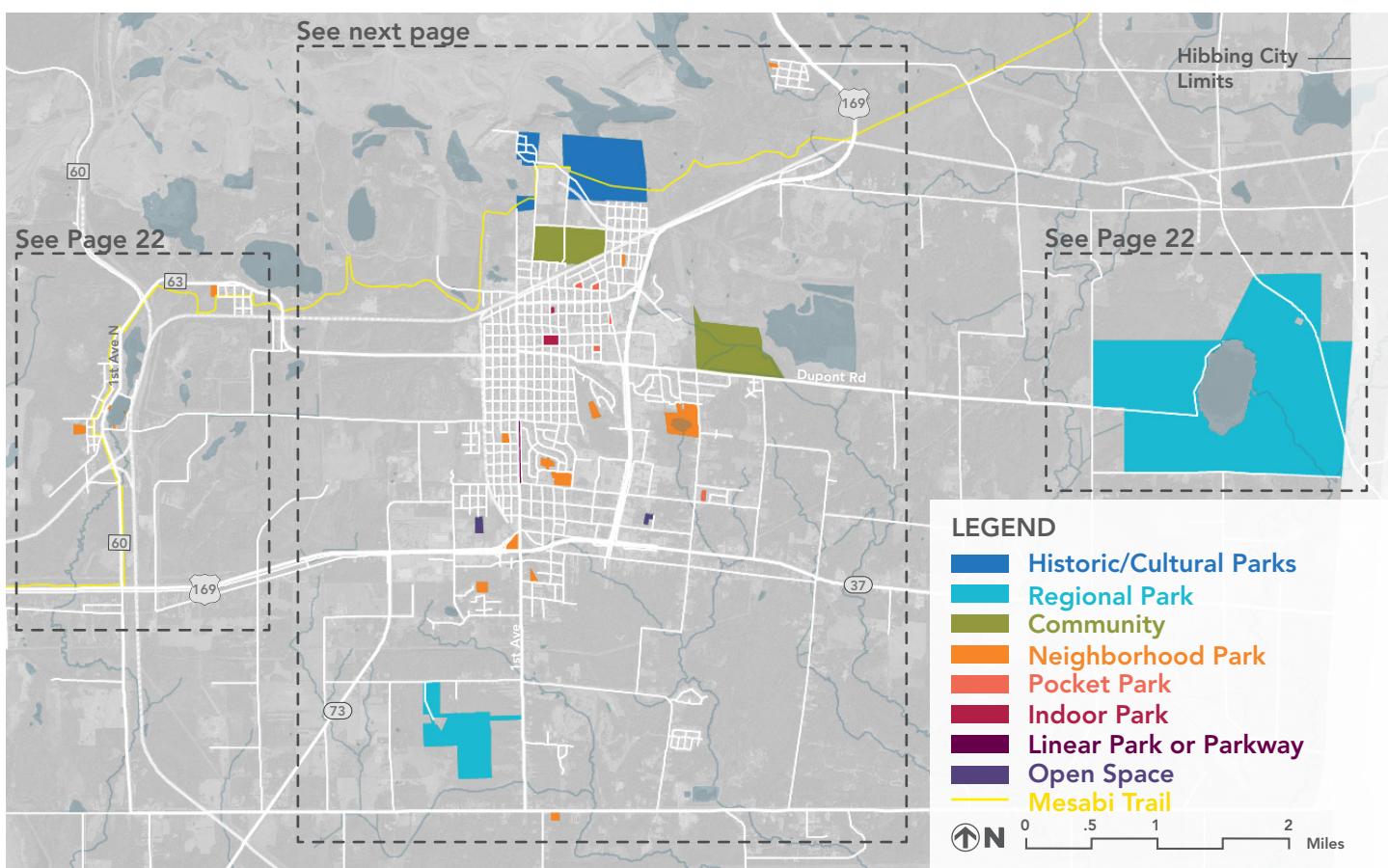
# Parks & Trails System Assessment



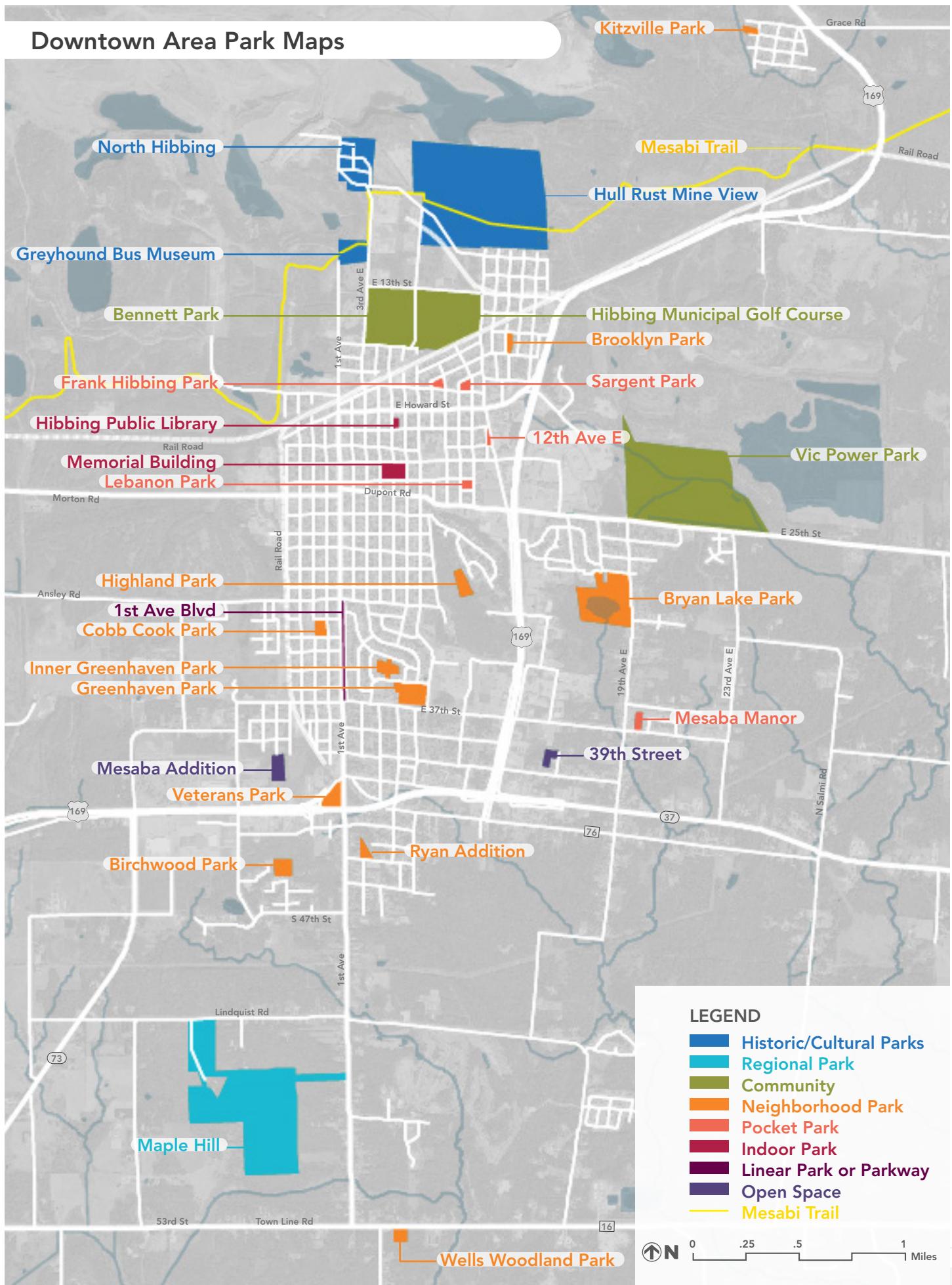
## Parks Inventory and Condition Assessment

The City of Hibbing currently operates 33 facilities, including parks, trails, Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, and indoor facilities, totaling nearly 1,900 acres of land. Partnership with volunteer groups, local clubs, and non-profit organizations are a large part of the current programming and care of certain parks, park assets, and activities across the system.

A parks inventory and condition assessment was completed in Spring 2023. Utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS), parcels were reviewed to define park boundaries, and individual maps of each park facility were created. An overall park system map was created to better understand proximity and locations of the parks. Maps of all parks are included in Appendices F and G.



## Downtown Area Park Maps



## Kelly Lake & Carey Lake Area Park Maps



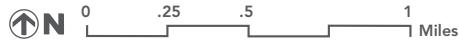
Categories for park features (or assets) and condition categories were developed. This included such assets as athletic fields, interpretive elements, parking lots, signage, structures, and vegetated areas. As part of this assessment, condition of assets were designated green (good), yellow (fair), and red (poor). Utilizing ArcGIS Field Maps and the ArcGIS Online web mapping platform, Barr staff visited each park utilizing GPS to inventory the location and condition of each asset. Photographs were taken of the assets along with notes by the field staff.

The full list of assets has been provided to city staff as a database to allow for data sorting, as well as an online web mapping application. A full park-by-park analysis of the condition data was not developed as part of this master plan effort, but is a process city staff can take as they consider alongsides the other information provided in this report.

GIS mapping is a contemporary tool for supporting ongoing inventory and can be developed to support maintenance of the park system. It is recommended the City of Hibbing consider GIS software or contracting with an entity that can support ongoing GIS data updates to be utilized for future planning efforts.

### LEGEND

- Historic/Cultural Parks
- Regional Park
- Community
- Neighborhood Park
- Pocket Park
- Indoor Park
- Linear Park or Parkway
- Open Space
- Mesabi Trail



# Park Type Classifications

During the development of the City of Hibbing's Parks and Trails Master Plan, establishing a park classification system played a vital role in ensuring a well-balanced and inclusive approach to understanding and planning for recreational and environmental systems. Each park classification serves a unique purpose and caters to specific community needs. Together, these park classifications form an integral part of the Master Plan, contributing to the overall well-being, health, and sustainable development of the community, while preserving and enhancing the natural and recreational assets for generations to come. Park type characteristics are summarized in Table 4.2, followed by more detailed descriptions.

**Note:** Hibbing's current parks are classified hereafter as they are currently functioning. This classification does not prevent a park from changing classification, function, or program. Rather, it provides a snapshot into how Hibbing's current park system is functioning to serve both the local and regional communities. This allows residents to actively engage and utilize the existing parks and park staff to adequately provide support and maintenance to its existing park network. Additional design, planning, and programming may be added or subtracted from any park which could change a given park classification. Some parks are recommended to add or subtract amenities with a goal of changing the park classification, creating a well-balanced, accessible, and community-focused park system.

**Table 4.1** Hibbing Park Type Summary

PARK TYPE	# OF PARKS	TOTAL ACRES
Historic/Cultural Park	3	216.1
Regional Park	2	1,356.4
Community Park	3	224.6
Neighborhood Park	15	71.2
Pocket Park	5	6.1
Indoor Park	2	6.2
Linear Park/Parkway	1	3.1
Open Space	2	7.2



**Table 4.2** Hibbing Park Type Summary

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE (acres)	TYPICAL VISITORS (# persons/day)	TYPICAL LENGTH OF VISIT	CHARACTERISTICS
<b>Historic/Cultural Park</b>	> 15	100 - 500	1 - 4 hours	Park organization is around highlighting and interpreting a specific unique historic or cultural feature(s) or practice(s) with a larger/regional draw; exceptional amenities and unique attractions, becoming significant tourist destinations; on-site parking is provided.
<b>Regional Park</b>	> 40	> 150	2 hours - 2 days	Largest parks by land area with expansive green areas, but with relatively low densities of persons per acre; diverse recreational opportunities to residents across multiple cities and municipalities such as constructed features, trails, and other programming highlighting the natural or cultural landscape and endemic vegetation; overnight camping permitted; on-site parking is provided.
<b>Community Park</b>	> 25	50 - 1,000	1 - 8 hours	Large parks serving as local focal points and hubs of activity, dedicated to the play of organized sports and meeting community recreation needs; one or many sports facilities and support services and structures are present; generous amounts of high-maintenance turf, shade trees, and impervious areas from parking facilities; may or may not have performance lighting; on-site parking is provided.
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	2 - 10	50 - 200	0.5 - 2 hours	Smaller local areas with varying types of features and facilities; fosters a local sense of belonging by catering to the immediate outdoor social and recreational needs of residents, offering places for daily leisure and family-oriented activities; generally designed for informal active and passive recreational and social needs of the neighborhood; typically include multi-use natural turf athletic fields, shaded areas, and playground structures; may or may not have on-site parking.
<b>Pocket Park</b>	< 2	> 50	10 min. - 1 hour	Few park features, built structures, or other facilities; serves a localized need for social and small recreational gathering; typical improvements are limited to playground structures, plantings or planting beds, picnic tables, and park benches; generally does not provide on-site parking.
<b>Indoor Park</b>	Varies	50 - 1,000	1 - 8 hours	Indoor parks provide year-round location for special and recreational activities and facilities such as indoor playgrounds, hockey and ice-skating rinks, curling clubs, trampolines, rock climbing, and water parks; provides on-site parking.
<b>Linear Park/ Parkway</b>	> 2	0	N/A	Linear features serving to provide green space and recreation adjacent to a boulevard or road; can serve to provide additional area for a trail to be added to create a multi-modal transportation corridor; showcases scenic beauty, promoting both active transportation and nature appreciation; generally does not provide on-site parking or other park facilities.
<b>Open Space</b>	Varies	0 - 10	N/A	Unimproved or undeveloped natural areas, rights-of-way, and other areas without facilities but can be utilized for passive recreation or natural or ecological function; can include regional stormwater treatment ponds or wetlands; potential for ecological habitat and flexible future programming; generally does not provide on-site parking.

# 1 HISTORIC/CULTURAL PARK

These are generally larger areas with unique, regionally significant features, elements, or programming that draw visitors from broader regional and local areas. These parks provide opportunities for interaction with, and interpretation of, cultural and historic landscapes and features. The primary purpose of a Historic/Cultural Park is to attract people from broader geographical areas due to its unique features, amenities, or natural attractions.

## Historic/Cultural Parks in Hibbing

Three (3) parks currently are classified as Historic/Cultural type. These parks highlight cultural iron mining landscapes at the Hull Rust Mine, the history of the Greyhound Bus Company since its establishment in 1914, and the historic features remaining after the relocation of the City of Hibbing from its original 1893 location to its current location. Hibbing Historic/Cultural Parks currently include:

- Greyhound Bus Museum | 9.3 acres
- Hull Rust Mine View | 182.3 acres
- North Hibbing Park | 24.5

## Key Characteristics

- 1. Park Size:** These specialized parks can range in size due to the unique features but are generally 15 acres or more in size. Size of the park must be large enough to include the highlighted unique natural, historic, or other cultural features.
- 2. Regional Significance:** Historic/Cultural Parks play a vital role in providing recreational opportunities, natural, and cultural experiences beyond the local community. They serve as important destinations for people seeking outdoor adventures and unique experiences. They may be home to unique historical events, altered mining landscapes, and historic buildings.
- 3. Tourist Attraction:** Historic/Cultural Parks can become popular tourist attractions, drawing visitors from other range cities, counties, or states. They contribute to the local economy by attracting tourism-related businesses and services.
- 4. Preservation:** Besides offering recreational opportunities, these parks often serve as a preservation tool, protecting cultural and natural resources for future generations.

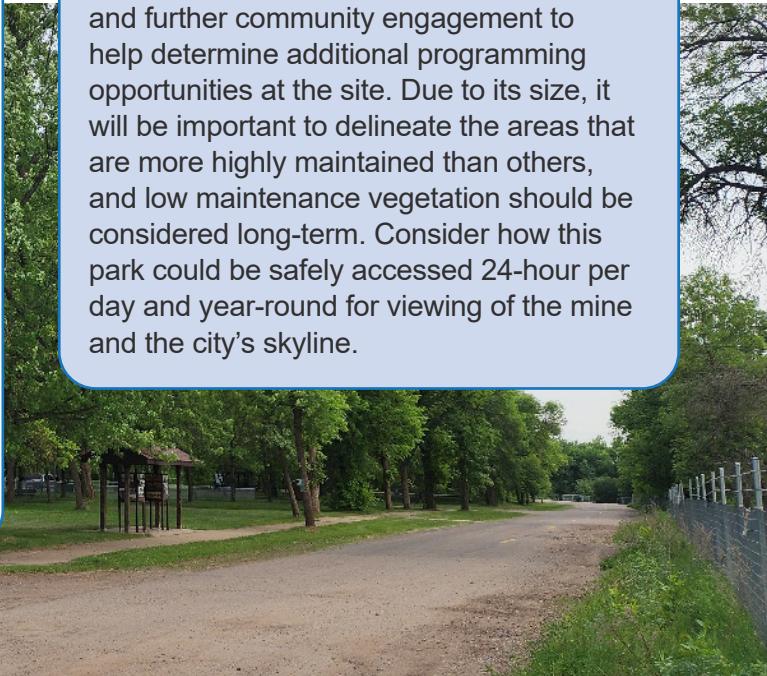


## Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

**North Hibbing Park** – This park is hard to pinpoint in our classification system. It sits between several categories. With its rich mining history, it holds the potential to become a destination park for the City of Hibbing. Although, it would take a significant investment by the city of time and resources to adequately plan, preserve, and enhance resources to upgrade the park to a destination status. It currently functions as a community park, in that there is ample green space for picnicking, a well-developed dog park, and frisbee golf course that draws visitors from across the town.

**Recommended next step:** Evaluate opportunities for trail connections between North Hibbing and Mine View. Consider a small area plan for all parks in northern Hibbing to help define priorities in facility improvements, trail connectivity, and a closer look at maintenance adjustments.

**Hull Rust Mine View** – This park has the potential to be a significant tourist draw for the city. Important components of this park have already been designed and are in various phases of implementation. The city should consider user surveys and further community engagement to help determine additional programming opportunities at the site. Due to its size, it will be important to delineate the areas that are more highly maintained than others, and low maintenance vegetation should be considered long-term. Consider how this park could be safely accessed 24-hour per day and year-round for viewing of the mine and the city's skyline.



## 2 REGIONAL PARK

A regional park is a public park that serves a larger geographical area and consists of open and natural areas primarily used for trail recreation and passive recreation. Regional parks are designed to provide recreational opportunities and natural experiences to residents of multiple cities or communities within a region. These parks are larger in size and often offer a wider range of amenities and natural attractions compared to community or neighborhood parks. They may include paved and natural surfaced trails, camping, fishing, skiing, swimming, and areas for observing nature. Their main purpose is to protect environmentally sensitive features and allow visitors to interact with nature.

### Regional Parks in Hibbing

Two (2) parks currently are classified as the Regional type. These parks provide regional and local destinations in larger park settings. These parks have embedded trail and recreational networks located in relatively naturalized settings, and include the following sites:

- Carey Lake Park | 1,219.2 acres
- Maple Hill Park | 137.2 acres

### Key Characteristics

1. **Size and Scope:** Regional parks are larger in size compared to community parks. They are expansive enough to offer a variety of recreational facilities (e.g., camping, hiking, skiing) and diverse natural landscapes.
2. **Geographic Reach:** These parks attract visitors from multiple cities, towns, or municipalities within the range cities. They are strategically located to serve a broader population beyond the immediate neighborhood.
3. **Diverse Recreational Amenities:** Regional parks offer a wide array of recreational amenities and facilities to cater to various interests. This may include playgrounds, hiking and biking trails, picnic areas, nature centers, visitor centers, and more. Some regional parks may feature specialized facilities for activities like camping, fishing, boating, horseback riding, off-road biking, and nature-oriented education and interpretation.
4. **Natural Attractions:** Regional parks often boast unique natural features, such as lakes, rivers, forests, wetlands, or scenic vistas. They may have extensive areas set aside for wildlife conservation and habitat protection.
5. **Events and Festivals:** These parks may host special events, festivals, and educational programs that draw visitors from various regions, fostering a sense of community and connection with nature.
6. **Regional Significance:** Regional parks often play an important role in the conservation and preservation of ecologically significant areas, historical sites, or culturally important landmarks within a specific region.
7. **Accessibility and Connectivity:** Regional parks are designed to be easily accessible by various means of transportation, allowing visitors from different areas to reach them conveniently.

Beach at Carey Lake Park





## Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

**Carey Lake Park** – Carey Lake has a development plan underway in 2023 and 2024. This plan focuses primarily on campground siting and concept design, defining existing and potential program elements, and supporting and enhancing the existing trail system. The campground has been considered for some time, and improvements such as overnight camping and a toilet and shower facility aligns with feedback from the community survey.

**Recommended next step:** *Implement the design and construction of the campground phase of work in 2024-25. Closely track park staff maintenance time to inform long-term understanding of site hours, costs, and needs required to maintain the park. A park natural resources plan would also be valuable in the long-term to support decisions on which areas of the park could be restored and managed for habitat improvement over higher maintenance uses.*

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**Maple Hill Park** – The trail system at Maple Hill is important to residents and has potential to be a draw for multi-season trail users visiting the area. The community survey suggested enhanced trail signage would be helpful and potential trail connection plans have been included in Chapter 4. Consider developing a formal signage plan and upgrade and complete the existing trail signage within the park.



*Baseball diamonds at Vic Power*

## 3 COMMUNITY PARK

These parks are built to fulfill specific community or regional needs. These parks act as focal points for community-wide activities. They may include specialized facilities like golf courses or sports amenities for baseball, soccer, basketball, pickleball, tennis, rock climbing, golf, ice skating, and skateboarding. Community parks are typically located in or near residential areas, making them accessible to people living in the community. They may include parking areas.

### Community Parks in Hibbing

Three (3) parks are currently classified as Community Parks. These parks provide regional and local destinations in larger park settings. Over time, community parks have become increasingly important. In part due to increased vehicular use, community parks also can host events, including sports competitions, and multiple uses can occur within the same space. These parks have embedded trail and recreational networks located in relatively naturalized settings, and include the following sites:

- Bennett Park | 41.0 acres
- Hibbing Municipal Golf Course | 47.7 acres
- Vic Power | 135.9 acres

### Key Characteristics

1. **Size and Location:** Community parks are often medium to large sized parks. They are strategically located within or near residential neighborhoods, making them convenient for local residents to visit.
2. **Multi-Use Facilities:** Community parks offer a mix of recreational facilities to cater to a broad range of interests and ages. These may include playgrounds, sports fields (e.g., soccer fields, baseball diamonds), basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic areas, walking paths, and open spaces for various activities.
3. **Active and Passive Recreation:** Community parks balance the provision of both active and passive recreational opportunities. While they offer facilities for sports and active play, they also have areas for leisurely activities like picnicking, relaxation, and enjoying nature.
4. **Community Events and Programs:** These parks may host community events, festivals, and programs that bring local residents together. Examples include outdoor concerts, movie nights, and seasonal celebrations. Community parks act as gathering places, where residents from different neighborhoods can come together to socialize, exercise, and participate in group activities.
5. **Accessibility:** Community parks are designed to be easily accessible by walking, biking, or a short drive from nearby neighborhoods. They may have ample parking facilities to accommodate visitors. Community parks typically offer amenities suitable for children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens, ensuring that people of all ages can enjoy the park.



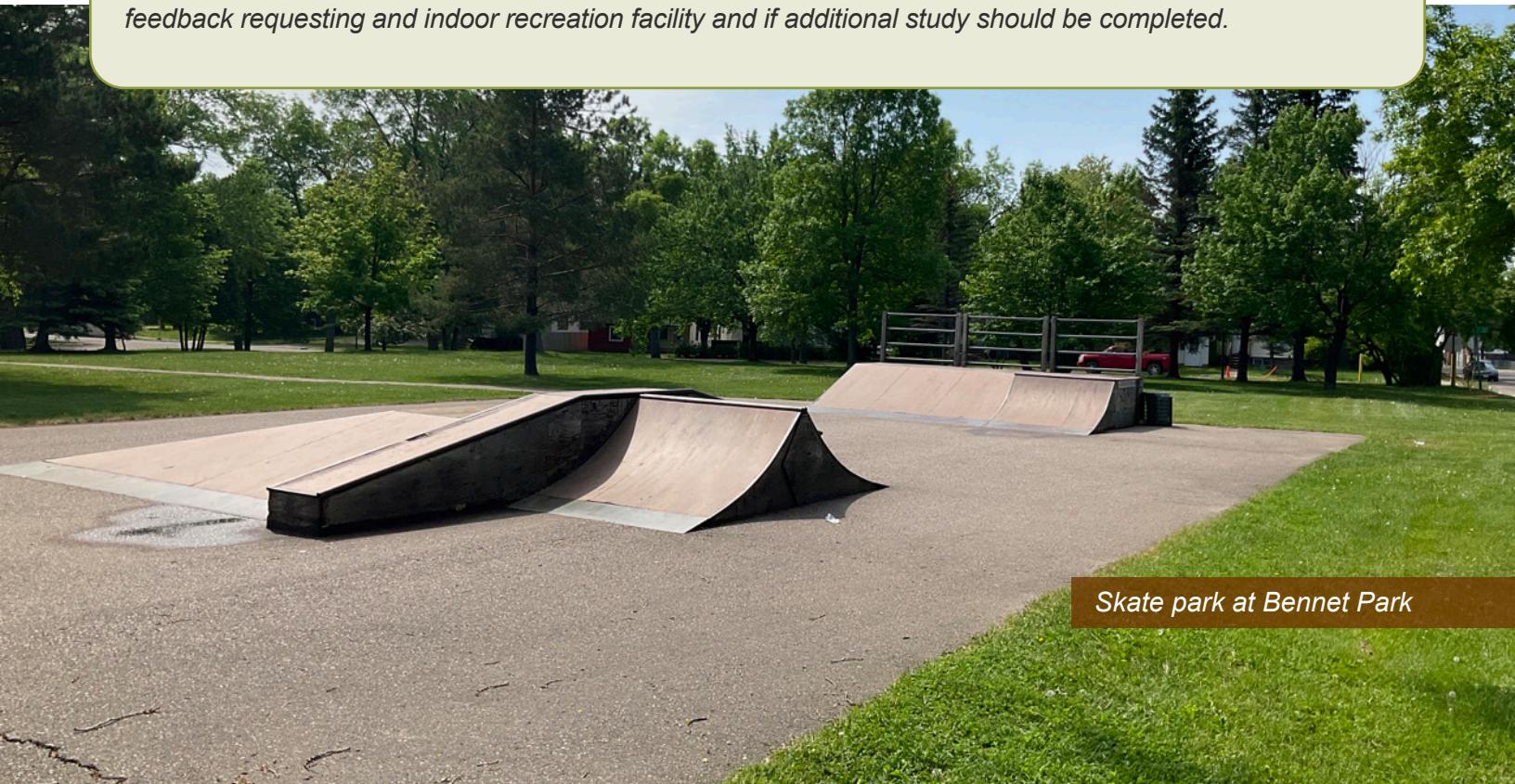
## Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

**Bennett Park** – This park is centrally located within the city, houses historic resources, and is well cared for. A significant amount of programming is housed here, and the sports facilities are in good condition. Pickleball courts are being added in 2024 to meet resident demand. Pavilion rental should be highlighted on the Parks website to improve ease of rental. This park is built out, so redesign or further master planning is not necessary. Staff should track maintenance in a detailed way to determine how much time is associated with facility maintenance separately from mowing or other vegetation maintenance.

**Hibbing Municipal Golf Course** – Based on the community survey, the golf course is serving its residents and provides an adequate amount of golfing for the area. Golf courses in general require high levels of maintenance. It will be important to track the amount of staff time necessary to maintain the golf course separately from other parks as well as from the operations of the clubhouse and concessions. When considering additional maintenance staffing, adding a turf specialist that could support the golf course as well as turf sports facilities would be helpful. Due to the seasonality of turf management, staff should support parks maintenance more universally than being strictly assigned to the golf course. The community survey suggests a place for indoor golf practice would be beneficial.

**Vic Power Park** – This park is a hub for team-based sports in the city. Consider a mini master plan to determine parking improvements, opportunities for accessibility, lighting and signage, and the costs for implementation of artificial turf field(s) or dome to provide field space in the fringe season or over the winter. See also Section 4.6, Indoor Park.

**Recommended next step:** *A study was undertaken in recent years to evaluate the potential of an activities complex and civic center at this park. Revisit the study to determine if it aligns with the community feedback requesting an indoor recreation facility and if additional study should be completed.*



## 4 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

A neighborhood park serves the recreational needs of residents within a specific neighborhood or local community. They are intended for short daily leisure periods and offer both active and passive recreational opportunities. These parks are typically smaller in size compared to community or regional parks and are strategically located to be easily accessible to nearby residents, encouraging frequent visits. They are mainly designed for children, families, and senior citizens. Neighborhood parks may include play areas but limited parking or restroom facilities.

### Neighborhood Parks in Hibbing

Fifteen (15) parks currently are classified as Neighborhood Parks. These parks provide neighborhood destinations in smaller park settings within walking distance of homes they serve. All of these parks generally have playground equipment, sport courts, multi-use natural turf athletic fields, and park benches, but some have outdoor lighting, hockey and skating rinks, or swimming features.

Hibbing's Neighborhood Parks include:

- Birchwood Park | 3.8 acres
- Brooklyn Park | 1.4 acres
- Bryan Lake Park\* | 33.8 acres
- Cobb Cook Park | 2.4 acres
- Greenhaven Park/Playground | 2.5 acres
- Highland Park\* | 4.2 acres
- Inner Greenhaven Park | 3.8 acres
- Kelly Lake Beach\* | 0.3 acres
- Kelly Lake Dock\* | 0.2 acres
- Kelly Lake Park | 4.2 acres
- Kitzville Park | 1.0 acres
- Leetonia Park | 2.9 acres
- Ryan Addition | 1.9 acres
- Veterans Park | 6.2 acres
- Wells Woodland Park (Townline) | 2.6 acres

### Key Characteristics

**1. Size and Location:** Neighborhood parks are generally smaller in size and are located within or near residential areas. They are designed to serve the recreational needs of residents living within walking distance or a short commute. The primary purpose of a neighborhood park is to provide a local gathering space and recreational opportunities for residents of the immediate neighborhood. The parks are designed for easy access by pedestrians and cyclists from nearby residences. They may have limited parking, primarily serving local visitors.

**2. Active and Passive Recreation:** These parks offer a mix of facilities and amenities to cater to both active and passive recreational activities. They may have playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas, walking paths, benches, and green spaces.

**3. Family-Friendly:** Neighborhood parks are family-friendly environments, providing amenities suitable for children, teenagers, and adults. The parks often include playground equipment for children to play and spaces for leisure activities, such as picnics, relaxing, and socializing.

**4. Community Events:** Neighborhood parks may host small-scale community events, such as picnics, gatherings, or local celebrations, fostering a sense of community among residents.





## Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

**Bryan Lake Park** – Bryan Lake Park functions in the same manner as Highland Park, as it currently serves almost exclusively nearby residents. The park does have some outside pragmatic uses; the exceptional hockey rink is a wintertime draw for many Hibbing residents east of Hwy 169. Overall, the park is in great condition and serves the local community well as a neighborhood park. There is also a large amount of opportunity within this park, as it encompasses over 33 acres of land and includes Bryan Lake at its core. This park has an opportunity to make minor adjustments in the amenities, such as trails and water access, and it could easily become a community park for the east side of Hibbing.

**Highland Park** – Highland Park functions as a neighborhood park, as it currently serves almost exclusively nearby residents. The park does have some outside programing; some sport teams use the unprogrammed lawn, but beyond soccer practice, the park's programmatic use is limited. Infrastructural additions to this park could provide the critical resources needed to move the park into a community park designation. Simple facility work to provide adequate practice facilities and amenities could allow for more structured and enjoyable programmed use within this park. Alternatively, the park could reduce traditional programmatic uses and focus more on incorporating the surrounding 59 acres of formerly city-owned public land as part of Highland Park becoming an integral regional park within the core of Hibbing. This alternative would focus more on the development of the natural resources and enhancing the ecological component of the park, as well as incorporating hiking and biking trails and focusing on resident's experience with nature.

**Kelly Lake** – Kelly Lake beach, dock and boat launch\* are all functioning as isolated neighborhood parks. Although they all are focused on a single large community feature, Kelly Lake, they are all isolated elements acting as separate park entities. All three individual parks should be incorporated into one neighborhood park. With additional planning, signage, and strategic amenities, these individual parks could work together to create a larger brand for the western side of Hibbing.

\* Kelly Lake Boat Launch is currently listed under the ownership of the Town of Stuntz, which was incorporated into the City of Hibbing in the 1970's. It would be beneficial to correct the existing property ownership as part of the enhancements.

**Recommended next steps:** Evaluate the Neighborhood Parks as part of a separate master plan process. The number of parks in this category makes maintenance challenging. Some have facilities that are in need of repair, replacement, or removal. The number of neighborhood parks is based on historic development, walking distance, and the parks were staffed. Based on contemporary uses of parks (increased use of community parks rather than neighborhood parks), it is likely that reduction of parks may still support the community. A mini-master plan for these parks should evaluate the distribution of parks and facilities, analysis of condition and safety, and accessibility to residents. Additional engagement with residents and volunteer groups will be necessary to help determine change of use or programming. See also "Open Space" category.

Please also note that Greenhaven Park may need more detailed analysis as to ownership due to its relationship to Greenhaven School. Mapping provided as part of this master plan makes some assumptions to define a park boundary while parcel data defines the entire block as Greenhaven School property. Agreements between the school and parks should be clarified in mapping.

## 5 POCKET PARK

Pocket parks are compact and intimate green spaces catering to the specific needs of local communities. These parks serve as cozy retreats within the City of Hibbing, offering a place for residents to unwind and connect with nature as well as developing a unique sense of character for the neighborhood. Despite their small size, pocket parks play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for nearby residents. With a focus on thoughtful landscaping, seating, and minimal amenities, pocket parks offer a space for relaxation, leisure, and community interaction. They may include features like benches, community gardens, art installations, and possibly small playgrounds. Pocket parks are strategically situated within or near neighborhoods, making them easily accessible for residents seeking a peaceful escape without having to travel far.

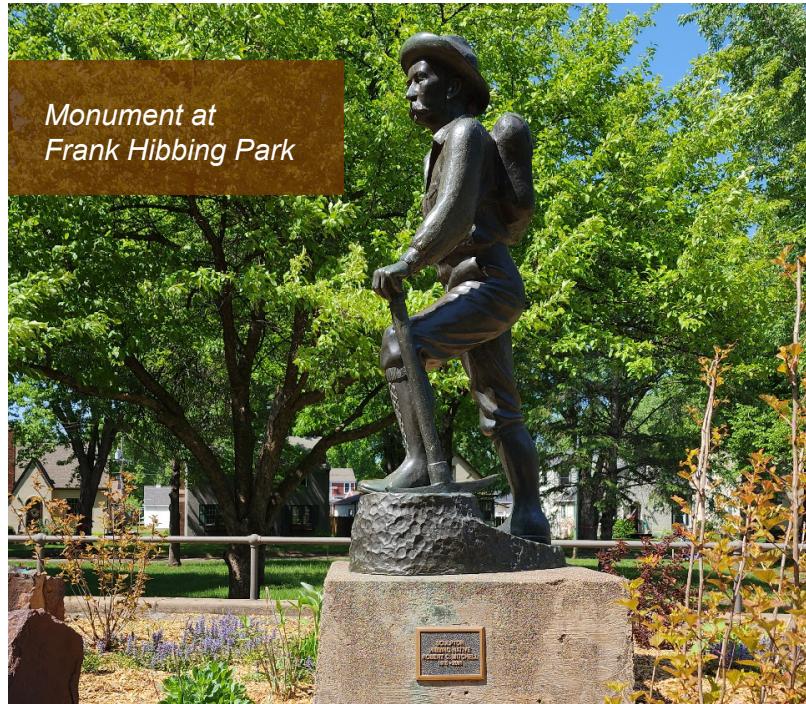
### Pocket Parks in Hibbing

Five (5) parks currently are classified as Pocket Parks. These parks provide small open space areas to provide social and small recreational gatherings for homes directly abutting the park. These parks have only a few amenities other than shade trees, seating, and historical and artistic monuments. Pocket Park areas include:

- 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Blvd | 0.4 acres
- Frank Hibbing Park | 1.3 acres
- Lebanon Park | 1.4 acres
- Mesaba Manor Park | 1.6 acres
- Sargent Park | 1.4 acres

### Key Characteristics

1. **Size and Location:** Pocket parks are intentionally small green spaces and are nestled within residential landscapes. Their placement within neighborhoods ensures that they provide a tranquil oasis without requiring extensive travel.
2. **Thoughtful Features:** These parks make the most of their limited space by incorporating carefully selected amenities such as seating areas, plantings, historical plaques, and possibly a small playground or sculpture. The focus is on creating a harmonious environment conducive to relaxation and contemplation.
3. **Community Engagement:** Pocket parks foster a sense of community by providing a space for neighbors to interact and socialize. Their cozy atmosphere encourages impromptu gatherings, fostering connections among residents.
4. **Local Identity:** These parks often reflect the unique character of the neighborhood through their design, landscaping, and any art or cultural elements present. This helps create a strong sense of place and pride among local residents.
5. **Green Respite:** Pocket parks offer a refreshing touch of greenery and open space. They provide a convenient spot for a short nature break, helping to reduce stress and promote well-being.



## 6 INDOOR PARK

Indoor parks, designed to bring the outdoors inside, offer a unique and climate-controlled recreational experience for communities. Serving as all-weather destinations, these indoor parks provide a haven for various activities and gatherings, regardless of external weather conditions. Hibbing's indoor parks include an ice and curling rink, and an indoor playground. Located within Hibbing's Memorial Building and the Public Library, indoor parks offer a refuge from extreme weather and a chance to engage in recreational pursuits year-round.

### Indoor Parks in Hibbing

Two (2) parks are currently classified as Indoor Parks. These parks service recreational needs of the Iron Range during adverse weather and long winters. They include surface parking lots. Indoor Park facilities currently include:

- Memorial Building | 5.5 acres
- Hibbing Public Library | 0.7 acres

### Key Characteristics

#### 1. Seasonal and Weather

**Accessibility:** Indoor parks allow individuals to enjoy outdoor-like experiences in a controlled environment. They ensure consistent availability, enabling the community to engage in physical activities and social interactions regardless of the season or weather.

**2. Fostering Community:** Indoor parks provide a novel approach to fostering community well-being by offering a versatile, weather-resistant space that encourages recreation, education, and connection throughout the year.



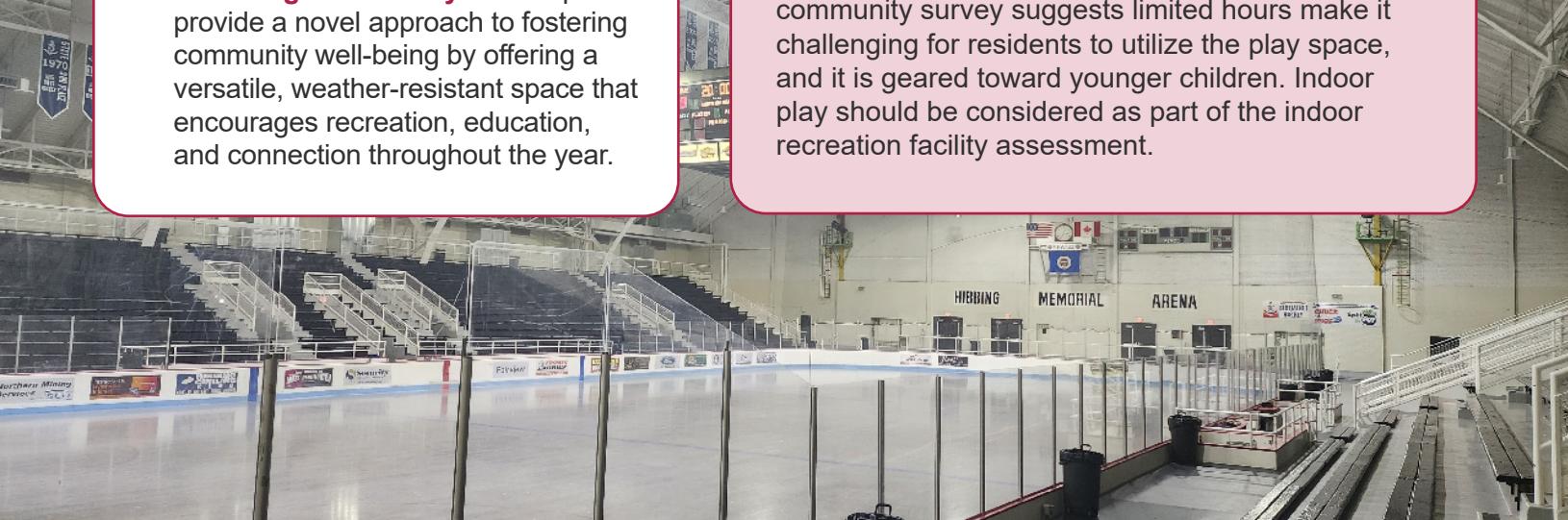
### Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

The strongest feedback from the community survey is interest in development of additional indoor recreation facilities. Much of the existing indoor space is programmed out and not available for public use. All swimming pools are owned and operated by the school district. Coordination with the school district is critical to programming development to improve clarity around signing up for programs, and which facilities may be open to the public.

Several studies have been completed, most recently in 2020, to evaluate the potential of expansion of the **Memorial Building** to provide an additional sheet of ice and multi-use courts. An alternative was also developed for creating a new Activities Complex at Vic Power Park that could create a new ice sheet, event space, multi-use courts, a walking track and fitness studios. Staff should compare the information provided during that study with the feedback gathered from the public here.

Providing an upgraded or new indoor facility will require trade offs in investment in other areas. The indoor facility feasibility should take place alongside the development of an asset management system to provide the city more information on deferred maintenance potential to financially support such a project. Additional considerations must be made for accessibility of indoor facilities outside of standard working hours, and implications of staffing these additional hours.

**Hibbing Public Library** – An indoor playground is housed within the library. Feedback in the community survey suggests limited hours make it challenging for residents to utilize the play space, and it is geared toward younger children. Indoor play should be considered as part of the indoor recreation facility assessment.



## 7 LINEAR PARK OR PARKWAY

A Linear Park or Parkway is generally found adjacent to main road corridors, connecting to bodies of water, or buffering natural features such as ponds or lakes. Parkways are typically situated adjacent to and complementing city streets and feature landscaped areas with turf, trees, monuments, flag displays, and natural landscapes. Linear Parks or Parkways are designed to provide recreational opportunities and green spaces along the course of a designated trail, parkway, or scenic corridor. The primary focus of these parks is to offer a continuous and uninterrupted outdoor experience and soften the hard surfaces of urban conditions, connecting different areas within a city or region while showcasing the beauty of the surrounding environment.

### Linear Parks or Parkways in Hibbing

One (1) park currently is classified as a Linear Park or Parkway in the City of Hibbing. 1st Avenue E provides a main transit corridor through Hibbing and the parkway exists within the widened road median. The parkway features area and feature lighting, the Early Finnish Pioneers' Memorial and memorial plaque, flag display, and boulevard tree plantings. Hibbing's Linear Parks or Parkways currently include:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue E Boulevard | 3.1 acres, 6.6 city blocks

### Key Characteristics

1. **Linear Design:** These parks have a linear layout, following the path of a trail, parkway, or corridor, which can be a road, riverbank, railway, or other natural features.
2. **Connectivity:** Linear Parks or Parkways aim to connect various neighborhoods, communities, or destinations within a city or region, making them accessible for recreational use, commuting, and enjoying nature.
3. **Scenic Views:** Linear Parks or Parkways offer scenic views of natural features, water bodies, landscapes, or urban landmarks, making them attractive for leisurely walks and enjoying the surroundings.
4. **Green Spaces:** These parks incorporate green spaces, landscaping, and natural elements, providing a sense of nature and tranquility amidst urban or developed areas.
5. **Accessibility:** Linear Parks or Parkways are designed for easy accessibility, with various entry points, parking facilities, and connections to public transportation.
6. **Community Connection:** These parks contribute to the community's sense of place and identity by serving as a shared space for recreation, socializing, and outdoor activities.
7. **Environmental Conservation:** Linear Parks or Parkways often include efforts to conserve and protect natural habitats, wildlife, and ecological resources along the linear path.

Parkway at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue E



### Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

Maintenance (primarily mowing and tree care) is required at linear parks. In order to support the goal of reducing maintenance across the parks system, consider reassigning this parkway into Public Works maintenance rather than Parks. Alternatively, consider converting turf into a lower maintenance intensive vegetation type, or art or cultural installations that could be supported by arts funding for maintenance.

## 8 OPEN SPACE

Open Space is a type of public park that does not fall into specific categories like neighborhood parks, community parks, or regional parks. These parks are typically undeveloped or minimally developed. They currently preserve open space and natural areas within an urban or suburban setting. This category includes undeveloped green spaces within neighborhoods or urban areas which may be used by residents but lack facilities.

### Open Space Parks in Hibbing

Two (2) parks currently are classified as Open Space. These parks provide small open space areas to provide social and small recreational gatherings for homes directly abutting the park. These parks have few improvements other than shade trees and occasional playground equipment and monuments.

- Mesaba Addition | 4.9 acres
- 39<sup>th</sup> Street | 2.3 acres

### Key Characteristics

1. **Undefined Purpose:** Unlike traditional parks with designated purposes, unclassified open space parks do not have specific recreational amenities or facilities. They are often left in a natural state to serve as open green spaces.
2. **Natural Features:** These parks may feature natural elements such as grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, meadows, or other undeveloped landscapes. They may currently hold ecological value and support local biodiversity. Unclassified open space parks may also offer environmental benefits, including stormwater management, air purification, and wildlife habitat support.
3. **Limited or No Facilities:** While unclassified open space parks may allow passive recreational activities like hiking and birdwatching, they do not have basic amenities, such as publicly maintained paths or trails to support any programmed activities.
4. **Flexibility in Use:** The lack of specific classifications allows these parks to be adaptable to changes in the community. While these parks may be undeveloped or minimally developed at present, they may be considered for further development, preservation, or enhancement in the future based on community needs and priorities.



### Park Classification Considerations and Opportunities

**Mesaba Addition** – This is an undeveloped 5-acre parcel of land. It has no facilities and access is not clear. In an effort to reduce maintenance and number of parks in the system, the City should consider redevelopment of this parcel. It may also be possible to scale down to a neighborhood or pocket park scale in order to provide some programming. Engagement with residents will be needed to consider alternatives to this space.

**39<sup>th</sup> Street** – 39<sup>th</sup> street park was at one point a functioning neighborhood park. It is clear that there was off-street parking and developed features such as a basketball court incorporated as part of the park. It is no longer functioning as a neighborhood park as the entrance is gated off and access to park amenities, such as the basketball court, is greatly limited. Although the space is loved by adjacent landowners, it is currently undefined in use and no longer functioning as a public amenity. To ensure public safety, removal of basketball courts and pavement is recommended, and all maintenance should be ended. If it is noted by the community that investment should be added to 39th street park, it should be made more accessible to the larger community. The city may also want to consider subdividing the property to sell to adjacent property owners and/or reduce the overall size of the park.

# Service Level Designations

With the high amount of park acreage currently being maintained by City Services, it will be important to develop different tiers of maintenance based on the type and use of various parks. This involves the classification of parks into four tiers with the top level being parks that are heavily utilized, have a high expectation for maintenance (athletic fields, City Hall, Memorial Building, etc.), down to the “open space” classification that has minimal levels of maintenance and is left largely natural. Once these classifications are in place, specific maintenance tasks are developed for each level and staffing is linked to the plan based on full time employee (FTE) per acre. This often ranges from 1 FTE per 10 acres for the high maintenance classification down to 1 FTE per 75–100 acres for the open space classification. It should also be noted that different areas of the same park could be in different classifications.

Presence of facilities is important to maintenance requirements. Any park with a facility should be inspected on a weekly basis, with shrub and tree pruning completed bi-annually, to keep the park safe and minimally serviceable to the community. It should also be noted that a number of park assets in Hibbing are being maintained by volunteers and specific interest groups. Service levels noted here are based on mowing frequency, litter control, safety inspections, and tree care, and have not included specific needs of special facilities.

Example service level designations have been proposed below. City staff should evaluate the level of service suggested for each park and determine if adjustments should be made to adequately represent the requirements of the maintenance required or feasible to provide.

## **Level A**

A high level of maintenance associated with well-developed park areas with high visitation rates. Turf is cut once per week, free from weeds and cut to a precise level. Turf fertilizing is completed three (3) times annually. Facilities maintenance and litter control is performed daily Monday–Friday. Hardscape maintenance is swept once per week. Mowing frequencies 5–7 days, shrub and tree pruning are completed bi-annually, turf fertilizing is completed three (3) times annually, and playgrounds are serviced weekly and inspected monthly. Requires one parks maintenance worker per 8–12 acres.

## **Level B**

A lower expected service level for fully developed parks or a moderate level of maintenance associated with park locations of large size, of average development, and/or visitation. Maintenance is accomplished, usually with longer service intervals, to keep the park safe and minimally serviceable to the community. Mowing frequency every 7–14 days, shrub & tree pruning annually, turf fertilization bi-annually, litter control 1–2 time per week, facilities maintenance performed one (1) time a week, playgrounds are serviced weekly and inspected monthly. This level requires one parks maintenance worker per 12–18 park acres.

## **Level C**

A minimal service level to parklands or open spaces with no facilities with the intent to maintain safe grounds and a “natural” ambiance. Generally, inspection services and litter control are conducted on a weekly basis. Mowing frequencies every 14–21 days, shrub & tree pruning annually, and fertilization annually. Usually, such services require one park maintenance worker every 50–75 acres.

## **Level D**

A minimal service level to parklands or open spaces with no facilities with the intent to maintain safe grounds and a “natural” ambiance. Generally, inspection services and litter control are conducted, but on an infrequent basis. Usually, such services and litter control are conducted as “fill-in” work by staff but otherwise one park maintenance worker can cover several hundred acres.

**Table 4.3** Full Time Employees (FTE) needed in order to meet maintenance needs of the City of Hibbing Parks based on these designations

PARK TYPE	TOTAL ACREAGE BASED ON PARK TYPE *	PRELIMINARY SERVICE LEVEL DESIGNATION	STAFFING NEEDS (FTE)
Historic/Cultural Park	216.1	A	18
Regional Park	1,356.4	B	75
Community Park	224.5	A	19
Neighborhood Park	71.2	B	4
Pocket Park	6.1	C	0.1
Linear Park/Parkway	3.1	C	0.04
Open Space	7.3	D	0

- **Indoor parks** should be tracked separately for actual time designated for the park assets.

\* Total parkland acreage; actual acreage maintained currently should be tracked to assign more accurately.



### Service Level Considerations and Opportunities

Using these preliminary designations and assigning the total acres of parkland in the City of Hibbing, over 100 staff would be required to maintain the parks system (note that these were the historical staffing levels in the 1960s). As this level of staffing is infeasible, city staff should consider other options (see implementation plan).

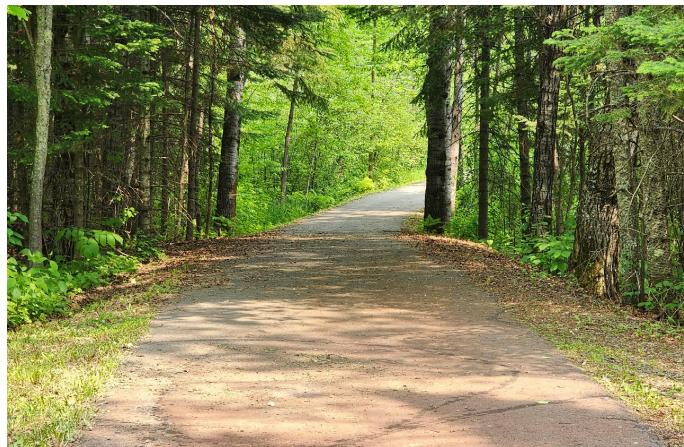
1. Partnership with local volunteer and interest groups, school district, and enthusiastic residents is critical to the upkeep of the parks system. A detailed analysis of the services these groups provide currently would be helpful to analyze how many hours of maintenance could be reassigned.
2. Consider reassigning parks to a different level, redevelopment, or reallocating outside of the parks system (Example: 1st Avenue Boulevard could be removed from a “Parks” designation and become part of “Streets”).
3. In the table above, total parkland acreage was included. City staff should evaluate the true acreage maintained. As an example, Carey Lake is over 1,200 acres, but perhaps only 30% of this should be maintained at the “Regional Park” level and 70% should be designated “Open Space”.

# Trail Inventory and Condition Assessment

Hibbing has a variety of trails within the park system, some of which are operated and maintained by the City and others which are operated and maintained by other entities.

## Carey Lake bike trail

This is a 4.25-mile long, paved trail which is popular for bicycling, running, walking and dog-walking. The trail runs parallel to DuPont road from the Minnesota North College Hibbing dormitory to the beach at Carey Lake. This trail was repaved in 2019. The Hibbing High School Environmental Club has adopted this trail to assist with maintenance; however, most of the mowing, sweeping, tree-trimming and other maintenance activities are performed by City staff. Portions of this trail are prone to flooding during high water events (i.e. spring melt, major storms) as well as being covered with sand and gravel following rain storms.



## Mesabi Trail

A 15.8-mile portion of the paved Mesabi Trail runs east-west through the northern part of Hibbing, as well as the Leetonia, Kerr and Kelly Lake locations. Overall, the Mesabi Trail is a regionally-designated destination trail system that runs 162 miles from Grand Rapids to Ely with connections to 28 different communities. This is one of the longest continuous paved trails in Minnesota and United States and it regularly attracts riders from across the region to participate in events (e.g. the Annual Mesabi Trail Tour, the Tomassoni Tour for ALS, the MS 150 bike ride) as well as well as individual touring. Locally, the trail is popular for bicycling, running, walking, dog-walking, in-line skating, longboarding



and rollerskiing. The trail is owned and maintained by the St. Louis and Lake County Rail Authority; however, the City of Hibbing is a cooperator in maintaining the portion of the trail within the city limits. In general, this trail is well-designed and well-maintained; however, the portions of the trail through Hibbing have not been resurfaced for more than 20 years and are beginning to show cracking that affects users with narrow tires (road cyclists, in-line skaters, longboarders and roller skiers). Additionally, non-authorized ATV traffic on and near the trail regularly creates sand and gravel spray onto the trail that needs to be removed by sweeping.

## Carey Lake ski trails

The City owns and maintains 13 miles of Nordic ski trails that traverse nearly the entire footprint of the Carey Lake Park. The trails include both dedicated classical and skate skiing trails and include one of the only lighted ski loops in the region (the Black Forest Loop). Fundraising, pre-season inspection and clearing and events are often hosted by the non-profit Range Nordic Gliders and their high school team Hibbing Nordic. Range Nordic Gliders and the City cooperated to co-fund the cash match for a DNR grant that was used to supply a new snowmobile-based ski groomer in 2019. In general, maintenance of the trails is very good; however, the Nordic ski club has recommended some possible improvements related to trail widening, drainage improvements, improved grooming techniques and controls to

keeping walkers off the groomed trails in the winter. While these trails are sometimes used during the summer months, hiking or biking options are limited because the trails are not mowed and run through seasonally wet areas (creeks and wetlands that are frozen and passable in the winter months).

### **Carey Lake snowshoe and fat-tire biking trails**

In recent years, the City has groomed 1.9-miles of dedicated trails for snowshoeing and fat biking. These trails provide a nice option to divert non-skier use from the Nordic ski trails, but they are yet regularly groomed or completely successful in keeping hikers, snowshoers and fat bikers off the dedicated ski trails.

### **Maple Hill trails**

Nearly all of Maple Hill Park 160 acres are traversed by 6 miles of single-track, natural surface mountain biking trails built and maintained by the non-profit Iron Range Off-road Cyclists. These trails are also available for hiking in the summer and snowshoeing and fat tire biking in the winter (though they are not groomed). There are beginner, intermediate and advanced sections to these trails. In addition, the park features 2.5 miles of unofficial double-tracked trails that are used by ATVs, hikers, and others. Donated benches are present throughout the park, as well as a plot of reintroduced white pines that were planted by community volunteers.



### **Grant-in-Aid ATV trails**

Hibbing's first official ATV trails have been dedicated in the last few years. The Chisholm-Hibbing ATV trail enters the City from the northeast via a dedicated route before it merges onto county roads. And, the Hibbing-Alborn trail utilizes county roads inside the main portion of the City and then exits the City to

the southwest via a dedicated trail. Both of these trails are supported by DNR-administered Grant-in-Aid funding with maintenance provided by Northern Traxx ATV club and the Red Rock Riders ATV club.

### **Grant-in-Aid snowmobile trail**

Hibbing hosts a well-developed and utilized snowmobile trail that runs through the City. This trail is supported by DNR-administered Grant-in-Aid funding with maintenance provided by the Pathfinders Snowmobile Club.

### **Highland Park trails**

Though not official, Highland Park is criss-crossed with citizen-made trails that support mixed use by hikers, mountain bikers, ATV rider, snowmobilers, Nordic skiers and snowshoers. Its central location in the City makes this a popular destination for children and families to enjoy trails that are close to home. The City recently acquired the large tracts of formerly private, vacant land underlying these trails, providing an opportunity to legitimize and improve them in conjunction with the planned "Hills" housing development.



### **Cross Country Skiing at Golf Course**

During the season, cross country skiing is available at the Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, maintained by residents and suited for casual skiers and families.

## Section 5

# Organizational Assessments

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## Recreational Programming Assessment

The parks department is housed within Hibbing City Services.

*The mission of the Hibbing Community Services Department is to enhance the quality of life of our citizens through parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle for all.*

To support City Services recreation programs and community-based general recreation, the city has a number of parks and recreation facilities as described in Section 4. Recreation programs and services are a mix of city programs as well as those offered by other providers. Many facilities are owned by the city or school district, and most programming is the responsibility of other organizations in the area.

City Services focuses its recreation programming in the following areas:

- **Special events** that have a strong community focus, including Hibbing Jubilee, Mines and Pines Festival, and special events around holidays.
- **Drop-in recreation opportunities** for youth and adults that take place in city facilities.

The Hibbing Community School District's Community Education Department is a major public provider of recreation programs, services, and facilities management within the city. In addition to Community Education programs, the school district also has a large number of facilities that could be used for sports and recreation.

Community organizations, non-profits, and volunteer-led groups provide a significant number of programming services within the city, most connected to a specific park facility. These self-organized entities are critical to the function of programming within the parks system and are often driven by motivated residents.



A full assessment of recreation programming is attached in Appendix D. In summary:

- City Services conducts only a relatively small number of recreation programs, and these are primarily special events and self-directed activities.
- The school district's Community Education department is a major provider of recreation programming in Hibbing. This includes an emphasis on youth sports, aquatics, preschool and early childhood education, extended learning, general interest, adult professional development, and self-directed activities.
- Other organizations in Hibbing and surrounding communities provide recreation programs and services focusing on youth sports, outdoor recreation, and self-directed activities.
- When all the recreation programs, including those offered by City Services, Community Education, and other providers are considered, there are only two major program areas that are not being covered: teens and social services. However, the quantity of programs in many categories is not strong.
- The city and the school district have a significant number of indoor and outdoor facilities that are able to support a wide range of recreation programs. This is augmented by other recreation amenities in neighboring communities.
- While the city has the Memorial Building for indoor recreation, its services are primarily ice-related and there is not a true community center available for Hibbing residents.
- City Services does not have the benefit of a program plan to guide the delivery of services by the city and other organizations to ensure that the needs of the community are being met in all program areas. There is also no formal agreement in place between City Services and Community Education that determines the specific recreation programming responsibilities of the two agencies.
- City Services has limited existing program metrics to measure the effectiveness of current recreation services.
- The community survey indicated a low level of satisfaction with recreation programs (51% gave it a low mark) and recreation facilities (50% gave them a low mark).



# Parks Facilities Assessment

Much of the work within this master plan provides the city with baseline inventory data to allow for further analysis as it relates to the operations and staffing of the department. As such, additional engagement should occur as individual parks are explored for improvements. This section is very high level and should be evaluated by considering the full community survey results (see Appendix B).

It is important to realize that the ability to deliver a wide range of recreation programs and services is impacted by the parks and recreation facilities that are available. The city will need to continue to recognize that it will be the primary provider of parks and facilities not only for the community as a whole, but also for community organizations as well.

The public engagement process indicated that the priorities for parks and recreation amenities that can support recreational activities are:

**Outdoor:**

- Swimming pools
- Places to rock climb
- Camping areas
- Swim beaches

**Indoor:**

- Indoor playgrounds
- Swimming pools
- Climbing wall
- Multi-use courts



# Staffing Assessment

The city and the City Services Department have an on-going commitment to parks and recreation operations and maintenance. This is reflected in a number of areas. The full assessment is provided in Appendix D.

Staffing within the City Services Department is divided into 3 primary areas (based on 2023). These include 14 full-time positions, 4 seasonal (April through September) and 14 summer staff (May through mid-August).

This is a relatively low level of staffing for current operations of parks and other facilities but a relatively high level of commitment to the Memorial Building.

**Administration** – There is 1 full-time staff in administration.

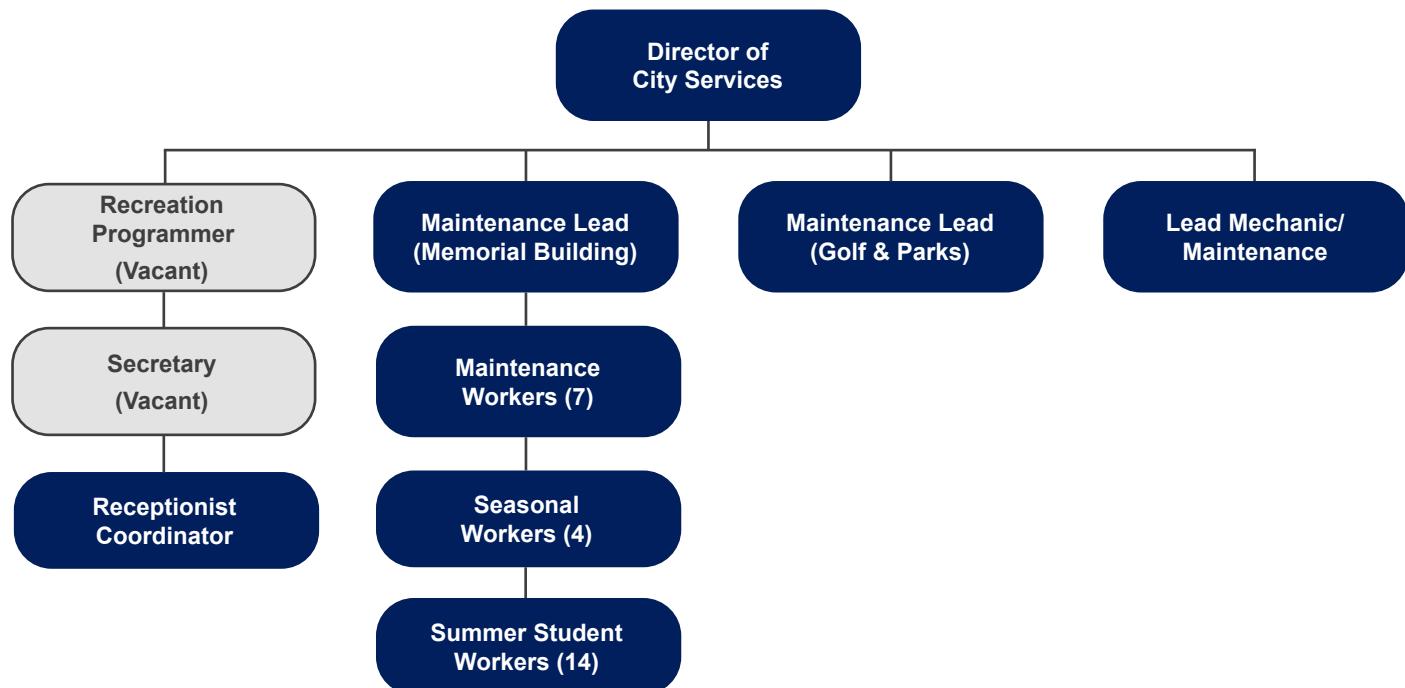
**Parks Facilities Maintenance** – Responsible for the maintenance of all parks and facilities including the Memorial Building, golf course, city hall and the library. There are 10 full-time staff, 4 seasonal and 14 summer staff.

**Recreation Operations** – Responsible for the operation of facilities as well as coordinating the programming that takes place there. There are 3 full-time staff and a number of part-time staff.

## Other staffing considerations

- Parks, athletic fields, and golf course maintenance full-time staff are augmented by a sizable seasonal and summer student work force.
- The Memorial Building and Parks & Recreation used to be separate departments but were combined to create City Services several years ago.
- It is difficult to rely on volunteers for ongoing upkeep and maintenance because their ability to commit time varies with their availability.
- City Services currently contracts with an individual to assist with special events at least until a new Recreation Programmer is hired.
- There are limited on-going staff training opportunities.

**Figure 5.1** Current Hibbing Parks and Recreation Staff



# Maintenance Assessment

The maintenance of parks and recreation facilities is currently at only an adequate level and the city needs to commit to expanding this level of service in the future. The public has asked for increased maintenance. Section 4 suggests potential definitions for parks and trails to assign maintenance per park type.

- The general level of maintenance of all parks, the golf course, and facilities is only adequate and needs to increase to meet community demands and expectations.
- City Services maintains approximately 1,890 acres of parks, the golf course, and facilities spread throughout the community. This includes a wide range of parks from highly developed to large open space areas. This is a ratio of 118 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is very high when compared to other parks and recreation agencies nationally, where the rate is 10.8 acres per 1,000 residents.
- There is not a method to account for the costs of maintaining individual parks or the golf course. Keeping track of time and cost of maintenance for each park is considered a best practice for parks and recreation agencies.
- Most all park maintenance tasks are done in-house. The department does contract out weed spraying and the use of portable toilets.
- City Services does not have a computerized maintenance management system. Having a maintenance management system in place for parks, the golf course, and facilities that would serve as a work order system and an accounting of maintenance by task and amenity would be helpful. Also adding an asset management plan would establish a lifecycle cost assessment for key amenities and assets.
- There is also no formal maintenance plan in place for parks or facilities as a whole or for individual locations.
- All playgrounds in the city should be on a replacement schedule that ensures that there is a system in place for keeping playgrounds safe and usable.





# Operations Assessment

The following is a summary of the operations of the City Services Department.

- The City Services Department has an organizational structure that is centered around three primary areas, but most of the staffing resources are dedicated to parks and facilities maintenance. There is a very small administrative and recreation operations staff.
- The Department has a significant full-time staff, but parks maintenance, due to its seasonal nature, has part-time staff as well.
- The staffing plan could use updates to job descriptions, the development of a staff manual, and the establishment of a succession plan.
- The overall level of maintenance is only adequate with most functions being conducted in-house with a few tasks contracted to outside providers.
- There is a strong need for a comprehensive maintenance plan as well as a maintenance management system.
- The Department has numerous budget accounts, but personnel costs are located in one separate budget which makes it difficult to have true cost center accounting.
- The Department needs to establish a fee policy to guide fee setting for programs, facility use, and rentals. This should be the basis for a comprehensive cost recovery plan.

- There is a need for an asset management system.
- There are limited operational policies and procedures to ensure a uniform and consistent approach to providing programs and facilities.
- The City Services Department does have a strong mission statement.
- There are agreements in place for organizations that utilize city facilities and provide programs and services for the community.
- There are management agreements for the golf course, Mine View, and concessions at Memorial Arena.
- There is an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the city and school district for use of their facilities, but it would be beneficial to have an agreement between City Services and Community Education regarding specific recreation programming roles.
- Key performance indicators need to be established for all aspects of the City Services Department's operation.
- There is little integration of technology for management purposes.
- There is no coordinated marketing of recreation opportunities to the community.

# Funding Assessment

Funding the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and services remains a challenge for many cities across the country. In the last 10 years there has been less reliance on the general fund of most cities as the primary funding source.

## Current Funding

The city of Hibbing relies on the following sources to fund current parks and recreation services and capital projects.

**Table 5.1 Parks and Recreation Funding Sources for 2023 (Recommended Budget)**

FINANCING SOURCE	USE	AMOUNT
<i>Operations and Maintenance</i>		
General Fund	General Operations	\$2,211,033
Fees & Charges (Earned Income)	General Operations	\$281,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,492,533</b>
<i>Capital</i>		
City Fund Transfers	Carey Lake/Mineview	\$990,000
Grants and Donations	Pickleball Courts	\$357,000
State Bonds	Mineview Development	\$1,300,000
City Bonds	Capital Projects	\$462,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,109,000</b>

- Approximately 13% of the City Services operations and maintenance budget is covered by fees and charges generated through programs and services, compared to 22% nationally..
- There is a strong reliance on the city's general fund for operations and maintenance funding with 87% of the total coming from this source, compared to 61% nationally..
- Capital expenses are funded in part through state bonds, city bonds and grants, and donations.
- Citywide funds are a major funder of capital, but the city is also making use of state funding and grants, and donations.
- The survey that was administered as part of the master plan process indicated that the community strongly supported the following funding mechanisms:
  - Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities.
  - Creation of a Parks Foundation.

## National Funding Trends

The following are some basic national funding trends.

- There is a concerted effort to lower reliance on city general funds for operations and maintenance. The current level of funding nationally, according to the 2023 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review study, is 61% of operating expenditures being derived from the general fund.
  - There has been an increased reliance on earned income to offset the cost of operation of parks and recreation. According to NRPA, in 2023, an average of 22% of operational costs were offset through fees and charges.
- Rather than relying on allocations from a city's general fund, agencies have increasingly been turning to establishing dedicated tax funding sources for not only ongoing parks and recreation operations, but also for capital projects.
  - Capital funding has also become more diversified with an effort to not only utilize local tax dollars, but also broader funding through the state and federal government, as well as fundraising and grant funding for larger projects.



# Funding Options

To diversify funding for parks and recreation operations and capital projects, other forms of funding have to be identified. The following are some options that Hibbing may want to consider moving forward.

## LOCAL TAXING SOURCES

Beyond the allocation of funds from the city's general fund for ongoing programs, maintenance, or the passage of bond issues for capital projects, there are other taxing sources available.

- **Capital Improvement Fund** – Establishing a dedicated funding source for capital projects from either a percentage of existing tax revenues or through a tax increase established for that specific purpose.
- **Certificates of Participation (COP)** – A form of lease-purchase, COPs are issued for debt periods similar to normal bonds but the amenity itself serves as the collateral. This funding mechanism does not usually require voter approval.
- **Dedicated Tax** – This has become much more prominent in last 15-20 years. Voters approve a dedicated parks and recreation property tax millage to fund on-going operations and maintenance as well as capital improvements. This can be supported by property or sales tax.
- **Special Purpose Levy** – A property or sales tax levy that is for a specific purpose (community center, large park, event center, etc.). These levies are often for a limited time period.
- **Park Dedication Fee** – For new housing, developers must either pay a per unit fee and/or dedicate so much property for future park development. Most larger communities now have this as part of their development fee.
- **Real Estate Transfer Fees** – This is funding through the sale and transfer of real estate, where a small percentage goes to a tax that can support parks and recreation.

- **Transient Lodging Tax** – This is a tax on hotel and motel rooms where a percentage tax is collected on each room night sold. This often funds parks and recreation amenities that attract visitors (sports complexes, ice rinks, etc.).
- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)** – TIF funding is utilized for redevelopment of areas by dedicating future tax dollars to improvement projects. This funding has been utilized for some larger capital projects such as a recreation center or events center.
- **Business Improvement District (BID)** – A BID is a defined area in a city that collects a fee from businesses for improvements. These are usually in larger downtown areas.
- **User Fees** – Increasingly cities are asking users to pay a higher percentage of maintenance and programs through the fees that are charged for these services. This requires a strong fee for service philosophy and solid fee policies. This can also include sponsorships, permit fees for vendors, cell tower leases, concessions agreements, and other fees.
- **Amenity Development** – Some cities target recreation amenity development that is usually done through a partnership with a private or non-profit agency to build and operate amenities such as a wedding/event center. These are amenities that have the ability to generate a strong positive cash flow and are used to help fund other aspects of operation.

## STATE AND NATIONAL TAX SOURCES

Many states have tax funding that is available through grant programs and other sources for certain programs and facilities.

Some of the **STATE** funding sources include:

- **Outdoor Recreation Grant Program** – Utilized to increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks **throughout the state.**
- **Parks & Trails Legacy Grant Program** – Funds parks and trails of regional significance.
- **Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board** – Can fund projects that support arts, culture, history, tourism, and recreational activities, enhance the quality of life in the region and attract visitors.

Some of the **NATIONAL** funding mechanisms include:

- **Land Water Conservation Fund** – The LWCF funds a variety of outdoor parks and amenities through their grant process.
- **Community Development Block Grant** – CDBG funds can also be utilized to develop and maintain parks and recreation amenities and provide services in lower income areas of a community.

There are other federal sources including the National Recreational Trails Program and Design Arts Program to name a few.



## NON-TAX SOURCES

Many communities now try to expand capital and operations funding with other non-tax sources. A few are noted below.

- **Parks Foundation** – Many cities have established a parks and recreation foundation, 501(C)3, to provide a way for individuals and corporations to provide donations to fund parks and recreation facilities and programs. This also increases eligibility for certain grants. Often the city council will serve as the actual board, or they appoint others to the board.
- **Grants** – There are a wide variety of grants from foundations and corporations that can fund certain aspects of a facility's development or specialized programs. These often require the services of a contract grant writer.
- **Fundraising** – A possible source of capital funding can come from a comprehensive fundraising campaign. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals and social service organizations can be targeted. To maximize this form of funding a private fundraising consultant may be necessary.
- **Naming Rights and Sponsorships** – Although not nearly as lucrative as for large stadiums and other similar facilities, the sale of naming rights and long-term sponsorships could be a source of some capital funding as well. It is often necessary to hire a specialist in selling naming rights and sponsorships if this revenue source is to be maximized to its fullest potential. No lifetime naming rights should be sold, only 20-year maximum rights should be possible. Determining the level of financial contribution necessary to gain a naming right is crucial.
- **Endowment Fund** – This form of operational funding is relatively rare as it requires a large fund balance to establish an annual operational endowment level of any magnitude.

## OTHER SOURCES

- **Partnerships** – This funding source can be leveraged by partnering with a variety of organizations to manage facilities and provide programs and other services. This requires a strong partnership agreement to be in place.
- **Sponsorships** – There has been a really strong effort nationally to establish comprehensive sponsorship programs for recreation facilities, programs, and services. This has been particularly beneficial for special events and for senior activities. This has required the development of a detailed sponsorship program to be effective.
- **Ground Lease of Property** – In communities where it has been difficult to fund new parks and recreation facilities, cities have issued low fee ground leases to private and non-profit organizations to build and operate facilities that will benefit the recreation needs of residents. This has included a number of specialty facilities.

## Section 6

# Implementation Plan

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The Action Items in this implementation plan were derived from common themes that emerged from the Demographic and Recreational Trend Assessment (Section 2), the Community Engagement processes (Section 3), the physical assessment and categorization of the City's parks and trails (Section 4) and the assessment of the City's Parks and Recreation organization (Section 5). Action items are enumerated below, but it is assumed that prioritization of the action items will be performed by City staff.

For the tables within this section, **prioritization** is defined as follows:

Priority A – Feasible to address within 2-year timeframe. Background information already available or study already underway. Also includes those items that are critical to informing future action items.

Priority B – Some additional study or evaluation necessary in order to move forward. Additional outreach may be required. May be initiated within 2-year timeframe but should be completed within a 2-5- year period from date of study. Re-evaluate for prioritization after "A" items have been completed.

Priority C – Longer timeframe anticipated. To be completed within 10 years (by 2034). Additional study or evaluation is needed. Additional outreach is required. Reevaluate after A and B items are underway or completed.

**Project type** is defined by the expertise anticipated to implement the Action Item as follows:

A/E Design – Consulting on design with an architect/engineer

Consulting – Specialty consulting outside of A/E

City Staff – City staff to complete. These projects may require City Council consideration or workshopping.

Maintenance Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on parks maintenance.

Communications Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on communications or community engagement.

**Cost Notes:** Time and cost estimates are general and conservative and could vary based on how and when the task is completed. Actual cost estimates are based on 2023 costs.

## 1. PARKS & FACILITIES ACTION ITEMS

The groundwork laid through this Master Plan and the parks inventory will allow the City to begin to evaluate improvements to trail connectivity, specific assets in individual parks, and distribution of services throughout the system. Below are action items for the City to consider related to physical improvements and management of the parks and their associated facilities.

1. PARKS & FACILITIES ACTION ITEMS			
Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	A/E Design	\$200k	Complete 2023-24 Carey Lake design and fundraising efforts. Evaluate actual maintenance required for proposed improvements, how that aligns with Table 4.3.
A	A/E Design + Construction	\$2.4M	Complete Hull Rust Mine View 2023-24 phases, with considerations from this master plan for future phases of work and connectivity with the larger parks system.
A	A/E Design	\$100k-\$150k	Initiate a feasibility study for an indoor community center that confirms the desired amenities, determines a possible site, possible project partners, capital costs to build, operational costs and revenues, and the development of a funding plan. Prioritized as "A" item but may require additional time beyond 2-year initial study period.
A	City Staff	Staff Time 40-80 hrs	Implement temporary trail connections by relocating existing bike trail signage and painting bike lanes on select streets. (see Potential Bike Trail map). Consider requesting bicycling, running and walking user data from fitness tracking companies (e.g., Strava provides free data to city transportation managers), implementing trail counts in order to document usership and gathering feedback on the location of more permanent solutions.
A	City Staff	Staff Time 25-35 hrs	Establish clear priorities of use for the Memorial Building by time of day, day of week, and season to ensure that the spaces are being used to their full potential and meeting the goals of the amenities and programs. Priorities should include school district use, drop-in use, programs, and rentals.
B	City Staff/ Consulting	Staff Time 400-500 hrs. over 2 yrs Could Contract \$100k-\$150k	Insert all asset data compiled as part of this Master Plan into Asset Management System. Complete full park-by-park analysis of the condition data and expand with other assets the system owns and maintains (benches, garbage cans, etc.).
B	A/E Design	\$50k-\$150k	Initiate mini-Master Plan process for 15-neighborhood parks, including engagement process to gather input from residents. Cross reference with study on actual maintenance activities required per park and Service Level Designations (Section 4) to determine feasibility of reduction in maintenance, reduction of number of parks, or reassignment of park types.
B	City Staff/ Consulting	Staff Time 100-150 hrs Could Contract \$30k-\$50k	Develop Operations Plans for the Memorial Building and the golf course. Include safety and security concerns and an emergency action plan (EAP).
B	Consulting	\$30k-\$50k	Complete an athletic field capacity analysis to determine the accepted level-of-use for existing fields. Establish an annual hourly level-of-use ceiling for fields to minimize turf damage and keep fields usable.
C	A/E Design	\$125k	Initiate a natural resources inventory to overlay with park plans, determine quality of natural resources in the park system and use this information to inform maintenance prioritization and service levels of natural areas.
Ongoing	Communications Staff	N/A	Perform site-specific engagement when the city plans to make park improvements or reassignment of park categories. Use the results of that engagement to inform those improvements (e.g., develop mini-Master Plans for each park or category of park that is being improved or reassigned)
Ongoing	Maintenance Staff	On-going Staff Time 10-20 Hrs./Wk.	Inspect all parks and facilities for safety at least every two weeks.

## Trail Connections

Both the demographic and recreational trend assessment and the community engagement processes suggest that trails are important (especially for walking, hiking, cycling, ATV riding and cross-country skiing). Past actions by the City and its partner organizations have created a foundation of anchor points for trails; however, the overall trail experience could be improved by developing greater connectivity between key trail systems for a variety of users. Barr developed trail connectivity maps (see the following pages) for both non-motorized users (bikers, walkers and hikers) and ATVs based on the following principles.

### Biking Trail Guiding Principles

1. Connect to major parks that are either:
  - Biking destinations (Maple Hill, Carey Lake)
  - Locations where children or families might want to ride to bicycle (Vic Power, Bennett Park)
  - Scenic overlooks (Mine View)
2. Safe routes to school
3. Access to main commercial corridors (which provides residents the opportunity for inexpensive transportation in a healthy and emission-free manner that may also help alleviate parking congestion)
4. Connect to major regional trail systems
5. Avoid heavily trafficked roads

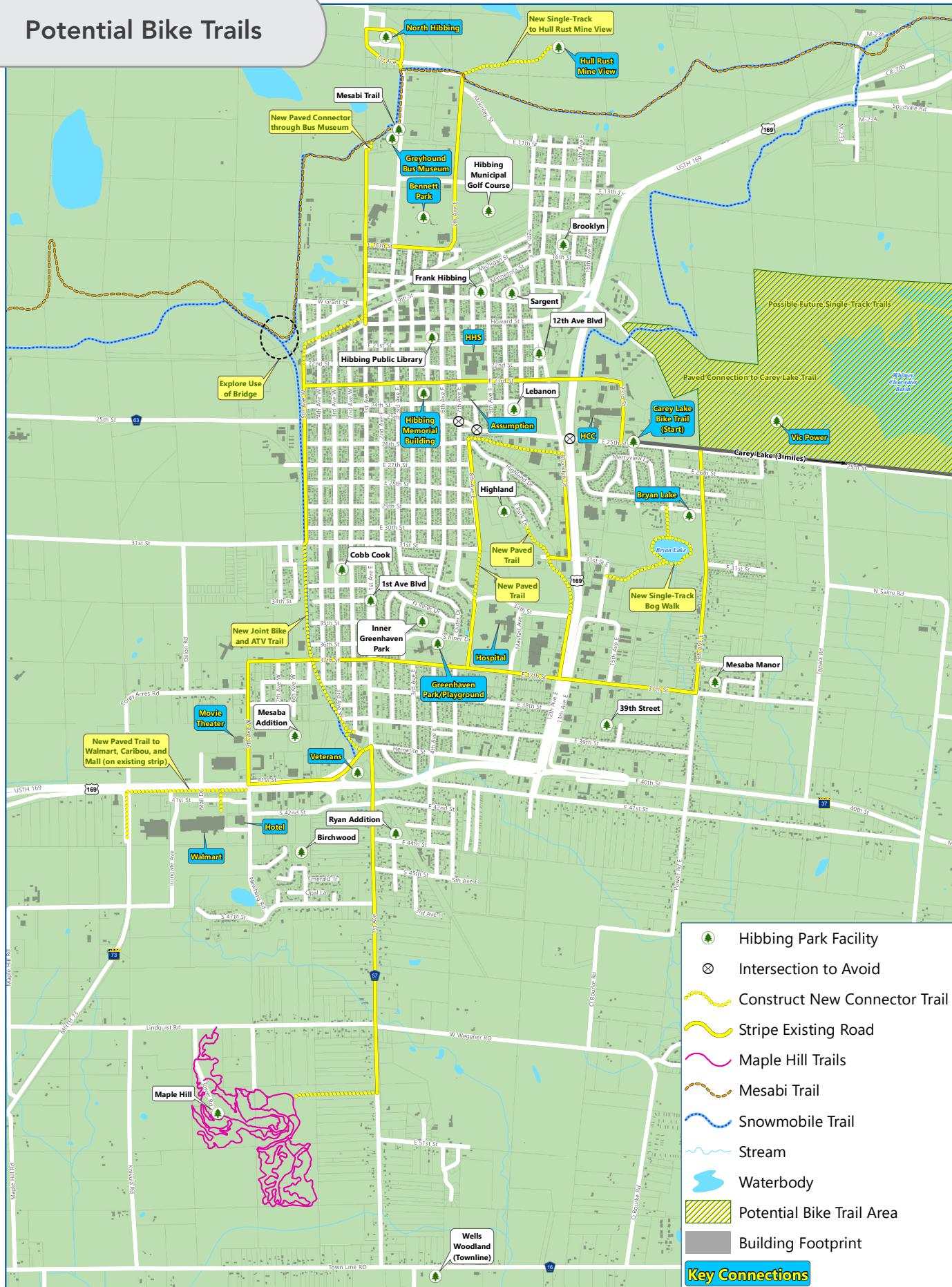
### ATV Trail Guiding Principles

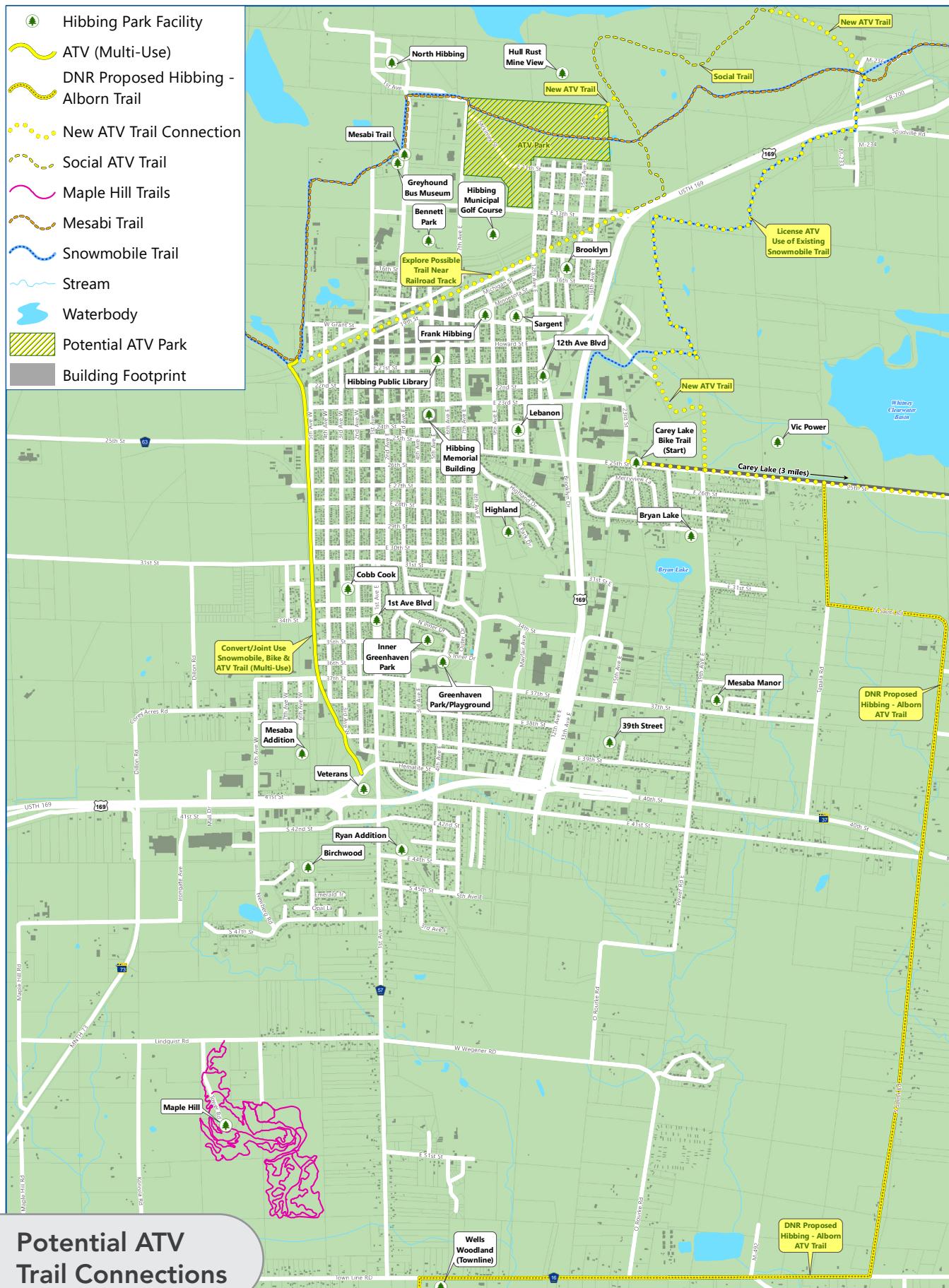
1. Access to restaurants and bars.
2. Access to parks where ATV use is permitted.
3. Connect to major regional trail systems.
4. Stay separate from vehicle and non-motorized traffic.

The proposed trail connections **on the following pages** may include development of new bike lanes. In the short term, it might be feasible to test these routes by re-using existing signs and temporarily stripe in bike lanes. Overall, the mileage of new proposed trail connections is broken down below.

TRAIL TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MILES
Bike 	Construct New, Dedicated, Non-motorized Connector Trails	4.8
Bike 	Stripe Existing Road with Bike Lanes	11.4
ATV 	Create new ATV Trail Connections	9.3
ATV 	Explore possible legalization of existing social trail and ATV Park in North Hibbing	3.4

## Potential Bike Trails





## Other park feature opportunities

The City should continue to seek public input for those park features that would be most utilized, maintained, and make sense financially. Based on the survey feedback, some examples include:

- **Climbing cooperative**

Example:

Duluth Climbing and Fitness Cooperative  
(<https://duluthclimbingandfitness.com>)



- **Outdoor natural or chlorinated pond**

Examples:

City of Minneapolis Webber Natural Swimming Pool  
([https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities-events/water-activities/webber\\_natural\\_swimming\\_pool/](https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities-events/water-activities/webber_natural_swimming_pool/))

Three Rivers Park District  
(<https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/lake-minnetonka-swim-pond>)



## 2. MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS ACTION ITEMS

Maintenance is necessary to keep parks safe, clean, and operating efficiently to serve the needs of its residents and visitors. With the updated park inventory and condition assessment provided through this work, city staff can begin to tailor maintenance and operations needs, consider contemporary tools for tracking time and investments, and prioritize investments over time.

2. MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS ACTION ITEMS			
Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 400-500 hrs/Start-up	Track all current maintenance tasks completed at all parks and recreation facilities, weekly, monthly, and annually, to better understand existing maintenance regimen. Compare to maintenance schedules suggested within this document to determine if maintenance levels are adequate for the desired level of care and uses of each park. Develop tiers of maintenance based on the park type and use.
A	City Staff	Staff Time 50-75 hrs \$50k-\$100k cost of software	Purchase Asset Management software and train staff in operation.
A	City Staff + Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 50-100 hrs	Review detailed park conditions data and this document's assessments to determine immediate safety needs and inform improvement schedules.
A	All Staff	Staff Time 100-200 hrs	Create a detailed inventory of those park assets that are maintained by volunteers, interest groups, etc., outside of the City. Consider how this offsets maintenance by City staff and how these partnerships should be formalized and/or documented.
B	City Staff	Staff Time 500-600 hrs Could Contract \$100k-\$200k	Establish an asset management plan and lifecycle replacement schedule to establish a lifecycle cost-assessment for key amenities and assets with provisions for a yearly update. (Asset Management software required)
B	Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 50-100 hrs	Implement a playground replacement schedule to ensure usability and safety. (Asset Management software recommended first)
B	Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 200-300 hrs Could Contract \$50k-\$75k	Develop a comprehensive digital maintenance management plan and system for parks and facilities.
B	Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 200-300 hrs Could Contract \$50k-\$75k	Develop full maintenance and operations plans for the Memorial Building and the golf course.
B	Maintenance Staff + Consulting	Staff Time 200-300 hrs Could Contract \$75k-\$100k	Create a detailed deferred maintenance list for all city-owned parks, the golf course, and recreation facilities that prioritizes needed improvements per facility and overall. (Asset Management software required)
B	Maintenance Staff + Consulting	Staff Time 50-100 hrs	Complete an analysis of which maintenance services could possibly be contracted and determine if there is a viable contractor in the Hibbing area with the knowledge and skills to provide the services.
B	Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 100-150 hrs	Develop a turf management plan for the golf course and athletic fields that include staff training. See also Staffing in Section 6.4.
C	Staff	Staff Time 100-200 hrs \$35k-\$70k-cost of software/hardware	Fully automate staff schedules, maintenance plans, tracking of inventories, facility inspections, and actual maintenance time and materials records, with the ability to make entries from the field on tablets or other hand-held devices.
Ongoing	Staff	On-going Staff Time 20-30 hrs/per project	Analyze the operational and maintenance requirements, including staffing, before any new parks, trails or recreation facilities are added.

### 3. PROGRAMMING ACTION ITEMS

The City of Hibbing and the City Services Department will need to determine their future role in providing recreation programs and services to the community. This should be determined in large part based on the long-term level of financial and resource commitment that the city wants to make to recreation programs and services.

3. PROGRAMMING ACTION ITEMS			
Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	City Staff + Communications Staff	Staff Time 20-30 hrs	Establish a formal programming philosophy. Establish clear roles and responsibilities between City Services and Community Education.
A	City Staff + Communications Staff	Staff Time 50-100 hrs	Develop a program plan. Communicate the plan to residents.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 20-30 hrs/yr	Evaluate available recreation programs to ensure that recreation programs are available for a wide range of demographic groups.
B	City Staff	Staff Time 30-50 hrs	Pursue additional contracts with other providers for program areas that are not currently available to the public. For those program areas where there are no contracts, utilize other providers on a referral and clearinghouse basis.
B	City Staff	Staff Time 20-30 hrs	Establish basic performance measures to track recreation programming effectiveness.
Ongoing	City Staff	On-going Staff Time 20-30 hrs/yr	Continue to ensure that there are operational and management agreements in place for any facilities that are being contractually operated.

#### Priority definitions:

Priority A – Feasible to address within 2-year timeframe.

Priority B – Some additional study or evaluation necessary in order to move forward. Should be completed within a 2-5-year period from date of study.

Priority C – Longer timeframe anticipated. To be completed within 10 years (by 2034).

#### Project type definitions:

A/E Design – Consulting on design with an architect/engineer

Consulting – Specialty consulting outside of A/E

City Staff – City staff to complete. May include City Council consideration.

Maintenance Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on parks maintenance.

Communications Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on communications or community engagement.



## 4. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ACTION ITEMS

Critical to having strong management and operations of parks and recreation facilities, as well as recreation programs and services, is having a strong staff, maintenance, budgeting, policies and procedures, and marketing measures in place. The following are specific recommendations for these areas.

4A. STAFFING ACTION ITEMS			
Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	City Staff	Staff Time 20-30 hrs	Consider organizing City Services into four distinct areas: 1) Recreational Programming and Services, 2) Golf Operations, 3) Parks Maintenance, and 4) Memorial Building Maintenance
A	City Staff	\$190k-\$220k/includes salary and benefits/per yr	Create additional Maintenance Staff positions: <u>Maintenance Staff (3)</u> – to increase the current level of maintenance. One of these positions should be specifically assigned to turf maintenance at the golf course and athletic fields (seasonally)
A	City Staff	\$70k-\$75k/includes salary and benefits/per yr	Create a new staff position: <u>Special Events Coordinator</u> – report to Recreation Programmer and allow for more time spent coordinating recreation services within the department and the community
A	City Staff	\$70k-\$75k/includes salary and benefits/per yr	Create a new staff position: <u>Marketing/Communications Coordinator</u> – promote parks and recreation amenities and facilities as well as recreation programs. This position would develop and administer a communications and marketing plan on an annual basis. This position could serve as a city-wide staff for overall promotion of city activities and services.
A	City Staff	Staff Time 50-75 hrs	Develop staffing work plan that includes communications from City Services, specifically around Parks & Recreation communications.
A	City Staff + Maintenance Staff	Staff Time 50-75 hrs Training costs could be \$3k-\$5k per year	Add staff training to provide certification for Playground Safety Inspections within the department. See also <a href="https://playgroundsafety.org/topics/topic/maintenance-plans">https://playgroundsafety.org/topics/topic/maintenance-plans</a>
B	City Staff	Staff Time 50-75 hrs	Based on programming philosophy, determine if additional staff resources or contracted services will be necessary for improvement of recreation programs and services.
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 50-75 hrs/yr	Develop a formal annual training program.
C	City Staff	Staff Time 50-75 hrs	Develop a staffing succession plan.
Ongoing	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 100-150 hrs/per facility	Consider staffing needs if a community center or other significant parks or trails are added.

### Priority definitions:

Priority A – Feasible to address within 2-year timeframe.

Priority B – Some additional study or evaluation necessary in order to move forward. Should be completed within a 2-5-year period from date of study.

Priority C – Longer timeframe anticipated. To be completed within 10 years (by 2034).

### Project type definitions:

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Consulting – Specialty consulting outside of A/E

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Maintenance Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on parks maintenance.

Communications Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on communications or community engagement.

## 4B. BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 75-125 hrs/yr	Develop a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, and update annually.
A	Consulting	\$3k - \$5k	Contract with consulting company to benchmark City financing relative to cities or organizations of similar size and scope.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 50-75 hrs	Establish clear staffing and operational budget requirements for City Services to support maintenance, operations, and the program plan.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 75-100 hrs	Track expenses for all parks in order to better understand inputs into larger parks vs. smaller parks.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 50-75 hrs	Track <i>facilities</i> maintenance separately from parks maintenance.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 50-100 hrs/yr	Implement budget monitoring procedures and strong record keeping. Operational budgets need to continually monitored on at least a monthly basis with any possible deviations or modifications noted at that time.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 25-30 hrs/yr	For any budget accounts where there are direct revenues associated with costs (recreation programs and facilities), revenues should be linked and shown with expenses to determine a true net cost.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 30-50 hrs/yr	Distribute the cost for full-time and part-time staff (plus benefits) to the accounts based on the level of responsibility and the time associated with the services in those budgets. This could include a portion of a salary being assigned to multiple accounts.
A	City Staff or Consulting	Staff Time 100-150 Hrs Could Contract \$30k-\$50k	Establish a recreation fee philosophy and policy to guide the fee process and provide a rational reason for establishing specific fees for services. There should be fee increases for most programs, services, and rentals at least every two years.
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 30-50 hrs/yr	Distribute an annual report that succinctly summarizes yearly financial statistics and utilization rates and compares them with previous years. Each budget area should utilize the same format and the information should be available in a single document for the city.

**Priority definitions:**

Priority A – Feasible to address within 2-year timeframe.

Priority B – Some additional study or evaluation necessary in order to move forward. Should be completed within a 2-5-year period from date of study.

Priority C – Longer timeframe anticipated. To be completed within 10 years (by 2034).

**Project type definitions:**

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Consulting – Specialty consulting outside of A/E

City Staff – City staff to complete. May include City Council consideration.

Maintenance Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on parks maintenance.

Communications Staff – City staff to complete, with an emphasis on communications or community engagement.



## 4C. POLICIES & PROCEDURES ACTION ITEMS

Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	City Staff	Staff Time 75-100 hrs	Develop an agreement between City Services and Community Education and specify the role of the two agencies in providing recreation services to the community.
A	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 30-50 hrs/yr	Review and update agreements for all contract service providers. Current agreements for all contract service providers should be updated on a timely basis.
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 30-50 hrs/yr	Utilize 'Civic Rec' to effectively manage recreation program registrations, point of sale transactions, rentals, scheduling, and other functions. This should be tied to the city's financial system for easy integration.
B	City Staff	Staff Time 100-150 hrs	Develop standard operating procedures for City Services as a whole and for individual parks and facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include policies and procedures that deal specifically with safety and security of parks, facilities, and programs.</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive emergency action plan for each individual facility.</li> </ul>
B	City Staff	Staff Time 10-15 hrs	Develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion policy (DEI).
B	City Staff	Staff Time 75-100 hrs	Establish a continuity plan that addresses possible interruptions of operations from natural disasters, pandemics, terrorist acts, or other conditions.
B	City Staff	Staff Time 30-50 hrs	Clarify a process for non-profits or community groups to propose improvements to the parks system.
C	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 50-75 hrs/yr	Develop key performance metrics for parks/facility maintenance and recreation services to determine the effectiveness of the parks, facilities and programs that are being offered by City Services.

## 4D. MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS ACTION ITEMS

Priority	Project Type	Anticipated Budget (if applicable)	Action Item
A	City Staff	Staff Time 20-30 hrs	Link all maps developed as part of this Master Plan on the city website
A	City Staff	Staff Time 10-20 hrs	Hire or designate one full-time staff member as the coordinator for communications or marketing. <i>See also Staffing section.</i>
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 30-50 hrs/yr	Develop basic annual marketing plan that reflects the priorities of City Services.
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 50-75 hrs/yr	Develop a bi-annual survey of parks and recreation users' needs and concerns regarding maintenance, staff, programs and services, and future needs.
B	City Staff	Staff Time 50-75 hrs Could Contract \$10k-\$30k	Develop a branded web page that is accessible from the city's web page or independently.
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 200-250 hrs/yr Could Contract \$30k-\$50k/yr	Develop a digital parks and recreation programs and services brochure.
B	City Staff	Ongoing Staff Time 30-50 hrs/yr	Complete an annual report for all aspects of parks, facilities, and recreation operations.

## Appendix A

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# Full Demographic Analysis

**BALLARD\*KING**  
& ASSOCIATES LTD

# **Demographic Analysis**

## ***Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan***

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### **Demographic Analysis**

As part of the Hibbing parks & Trail System Master Plan, the following is a summary of the demographic characteristics within areas identified as the City of Hibbing and a larger Secondary Service Area. The Secondary Service Area is an area considered the Iron Range Communities.

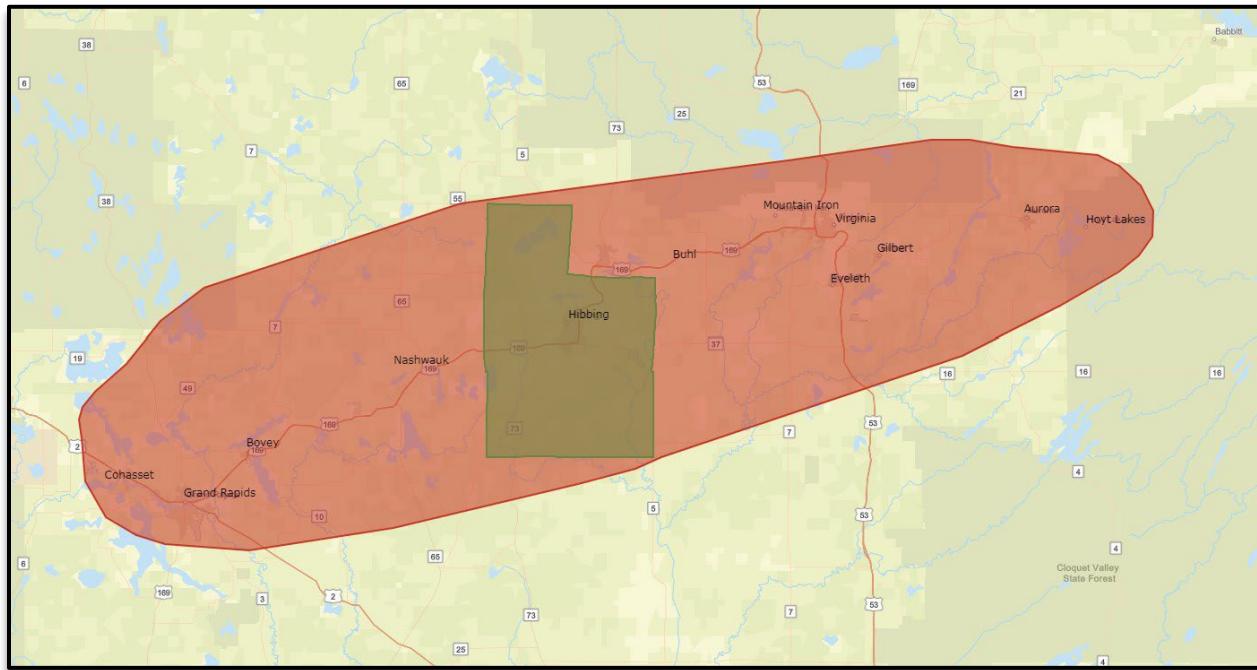
B\*K accesses demographic information from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) who utilizes 2020 Census data and their demographers for 2022-2027 projections. In addition to demographics, ESRI also provides data on housing, recreation, and entertainment spending and adult participation in activities.

The information provided includes the basic demographics and data for the City of Hibbing and the Secondary Service Area with comparison data for the State of Minnesota and the United States.

# Demographic Analysis

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

### Map A – Service Area Maps

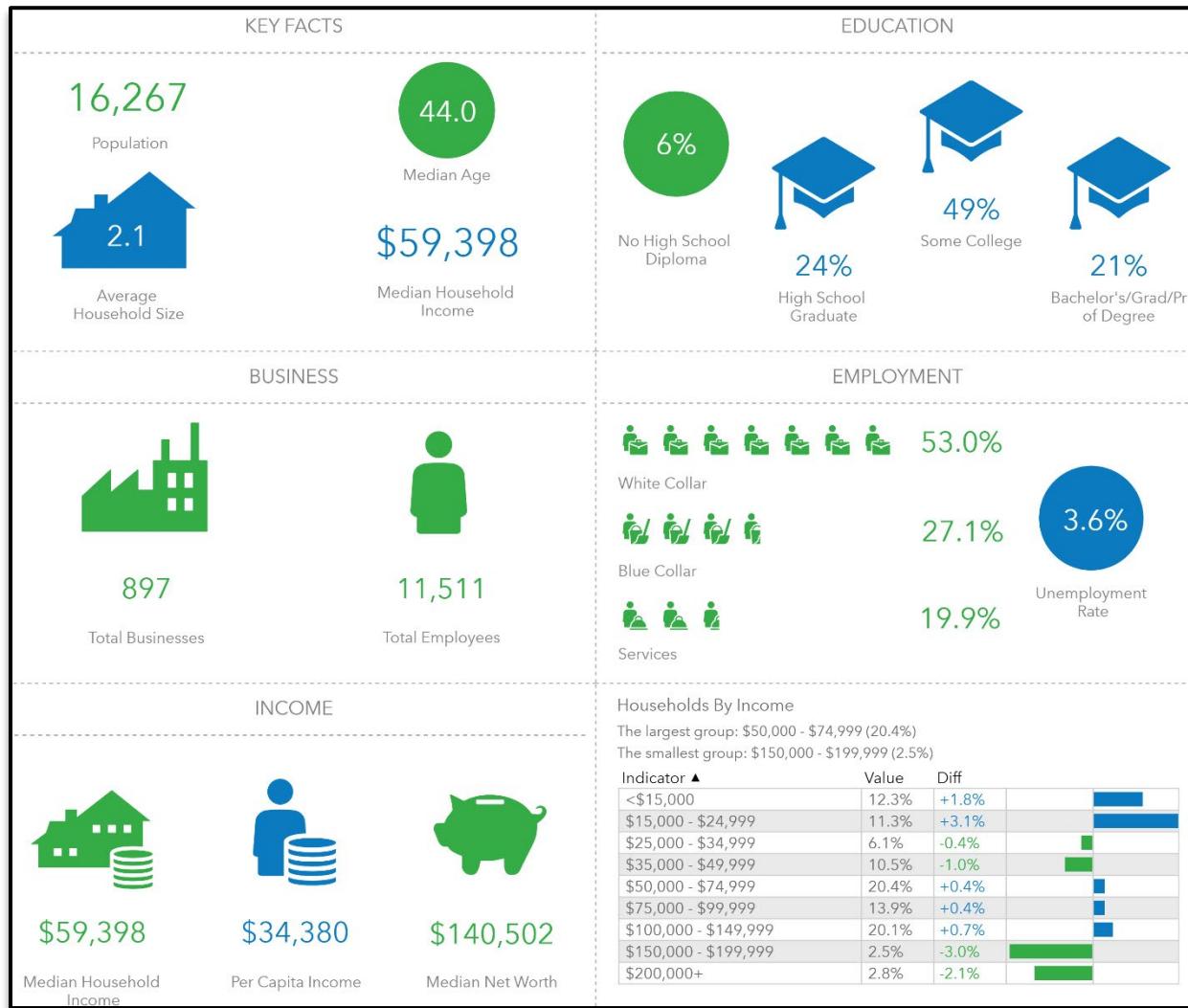


- Green Boundary – City of Hibbing City limits
- Red Boundary – Secondary Service Area (Iron Range Communities)

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

### Infographic



- Household by Income comparison uses the City of Hibbing and compares it to St. Louis County.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

### Demographic Summary

	City of Hibbing	Secondary Service Area
<b>Population:</b>		
2020 Census	16,214 <sup>1</sup>	79,316 <sup>2</sup>
2022 Estimate	16,267	78,542
2027 Estimate	16,179	77,723
<b>Households:</b>		
2020 Census	7,403	35,175
2022 Estimate	7,427	34,952
2027 Estimate	7,388	34,597
<b>Families:</b>		
2020 Census	4,103	20,094
2022 Estimate	4,235	20,542
2027 Estimate	4,222	20,376
<b>Average Household Size:</b>		
2020 Census	2.14	2.19
2022 Estimate	2.14	2.19
2027 Estimate	2.14	2.19
<b>Ethnicity (2022 Estimate):</b>		
Hispanic	1.6%	1.5%
White	91.0%	91.2%
Black	1.5%	0.9%
American Indian	0.9%	1.4%
Asian	0.5%	0.4%
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%
Other	0.4%	0.5%
Multiple	5.6%	5.6%
<b>Median Age:</b>		
2020 Census	42.5	44.3
2022 Estimate	44.0	46.4
2027 Estimate	44.1	46.8
<b>Median Income:</b>		
2022 Estimate	\$59,398	\$60,525
2027 Estimate	\$72,393	\$71,922

<sup>1</sup> From the 2010-2020 Census, the City of Hibbing experienced a 0.9% decrease in population.

<sup>2</sup> From the 2010-2020 Census, the Secondary Service Area experienced a 1.3% decrease in population.

# Demographic Analysis

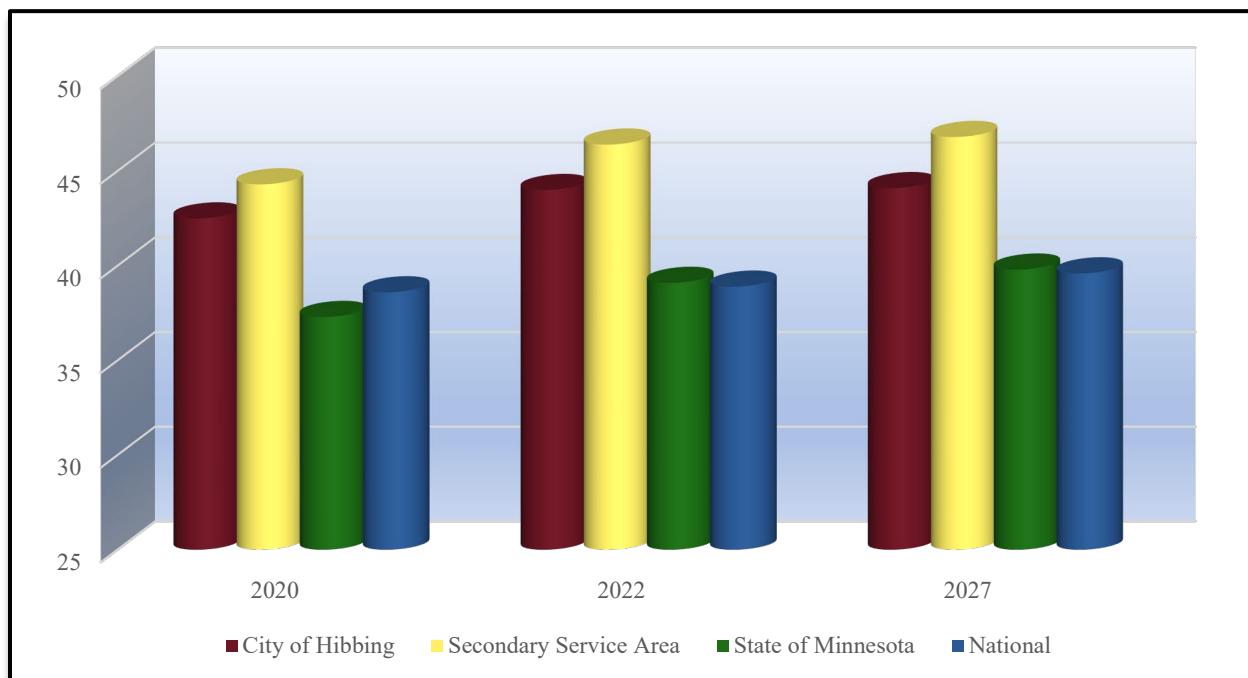
## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

**Age and Income:** The median age and household income levels are compared with the national number as both of these factors are secondary determiners of participation in recreation activities. The lower the median age, the higher the participation rates are for most activities. The level of participation also increases as the median income level goes up.

**Table A – Median Age:**

	2020 Census	2022 Projection	2027 Projection
City of Hibbing	42.5	44.0	44.1
Secondary Service Area	44.3	46.4	46.8
State of Minnesota	37.3	39.1	39.8
Nationally	38.6	38.9	39.6

**Chart A – Median Age:**



The median age in the City of Hibbing is lower than the Secondary Service Area, but higher than the State of Minnesota and the National number. A lower median age typically points to the presence of families with children. Parks and recreation activities, programs and events draw a large demographic but tend to be most popular with youth and their parents.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

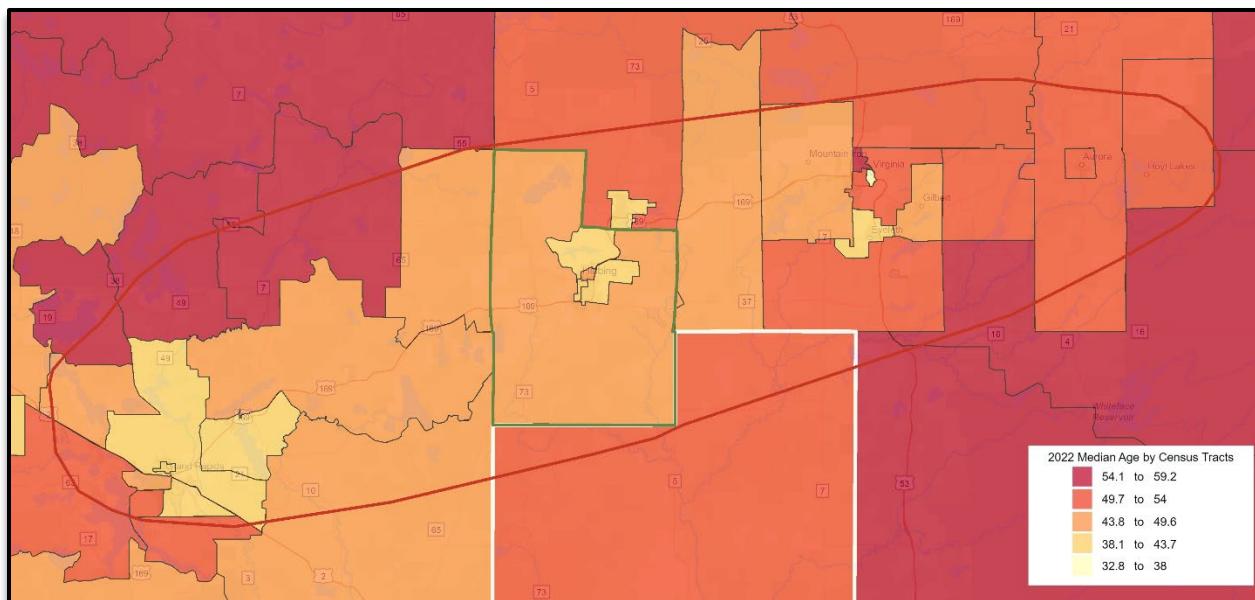
**Households with Children:** The following chart provides the number of households and percentage of households in the City of Hibbing and Secondary Service Area with children.

**Table B – Households w/ Children**

	Number of Households w/ Children	Percentage of Households w/ Children
City of Hibbing	1,774	23.8%
Secondary Service Area	8,499	24.4%
State of Minnesota	--	30.0%

The information contained in Table-B helps further outline the presence of families with children. As a point of comparison in the 2020 Census, 30.7% of households nationally had children present.

**Map B – Median Age by Census Tract**



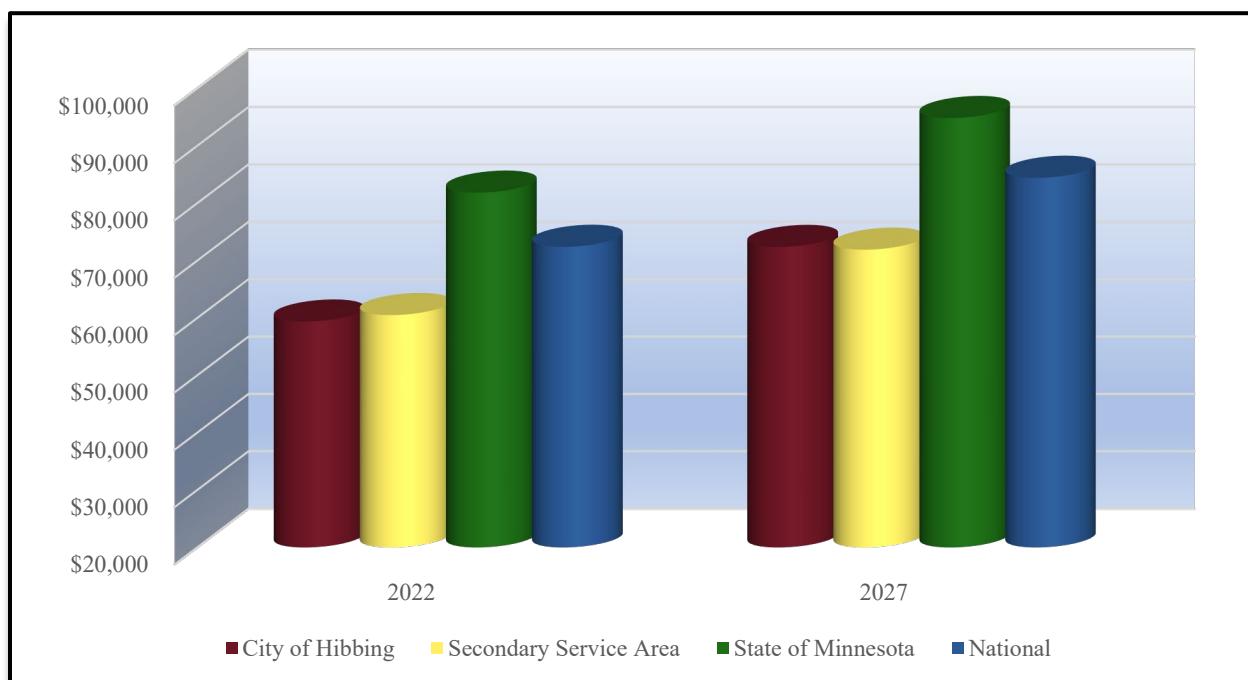
# Demographic Analysis

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

**Table C – Median Household Income:**

	2022 Projection	2027 Projection
City of Hibbing	\$59,398	\$72,393
Secondary Service Area	\$60,525	\$71,922
State of Minnesota	\$81,851	\$94,855
Nationally	\$72,414	\$84,445

**Chart B – Median Household Income:**



Based on 2022 projections for median household income, the following narrative describes the service areas:

In the City of Hibbing, the percentage of households with median income over \$50,000 per year is 59.7% compared to 61.6% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of households in the service area with median income less than \$25,000 per year is 23.6% compared to a level of 18.0% nationally.

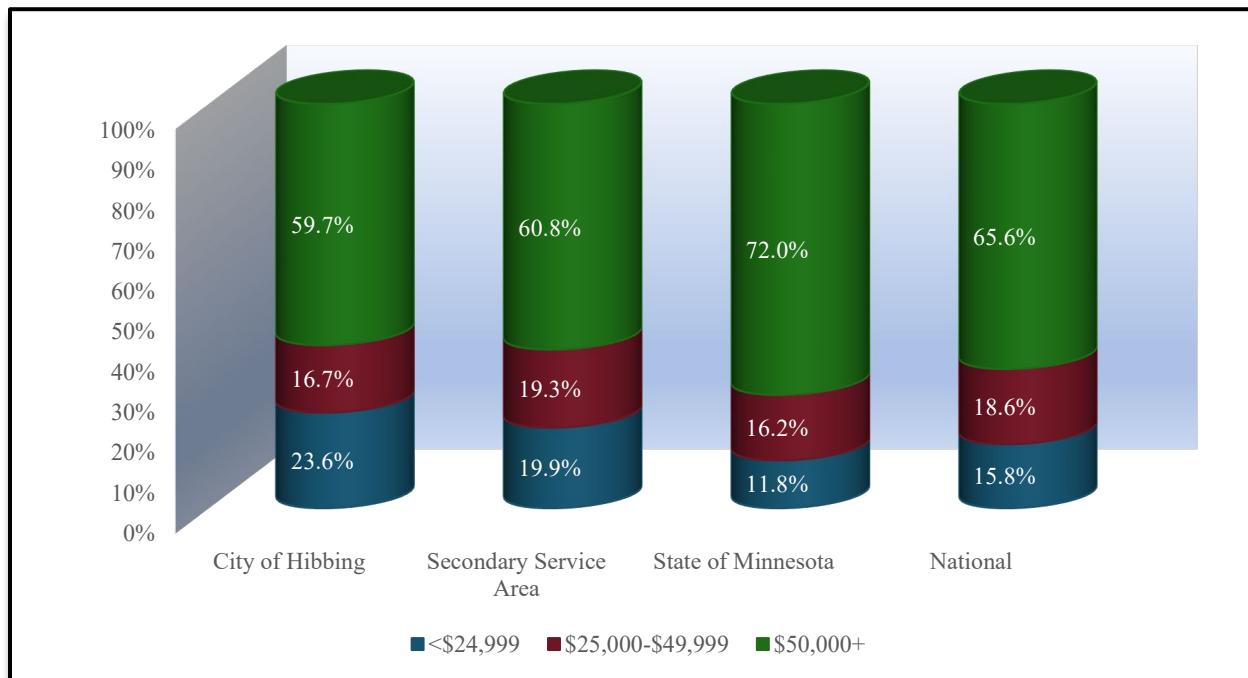
In the Secondary Service Area, the percentage of households with median income over \$50,000 per year is 60.8% compared to 61.6% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of households in the service area with median income less than \$25,000 per year is 19.9% compared to a level of 18.0% nationally.

# Demographic Analysis

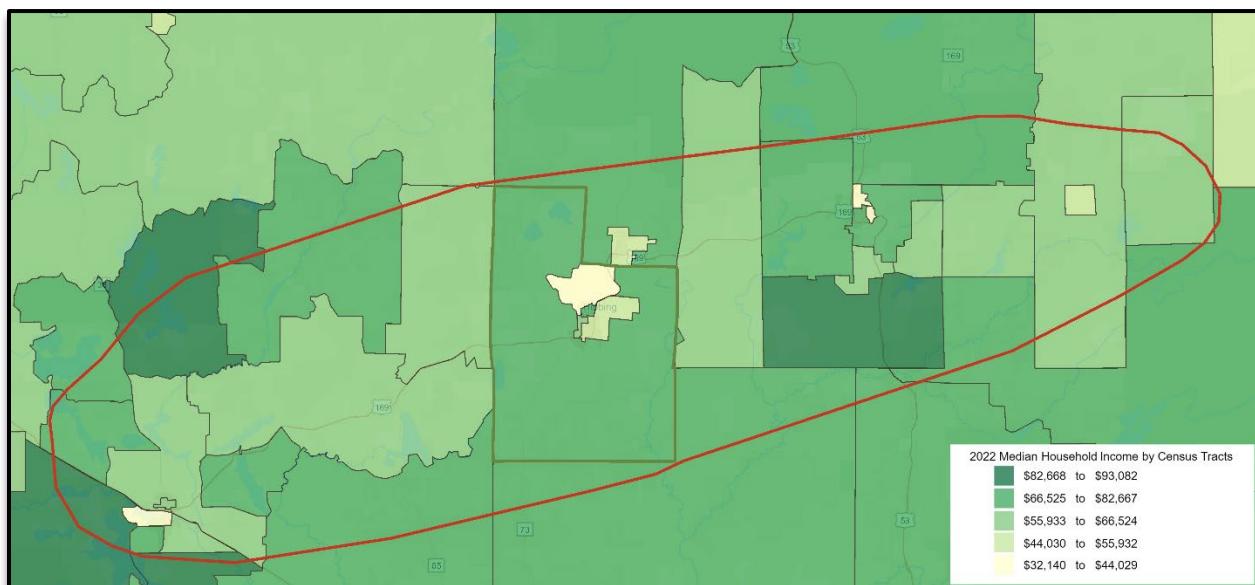
## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

While there is no perfect indicator of use of parks and recreation programs, facilities and services, the percentage of households with more than \$50,000 median income can be a key gauge. Therefore, those numbers are significant and balanced with the overall cost of living.

### Chart C – Median Household Income Distribution



### Map C – Household Income by Census Tract



# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Household Budget Expenditures:** In addition to examining Median Age and Median Income, it is important to review Household Budget Expenditures. In particular, reviewing housing information; shelter, utilities, fuel and public services along with entertainment & recreation can provide a snapshot into the cost of living and spending patterns in the service areas. The table below looks at that information and compares the service areas.

**Table D – Household Budget Expenditures<sup>3</sup>:**

City of Hibbing	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	71	\$20,198.34	30.7%
Shelter	68	\$15,685.83	23.9%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	80	\$4,512.51	6.9%
Entertainment & Recreation	78	\$2,845.54	4.3%

Secondary Service Area	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	72	\$20,552.14	30.6%
Shelter	70	\$15,953.56	23.8%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	81	\$4,598.58	6.9%
Entertainment & Recreation	80	\$2,920.97	4.4%

State of Minnesota	SPI	Average Amount Spent	Percent
Housing	104	\$29,834.56	31.4%
Shelter	104	\$23,803.28	25.1%
Utilities, Fuel, Public Service	107	\$6,031.28	6.4%
Entertainment & Recreation	108	\$3,962.31	4.2%

**SPI:**

Spending Potential Index as compared to the National number of 100.

**Average Amount Spent:**

The average amount spent per household.

**Percent:**

Percent of the total 100% of household expenditures.

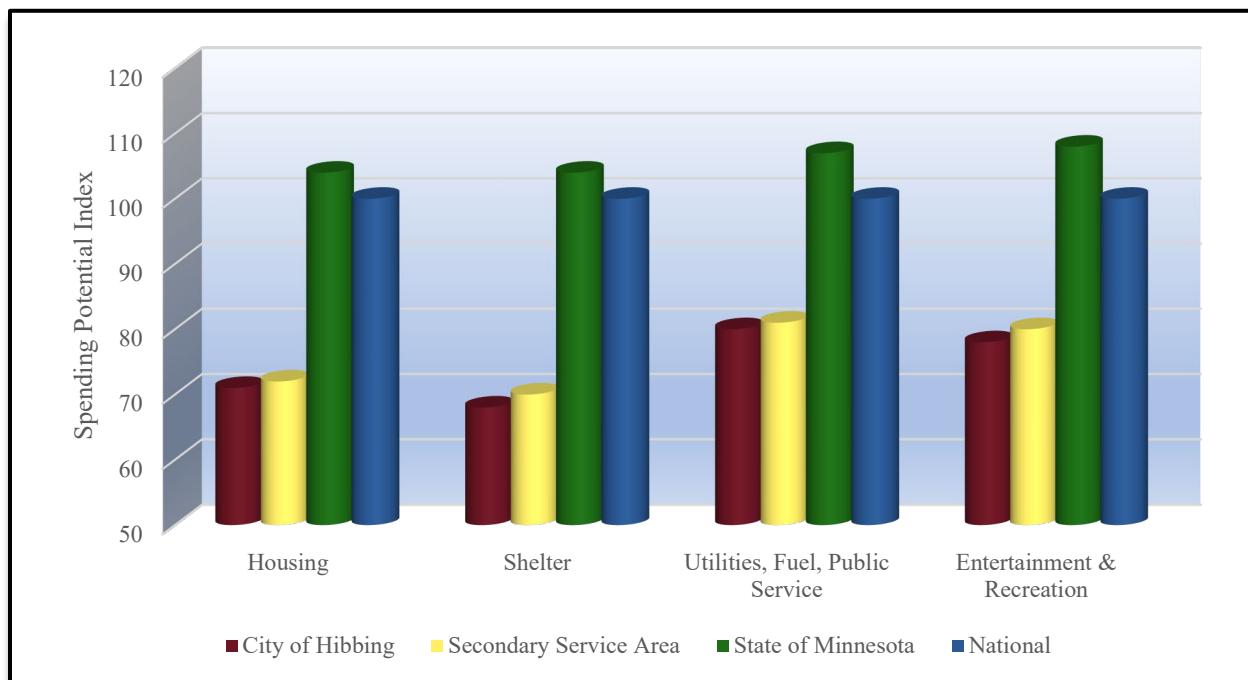
*Note: Shelter along with Utilities, Fuel, Public Service are a portion of the Housing percentage.*

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2018 and 2019 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ESRI forecasts for 2022 and 2027.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

### Chart D – Household Budget Expenditures Spending Potential Index:



The consistency between the median household income and the household budget expenditures is important. It also points to the fact that compared to a National level of dollars available, the money being spent in the City of Hibbing is significantly lower.

The total number of housing units in the City of Hibbing is 8,302 and 89.2% are occupied, or 7,403 housing units. The total vacancy rate for the service area is 10.8%. As a comparison, the vacancy rate nationally was 11.6%. Of the available units:

- For Rent 3.3%
- Rented, not Occupied 0.1%
- For Sale 1.2%
- Sold, not Occupied 0.6%
- For Seasonal Use 1.8%
- Other Vacant 4.5%

## Demographic Analysis

### *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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The total number of housing units in the Secondary Service Area is 40,625 and 86.6% are occupied, or 35,175 housing units. The total vacancy rate for the service area is 14.7%. As a comparison, the vacancy rate nationally was 11.6%. Of the available units:

- For Rent 2.3%
- Rented, not Occupied 0.3%
- For Sale 1.0%
- Sold, not Occupied 0.5%
- For Seasonal Use 6.4%
- Other Vacant 4.3%

# Demographic Analysis

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

**Recreation Expenditures Spending Potential Index:** Finally, through ESRI it is possible to examine the overall propensity for households to spend dollars on recreation activities. The following comparisons are possible.

**Table E – Recreation Expenditures Spending Potential Index<sup>4</sup>:**

<b>City of Hibbing</b>	<b>SPI</b>	<b>Average Spent</b>
Fees for Participant Sports	64	\$83.35
Fees for Recreational Lessons	57	\$90.57
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	65	\$183.22
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	79	\$160.88
Other Sports Equipment	66	\$5.37

<b>Secondary Service Area</b>	<b>SPI</b>	<b>Average Spent</b>
Fees for Participant Sports	64	\$84.09
Fees for Recreational Lessons	59	\$94.56
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	66	\$186.16
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	80	\$164.76
Other Sports Equipment	68	\$5.47

<b>State of Minnesota</b>	<b>SPI</b>	<b>Average Spent</b>
Fees for Participant Sports	105	\$137.04
Fees for Recreational Lessons	101	\$162.24
Social, Recreation, Club Membership	105	\$296.04
Exercise Equipment/Game Tables	110	\$68.76
Other Sports Equipment	105	\$8.52

**Average Amount Spent:** The average amount spent on the service or item in a year.

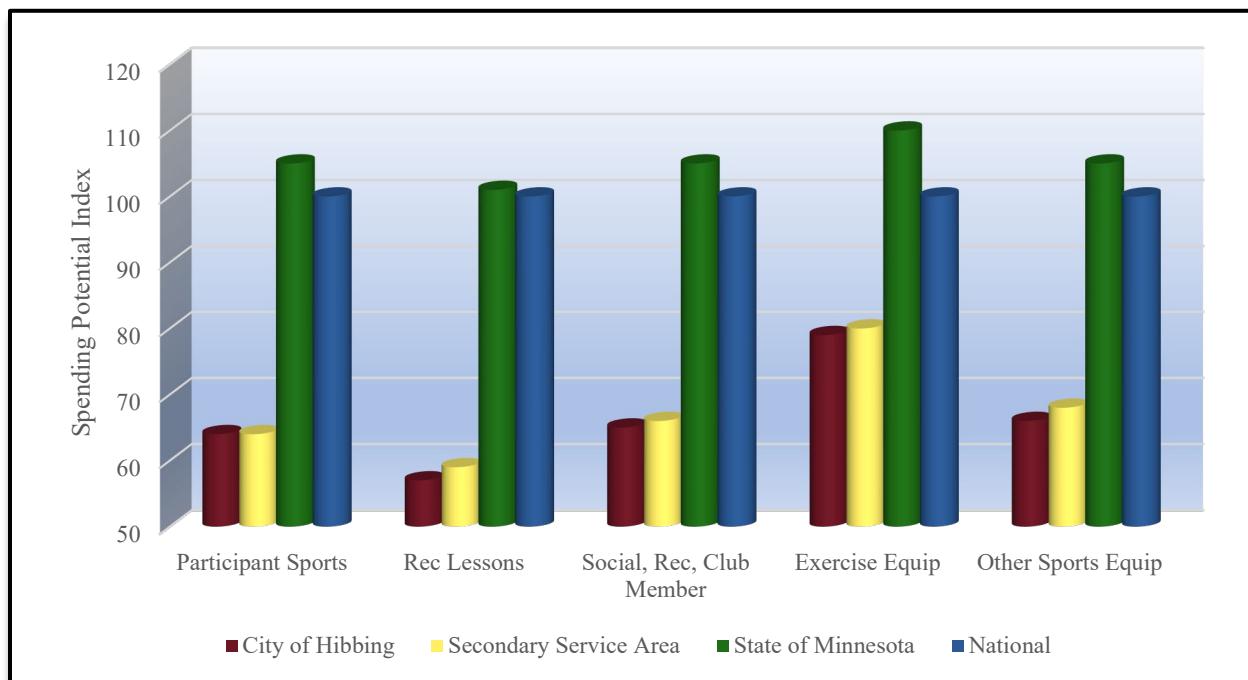
**SPI:** Spending potential index as compared to the national number of 100.

<sup>4</sup> Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2018 and 2019 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Demographic Analysis

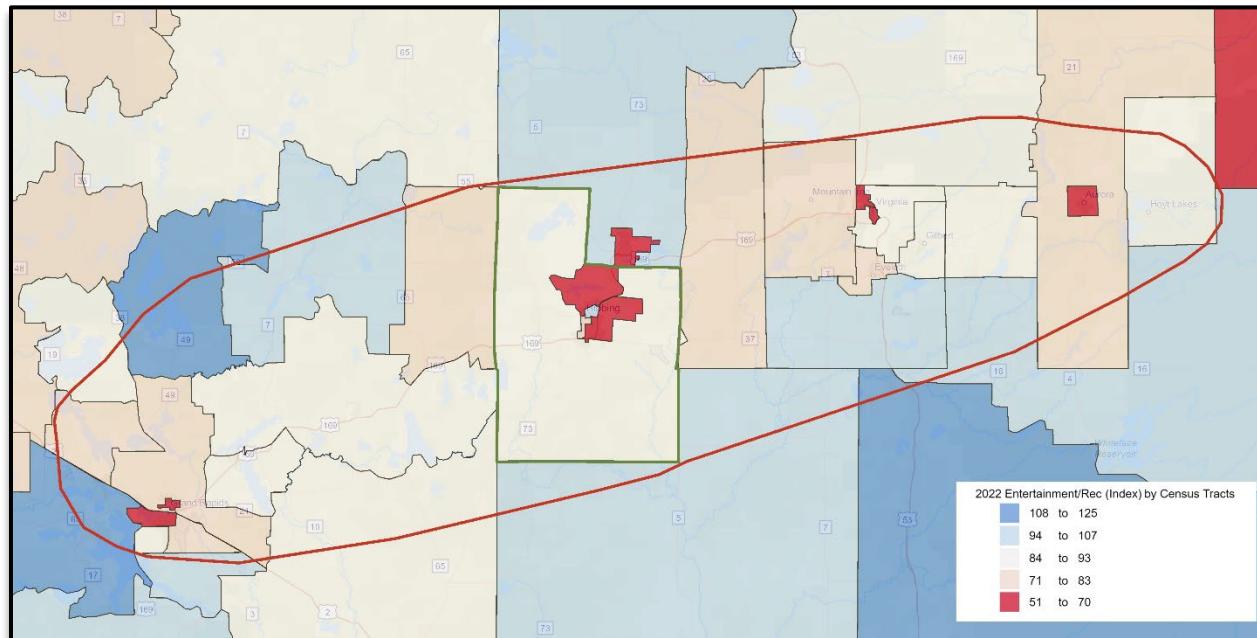
## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

### Chart E – Recreation Spending Potential Index:



Again, there is a great deal of consistency between median household income, household budget expenditures and now recreation and spending potential.

### Map D – Recreation Spending Potential Index by Census Tract



# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Population Distribution by Age:** Utilizing census information for the City of Hibbing and Secondary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

**Table F – 2022 City of Hibbing Age Distribution**

(ESRI estimates)

Ages	Population	% of Total	Nat. Population	Difference
0-5	926	5.7%	5.8%	-0.1%
5-17	2,265	13.9%	15.9%	-2.0%
18-24	1,286	7.9%	9.2%	-1.3%
25-44	3,824	23.5%	26.8%	-3.3%
45-54	1,758	10.8%	12.0%	-1.2%
55-64	2,427	14.9%	12.8%	+2.1%
65-74	2,053	12.6%	10.2%	+2.4%
75+	1,737	10.7%	7.2%	+3.5%

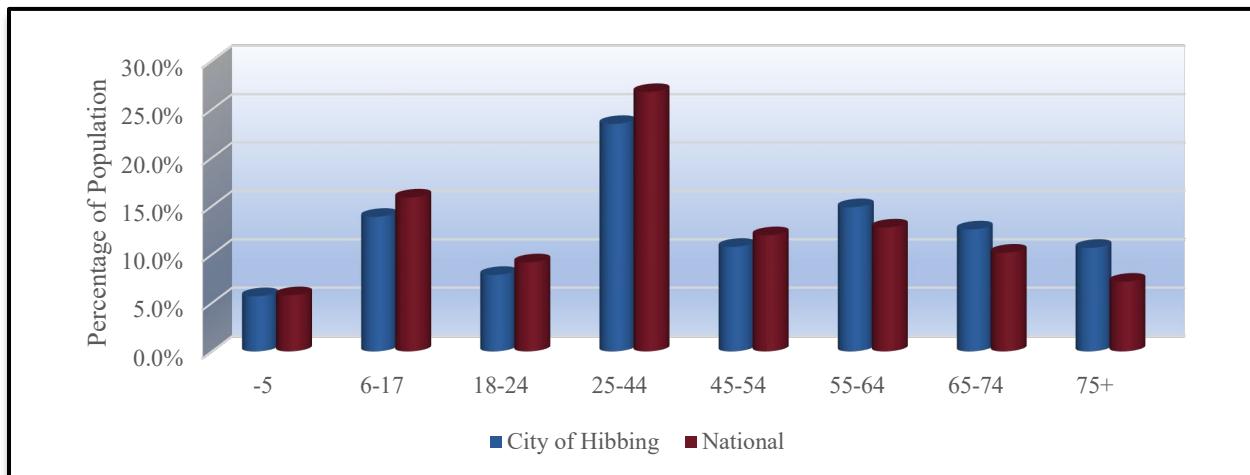
**Population:** 2022 census estimates in the different age groups in the City of Hibbing.

**% of Total:** Percentage of the City of Hibbing population in the age group.

**National Population:** Percentage of the national population in the age group.

**Difference:** Percentage difference between the City of Hibbing population and the national population.

**Chart F – 2022 City of Hibbing Age Group Distribution**



The demographic makeup of the City of Hibbing, when compared to the characteristics of the national population, indicates that there are some differences with a larger population in the 55-64, 65-74 and 75+ age groups. The greatest positive variance is in the 75+ age group with +3.5%, while the greatest negative variance is in the 25-44 age group with -3.3%.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

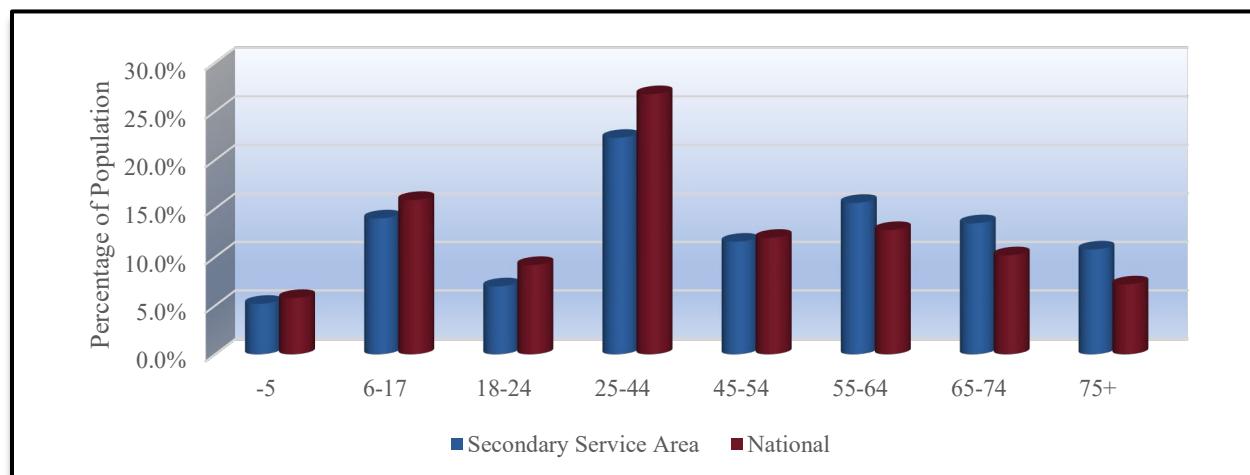
**Table G – 2022 Secondary Service Area Age Distribution**

(ESRI estimates)

Ages	Population	% of Total	Nat. Population	Difference
0-5	4,045	5.2%	5.8%	-0.6%
5-17	11,008	14.0%	15.9%	-1.9%
18-24	5,465	7.0%	9.2%	-2.3%
25-44	17,541	22.3%	26.8%	-4.5%
45-54	9,104	11.6%	12.0%	-0.4%
55-64	12,246	15.6%	12.8%	+2.8%
65-74	10,634	13.5%	10.2%	+3.3%
75+	8,500	10.8%	7.2%	+3.6%

- Population:** 2022 census estimates in the different age groups in the Secondary Service Area.
- % of Total:** Percentage of the Secondary Service Area population in the age group.
- National Population:** Percentage of the national population in the age group.
- Difference:** Percentage difference between the Secondary Service Area population and the national population.

**Chart G – 2022 Secondary Service Area Age Group Distribution**



The demographic makeup of the Secondary Service Area, when compared to the characteristics of the national population, indicates that there are some differences with a larger population in the 55-64, 65-74 and 75+ age groups. A smaller population exists in the younger age groups (Under 54). The greatest positive variance is in the 75+ age group with +3.6%, while the greatest negative variance is in the 25-44 age group with -4.5%.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Population Distribution Comparison by Age Over Time:** Utilizing census information from the City of Hibbing and Secondary Service Area, the following comparisons are possible.

**Table H – 2022 City of Hibbing Population Changes Over Time**

(U.S. Census Information and ESRI)

Ages	2020 Census	2022 Projection	2027 Projection	Percent Change	Percent Change Nat'l
-5	1,041	926	930	-5.0%	-10.7%
5-17	2,461	2,265	2,336	+3.2%	-5.1%
18-24	1,393	1,286	1,218	-33.0%	-12.6%
25-44	3,668	3,824	3,780	+14.8%	+3.1%
45-54	2,455	1,758	1,677	-22.2%	-31.7%
55-64	2,317	2,427	2,015	+0.6%	-13.0%
65-74	1,289	2,053	2,251	+66.0%	+74.6%
75+	1,599	1,737	1,979	+12.0%	+23.8%

**Chart H – City of Hibbing Population Changes**

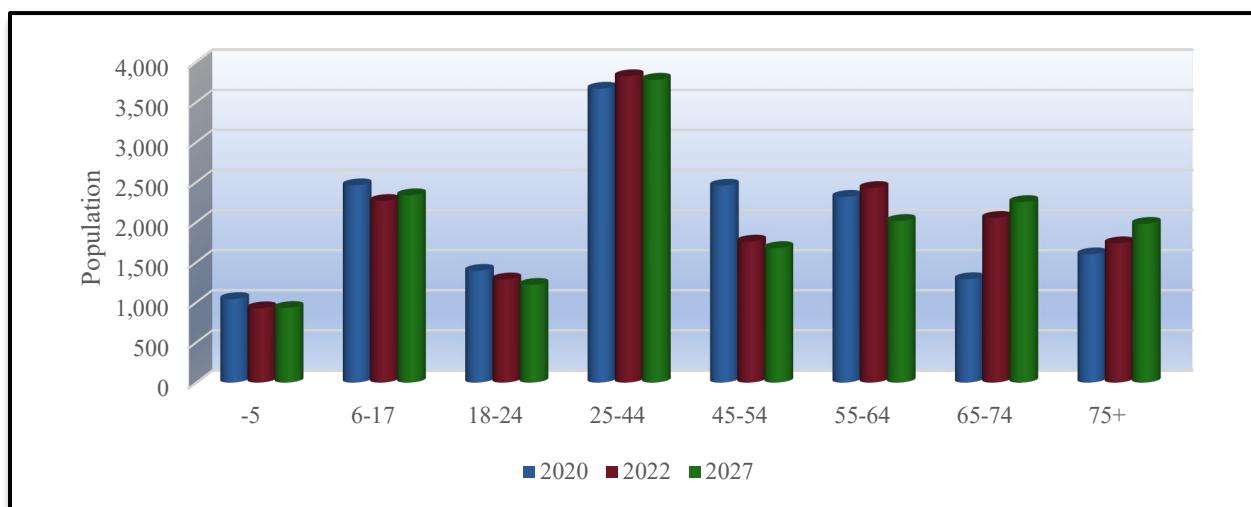


Table-H illustrates the growth or decline in age group numbers from the 2020 census until the year 2027. It is projected age categories 5-17, 25-44, 55-64, 65-74 and 75+ will see an increase in population. The population of the United States as a whole is aging, and it is not unusual to find negative growth numbers in the younger age groups and significant net gains in the 45 plus age groupings in communities which are relatively stable in their population numbers.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Table I – 2022 Secondary Service Area Population Changes Over Time**

(U.S. Census Information and ESRI)

Ages	2020 Census	2022 Projection	2027 Projection	Percent Change	Percent Change Nat'l
-5	4,617	4,045	3,951	-14.4%	-8.3%
5-17	12,223	11,008	11,061	-9.5%	-8.5%
18-24	5,870	5,465	5,323	-9.3%	-8.9%
25-44	17,521	17,541	16,834	-3.9%	+3.3%
45-54	12,112	9,104	9,014	-25.6%	-17.8%
55-64	12,136	12,246	10,468	-13.7%	+2.5%
65-74	6,932	10,634	11,592	+67.2%	+58.2%
75+	7,876	8,500	9,480	+20.4%	+46.3%

**Chart I – Secondary Service Area Population Changes**

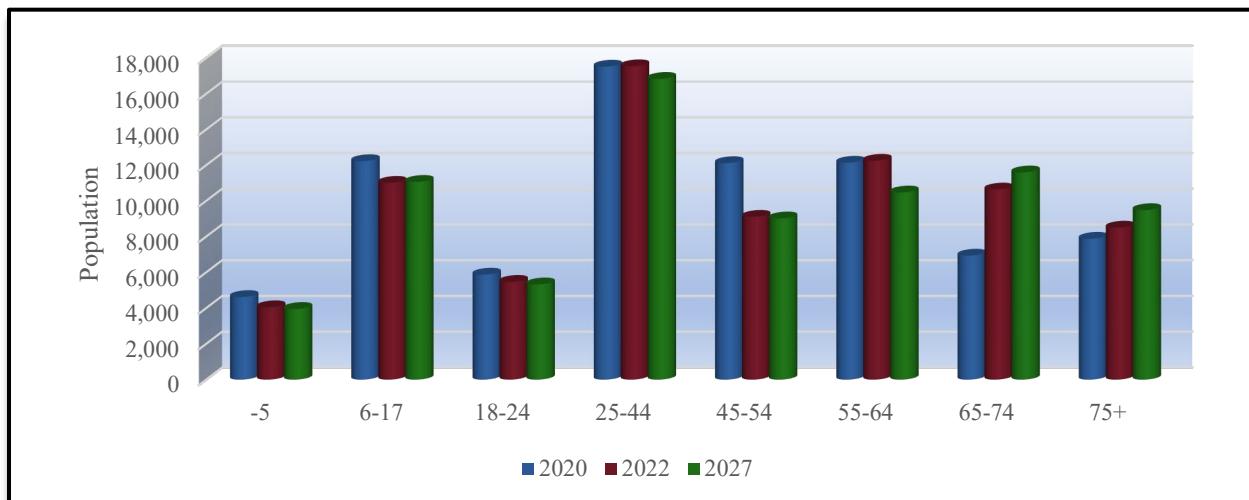


Table-I illustrates the growth or decline in age group numbers from the 2020 census until the year 2027. It is projected that only the age categories 65-74 and 75+ will see an increase in population. The population of the United States as a whole is aging, and it is not unusual to find negative growth numbers in the younger age groups and significant net gains in the 45 plus age groupings in communities which are relatively stable in their population numbers.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Ethnicity and Race:** Below is listed the distribution of the population by ethnicity and race for the City of Hibbing and Secondary Service Area for 2022 population projections. Those numbers were developed from 2020 Census Data.

**Table J – City of Hibbing Ethnic Population and Median Age 2022**

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of MN Population
Hispanic	254	29.7	1.6%	6.1%

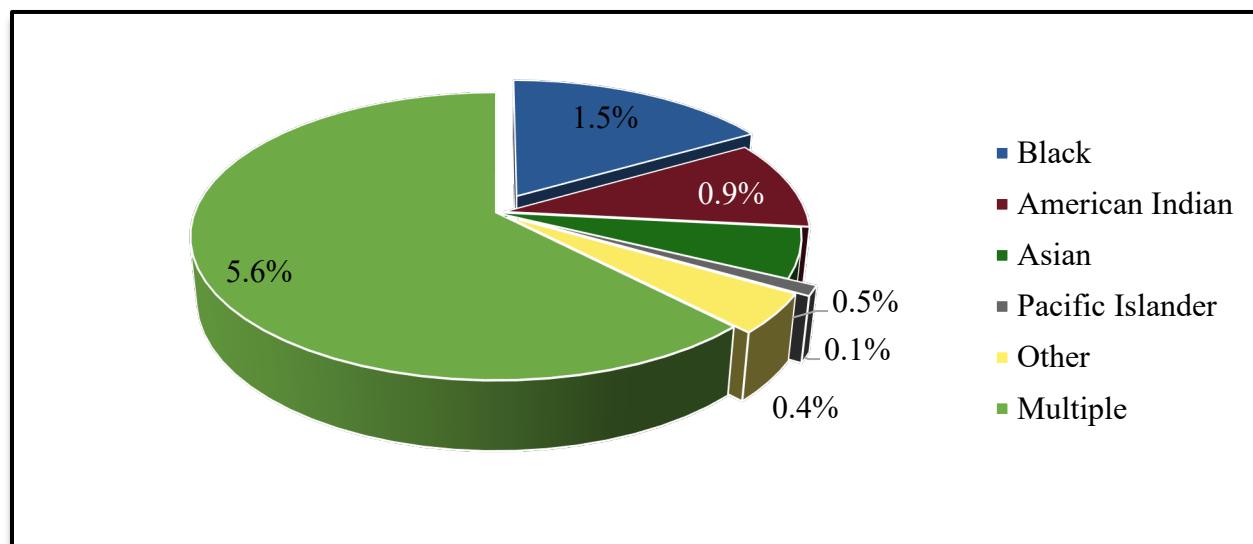
**Table K – City of Hibbing by Race and Median Age 2022**

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Race	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of MN Population
White	14,806	46.1	91.0%	77.0%
Black	248	33.0	1.5%	7.1%
American Indian	145	39.1	0.9%	1.2%
Asian	77	40.6	0.5%	5.4%
Pacific Islander	11	57.5	0.1%	0.1%
Other	72	38.3	0.4%	3.0%
Multiple	909	19.2	5.6%	6.3%

2022 City of Hibbing Total Population: 16,267 Residents

**Chart J – 2022 City of Hibbing Population by Non-White Race**



# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Table L – Secondary Service Area Ethnic Population and Median Age 2022**

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Ethnicity	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of MN Population
Hispanic	1,164	31.9	1.5%	6.1%

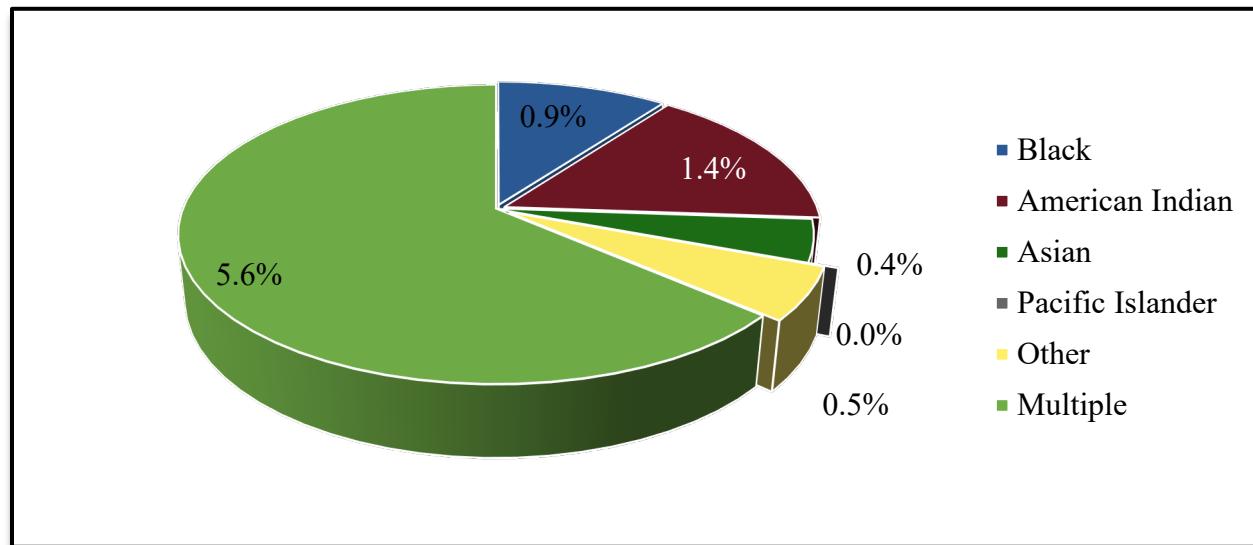
**Table M – Secondary Service Area by Race and Median Age 2022**

(Source – U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI)

Race	Total Population	Median Age	% of Population	% of MN Population
White	71,639	48.4	91.2%	77.0%
Black	741	29.9	0.9%	7.1%
American Indian	1,086	34.6	1.4%	1.2%
Asian	297	39.4	0.4%	5.4%
Pacific Islander	20	55.0	0.0%	0.1%
Other	368	44.0	0.5%	3.0%
Multiple	4,389	19.5	5.6%	6.3%

2022 Secondary Service Area Total Population: 78,542 Residents

**Chart K – 2022 Secondary Service Area Population by Non-White Race**



# Demographic Analysis

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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### Tapestry Segmentation

Tapestry segmentation represents the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of market segmentation systems that began 30 years ago. The 65-segment Tapestry Segmentation system classifies U.S. neighborhoods based on their socioeconomic and demographic compositions. While the demographic landscape of the U.S. has changed significantly since the 2000 Census, the tapestry segmentation has remained stable as neighborhoods have evolved.

The following pages and tables outline the top 5 tapestry segments in each of the service areas and provides a brief description of each. This information combined with the key indicators and demographic analysis of each service area helps further describe the markets that the City of Hibbing and Secondary Service Area looks to serve with parks and recreation services services.

For comparison purposes the following are the top 10 Tapestry segments, along with percentage in the United States:

1. Green Acres (6A)	3.2%
2. Southern Satellites (10A)	3.1%
3. Savvy Suburbanites (1D)	3.0%
4. Soccer Moms (4A)	2.9%
5. Middleburg (4C)	<u>2.9%</u>
	<b>15.1%</b>
6. Salt of the Earth (6B)	2.9%
7. Up and Coming Families (7A)	2.5%
8. Midlife Constants (5E)	2.5%
9. Comfortable Empty Nesters (5A)	2.4%
10. Old and Newcomers (8F)	<u>2.3%</u>
	<b>12.6%</b>

# Demographic Analysis

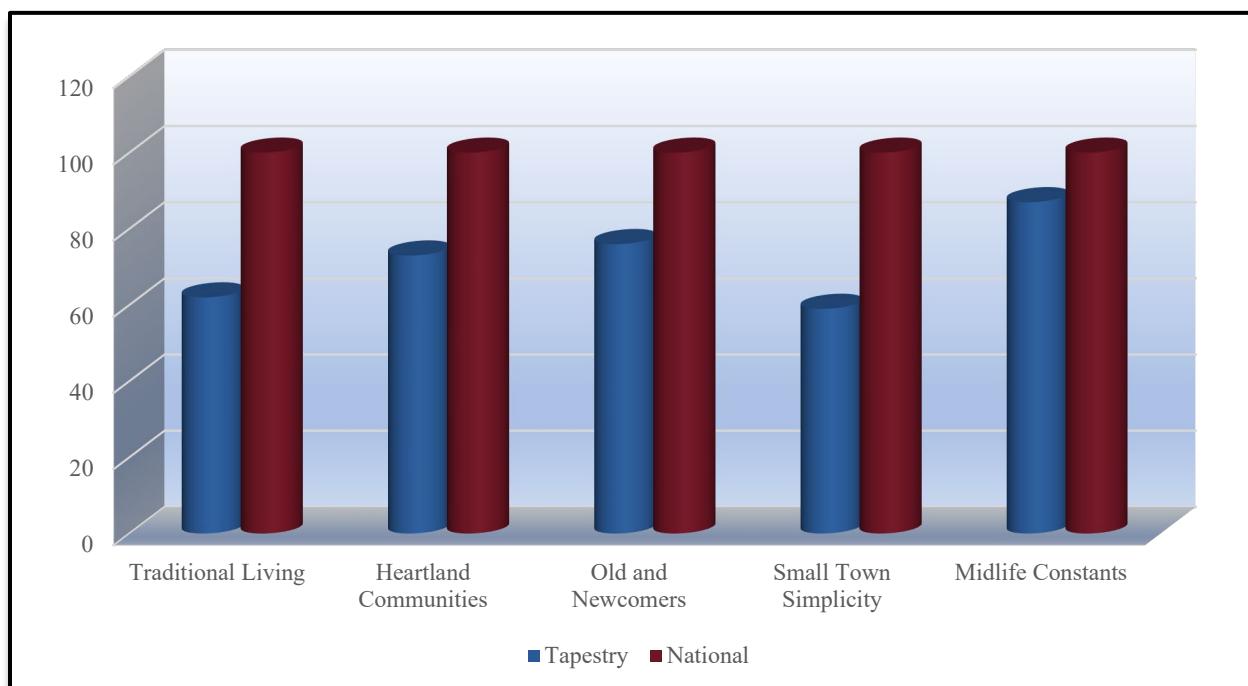
## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Table N – City of Hibbing Tapestry Segment Comparison**

(ESRI estimates)

	City of Hibbing		Demographics	
	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Median Age	Median HH Income
Traditional Living (12B)	27.6%	27.6%	35.5	\$39,300
Heartland Communities (6F)	19.1%	46.7%	42.3	\$42,400
Old and Newcomers (8F)	11.3%	58.0%	39.4	\$44,900
Small Town Simplicity (12C)	9.8%	67.8%	40.8	\$31,500
Midlife Constants (5E)	8.8%	76.6%	47.0	\$53,200

**Chart L – City of Hibbing Tapestry Segment Entertainment Spending:**



**Traditional Living (12B)** – This is a young market learning responsibility with jobs and marriage trying to hold onto youthful interests of style and fun. Cost conscious but brand loyal.

**Heartland Communities (6F)** – This group embraces a slow pace of life. Actively participate in outdoor activities and the community. Buy American and are traditional. Stick to brands they trust.

**Old and Newcomers (8F)** – Singles living on a budget. Just beginning careers or taking college/adult education classes. Strong supporters of environmental organizations.

## **Demographic Analysis** ***Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan***

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**Small Town Simplicity (12C)** – This segment includes young families and senior householders that are bound by community ties. The lifestyle is down-to-earth and semirural, with television for entertainment and news, and emphasis on convenience for both young parents and senior citizens. Almost 1 in 4 households are below poverty level. This is an older market, with almost half of the householders aged 55 years or older. There is a significant Black (13.1%) population in this segment. Hunting, fishing, and target shooting are favorite pastimes.

**Midlife Constants (5E)** – These residents are seniors, at or approaching retirement, with below average labor force participation and above average net worth. Their lifestyle is more country than urban. They are generous, but not spendthrifts. Leisure activities include scrapbooking, movies at home, reading, fishing and golf.

# Demographic Analysis

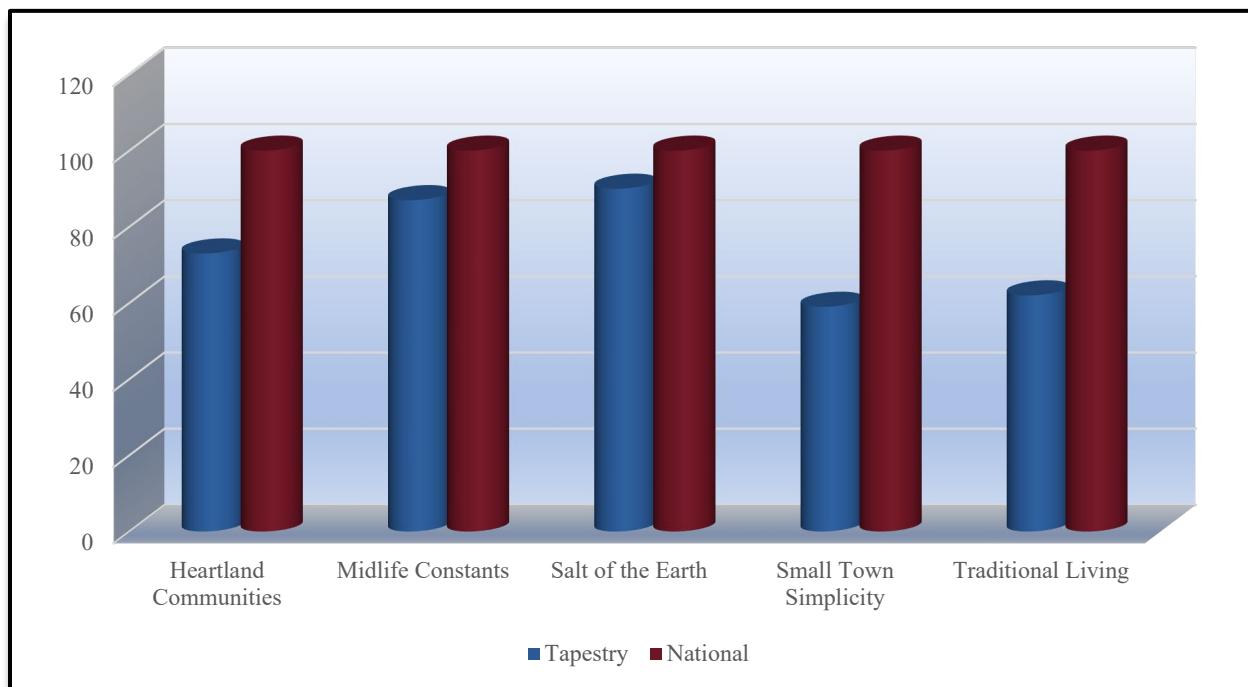
## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Table O – Secondary Service Area Tapestry Segment Comparison**

(ESRI estimates)

	Secondary Service Area		Demographics	
	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Median Age	Median HH Income
Heartland Communities (6F)	20.4%	20.4%	42.3	\$42,400
Midlife Constants (5E)	15.0%	35.4%	47.0	\$53,200
Salt of the Earth (6B)	11.4%	46.8%	44.1	\$56,300
Small Town Simplicity (12C)	11.1%	57.9%	40.8	\$31,500
Traditional Living (12B)	10.5%	68.4%	35.5	\$39,300

**Chart M – Secondary Service Area Tapestry Segment Entertainment Spending:**



**Heartland Communities (6F)** – This group embraces a slow pace of life. Actively participate in outdoor activities and the community. Buy American and are traditional. Stick to brands they trust.

**Midlife Constants (5E)** – These residents are seniors, at or approaching retirement, with below average labor force participation and above average net worth. Their lifestyle is more country than urban. They are generous, but not spendthrifts. Leisure activities include scrapbooking, movies at home, reading, fishing and golf.

## **Demographic Analysis** ***Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan***

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**Salt of the Earth (6B)** – Residents are older and mostly without children. They are settled, and entrenched in traditional, rural lifestyles. They cherish family time, embrace the outdoors and are the last to accept technology. Cost-conscious and eat healthy. This demographic enjoys the outdoors but also workout indoors using stationary bikes and treadmills.

**Small Town Simplicity (12C)** – This segment includes young families and senior householders that are bound by community ties. The lifestyle is down-to-earth and semirural, with television for entertainment and news, and emphasis on convenience for both young parents and senior citizens. Almost 1 in 4 households are below poverty level. This is an older market, with almost half of the householders aged 55 years or older. There is a significant Black (13.1%) population in this segment. Hunting, fishing, and target shooting are favorite pastimes.

**Traditional Living (12B)** – This is a young market learning responsibility with jobs and marriage trying to hold onto youthful interests of style and fun. Cost conscious but brand loyal.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Market Potential Index for Adult Participation:** In addition to examining the demographic characteristics, ESRI also calculates the market potential index for participation by adults in a variety of sports and recreation activities.

**Table P – Market Potential Index (MPI) for Participation in Activities in City of Hibbing**

Adults participated in:	Expected Number of Adults	Percent of Population	MPI
Aerobics	926	7.1%	84
Backpacking	336	2.6%	71
Baseball	335	2.6%	87
Basketball	782	6.0%	89
Bicycle (Mountain)	371	2.8%	75
Bicycle (Road)	1,131	8.6%	76
Canoeing/Kayaking	1,104	8.4%	115
Exercise Walking	3,685	23.2%	90
Fishing (Fresh Water)	1,790	13.7%	128
Football	374	2.9%	92
Golf	855	6.5%	83
Hiking	1,583	12.1%	75
Hunting (Rifle)	713	5.4%	156
Hunting (Shotgun)	539	4.1%	147
Ice Skating	202	1.5%	66
Running/Jogging	1,090	8.3%	75
Pilates	330	2.5%	81
Ping Pong	356	2.7%	78
Skiing (Downhill)	216	1.7%	59
Soccer	324	2.5%	63
Softball	201	1.5%	81
Swimming	1,905	14.6%	93
Tennis	266	2.0%	54
Volleyball	321	2.5%	93
Weightlifting	1,278	9.8%	82
Yoga	1,111	8.5%	82

**Expected # of Adults:** Number of adults, 18 years of age and older, participating in the activity in Hibbing.

**Percent of Population:** Percent of the service area that participates in the activity.

**MPI:** Market potential index as compared to the national number of 100.

This table indicates that the overall propensity for adults to participate in activities is significantly lower than the national number of 100. The four activities that are higher are all outdoor recreation oriented.

# Demographic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

**Table Q – Market Potential Index (MPI) for Participation in Activities in Secondary Service Area**

Adults participated in:	Expected Number of Adults	Percent of Population	MPI
Aerobics	4,263	6.7%	80
Backpacking	1,858	2.9%	81
Baseball	1,686	2.7%	91
Basketball	3,579	5.6%	84
Bicycle (Mountain)	1,866	2.9%	78
Bicycle (Road)	6,203	9.8%	86
Canoeing/Kayaking	5,534	8.7%	119
Exercise Walking	18,755	29.6%	95
Fishing (Fresh Water)	9,548	15.0%	141
Football	1,715	2.7%	87
Golf	4,666	7.3%	93
Hiking	8,723	13.7%	86
Hunting (Rifle)	3,513	5.5%	159
Hunting (Shotgun)	2,768	4.4%	156
Ice Skating	989	1.6%	67
Running/Jogging	5,242	8.3%	74
Pilates	1,519	2.4%	76
Ping Pong	1,859	2.9%	84
Skiing (Downhill)	1,313	2.1%	74
Soccer	1,607	2.5%	65
Softball	1,076	1.7%	89
Swimming	9,488	14.9%	95
Tennis	1,528	2.4%	64
Volleyball	1,550	2.4%	93
Weightlifting	6,468	10.2%	81
Yoga	5,412	8.5%	82

**Expected # of Adults:** Number of adults, 18 years of age and older, participating in the activity in the Service Area.

**Percent of Population:** Percent of the service area that participates in the activity.

**MPI:** Market potential index as compared to the national number of 100.

This table indicates that the overall propensity for adults to participate in activities is significantly lower than the national number of 100. The four activities that are higher are all outdoor recreation oriented.

# Demographic Analysis

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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### **Demographic Summary**

The following summarizes the demographic characteristics of the service areas.

- The population within the City of Hibbing is relatively small at just over 16,000 but the addition of the other Iron Range communities (Secondary Service Area) pushes the population to over 78,500. However, the overall population is anticipated to decline in both market areas over the next 5 years.
- The median age in both market areas is significantly higher than the State and National numbers. This often results in a lower rate of participation in most recreation activities.
- The City of Hibbing and the Secondary Service Area have a smaller percentage of households with children (23.8% and 24.4%) than the state and national average.
- The City of Hibbing and the Secondary Service Area have a lower median household income compared to state and national numbers. Income level is also an important determinant in recreation activities.
- The Household Budget Expenditures and the Recreation Spending Potential are consistent with the median household income within both market areas and are considerably lower than the state and national numbers.
- The age distribution in Hibbing indicates that 19.6% are under the age of 18 and 38.2% are over the age of 55. For the Secondary Service Area 19.2% are under 18 and 39.9% are over age 55. The younger age groups are significant users of programs and services. Additionally, it is projected 65+ age category is projected to increase through 2027 although the City of Hibbing is projected to see sizeable increases in the 5-17 and 25-44 age categories.
- Hibbing and the Secondary Service Area both indicate very little ethnic or racial diversity.
- The top 3 Tapestry segments in the city account for 58.0% of the population in Hibbing. Although none of these exceed the national level of recreation activity, the Traditional Living, Heartland Communities and Old and Newcomers are active locally and participate in outdoor activities.
- The Market Potential Index in the City of Hibbing and the Secondary Service Area is greater than the national number of 100 in only 4 of the 26 activities listed, indicating lower levels of participation in most activities.

# **Sports/Recreation Participation Trends**

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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### **Sports and Recreation Participation Trends**

The following are general summaries of sports and recreation participation statistics from a variety of sources. This includes:

- National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)
- Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Recreation Management Magazine
- Outdoor Foundation

# Sports/Recreation Participation Trends

## Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan

*National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)* – Their annual survey (2021) indicates the ranking of the top 50 sports activities nationally as well as the level of participation.

**Table A - Sports Participation Ranking in 2021**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Nat'l Rank<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Nat'l Participation (in millions)</b>
Exercise Walking	1	125.0
Cardio Fitness	2	86.1
Strength Training	3	68.9
Exercising w/ Equipment	4	57.2
Hiking	5	48.8
Swimming	6	47.2
Running/Jogging	7	45.0
Bicycle Riding	8	42.8
Weightlifting	9	37.5
Yoga	10	30.7
Fishing (fresh water)	11	29.5
Workout @ Club	13	24.6
Basketball	14	22.5
Golf	16	19.0
Target Shooting (live ammunition)	17	18.8
Hunting w/ Firearms	18	16.4
Boating (motor/power)	19	14.6
Soccer	20	14.5
Tennis	22	13.8
Kayaking	24	11.5
Baseball	26	11.3
Volleyball	27	10.8
Fishing (salt water)	29	9.6
Softball	30	9.3
Football (touch)	32	8.2
Canoeing	33	7.8
Hunting w/ Bow & Arrow	34	6.9
Football (tackle)	35	6.7
Mountain Biking (off road)	38	6.0
Football (flag)	41	5.4
Target Shooting (airgun)	43	5.1
Water Skiing	49	3.8
Pickleball	50	3.6

Fitness and outdoor recreation activities are the most popular sports activities.

<sup>5</sup> This rank is based upon the 58 activities reported on by NSGA in their 2021 survey instrument.

# Sports/Recreation Participation Trends

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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The NSGA also lists a number of sports activities and the percentage of growth or decline that each has experienced nationally over the last ten years (2012-2021).

**Table B - Sports Activity Participation Changes Over Time**

	2012 Participation	2021 Participation	Percent Change
Kayaking	7.2	11.5	+59.7%
Hunting w/ Bow & Arrow	5.1	6.9	+35.3%
Yoga	22.9	30.7	+34.1%
Skateboarding	5.4	6.7	+24.1%
Exercise Walking	102.1	125	+22.4%
Weightlifting	31.1	37.5	+20.6%
Hiking	42.2	48.8	+15.6%
Running/Jogging	40	45	+12.5%
Wrestling	2.8	3.1	+10.7%
Mountain Biking (off road)	5.5	6	+9.1%
Bicycle Riding	39.3	42.8	+8.9%
Backpack/Wilderness Camping	11.7	12.4	+6.0%
Soccer	13.7	14.5	+5.8%
Water Skiing	3.6	3.8	+5.6%
Volleyball	10.3	10.8	+4.9%
Target Shooting (airgun)	4.9	5.1	+4.1%
Tennis	13.6	13.8	1.5%
Exercising w/ Equipment	57.7	57.2	-0.9%
Swimming	48.6	47.1	-3.1%
Fishing (fresh water)	30.8	29.5	-4.2%
Baseball	12.1	11.3	-6.6%
Golf	21.1	19	-10.0%
Fishing (salt water)	10.7	9.6	-10.3%
Softball	10.5	9.3	-11.4%
Football (touch)	9.3	8.2	-11.8%
Basketball	25.6	22.5	-12.1%
Target Shooting (live ammunition)	21.7	18.8	-13.4%
Boating (motor/power)	17	14.6	-14.1%
Football (tackle)	7.9	6.7	-15.2%
Hunting w/ Firearms	19.4	16.4	-15.5%
Football (flag)	6.7	5.4	-19.4%
Workout @ Club	35.2	24.6	-30.1%

Over the last 10 years key areas of program growth have occurred in fitness related activities. Many of the declines in participation are related to traditional team sports such as baseball, football,

# **Sports/Recreation Participation Trends**

## ***Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan***

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basketball, and softball. Pickleball has not been included as it has only been tracked for the last 3 to 4 years.

*Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)* – Their 2023 Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Top-Line Participation Report indicated the rate of participation by major sports activity categories over the last 6 years.

**Table C - Percentage of Participation Comparisons**

<b>Activity Category</b>	<b>2017 Percentage</b>	<b>2022 Percentage</b>
1. Fitness Sports	65.5%	67.4%
2. Outdoor Sports	49.0%	55.0%
3. Individual Sports	46.2%	41.3%
4. Team Sports	22.6%	23.2%
5. Water Sports	13.8%	14.4%
6. Racquet Sports	13.3%	16.4%
7. Winter Sports	8.3%	8.0%

Fitness related sports continued to be the most popular activity category, but racquet sports have shown the greatest percentage increase over the last six years due in large part to pickleball. Team sports, water sports, and outdoor sports have all seen an increase as well. Individual sports and winter sports have seen a decrease in participation.

Much of the participation data was affected by COVID-19 during 2020. Key impacts include:

- Fitness activities that require amenities typically found in fitness clubs (group exercise, stationary cycling, cross-training, aqua exercise, etc.) decreased in numbers.
- Fitness activities that require limited equipment and do not require a fitness center (running/jogging, free weights, and yoga) showed the greatest increases.
- Outdoor activities that experienced large increases were road biking, skateboarding, and surfing.
- Team sports had a mixed impact with basketball and soccer having increases (mostly attributed to pick-up play) while volleyball, swimming on a team, gymnastics and cheerleading all had decreases.

# Sports/Recreation Participation Trends

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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**Table D - Top Activities with Intent to Participate by Age**

<b>Age 6-12</b>	<b>Age 13-17</b>	<b>Age 16-24</b>	<b>Age 25-34</b>
Fishing	Fishing	Workout w/Weights	Fishing
Camping	Swimming for Fitness	Running/Jogging	Camping
Soccer	Basketball	Workout w/Machines	Workout w/Weights
Running/Jogging	Running/Jogging	Cardio Fitness	Running/Jogging
Swimming for Fitness	Martial Arts	Yoga	Cardio Fitness
Hunting	Workout w/Weights	Basketball	Yoga
Sledding	Camping	Hiking	Hiking
Shooting	Cardio Fitness	Shooting	Workout w/Machines
Baseball	Soccer	Camping	Basketball
7 on7 Football	Hunting	Volleyball	Shooting

<b>Age 35-44</b>	<b>Age 45-54</b>	<b>Age 55-64</b>	<b>Age 65+</b>
Fishing	Fishing	Fishing	Fishing
Camping	Camping	Shooting	Camping
Workout w/Weights	Cardio Fitness	Camping	Cardio Fitness
Cardio Fitness	Workout w/Machines	Workout w/Weights	Swimming for Fitness
Workout w/Machines	Workout w/Weights	Swimming for Fitness	Workout w/Machines
Yoga	Hiking	Hunting	Workout w/Weights
Running/Jogging	Shooting	Workout w/Machines	Shooting
Swimming for Fitness	Swimming for Fitness	Hiking	Yoga
Shooting	Yoga	Cardio Fitness	Hunting
Hiking	Hunting	Running/Jogging	Hiking

The most popular activities that all age groups intend to participate in are generally fitness or outdoor recreation related.

# Sports/Recreation Participation Trends

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

*National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)* – NRPA’s 2022 Agency Performance Review document has specific information on programming that is offered by park and recreation agencies nationally.

**Table E – Recreation Programming Offered by Park and Recreation Agencies in 2022**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Percentage of Agencies</b>
Themed Special Events	90%
Social Recreation Events	88%
Team Sports	87%
Fitness Enhancement Classes	82%
Health & Wellness Education	80%
Individual Sports	76%
Safety Training	72%
Racquet Sports	71%
Aquatics	70%
Performing Arts	64%
Visual Arts	63%
Natural and Cultural History Activities	62%
Cultural Crafts	62%
Trips and Tours	61%
Martial Arts	59%
Running/Cycling Races	50%
Golf	47%
eSports/eGaming	12%

# **Sports/Recreation Participation Trends**

## ***Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan***

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*Recreation Management Magazine* – Annually the magazine prints their State of the Industry Report that examines trends in parks and recreation. Their 2022 report indicated the following as it relates to recreation programs and services.

**Table F - Programming Most Commonly Offered in 2022**

<b>Activity Category</b>	<b>Percent of Agencies</b>
1. Holiday and Other Special Events	57.2%
2. Day Camps/Summer Camps	54.3%
3. Fitness Programs	52.8%
4. Group Exercise Programs	52.8%
5. Educational Programs	51.2%
6. Youth Sports Teams	50.3%
7. Mind-Body Balance Programs (Yoga)	43.0%
8. Arts & Crafts Programs	41.3%
9. Sports Tournaments & Races	39.3%
10. Swimming Programs	38.4%

**Table G - Most Commonly Planned Program Additions in 2022**

<b>Activity Category</b>	<b>Percent of Agencies</b>
11. Mind-Body Balance Programs (Yoga)	29.9%
12. Fitness Programs	27.9%
13. Group Exercise Programs	27.9%
14. Educational Programs	25.9%
15. Arts & Crafts Programs	21.9%
16. Teen Programs	21.9%
17. Functional Fitness Programs	21.4%
18. Performing Arts Programs	21.4%
19. Environmental Education	20.9%
20. Holidays and Other Special Events	20.4%

There is a wide range of program areas that public parks and recreation agencies planned to add in 2022.

# Sports/Recreation Participation Trends

## *Hibbing Parks & Trail System Master Plan*

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*Outdoor Foundation* – The 2022 Outdoor Participation Report indicates the most popular outdoor activities by rate of participation.

**Table H – Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities in 2022**

Activity	National Participation (In millions)
1. Running	64.5
2. Hiking	58.7
3. Fishing	52.4
4. Biking	51.4
5. Camping	45.9

The rate of participation in outdoor activities increased by 1.2% over the last three years but decreased by youth (at least 4%) in 2019. Growth in participation was highest among adults who have children in their household.

## Appendix B

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# Full Public Input Survey and Group Notes

NORTHSPAN

# Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## Community Engagement Results

### July 2023

Miriam Kero, Senior Consultant

NORTHSPAN 202 West Superior St. Ste 600, Duluth, MN 55802



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## Executive Summary

As part of the Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Planning process, Northspan was hired to help facilitate community engagement. The process included a community survey and a consensus building workshop/community engagement session.

Using questions provided by Barr Engineering and reviewed by the City of Hibbing, Northspan created and managed a statistically valid community survey to gather input on Hibbing's current facilities and programming and learn the desires for the parks and recreation plan. The survey, which included 35 questions, opened on April 24 and closed on June 26, 2023, with 714 responses and a completion rate of 89%.

Results from the survey suggest trails (paved and unpaved), sports fields, and playgrounds hold important roles in residents' use of the parks system. Swimming pools, restroom facilities, and swimming beaches are deemed to be lacking in the city. Residents desire places to rock climb and develop climbing skills, both indoors and outdoors, and a high percentage of respondents want indoor playgrounds, swimming pools, and youth programs. Many voiced a desire for a "community center"/"YMCA"/"field house." Hibbing residents would like an indoor, year-round facility and prefer Hibbing take a strategic approach to their planning focusing on quality, investing in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destinations.

To assist in development planning for Carey Lake Park, two specific questions were included in the survey. Results from these questions suggest the city prioritize the cleaning of the beach, improve the water quality, and continue to enhance both paved and unpaved trails. Respondents also noted the need for improved restrooms and facilities, and they expressed a desire for a campground.

Coupled with insights gathered at the consensus building workshop and the 'gallery walk' held on June 16, there are some immediate actions desired by the community. Improving communication was recommended in both the consensus building workshop and came up as a challenge in the survey. Respondents also believe that cleaning and maintenance of existing facilities is needed, along with signage and communication about Parks and Recreation offerings.

## Background

As part of the Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Planning process, Northspan was hired by Barr Engineering, the project lead, to help create and manage a community engagement process. The approach was two-fold. It included a statistically valid community survey and a face-to-face community session.

The goal of the process was to gather input on Hibbing's current facilities and programming and learn the desires for the parks and recreation plan. Miriam Kero, Senior Consultant at Northspan, managed the community engagement process.

The survey was crafted by Barr Engineering utilizing edited questions from other parks and recreation planning efforts. The draft questions were reviewed by the City of Hibbing committee, Barr Engineering, and Northspan. Once approved, Northspan entered the questions into SurveyMonkey for distribution.

The survey included 35 questions. Of these, 18 questions asked respondents to rate existing Hibbing parks, facilities, and programs and make suggestions, and 17 requested demographic information.

To ensure thoughtful execution of the survey, Northspan drafted an outreach plan (Appendix A) articulating the survey's targeted population broken down by age category. The outreach plan included suggested tactics, optional outreach channels, and draft survey invitation language.

The survey opened on April 24, and the City posted the invitation to take the survey on the City website and social media and sent email invitations. Kero shared the survey link via social media and contacted Hibbing public schools and the local community college. On request of both Kero and the City, the Hibbing schools shared the survey invitation and link on their communication tool, ParentSquare.

While the survey was running, the City hosted a community engagement event at the Memorial Building Labor Quarters on June 16. The noon event was a consensus building workshop of key stakeholders in the Parks and Recreation system hosted by Northspan. The session was attended by a dozen stakeholders who answered the question: What should the Parks and Recreation plan focus on in the next three to five years? The results were in seven themes:

- Organized, central communication.
- Upgrade and maintenance plan
- Year round, indoor, climate-controlled facilities
- Hiring a full-time community activities director
- Improve signage and visibility
- Carey Lake recreational improvements
- Add new options

A report articulating specific recommendations for each theme is included in Appendix B.

Following the noon session, Barr Engineering hosted a gallery walk session from 1:30 PM to 6:00 PM in the Memorial Building Veteran's Quarters. The event was open to the public, and it included a review

and commenting on printed maps and photos of all Hibbing parks. Barr Engineering will report on the details from this session separately.

The community engagement survey was closed on June 26, 2023, with 714 responses and a completion rate of 89%. What follows is a comprehensive reporting of the survey details and Northspan interpretation of that data. This data will be used by Barr Engineering and their subcontractor Ballard\*King to inform the Master Plan.

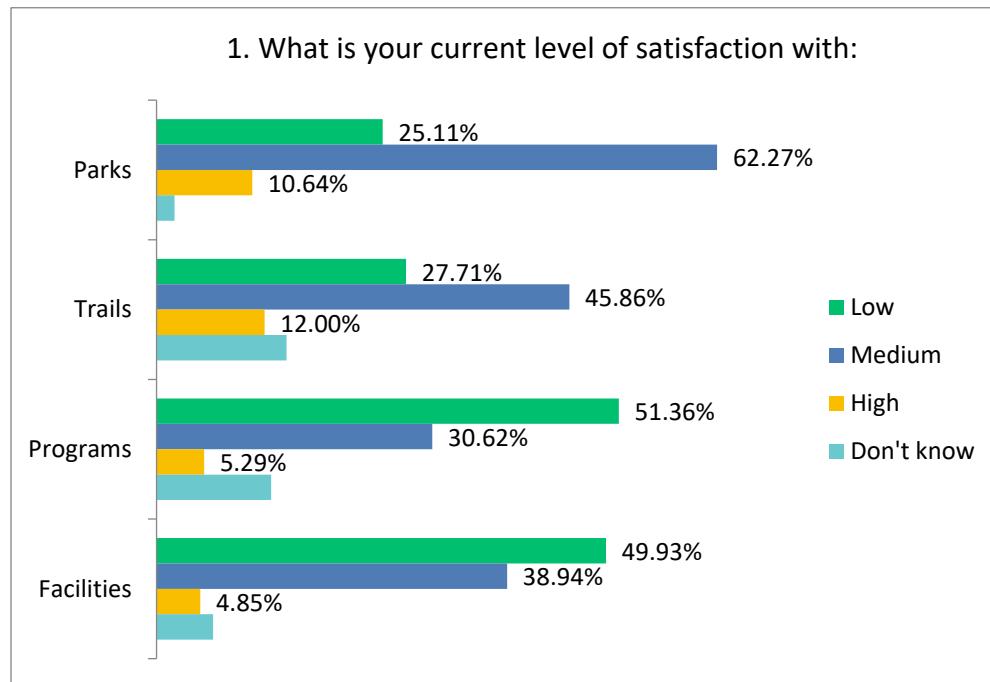
## Community Survey Results

In the first survey question, respondents were asked:

**1. What is your current level of satisfaction with:**

- Parks
- Trails
- Programs
- Facilities

Respondents rated each on a satisfaction scale of “low, medium, high,” and a “don’t know” option was included.





In the “low” satisfaction category, ‘Programs’ received the poorest rating by over half of respondents (~51%). ‘Facilities’ were also rated poorly, with ~50% of respondents noting a low level of satisfaction in that category.

	<b>Low</b>	
Programs	51.36%	359
Facilities	49.93%	350
Trails	27.71%	194
Parks	25.11%	177

Of the four categories, ‘parks’ received the highest “medium” rating, with 62% expressing a moderate level of satisfaction.

	<b>Medium</b>	
Parks	62.27%	439
Trails	45.86%	321
Facilities	38.94%	273
Programs	30.62%	214

There were not high levels of satisfaction expressed for any of the categories, but in the “high” levels of satisfaction category, ‘trails’ received a “high” mark by 12% of respondents.

	<b>High</b>	
Trails	12.00%	84
Parks	10.64%	75
Programs	5.29%	37
Facilities	4.85%	34

**2. What are the top 5 ways your household uses Hibbing’s park system, if you use it at all?  
Respondents could select up to 5 choices.**

The responses are in descending order, from the items chosen the most to the least:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Walking, running, rollerblading or biking on paved trails	46.64%	333
Playing at playgrounds	44.68%	319
Playing team sports	30.53%	218
Walking, hiking, running or biking on unpaved (e.g., single-track) trails	25.49%	182
Swimming	21.71%	155
Outdoor ice skating, playing hockey	21.01%	150
Organized activities and special events	20.17%	144
Indoor ice skating, playing hockey	19.75%	141



Observing nature, wildlife, etc (e.g. birding)	19.47%	139
Picnics, BBQs, and gatherings	19.33%	138
Riding All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off-Highway vehicles (OHVs)	18.21%	130
Golfing	17.37%	124
Cross country skiing	14.99%	107
Fishing	12.89%	92
Sledding, snow tubing	11.62%	83
Snowshoeing or Winter (fat tire) biking	10.64%	76
Relaxing, contemplating, meditating, etc	10.50%	75
Playing disc golf	9.24%	66
Using off-leash dog areas	9.24%	66
Snowmobiling	7.98%	57
Camping	5.60%	40
Water, paddle sports	5.60%	40
Using Remote Controlled (RC) vehicles	5.18%	37
Foraging	2.52%	18
Geocaching	2.24%	16
We don't use Hibbing's park system	2.10%	15
Playing bocce ball	1.96%	14
Using the skate park	1.82%	13
Scavenger hunts	0.98%	7
Playing horseshoes	0.70%	5
Engaging in cultural practices	0.56%	4
Riding horses on trails	0.56%	4
Other (please specify)		36

Respondents were also invited to enter comments. 36 responses were entered. All have been included below verbatim (with no correction for spelling or grammar):

- Summer band concerts
- The big need is an indoor walking area during the winter months
- Indoor community gym
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Tennis courts
- Curling
- Basketball
- tennis
- I would love if Hibbing's Park Programs/ACTIVITIES were actually FREE and NOT HAVE TO BE PART OF A CLUB just to USE MANY of the activities on/in the PARKS grounds, trails, etc (example: bocce ball, horse shoes, ball field etc. Docks at most places are very unsafe if not unusable for not just general public but handicapped individuals of the community. I can't take



my autistic child to any of the beaches as there is only sand down to the beach and it's quite obvious wheel chairs do not do well in sand or undeveloped and un level land.

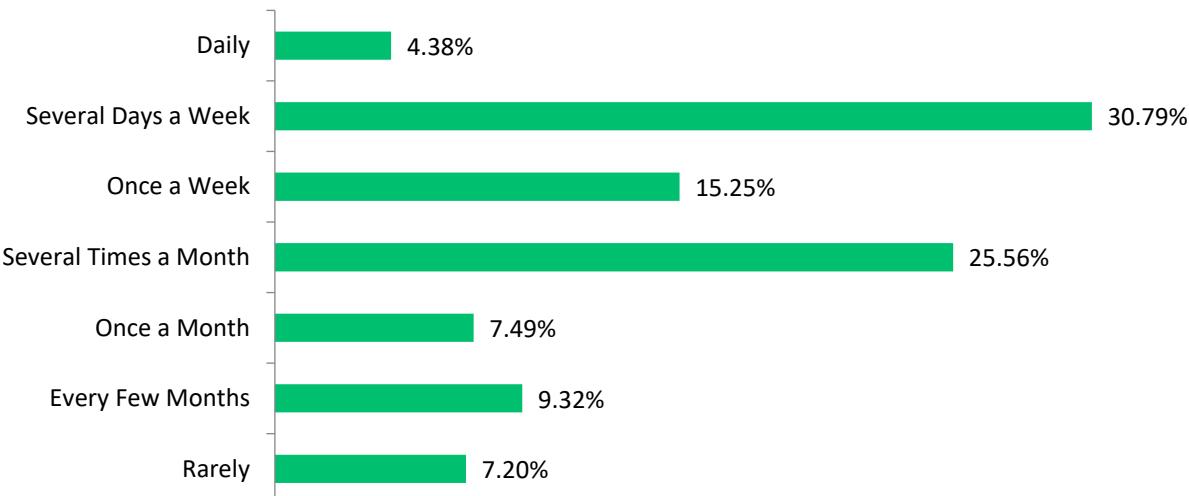
- outdoor basketball courts used often
- If the parks were nicer we would attend more. The only nice park is Bennett park.
- Splash pad
- Mountain biking
- Use of basketball courts
- basketball
- Use
- Another name for geocaching but can't remember at this moment
- Playing Basketball
- VIC Power Park for softball and soccer.
- Soccer at fields
- Volleyball
- Baseball fields
- Need 2 hockey rinks of equal size and pleasure rink at each greenhaven and Jefferson... and a matching shack just like greenhaven at Jefferson.
- Use the pavilions for belly dance practice
- Basketball
- City Band concerts at Bennet Park
- Biking
- Splash pad.
- Racing
- Would be nice if we had a place to park our semi trucks
- The indoor park at the library access is horrible
- Hibbing does not have snowmobile or atv trails. The snowmobile trail is maintained by the Pathblazers Snowmobile club.
- Bird watching
- Baseball

### 3. How often do you visit Hibbing parks or natural areas?

Answer options included:

- Daily
- Several days a week
- Once a week
- Several times a month
- Once a month
- Every few months
- Rarely

## 3. How often do you visit Hibbing parks or natural areas?



Just 4% of respondents visited Hibbing parks or natural areas daily, but nearly 31% visited several days a week.

 4. For each of the types of outdoor facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too few, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.

In the too few category, ~76% percent of respondents noted 'swimming pools.' 'Restroom facilities' were also noted as a shortage, with ~66%, nearly 2/3 of respondents, choosing this category. 'Swimming beaches' were third in the "too few" category, with ~66% of respondents voicing this need. 'Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills' were shared as needed, by ~65%. 'Community gardens' (~61%) and 'camping areas' (~60%) rounded out the top five items in the "too few" category.

	Too few	
Swimming pools	76.35%	539
Restroom facilities	66.05%	463
Swimming beaches	64.96%	458
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	64.81%	453
Community gardens	60.92%	424
Camping areas	60.52%	423
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	55.97%	394
Trailheads with amenities	51.80%	359
Water and paddling public access points	51.29%	358
Picnics, pavilions and small group gathering areas	49.57%	346
Fishing piers	48.50%	340
Volleyball courts	47.63%	332

Unpaved trails for biking, walking, running or hiking (e.g. single-track)	47.34%	329
Designated fishing areas	45.16%	317
Splash, spray water pad	43.02%	302
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	42.51%	295
Environmental education facilities	42.30%	294
Paved trails	41.44%	288
Artificial turf fields	41.03%	288
Multi-use athletic fields	40.06%	282
Off-leash dog trails	37.45%	261
Basketball courts	37.05%	259
Dog parks	36.91%	258
Natural or forested areas	36.71%	254
Pickleball courts	34.86%	244
Mountain bike skills parks or pump tracks	34.20%	238
ATV/OHV trails	34.05%	237
Cultural, historic facilities	33.38%	233
Tennis courts	31.71%	222
Disc-golf courses	30.07%	209
Outdoor ice rinks	27.39%	192
Playgrounds	26.93%	188
Skateboard parks	24.53%	171
Ski trails	24.18%	169
Snowmobile trails	21.06%	147
Unpaved trails for horse riding	20.17%	140
Remote controlled vehicle use areas	19.23%	134
Baseball fields	18.39%	128
Gaga ball courts	17.37%	120
Softball fields	17.22%	120
Golf courses	16.52%	115
Bocce ball courts	14.06%	98
Soccer fields	12.70%	88
Horseshoe courts	11.76%	82
Comments on the types of outdoors facilities or places		

In the “about right” category, ~65% of the respondents felt we have sufficient ‘golf courses.’ Over half of respondents felt we had the right amount of ‘playgrounds’ (62%) and ‘baseball fields’ (~60%). For ‘soccer fields,’ 60% felt we had the right amount, and 59% felt we had the right amount of ‘outdoor ice rinks.’

	About right	
Golf courses	65.23%	454
Playgrounds	62.32%	435
Baseball fields	59.91%	417



Soccer fields	59.88%	415
Outdoor ice rinks	58.92%	413
Softball fields	57.68%	402
Natural or forested areas	50.87%	352
Bocce ball courts	48.78%	340
Skateboard parks	46.34%	323
Horseshoe courts	45.62%	318
Tennis courts	43.71%	306
Disc-golf courses	42.73%	297
Multi-use athletic fields	42.19%	297
Splash, spray water pad	41.74%	293
Paved trails	41.29%	287
Picnics, pavilions and small group gathering areas	41.26%	288
Ski trails	39.63%	277
Basketball courts	39.20%	274
Snowmobile trails	37.54%	262
Cultural, historic facilities	34.81%	243
Dog parks	33.76%	236
Fishing piers	32.38%	227
Unpaved trails for biking, walking, running or hiking (e.g. single-track)	32.37%	225
Designated fishing areas	31.91%	224
Water and paddling public access points	31.52%	220
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	29.25%	203
Swimming beaches	28.23%	199
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	28.13%	198
Artificial turf fields	27.49%	193
Pickleball courts	25.14%	176
ATV/OHV trails	24.28%	169
Restroom facilities	23.40%	164
Remote controlled vehicle use areas	21.95%	153
Mountain bike skills parks or pump tracks	21.84%	152
Volleyball courts	21.09%	147
Environmental education facilities	20.43%	142
Off-leash dog trails	18.94%	132
Gaga ball courts	17.80%	123
Camping areas	16.60%	116
Unpaved trails for horse riding	14.12%	98
Community gardens	12.93%	90
Trailheads with amenities	12.41%	86
Swimming pools	10.76%	76
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	6.15%	43
Comments on the types of outdoors facilities or places		

In the 'too many' category, percentages of respondents were markedly reduced, with much fewer participants rating items as such. Within this area, ~7% felt we had too many 'ATV/ OHV trails,' ~6% felt we had too many 'soccer fields,' and ~5% felt we had too many 'snowmobile trails.' 'Baseball fields' (<5%) and 'softball fields' (<5%) rounded out the top category for this area.

	Too many	
ATV/ OHV trails	6.90%	48
Soccer fields	6.35%	44
Snowmobile trails	5.01%	35
Baseball fields	4.89%	34
Softball fields	4.88%	34
Skateboard parks	4.88%	34
Cultural, historic facilities	4.15%	29
Golf courses	3.88%	27
Playgrounds	3.72%	26
Outdoor ice rinks	3.71%	26
Dog parks	3.15%	22
Basketball courts	3.00%	21
Natural or forested areas	2.89%	20
Pickleball courts	2.86%	20
Horseshoe courts	2.73%	19
Environmental education facilities	2.73%	19
Bocce ball courts	2.58%	18
Multi-use athletic fields	2.56%	18
Remote controlled vehicle use areas	2.44%	17
Artificial turf fields	2.42%	17
Gaga ball courts	2.32%	16
Disc-golf courses	2.30%	16
Tennis courts	2.14%	15
Unpaved trails for horse riding	2.02%	14
Unpaved trails for biking, walking, running or hiking (e.g. single-track)	1.87%	13
Paved trails	1.87%	13
Community gardens	1.87%	13
Ski trails	1.72%	12
Mountain bike skills parks or pump tracks	1.58%	11
Splash, spray water pad	1.57%	11
Volleyball courts	1.43%	10
Off-leash dog trails	1.43%	10
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	1.14%	8
Swimming beaches	0.99%	7
Swimming pools	0.99%	7
Camping areas	0.86%	6
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	0.86%	6



Trailheads with amenities	0.72%	5
Picnics, pavilions and small group gathering areas	0.72%	5
Restroom facilities	0.71%	5
Water and paddling public access points	0.57%	4
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	0.57%	4
Designated fishing areas	0.14%	1
Fishing piers	0.00%	0
Comments on the types of outdoors facilities or places		

Finally, in the don't know category, 'unpaved trails for horse riding' gleaned ~64%, 'gaga ball courts' ~63%, and RC controlled vehicle use areas ~56%.

	Don't know	
Unpaved trails for horse riding	63.69%	442
Gaga ball courts	62.52%	432
Remote controlled vehicle use areas	56.38%	393
Mountain bike skills parks or pump tracks	42.39%	295
Off-leash dog trails	42.18%	294
Horseshoe courts	39.89%	278
Pickleball courts	37.14%	260
Snowmobile trails	36.39%	254
Trailheads with amenities	35.06%	243
ATV/OHV trails	34.77%	242
Bocce ball courts	34.58%	241
Environmental education facilities	34.53%	240
Ski trails	34.48%	241
Volleyball courts	29.84%	208
Artificial turf fields	29.06%	204
Places to rock climb, develop climbing skills	28.47%	199
Cultural, historic facilities	27.65%	193
Signage (directional, interpretive, etc.)	27.38%	190
Dog parks	26.18%	183
Disc-golf courses	24.89%	173
Community gardens	24.28%	169
Skateboard parks	24.25%	169
Designated fishing areas	22.79%	160
Tennis courts	22.43%	157
Camping areas	22.03%	154
Soccer fields	21.07%	146
Basketball courts	20.74%	145
Softball fields	20.23%	141
Fishing piers	19.12%	134
Unpaved trails for biking, walking, running or hiking (e.g. single-track)	18.42%	128



Baseball fields	16.81%	117
Water and paddling public access points	16.62%	116
Paved trails	15.40%	107
Multi-use athletic fields	15.20%	107
Multi-use outdoor sport courts	14.77%	104
Golf courses	14.37%	100
Splash, spray water pad	13.68%	96
Swimming pools	11.90%	84
Outdoor ice rinks	9.99%	70
Restroom facilities	9.84%	69
Natural or forested areas	9.54%	66
Picnics, pavilions and small group gathering areas	8.45%	59
Playgrounds	7.02%	49
Swimming beaches	5.82%	41
Comments on the types of outdoors facilities or places		

Respondents could also add open-ended comments. Four were submitted (again included verbatim):

Comments:

- tv/sxs is the future with millions of dollars to those communities that suport the sport. It is also accessible.. lets work to get this income for our Dying town!!!
- better restrooms would be nice and a warming shack/restroom at the CC ski trails would be great
- Hibbing needs mini golf and batting cages
- Signage could be greatly improved for cross country ski trails. Informational updates on trail grooming. Green / Blue mountain bike trails at Carey Lake. State money?

**5. For each of the types of indoor facilities or places, please indicate whether you think there is too much, too few, or the right amount of each to serve community needs.**

When rating the prevalence or absence of indoor facilities, 76% of respondents noted there were “too few” ‘indoor playgrounds.’ Swimming pools were also described as “too few” by ~71%, as were ‘youth programs’ (~69%) and ‘places to develop climbing skills’ (~67%). Nearly 2/3 of respondents felt there were too few community centers (~65%).

	Too few	
Indoor playgrounds	76.00%	532
Swimming pools	71.04%	498
Youth programs	68.58%	478
Places to develop climbing skills	66.86%	464
Community centers	64.99%	453
Multi-use sport courts	61.00%	427

Small group gathering areas or meeting spaces	57.88%	404
Fitness/wellness centers	54.29%	380
Indoor ice rinks (for skating, hockey, broomball, or other)	52.63%	370
Tennis courts	47.94%	337
Sports leagues	43.60%	303
Pickleball courts	41.46%	289
Environmental education facilities	39.48%	274
Volleyball courts	39.22%	273
Basketball courts	38.00%	266
Comments on the types of facilities or places	34.07%	155
Cultural, historic facilities	33.81%	235
Other	19.32%	97
Comments on the indoor types of facilities or places		

1/3 of respondents felt we had the right amount of ‘basketball courts’ (33%) and sports leagues (~33%). ‘Fitness/wellness centers’ (~32%), cultural, historic facilities (~31%) and Indoor ice rinks (~30%) were rated by just less than 1/3 as facilities for which Hibbing has the right number.

	About right	
Basketball courts	33.00%	231
Sports leagues	32.66%	227
Fitness/wellness centers	32.14%	225
Cultural, historic facilities	30.94%	215
Indoor ice rinks (for skating, hockey, broomball, or other)	30.01%	211
Volleyball courts	26.87%	187
Environmental education facilities	22.05%	153
Small group gathering areas or meeting spaces	21.35%	149
Tennis courts	20.34%	143
Multi-use sport courts	17.43%	122
Swimming pools	17.40%	122
Community centers	16.79%	117
Youth programs	16.07%	112
Pickleball courts	15.21%	106
Comments on the types of facilities or places	8.13%	37
Indoor playgrounds	6.29%	44
Places to develop climbing skills	5.76%	40
Other	5.58%	28
Comments on the indoor types of facilities or places		

A small percentage of people described items as being “too many:” ‘Cultural, historic facilities’ (~5%), ‘environmental education facilities’ (~4%) , ‘indoor ice rinks (for skating, hockey, broomball, or other)’ (~4%), ‘basketball courts,’ (3%) and ‘sports leagues’ (~3%).

	Too many	
Cultural, historic facilities	4.89%	34
Environmental education facilities	3.60%	25
Indoor ice rinks (for skating, hockey, broomball, or other)	3.56%	25
Basketball courts	3.00%	21
Sports leagues	2.73%	19
Fitness/wellness centers	2.71%	19
Pickleball courts	2.58%	18
Comments on the types of facilities or places	2.20%	10
Volleyball courts	1.58%	11
Small group gathering areas or meeting spaces	1.58%	11
Community centers	1.43%	10
Indoor playgrounds	1.29%	9
Tennis courts	1.28%	9
Multi-use sport courts	1.14%	8
Youth programs	1.00%	7
Other	1.00%	5
Places to develop climbing skills	0.72%	5
Swimming pools	0.71%	5
Comments on the indoor types of facilities or places		

Respondents were invited to enter comments for this question as well, and 182 entered recommendations. These responses included:

- It would be wonderful to have a YMCA like Grand Rapids
- Indoor walking path
- We need more indoor courts and ice rinks for practices, youth development and fun!!
- Basketball and court time on weekends and evenings.
- Indoor tennis courts is a must.
- too few and many not available in evenings
- Need open pool that can be accessed all day - not at 5 am / 7 pm
- Indoor parks would benefit greatly here. With long harsh winters, I hate having to drive my kids to
- Facilities we have could be combined to be community center. Facilities are underutilized and hogged by few people who limit use.
- A community pool (indoor or outdoor) would be amazing for this town
- Lots if commrnts but noone actually takes advantage of things when we have them.
- To stay competitive in sports the kids need more indoor facilities to practice preseason.
- It would be great to have an indoor walking track
- We need an indoor basketball court. It's one of the most affordable sports, but it's difficult to find a court in the winter without going to a school.
- The city needs a community center that has a nice kitchen, dining/ballroom for events to rent out such as weddings or any other event. Just like Mountain Iron does. Other indoor facilities

should include an event center that has everything all in one. (A sports complex). You could have multiple sporting events for all types of players do different things at the same time. Hibbing already has a great school that has been kept up in great shape and doesn't need a new school. A nice big community center would be nice where individuals could rent out for a wedding reception and do their own food and drink in there would be great for the city and a sports complex that has everything in it would be another asset for the community.

- Community center: no place to rent to hold wedding/reception, birthday parties (to accommodate bounce houses, etc) that doesn't cost an arm and a leg or require you to use preferred liquor/vendor. Indoor playground/gyms: for kids. Open anytime for families to take kids, especially during winter, to run around and let off pent up energy. Charge 20 bucks for the winter per family. May help keep trouble out by putting a cost out there but those that are trustworthy and want to use it, will. Must have reasonable hours keeping a normal working parents schedule in mind.
- No indoor tennis courts(tore ours down for green space/parking). And again, difficult to get access to.
- We need a community wellness center with multiple courts, a walking track, swimming pool, weight room, etc!!! Need to do this to attract young families or they will choose to live in other surrounding communities! Let's keep up with the rest of the world.
- We need a community center with a pool, sport courts, walking track fitness center, and ice rink! Community center is the biggest thing we should be concerned with!
- Really need an indoor walking track. Also a Community Center where you can use a pool during the day.
- There are no full-size gyms available in Hibbing during the day. There are also no programmed activities during day hours. There is no community advocacy for our large and growing 60+ population in Hibbing.
- Gyms
- We need more indoor playgrounds and playing places, there's not a lot.
- Maybe fix the mall in Hibbing and add more restaurants.
- There very big and spacious which is very enjoyable.
- I like indoor places because if it's raining you can still do volleyball it's my favorite thing to do.
- I feel most places don't have many climbing areas. I'd like to see more of those.
- We need more places to swim and we need more volleyball courts like at Vic power.
- We should update some of the older buildings with things like ac or new floors and such.
- We should have a trampoline park
- Need more outdoor rinks for hockey and maybe a new hockey arena/facility.
- Idk
- More money needs to be put into the curling club.
- Senior citizen indoor walking, swimming, and age friendly activities that suit all levels of fitness.
- It would be nice to have indoor tennis, soccer, etc. area - snow isn't gone soon enough for these sports to get practice in, and it would be nice to have a place for adults to use in the winter months as well.
- Sunday open gym/swim please!

- Need more swimming lessons available for kids. Indoor play parks and more recreational activities provided..
- Need a list of the facilities available. I don't know if any indoor swimming pools
- The improvement to the memorial building by building another rink where the parking lot is. Getting a YMCA
- Would be great to have a pool with open swim hours. Also an indoor playground with more open hours and hours for working parents to take advantage of and that is large enough for elementary age kids to use.
- In door walking track would be nice.
- Instead of spending \$500,000 on buying building to expand the memorial building, how about investing in getting businesses so my taxes go down. Virginia built a new rec building and its not paying for itself.
- Current Leadership at the City of Hibbing not doing any preventative maintenance any longer since Pete Hyduke retired- very disappointing as Pete new the value of our Parks and Rec and the MB. City Hall even falling apart? No Capital investment....
- We should build a ymca so some of those things be can resolved in just one building.
- there aren't many indoor things there
- The public library needs better hours for families that work. Needs to be open later some days and maybe part of Saturday
- Indoor R/C facility in winter months would be a nice place for family's to spend time together.
- There is definitely a lack of indoor facilities. With such long harsh winters, the availability of indoor activities is very important. This town needs more indoor facilities like a fitness center or YMCA that is open to the public.
- Gardening for youth, teach them to grow vegetables
- Be nice to have indoor batting/golf or practice space for spring sports that are often delayed due to cold and wet weather
- We need a multi use facility for indoor walking for older adults. We also need more gym space for basketball and volleyball. Also a indoor facility for our football,baseball,softball and soccer teams to practice in when the weather is not good and in the winter.
- It would be nice to have an indoor arena for sports such as softball, soccer etc
- It would be great to have an indoor climbing gym with space for a walking/running track, bball court, indoor play space for kids. Thought the chopsticks factory would have been good for all that.
- Does the city have ownership over any indoor facility? I've been on multiple committees pushing for an indoor fieldhouse/rec center type setting for years now. The basketball courts are all property of the school district and heavily scheduled. The city owned outdoor fields are home to no adult leagues anymore.
- We sure could use an indoor facility for tennis and pickle ball
- The city has no business competing with the private sector in the fitness/wellness area.
- second sheet of ice, and indoor tennis courts.
- There is almost no where to go in town with small children during the winter. A Rec center is crucial for this town.
- We need a rec center or a ymca just to play sports inside mainly basketball

- Private gathering areas for groups that meet weekly or monthly that there aren't any interruptions and wouldn't cost to rent.
- We need more indoor places for people to go for activities. A YMCA would be great! Or some kind of complex for people of all ages to utilize. Our youth definitely need a place to go and not just for sports, maybe add on a Game Center too.
- not enough indoor spaces
- Would like an indoor rec center with a pool , climbing wall, workout equipment
- The indoor playground at the library is closed too often.
- School/city partnership should be more equal. School has too much priority even over city owned amenities.
- We need indoor playgrounds for the kids. We have so much winter and the kids need somewhere to go play and they are always a huge hit in areas that have indoor playgrounds and indoor facilities that kids can go play at. The library isn't open enough for the downstairs and there is limited play there.
- An indoor RC car and truck facility should be considered.
- Community center that has workout facilities, tennis courts, vb, rock climbing, swimming pool, walking trac. Indoor turf for multiple sports to use. More ice sheets for hockey/ figure skating, curling, broomball.
- For ALL Hibbing Parks and Recreation facilities, programs, parks, etc I believe more people would put in the effort to make use of EVERYTHING if they were handicap accessible, did not need to be part of some special club or group in order to use the facilities, programs, parks etc and I can see a small and/or reasonable refundable DEPOSIT otherwise be FREE to the general public and ALSO Post what is available in HIBBING at HIBBINGS PARKS N REC and the programs etc that are offered. Is there grants or special funds to cover program, camps for kids etc
- Hibbing Hockey and sports take up all the rinks and places you could possibly do community stuff.
- The city doesn't own any of indoor facilities and it's embarrassing that youth programs have to go so late because of the limited space for practices/events.
- Rc flying field is needed lost old one to Hibbing taconite need one bad
- We need more facilities like a community center with activities, gym, track, sports court etc.
- We need more available indoor gyms
- desperately need a community center with gym, basketball courts, tracks if you want to attract young families to community and maintain current families
- Handicap facility
- Not enough indoor facilities to accommodate all school sports especially related to weather
- For things like indoor gymnasium space, I don't necessarily know if there are too few or too many but I don't feel like they are available to use as much as they should be.
- Area extremely lacking in indoor spaces to occupy children and adults and allow them to exercise or learn
- I don't think there are really any are there? Pool, basketball, tennis, climbing wall. Any of these would be great for winter. Make one big community center like a ymca or something. Please!
- Desperate need of a fieldhouse

- Too few of everything . It would be nice to have a community center that can be rented for events. There is not enough indoor ice.
- A large facility that can house baseball softball soccer.....could draw money into the town.
- A large multipurpose indoor facility would benefit Hibbing
- In door walking track
- Not enough indoor space. Period. For all sports
- Basketball floors are too slippery
- Indoor multi purpose fitness facility would be fantastic, understand this is a big proposal.
- Basketball courts half or full court
- Need indoor tennis courts without pickle ballBringing new business will never happen here for our youth. There's not much for any of the children to do, little alone the adults.
- We want an Aquatic center and places that aren't at the school.
- We need indoor tennis and pickle ball!!
- Same as above!!!!blf you need anyone to come and speak at any public meeting I am more than willing. Melissa Crowe!
- There is nothing really for small children. Would be nice to find an indoor play area for kids. The library is too small and not meant for some of the older kids. My daughter is 5 and that area is too small for her.
- Indoor activities should be utilized and the big mall made into a multipurpose sports arenas venues/ because of weather related time frames. Could be rented out by colleges to met up for sports related aspects too. This has been talked about for years to no end.
- Hibbing needs an indoor play area/playground for kids!
- Indoor turf area and indoor golf simulators are needed.
- We have lots of nice pools at the schools that don't get enough use.
- Please, please, please look at some type of Class Facility for Older Adult exercise (Silver Sneakers). Right now there is nowhere available during the day. Also a community pool
- I think we have enough indoor courts and swimming pools, but access to them is too limited.
- Again these facilities are capitalized by our high school sports teams and there is nothing available for youth!
- We need an indoor track. This would bring so much business to our city!
- Need additional/year round ice for hockey/figure skating activities.
- We need a ymca
- Could use some more indoor playgrounds for kids and youth facilities
- We could have lived anywhere on the Range when we moved here in 2006. We chose Hibbing. If we were moving to the Range today, we would NOT choose Hibbing. It's an inferior community for a growing family!
- I would love to see a sports complex, that would include year round facilities for baseball, basketball, soccer, football, track and field, hockey and golf simulators.
- With the expansion of high school sports to include archery and golf, the need for indoor space has increased drastically in the winter and spring. Having large multi use spaces that can be used for multiple activities will be important for the community to grow. It will also contribute greatly to the overall health of the community.

- There are literally zero indoor facilities for the public to use for anything. The memorial building is the only facility that technically counts but doesn't allow virtually any access for public use for skating or any other activities.
- There aren't any for most of these and if there are who even knows about them
- We have enough facilities- but they need upkeep.
- All facilities/services need to function as one, a community center under many rooves. We don't need another building. In the 1990s, Northland Foundation did an indepth study of our recreational and social needs as a community, but focusing on 11-15 year olds. I was on the committee that followed. After reviewing all the information from 6 community speakouts, a survey of students, and discussions with the operators of the existing facilities, this is what we found: People wanted more aces to existing facilities (#1 was more access to the pools). People felt we have many schools parks and facilities and needed to take full advantage of what we have with more multi usage and better usage of what is there. People felt that only those with money had full access to what is available. Biggest hurddles: the people who thought there was going to be big money to be had backed out of committee when they found that not to be the case; Parents who did not want their children "mixing with undesireable kids" successfully shut down a new forming youth center; Custodians of the schools basically told us that they would not support the idea of anyone being in the schools other than the students during regular student hours and they acted on this - I orgainized and held tennis and swim camps in the summer along with a summer competative swim program. The custodians drained the pool the night before a big swim meet and I had to tell 5 other programs that came in buses, to go home that morning. They also super chlorinated the pool without telling me and the kids in my swim camp started breaking out in rashes and their suits were ruined. When we were touring facilities we were literally met by opositionat the curling club we were met by a group of men, that use the curling club as their personal coffe clutch space off season, and one man, who was on city council at the time, told us to "get the hell out, we don't want any G..D... kids i in OUR club!" - . Basically, Hibbing people don't play well with each other. I would LOVE to see this change but my attempts have failed so my outlook for any positive change is very grim.
- We need a community center like a ymca for multi use recreation, especially swimming.
- Not enough for public use
- An additional ice rink is needed.
- There really arent any other than the schools or memorial building and both are limited access.
- Hibbing has great pools just not enough available pool time. Hibbing needs more lifeguards.
- Walking, aerobics
- I would like to see a community center for both young and old.
- Its not about to few or to many but about affordable and more frequent access to the indoor facilities, meeting spaces, ect.
- Indoor facilities? Where? Virginia
- Hibbing needs indoor tennis courts and indoor running track/track events spaces. They also need indoor batting cages for baseball and softball.
- Community funded fitness / wellness facilities that have a fee structure to allow ALL to have access. Parks and rec facilities - state and local - need to be developed and accessible by us all for us all
- Need an indoor basketball gym

- It'd be great to get a YMCA type facility with pool, work out equip., shake/tea grab n go, ice rink. It'd be nice to have an option to rent space for birthday parties: rent the rink or pool, maybe indoor arcade or trampoline park.
- No comment other than our kids need a fun place to go that would cater to all their likes in one place
- We need more things for our youth in Hibbing.
- There isn't anything for these kids to do indoors or outdoors
- Indoor turf would be cool for year round practice of sports such as soccer
- Need another multipurpose floor area combination ice rink
- We need more indoor places for children, especially during long winters.
- If any of these facilities exist in our town then we don't ever hear of or know of anything to do with them. My family wanted to go ice skating at the indoor rink but there's nobody ever there and nobody knows anything about it or how to get involved in it. There's absolutely no way of knowing any of this stuff unless you're involved in those activities. If you're new to town or want to get involved in something nobody knows how to or where to look. If Hibbing had a website that was managed and showed all these community events and community facilities and there were people to answer questions about them or at least be able to facilitate pointing you in the right direction, That would be pretty smart! We don't know of any community facilities like the aforementioned, except we know where the community center is and that's about it. Don't know what the heck they do there. 🤷
- There should be a new hockey arena . There could be tournaments all year long bringing in so much more business to our town. There also should be indoor batting cages and basketball, tennis or pickle ball courts .
- There definitely needs to be more indoor spaces for kids and families to do things. Indoor play parks, gym complexes, group facilities, rock climbing walls would all be nice amenities. Winter is long, so being able to go out and be active during that time, while staying warm, would be great.
- We need a venue for summer sport athletes to practice and develop skill in the off-season (baseball, softball, golf, tennis)
- With winter being so long, more indoor facilities for being active would be great
- Need more for the winter months
- I don't know...people want stuff, yet want it for free. I don't think "build it and they will come" applies to all of the options above.
- Why do we not see about getting a YMCA with a swimming pool. An indoor swimming pool that can be used. We live in a cold environment most of the year!
- We have numerous low income families. Of these places exist, low income families dont know. It would be nice to have programs or facilities for low income families.
- More indoor hockey rinks. Need more open gym space for public to use
- Indoor dog park
- More sheets of ice for hockey
- Affordability for the use of what few community places there are in the city, ( places to have meetings, or small gatherings etc ) Also affordable health/fitness/wellness centers for those of low income.

- We need other facilities and more options for community programs than we do a new indoor skating rink.
- We need to expand the memorial building to 2 or even 3 sheets of ice. And it must have a wellness center like no other and a walking track. Our area is aging our area has terrible health scores it's time to provide and promote active lifestyles. Get Sanford Health to help sponsor the facility. I'm certain they have ice arenas and wellness centers in Fargo, Sioux Falls, Bemidji and others they call home. Get them on board in several ways to make this thing happen.
- Need to have more events
- An indoor soccer club with tennis/pickle ball courts would be amazing! All indoors for our super long winters :)
- It would be great if there were more facilities open to the public.
- We absolutely need more gym space for any inside winter activity! A field house of some sort that has multiple basketball courts with a track that can be used by the public for running/walking in winter would be wonderful! The inner space could host basketball, wrestling, volleyball, tennis, etc tournaments through the winter. We absolutely need a large indoor space to host more activities during winter
- An indoor dog walking circle or area would be soooooo great when we can't walk outside.
- We have many pools that are underutilized most months out of the year
- More indoor rink availability
- We need another indoor sheet of ice. Also a community center/field house where people could walk and do sporting type activities.
- The Indoor Playground at the Library is a favorite! I have been fantasizing lately about an indoor picnic spot. During the winter months and my kids and I are running errands and we need a snack, the only common areas we can eat for free instead of spending an arm and a leg at a restaurant are at the Irontate Mall and the Mesabi Mall. The Irontate Mall is kind of gross because its owners clearly don't care about it. The Mesabi Mall is well kept but I feel awful when we make a mess and I don't have the tools to clean it properly.
- The only small gathering places are bars. There's open swim at HHS but it's always full. A lot of the items listed are in the schools only. Definitely not enough historic places and we're called "Historic Hibbing". I only know of 1 indoor playground and their open hours are my working hours so it's useless to me.
- Just started utilizing the exercise program at Tourist Center but it's a bit small for as many folks who go. It's imptanat to have indoor activities especially during our long winters.
- What indoor facilities besides hockey?
- Hibbing is in desperate need of indoor recreational/community fitness facilities. We lag way behind the surrounding communities and will not be chosen when young families are looking to relocate to the area.
- Not enough
- We want a roller rink
- Need indoor walking track & indoor bball and vball courts, need turf baseball field
- We don't need more hockey rinks. We need indoor areas the public is actually allowed to use. Programming is either unavailable or impossible to find
- We could really use another indoor pool not in a school building!

- Much needed indoor walking track & a facility for seniors to use for programs such as silver sneakers, with enough space.
- More open swimming and classes
- Need a multi-purpose field house
- Really appreciate public indoor ice skating at the Memorial Building. Would like to see it offered daily and extend the season longer.
- We have zero community spaces which is significantly impacted our community. I would love to see a true community center with fitness spaces, a pool etc (similar to the MAC or a YMCA)
- Would love a community fitness center with a pool and childcare option!
- We need indoor kids activity areas. Something with a ton of variety indoors for kids to do during winter
- Indoor parks must be structured in a way people can access and use them outside Monday through Friday bankers hours. Same comment for the library. The only people that can use that don't work first shift jobs
- Need a public swimming pool not another ice rink!!
- Hibbing needs community centers, indoor ymca, more ice rinks, trampoline park.
- Again we need to be doing more of these things
- A ymca type facility is what Hibbing needs. Year long access for families to swimming, play sports, use fitness equipment...access every day, year round.
- A public indoor basketball/volleyball facility would be a great addition, especially during the winter months.
- None
- We need more pools and places for kids to play and older kids to hang out. Bring in trampoline park, independent bookstore, climbing walls, jumping area for kids.
- Multi use for youth sports year round
- More things for kids and families
- Wish there were more indoor facilities for walking and playing outside n the winter time.
- An indoor playground is very needed for older children (the library one is too small and has limited hours). Also an indoor walking track and indoor dog park would be great. Especially if these were combined!
- An indoor gathering space for events that can be rented would be helpful.
- We need more pools!!!
- I would love to see a community center with a huge playground and swimming pool like Detroit lakes has. We have long cold seasons, we NEED something, and something affordable & open to the public.
- More indoor activities during the winter.
- Since our winters are so long an Indoor facility for multi sports would be great. softball/baseball, golf, tennis, etc.
- We need indoor space for sports PLEASE track, golf, soccer and other sports.
- I would love to see more indoor swimming programs as well as indoor gym time for the public
- An indoor play park with better equipment and more access than the library currently offers would be good. A public indoor swimming pool, like the YMCA in Hermantown and Superior would be a great asset.

- We need indoor turf available for spring sports. A community center would be nice. And facilities we have need to be available for use, restrooms at parks are locked, baseball fields are locked. There is no availability to encourage kids to play outdoors instead of video games unless it's completely organized in the community.
- I would loooove for there to be a bigger indoor playground facility that would have options for kids of broader ages, but also have a designated area for toddlers. I would also love to have a public pool available in Hibbing.
- Better run softball leagues. Majority have left and gone to Chisholm due to how it was run
- Lots of parks and very little indoor activity areas
- No Park and Rec? Community Ed has been inadequate.
- Please invest in expanding the Memorial Building to grow in many of these areas.
- None of the indoor ice rinks have a shooting gallery! We could have an outdoor synthetic shooting gallery.
- The few indoor facilities that we do have are mostly beyond their useful life.
- The city, school district, Minnesota North College, Hospital folks, county and other businesses have a great opportunity to partner on all of these needs. It would be great to get all of these entities involved in order to build and maintain a thriving community with modern amenities to serve all of our community.
- Indoor soccer/track/tennis
- \*Indoor sports training center \*Indoor park for those long winters
- Community pool. Pickleball court. Hockey rinks

**6. Do any of the following issues prevent your use of Hibbing's recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, and therefore should be a priority to address? (Select up to 5)**

Nearly 45% of respondents noted a 'lack of information: unfamiliar with programs or activities' as interfering with their use of Hibbing's offerings. Quality issues ranked second, third and fourth: insufficient maintenance or cleanliness (~29%), lack of equipment/amenities of interest (~29%), and insufficient recreational programs (~28%). A 'lack of information' (specifically) insufficient signage and way finding' (~19%) made the top five inhibitors.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of Information: Unfamiliar with programs or activities	44.82%	320
Quality: Insufficient maintenance or cleanliness	29.13%	208
Quality: Lack of equipment, amenities of interest	28.85%	206
Quality: Insufficient recreation programs	27.59%	197
Lack of Information: Insufficient signage and way finding	18.77%	134
Safety: Security concerns, do not feel safe	18.77%	134
Access: Hours, timing are not convenient	17.51%	125
Access: Locations or facilities are over-crowded	17.37%	124
Pets: Lack of pet-friendly areas	15.83%	113
Financial: Program fees or equipment are not affordable	12.32%	88
Parking: Lack of parking	12.32%	88

No change needed, nothing prevents my/our usage	12.04%	86
Other (describe issue here)	7.56%	54
Access: Lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities	6.86%	49
Safety: Do not feel welcome, lack of belonging	6.72%	48
Safety: Off-leash pets (outside of dog parks)	6.30%	45
Access: Parks are not close-by, lack transportation	5.88%	42
Lack of Information: chose at least one of the above	5.88%	42
Quality: combined: chose at least one of the above	4.90%	35
Access: combined: chose at least one of the above	2.38%	17
Safety: combined: chose at least one of the above	1.96%	14

**7. Please indicate whether you think Parks & Recreation offers too much, too few, or the right amount of the following types of programs:**

Over half of respondents noted there were “too few” ‘aquatics’ programs (~62%). Similarly, ~59% rated ‘community center programs’ as too few. ‘Adult recreation’ was also rated as too few by over half (~57%), as were ‘teen recreation’ (~56%) and ‘youth after school’ programs (~56%).

	<b>Too few</b>	
Aquatics	62.21%	433
Community center programs	58.55%	404
Adult recreation and sports programs	57.08%	395
Teen recreation and sports programs	56.34%	391
Youth after school and summer camp programs	56.21%	389
Special Events	55.26%	378
Fitness and wellness programs	55.04%	382
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	54.05%	374
Childrens recreation and sports programs	51.01%	355
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities	50.36%	347
Environmental education and nature exploration	48.70%	337
Cultural, arts and history programs	44.43%	307
Seniors recreation and sports programs	43.27%	302
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	41.41%	287
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	38.83%	271
Programs for people with low household income	36.55%	254

Less than a third of participants thought we had sufficient ‘children’s recreation and sports programs’ (~28%). Approximately 20% felt we have the right amount of programs for ‘teen recreation’ (~23%), ‘people with low household income,’ ‘fitness and wellness programs,’ and ‘for people with special needs.’

	<b>About right</b>	
Childrens recreation and sports programs	28.30%	197
Teen recreation and sports programs	23.34%	162
Programs for people with low household income	20.14%	140
Fitness and wellness programs	20.03%	139
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	19.48%	136
Adult recreation and sports programs	19.36%	134
Cultural, arts and history programs	17.08%	118
Youth after school and summer camp programs	15.32%	106
Seniors recreation and sports programs	15.04%	105
Environmental education and nature exploration	15.03%	104
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	13.85%	96
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities	13.35%	92
Special Events	12.43%	85
Aquatics	12.21%	85
Community center programs	11.59%	80
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	8.96%	62

Like similarly framed questions, the response rate for the “too many” category was small, at less than 5%. ‘Programs for people with low household income’ (~4%), ‘cultural, arts, and history programs’ (~3%), and ‘fitness and wellness programs’ (~2%) topped this list.

	<b>Too many</b>	
Programs for people with low household income	4.03%	28
Cultural, arts and history programs	3.33%	23
Fitness and wellness programs	2.16%	15
Childrens recreation and sports programs	2.01%	14
Environmental education and nature exploration	1.88%	13
Community center programs	1.74%	12
Seniors recreation and sports programs	1.58%	11
Opportunities to volunteer to support the parks system	1.44%	10
Teen recreation and sports programs	1.30%	9
Special Events	1.17%	8
Entry-level opportunity to experience parks and recreation activities	1.16%	8
Youth after school and summer camp programs	1.16%	8
Aquatics	1.15%	8
Programs for people with special needs (support all abilities and developmental needs)	1.00%	7
Adult recreation and sports programs	0.87%	6
Provide skills building for outdoor recreation activities	0.87%	6

**8. Park systems and recreational opportunities can serve a variety of purposes and are valued by people in many different ways. How important are each of these purposes to you?**

Nearly 80% noted 'space for recreation, sports, and leagues regardless of season (Spring, summer, fall, winter)' as essential or very important. 'Enhanc(ing) economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work was a close second (~77%), followed by 'opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature' at nearly one quarter of responders (74%).

	Essential or very important	
Space for recreation, sports, and leagues regardless of season (Spring, summer, fall, winter)	79.40%	555
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	77.46%	543
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	74.61%	523
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	70.92%	495
Space to maintain and improve health	70.90%	497
Space for sports and leagues	70.38%	487
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	68.90%	483
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	62.20%	436
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	57.25%	399
Space to gather and host community events	55.44%	387
Space for recreating and skill development	53.15%	371
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	48.42%	338
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	45.49%	318
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	41.24%	287

Almost one half our respondents (~48%) felt that 'opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community' was somewhat important. Following that, 'improv(ing) mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths' (~43%), and 'space for recreating and skill development' (~41%) rated as somewhat important.

	Somewhat important	
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	47.99%	334
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	43.49%	304
Space for recreating and skill development	41.40%	289
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	40.40%	282

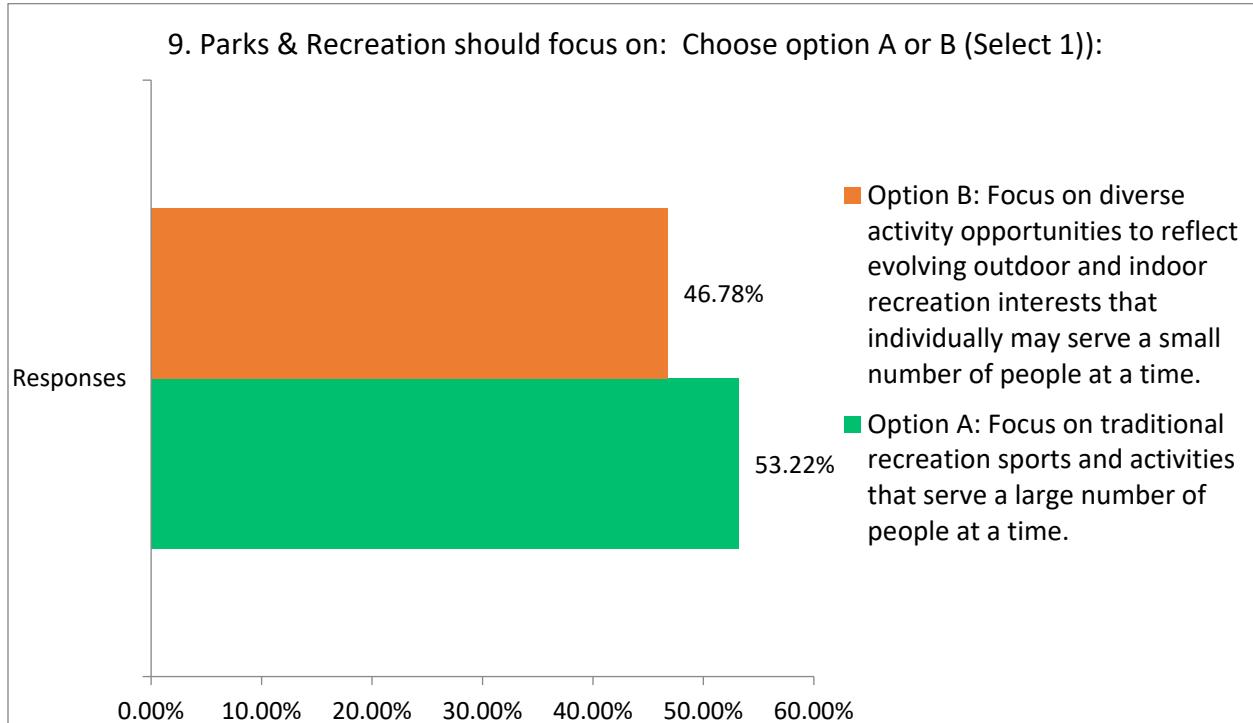
Space to gather and host community events	39.40%	275
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	37.59%	262
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	32.81%	230
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	26.82%	188
Space to maintain and improve health	26.39%	185
Space for sports and leagues	24.86%	172
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	23.93%	167
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	22.25%	156
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	20.40%	143
Space for recreation, sports, and leagues regardless of season (Spring, summer, fall, winter)	17.88%	125

The response rate for “not at all important” values was significantly lower than essential/very important and somewhat important. Three categories drew responses above 10%: ‘Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities’ (~11%), ‘Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths’ (~11%), and ‘Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community’ (~11%).

	<b>Not at all important</b>	
Recreation and programming activities to historically under-served communities	11.17%	78
Improve mobility and non-motorized transportation options with trails and paths	11.02%	77
Opportunities to appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the community	10.78%	75
Space for recreating and skill development	5.44%	38
Space to gather and host community events	5.16%	36
Opportunities for social activities and educational programs	5.16%	36
Enhance tourism and attract visitors	5.16%	36
Protect natural environments, wildlife, and provide environmental resiliency	4.99%	35
Space for sports and leagues	4.77%	33
Safe public spaces to interact with other community members	4.28%	30
Opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature	3.14%	22
Space for recreation, sports, and leagues regardless of season (Spring, summer, fall, winter)	2.72%	19
Space to maintain and improve health	2.71%	19
Enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work	2.14%	15

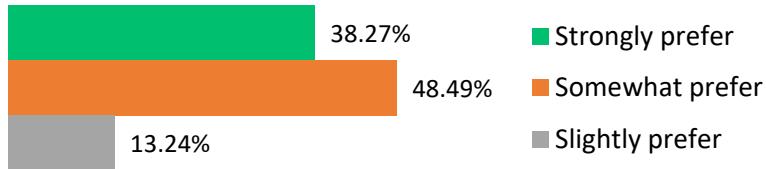
**9. Parks & Recreation should focus on: Choose option A or B (Select 1):**

- **Option A: Focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time.**
- **Option B: Focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor and indoor recreation interests that individually may serve a small number of people at a time.**



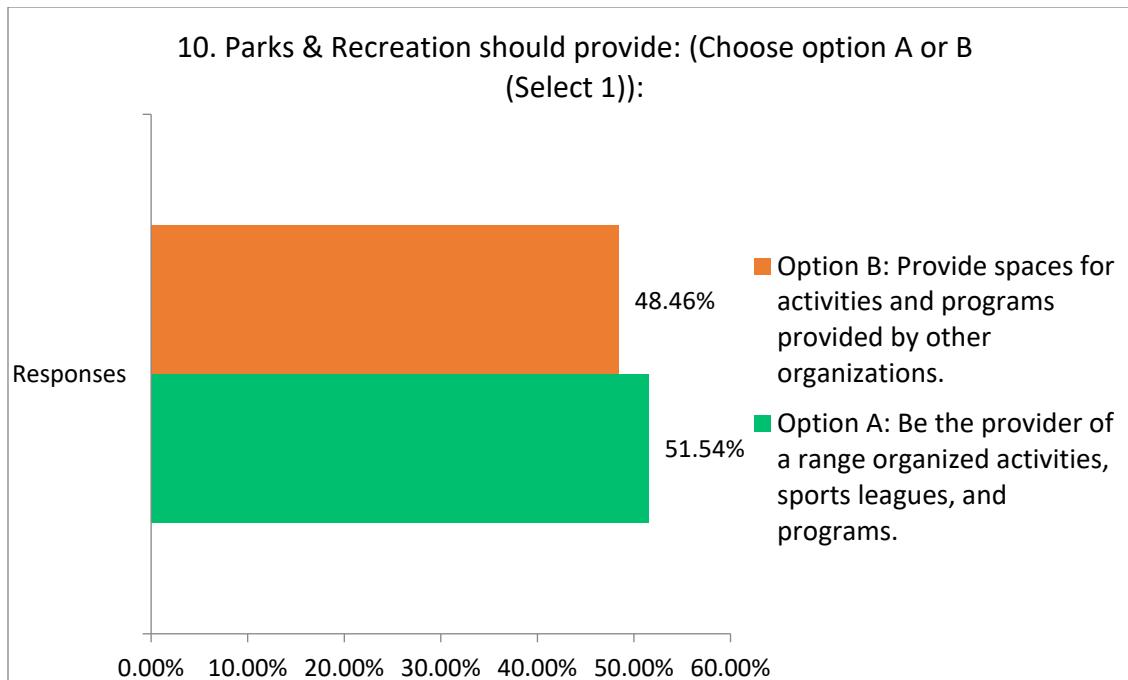
Response results to this question were close, with only a 6.4% preference for Option A over Option B. When asked in 9.a. to what degree they preferred one option over the other, just over 1/3 expressed a strong preference for their chosen option. Thus, there was only a slight preference for a focus on traditional recreation sports and activities serving a large number of people over a focus on diverse activity opportunities individually serving a smaller number of people.

**9.a. To what degree do you prefer this option over the other?**



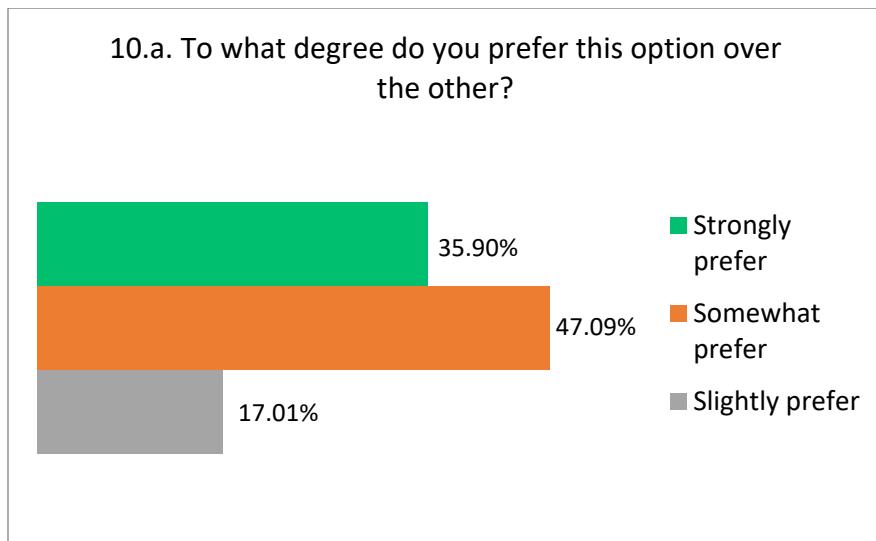
**10. Parks & Recreation should provide: (Choose option A or B (Select 1)):**

- **Option A: Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues, and programs.**
- **Option B: Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations.**



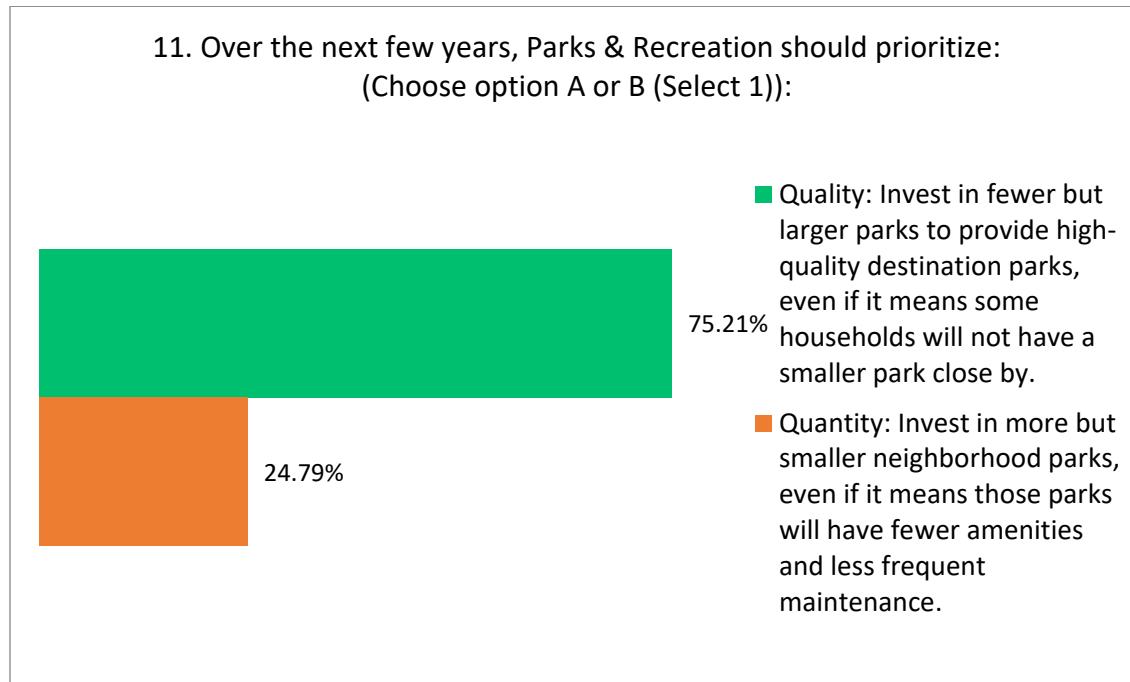
Like the question prior, responses to this question did not show a strong leaning toward Option A: Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues, and programs (~51%) or Option B: Provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations (~48%). When asked to what degree they prefer this option, just over 1/3 expressed a strong preference.

**10.a. To what degree do you prefer this option over the other?**



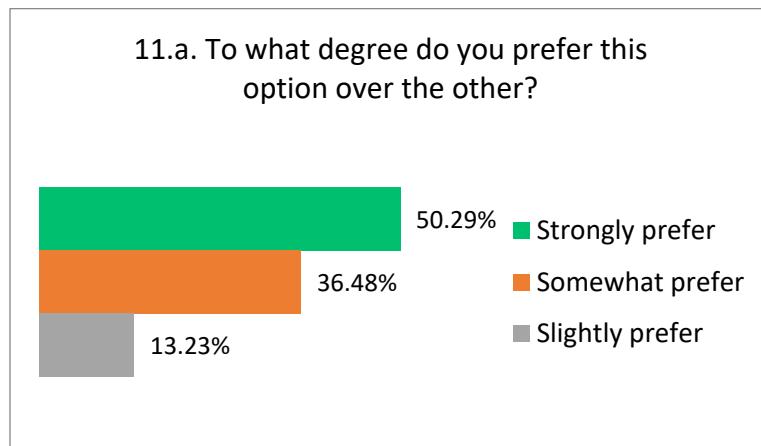
**11. 11. Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize: (Choose option A or B (Select 1)):**

- **Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by.**
- **Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.**



In the question of quality versus quantity, responses showed a clear preference for Quality: Invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by (~75%). Just under 25% preferred Quantity: Invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance. When asked about the strength of their preference, 50% expressed a strong preference for their chosen option.

**11.a. To what degree do you prefer this option over the other?**



**12. Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize: (Choose option A, B, or C (Select 1)):**

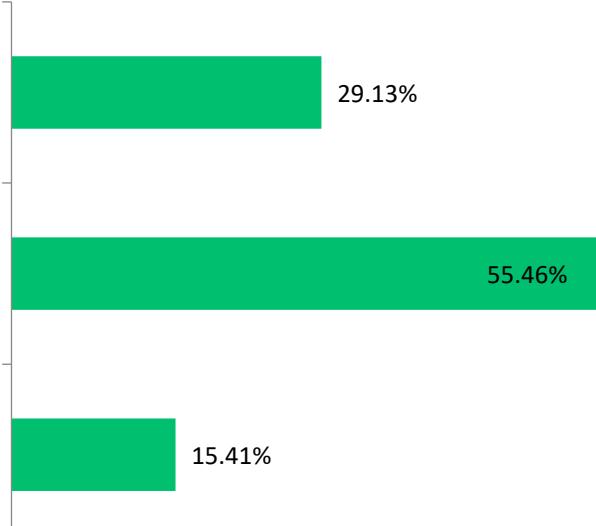
- **Option A: Maintaining:** Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.
- **Option B: Expanding:** Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.
- **Option C: Reducing:** Liquidate or repurpose existing open space and scattered park lands in order to focus on improvements at a few key parks and facilities.

12. Over the next few years, Parks & Recreation should prioritize: (Choose option A, B, or C (Select 1)):

Option A: Maintaining: Taking better care of what we already have and improving the condition of the existing parks system, even if it means new parks, open spaces, trails, or facilities are not built or acquired.

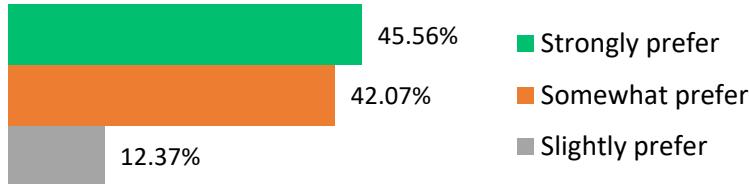
Option B: Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land, building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.

Option C: Reducing: Liquidate or repurpose existing open space and scattered park lands in order to focus on improvements at a few key parks and facilities.



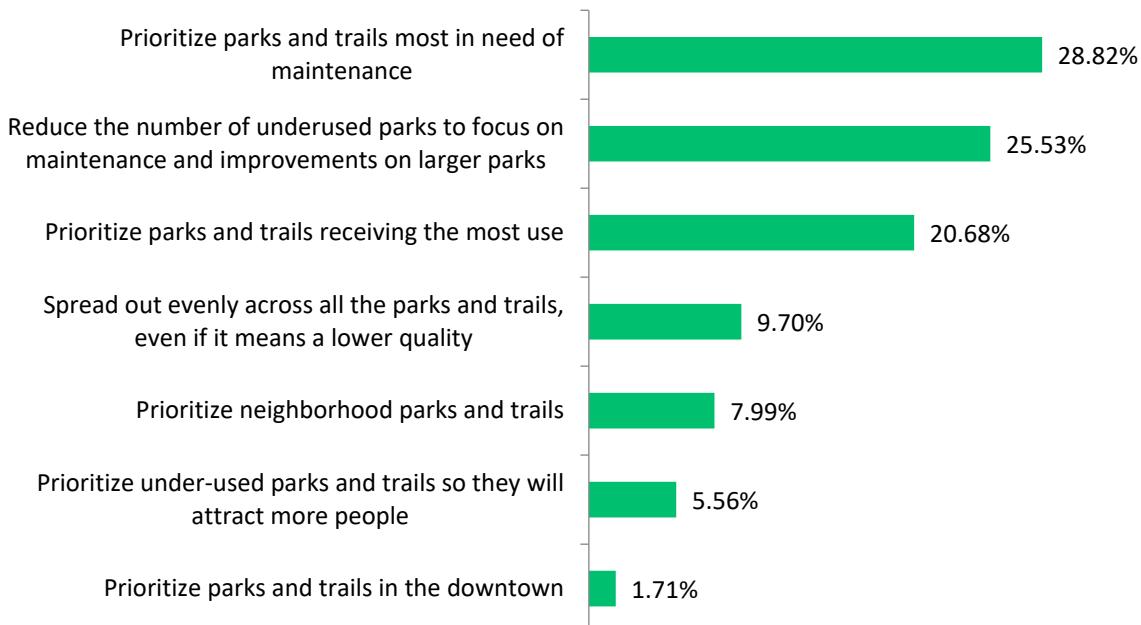
When asked what Parks and Recreation should prioritize over the next few years, over half (~55%) of respondents chose Option B: Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land building new parks and recreation facilities, and being visionaries for the future, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today. When asked to what degree they prefer their answer, ~46% noted strongly prefer.

12.a. To what degree do you prefer this option over the other two options?



13. As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take? (Select 1)

13. As the City creates a plan for park and trail maintenance and improvements, which approach would you most prefer the City take?  
(Select 1)



When considering park and trail maintenance and improvements, ~29% of respondents saw 'prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance' as the priority. One quarter of respondents suggested we 'reduce the number of underused parks to focus on maintenance and improvements of larger parks,' and ~20% chose 'prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use.'

**14. The budget for Parks & Recreation predominately comes from a property tax levy. Any improvements or increases in maintenance, preservation, and programming would require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the following new funding approaches?**

- **Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding**
- **Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities**
- **Property tax levy increase from current level**
- **Added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.)**
- **Sales tax**

When asked about additional funding approaches, the top choices in “strongly support” included ‘corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities’ at ~66% and ‘creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding’ at ~64%.

	<b>Strongly support</b>	
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	66.38%	466
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	64.25%	451
Property tax levy increase from current level	21.57%	151
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.)	21.54%	151
Sales tax	20.26%	142

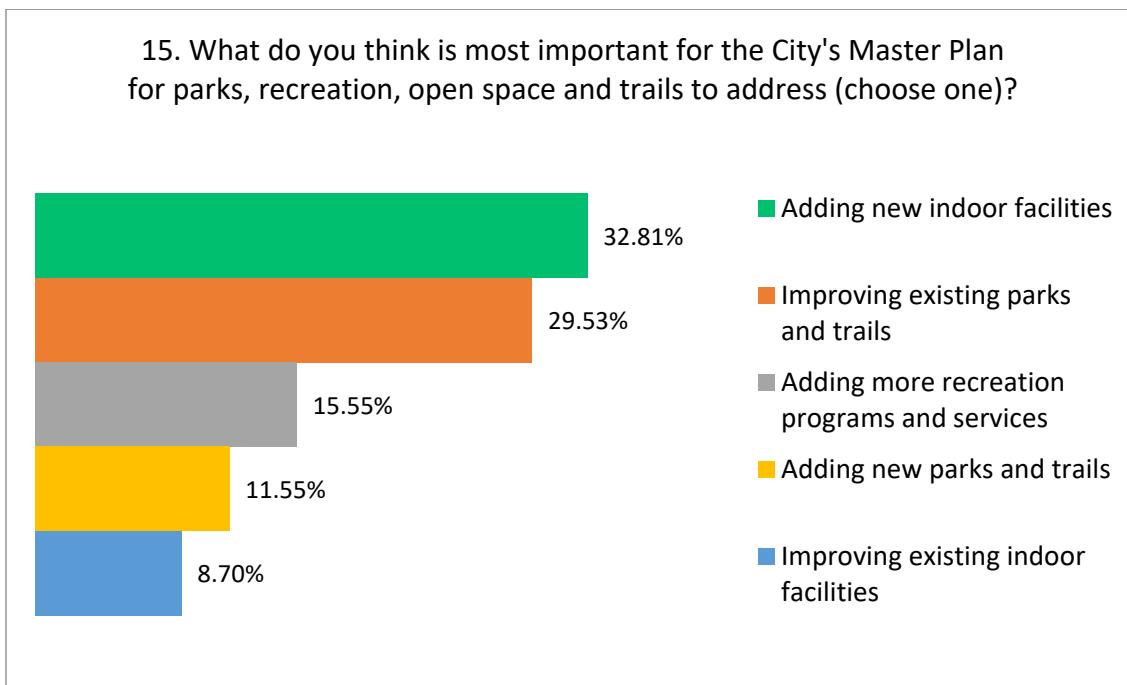
The approaches receiving the most opposition were ‘sales tax,’ with ~36% choosing “strongly oppose,” followed by ‘property tax levy increase from current level’ (~36%) and ‘added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.)’ (~32%).

	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	
Sales tax	35.66%	250
Property tax levy increase from current level	35.57%	249
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.)	32.38%	227
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	3.42%	24
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	2.71%	19

In the “neither support nor oppose,” ~40% of respondents had no strong feelings about ‘added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.),’ ‘sales tax,’ or ‘property tax levy increase from current level.’

	Neither support nor oppose	
Added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.)	46.08%	323
Sales tax	44.08%	309
Property tax levy increase from current level	42.86%	300
Creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding	32.34%	227
Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities	30.91%	217

**15. What do you think is most important for the City's Master Plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails to address (choose one)?**



When asked what is most important for the City's Master Plan to address, one third of respondents chose 'adding new indoor facilities at ~33%.' Second was 'improving existing parks and trails' (~30%).

Respondents were also invited to comment. 119 suggestions were entered as shared within survey monkey (no editing):

- provide facilities where they will be utilized. Pickleball courts, warming shack for CC trails
- Multiuse courts open on weekends and evenings
- Could use a warmer indoor ice rink with seating at the old fair grounds Do many empty large buildings around the town that could be used!
- A community pool (even with a membership charge to help maintain)
- Aquatic center (outdoor pool)

- Finish MB and indoor wellness center with sauna and walking track. Indoor tennis courts would be great!!!
- Add a basketball court and workout facility. Similar to a YMCA.
- Upgrade existing facilities to more modern and useful conditions
- Roller skating
- Really need a walking track so seniors can exercise during the winter months. No track available and no pool to use during daytime hours.
- Offering programs and services during day hours is critical
- And also new parks and playgrounds for my siblings.
- New sports arenas
- I strongly suggest that we fix up the old mall by Walmart. Because that will attract more people and jobs. It will also increase shops. I think that will make our city more enjoyable. We also won't have to go all the way to Duluth for what we need.
- Make a new hockey arena/facility without raising fees and taxes and stuff.
- Smaller more diverse activities would work better in this area. We have recreational things for school age. After that, iron range lacks variety and opportunities. St. Louis county very spread out geographically
- A space for indoor sports would be nice, as winters are so long here and the sports seasons are short. Outdoor pump park would be nice - a mini golf area would be nice
- More public pools or child friendly things to do
- i think city of hibbing needs to put a camp ground at Carey Lake Park and make a new road that goes around the whole lake
- Swim lessons and skating were wait list only after just a couple days. Everyone that is school aged plays soccer. People want stuff for kids and seem like they will pay for it if its offered. We need more programs and more advertising for those programs.
- SAFETY. If a person gets hurt or traumatized on a trail/in a park, they have to lose \$\$ by being off work, they lose \$\$ by paying the copay at the dr, they may lose \$\$ by having to find other ways to exercise or meet with friends. Safety affects everyone.
- The city should not be spending money on trails, new facilites, campgrounds and mine view when the population of Hibbing is shrinking and we are over taxed. If Hibbing Tac goes down this town will have a population of unemployed and retirees and those working can't continue to pay the high taxes in this city. Shame on the park and rec manager and city council for not being fiscally responsible.
- Current City of Hibbing Leadership needs education on what historically has been done- it's like it does not matter to them. Lots of money is spent in our town at restaurants/ businesses/ hotels.... Unfortunately- last couple years we have stopped doing what many user groups participated in
- Need inside activities and indoor playground for kids.
- I would like to see Hibbing get outdoor exercise equipment incorporated into the playgrounds just like the bigger citys
- We need more indoor space.
- It really shouldn't be one or the other. Some new indoor facilities should be added, some new parks/trails should be added. We need balance.

- Develop a RC car track that will be a community/tourist draw across the region. RC racing has become very popular and there is a lot of potential to make Hibbing a regional center for this. RC racing can be enjoyed by young kids to older people- this is a great multigenerational family activity, gets kids off their phones and devices, and I think builds a sense of community across generations. I would like to see more opportunities for the community to fix up the parks. I don't know if it's a union thing, but if we don't have staff (or budget) to do projects (painting, for instance) isn't it better to have community work days than not do it at all? Attractive parks draw people to the community and increase the tax base and income of local businesses. I would love to be involved in work days!
- Expand the RC racing
- Upgrading softball/ baseball facilities and having more ice under one roof for hockey.
- Designated Atv/utv trails.
- Indoor tennis and pickle ball
- Build it and they will come?— no longer applies. Take care of the old before building new. Carey Lake deserves a very extensive Environmental impact Statement. How much activity can it support?
- tennis courts
- Idk
- For basketball
- Adding pump tracks and basketball courts
- Bring back adult softball leagues
- Add indoor playgrounds and also make community gardens
- Improve existing parks and trails and add more small neighborhood parks or small just general gathering areas with a grill, handicap accessible areas with like swings, monkey bars, and a slide (like getting the land that sits vacant due to foreclosure etc)
- Add more recreational programs affordable so all kids are able to attend
- Add indoor softball and baseball batting cages
- community center/YMCA with basketball courts, pool, indoor track
- Take a look at Virginia and Rapids. They have it figured out
- Tied with adding new indoor facilities
- Be nice to have an indoor field house and or batting cages or mini golf. Things for kids & families to do indoor with bad weather & outdoor during good weather
- And adding new parks
- basketball court
- creating an indoor facility that can be utilized by all school sports teams rather than just one.
- We need facilities that are not the schools. We need an aquatic center as well.
- Get it together Hibbing! The only park that seems to be cared for is Bennett Park. It does not offer things for everyone and is not a safe environment for kids to even play in. There are so many parks that have just been discarded and torn down rather than updating. Fix them, give the community more places to take their kids to play. We are more than just a hockey town, can't really tell though by what is provided.

- Using the big mall for indoor activities as high school can practice but other can use to generate money during day hours or other high school/college for indoor late practice during weather/seasonal aspects
- We need to add an indoor field house to provide recreation year round.
- 2nd Rink at the Memorial Building
- Improving existing parks and adding new trails
- We have a serious shortage of indoor gyms and areas for your and adults to use for sports/recreation. We need a field house and turf fields
- Additional ice is needed for our hockey players and figure skaters.
- We need a city facility like a ymca
- I would love to see a sports complex, that would include year round facilities for baseball, basketball, soccer, football, track and field, hockey and golf simulators.
- I really do think what we have is good. We need improvements to what is offered and available to all. I really think we need some kind of summer recreation facility with a pool. The pools we have are not available to everyone and don't offer summer recreation.
- Improving what parks and trails we have first then adding more recreation programs. But most of all educating those who can't see past their own backyard.,
- Municipal golf course has been overlooked for years. Even though it's one of the largest revenue producers for the city. Time to reinvest.
- Tear down the old buildings on Howard Street (the old ace and burnt down 420) behind the city hall. Make that a city square/park. The space could be used for many great community gatherings; farmers market there, a food truck Fridays, a stage for music, art festivals etc.
- To help support both the old and young in this community, we need a community center like the Essentia Heritage Center in Duluth—two ice rink (one is year round, the other services other activities that aren't weather dependent), boys and girls club space for activities and meetings. Or if you check out Eden Prairie Community Center—this has your ice rinks (3), a basketball court that has tennis, pickle ball, and volleyball opportunities plus a swimming pool and a community room to host events
- Rural communities are at a limited capacity. The city should be a lead in coordinating and offering parks and recreation facilities and programming.
- Adding some type of toilet to use
- I dont know if it's the most important, but I want a new and improved disc golf course
- I think it is very important we maintain what we have now. Howard Street, Bennett Park, are the most vital pieces to our town. They look terrible.
- All of the above
- Get something like YMCA or Virginia's Iron Trail Ctr.
- More ATV trails
- I grew up in Hibbing. I no longer live in the City of Hibbing, but until recently I did all of my shopping there still. My children now take lessons in Grand Rapids because I can't find time or availability in Hibbing. My shopping dollars shifted from places like Express Print, JJ's Coffee and Cream, Rudi's, and Rhythm Deli to shops in Grand Rapids. If I have to be there anyway, I might as well do my shopping there. Grand Rapids is 7 miles further from where I now live than Hibbing. I would be willing to pay a small fee not being a Hibbing Resident. I do now. There are

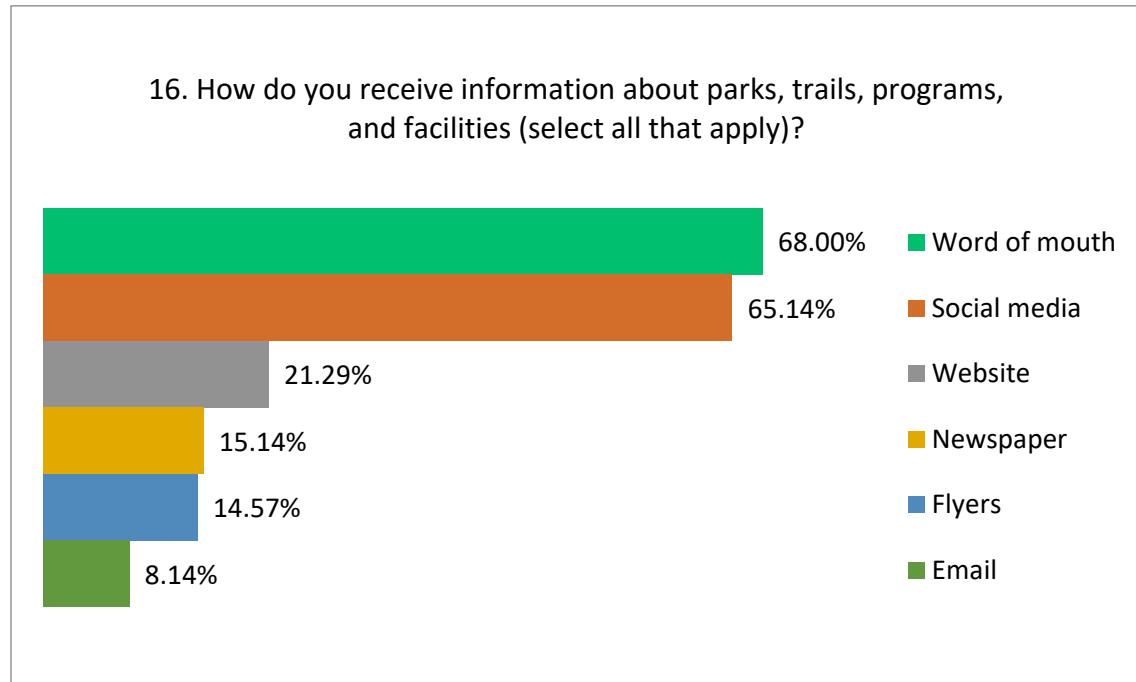
so many small communities that can not offer the programming Hibbing can because of the population and infrastructure. I really think this is an area Hibbing has an opportunity to improve in.

- Improving existing trails and adding more hiking tails in the woods
- Kids need gym space to be used at all times of day
- Create more trails to explore biking, ATV, or hiking, swimming
- Look at Chisholm. They built a new park and it's helping revitalize the town.
- The fairgrounds arena needs to go. Add onto memorial arena to add ice arena and indoor walking paths. Also, we need a community center where you can go in the winter time for different sports or just a gathering place.
- We live in minneota. We need indoor spaces
- Adding things to do indoors for younger people in the winter.
- ATV trails
- Why add anything at this time when statuesque has been lack of maintenance, prove that it can be maintained before adding more to the plate.
- Not putting funding into a new or expanded indoor skating rink. That only serves hockey families and provides little to no actual benefit to the rest of the tax paying citizens
- Need to expand memorial building and add wellness center second to none with a walking track. Get Sanford Health to put their name on it. Could also use a large indoor turf facility for year round training in baseball, football and soccer. Now is the time to invest in these youth and youth sports! With the opioid epidemic now is the time to keep kids busy in athletics and off the streets! Think about that investment in kids!
- You do not need more hockey arenas. You should look at edinburgh indoor park in Edina, Mn. Multi use indoor 200m track that can be used all winter....pool, basketball courts, indoor playground, fitness facility.
- We have approx 9 months a year of bad weather. We need programs and facilities to utilize these programs for over all mental health & wellness
- Team up with community organizations to help develop underutilized parks in a space that encourages use and community participation and growth.
- make cary lake more appealing
- Our winters are so long here in MN. The weather does not always allow for outside activities. We need our community to have more options for exercising in the winter months.
- More ice rink time would be the mostbused amenity. Adding a nice double rink complex in town and having more tourneys, skating competitions, etc would bring people to town and keep kids active all wi ter
- Hibbing used to be a wonderful town with lots of character. I feel the older parks are beyond repair, bit it's also caused alot of attraction loss because they aren't kept up. If we can improve what made hibbing wonderful in the beginning, and add one or two new items, I feel like this town would get back to its beautiful self. I feel as though I was born in the wrong Era. Back then hibbing was beautiful.
- Safety and cleanliness is important for children to be safe in parks. Programs for seniors where they feel safe is also important. I hate to see low income taxed to help pay.
- Adding more classes to waitlisted. Trail system for hiking w/sticker pass.

- Fix the pavement
- Need a wellness center and turf indoor sports courts, also need a turf baseball field outside
- There is a huge shortage of space for various indoor activities at all levels.
- With the horribly cold and snowy weather we entertain in Hibbing, it would behoove our community to
- Make better use of the Carey lake area
- Need an indoor track and field house
- We need a place that is accessible to our kids and teens anytime they want to go play a game of ball with friends in the middle of winter. I keep my kids busy year round with sports and other extra curricular activities even more than normal because there is absolutely nothing else for our kids to do!
- Fitness center with pool
- Indoor community pool
- Memorial building project
- And indoor facilities for winter, it will help the drug rates for kids to go down and give kids something to do
- And add trails for horse back riding.
- Multi use sports facility year round usage no minimal to small yearly fee
- Add on to the MB another ice rink and rental spot for weddings and corporate functions
- Bathroom and trail upkeep
- An indoor field for soccer, football, softball and baseball.
- More opportunities for the younger generation 18-25 and 25-45. People are leaving because of the lack of opportunities and recreation. We need innovation in our community.
- The citizens of Hibbing spend larger amounts of time indoors than a lot of other communities and it would be great to see more indoor space and activities.
- Quit raising fees for usage you are killing youth sports that trickle into high school. If you don't have youth you don't have quality hs programs
- We don't need more parks as the parks we have now, we cannot even maintain or patrol. Vandalism is an issue and not being addressed. If the cops don't have time to patrol what do have, that's an issue to add more
- ATV and OHV within Hibbing would increase business and revenue
- Just expand the memorial building to better serve the community already
- MB expansion is the highest priority
- There should be outdoor deck area at the greenhaven rink where I can grill and have hot chocolate for the kids.
- Improvement of existing indoor facilities may result in adding new facilities to support the needs that the old facilities can no longer provide.
- Upgrade the memorial building and add to it so we have a large sports complex like Virginia, Grand Rapids, and Duluth.

**16. How do you receive information about parks, trails, programs, and facilities (select all that apply)?**

Questioned on how they received information about Parks and Recreation offerings, over 2/3 (68%) of respondents said 'word of mouth.' Second was 'social media' at ~65%. 'Website' was a distant third at ~21%.



Respondents could also enter comments. 50 suggestions were shared (entered here verbatim):

- prefer to get it through email or website
- Very poor info. Need one official site.
- Don't receive any
- I hate that everything is posted on social media. Post flyers, ask post office to place in mailboxes, who knows. Social media is too involved with everything and people aren't constantly on it.
- Expirencies
- School
- I don't live in Hibbing idc
- There's a flyer but no advertising or recruiting
- Schools
- Would love a flyer in the mail with information on indoor pools, pickleball and tennis courts in or around Hibbing.
- The libraries always are in the know about local events and pass along info
- Face Book.
- No one talks about them
- School

- Hibbing leaves you guessing what's going on
- Idk
- Parents
- Chamber email blast
- This needs to be better so people can get the info easier
- Fb
- Facebook
- Schools
- I generally don't, which is a problem
- School sent survey
- None
- We use Bennett park often in summer
- searching
- School
- We only see it after on a social media post
- Word like to have access to all parks on one code
- From growing up here.
- Personal use.
- School survey
- Radio
- I would love to see flyers go out in the mail, more social media posts, or even signage on the main streets.
- Normally unfortunately only word of mouth. Because IDK anywhere else
- Personal experience
- Schools
- Rarely hear anything oh hit and miss at best.
- I rarely do
- Shopper
- A map mailed to all Hibbing families would be nice
- There is very little information out there. The parks and rec website is poor with little advertising.
- Website is difficult to navigate
- Facebook hopefully, otherwise I'm in the dark of what is going on.
- I found this survey on the Police Facebook page and not parks and rec. That should tell you all you need to know about the lack of work done by the Parks and Rec Department for the last 10 years or so.
- This definitely needs to improve. Right now it's rare to hear of anything going on unless you search hard for it.
- hardly ever hear about Parks & Rec in Hibbing. 😳
- The younger generation relies on social media and digital advertising over old fashion newspapers.
- School

**17. The City is planning to reassess and develop recreational programming for Carey Lake park. How specifically do you recreate (or would you like to recreate) at Carey Lake? Select your top 10 answers**

Participants were asked how they recreate (or would like to recreate) at Carey Lake Park. Over half of those responding said 'swimming' (~54%). 'Biking, hiking, running and walking on unpaved trails in the summer' came in second (~48%), and 'biking, running or walking on paved trails' third (~46%).

'Kayaking, canoeing or paddleboarding' was chosen by ~44%, followed by 'day-use picnicking or barbecuing' (~41%) and RV camping with amenities (electrical and water hookups and sewage dump station) (~39%).

Answer Choices	Responses	
Swimming	54.20%	387
Biking, hiking, running or walking on unpaved trails (summer)	48.32%	345
Biking, running or walking on paved trails (summer)	46.22%	330
Kayaking, canoeing or paddleboarding	43.98%	314
Day-use picnicking or barbecuing	41.18%	294
RV camping with amenities (electrical and water hookups and sewage dump station)	38.66%	276
Shore or pier fishing (summer, non-motorized)	32.63%	233
Dog or pet walking	31.93%	228
Parties or pavilion rental	29.83%	213
Cross-country skiing, classical style	28.15%	201
Observing nature and wildlife (e.g. birding)	26.19%	187
Snowshoeing and fat-tired biking (winter)	25.35%	181
Ice skating	22.27%	159
Ice fishing (winter)	21.29%	152
Casually enjoying views, green-space, solitude, meditating, or forest-bathing	20.59%	147
ATV/OHV use	18.91%	135
Rustic camping	17.65%	126
Group camping (i.e. scouting)	15.97%	114
Motorized fishing or boating (summer)	14.85%	106
Cross-country skiing, skating style	12.04%	86
I do not use Carey Lake park	10.64%	76
Nature interpretation or programming	9.94%	71
Snowmobiling	9.80%	70
Foraging	8.68%	62
Historical interpretation or programming	6.58%	47
Cultural practices	3.92%	28
Other (please specify)		43

In addition, 43 respondents entered comments on Carey Lake Park:

- How about swimming - currently can't a total mess!
- I'm all about taking care of and improving what Hibbing already has. But Carey Lake is gross, I have a hard time even bringing my dogs there to swim. A filtered, life guard staffed pool somewhere downtown would be ideal for all ages during the day. Biking distance even.
- Ski trails need to be dedicated for skiers. These trails must not be used by snoeshoers or fat bikers or hikers because they ruin the trails and are dangerous for the skiers
- Currently, I don't use Carey Lake often. The lake is not maintained and it smells. I wouldn't want my kids to swim in it. But, we always came here when I was younger. Not sure what happened but if the lake was in better shape my family would utilize this area more.
- Carey lake is disgusting..work on cleaning the lake first. Other amenities don't matter if the lake is gross
- For swimming it would need to be cleaner the water is gross
- With tared trails, use of electric wheel chairs. Unless that is allowed now.
- City should maintain what we have a quite spending money on things that add to our taxes.
- Horse camp
- none
- RC car racing
- Idk
- Need rc plane flying field again
- Lake is gross
- It's too unsafe there .
- Basketball court
- Disc golf course
- Carey lake is not a good clean lake. Never take my kids here
- The lake is gross to swim in.
- This is a great space off the freeway to make these old things new and new things come to the area. But as of now there is no one for years taking care of the space that we have. A person:group needs to be designated per week/daily to clean and keep healthy
- Clean it up and bring back functioning picnic tables. It needs help!!!
- -
- Golf Course
- Use of site is not the problem out there. It is the throughput and understanding of what is there.
- Excited to see an improvement to Carey Lake
- Horse riding trails around the lake that non horse people can't use
- We currently never really swim there because it's dirty and grungy. And not inviting. A lot of trashy people go there and do drugs. We would use it more if it were more inviting. And monitored more... Having an active real actual campground there I think would be a good idea with staff and actual facilities.
- Connect Carey Lake to Minnesota Discovery Center trail system
- Boat launch, life guard, clean beach

- QUIET, PEACEFUL activities only please!
- Must clean up the beach and chase out those geese, no one will swim there! The changing houses are already cracking to pieces, get those fixed. Add 2 more piers for fishing. One paved trail or road all the way around the lake. And more trails all the way to hwy 5 for hiking too.
- stock with more fish if dnr would ever approve improve the quality and size of lake
- I don't use Carey lake. It's horrible to swim in, it's not kept up. It stinks, but there's history there.
- Less motorized would be better, keep it more natural and offer recycling and caring for environment.
- It's a little too far from town. Would rather see investment in town, Bennet Park, or Vic Power.
- Safety
- Golf course
- Disc golf Course
- City triathlon at Carey lake (annual)
- Designated equine trail(s). Again there are a lot in the area that would use it!
- Clean the contaminated water and clean all of it up. It's terrible!! Wouldn't swim or fish there ever!!
- Carey lake has a ton of potential. I've seen many people asking about camping on Facebook.
- Love the nature viewing and trails/ birding

**18. What are one or two improvements that would allow you to better enjoy Carey Lake park?**

For this open-ended question, 425 respondents entered comments. A thematic analysis of this data is included in Appendix C, and the themes are shared in the 'Interpretation' section of this report (following 'demographics').

- Keep as many trees as possible. De-weed the swimming area. Groom the sand to remove debris. Keep geese away.
- "More snow shoes trails for winter.
- Toilets
- Nicer beach for summer "
- Better parking.
- If the lake was more taken care of and looked more nicer
- Rv camping/atv/ ohv use
- CC warming shack, paved bike trail around the lake, dog friendly cc ski trail
- Have more options for kids
- More tables
- Better water and beach quality for swimming
- Outdoor swimming pool
- The water needs to be cleaned and the changing and bathroom facilities need updating
- Improve beach and no geese
- "Adding a green / blue mountain bike trail.
- Adding a combined ski chalet / maintenance building for cross country skiing. "

- Cleaning the swimming area, cutting back areas for fishing. Adding areas to sit and BBQ. Have it managed daily
- Nicer beach and nicer facilities. It's a great space that's not being used and wasting away.
- Add paddle boating or kayaking
- Bring back paid Lifeguards
- "Clean it up look run down
- Life guard
- No ""Dogs""
- Clean up beach - add some play group equip and some benches at the beach
- More fish, and a cleaner beach
- "Foraging helps, walking trails
- "
- Beach improvement and trail improvement.
- Lake water quality
- Fix the trail
- Better beach maintenance, attract out of toe era with camp sites
- Maintained paved or unpaved trail around the lake for biking
- Walking path around the lake. I like what Chisholm has but do t necessarily need paved trail
- Make the beach more welcoming.
- Improved beach/swimming area and expanded trails for walking with kids and dogs (on leash!)
- "Clean up/improve the lake
- Less campsite areas and more shoreline for families to enjoy picnic/swimming without being overwhelmed by commotion of the beach. "
- Clean up the beach and lake!!!! It's such a shame that we have this lake right here in Hibbing(and Kelly Lake for that matter!) And you can't even utilize it because it is disgusting and not maintained. We have an opportunity right in our own backyard and the city, P &R, doesn't take care of it! People could utilize this lake and beach if it were clean! We wouldn't have to go out of town to go to the lake for swimming, we could drive 5 miles and enjoy our very own lake! This beach and lake were once a great and convenient place to go, let's get back to that!!!
- Better swimming area in the summer.
- Clean/rake the beach. Bathroom facilities
- Add RV park to attract people to the area!
- Better bathrooms
- Campgrounds
- Yearly Restock with more diverse fish and potentially try to clear up some of the weeds in the water.
- One or two more fishing piers.
- Getting Younger
- Updated and more info
- Fix the road and make the area larger for overnite camping
- Better maintained non-paved trails, more frequent mowing in the summer.
- "Clean up the lake so people are able to swim
- Add a park for kids to play "

- More bike paths.
- Park and trail improvements and cross-country skiing trail improvements
- More swimming and skating, so maybe a rest area to get ready.
- Clean it up more and lifeguard on watch?
- No more littering.
- I don't know
- I do not use
- Basketball court less parking lots
- Make it cleaner
- I don't go there
- I do not know
- They should have better cleaning, and they should build a big park.
- The beach and more fishing spots.
- To get rid of swimmers itch and have no weeds or bigger beach.
- More climbing structures and climbable trees of such.
- More accessible areas for people with disabilities, and expanding trails for skiing and hiking.
- I think they should add a slide on the dock, and get a big camp ground
- Fishing and hunting
- I've never been there
- Don't really know
- I Don't care
- 
- The roads and parks
- Idk
- Mountain biking trails
- Atv allowance
- "more gathering facilities (gazebos)
- hiking/biking trail system"
- Additional fishing piers and tent camping space would be nice- but I do want to say, Carey Lake is one of the primary places I enjoy the outdoors in Hibbing, and I would be very happy to see some love poured into the park!
- Golf Course and housing development on the east side of the lake.
- Add OHV trails in the area
- Day activities makes most sense. A few camping spots might be nice for families who prefer closer to town.
- Keeping the sand clean - goose poop removed - and maybe haul in some nice sand? Groom ski trails sooner so they can be used all winter long.
- Paved path all around for biking, walking, etc. and better path access from town.
- Cleaning up the lake.
- More trails!! It's beautiful, but there's a lack of nature loops. Paved or unpaved. Carey lake is lovely and very under utilized!
- Larger beach
- "Better cleaner water and beach area.

- Picnic benches or pavilions around the beach for gatherings."
- 4 or 5 fishing piers stock lake yearly different type of fish for people to fish for campground bait shop for the city to make money paved road all way around Carey lake
- 4 or 5 fishing pier more different types of fish year stock with with limited on how many you can catch road all way around Carey lake and campground bait shop for the city can make money
- 4 or 5 fishing pier more different types of fish year stock with with limited on how many you can catch road all way around Carey lake and campground bait shop for the city can make money
- 4 or 5 fishing pier more different types of fish year stock with with limited on how many you can catch road all way around Carey lake and campground bait shop for the city can make money
- Road goes all way around Carey lake and about 4 or 5 fishing piers and maybe put more types fish in lake for fishing
- "Cleaner water life guards more for you her kids to do maybe build a playground out there as well and paved trails going around the whole lake I used to love walking around como lake in St Paul because the walking path to go around it with out vehicles cutting through it and better roads
- "
- i think city of hibbing needs to put a camp ground at Carey Lake Park and make a new road that goes around the whole lake and more fishing piers all round lake
- Atv trails for sure
- Maintain beach to a much better level. Get rid of weeds in swimming areas. Maybe besides a lifeguard there should be someone that can enforce rules
- If it was better taken care of. More recycling can around the park and trails, with sustainable cover so the trash does not fall out or so an animal can't get into it
- The garbage cleaned up more. There is trash all over the place. Also considering stocking fish such as walleye and crappie to produce better populations
- Ensuring the area is clean and updated. From speaking with people who live locally, they would rather travel long distances to go to a beach than go to Carey Lake.
- Put biking trails like red head. Clean the area up
- Nothing
- If it was cleaner
- We tried hiking once and it was really muddy so haven't been back, but we are new residents to the area.
  - "1. More picnic areas.
  - 2. Places to sit and be able to watch the lake and wild life."
  - Not Available
  - "-- find a way to decrease the amount of canadian goose poop especially on the beach
    - a little bit more parking would be great"
  - Maintain the beach and add fishing piers and stock the lake.
  - Clean it up
  - Better swimming area and amenities like changing rooms and bathrooms
  - More things to use
  - "Building with better changing rooms, pop and snack machines, information.
  - Educational interpretive programs."

- Nothing else
- Needs to feel more safe up there and welcoming
- "if there were more places to go with family
- if it were more like a beach where you can go swimming in it"
- Atv Trails and more fishing piers
- Beach and bathrooms cleaner. Bug repellent around the bathrooms and benches/picnic tables.
- No idea
- Better parks and camping areas
- Better pavilion and group areas for picnic and outdoor summer sports such as volleyball, pickleball, cornhole, bocce, etc.
- I would enjoy Carey Lake better if the city would prioritize the maintenance of the existing facilities.
- Bike trails
- Update bathroom and changing facilities, better benches or picnic tables, frequent cleaning or the beach, expand the shoreline area, larger sandy beach area. A path that you could walk all the way around the lake would be nice. Most of the year it is to wet to do this.
- Easier trails, signs, more toilets
- "Chalet/warming house maybe with ice rink and tubing/sledding type options for winter. Rentals for skis/snowshoes and ski passes in building.
- Summer-get rid of goose poop at beach and improve trails, maybe a small playground by the beach with kayak, paddle board, bike/scooter rentals"
- Bigger and cleaner beach area, and more walking trails
- More group gathering spaces.
- a reason to spend time there.
- Pavilion rentals and OHV
- Better signage, and more snowshoe trails, so that snowshoers and hikers are not on ski trails
- Na
- Better maintained
- Campground!
- Ski trailhead building , wider trails for skate and classic. Updated groomer
- Cleaner, safety, and more lighting at night
- More security or park hosts. Finish the camping area. More amenities at the swimming beach (shaded pavilions, bathrooms).
- Fish stocking, camping
- "Cleaner beach area
- Swimming raft for kids to play on"
- "Atv/Utv access from town/chisholm would increase usage.
- If fish were stocked people would fish it."
- More places for teens to hang. More stuff for kids to play on.
- Better swimming beach!!!
- Improved trail grooming equipment
- Shelter for cross country skiers. Toilets. Camping area.
- Improve unpaved trails

- Maintenance —
- Road or trail that goes all the way around the lake.
- Cleaner facilities and nicer parking areas.
- Idk
- Swimming area for kids
- Camping
- Clean up the water
- Clean up the lake. I can't take my family there anymore to swim.
- More trails for hiking, biking, and snowshoeing. Adding more ski trail loops. Improving the beach area, it used to be very nice.
- Idk
- Bigger area to swim
- I'm at Carey Lake just about every day. I like the rustic feel of the park. I think continued maintenance of the pier is priority. I also think that keeping the road plowed in the Winter is fantastic, thank you! Road maintenance is important - including the boat launch area. If a campground is actually going to happen, I think it is important to make sure staff is hired to keep it a safe area 24/7. I am an avid camper. Since I live local, I wouldn't camp there, but recognize the importance of having the option in Hibbing. That said, what about developing the camping area in North Hibbing? Clean it up, make it look like an actual campground with amenities like access to usable water and a bathroom. Model it after the Red River State Rec area, yet don't overcrowd it.
- More unpacked trails
- Updated picnic areas, beach area cleaned up, bathroom facilities, more fishing spots
- Sheltered pavilions at the swimming beach, more security presence.
- Daily maintenance of garbage removal and bathroom cleaning.
- Being able to rent a kayak or paddle board. Or an outdoor yoga class!
- Trails better managed
- Import a softer sand so the beach is more attractive to people want to swim or just lay out. Yes it might be expensive but it would be worth it.
- I don't know
- Groomed ski trails need to be specific to skiers. Hikers, snow shoers and fat tire bikers need to use trails specifically for them, NOT ski trails. They ruin the trails and make it dangerous for the skiers.
- Fixing swimming beach areas
- ?
- Bathrooms. Somewhere for day trips
- Move campground to north side of lake. Resurface bike trail and allow snowmobile access.
- Nicer picnic and grilling areas by the lake
- Groom current trails
- Unfortunately, I live in a different city and have only used the park dedicated to RC cars and trucks.
- Not be so dirty
- Improved beach area, and fishing area. More benches for relaxing and enjoying nature.

- "Atv trails
- Bike trails "
- "Handicap accessible everything
- "
- Better changing room bathroom
- Camping Improve beach
- Places to camp, more walking and biking trails, better swimming
- Making, keeping it safe for all to use
- N/A
- A better swimming beach, campground.
- Rc field
- Bathrooms and more trails
- Better swimming destination.
- Larger camping area
- I just want everyone to be able to enjoy nature for free. I want people to be able to access and take full advantage of the park.
- Bathroom/changing area, cleaned beach/new sand
- Clean the lake and install security cameras or hire a security company so we feel safe.
- Better beach, more trails.
- It would be nice to add dog friendly trails and make the swimming area cleaner and more enjoyable
- Camping area
- Better quality of maintenance and improvements
- Not people living out there and scaring people off the trails. Don't feel safe out there
- Cleaner and bigger beach area with a park.
- Better beaches, better facilities
- "Better rest rooms
- More activities "
- "Security cameras , PD patrol.
- Same with Bennett Park- it could be such a great place to go, but it's full of druggies and gang type groups "
- Better shower rooms
- The road needs to be fixed
- The City of Hibbing would benefit with camping facilities. Bikers using RedHead would camp there.
- The smell
- i rarely go to carey lake park but it would be nice to have all kinds of things to do
- More opportunities for fishing
- More trails, cleaner water
- I think it's important for those who use Carey lake to improve and maintain good ski trails. I know several people who ski there frequently.
- BASKETBALL COURT
- Better parking.

- Clean lake
- More picnic areas
- Bike trails
- Clean the beach up.
- More trails
- Clean the lake, better maintenance of the beach
- Paved walking path.
- Better access to trails and improvement of trails
- Better maintenance of camp sites and of the swimming beach.
- ATV / OHV Trails would make the park way better
- more trails to bike/walk on.
- Cleaner beach and more docks for fishing
- Make the lake Beach option more appealing. Very not welcoming swimmers. Seems as of maintenance is an afterthought.
- I don't go much
- none
- Better beach area. It's never very clean
- Daily maintenance as I stated above. The past years have been horrible to even want to be there because of the garbage. Thanks for all you are trying to do. This should have been done years agoZ
- Well maintained area and safety
- "A nice public restroom or community gather type facility to replace the bath house currently there. Something people can rent to host events.
- Have a paved trail constructed all the way around the lake for biking, walking, in the summer and skiing in the winter"
- Camping and beach facilities
- An overall clean up. The lake is gross, hear of people getting swimmers itch all the time from there. The one large dock could use some care. Lots of inappropriate words wrote on it.
- Clean it up, and take care of it. Bring back the cement picnic tables in all of the camp areas. Bring back the grills or fire rings so that ppl can bbq in the park and have family functions like we used to. Its a great area that is too run down and not user friendly at all!!! All the good things have been removed, like the picnic tables, garbage cans, fire pits, bbq's. Please bring it back.
- Clean the water. Make the space somewhat sanitary!
- Playground
- Updates and police presence.
- Clean the lake..
- The beach & changing rooms/rest rooms better maintained. Over night camping.
- "\* Keep the beach cleaner
- Improve the playground there to attract more people/families "
- Please make sure our community of low income families is thought about when decisions are made
- Disc Golf Course even if it's just a 9 hole Course it would be perfect there
- We would swim more if the beach were weeded and opened back up and treated for snails.

- Clean bathrooms and beach area with signage for trails and available space
- Safer road
- Better camping areas pavilions for party's and gathering swimming fishing
- Walking trail
- "More hiking, snowshoeing trails
- Restroom facilities "
- This is a biased survey. It is evident that the city would like to further develop Carey Lake area and is looking for community support for it. It makes sense to put camping out there and clean up the beach. But there are other demands, especially indoor spaces. It is clear that there is a demand for camping with the mountain biking "gold rush" in our region and I support enterprise in developing that. It likely makes more sense to allow a private enterprise to develop and run the camp ground instead of the city and would have probably been done already. Carey Lake is already taken better care of than many other facilities and parks.
- A clean swimming area with access to bathroom/changing rooms.
- Better swimming area. Weeds/water quality. Picnic tables.
- Better beach area.
- Being able to relax at lake. Safety for a single person / family using facility
- More open spaces and expanded trail networks. Consider disc golf and ohv trail usage
- Having events there through the year. Ice golfing event in the winter or kayak racing the summer.
- Cleaner water and less goose poop.
- More lit trails for summer hiking also. Upgrading the beach.
- Play equipment for the kids, camping area
- None. Don't use.
- Replacing the roads and parking areas.
- Daily maintenance/upkeep, concessions.
- Swimming/beach area. Adding playground space to beach area. Atv trail and snowmobile trail in winter.
- "- Cleaner water for swimming
  - Place to purchase snacks/beverages "
- Hibbing needs a campground that people can enjoy either as tourists or locals. You have to drive at least 15-20 mins to get to the nearest campground. Carey Lake needs to be cleaned up, it is perceived as "dirty" and people don't like to swim there. We often choose to drive somewhere else to go due to these reasons.
- Camping sites and hiking trails
- Overnight camping
- Atv/ohv trails
- "More fishing piers
- Camping availability "
- More unpaved nature trails
- "Clean it up
- Make more swimming areas"
- Lifeguards, and equipment rentals such as kayaks, and canoes.

- Improving the benches and grills
- "Swimming beach needs attention.
- Rent kayaks and/or paddle boards. "
- Clean beach!
- Trails and swimming
- Lighted xcountry ski trails r awesome for those ppl who work and can then get out at night after work!!!!
- "Organized events
- Maintaining effectively"
- Improved trails and swimming
- Better maintenance
- clean it better
- Walking trails, ATV trails, shelters, campground.
- Momma says safety
- Improve the current picnic areas
- Clean water, clean beach, better parking lot, better shelter. That place is so run down, its disgusting.
- Camping and more places to fish from.
- Skating rink and clean up the beach / make more trails. Add rentals like kayaks, paddle boats, snowshoes, skis. If it was clean and more modern that would be fun. Also, sell drinks.
- More options to let pets run
- Allow ATVs and horses
- Cleaning up the lake and ensuring it's safe to swim in.
- Trails for horses only
- Camping and other outdoor recreation! There is a huge need for camping in the Hibbing Area.
- Safety. Many times I've been to Carey Lake I felt unsafe. That goes for most of Hibbing...including specifically Bennet Park and dog park.
- Having camping and additional areas to have family events.
- It to be better patrolled so there isn't all the kids there using drugs. Want it to be safe to bring my children there and enjoy the day there.
- Developed trail system with bathroom facilities.
- Clean up the beach and make bathrooms. Create cleaner areas opposite of the beach for dogs to swim
- Hiking trails
- "Add on to existing hiking trail system.
- Make the ski trail accessible for summer use by installing walkways through the wet areas. "
- More parking access and road repair
- Be able to swim in the lake and camp
- Horseback riding on the trails
- "Cleaner nicer Beach and sand that's not icky when you go in the water.. and more of a presence of police or cameras or something because that's where people go to do drugs and other things because they know they can do whatever they want down there because there's no one there to hold them accountable.

- Definitely a nice campground that has some staff or something You could really make that place nice... Huge potential.
- But not something like rinky dink campground where there's not anybody staffing and it's just you drive up and pick a spot and drop your payment in a box.
- "
- Water slides and water activities for kids
- Better facilities and cleaner swimming area
- More security
- More spread out restrooms.
- I would interact with Carey Lake more if the lake water quality was better for swimming and lake activities. I would also like designated areas for snowshoeing on trails to not disrupt the existing cross country ski trails.
- Better beach in the summer and more light up trails for cross country skiing. Also, it would be nice to have someone answer the phone if someone is trying to rent cross country skis.
- Boat launch, life guard, clean beach, repair roads
- "RV hookups
- New, well maintained restrooms/showers. "
- There are so many snails in the lake and the weeds are overwhelming. A lifeguard would be nice.
- Childrens play ground
- To maintain what you already have! The lake is disgusting!!! I live out here - hear shouting from ACROSS the lake, constantly picking up garbage on the trails, PEOPLE are taking the PEACE out of our nature spaces. I love Carey Lake and love it PRIVATE!
- "Restrooms
- Clean up the area, make it nice to go to"
- Better water quality. Plant a few more trees by the beach to allow for shade. Make sure the beach is clean.
- Clean up the lake and maintain the pavement
- The swimming area is full of snails. You can become easily lost and not know where you are. More bathrooms on trails around the lake.
- Cleaner water, cleaner beach, better fishing
- Clean lake to swim in. Bigger beach
- I wish kids could swim in it, the water quality is a concern. I feel the beach would be used more often if people could swim in it.
- N/a
- RV access
- cleaner shore line and maintainance. more trails to walk !
- Maintenance on the trail and actually replacing the pavement on the washed out sections of train on the sinkholes instead of dumping gravel in them
- Allow summer horseback riding on the trails
- Paved trail or road all the way around lake. More expanded hiking trails throughout the lands there. 2 more fishing piers one on each end of the lake. And clean the beach up, get ride of the geese pooping all over the beach.

- More picnic tables and grills, another pier for fishing
- Mountain bike trails and camp site!
- Would be nice if the beach had softer sand.
- More snow shoeing trails and hiking in the woods
- Atv/snowmobile trail system linking the area to existing trail systems and businesses (eg: Thirsty Moose).
- More open, flat areas that encourage safe use of the park and opportunities for gathering.
- Disc golf course (always a natural pairing with a camp site)
- "Snowshoeing"
- Kayaking "
- It just feels kind of gross, even though I spend time there. I think the lake just has so much goose poop and moss. I wouldn't take my kids swimming there... which is kind of sad
- make bigger by landscaping
- Paved walking area for dogs instead of just the road.
- More parking
- The lake is too small for boating and there isn't good fishing. It's just not a place I go because of its size
- Revitalize
- Better and more frequent beach cleanup during the summer months
- Atv trails or more walking trails
- If you're considering adding any sort of camping out there, be sure to do some careful research on current camping trends. Campgrounds made well are expensive, but can be an incredible asset. You'll need to be prepared to add additional staff just for that area, specifically people who already have experience managing campgrounds. The camping world, especially RV camping, is a very niche community. What we see in parks these days is people wanting paved roads, free Wi-Fi, clean lakes, and a septic system they can hook their RV to at their campsite.
- I
- Safety and maintenance
- Clean lake and surrounding areas better
- More multi use trial. Summer and winter
- "Cleaner Beach"
- Better facilities "
- Clean up the swimming area ALOT. Allow Pavillion use once cleaned up.
- More trails for biking and hiking in summer. More snowshoe trails. Right now there is only one.
- Get rid of the people doing drugs. To many weeds on shore.
- Better signage
- Swimming is very limited there due to the water quality. I mostly don't use Carey lake because I don't feel safe.
- Cleaner beach
- Atv/utv trail
- I used to go, when the dupont building was still there
- "The road needs to be replaced.
- Clean water for swimming "

- Have summer help and a greeting station, maybe a better beach and more paved forest trails for taking a walk with kids.
- Decent trails for summer walking/biking and more snowshoeing trails in winter
- Camping, more trails
- Campground
- Cleaner park
- Clean up the lake so it's more appealing to swim in.
- the water is literally toxic, clean it up
- More paved trails!
- A nice camp ground
- Better bathroom and shower facilities with plumbing as O'Brien Reservoir is adding. A nice park/jungle gym. Another larger pavilion with shade. Additional parking.
- Safety
- A state of the art campground with all the amenities!!
- Paved or dirt trails something that stretches around the lake. Creating a camp ground
- Cleaner and bigger beach area for people
- Golf course
- If you could actually use the swimming area that would be nice. Maybe is there wasn't goose poop everywhere and it didn't stink like crap!
- "1)The beach is in dire need of improvement to attract both locals and visitors .
- 2) Vegetation has overtaken the swimming area and there are goose droppings everywhere.
- I am opposed to creating a camping area out there. It is too low and wet, and it will require vigilant patrolling for safety/vandalism reasons.
- 3) There was a woman who managed the grounds at Carey Lake for years during the summers. She created beautiful little gardens and meticulously cared for the beach, bike trail, and road to the DuPont building. I don't know if she retired or was dismissed, but the quality of Carey Lake has taken a dive since she left.
- "
- Treat the lake appropriately. Weeds etc
- A new road and open up areas along the shoreline and make nice level picnic areas.
- Fishing, Camping, ATV/OHV use!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Bigger beach and park
- Idk
- Better signage for walking & hiking trails and add more hiking trails. Disc golf would be awesome
- Firstly the water quality is incredibly poor and smells bad. No one wants to swim or paddle in it. Fishing is terrible too. I can't see putting money into it...like lipstick on a pig. The current beach area is mucky and full of snails. You'll need to move the beach area completely to better water.
- A disc golf course
- Fix the road and the boat ramp.
- Boat launch improvement and parking, a pavilion toward the old DuPont site.
- Cleaner area and better kept (no goose poop, less garbage, etc)
- Clean up the lake and create RV campsites.
- Golfing and concerts

- Keeping trails maintained/groomed. 2. Addition of snowshoe trails.
- Please fix the paved trail and upkeep
- Equine trails.
- I don't feel safe going out there as a single female although I would really love to be able to!
- I'm more focused on hockey/baseball and they ability to have large tournaments to draw in more people to spend money on the community and allow the ability for year round training.
- Golf course
- "Let horses in again
- An easy or intermediate trail for skiing around the east side (don't like those big hills)."
- Bike trails and a cleaner lakefront.
- Make the beach more welcoming and cleaner
- More/better recreational amenities and camping hook ups.
- Repair the road
- More trails
- Better roads, better bathroom/changing areas
- Cleaner beach/area
- "Dog area
- "
- Knowing of it
- More swimming spots
- The upkeep is awful. The roads and parking lot need attention. It would be great if there were clean restrooms and perhaps a place to purchase snacks and rent equipment in both summer and winter.
- Cleaning the lake. It stained my clothes 30 years ago, I can't bring myself to go in anymore, and my kids are pretty iffy on going in too. I love Carey lake to walk around & relax though.
- Keep the drug dealers out of there, clean it up, lifeguards need to be out there more in the summer
- "All-purpose winter trails that do not impact the ski trails.
- Signage for hiking vs ski trails with courtesy rules"
- Camping both rv and rustic. ATV and snowmobile trails. Some people, especially with disabilities, have a hard time walking a long distance but, still want to enjoy nature.
- A playground
- Playground, community building
- Better beach and less weeds. Improved park at the lake area with small covered picnic areas.
- More dirt trails, clean lake, camping
- Maintenance and patrol the area or lock the gates at night. So much vandalism there lately
- N/A
- Improved restroom, beach cleanup, covered picnic areas near the beach,I
- Have affordable kayaks and paddle boards available for rental to increase tourist opportunity and increase local utilization.
- I would love to use the beach for swimming in the summer, but it's always covered in goose poop.
- Better paved trails.

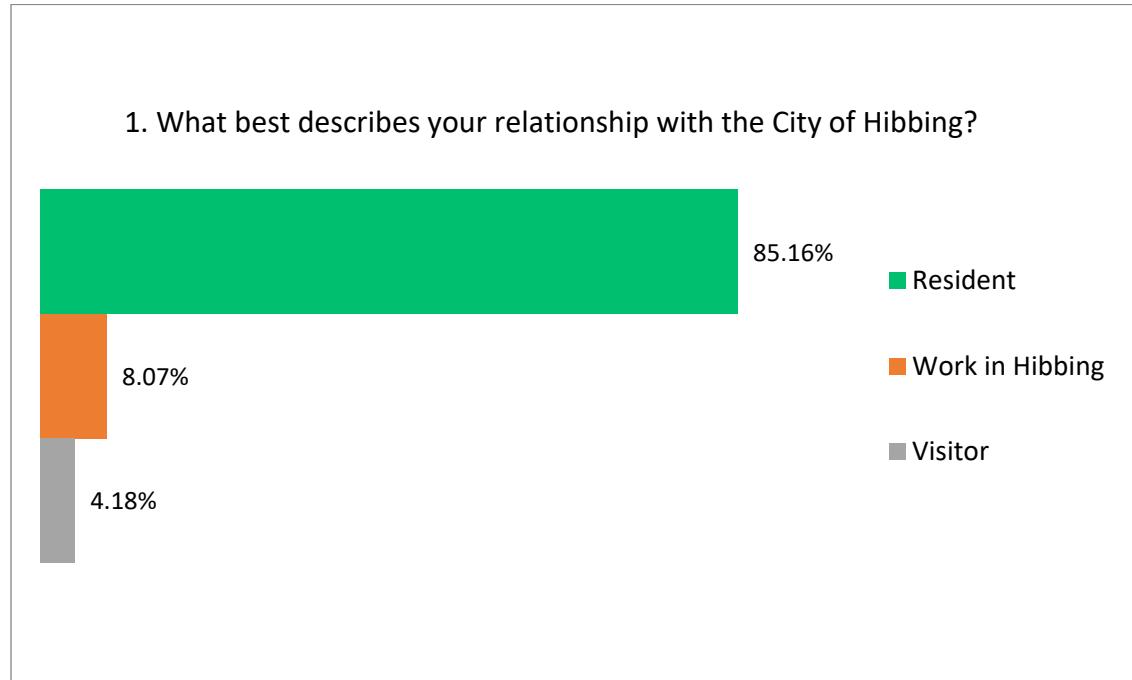


- ATV space
- Camping, Ice Skating.
- Dog walking trails.
- Trails mostly. Activity building
- Carey lake is disgusting, use a better lake.
- Keeping the Carey Lake bike path free of debris like rocks and sticks.
- Camping
- Indoor facilities for winter or inclement weather use
- Mountain biking single track
- Get rid of the F-ing geese and bring in some sand for the beach. Put a life guard. Check out Kandiyohi County Park Number 7. There is no reason why we can't have that. It's on a lake called games lake, which nobody fishes they just ski and pontoon. Hench the name. Games
- Bike trails
- Better trail systems and picnic tables area
- Providing a well lit path around the lake for walking/running/biking etc (Similar to Chisholm lake).
- "Trails-for all of the above.
- Also m-maple hill could be developed "
- Water quality, parking, beach space
- Clean up the snails & weeds so the lake is swimmable once again
- Additional lighted ski/snowshoe trails in the winter
- Hiking trails, better grooming of cross country ski trails (wider , more often, updated equipment)

## Demographics

In an effort to gather a statistically valid and representative survey sample, demographic data was requested from respondents. Below are the results from these questions:

**1. What best describes your relationship with the City of Hibbing?**



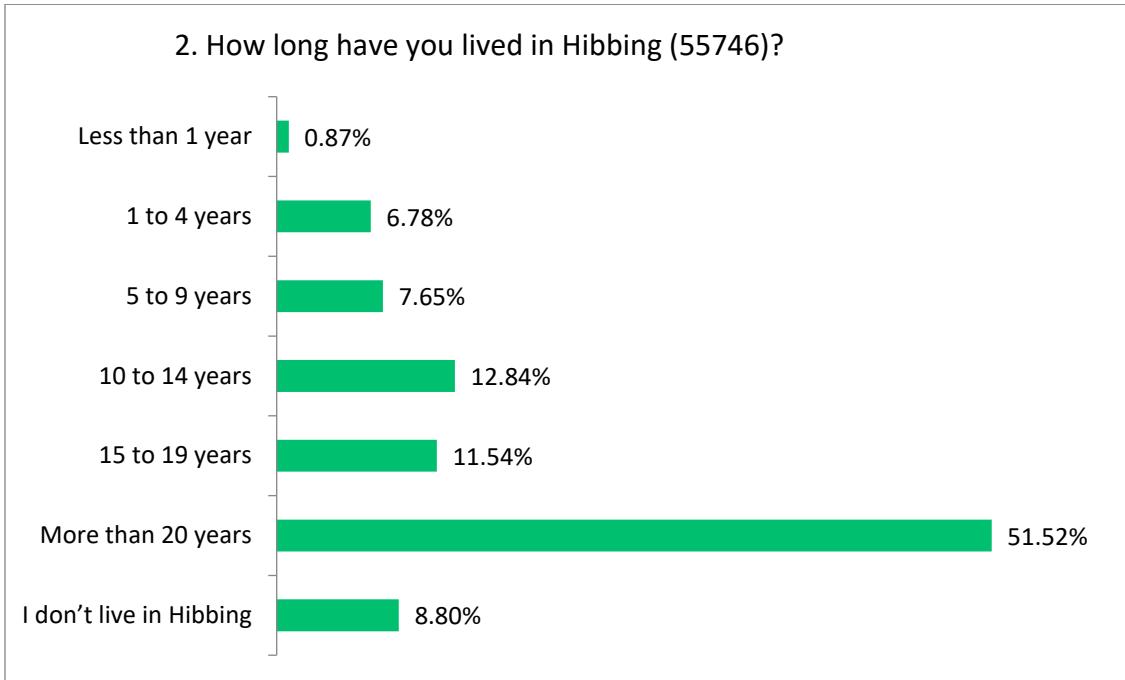
**1.a What is the zip code of your primary residence?**

The majority of respondents were from Hibbing, as 591 out 714 (82.7%) live in zip code 55746.

56628	1
56601	1
56452	1
55846	2
55810	1
55808	1
55803	1
55792	4
55781	9
55775	8
55771	1
55769	2
55768	4

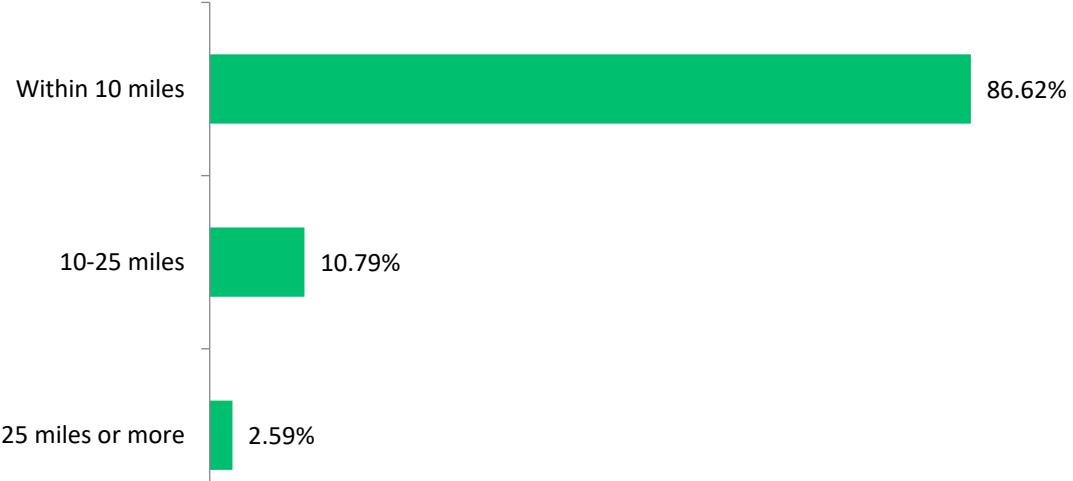
55764	1
55756	1
55753	3
55752	1
55751	4
55747	1
55746	591
55745	1
55744	1
55738	1
55736	1
55734	1
55722	1
55719	33
55713	3
55710	1
55709	1
55476	1
55092	1
54716	1
5719	1
5517	1

**2. How long have you lived in Hibbing (55746)?**



**3. Approximately how many miles is your residence from Hibbing's downtown area?**

3. Approximately how many miles is your residence from Hibbing's downtown area?

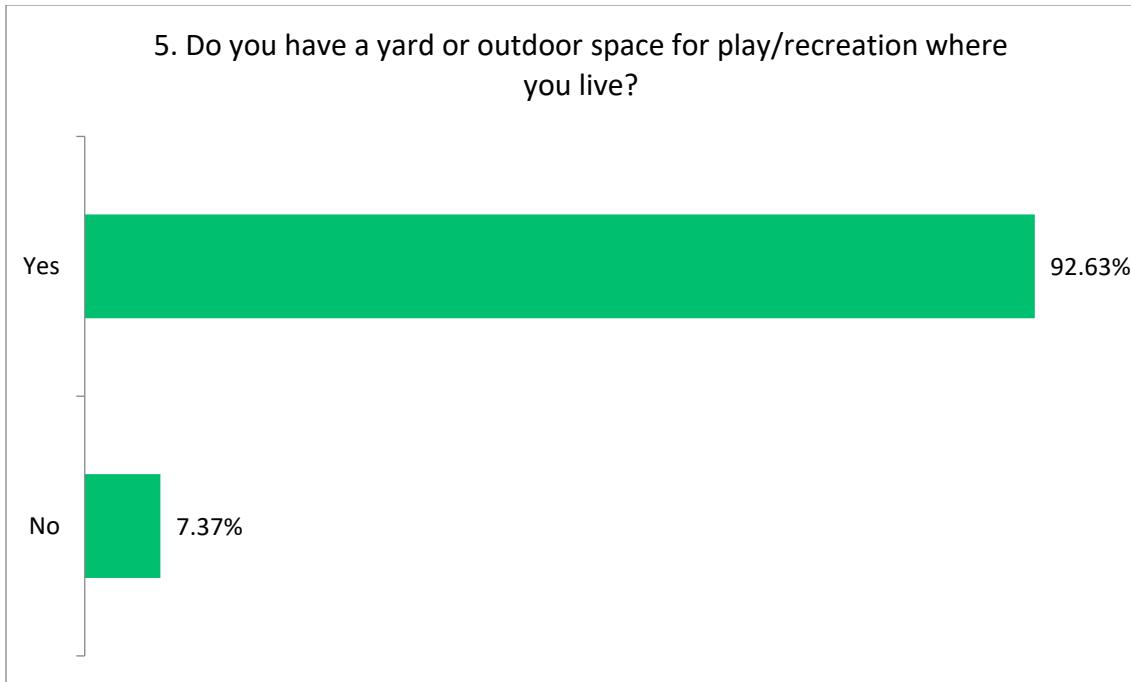


**4. Do you rent or own your home?**

4. Do you rent or own your home?

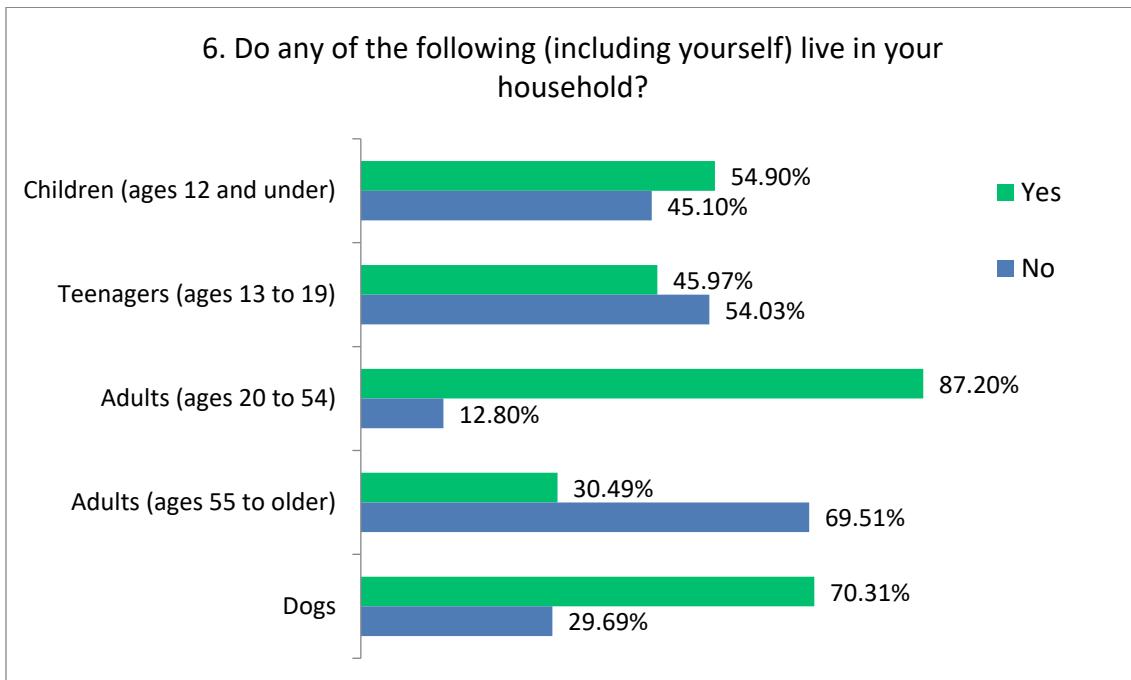


**5. Do you have a yard or outdoor space for play/recreation where you live?**

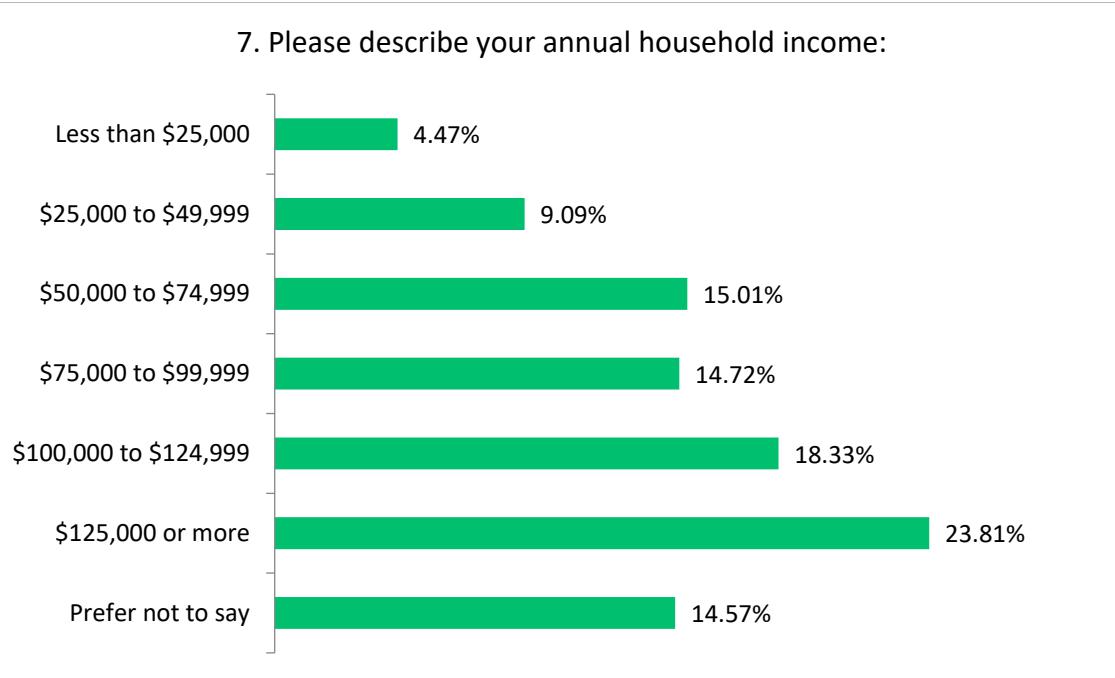


**6. Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?**

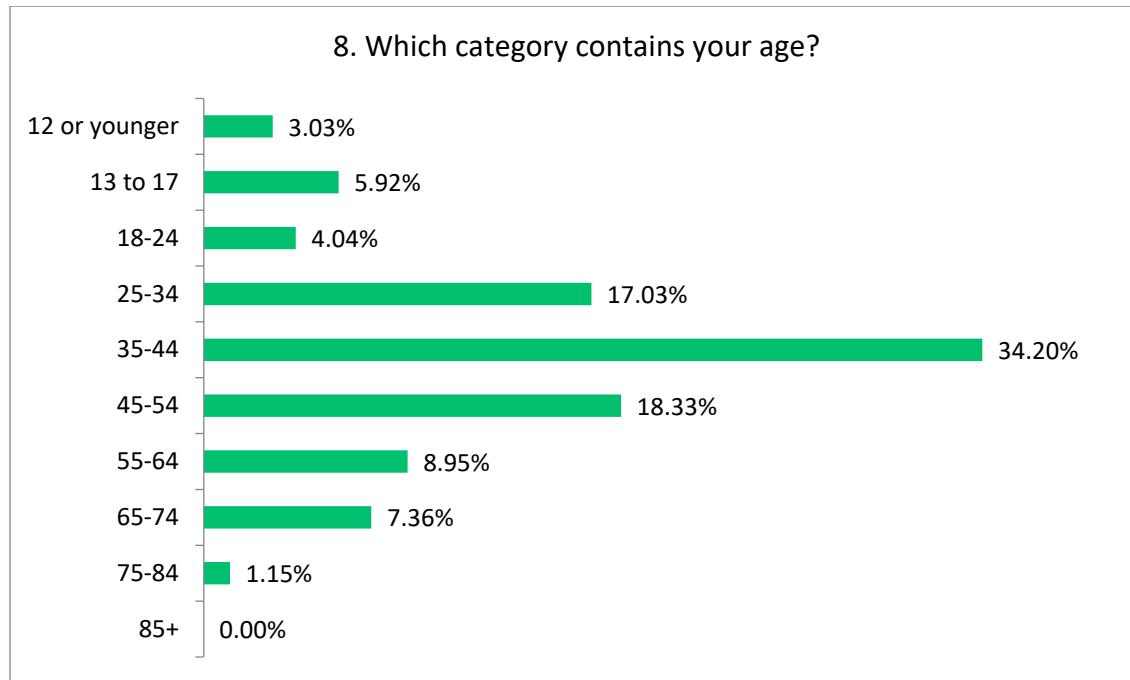
Over half of the respondents had children aged 12 and under in their home (~54%). Teenagers lived in ~46% of respondents' homes. Adults aged 20 to 54 made up the lion's share of folks living in the home of respondents at 87.2%.



**7. Please describe your annual household income:**

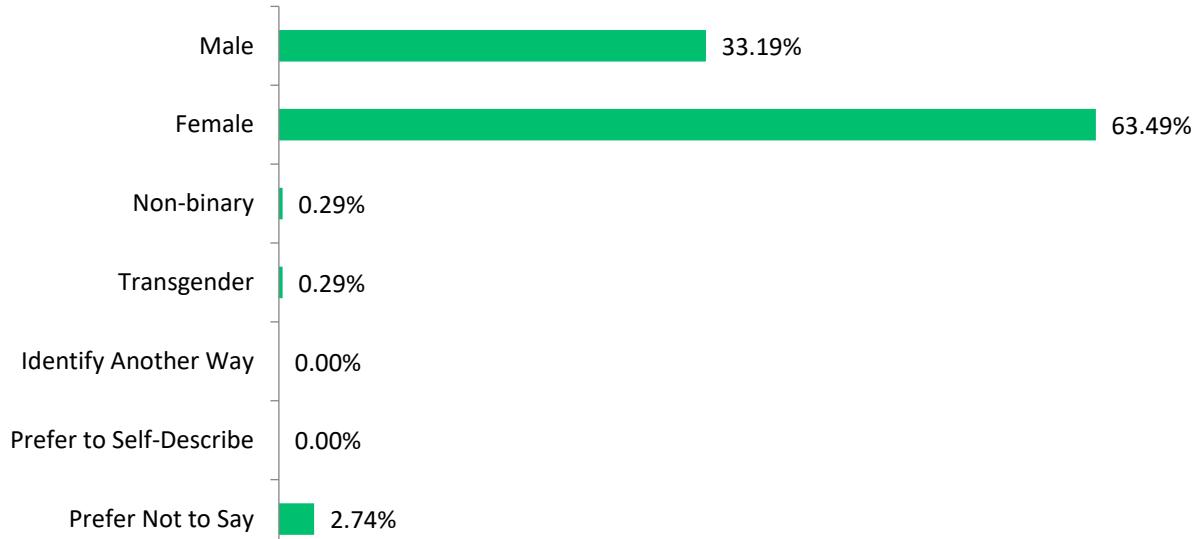


**8. Which category contains your age?**



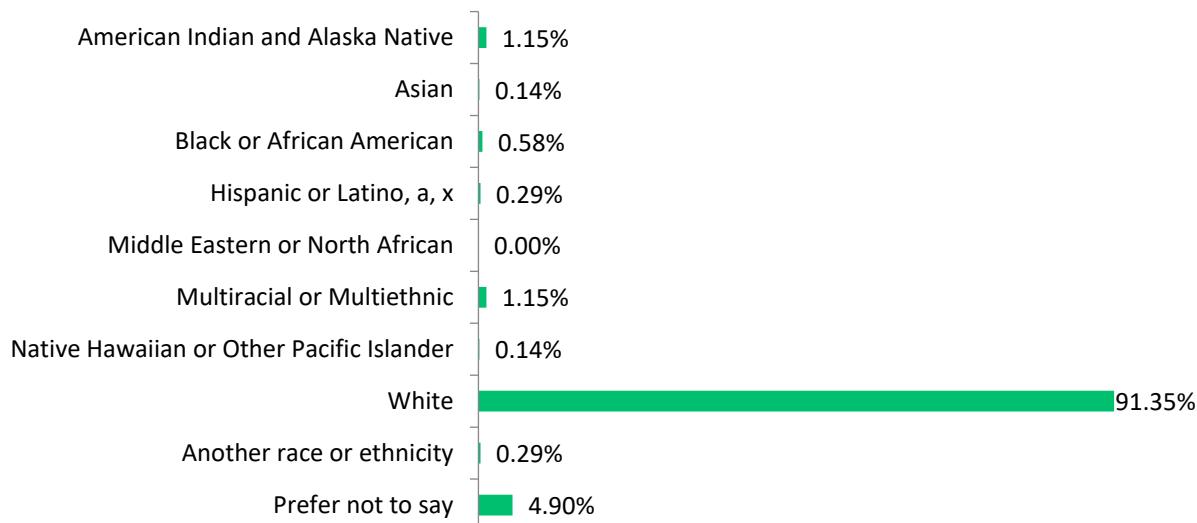
**9. Which gender do you identify as?**

**9. Which gender do you identify as?**



**10. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? (Please check all that apply)**

**10. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? (Please check all that apply)**



## Interpretation

For a community the size of Hibbing, with a population of 17,047 per 2021 5-Year Estimate American Community Survey (ACS), a survey response of 714 is an excellent response rate. For a confidence level of 95%, with a 5% margin of error, the survey only needed a sample size of 376. Thus, the data gathered here is statistically significant.

With nearly 90% of respondents rating 'facilities' at a medium level or satisfaction of below, and approximately 81% of respondents rating 'programs' at a medium level of satisfaction or below, 'facilities and programs' are two parks and recreation areas in which respondents would like improvement. As noted within the open-ended responses to some of the questions, many residents see a need for indoor, year-round facilities, and they express dissatisfaction in availability of programming. Additionally, almost 74% of respondents rated trails at medium level of satisfaction or below.

When looking at top uses of Hibbing's offerings, 'walking, running, rollerblading or biking on paved trails' rated the highest use with ~47% of respondents noting this choice. Second was 'playing at playgrounds' at ~45%. Third was playing team sports at 31%. With nearly half of the population expressing value in paved trails, this amenity rises as a top consideration for park development within the survey results.

Nearly 30% of the respondents currently visit Hibbing parks and natural areas several times a week. A small percentage visit daily (4%). In reviewing outdoor facilities, swimming pools were considered as "too few," with 76% of respondents rating them as such. Restrooms were also considered too few by ~66% of respondents, a finding repeated in the consensus building workshop of key stakeholders held on June 16, 2023. Also, 'places to rock climb, develop climbing skills' came up as too few for outdoor facilities (~65%) and indoor facilities.

60% or more of respondents noted we have the right amount of 'golf courses' (65%), 'playgrounds' (62%), 'baseball fields' (60%), and soccer fields (60%). Considering the primary age demographic taking this survey was between 25-55 years, and more than half of the respondents had children 12 and under in their homes, it appears the number of playgrounds and sports fields are perceived as relatively sufficient. 'Golf courses' are a different demographic; further exploration of that audience's perceptions would be beneficial.

When reviewing outdoor facilities, over half of respondents associated "don't know" with 'unpaved trails for horse riding' (~64%), 'gaga ball courts' (~63%), and 'remote controlled vehicle use areas' (~56%). Hibbing does have an RC park as well as gaga ball courts. In the consensus building workshop, one of the findings was the need for a central point of clear, organized communication. This survey finding could reflect that need for better communication.

Regarding indoor facilities, over 3/4 of the respondents (~76%) noted the need for 'indoor playgrounds.' 'Swimming pools' (71%) were also noted as too few, and both indoor playgrounds and swimming pools received many comments from individuals in the comments field. ~69% felt we had too few 'youth programs,' and over 2/3 of respondents said we had too few 'places to develop climbing skills' (~69%). Community centers were noted as being too few by ~65% of respondents.

The question on indoor facilities engendered numerous comments (182) from respondents, and the theme was clear: an indoor community space for all ages and levels of abilities was desired. As one noted simply, “I would like to see a community center for both young and old.” Many noted the cold winter months and lack of places to recreate and gather. Some suggested an indoor facility addition would make Hibbing a more appealing place for new families. Existing residents described how it would make Hibbing appealing for them to remain in the community.

Suggested items for inclusion in the facility included an indoor walking trail, “aquatics center,” indoor playground, courts (including basketball and tennis), and an event center. Many noted the need for a YMCA which includes a community pool, classes, and childcare. A couple suggested an indoor dog park or dog walking trail.

Folks described the need for financial accessibility to such a location. One noted the lack of places for low-income folks. Many described the necessity of open hours in the evenings and weekends. The Memorial Building expansion was proposed by many as a facility in which this center could be housed.

A ‘lack of information was the top reason folks noted for interfering with their ability to partake in Hibbing Parks and Recreation’s offerings. Nearly half (~45%) chose this reason. In the consensus building workshop, lack of communication came up as an issue as well, with a recommendation the city focus on building communication channels online and in person.

Programs were rated low in satisfaction in the first question of the survey, and specifically aquatics (~62%) and programs for all age categories (youth through adult) were rated as “too few” by over half of the respondents.

In asking folks about values that are essential/very important to them in the parks and recreation system, 3/4 or more of the respondents noted ‘space for recreation, sports, and leagues regardless of season (Spring, summer, fall, winter),’ ‘enhance economic vitality by creating a more attractive place to live and work,’ and ‘opportunities to spend time outdoors and connect with nature’ were important to them.

Respondents did not voice a clear preference when asked about the focus Parks and Recreation should take in planning: a focus on traditional recreation or a focus on diverse activity options. 53% chose ‘focus on traditional recreation sports and activities that serve a large number of people at a time,’ versus ~47% who chose ‘focus on diverse activity opportunities to reflect evolving outdoor and indoor recreation interests that individually may serve a small number of people at a time.’ Likewise, the responses for preference in Parks and Recreation being a provider of organized activities or being the provider of space were not vastly divided. ‘Be the provider of a range organized activities, sports leagues, and programs’ was voted as the priority by ~51%, and ‘provide spaces for activities and programs provided by other organizations’ was the priority of ~48%.

In the question on quality versus quantity, however, responses showed a clear preference for ‘quality: invest in fewer but larger parks to provide high-quality destination parks, even if it means some households will not have a smaller park close by’ (~75%). Just under 25% preferred ‘quantity: invest in more but smaller neighborhood parks, even if it means those parks will have fewer amenities and less frequent maintenance.’ When asked about the strength of their preference, 50% expressed a strong preference for their chosen option.



When asked what Parks and Recreation should prioritize over the next few years, over half (~55%) of respondents chose 'Option B: Expanding: Acquiring and preserving additional open space and park land building new parks and recreation facilities, and *being visionaries for the future*, even if it means maintaining our existing system at a lower level today.'

Considering park and trail maintenance and improvements, ~29% of respondents saw 'prioritize parks and trails most in need of maintenance' as the priority. One quarter of respondents suggested we 'reduce the number of underused parks to focus on maintenance and improvements of larger parks.' Another ~20% chose 'prioritize parks and trails receiving the most use.'

The top choices in "strongly support" funding choices included 'corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities' at ~66% and 'creation of a Parks Foundation to solicit donor funding' at ~64%. The approaches receiving the most opposition were 'sales tax,' with ~36% choosing "strongly oppose," followed by 'property tax levy increase from current level' (~36%) and 'added, increased user fees (programming, facility membership fees, etc.)' (~32%). These "strongly opposed" options were also those that had the highest number of folks 'neither opposing nor supporting' (~40-45% each). The best funding approaches with resident support and minimal opposition appear to be corporate sponsorship and creation of a Parks Foundation.

When asked what is most important for the City's Master Plan to address, one third of respondents chose 'adding new indoor facilities.' Second was improving existing parks and trails' (~30%). Additionally, 119 open-ended responses were gathered for this question. Themes included the need for an indoor facility like the "YMCA" or a "field house." Multiple respondents referenced updating the "MB" (Memorial Building). Indoor turf, walking trails, indoor playgrounds, and pools were suggested. Folks referenced the long winters. Some included criticism of the current upkeep of the parks system. The importance of safety and cleanliness were noted.

Folks commented that they rarely know what is happening in Hibbing. As one respondent wrote, "Hibbing leaves you guessing what's going on." Many said they were "in the dark." Schools were the largest "write in" communications channel for information on Parks and Recreation offerings. Participants suggested mailed flyers, or a map of where things occur.

Participants were asked how they recreate (or would like to recreate) at Carey Lake Park. Over half of those responding said 'swimming' (~54%). But in the comments portion of the question (included in 'Results' in this report), many commented on the smell, some calling it "contaminated," and stated they would not swim there. Safety was also a theme within the open-ended comments, some noting "it is too far from town" and in-town swimming would be better.

'Biking, hiking, running and walking on unpaved trails in the summer' came in second in Carey Lake uses with 48% choosing this option, and 'biking, running or walking on paved trails' was third (~46%).

Respondents were also asked to provide one or two improvements for Carey Lake Park, and 425 people responded. The responses were analyzed for themes (Appendix C). Far and away the theme with the most comments was cleaning up the beach and water at Carey Lake. Many commented on snails, smells, weeds, dirty water, swimmer's itch, poor sand, and more. Additional themes include:

- Adding and improving paved and unpaved trails for hiking, biking, and skiing.
- Cleaning up and maintenance of the larger park.

- Adding new options (from RC cars, kayaking, playgrounds, courts, etc.)
- Building a campground.
- Adding/improving parking and new facilities
- Improving and building new restrooms
- Adding ATV and OHV trails
- Fishing, piers, and boat launch improvements
- Improving signage and communications
- Building a ski chalet/warming house
- Adding dog friendly and horseback riding trails
- Improve picnicking tables, pavilions, spaces
- Increasing safety
- Ensuring accessibility: financially and physically

## Conclusions

With 714 survey responses and an 89% completion survey rate, the Hibbing Parks and Recreation community engagement survey gleaned comprehensive input from the city. Trails (paved and unpaved), sports fields, and playgrounds play important roles in residents' use of the parks system. Swimming pools, restroom facilities, and swimming beaches are deemed too few in the city. Places to rock climb, and develop climbing skills, both indoor and outdoor are desired. A high percentage of respondents want indoor playgrounds, swimming pools and youth programs. In the open-ended questions, the concept of a "community center"/"YMCA"/"field house" was voiced repeatedly.

Coupled with insights gathered at the consensus building workshop and the 'gallery walk' held on June 16, there are some immediate actions desired by participants. Improving communication was recommended in both the consensus building workshop and came up as a challenge in the survey. Cleaning and maintenance of existing facilities is needed. Finally, signage and communication about Parks and Recreation offerings are needed.



## Appendix A: Outreach Plan



### **City of Hibbing Parks and Trails Master Plan Survey Outreach Plan**

The City of Hibbing hired Barr Engineering to complete a parks and trails master plan. To inform this process, the city requested a representative survey of the community to glean resident input on the future plan.

Northspan, Inc. was hired to help develop and manage the survey and community outreach. What follows is a high-level overview of the target audience, strategy, tactic, goals, notes and messaging for this outreach.

#### **Target Audience**

Hibbing Population per 2021 5-Year Estimate American Community Survey (ACS): 17,047

For a confidence level of 95%, 5% margin of error = Sample size of 376

Target audience groups by age and the minimum number of surveys required:

Children (14 and under)	67
Teen (15-19)	21
Adult 20 to 54	146
Adult 55+	142

#### **Strategies**

Target Audience	Strategy	Tactic	Goal # of Surveys	NOTES
Children (14 and under)	Engage through school	Request permission and attend classes; complete survey together on iPad	67	Emailed multiple requests to Principal Seykora. No response. Could not attend classes.
		Share link with teachers		Emailed sixth grade teacher connections; two teachers completed with classes.
Teen (15-19)	Engage through school	Attend classes; complete survey together	21	NA



	Email through Parent Square	Link shared		Emailed request to Seykora; Arola (Hibbing) emailed request. Link shared!
Adult 20 to 54	College Class Participation	Attend classes, complete survey	146	Timeline too short; per Hibbing instructor, outreach impossible due to semester ending.
	Social Media	Facebook, Insta		City posted on City sources
	Email	Email campaign		City emailed to city lists
Adult 55+			142	
	Hard Copy Survey at Real Life, Androy, LEE	Drop off, pick up		Hard copy surveys given to Hibbing Senior Center, Veterans Center

### Suggested Messaging

In disseminating the survey, the primary communication channels were the City website, social media, and the Hibbing School parent square.

Suggested invitation language:

*The City of Hibbing is developing its Master Parks and Trails plan, and we want your input! With 30 parks and 1,600 acres, the City is planning the best use of limited resources. Please complete this anonymous survey to have your opinion heard!*

### Method

The survey was developed in SurveyMonkey, with hard copies printed for distribution and delivered to senior centers. The survey was open April 24, 2023 and closed June 26, 2023. Completion via survey monkey was encouraged through sharing the link and/or QR code in communication channels (email, posts, flyers).

Upon survey closure, Northspan tallied survey responses, analyzed results quantitatively and qualitatively, and shared a draft report, as outlined in the Northspan proposal.



## Communication Channels

### Email:

Nick Arola

1. Little League Baseball
2. Fastpitch Softball Association
3. VFW Baseball
4. Miner Amateur Baseball
5. Hibbing Youth Hockey Assoc
6. Hibbing Figure skating Assoc
7. Hibbing Community Education
8. Hibbing High School
9. Hibbing Public Utilities
10. City of Hibbing Employees
11. Hibbing City Council

### Website:

City website

### Social:

City's social media

Kero Facebook

IROC Facebook

Kero LinkedIn



## Appendix B: Consensus Building Workshop Results



### **Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan Consensus Building Session 6.16.23**

As part of the Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Planning process, the City of Hibbing Parks and Recreation hosted a community engagement, consensus-building session of the park system's key stakeholders at the Memorial Building Labor Quarters on Friday, July 16, 2023, at noon. This date and time were chosen to coincide with the monthly Hibbing Chamber Recreation and Tourism Committee meeting, and the committee was encouraged to attend.

The session was facilitated by Miriam Kero, Senior Consultant, and Karl Schuettler, Vice President of Northspan. The key stakeholder invitation list was created by the City of Hibbing committee and reviewed by Barr Engineering and Northspan. The list included:

#### Stakeholders List

1. Central Range Pickleball Club
2. Hibbing youth softball
3. Hibbing Youth Baseball
4. Hibbing Curling Club
5. Hibbing Chisholm Youth Hockey
6. Hibbing Figure Skating Club
7. Men's, Women's, Sr's & Jr's golf league
8. Veterans' groups at the Memorial Building (Legion, DAV, VFW)
9. Hibbing Soccer Club
10. Hibbing youth football
11. Miracle League
12. Age to Age group
13. Volleyball
14. Basketball
15. Tennis
16. Friends of Maple Hill
17. Bocci Club
18. Horseshoe club
19. Birding group
20. Nordic Ski Club
21. ATV club

22. Snowmobile Club
23. Trap, archery, pistol clubs
24. Disc Golf Club
25. Car Club – shifters
26. RC Club
27. Hibbing Raceway

Government leaders were not invited to the consensus building workshop to encourage open and honest input from community stakeholders on the parks and recreation plan. Email invitations were sent from the City, and the RSVP was managed by Marcy Bean of Barr Engineering.

Of the 27 groups invited, 13 folks attended representing the Hibbing Chamber, Range Nordic/Carey Lake Classic, Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, Central Range Pickleball Club, Hibbing Soccer, Red Rock Riders ATV, Hibbing Curling Club, Hibbing Horseshoe Club, Carey Lake Classic, 30 West, and Quarterback Club.

The session began with a context presentation by Northspan clarifying the goals of the Master Planning process, why the stakeholders had been invited to the meeting, and the communication engagement process. High-level results from the community engagement survey were shared.

After the context presentation, attendees took part in the consensus building workshop. The question participants were assigned to answer: **What should the Hibbing Parks and Recreation Plan focus on in the next 3-5 years?**

The workshop was designed to elicit input from every participant. Participants first brainstormed individually, then partnered and shared their ideas. Through self-selection, partners then chose their best ideas to share with the group through a crafted process.

The workshop resulted in seven themes answering the question:

**What should the Hibbing Parks and Recreation Plan focus on in the next 3-5 years?**

- Organized, central communication.
- Upgrade and maintenance plan
- Year round, indoor, climate-controlled facilities
- Hiring a full-time community activities director
- Improve signage and visibility
- Carey Lake recreational improvements
- Add new options

Specific items for each theme are included in the table below.



Organized central communication	Upgrade and maintenance plan	Year round, indoor, climate-controlled facilities	Hiring full-time community activities director	Improve signage and visibility	Carey Lake recreational improvements	Add new options
Promotions, special events to showcase	Lighting	Better restrooms (in general)	Regularly scheduled interest group meetings	Better labeled activity signage	Multipurpose Carey Lake building/ warming shed (summer/winter)	Dog parks with water options
Contact/location for parks and recreation	Upgrade existing	Multi-use facility	Funding resources	Connectivity ; strengthen trail use and better connections	Multipurpose winter trail – more (but not eliminate ski trails) (skijoring, snowshoe, fatbike)	4-6 add pickleball courts
Best way to communicate to all	Accessibility – Arena, Soccer Fields	Heated facilities	Access to try activities (rent options, kayak, snowshoes, skis)	Proper trail signage	Paved bike trail around Carey Lake	
Communication—more comprehensive and complete messaging	Better program to maintain existing park / trail	Real restrooms with plumbing	Increase parks staffing	Signage: trails (Maple Hill, Carey Lake) and information		
Centralized information system; locate, register, add signage	Parking; safe and additional	Concession stands/ booth	Organized fundraising events			
A collective website to find information	Master plan/ capital improvements for parks and facilities	Areas for refreshments with restrooms, water-fountains				



A person to update apps	Maintain existing	Indoor options for winter months: walking, playground, swimming				
An app	System for prioritizing investment	Sustainability; updating facilities for all seasons and maintenance				
A way to grow our volunteer base for maintenance needs	Keep spending, investing, improving					
Centralized communication website/office/Director						
Better way to promote programming—mail/bulletin/web						

Following the consensus building workshop, participants were encouraged to take part in the “gallery walk” portion of the community engagement effort. Barr Engineering printed and posted maps and photos of each of the Hibbing parks in the Veteran’s quarters of the Memorial Building. Attendees were encouraged to take sticky notes and markers and add comments to the park displays.

The gallery walk session was open from 1:30 PM to 6:00 PM and was staffed by Marcy Bean, Barr Engineering. A separate report from Barr notes the comments left by participants at this session. The consensus building session results will be combined with the online survey results and forwarded to Barr for inclusion in the Master Plan.



## Appendix C: Question 18 Carey Lake Open-Ended Responses Thematic Analysis

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation

### 18. What are one or two improvements that would allow you to better enjoy Carey Lake park? THEMATIC ANALYSIS

#### Responses

##### ACCESSIBILITY

Handicap accessible everything

Please make sure our community of low income families is thought about when decisions are made

More accessible areas for people with disabilities, and expanding trails for skiing and hiking.

I just want everyone to be able to enjoy nature for free. I want people to be able to access and take full advantage of the park.

##### ATV/OHV TRAILS

ATV / OHV Trails would make the park way better

Atv allowance

ATV space

Atv trails

Bike trails

Atv Trails and more fishing piers

Atv trails for sure

Atv trails or more walking trails

Atv/ohv trails

Atv/snowmobile trail system linking the area to existing trail systems and businesses (eg: Thrifty Moose).

Atv/Utv access from town/chisholm would increase usage.

If fish were stocked people would fish it.

Atv/utv trail

Add OHV trails in the area

Allow ATVs and horses

##### NEW OPTIONS

Basketball court less parking lots

Have more options for kids

Have summer help and a greeting station, maybe a better beach and more paved forest trails for taking a walk with kids.

Having events there through the year. Ice golfing event in the winter or kayak racing the summer.

More climbing structures and climbable trees of such.

more gathering facilities (gazebos)

hiking/biking trail system

More group gathering spaces.

More open spaces and expanded trail networks. Consider disc golf and ohv trail usage

More open, flat areas that encourage safe use of the park and opportunities for gathering.

More places for teens to hang. More stuff for kids to play on.

More things to use

More/better recreational amenities and camping hook ups.

Organized events

Maintaining effectively

Outdoor swimming pool

Rc field

Road goes all way around Carey lake and about 4 or 5 fishing piers and maybe put more types fish in lake for fishing

Road or trail that goes all the way around the lake.

Skating rink and clean up the beach / make more trails. Add rentals like kayaks, paddle boats, snowshoes, skis. If it was clean and more modern that would be fun. Also, sell drinks.

Snowshoeing

Kayaking

Water slides and water activities for kids

A disc golf course

A new road and open up areas along the shoreline and make nice level picnic areas.

A playground

a reason to spend time there.

Play equipment for the kids, camping area

Playground

Playground, community building

Add paddle boating or kayaking

Childrens play ground

Day activities makes most sense. A few camping spots might be nice for families who prefer closer to town.

Disc golf course (always a natural pairing with a camp site)

Disc Golf Course even if it's just a 9 hole Course it would be perfect there

Being able to rent a kayak or paddle board. Or an outdoor yoga class!

Lifeguards, and equipment rentals such as kayaks, and canoes.

Pavilion rentals and OHV

Golf course

Golf course

Golf Course and housing development on the east side of the lake.

Golfing and concerts

Have affordable kayaks and paddle boards available for rental to increase tourist opportunity and increase local utilization.



## BATHROOMS

Bathroom/changing area, cleaned beach/new sand

Bathrooms and more trails

Bathrooms. Somewhere for day trips

Better bathroom and shower facilities with plumbing as O'Brien Reservoir is adding. A nice park/jungle gym. Another larger pavilion with shade. Additional parking.

Better bathrooms

Better rest rooms

More activities

Better roads, better bathroom/changing areas

Better shower rooms

Building with better changing rooms, pop and snack machines, information.

Educational interpretive programs.

Clean bathrooms and beach area with signage for trails and available space

Improved restroom, beach cleanup, covered picnic areas near the beach,I

More spread out restrooms.

Restrooms

Clean up the area, make it nice to go to

Update bathroom and changing facilities, better benches or picnic tables, frequent cleaning or the beach, expand the shoreline area, larger sandy beach area. A path that you could walk all the way around the lake would be nice. Most of the year it is to wet to do this.

A nice public restroom or community gather type facility to replace the bath house currently there. Something people can rent to host events.

Have a paved trail constructed all the way around the lake for biking, walking, in the summer and skiing in the winter

## BEACH/SWIMMING AREA IMPROVEMENT

A better swimming beach, campground.

A clean swimming area with access to bathroom/changing rooms.

Beach and bathrooms cleaner. Bug repellent around the bathrooms and benches/picnic tables.

Beach improvement and trail improvement.

Better beach and less weeds. Improved park at the lake area with small covered picnic areas.

Better beach area.

Better beach area. It's never very clean

Better beach in the summer and more light up trails for cross country skiing. Also, it would be nice to have someone answer the phone if someone is trying to rent cross country skis.

Better beach maintenance, attract out of toe era with camp sites

Better beach, more trails.

Better beaches, better facilities  
 Better swimming area and amenities like changing rooms and bathrooms  
 Better swimming area in the summer.  
 Better swimming area. Weeds/water quality. Picnic tables.  
 Better swimming beach!!!  
 Better swimming destination.  
 Better water and beach quality for swimming  
 Better water quality. Plant a few more trees by the beach to allow for shade. Make sure the beach is clean.  
 Bigger and cleaner beach area, and more walking trails  
 Bigger area to swim  
 Bigger beach and park  
 Bring back paid Lifeguards  
 Carey lake is disgusting, use a better lake.  
 Be able to swim in the lake and camp  
 Clean beach!  
 Clean it up more and lifeguard on watch?  
 Clean it up

Make more swimming areas  
 Clean lake  
 Clean lake and surrounding areas better  
 Clean lake to swim in. Bigger beach  
 Clean the beach up.  
 Clean the lake and install security cameras or hire a security company so we feel safe.  
 Clean the lake, better maintenance of the beach  
 Clean the lake..  
 Clean the water. Make the space somewhat sanitary!  
 Clean up beach - add some play group equip and some benches at the beach

Clean up the beach and lake!!!! It's such a shame that we have this lake right here in Hibbing(and Kelly Lake for that matter!) And you can't even utilize it because it is disgusting and not maintained. We have an opportunity right in our own backyard and the city, P &R, doesn't take care of it! People could utilize this lake and beach if it were clean! We wouldn't have to go out of town to go to the lake for swimming, we could drive 5 miles and enjoy our very own lake! This beach and lake were once a great and convenient place to go, let's get back to that!!!

Clean up the beach and make bathrooms. Create cleaner areas opposite of the beach for dogs to swim  
 Clean up the lake and create RV campsites.  
 Clean up the lake and maintain the pavement  
 Clean up the lake so it's more appealing to swim in.  
 Clean up the lake so people are able to swim



Add a park for kids to play

Clean up the lake. I can't take my family there anymore to swim.  
Clean up the snails & weeds so the lake is swimmable once again  
Clean up the swimming area ALOT. Allow Pavillion use once cleaned up.  
Clean up the water  
Clean up/improve the lake

Less campsite areas and more shoreline for families to enjoy picnic/swimming without being overwhelmed by commotion of the beach.

Clean water, clean beach, better parking lot, better shelter. That place is so run down, its disgusting.

Clean/rake the beach. Bathroom facilities  
Cleaner and bigger beach area for people  
Cleaner and bigger beach area with a park.  
Cleaner area and better kept (no goose poop, less garbage, etc)  
Cleaner beach  
Cleaner beach and more docks for fishing  
Cleaner beach area

Swimming raft for kids to play on  
Cleaner Beach

Better facilities  
Cleaner beach/area  
Cleaner facilities and nicer parking areas.  
Cleaner nicer Beach and sand that's not icky when you go in the water.. and more of a presence of police or cameras or something because that's where people go to do drugs and other things because they know they can do whatever they want down there because there's no one there to hold them accountable.

Definitely a nice campground that has some staff or something You could really make that place nice... Huge potential.

But not something like rinky dink campground where there's not anybody staffing and it's just you drive up and pick a spot and drop your payment in a box.

Cleaner park  
cleaner shore line and maintainance. more trails to walk !  
Cleaner water and less goose poop.

Cleaner water life guards more for you her kids to do maybe build a playground out there as well and paved trails going around the whole lake I used to love walking around como lake in St Paul because the walking path to go around it with out vehicles cutting through it and better roads

Cleaner water, cleaner beach, better fishing

Cleaner, safety, and more lighting at night

Cleaning the lake. It stained my clothes 30 years ago, I can't bring myself to go in anymore, and my kids are pretty iffy on going in too. I love Carey lake to walk around & relax though.

Cleaning the swimming area, cutting back areas for fishing. Adding areas to sit and BBQ.

Have it managed daily

Cleaning up the lake and ensuring it's safe to swim in.

Cleaning up the lake.

Firstly the water quality is incredibly poor and smells bad. No one wants to swim or paddle in it. Fishing is terrible too. I can't see putting money into it...like lipstick on a pig. The current beach area is mucky and full of snails. You'll need to move the beach area completely to better water.

Fixing swimming beach areas

Get rid of the F-ing geese and bring in some sand for the beach. Put a life guard. Check out Kandiyohi County Park Number 7. There is no reason why we can't have that. It's on a lake called games lake, which nobody fishes they just ski and pontoon. Hench the name. Games

Improving the benches and grills

Nicer beach and nicer facilities. It's a great space that's not being used and wasting away.

- Cleaner water for swimming

- Place to purchase snacks/beverages

-- find a way to decrease the amount of canadian goose poop especially on the beach

- a little bit more parking would be great

\* Keep the beach cleaner

\* Improve the playground there to attract more people/families

I would interact with Carey Lake more if the lake water quality was better for swimming and lake activities. I would also like designated areas for snowshoeing on trails to not disrupt the excising cross country ski trails.

I would love to use the beach fro swimming in the summer, but it's always covered in goose poop.



- 1) The beach is in dire need of improvement to attract both locals and visitors .
  - 2) Vegetation has overtaken the swimming area and there are goose droppings everywhere.
- I am opposed to creating a camping area out there. It is too low and wet, and it will require vigilant patrolling for safety/vandalism reasons.
- 3) There was a woman who managed the grounds at Carey Lake for years during the summers. She created beautiful little gardens and meticulously cared for the beach, bike trail, and road to the DuPont building. I don't know if she retired or was dismissed, but the quality of Carey Lake has taken a dive since she left.

I wish kids could swim in it, the water quality is a concern. I feel the beach would be used more often if people could swim in it.  
if there were more places to go with family

if it were more like a beach where you can go swimming in it  
If you could actually use the swimming area that would be nice. Maybe is there wasn't goose poop everywhere and it didn't stink like crap!  
Import a softer sand so the beach is more attractive to people want to swim or just lay out. Yes it might be expensive but it would be worth it.  
Improve beach and no geese  
Improved beach area, and fishing area. More benches for relaxing and enjoying nature.  
Improved beach/swimming area and expanded trails for walking with kids and dogs (on leash!)  
It just feels kind of gross, even though I spend time there. I think the lake just has so much goose poop and moss. I wouldn't take my kids swimming there... which is kind of sad  
Keep as many trees as possible. De-weed the swimming area. Groom the sand to remove debris. Keep geese away.  
Keeping the Carey Lake bike path free of debris like rocks and sticks.  
Keeping the sand clean - goose poop removed - and maybe haul in some nice sand?  
Groom ski trails sooner so they can be used all winter long.  
Lake water quality  
Larger beach  
Maintain beach to a much better level. Get rid of weeds in swimming areas. Maybe besides a lifeguard there should be someone that can enforce rules  
Maintain the beach and add fishing piers and stock the lake.  
Make it cleaner  
Make the beach more welcoming and cleaner  
Make the beach more welcoming.  
Make the lake Beach option more appealing. Very not welcoming swimmers. Seems as of maintenance is an afterthought.  
More swimming and skating, so maybe a rest area to get ready.  
More swimming spots  
Swimming area for kids



Swimming beach needs attention.

Rent kayaks and/or paddle boards.

Swimming is very limited there due to the water quality. I mostly don't use Carey lake because I don't feel safe.

Swimming/beach area. Adding playground space to beach area. Atv trail and snowmobile trail in winter.

The beach & changing rooms/rest rooms better maintained. Over night camping.

The beach and more fishing spots.

We would swim more if the beach were weeded and opened back up and treated for snails.

Would be nice if the beach had softer sand.

The swimming area is full of snails. You can become easily lost and not know where you are. More bathrooms on trails around the lake.

Better cleaner water and beach area.

Picnic benches or pavilions around the beach for gatherings.

The water needs to be cleaned and the changing and bathroom facilities need updating

There are so many snails in the lake and the weeds are overwhelming. A lifeguard would be nice.

the water is literally toxic, clean it up

To get rid of swimmers itch and have no weeds or bigger beach.

To maintain what you already have! The lake is disgusting!!! I live out here - hear shouting from ACROSS the lake, constantly picking up garbage on the trails, PEOPLE are taking the PEACE out of our nature spaces. I love Carey Lake and love it PRIVATE!

Treat the lake appropriately. Weeds etc

## CAMPGROUND

Campground

Campground!

Campgrounds

Camping

Camping

Camping and beach facilities

Camping and more places to fish from.

Camping and other outdoor recreation! There is a huge need for camping in the Hibbing Area.

Camping area

Camping both rv and rustic. ATV and snowmobile trails. Some people, especially with disabilities, have a hard time walking a long distance but, still want to enjoy nature.

Camping Improve beach

Camping sites and hiking trails

Camping, Ice Skating.

Camping, more trails

Better parks and camping areas

i think city of hibbing needs to put a camp ground at Carey Lake Park and make a new road that goes around the whole lake and more fishing piers all round lake

Fix the road and make the area larger for overnite camping

I think they should add a slide on the dock, and get a big camp ground

Having camping and additional areas to have family events.

If you're considering adding any sort of camping out there, be sure to do some careful research on current camping trends. Campgrounds made well are expensive, but can be an incredible asset. You'll need to be prepared to add additional staff just for that area, specifically people who already have experience managing campgrounds. The camping world, especially RV camping, is a very niche community. What we see in parks these days is people wanting paved roads, free Wi-Fi, clean lakes, and a septic system they can hook their RV to at their campsite.

Hibbing needs a campground that people can enjoy either as tourists or locals. You have to drive at least 15-20 mins to get to the nearest campground. Carey Lake needs to be cleaned up, it is perceived as "dirty" and people don't like to swim there. We often choose to drive somewhere else to go due to these reasons.

Larger camping area

Move campground to north side of lake. Resurface bike trail and allow snowmobile access.

RV access

Rv camping/atv/ ohv use

RV hookups

New, well maintained restrooms/showers.

Overnight camping

Places to camp, more walking and biking trails, better swimming

The City of Hibbing would benefit with camping facilities. Bikers using RedHead would camp there.

A nice camp ground

A state of the art campground with all the amenities!!

Add RV park to attract people to the area!

### **CLEANUP AND MAINTENANCE**

Better and more frequent beach cleanup during the summer months

Better changing room bathroom

Better facilities and cleaner swimming area

Better maintained

Better maintained non-paved trails, more frequent mowing in the summer.

Better maintenance

Better maintenance of camp sites and of the swimming beach.

Better quality of maintenance and improvements

clean it better

Clean it up



Clean it up look run down

Life guard

No "Dogs"

Daily maintenance as I stated above. The past years have been horrible to even want to be there because of the garbage. Thanks for all you are trying to do. This should have been done years agoZ

Daily maintenance of garbage removal and bathroom cleaning.

Daily maintenance/upkeep, concessions.

Ensuring the area is clean and updated. From speaking with people who live locally, they would rather travel long distances to go to a beach than go to Carey Lake.

If it was better taken care of. More recycling can around the park and trails, with sustainable cover so the trash does not fall out or so an animal can't get into it

If it was cleaner

I would enjoy Carey Lake better if the city would prioritize the maintenance of the existing facilities.

If the lake was more taken care of and looked more nicer

I'm at Carey Lake just about every day. I like the rustic feel of the park. I think continued maintenance of the pier is priority. I also think that keeping the road plowed in the Winter is fantastic, thank you! Road maintenance is important - including the boat launch area. If a campground is actually going to happen, I think it is important to make sure staff is hired to keep it a safe area 24/7. I am an avid camper. Since I live local, I wouldn't camp there, but recognize the importance of having the option in Hibbing. That said, what about developing the camping area in North Hibbing? Clean it up, make it look like an actual campground with amenities like access to usable water and a bathroom. Model it after the Red River State Rec area, yet don't overcrowd it.

Maintenance —

Maintenance and patrol the area or lock the gates at night. So much vandalism there lately

Maintenance on the trail and actually replacing the pavement on the washed out sections of train on the sinkholes instead of dumping gravel in them

No more littering.

Not be so dirty

The smell

The upkeep is awful. The roads and parking lot need attention. It would be great if there were clean restrooms and perhaps a place to purchase snacks and rent equipment in both summer and winter.

make bigger by landscaping

Repair the road

Replacing the roads and parking areas.

Revitalize

The road needs to be fixed

The road needs to be replaced.

Clean water for swimming

The roads and parks

The garbage cleaned up more. There is trash all over the place. Also considering stocking fish such as walleye and crappie to produce better populations

They should have better cleaning, and they should build a big park.

Water quality, parking, beach space

An overall clean up. The lake is gross, hear of people getting swimmers itch all the time from there. The one large dock could use some care. Lots of inappropriate words wrote on it.

Fix the road and the boat ramp.

### **PARKING**

Better parking.

Better parking.

More parking

More parking access and road repair

### **FACILITIES**

Better pavilion and group areas for picnic and outdoor summer sports such as volleyball, pickleball, cornhole, bocce, etc.

Indoor facilities for winter or inclement weather use

Better camping areas pavilions for party's and gathering swimming fishing

Sheltered pavilions at the swimming beach, more security presence.

### **SIGNAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Better signage

Better signage for walking & hiking trails and add more hiking trails. Disc golf would be awesome

Better signage, and more snowshoe trails, so that snowshoers and hikers are not on ski trails

Knowing of it

Updated and more info

### **TRAIL**

Better trail systems and picnic tables area

Bike trails

Bike trails

Bike trails

Bike trails and a cleaner lakefront.

Better paved trails.

Better access to trails and improvement of trails

Decent trails for summer walking/biking and more snowshoeing trails in winter

Developed trail system with bathroom facilities.

Easier trails, signs, more toilets

Fix the trail

Foraging helps, walking trails



#### Hiking trails

Hiking trails, better grooming of cross country ski trails (wider, more often, updated equipment)

1. Keeping trails maintained/groomed. 2. Addition of snowshoe trails.

I think it's important for those who use Carey lake to improve and maintain good ski trails. I know several people who ski there frequently.

#### Groom current trails

Groomed ski trails need to be specific to skiers. Hikers, snow shoers and fat tire bikers need to use trails specifically for them, NOT ski trails. They ruin the trails and make it dangerous for the skiers.

#### Improve unpaved trails

Improved trail grooming equipment

Improved trails and swimming

Lighted xcountry ski trails are awesome for those ppl who work and can then get out at night after work!!!!

Maintained paved or unpaved trail around the lake for biking

Mountain bike trails and camp site!

Mountain biking single track

Mountain biking trails

More hiking, snowshoeing trails

#### Restroom facilities

More lit trails for summer hiking also. Upgrading the beach.

More multi use trail. Summer and winter

More trails

More trails

More trails for biking and hiking in summer. More snowshoe trails. Right now there is only one.

More trails for hiking, biking, and snowshoeing. Adding more ski trail loops. Improving the beach area, it used to be very nice.

more trails to bike/walk on.

More trails!! It's beautiful, but there's a lack of nature loops. Paved or unpaved. Carey lake is lovely and very under utilized!

More trails, cleaner water

More unpacked trails

More unpaved nature trails

More paved trails!

More snow shoeing trails and hiking in the woods

More snow shoes trails for winter.

#### Toilets

Nicer beach for summer

More bike paths.

Paved or dirt trails something that stretches around the lake. Creating a camp ground



Paved path all around for biking, walking, etc. and better path access from town.

Paved trail or road all the way around lake. More expanded hiking trails throughout the lands there. 2 more fishing piers one on each end of the lake. And clean the beach up, get ride of the geese pooping all over the beach.

Paved walking path.

Providing a well lit path around the lake for walking/running/biking etc (Similar to Chisholm lake).

Put biking trails like red head. Clean the area up

Walking path around the lake. I like what Chisholm has but do t necessarily need paved trail

Walking trail

Walking trails, ATV trails, shelters, campground.

Trails and swimming

Trails better managed

Trails mostly. Activity building

Trails-for all of the above.

Also m-maple hill could be developed

More dirt trails, clean lake, camping

Park and trail improvements and cross-country skiing trail improvements

Please fix the paved trail and upkeep

Add on to existing hiking trail system.

Make the ski trail accessible for summer use by installing walkways through the wet areas.

Adding a green / blue mountain bike trail.

Adding a combined ski chalet / maintenance building for cross country skiing.

Additional lighted ski/snowshoe trails in the winter

All-purpose winter trails that do not impact the ski trails.

Signage for hiking vs ski trails with courtesy rules

### CHALET/WARMING HOUSE

CC warming shack, paved bike trail around the lake, dog friendly cc ski trail

Chalet/warming house maybe with ice rink and tubing/sledding type options for winter.

Rentals for skis/snowshoes and ski passes in building.

Summer-get rid of goose poop at beach and improve trails, maybe a small playground by the beach with kayak, paddle board, bike/scooter rentals

Shelter for cross country skiers. Toilets. Camping area.

Ski trailhead building , wider trails for skate and classic. Updated groomer



## DOG

Dog area

Dog walking trails.

It would be nice to add dog friendly trails and make the swimming area cleaner and more enjoyable

More options to let pets run

Paved walking area for dogs instead of just the road.

## HORSE

Horseback riding on the trails

Let horses in again

An easy or intermediate trail for skiing around the east side (don't like those big hills).

Equine trails.

Trails for horses only

Allow summer horseback riding on the trails

## FISHING, PIERS AND BOAT LAUNCH

Fish stocking, camping

Fishing and hunting

Fishing, Camping, ATV/OHV use!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

4 or 5 fishing pier more different types of fish year stock with with limited on how many you can catch road all way around Carey lake and campground bait shop for the city can make money

4 or 5 fishing pier more different types of fish year stock with with limited on how many you can catch road all way around Carey lake and campground bait shop for the city can make money

4 or 5 fishing pier more different types of fish year stock with with limited on how many you can catch road all way around Carey lake and campground bait shop for the city can make money

4 or 5 fishing piers stock lake yearly different type of fish for people to fish for campground bait shop for the city to make money paved road all way around Carey lake

Yearly Restock with more diverse fish and potentially try to clear up some of the weeds in the water.

More fish, and a cleaner beach

More fishing piers

Camping availability

One or two more fishing piers.

More opportunities for fishing

Additional fishing piers and tent camping space would be nice- but I do want to say, Carey Lake is one of the primary places I enjoy the outdoors in Hibbing, and I would be very happy to see some love poured into the park!

Boat launch improvement and parking, a pavilion toward the old DuPont site.



Boat launch, life guard, clean beach, repair roads

## SAFETY

I don't feel safe going out there as a single female although I would really love to be able to!

Being able to relax at lake. Safety for a single person / family using facility

It to be better patrolled so there isn't all the kids there using drugs. Want it to be safe to bring my children there and enjoy the day there.

Keep the drug dealers out of there, clean it up, lifeguards need to be out there more in the summer

Making, keeping it safe for all to use

Momma says safety

Well maintained area and safety

More security

More security or park hosts. Finish the camping area. More amenities at the swimming beach (shaded pavilions, bathrooms).

Needs to feel more safe up there and welcoming

Not people living out there and scaring people off the trails. Don't feel safe out there

Safer road

Safety

Safety and maintenance

Safety. Many times I've been to Carey Lake I felt unsafe. That goes for most of Hibbing...including specifically Bennet Park and dog park.

Security cameras , PD patrol.

Same with Bennett Park- it could be such a great place to go, but it's full of druggies and gang type groups

Updates and police presence.

Get rid of the people doing drugs. To many weeds on shore.

## PICNIC

Improve the current picnic areas

More picnic areas

More picnic tables and grills, another pier for fishing

Clean it up, and take care of it. Bring back the cement picnic tables in all of the camp areas. Bring back the grills or fire rings so that ppl can bbq in the park and have family functions like we used to. Its a great area that is too run down and not user friendly at all!!! All the good things have been removed, like the picnic tables, garbage cans, fire pits, bbq's. Please bring it back.

More tables

Nicer picnic and grilling areas by the lake

Updated picnic areas, beach area cleaned up, bathroom facilities, more fishing spots



1. More picnic areas.
2. Places to sit and be able to watch the lake and wild life.

### COMMENTS

I've never been there

Getting Younger

The lake is too small for boating and there isn't good fishing. It's just not a place I go because of its size

This is a biased survey. It is evident that the city would like to further develop Carey Lake area and is looking for community support for it. It makes sense to put camping out there and clean up the beach. But there are other demands, especially indoor spaces. It is clear that there is a demand for camping with the mountain biking "gold rush" in our region and I support enterprise in developing that. It likely makes more sense to allow a private enterprise to develop and run the camp ground instead of the city and would have probably been done already. Carey Lake is already taken better care of than many other facilities and parks.

Unfortunately, I live in a different city and have only used the park dedicated to RC cars and trucks.

i rarely go to carey lake park but it would be nice to have all kinds of things to do

I used to go, when the dupont building was still there

I'm more focused on hockey/baseball and they ability to have large tournaments to draw in more people to spend money on the community and allow the ability for year round training.

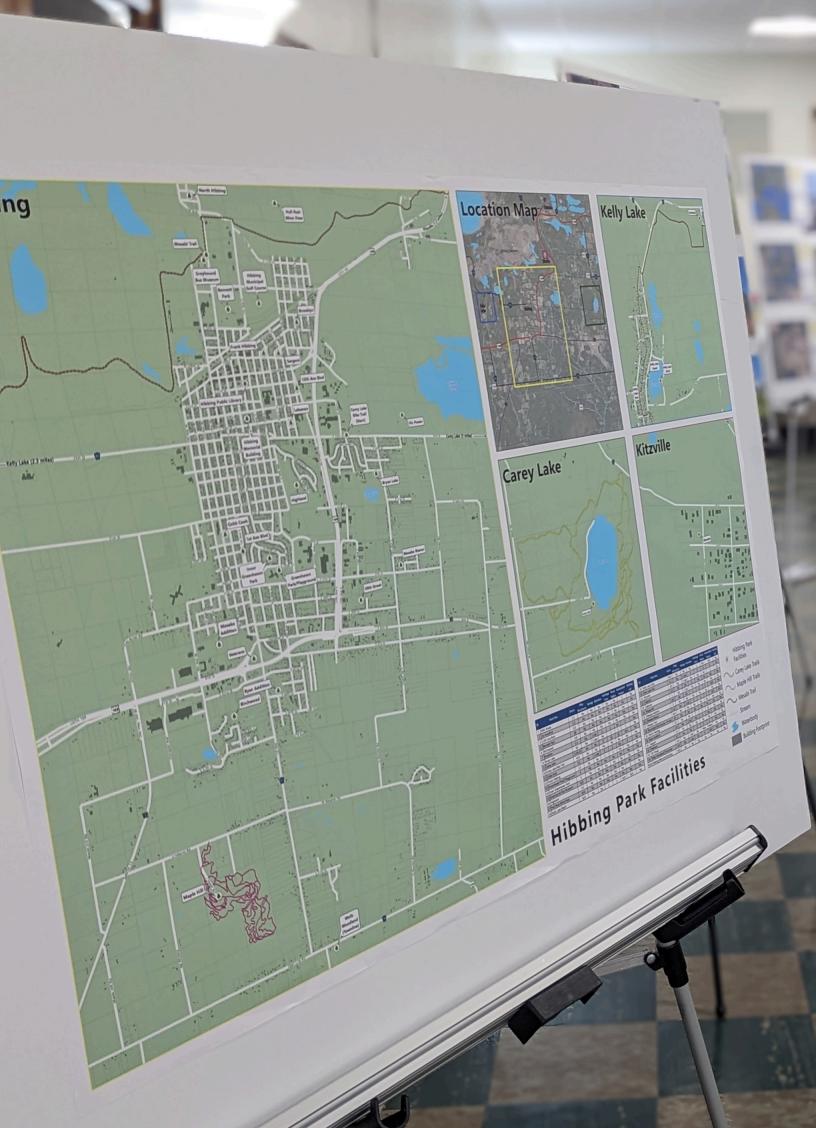
## Appendix C

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# Open House Data

N O R T H S P A N











What park do you love?

What park do you use a lot?

What park don't you use?

Where  
are  
improvements  
needed?

What would you imagine being here?

## Hibbing



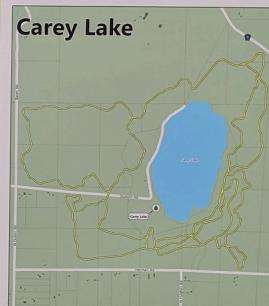
## Location Map



## Kelly Lake



## Carey Lake



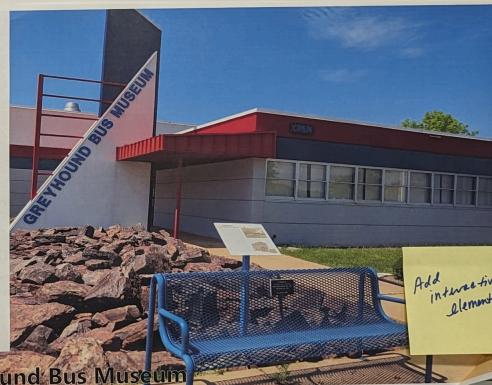
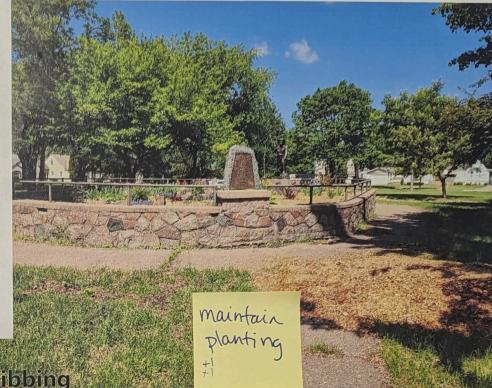
## Kitzville

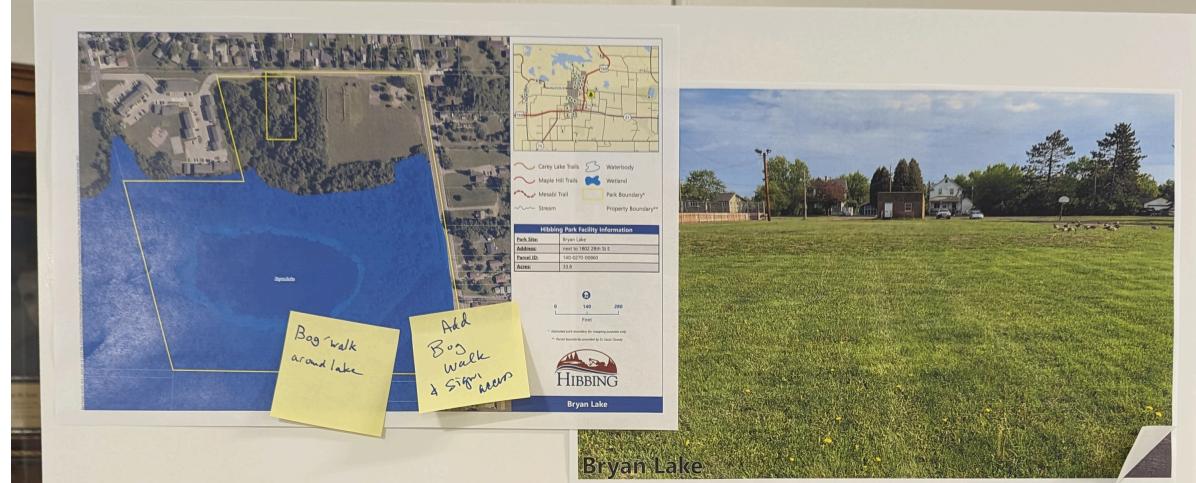


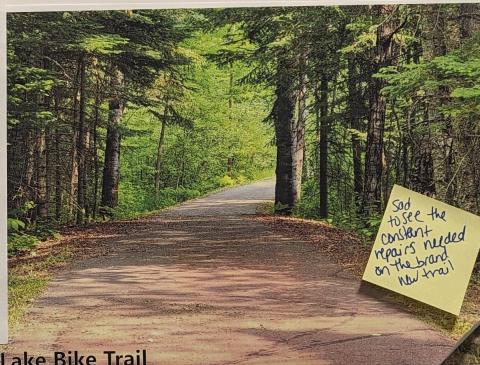
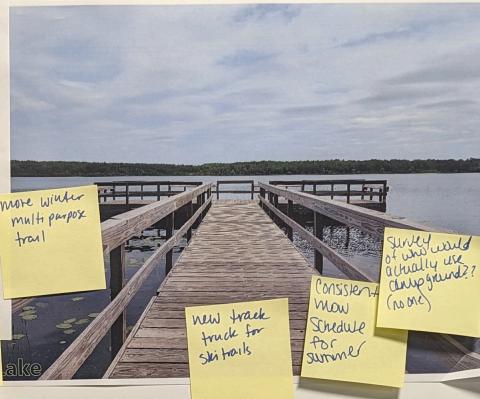
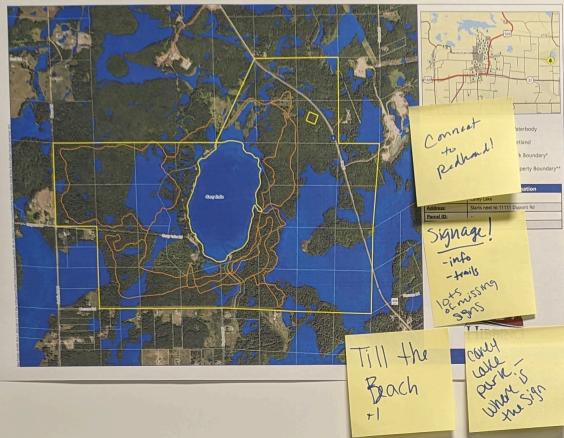
# Hibbing Park Facilities



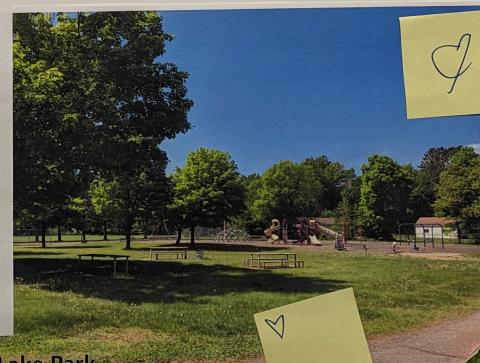
2	2nd Ave Blvd	3.5	Yes						
3	12th Ave Blvd	0.5	No						
4	13th Ave Blvd	0.5	No						
5	Burnhamwood	3.0	No						
6	Brynnwood	3.0	No						
7	Cherrywood	3.0	Yes						
8	Cherry Lake Park	4.5	Yes						
9	Cherry Lake Park	0.5	No						
10	Cherrywood	3.5	No						
11	Cherrywood	3.0	No						
12	Marina Park <sup>10</sup>	1.5	No						



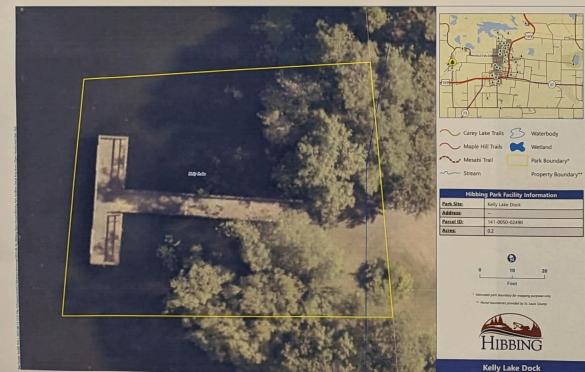
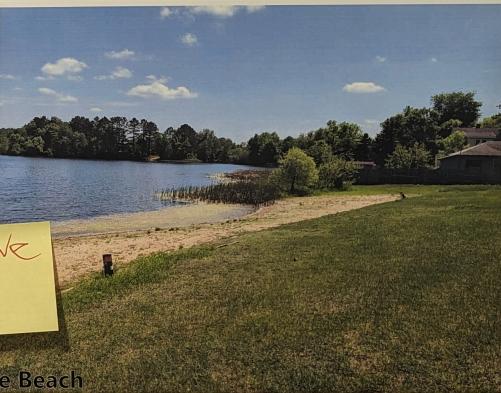
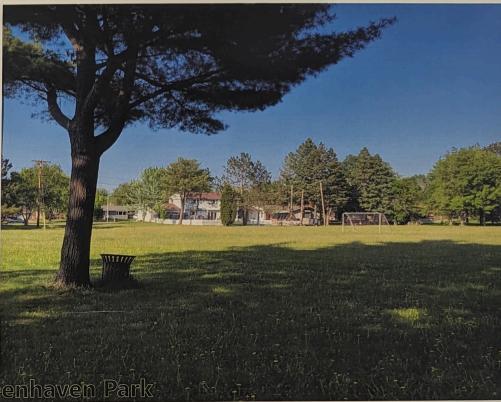




**Carey Lake Bike Trail**

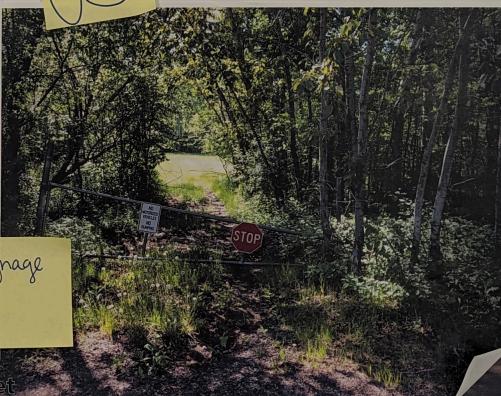


**Kelly Lake Park**





Highland Park



39th Street



Birchwood

**Leetonia**

*Scary looking*

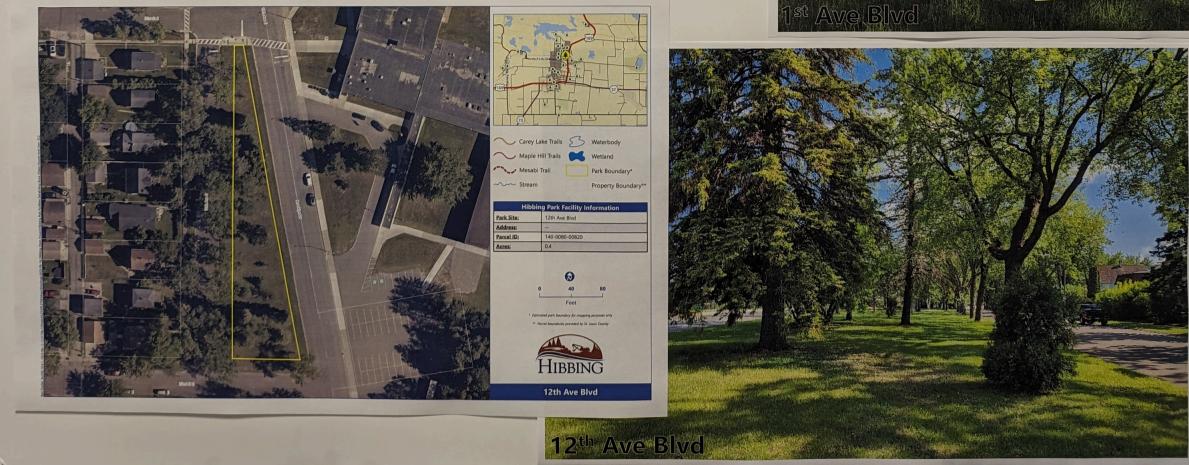
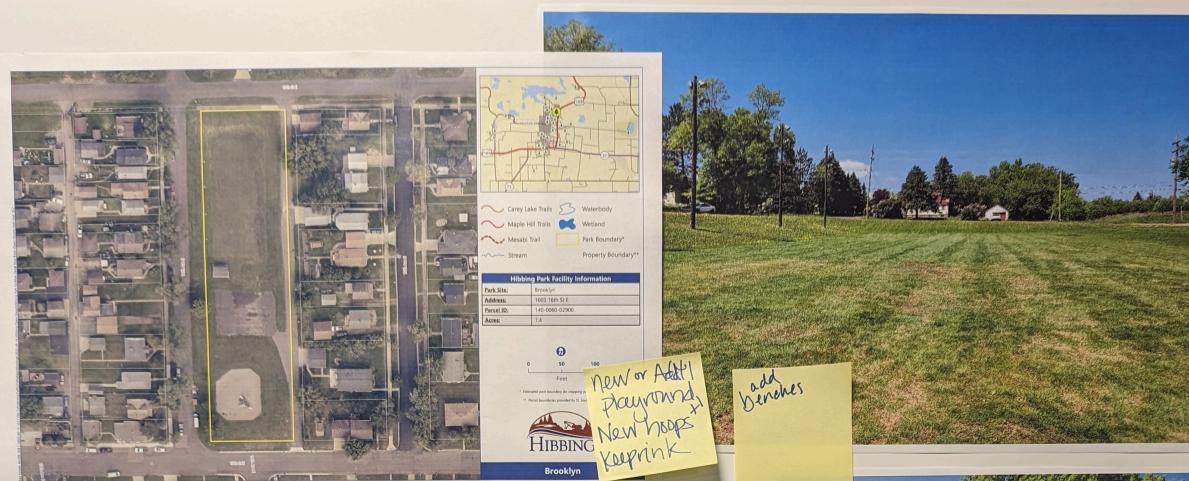
**Ryan Addition**

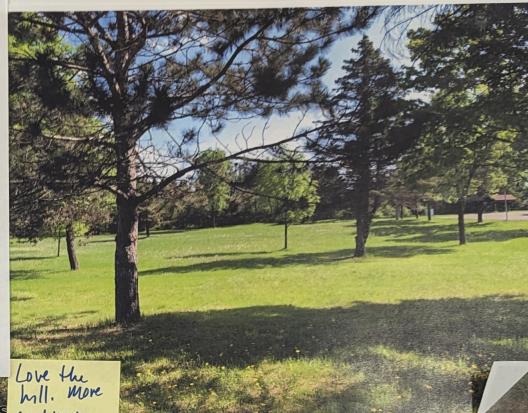
**Kitzville**

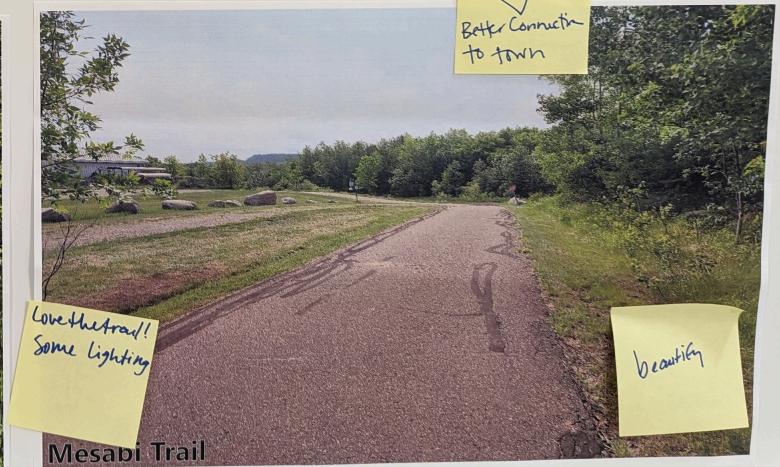
*Scary looking*

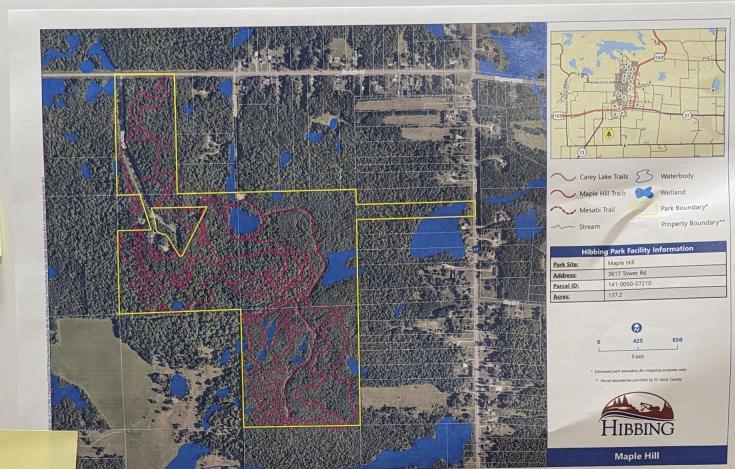
*more  
LOVE*

*make courts to  
be multi  
purpose.  
4 square/ball*









Connect to  
more blue  
trails

why is the  
upper trail  
closed now?  
it used to  
be open



Maple Hill



Maple Hill

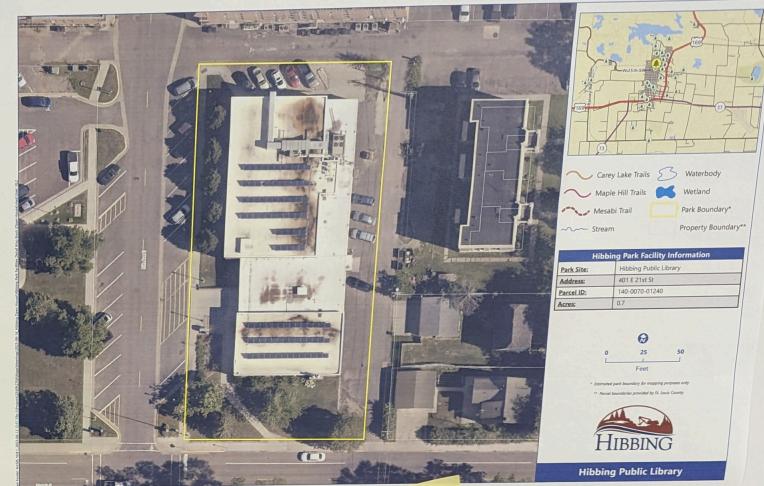
Signage for  
trails.  
lighting at  
parking lot



CHRONICLE  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled







Keep pavilion - North

Walking trail on North & East Side

Keep existing Pavilions

Add seating to park

**HIBBING**  
Bennett Park

Bennett Park

Build on to the splash pad

Unlock Bathrooms

Wormer Water

more Interactive Ideas

Lighting

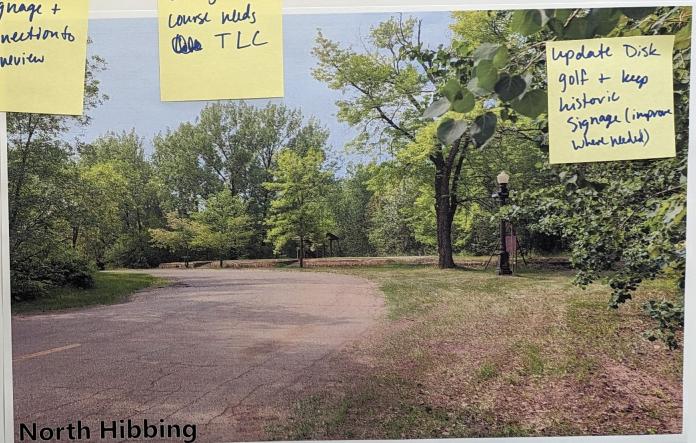
Heart

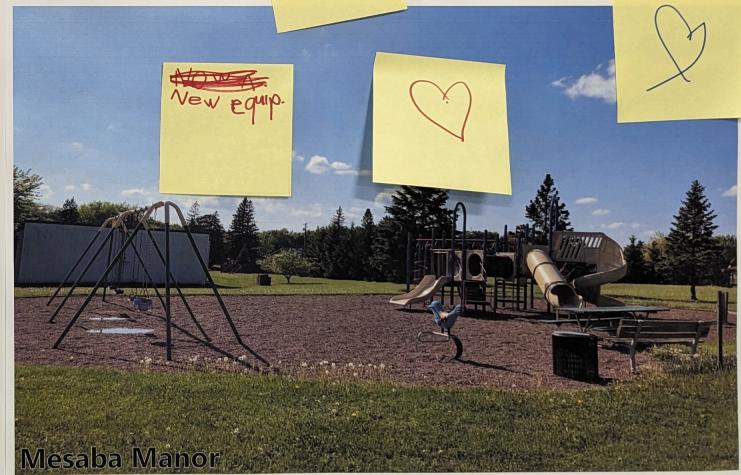
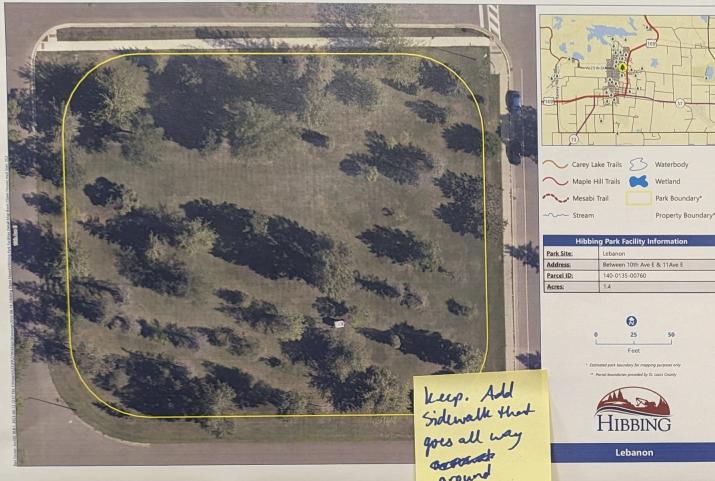
Heart

Heart

Bennett Park

Bennett Park





Sharpie

Post  
Suggestions!

What park  
do you use  
a lot?

What  
do you  
use?

What do  
you love  
in the  
parks?

Where  
are  
improvements  
needed?

What  
would you  
imagine  
being here?

What's the  
schedule  
of moving  
trails @  
Carey Lake?

Veterans  
Memorial  
Area

Map  
Carey  
Lake  
ski trails!



Point	Depth	Point	Depth	Point	Depth	Point	Depth
1	10	2	12	3	15	4	18
5	20	6	22	7	25	8	28
10	30	11	32	12	35	13	38
15	40	16	42	17	45	18	48
20	50	21	52	22	55	23	58
25	60	26	62	27	65	28	68
30	70	31	72	32	75	33	78
35	80	36	82	37	85	38	88
40	90	41	92	42	95	43	98
45	100	46	102	47	105	48	108
50	110	51	112	52	115	53	118
55	120	56	122	57	125	58	128
60	130	61	132	62	135	63	138
65	140	66	142	67	145	68	148
70	150	71	152	72	155	73	158
75	160	76	162	77	165	78	168
80	170	81	172	82	175	83	178
85	180	86	182	87	185	88	188
90	190	91	192	92	195	93	198
95	200	96	202	97	205	98	208
100	210	101	212	102	215	103	218
105	220	106	222	107	225	108	228
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145	300	146	302	147	305	148	308
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635	1280	636	1282	637	1285	638	1288
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655	1320	656	1322	657	1325	658	1328
660	1330	661	1332	662	1335	663	1338
665	1340	666	1342	667	1345	668	1348
670	1350	671	1352	672	1355	673	1358
675	1360	676	1362	677	1365	678	1368
680	1370	681	1372	682	1375	683	1378
685	1380	686	1382	687	1385	688	1388
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695	1400	696	1402	697	1405	698	1408
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705	1420	706	1422	707	1425	708	1428
710	1430	711	1432	712	1435	713	1438
715	1440	716	1442	717	1445	718	1448
720	1450	721	1452	722	1455	723	1458
725	1460	726	1462	727	1465	728	1468
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745	1500	746	1502	747	1505	748	1508
750	1510	751	1512	752	1515	753	1518
755	1520	756	1522	757	1525	758	1528
760	1530	761	1532	762	1535	763	1538
765	1540	766	1542	767	1545	768	1548

## Appendix D

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# Full Recreation Programming and Facilities Assessment

**BALLARD\*KING**  
& ASSOCIATES LTD

# Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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## Recreation Programming Assessment and Recommendations

The following is an assessment of existing recreation programs and services that are provided by the City of Hibbing City Services Department as well as other organizations in the greater Hibbing area. From this information recommendations for the future have been developed.

### Assessment of Recreation Programs and Services

Recreation programs and services are a mixture of city programs as well as those offered by other providers. However, most programming is the responsibility of other organizations in the area.

### **Hibbing City Services Recreation Programming Summary**

The following chart summarizes the programs and services that are offered by City Services. This summary is based on 2023 information provided by city staff.

<b>Adult Programs</b>
Senior Line Dancing
Volleyball League
Open Ice Skating
Open Hockey
<b>Youth Programs</b>
Open Ice Skating
Open Hockey
Camp Hurrah
Playground Games
Jr. Golf
<b>Special Events</b>
Treat on the Streets Halloween 5K
Trunk or Treat @ City Hall
Circus
Concert in the Parks
Easter Event @ City Hall
Winter Events @ Vic Power

In addition to these programs, City Services also provides cross country ski rentals and snowshoe rentals.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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City Services also partners with other organizations on a number of special events including:

Other Special Events
Hibbing Jubilee
Mines and Pines Festival
Car Show
National Night Out
Easter Event

City Services focuses its recreation programming in the following areas:

- Special events that have a strong community focus
- Drop-in recreation opportunities for youth and adults that take place in city facilities

### City Recreation Facilities

To support City Services recreation programs, community based general recreation, as well as services offered by other organizations, the city has a significant number of parks and recreation facilities including:

City Recreation Facilities
Memorial Building
Golf Course-9 Hole
Mine View
Sports Fields
Baseball
Softball
Soccer
Football
Miracle League Field
Outdoor Basketball Court
Outdoor Skate Park Ramps
Outdoor Ice Rinks
Sledding Hill
Skate Path
Trails – ski, bike, hiking, cross country
Dog Park
Disc Golf Course
Splash Pad
Campground (in development)
Bocce Facility – indoor and outdoor
Horseshoe Facility – Indoor and outdoor
Parks and Playgrounds
Greyhound Bus Museum
Hibbing Raceway

# Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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This variety of recreation facilities provides locations for a wide variety of outdoor and indoor recreational activities to take place in Hibbing. The Memorial Building is the primary indoor facility, but it has limited community uses. There was an expansion and renovation study completed in 2020 that examined the possible addition of another ice sheet as well as other community spaces. However, this has not moved forward.

## Hibbing Public Schools-Community Education Programming Summary

The other major public provider of recreation programs and services in Hibbing is the school district's Community Education Department. They provide programs in the following areas.

<b>Community Education Programming</b>
<b>Adult</b>
Arts, Crafts and Hobbies
Health & Safety
General Interest
Personal Growth
Professional Development
Health & Wellness
Aquatics-lap swim, water walking, water aerobics
Indoor Walking
Adults with Disabilities
<b>Youth</b>
Arts, Crafts and Hobbies
Extended Classroom Learning
General Interest
Performing & Visual Arts
After School Care-Boys & Girls Club
Preschool Programs
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Intramural Sports
Open Swim & Open Gym
Early Childhood Education
Aquatics – Swim Lessons
Cross Country
Nordic Skiing
Karate
Wrestling
Cheer Camp
Youth Yoga
Driver's Education - Classroom

Community Education focuses its recreation programming in the following areas:

- Aquatics

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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- Adult professional development
- Adult general interest
- Preschool programs
- Youth sports
- Extended learning
- Early childhood education

### School District Facilities

In addition, the school district has a variety of facilities that can be used by the community for recreation purposes including:

School District Facilities
Gymnasiums – 2 HS, 1 MS, 3 Elem.
Auditorium - 1
Tennis Courts – Outdoor
Swimming Pools – 2 HS, 1 MS
Football Fields - 1
Playgrounds
Forest

While the primary purpose of these facilities is to serve school needs, they also expand the locations for other community activities to occur. The school district is dependent on the city for use of athletic fields and the Memorial Building for high school sports.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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### Other Recreation Service Providers in Hibbing

Beyond the city and school district there are a significant number of other community organizations that provide recreation opportunities in the community. These include:

<b>Recreation Service Providers</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Curling Club	
Hibbing Chisholm Youth Hockey Association	Rink at the fairgrounds
Hibbing Figure Skating Club	
RC Club	
Archery Club	Indoor and outdoor range
Little League Baseball	
Trap Shooting	
VFW & Legion Baseball	
Miracle League	
Fast Pitch Softball	
Youth Flag/Tackle Football	
Cross Country Ski Club	
Disc Golf Club	
Horseshoe Club	
Bocci Club	
Hibbing Youth Basketball	
JO Volleyball	
Pickleball Association	
Soccer Association	
Boys & Girls Club-youth programs	Operate Hibbing Raceway
Senior Center	Operate Mine View
Bowling	Bowling alley
Youth Tennis	
Youth Golf	Mesabi Country Club
Fitness Programs	Private fitness centers
Dance Classes	Dance studios

While a few of these organizations have their own facilities, they are still largely dependent on city and school facilities for their programs.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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### Recreation Service Providers Outside of Hibbing

While there are a significant number of recreation service providers in Hibbing, communities in the surrounding area also offer recreation services and facilities. These include:

<b>Other Recreation Service Providers</b>
<b>Chisholm</b>
<i>Programs</i>
Adult sand volleyball
Adult slow pitch
Mountain biking
Camping
Snowshoeing
<i>Recreation Facilities</i>
Redhead Mountain Bike Park
Minnesota Discovery Center
Campground
Fairgrounds
Kayaking
<b>Nashwauk</b>
<i>Recreation Facilities</i>
O'Brian Reservoir – beach, shelter, and boat ramp
<b>Virginia</b>
<i>Recreation Facilities</i>
Tennis Center
YMCA
Iron Trail Event Center
Aquatics Center
<b>Grand Rapids</b>
<i>Recreation Facilities</i>
Gymnastics Academy
Dance Academy
Lacrosse Club
Reif Performing Arts Center
YMCA
IRA Civic Center

Organized recreation programs are limited in other communities and are primarily sports and outdoor recreation related. There are two YMCA's, an event center, and performing arts center available as well.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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### National Recreation Program Categories

The following is a listing of general program categories where programs are often offered by full-service parks and recreation agencies. It is unusual for a public parks and recreation agency to directly offer programs in all of these areas, but there are usually either agreements with other providers for some of these activities or a referral to them.

Area	General Description
<b>Sports</b>	Youth and adult team and individual sports. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
<b>Fitness/Wellness</b>	Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
<b>Cultural Arts</b>	Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.
<b>Aquatics</b>	Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving.
<b>Youth</b>	Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool.
<b>Education</b>	Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, and financial planning.
<b>General Interest</b>	Personal development classes.
<b>Special Needs</b>	Programs for the physically and mentally impaired. Also, inclusion programs.
<b>Special Events</b>	Community wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Area	General Description
Outdoor Recreation	Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities.
Seniors	Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors.
Teens	Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens.
Self-Directed	This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own.
Social Services	This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, and other activities such as health screenings.

### Recreation Program Opportunities Summary

When the recreation services that the city, Community Education, and the other organizations are providing are analyzed, there are only a few of the general program areas that are not being covered.

Program Areas	City	Community Education	Other Providers
Sports			
Fitness/Wellness			
Cultural Arts			
Aquatics			
Youth			
Education			
General			
Special Needs			
Special Events			
Outdoor Recreation			
Seniors			
Teens			
Self-Directed			
Social Services			

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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There are very few areas where there is a lack of programming being offered (teen programming and social services). However, this does not measure the depth of the programming that is available in these categories.

### Recreation Program Strengths and Weaknesses

The following charts examine the level of programming offered in each of these categories by the City Services Department, Community Education, and the other providers.

#### *City Services Programs*

Program Areas	Low Level	Medium Level	High Level
Sports			
Fitness/Wellness			
Cultural Arts			
Aquatics			
Youth			
Education			
General			
Special Needs			
Special Events			
Outdoor Recreation			
Seniors			
Teens			
Self-Directed			
Social Services			

The strength of City Services programs is clearly in special events and self-directed activities and there are a mid-range of activities in youth. Programming in sports and cultural arts is low. Overall the level of recreation programming is relatively low.

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### *Community Education Programs*

Program Areas	Low Level	Medium Level	High Level
Sports			
Fitness/Wellness			
Cultural Arts			
Aquatics			
Youth			
Education			
General			
Special Needs			
Special Events			
Outdoor Recreation			
Seniors			
Teens			
Self-Directed			
Social Services			

Community Education programming has relatively high levels in the areas of youth sports, aquatics, preschool and early childhood education, extended learning, general interest, adult professional development, and self-directed activities associated with aquatics and gym use. There is a medium level of activities in fitness/wellness and cultural arts. The relative level in special needs (adults with disabilities) and outdoor recreation (cross country and Nordic skiing) are low. The overall level of recreation programming provided by Community Education is reasonably high.

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### Other Providers

This includes other community organizations, and non-profits in Hibbing as well as recreation services offered by other communities in the area.

Program Areas	Low Level	Medium Level	High Level
Sports			
Fitness/Wellness			
Cultural Arts			
Aquatics			
Youth			
Education			
General			
Special Needs			
Special Events			
Outdoor Recreation			
Seniors			
Teens			
Self-Directed			
Social Services			

For other providers, the program strengths are primarily in the area of youth sports, outdoor recreation and self-directed activities. There is a medium level of fitness/wellness programming, youth, and special events and seniors with only a few programs being offered in cultural arts and general. Recreation programming by other providers is generally very focused on a few specialized areas.

### Recreation Programming Summary

- Community Services conducts only a relatively small number of recreation programs, and these are primarily special events and self-directed activities.
- The school district's Community Education department is a major provider of recreation programming in Hibbing. This includes an emphasis on youth sports, aquatics, preschool and early childhood education, extended learning, general interest, adult professional development, and self-directed activities.
- Other organizations in Hibbing and surrounding communities provide recreation programs and services focusing on youth sports, outdoor recreation, and self-directed activities.
- When all the recreation programs, including those offered by City Services, Community Education and other providers are considered, there are only two major program areas that are not being covered: teens and social services. However, the quantity of programs in many categories is not strong.

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- The city and the school district have a significant number of indoor and outdoor facilities that are able to support a wide range of recreation programs. This is augmented by other recreation amenities in neighboring communities.
- While the city has the Memorial Building for indoor recreation, its services are primarily ice related and there is not a true community center available for Hibbing residents.
- City Services does not have the benefit of a program plan to guide the delivery of services by the city and other organizations to ensure that the needs of the community are being met in all program areas. There is also no formal agreement in place between City Services and Community Education that determines the specific recreation programming responsibilities of the two agencies.
- City Services has limited existing program metrics to measure the effectiveness of current recreation services.
- The community survey indicated a low level of satisfaction with recreation programs (51% gave it a low mark) and also recreation facilities (50% gave them a low mark).

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## **Recommendations for Recreation Programs**

The City of Hibbing and the City Services Department will need to determine their future role in providing recreation programs and services to the community. This will need to be determined in large part based on the long-term level of financial and resource commitment that the city wants to make to recreation programs and services.

To determine the future direction for recreation programs and services, the following is required.

### *Establish a Programming Philosophy*

City Services should develop a formal programming philosophy with the following objectives:

- City Services will not be the primary provider of most recreation programs and services that are available in the community but will coordinate these efforts to ensure that adequate recreation services are obtainable.
- Community Education will be the main public provider of recreation programs and services in Hibbing. City Services will establish roles and responsibilities with Community Education to minimize the potential overlap of services.
- Develop partnerships with other providers to bring a full spectrum of recreation programs and services to the community.
- For recreation programs and services that occur at city parks and facilities develop an approach that relies on:
  - City services staffed programs for key program areas only.
  - Rental of space to other providers for many programs.
  - Contract provided programs where revenues are shared for limited programs.
- Ensure that recreation program and service opportunities are available to all ages, incomes, abilities, gender, and ethnic groups in an equitable and inclusive manner.
- Ensure that recreation program and service opportunities are available in areas of interest that are identified as a need in the community.
- City Services recreation and program service offerings will respond to identified community needs in a cost effective and efficient manner.

### *Develop a Program Plan*

Based on the programming philosophy, develop a program plan that includes the general direction of recreation programming for the next 5 plus years. This would include the following areas:

- Establish the basics of the plan:

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- Recognize that there is a desire for a higher level of recreation programming by the community beyond what is currently being provided.
- Respond to the realities of the demographics of Hibbing:
  - Older population
  - Fewer households with children
  - Lower income levels and lower expenditures for recreation
  - Minimal ethnic and cultural diversity
- Recognize that City Services provides services for more than just residents of the city as well as visitors to the area.
- Determine which programs will be primarily offered by City Services staff. This currently includes only:
  - Special events
  - Self-directed

The city will likely have a greater role in future programming efforts beyond just these two areas.

- Respond to priorities for general programming expansion based on community input (primarily the survey) including:
  - Aquatics
  - Adult recreation and sports
  - Teen recreation and sports
  - Youth afterschool and summer camps
  - Special events
  - Fitness/Wellness
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Youth sports

The role of the city in providing new programs in these areas will need to be determined but in keeping with the overall programming philosophy, it should be expected that most will be offered by other providers.

- Maintain and enhance programming contracts with existing organizations, youth sports groups, outdoor recreation providers and others for the following:
  - Youth sports
  - Fitness/Wellness
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Youth
  - Special events
  - Seniors
- Determine the approach to other program areas that currently do not program opportunities (shown in yellow below) including:

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- Teens
- Social Services

It may not be desired or necessary for the city or other providers to be actively providing social services as part of recreation programs. It is expected that any social service programs would either be provided by contracts with other providers or by referral to other organizations.

Program Areas	City	Community Education	Other Providers	Future Providers
Sports				
Fitness/Wellness				
Cultural Arts				
Aquatics				
Youth				
Education				
General				
Special Needs				
Special Events				
Outdoor Recreation				
Seniors				
Teens				
Self-Directed				
Social Services				

- Adopt the following future program responsibility directives:
  - *Youth Sports* – Despite the demand for more youth sports, most competitive youth sports leagues and programs will continue to be the responsibility of community-based youth sports organizations in the area. Community Education will provide a limited number of youth team sports and City Services will not provide team sports in the future. Community Education will provide select programs for individual sports.
  - *Adult Sports* – This has been identified as an area of need by the community. Any new adult sports will likely be offered by Community Education or other providers, but it may be difficult to add team sports due to a lack of available time on athletic fields as well as indoor gym space.
  - *Fitness/Wellness* – This is an area of need as identified by the community, but the city does not have adequate facilities to support a high level of programming in this category. Community Education should increase programs where possible, but any significant growth will have to be through other providers and likely at their own facilities in the future.

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- *Cultural Arts* – This is not a major program area for City Services and will likely remain so into the future. Any new programs will be offered by Community Education or other providers.
- *Aquatics* – This is another requested area of program growth by the community but with no city pool, any additional programming will have to be the role of Community Education or by referral to other organizations that have aquatic facilities and programming available (local YMCA's).
- *Youth* – Additional programming is being asked for by the community, and Community Education is well positioned to grow youth programs. However, City Services should also be a provider of summer camp programs. Other providers could also be utilized to expand programming opportunities in this area.
- *Education* – Programming in this area should remain the responsibility of Community Education where there is a direct connection to the school district.
- *General Interest* – It is not expected that there will be significant growth in this area in the future, but most new programming opportunities will be offered by Community Education or other providers.
- *Special Needs* – With limited programs currently being provided in this area by Community Education, there should be a focus in the future on identifying possible additional program needs. City Services and Community Education will need to coordinate efforts for these services as well as utilizing other providers of programming for special needs either on a contract or referral basis.
- *Special Events* – It is expected that this will continue to be a primary program focus for City Services in the future. This will require continued partnerships with other community organizations to expand the number of events in the future in response to the desires of the community.
- *Outdoor Recreation* – This is another of the recreation program areas where additional programming was requested by the community. City Services has virtually no offerings while Community Education has a limited number of programs. With the wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities that are available in the area, there are great prospects for increasing outdoor programming. This could be a focus for future recreation programming by City Services, Community Education and by contract providers.
- *Seniors* – It is expected that the existing Senior Center will continue to be the primary provider of programs and services that focus on seniors.
- *Teens* – With the expectation for greater emphasis by the community, in the future providing services and programs specifically designed for teens will likely need to be the responsibility of both City Services and Community Education.

- *Self-Directed* – With the city's and school district's recreation facilities, self-directed activities will remain a significant program area.
- *Social Services* – This is currently not a program area for City Services or Community Education and there are no contracts with other providers in place. It is not anticipated that City Services will need to be directly involved in this area in the future. It should be expected that all services will be by referral to other providers only.
- Possible City Services new recreation programming roles for the future include:
  - Youth programs – summer camps
  - Special needs – this could involve contracting for services
  - Special events – the possible expansion of the number of events
  - Outdoor recreation - this could involve contracting for services
  - Teens – specialized teen programs

Coordinating future City Services recreation programming with Community Education will be essential.

- Contracts with other providers need to clearly outline specific roles and expectations as well as limits to facility scheduling, fees, and operations. Contract requirements should include:
  - A program plan
  - Safety and security plans
  - Participant code of conduct
  - Background checks for all staff and volunteers
  - Quarterly and annual reports on program numbers and participants
  - DEI policy
  - Youth sports – coaches training program and concussion protocol
- For those program areas where there are no current contracts, utilize other providers on a referral and clearinghouse basis. This could involve promotion of their activities, coordinating of some programs, and permitting of facilities. However, this process needs to be closely managed to be successful.
- Ensure that recreation programs are available for a wide range of demographic groups including:
  - *Preschool* – Programs and activities that assist with the development of young children both as individuals and with parents or caregivers.
  - *Youth* – Programs that serve a variety of interest areas beyond just sports including after-school and summer camps.
  - *Teens* – Activities designed specifically for teens that are both organized and drop-in in nature.
  - *Seniors* – Programs and services that serve a wide range of the senior age category, including an appeal to the younger more active based senior.

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- *Intergenerational/Multigenerational* – Offering programs and services that have an appeal to multiple generations or across generations.
- *Family Based* – There should be an effort to offer programs and services that encourage family and household participation in the community.
- *Visitors* - Provide events and activities that have an appeal to visitors to the area.
- *Ethnic/Culturally Based* – There should be an effort to offer programs and services that are appropriate for the cultural orientation of the area.
- Balance programming between more traditional activities and those that are gaining in popularity.
- Adapt the demand for future programming to the facilities that are available within the community to support the desired activities.
- Programming should include some limited virtual options in addition to traditional in-person offerings.
- There will need to be the establishment of basic performance measures to track recreation programming effectiveness. This includes the following for both City Services and Community Education programs as well as those that are contracted:
  - Rates of fill for programs and activities (capacity vs. actual numbers).
  - Resident and non-resident participation rates
  - Participation numbers and comparisons to past years/seasons.
  - Rate of program cancellations (should be between 15% and 20%)
  - Financial performance including cost per participant.
  - Evaluations from participants.

### Recreation Program Recommendations Summary

- Establish a formal programming philosophy.
- Develop a program plan that builds on the philosophy.
- Establish clear roles and responsibilities between City Services and Community Education to minimize the potential overlap of services.
- Pursue additional contracts with other providers for program areas that are not currently available to the public.
- For those program areas where there are no contracts, utilize other providers on a referral and clearinghouse basis.
- Ensure that recreation programs are available for a wide range of demographic groups.
- Establish basic performance measures to track recreation programming effectiveness.

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## Recommendations for Facilities that Support Recreation Programs and Services

Specific recommendations for active use recreation facilities in Hibbing include:

- It is important to realize that the ability to deliver a wide range of recreation programs and services is impacted by the parks and recreation facilities that are available.
- The city will need to continue to recognize that it will be the primary provider of parks and facilities not only for the community as a whole, but also for community organizations as well.
- The public process (especially the survey) indicated that the priorities for parks and recreation amenities that can support recreational activities are:

### Outdoor

- Swimming pools
- Places to rock climb
- Camping areas
- Swim beaches

### Indoor

- Indoor playgrounds
- Swimming pools
- Climbing wall
- Multi-use courts

- One of the major community requests is for a community center that could contain:
  - Indoor track
  - Aquatic facility
  - Indoor playground
  - Event center
  - Gym
  - Fieldhouse

The city should complete a feasibility for a possible community center that confirms the desired amenities, determines a possible site, possible project partners, capital costs to build, operational costs and revenues, and the development of a funding plan.

A key aspect of the study should be a determination if another organization (YMCA, etc.) should be the owner and/or operator of the center.

- If the city does move forward with a community center that is operated by City Services, this will require a high level of recreation programs to be offered either by the city or other community providers.

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- Develop full operations plans for the Memorial Building and the golf course. This needs to include safety and security concerns and an emergency action plan (EAP).
- Establish clear priorities of use for the Memorial Building by time of day, day of week, and season the year to ensure that the spaces are being used to their full potential and meet the goals of the amenities and programs. Priorities should include school district use, drop-in use, programs, and rentals.
- Continue to ensure that there are current operational and management agreements in place for any facilities that are being contract operated. This should include:
  - Operations and management plan
  - Maintenance plan
  - Safety and security protocols
  - Emergency action plan
  - Staffing requirements
    - Minimum level of staffing
    - Background checks
  - User code of conduct
  - A diversity, equity, and inclusion policy (DEI)
  - A quarterly and annual report that tracks specific performance characteristics
- City Services should complete an athletic field capacity analysis to determine the accepted level of use for existing fields. Establish an annual hourly level of use ceiling for fields to minimize turf damage and keep fields usable.

### Recreation Facilities Recommendations Summary

- Develop the required amenities to support community desired recreation activities or rely on other providers in the Hibbing area.
- Complete a feasibility study for a possible new community center. This facility would increase indoor recreation programming significantly.
- Develop operations plans for the Memorial Building and golf course.
- Have current operational and programming agreements in place for all facilities that are being contract operated.
- Complete an athletic field capacity analysis to determine the accepted level of use for existing fields.

## Organizational Structure and Operations Assessment and Recommendations

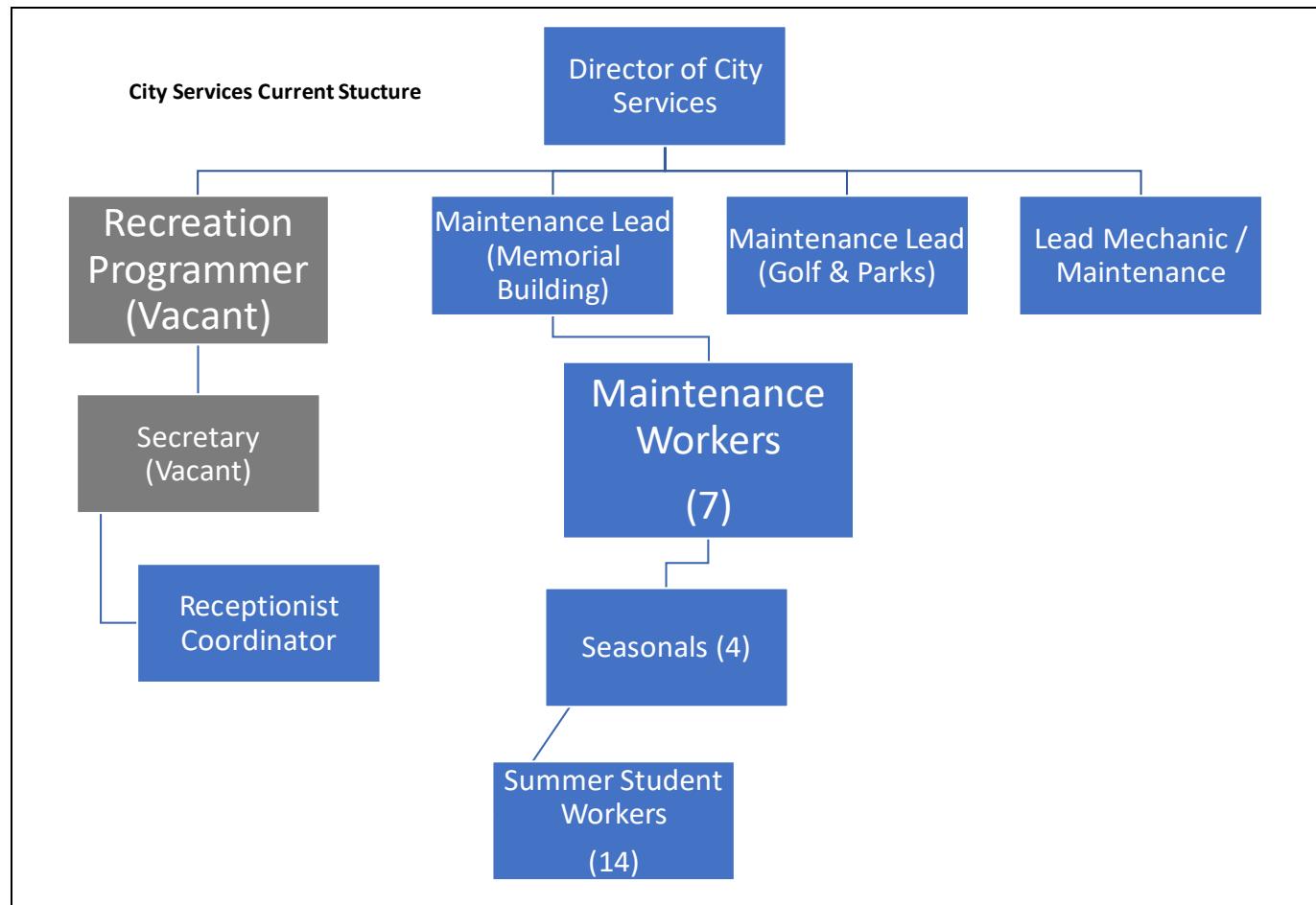
The organizational structure of the City of Hibbing's City Services Department has been assessed along with the current staffing model. Various aspects of the Department's operations including maintenance practices, budgets, policies and procedures, and marketing have also been reviewed. This is followed up with specific recommendations in each of these areas.

### Assessment of Organizational Structure and Operations

The city and the City Services Department have an on-going commitment to parks and recreation operations and maintenance. This is reflected in a number of areas.

### Organizational Structure and Staffing

Staffing within the City Services Department is divided into 3 primary areas (based on 2023) These include 14 full-time positions, 4 seasonal (April through September) and 14 summer staff (May through mid-August). This is a relatively low level of staffing for current operations of parks and other facilities but a relatively high level of commitment to the Memorial Building.



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*Administration* – There is 1 full-time staff in administration.

- *Director of City Services* – Manages the entire department.

*Parks Facilities Maintenance* – Is responsible for the maintenance of all parks, the golf course and facilities including the Memorial Building, city hall and the library. There are 10 full-time staff, 4 seasonal and 14 summer staff.

- *Maintenance Lead (2)* – One is responsible for the maintenance of the Memorial Building and other city facilities and the other for parks and golf course maintenance.
- *Lead Mechanic/Maintenance* – This position is responsible for general operations of the city's ice arena facility (75% of the time). Also repairs and maintains vehicles and equipment used for parks and other recreational facilities in the city (25% of the time).
- *Maintenance Worker (7)* – One has responsibility for city hall and the library, three for the Memorial Building, and three split their time between the parks, and fields in the summer, and the Memorial Building in the winter.
- *Seasonal Maintenance Workers (4)* – One is assigned to parks, one to the golf course, one to the Memorial Building and the other splits their time between Carey Lake and parks.
- *Summer Student Workers (14)* – Two positions are responsible for athletic field maintenance, three for the golf course, two for Bennett Park, and seven for general parks maintenance and other projects.

*Recreation Operations* – These positions are responsible for the operation of facilities as well as coordinating the programming that takes place there. There are 3 full-time staff.

- *Recreation Programmer* - This position is responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating recreation programs for the Department. This primarily consists of special events and a few other small programs. Prior to the retirement of the individual in this position, they had the responsibility for aquatic programming at the school district pools. However, this has since moved to Community Education.
- *Secretary* – This position is currently open, and it is anticipated that the role will be to provide administrative support for the Department and coordinate communications and marketing.
- *Receptionist Coordinator* - This position is responsible for performing day to day secretarial duties, perform registration functions, scheduling recreational facilities, promotional material development, recreational program development and implementation related to services offered by the Department.

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- *Temporary Positions* – There are a number of part-time staff; one at City Hall/Library, eight Warming House Attendants, eleven Recreation Support Staff, and four Recreation Program Supervisors.

### *Other*

- Parks, athletic fields, and golf course maintenance full-time staff are augmented by a sizeable seasonal and summer student work force.
- The Memorial Building and Parks & Recreation used to be a separate department but were combined to create City Services several years ago.
- Previously the Department did have a Marketing/Communications Coordinator. Considering the fact that community members were concerned about the poor level of communications from City Services, reallocating staff for this effort may be necessary.
- If the level of maintenance of parks, trails, and facilities is to be improved (as the community has requested), then, additional staff resources or contracted services will be necessary. If not, the city will need to reduce the number of parks/facilities that must be maintained or reduce the level of service at select locations.
- If a community center or other significant parks or trails are added, then additional operations and maintenance staff will be needed.
- It is difficult to utilize volunteers as most people are not interested in the time commitment.
- City Services currently contracts with an individual to assist with special events at least until a new Recreation Programmer is hired.
- There are limited on-going staff training opportunities.
- The Department should have at least one Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) on staff.
- All job descriptions (full and part-time) should be updated to reflect the current job responsibilities.
- City Services should have a comprehensive staff manual in place.
- The Department would benefit from having an established succession plan for full-time staff.

### **Operations**

Various operational factors are noted in the following section.

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## Maintenance

The maintenance of parks and facilities is reviewed below.

- The general level of maintenance of all parks, the golf course and facilities is only adequate and needs to increase to meet community demands and expectations.
- City Services maintains approximately 1,890 acres of parks, the golf course and facilities spread throughout the community. This includes a wide range of parks from highly developed to large open space areas. This is a ratio of 118 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is very high when compared to other parks and recreation agencies nationally where the rate is 10.8 acres per 1,000 residents.
- There is not a method to account for the costs of maintaining individual parks or the golf course. This is now considered as a best practice for parks and recreation agencies.
- Most all park maintenance tasks are done in-house. The department does contract out weed spraying and the use of portable toilets.
- City Services does not have a computerized maintenance management system. Having a maintenance management system in place for parks, the golf course, and facilities that would serve as a work order system and an accounting of maintenance by task and amenity would be helpful. Also adding an asset management plan would establish a lifecycle cost assessment for key amenities and assets.
- There is also no formal maintenance plan in place for parks or facilities as a whole or for individual locations.
- All playgrounds in the city should be on a replacement schedule that ensures that there is a system in place for keeping playgrounds safe and usable.

## Budgets

The city has a number of expenditure budgets for City Services that cover various aspects of parks and recreation functions. However, it is important to note that all personnel (both full-time and part-time) are included in a separate budget. The City Services budget accounts include:

*Recreation Administration* – This account includes basic recreation programs and services including special events. This is a relatively small budget.

*Parks* – This is the third largest budget for the Department, and it covers parks maintenance.

*Golf Course* – The account is for the maintenance of the golf course, but it also includes a management contract for the operation of the course and clubhouse (including concessions).

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*Memorial Building* – This is the second largest budget, and it includes the operations and maintenance of the facility.

*Bus Museum* – This is a small budget that covers the cost of operating and maintaining the museum.

*Hull-Rush Mine View* – This budget is for the maintenance of the Mine View Visitors Center. This is a very small budget as the operations of Mine View is the responsibility of the Senior Center

*Personnel* – This is by far the largest budget, and it contains all the full-time and part-time staff associated (and benefits) with the City Services Department. This makes up more than 70% of the entire budget.

### 2023 City Services Recommended Expenditure Budget

<b>Account</b>	<b>2023 Recommended Budget</b>
Recreation Administration	\$58,500
Parks	\$182,100
Golf Course	\$85,000
Memorial Building	\$346,000
Bus Museum	\$19,500
Mine View	\$10,500
Personnel	\$1,790,933
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,492,533</b>

Revenues are shown in a city-wide Charges for Services account with no link back to the expenditure accounts. The bulk of the revenue comes from the Memorial Building Arena use fees and golf course fees.

### 2023 City Services Recommended Revenue Budget

<b>Account</b>	<b>2023 Recommended Budget</b>
Recreation Skating	\$2,000
Golf Course	\$90,000
Leagues	\$2,000
Adult/Youth Programs	\$5,000
Special Events	\$0
Ski Rental & Passes	\$2,500
Misc. Revenue Memorial Building-General	\$8,000
Misc. Revenue Memorial Building-Arena	\$150,000
Misc. Revenue Facility-Rent	\$20,000
Misc. Revenue Facility-Concession	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$281,500</b>

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### Other

- City Services has capital equipment/improvement budgets that are linked to each expenditure account in the Department.
- There are established rental rates for use of city facilities, this includes use by the school district. These rates have seen regular increases over the last few years.
- City Services does not have a formal fee policy in place and as a result there is no methodology on how fees are charged. This policy would also help establish cost recovery guidelines for programs and facilities.
- There was an economic impact study conducted for the Memorial Building in 2018 but this has not been updated since.
- The Department recently started utilizing Civic Rec as a recreation software program for program registration. This should be expanded to include on-line program registration and also utilized for facility scheduling and rentals.
- The Department will need to plan for increasing costs, especially for staff. The Department will need to pay more to attract and keep staff but also plan for continuing increases in the state's minimum wage in future years.

### Policies and Procedures

There are minimal operations and management policies and procedures in place for City Services. The city itself has policies and procedures that cover a number of management functions, but this is the extent of most policies.

- City Services has a strong mission statement:  
*The mission of the Hibbing Community Services Department is to enhance the quality of life of our citizens through parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle for all.*
- There are established rules and regulations for the use of city parks.
- The Department does have agreements with organizations that utilize city facilities and provide programs and services for the community.
- There are also management agreements in place for the golf course, concessions at the Memorial Arena, and Mine View.
- There is an IGA between the city and school district that deals with the use of each other's facilities and outlines the fees for use. Most of the fees are based on the cost per hour of

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use. The Memorial Building's use by the school district's hockey programs is a flat rate per season.

- It would be beneficial to have an agreement between City Services and Community Education that specifies the role of the two agencies in providing recreation services to the community.
- There needs to be standard operating procedures for the Department as a whole and also for individual parks and facilities.
- It is critical to have safety and security measures in place for all parks and facilities as well as an emergency action plan.
- The Department should also develop a continuity of service plan that ensures operations during or after a pandemic, hurricane, or other event.
- The department should develop a formal diversity, equity, and inclusion plan (DEI).
- Key performance metrics for parks/facility maintenance and recreation services are not present and are necessary for tracking purposes.

### **Marketing**

Marketing does not appear to be a major focus for Hibbing parks, facilities, and recreation programs.

- The Department lacks a formal marketing strategy or plan to guide marketing efforts.
- The Department no longer has a specified marketing staff person, but another position is assigned the general responsibility of coordinating marketing efforts.

### **Organizational Structure and Operations Summary**

- The City Services Department has an organizational structure that is centered around three primary areas, but most of the staffing resources are dedicated to parks, the golf course and facilities maintenance. There is a very small administrative and recreation operations staff.
- The Department has a significant full-time staff but parks maintenance, due to its seasonal nature, has a key part-time staff as well.
- The staffing plan could use updates to job descriptions, the development of a staff manual, and the establishment of a succession plan.
- The overall level of maintenance is only adequate with most functions being conducted in-house with a few tasks contracted to outside providers.

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- There is a strong need for a comprehensive maintenance plan as well as a maintenance management system.
- The Department has numerous budget accounts, but personnel costs are located in one separate budget which makes it difficult to have true cost center accounting.
- The Department needs to establish a fee policy to guide fee setting for programs, facility use, and rentals. This should be the basis for a comprehensive cost recovery plan.
- There is a need for an asset management system.
- There are limited operational policies and procedures to ensure a uniform and consistent approach to providing programs and facilities.
- The City Services Department does have a strong mission statement.
- There are agreements in place for organizations that utilize city facilities and provide programs and services for the community.
- There are management agreements for the golf course, Mine View and concessions at Memorial Arena.
- There is an IGA between the city and school district for use of their facilities, but it would be beneficial to have an agreement between City Services and Community Education regarding specific recreation programming roles.
- Key performance indicators need to be established for all aspects of the City Services Department's operation.
- There is little integration of technology for management purposes.
- There is no coordinated marketing of recreation opportunities to the community.

## **Recommendations for Organizational Structure and Operations**

Critical to having strong management and operations of parks and recreation facilities as well as recreation programs and services, is having a strong staff, maintenance, budgeting, policies and procedures, and marketing measures in place. The following are specific recommendations for these areas.

### **Organizational Structure and Staffing**

- Currently City Services has only an adequate level of staffing for operations, maintenance, and recreation programming. If the current level of maintenance is to increase or parks and recreation amenities are added, or recreation programming is expanded, then further staffing will be required. Otherwise, the city will need to reduce the number of parks/facilities that must be maintained and not add any additional programs or services.
- Consider organizing City Services into four distinct areas
  - Recreation Programs and Services
  - Golf Operations
  - Parks Maintenance
  - Memorial Building Maintenance
- Consider adding several full-time positions
  - *Maintenance Workers (3)* – to increase the current level of parks/facilities maintenance. One of these positions would be assigned specifically to golf course and athletic field maintenance (seasonally).
  - *Special Events Coordinator* – would report to the Recreation Programmer and allow for more time to be spent on coordinating general recreation services within the Department and the community
  - *Marketing/Communications Coordinator* – would promote parks and recreation amenities and facilities as well as recreation programs. Should develop and administer the communications and marketing plan on an annual basis. This could be a position that is added as a city-wide staff person for the overall promotion of city activities and services.
- Establishing an overall staffing philosophy for City Services will be important. This should be tied to levels of service for parks and facilities as well as for recreation programs. It should also reflect what operations and programming tasks will be contracted to other organizations or providers.
- Before any new parks, trails or recreation facilities are added, an analysis of the operational and maintenance requirements, including staffing, needs to be completed.
- All job descriptions for full-time and part-time staff should be updated to adequately reflect the actual duties of each position.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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- Having a succession plan in place is essential with the inevitable turnover in key staff positions over time.
- Critical to the long-term success of City Services staffing is a commitment to training and ultimately certification when appropriate. Developing a formal annual training program is important.
- A comprehensive staff manual should be developed specifically for City Services.
- There should be at least one Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) in the City Services Department in the next year. This is simply certifying existing staff with no additional staff needed.

### Maintenance

- The maintenance of parks and recreation facilities is currently at only an adequate level and the city needs to commit to expanding this level of service in the future. The public has asked for increased maintenance.
- City Services needs to develop a comprehensive computerized maintenance management plan for parks, the golf course and facilities as a whole. This needs to include specific maintenance functions that need to occur, their frequency, method(s) for delivery, required resources, and tracking of work and budget. This plan should also have a specific focus on preventative maintenance and should include not only the growing environment but also buildings and structures as well. Ideally each major park, recreation facility and the golf course should have its own maintenance plan that is specific to that location.

With the high amount of park acreage currently being maintained by City Services, it will be important to develop different tiers of maintenance based on the type and use of various parks. This involves the classification of parks into four tiers with the top level being parks that are heavily utilized, have a high expectation for maintenance (golf course, athletic fields, City Hall, Memorial Building, etc.), down to an “open space” classification that has minimal levels of maintenance and is left largely natural. Once these classifications are in place, specific maintenance tasks are developed for each level and staffing is linked to the plan based on FTE per acre. This often ranges from 1 FTE per 10 acres for the high maintenance classification down to 1 FTE per 75-100 acres for the open space classification. It should also be noted that different areas of the same park could be in different classifications.

- Once the maintenance management plan is in place, the process needs to continue to develop to the next level where actual time and resource allocations are utilized to validate the plan that is in place. This could take several years until enough real-world numbers (number of hours spent per park/golf course/building and per maintenance function as well as actual costs for each park for supplies and contracted services) are available to adjust the existing standards. From this, specific benchmark standards can be determined (cost

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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per acre, per square foot, etc.). This will require a maintenance management software system.

- Consider the development of an asset management plan and lifecycle replacement schedule for all city parks and recreation facilities with provisions for a yearly update. This could take several years to implement.
- There should also be a detailed deferred maintenance list for all city owned parks, the golf course, and recreation facilities that prioritizes needed improvements per facility and overall.
- Establish a replacement schedule for all the playgrounds in the city.
- Most parks and recreation agencies strategically contract for some maintenance services in addition to providing staff led maintenance. City Services should complete an analysis of which maintenance services could possibly be contracted and determine if there is a viable contractor in the Hibbing area with the knowledge and skills to provide the services.
- Formal park/facility inspections should be completed at least every two weeks.
- There should be specific turf management plans for the golf course and athletic fields that include staff training in these areas.
- Staff schedules, maintenance plans, tracking of inventories, facility inspections and actual maintenance time and materials records need to be fully automated with the ability to make entries from the field on tablets or other hand-held devices.

### Budgets

- Establish clear staffing and operational budget requirements for City Services to support maintenance, operations, and the program plan.
- Utilizing the asset management plan and lifecycle replacement schedule for parks, the golf course, and recreation facilities, a 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP) should be developed and updated annually. This plan will need to be funded annually to keep from developing an ever-expanding list of deferred maintenance issues.
- The Parks budget should allow for tracking of expenses by each of the larger parks in the system. Facilities maintenance should also be separated from parks maintenance. The Recreation Administration budget should also do the same for major program areas such as special events.
- Sound financial practices require good budget monitoring procedures and strong record keeping. The operational budgets need to continue to be monitored on at least a monthly basis with any possible deviations or modifications noted at that time.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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- For any budget accounts where there are direct revenues associated with costs (recreation programs and facilities), revenues should be linked and shown with expenses to determine a true net cost.
- Distribute the cost for full-time and part-time staff (plus benefits) to the accounts based on the level of responsibility and the time associated with the services in those budgets. This could include a portion of a salary being assigned to multiple accounts.
- Rates of compensation for part-time staff will likely need to have significant increases over the next five years to attract and keep staff.
- City Services needs to establish a formal recreation fee philosophy and a supporting policy to guide the fee process and provide a rational reason for establishing specific fees for service. There should be fee increases for most programs, services, and rentals at least every two years.
- It must be recognized that recreation is a discretionary use of an individual's time and money and as a result there needs to be an adequate budget and staff commitment to marketing and promotions on an annual basis.
- There should be an annual report that succinctly summarizes yearly financial statistics and utilization rates and compares them with previous years. Each budget area should utilize the same format and the information should be available in a single document for the city.

### Policies and Procedures

- There need to be standard operating procedures for City Services as a whole and for individual parks and facilities.
- One of the key areas of focus must be policies and procedures that deal specifically with safety and security of parks, facilities, and programs. As a subset to this, there also needs to be a comprehensive emergency action plan for each individual facility.
- Develop an agreement between City Services and Community Education that specifies the role of the two agencies in providing recreation services to the community.
- It is essential that City Services utilize Civic Rec effectively for all recreation program registrations, point of sale transactions, rentals, scheduling, and other functions. This should be tied to the city's financial system for easy integration.
- It is important that City Services establish a continuity plan that covers possible interruptions of operations from natural disasters, pandemics, terrorist acts or other conditions.
- Current agreements for all contract service providers should be updated on a timely basis.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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- The department needs to develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion policy (DEI).
- Key performance metrics for parks/facility maintenance and recreation services are necessary for determining the effectiveness of the parks, facilities and programs that are being offered by the City Services Department.

### Marketing

- City Services needs to focus on improving and expanding its communication and marketing efforts. This requires the development of at least a basic yearly marketing plan that reflects the priorities of the organization. The focus of the plan should include:
  - Promoting the Memorial Building and the many programs and events that occur at the facility.
  - The unique parks and recreation facilities that are available to the residents of the community, the Iron Range, and visitors to the area.
  - Promoting the recreation programs and services that are available by not only city staff but also by Community Education and other community providers.
  - That City Services serves all age groups, interests, and backgrounds.
  - That city facilities are available for rental.
- The marketing plan should respond to how people currently find out about recreation activities and programs. The master plan survey indicated the following primary sources:
  - Word of mouth
  - Social media
  - Website
- There should be an every other year (in-house and on-line) survey of parks and recreation users' needs and concerns. This survey should gather opinions regarding maintenance, staff, programs and services, and future needs.
- City Services should have a branded web page that is accessible from the city's web page or independently.
- Development of a 3 time a year digital parks and recreation programs and services brochure should be strongly considered.
- Hiring or designating one full-time staff member as the coordinator for communications or marketing will be important.

### Organizational Structure and Operations Recommendations Summary

- Establish an overall staffing philosophy for City Services.
- Update all job descriptions for full-time and part-time staff.
- Develop a staff succession plan.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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- A comprehensive staff manual should be developed.
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance management plan for parks, the golf course, and facilities overall, as well as for individual amenities.
- Develop an asset management plan and lifecycle replacement schedule for all city parks, the golf course, and recreation facilities.
- Complete a detailed deferred maintenance list for all city owned parks and recreation facilities.
- Establish clear staffing and operational budget requirements for City Services.
- A 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP) should be developed and updated annually.
- Establish a formal recreation fee philosophy and a supporting policy to guide the fee process.
- Complete an annual report for all aspects of parks, facilities, and recreation operations.
- Have safety and security measures in place for all parks and facilities.
- Fully utilize Civic Rec for all recreation program registrations, point of sale transactions, rentals, scheduling, and other functions.
- Develop an agreement between City Services and Community Education that specifies the role of the two agencies in providing recreation services to the community.
- Develop a basic marketing plan that reflects the priorities of City Services.
- Develop a branded web page that is accessible from the city web page or independently.
- Consider the development of a 3 times a year digital parks and recreation programs and services brochure.

## Funding Analysis

Funding the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and services remains a challenge for many cities across the country. In the last 10 years there has been less reliance on the general fund of most cities as the primary funding source.

### Current Funding

The city of Hibbing relies on the following sources to fund current parks and recreation services and capital projects.

#### Parks and Recreation Funding Sources for 2023 (Recommended Budget)

Financing Source	Use	Amount
<i>Operations &amp; Maintenance</i>		
General Fund	General Operations	\$2,211,033
Fees & Charges (Earned Income)	General Operations	\$281,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,492,533</b>
<i>Capital</i>		
City Fund Transfers	Carey Lake/Mineview	\$990,000
Grants and Donations	Pickleball Courts	\$357,000
State Bonds	Mineview Development	\$1,300,000
City Bonds	Capital Projects	\$462,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,109,000</b>

- Approximately 13% of the City Services operations and maintenance budget is covered by fees and charges generated through programs and services.
- There is a strong reliance on the city's general fund for operations and maintenance funding with 87% of the total coming from this source.
- Capital expenses are funded in part through state bonds, city bonds and grants and donations.
- Citywide funds are a major funder of capital, but the city is also making use of state funding and grants and donations.
- The survey that was administered as part of the master plan process indicated that the community strongly supported the following funding mechanisms.
  - Corporate and organizational sponsorship with naming rights to park facilities
  - Creation of a parks foundation

#### *National Funding Trends*

The following are some basic national funding trends.

- There is a concerted effort to lower reliance on city general funds for operations and maintenance. The current level of funding nationally according to the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review study, is 61% of operating expenditures being derived from the general fund.
- There has been an increased reliance on earned income to offset the cost of operation of parks and recreation. According to NRPA, in 2023, an average of 22% of operational costs were offset through fees and charges.
- Rather than relying on allocations from a city's general fund, agencies have increasingly been turning to establishing dedicated tax funding sources for not only on-going parks and recreation operations but also for capital projects.
- Capital funding has also become more diversified with an effort to not only utilize local tax dollars but also broader funding through the state and federal government as well as fundraising and grant funding for larger projects.

### Future Funding Recommendations

To diversify funding for parks and recreation operations and capital projects, other forms of funding have to be identified. The following are some options that Hibbing may want to consider moving forward.

#### Local Taxing Sources

Beyond the allocation of funds from the city's general fund for ongoing programs, maintenance or the passage of bond issues for capital projects, there are other taxing sources available.

*Capital Improvement Fund* – Establishing a dedicated funding source for capital projects from either a percentage of existing tax revenues or through a tax increase established for that specific purpose.

*Certificates of Participation (COP)* – A form of lease-purchase, COPs are issued for debt periods similar to normal bonds but the amenity itself serves as the collateral. This funding mechanism does not usually require voter approval.

*Dedicated Tax* – This has become much more prominent in last 15-20 years. Voters approve a dedicated parks and recreation property tax millage to fund on-going operations and maintenance as well as capital improvements. This can be supported by property or sales tax.

*Special Purpose Levy* – A property or sales tax levy that is for a specific purpose (community center, large park, event center, etc.). These levies are often for a limited time period.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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*Park Dedication Fee* – For new housing, developers must either pay a per unit fee and/or dedicate so much property for future park development. Most larger communities now have this as part of their development fee.

*Real Estate Transfer Fees* – This is funding through the sale and transfer of real estate, where a small percentage goes to a tax that can support parks and recreation.

*Transient Lodging Tax* – This is a tax on hotel and motel rooms where a percentage tax is collected on each room night sold. This often funds parks and recreation amenities that attract visitors (sports complexes, ice rinks, etc.).

*Tax Increment Financing* – TIF funding is utilized for redevelopment of areas by dedicating future tax dollars to improvement projects. This funding has been utilized for some larger capital projects such as a recreation center or events center.

*Business Improvement District* – A BID is a defined area in a city that collects a fee from businesses for improvements. These are usually in larger downtown areas.

*User Fees* – Increasingly cities are asking users to pay a higher percentage of maintenance and programs through the fees that are charged for these services. This requires a strong fee for service philosophy and solid fee policies. This can also include sponsorships, permit fees for vendors, cell tower leases, concessions agreements, and other fees.

*Amenity Development* – Some cities target recreation amenity development that is usually done through a partnership with a private or non-profit agency to build and operate amenities such as a wedding/event center. These are amenities that have the ability to generate a strong positive cash flow and are used to help fund other aspects of operation.

### State and National Tax Sources

Many states have tax funding that is available through grant programs and other sources for certain programs and facilities.

Some of the state funding sources include:

*Outdoor Recreation Grant Program* – Utilized to increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks throughout the state.

*Parks & Trails Legacy Grant Program* – Funds parks and trails of regional significance.

*Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board* – Can fund projects that support arts, culture, history, tourism, and recreational activities, enhance the quality of life in the region and attract visitors.

Some of the national funding mechanisms include.

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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*Land Water Conservation Fund* – The LWCF funds a variety of outdoor parks and amenities through their grant process.

*Community Development Block Grant* – CDBG funds can also be utilized to develop and maintain parks and recreation amenities and provide services in lower income areas of a community.

There are other federal sources including the National Recreational Trails Program and Design Arts Program to name a few.

### Non-Tax Sources

Many communities now try to expand capital and operations funding with other non-tax sources. A few are noted below.

*Parks Foundation* – Many cities have established a parks and recreation foundation, 501(C)3, to provide a way for individuals and corporations to provide donations to fund parks and recreation facilities and programs. This also increases eligibility for certain grants. Often the city council will serve as the actual board, or they appoint others to the board.

*Grants* – There are a wide variety of grants from foundations and corporations that can fund certain aspects of a facility's development or specialized programs. These often require the services of a contract grant writer.

*Fundraising* – A possible source of capital funding can come from a comprehensive fundraising campaign. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals and social service organizations can be targeted. To maximize this form of funding a private fundraising consultant may be necessary.

*Naming Rights and Sponsorships* – Although not nearly as lucrative as for large stadiums and other similar facilities, the sale of naming rights and long-term sponsorships could be a source of some capital funding as well. It is often necessary to hire a specialist in selling naming rights and sponsorships if this revenue source is to be maximized to its fullest potential. No lifetime naming rights should be sold, only 20-year maximum rights should be possible. Determining the level of financial contribution necessary to gain a naming right is crucial.

*Endowment Fund* – This form of operational funding is relatively rare as it requires a large fund balance to establish an annual operational endowment level of any magnitude.

### Other

*Partnerships* – This funding source can be leveraged by partnering with a variety of organizations to manage facilities and provide programs and other services. This requires a strong partnership agreement to be in place.

*Sponsorships* – There has been a really strong effort nationally to establish comprehensive sponsorship programs for recreation facilities, programs, and services. This has been particularly

## Hibbing Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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beneficial for special events and for senior activities. This has required the development of a detailed sponsorship program to be effective.

*Ground Lease of Property* – In communities where it has been difficult to fund new parks and recreation facilities, cities have issued low fee ground leases to private and non-profit organizations to build and operate facilities that will benefit the recreation needs of residents. This has included a number of specialty facilities.

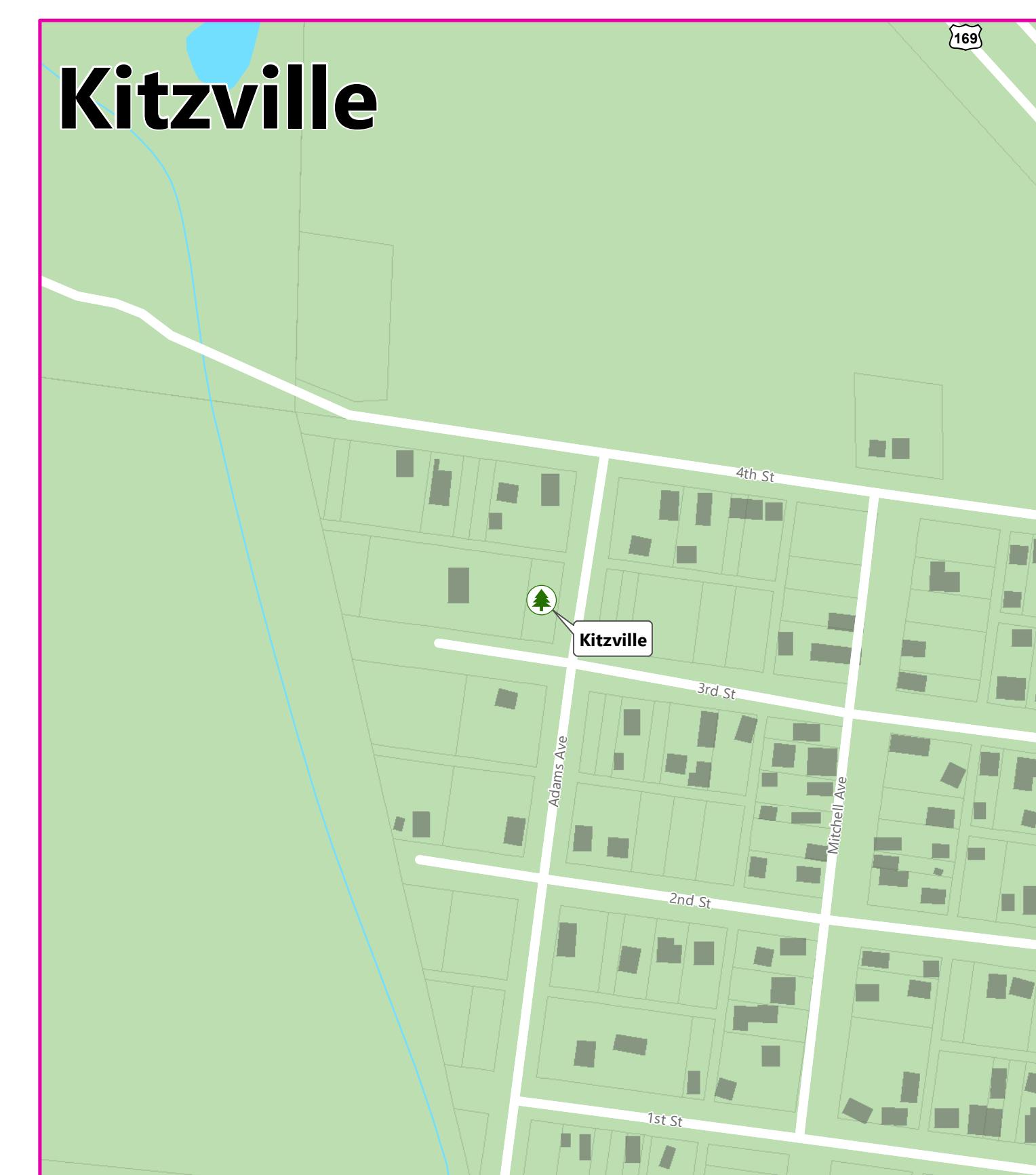
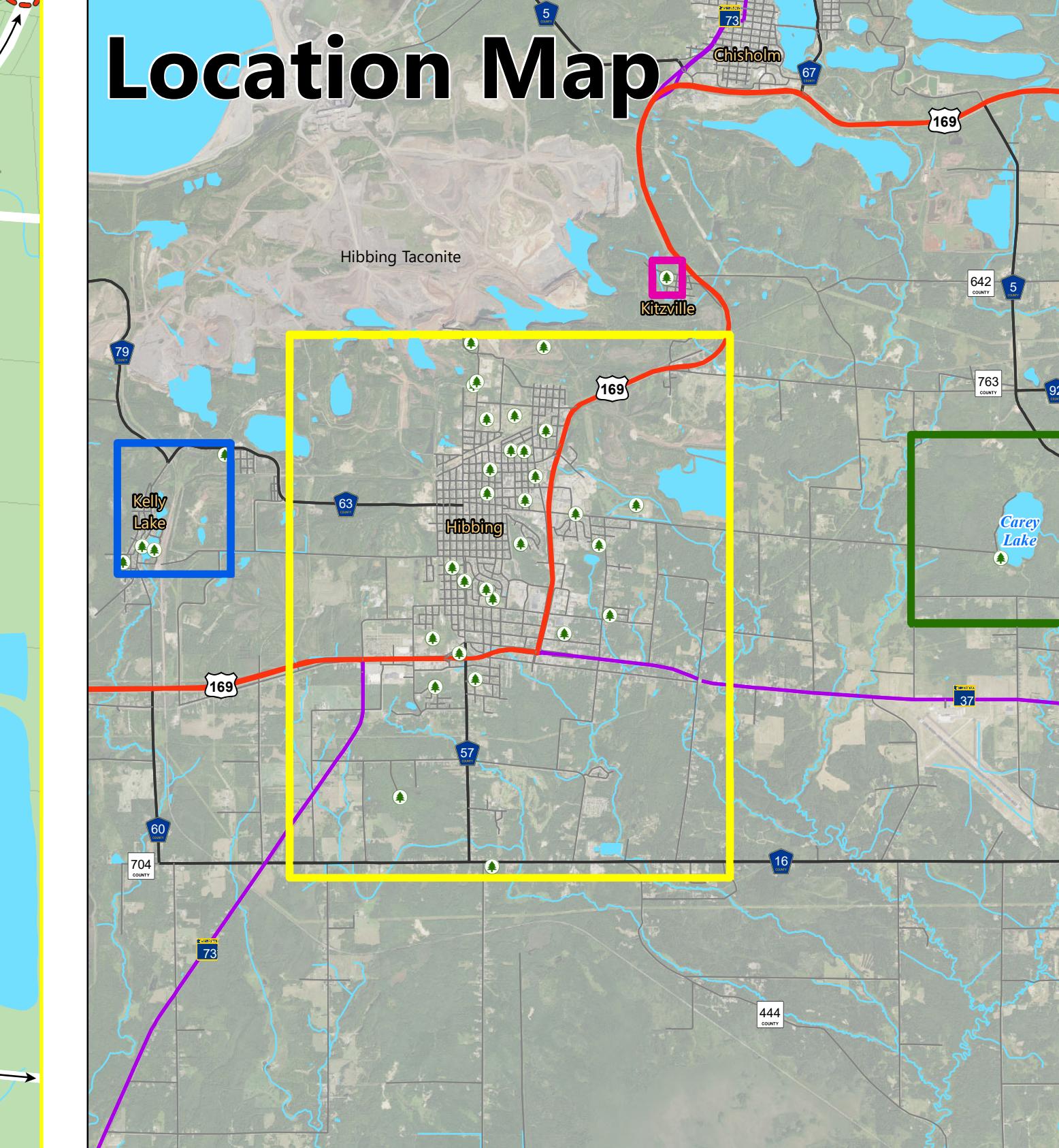
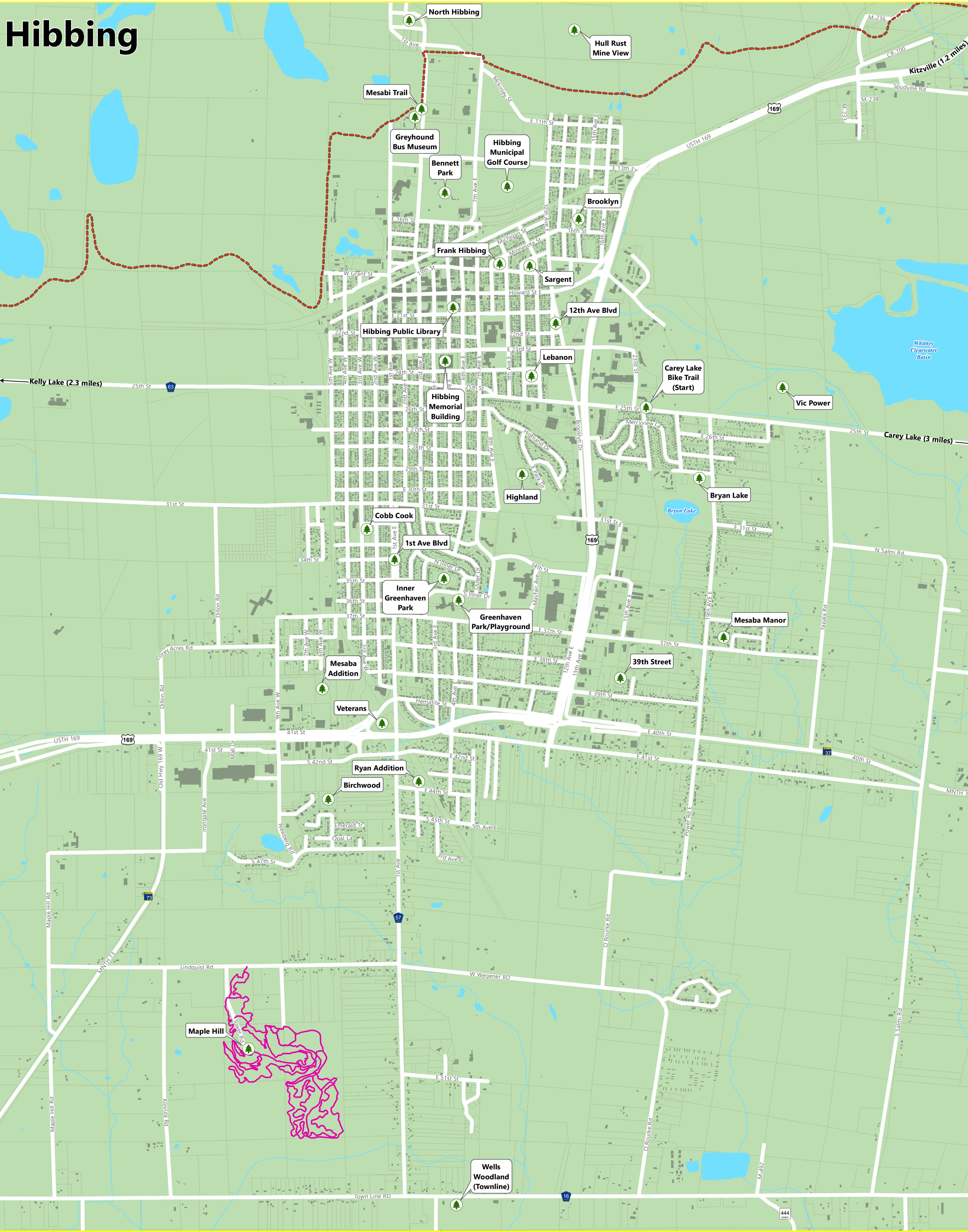
## Appendix E

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### Overall Parks Map



# Hibbing



ID	Park Site	Acres	Play Structures	Swings	Benches	Garbage Cans	Picnic Tables	Basketball Hoops	Parking Lot	ID	Park Site	Acres	Play Structures	Swings	Benches	Garbage Cans	Picnic Tables	Basketball Hoops	Parking Lot
1	39th Street	2.2	No	No	No	No	No	2	No	19	Kelly Lake Dock	N/A	No	No	1	N/A	N/A	Yes	
2	1st Ave Blvd	1.5	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	20	Kelly Lake Park	4.1	Yes	2 sets	4	3	3	3	No
3	12th Ave Blvd	0.5	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	21	Kitzville	0.5	Yes	2 sets	No	No	1	2	No
5	Bennett Park	38	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	22	Lebanon	1.5	No	No	1	No	No	No	No
6	Birchwood	3.8	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	23	Leetonia	1	No	1 set	No	No	No	No	No
7	Brooklyn	1.1	Yes	1 set	1	1	1	1	Yes	24	Maple Hill	134	No	No	1	2	1	N/A	Yes
8	Bryan Lake	54	Yes	2 sets	No	1	1	1	Yes	25	Mesaba Addition	5	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
9	Carey Lake	1139.25	No	No	2	10	22	N/A	Yes	26	Mesaba Manor	1.12	Yes	1 set	1	1	N/A	N/A	No
10	Carey Lake Bike Trail	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	27	Mesabi Trail	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
11	Cobb Cook	5.2	Yes	2 sets	2	No	2	No	No	28	Municipal Golf Course - 9 holes	36	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
12	Frank Hibbing	1.3	No	No	1	1	No	No	No	29	North Hibbing	25	No	No	7	4	13	No	No
13	Greenhaven Park/Playground	4	Yes	1	No	No	1	No	No	30	Ryan Addition	1.9	Yes	1 set	No	1	No	No	No
14	Inner Greenhaven Park	3	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	31	Sargent	1.4	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
15	Greyhounds Bus Museum	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	32	Veterans	5.1	No	No	1	2	1	No	Yes
16	Highland	4.2	No	No	No	No	No	2	No	33	Vic Power	134	Yes	1 set	No	Many	Many	No	Yes
17	Kelly Lake View	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	34	Wells Woodland (Townline)	2.8	Yes	1 set	No	4	N/A	N/A	Yes
										N/A	Hibbing Memorial Building	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

# Hibbing Park Facilities

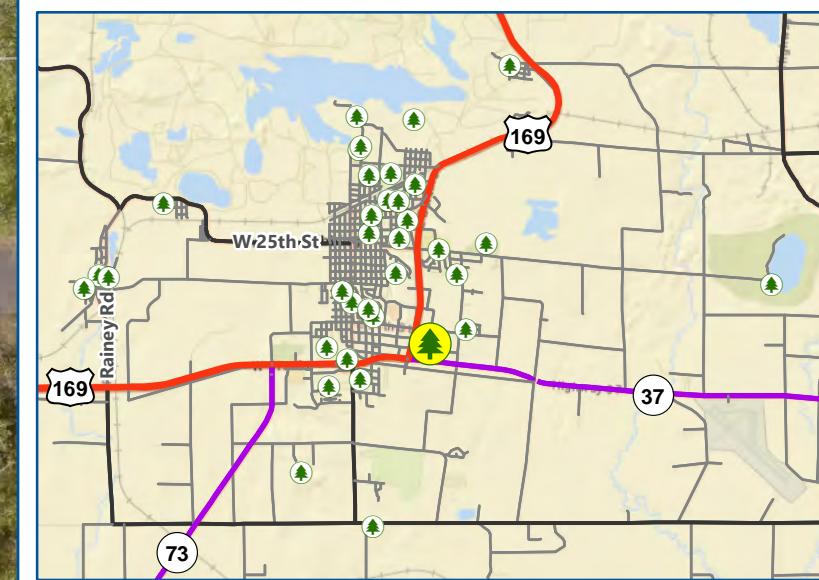
- Hibbing Park Facilities
- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Building Footprint

## Appendix F

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# Individual Park Maps

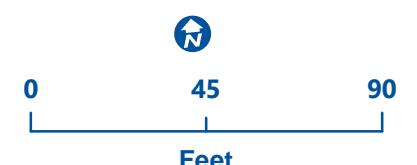




- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	39th Street
<b>Address:</b>	3815 16th Ave E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0108-00080
<b>Acres:</b>	2.3

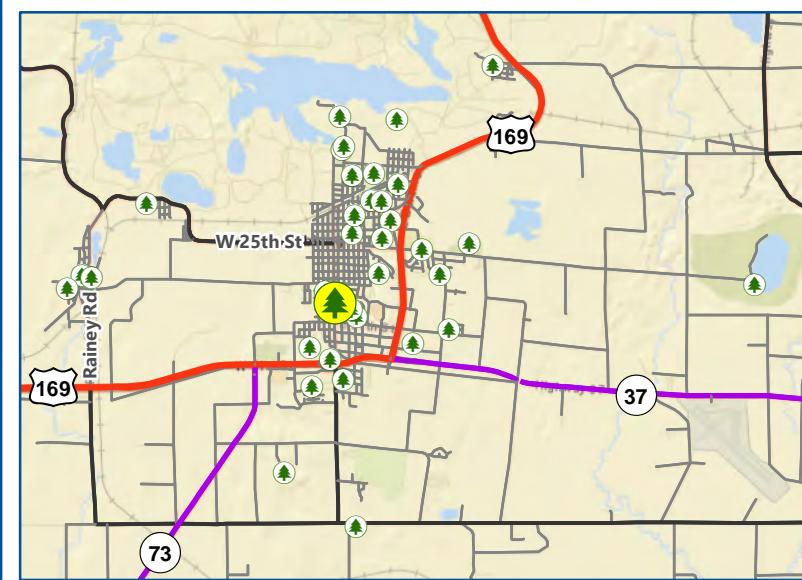
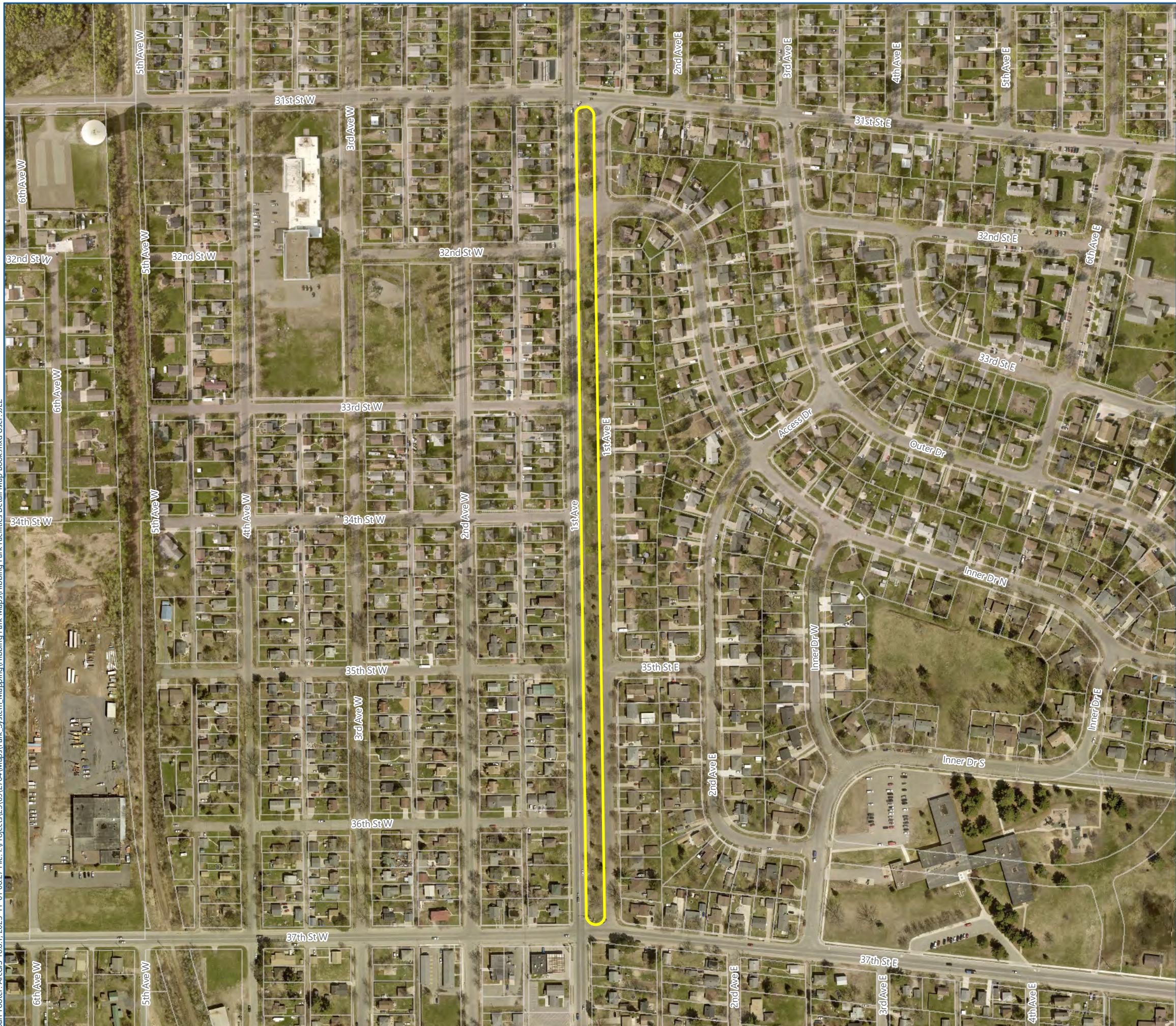


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



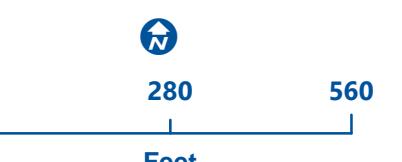
39th Street



-  Carey Lake Trails
-  Waterbody
-  Maple Hill Trails
-  Park Boundary\*
-  Mesabi Trail
-  Property Boundary\*\*
-  Stream

## Hibbing Park Facility Information

<u>Park Site:</u>	1st Ave Blvd
<u>Address:</u>	along 1st ave from 31st E to 37th St E
<u>Parcel ID:</u>	--
<u>Acres:</u>	3.1

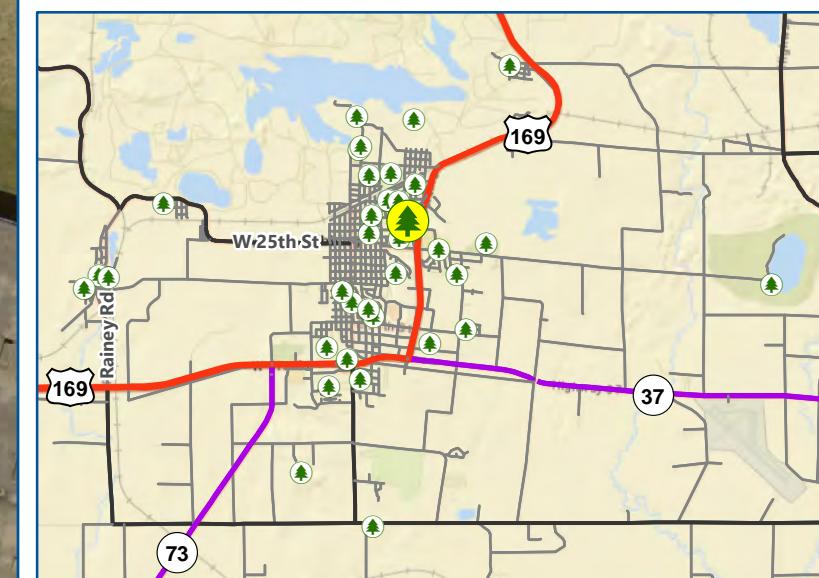


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only.

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County.



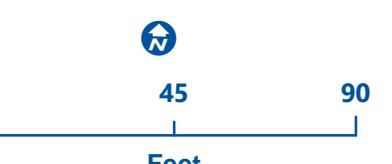
## 1st Ave Blvd



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	12th Ave Blvd
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.42556; Longitude: -92.92676
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0080-00820
<b>Acres:</b>	0.4



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

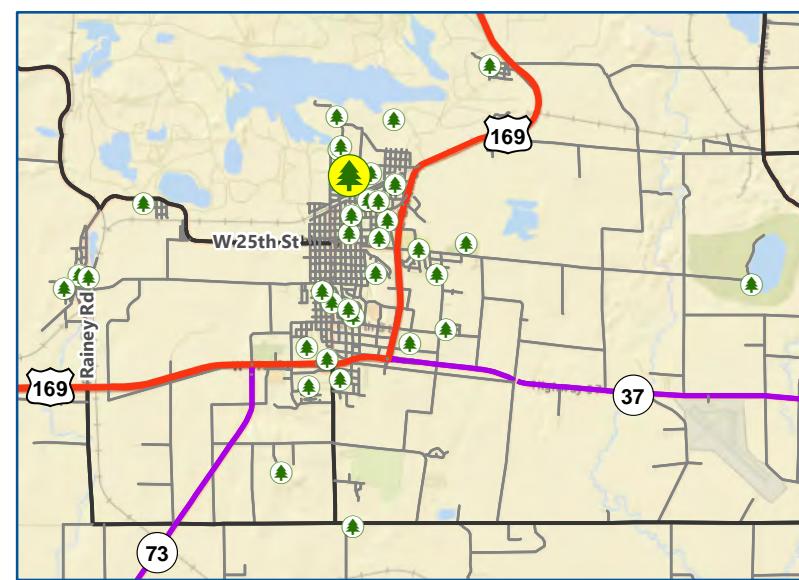
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



12th Ave Blvd

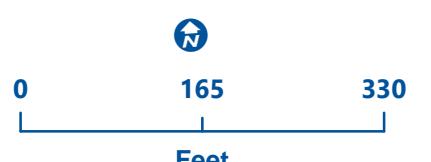


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#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Bennett Park
<b>Address:</b>	505 16th St E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00400
<b>Acres:</b>	41



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

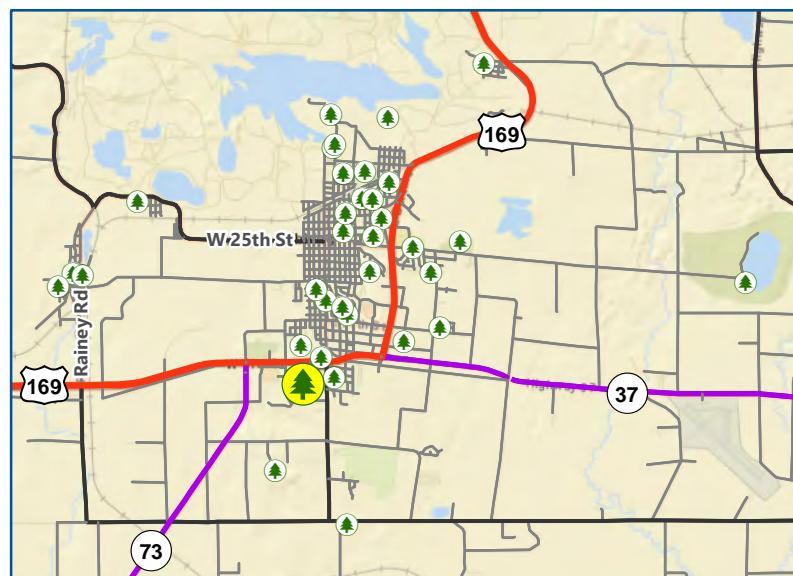
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Bennett Park**



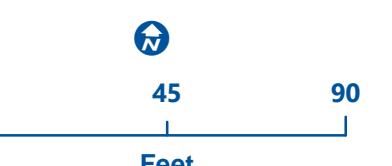
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- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Birchwood Park
<b>Address:</b>	Next to: 4518 5th Ave W
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	139-0050-04765
<b>Acres:</b>	3.8

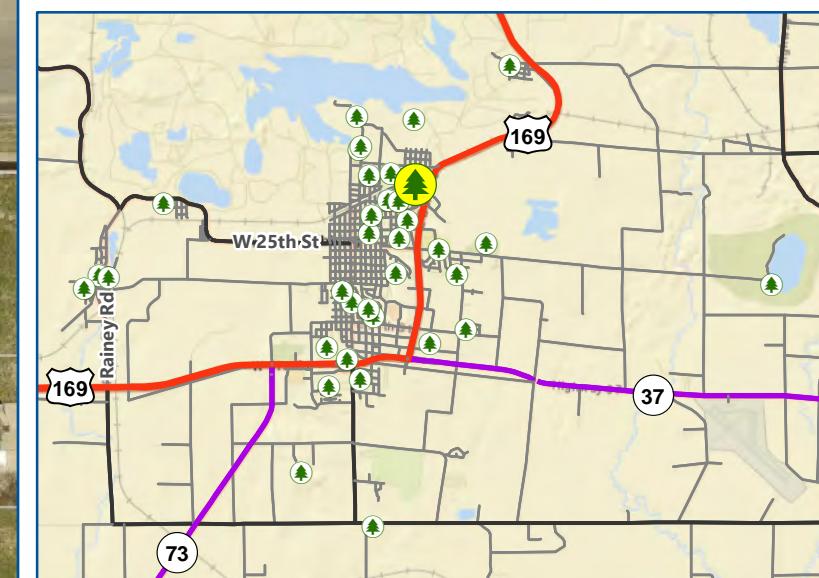
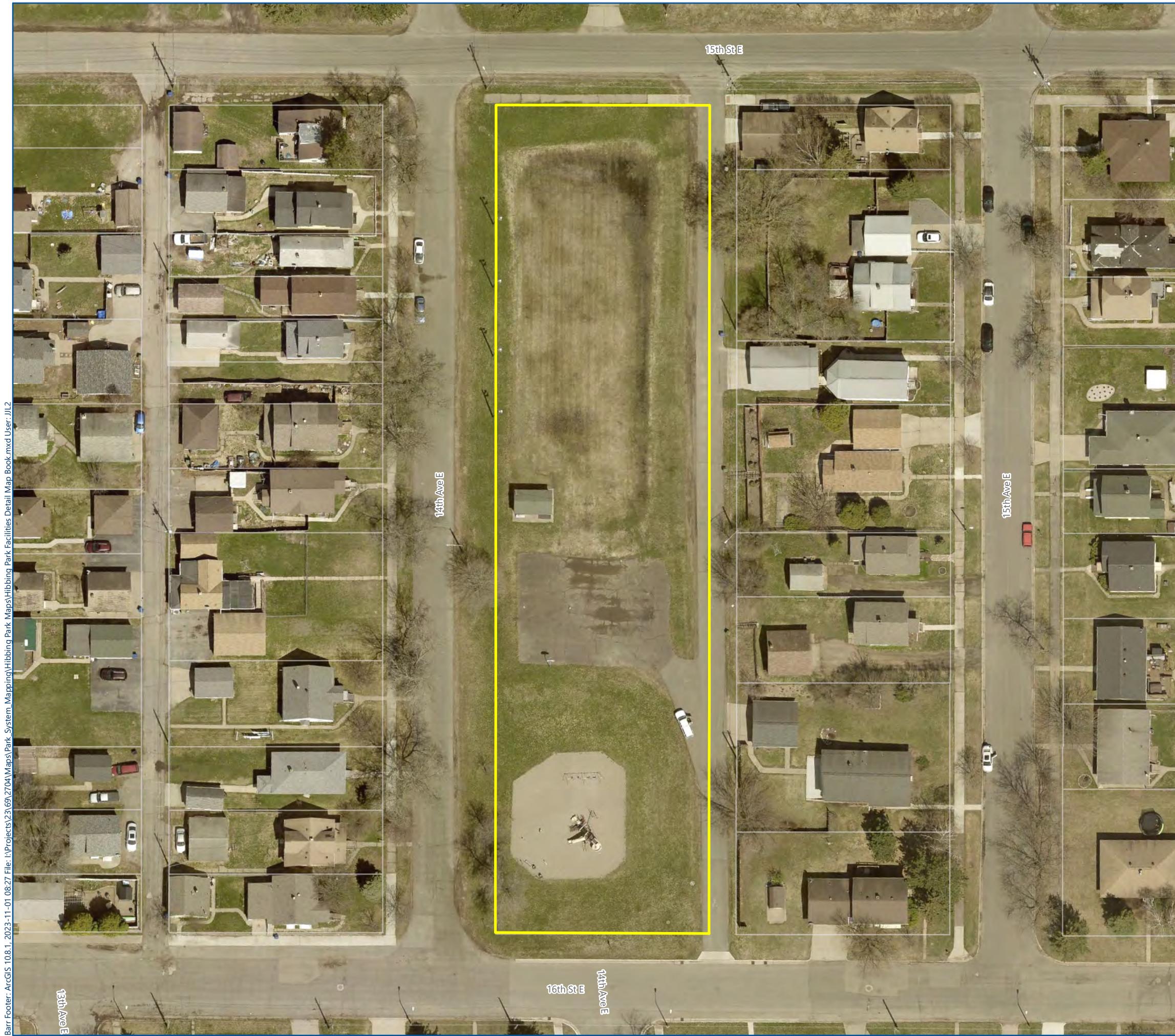


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



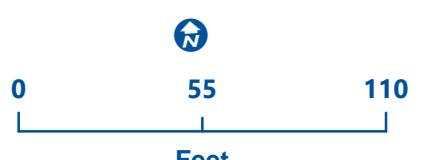
**Birchwood Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Waterbody

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Brooklyn Park
<b>Address:</b>	1603 16th St E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0060-02900
<b>Acres:</b>	1.4

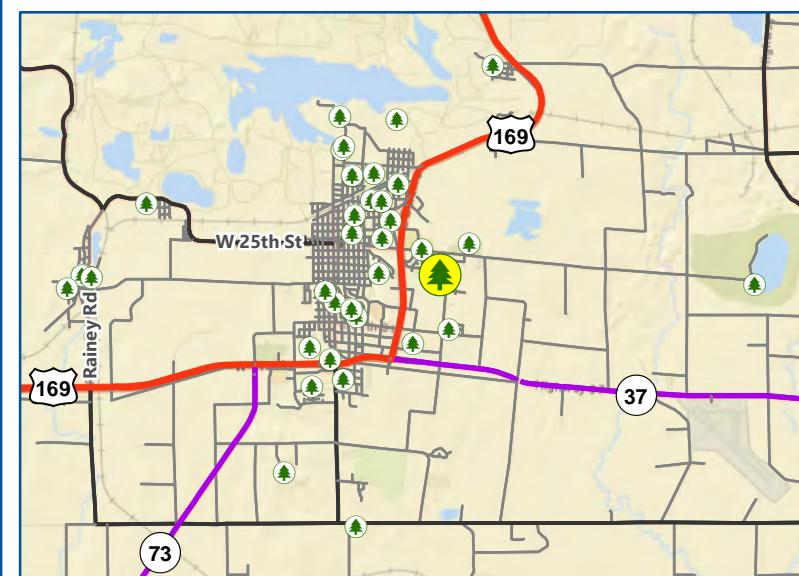


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



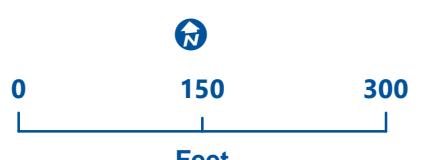
Brooklyn Park



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Bryan Lake
<b>Address:</b>	next to 1802 28th St E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00860
<b>Acres:</b>	33.8

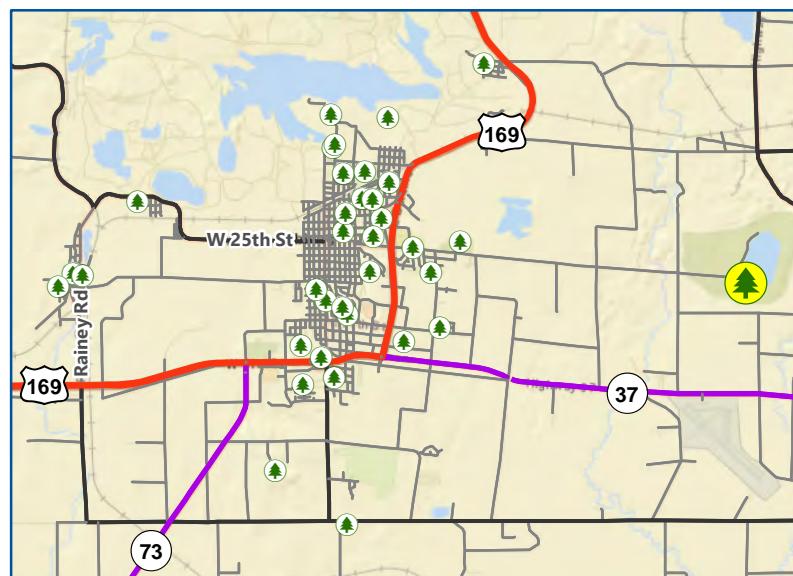


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Bryan Lake**



Legend:

- Carey Lake Trails (Yellow wavy line)
- Maple Hill Trails (Pink wavy line)
- Mesabi Trail (Red dashed line)
- Waterbody (Blue blob)
- Park Boundary\* (Yellow box)
- Property Boundary\*\* (White box)
- Stream (Blue line)

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Carey Lake
<b>Address:</b>	Starts next to 11111 Dupont Rd
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	--
<b>Acres:</b>	1219.2

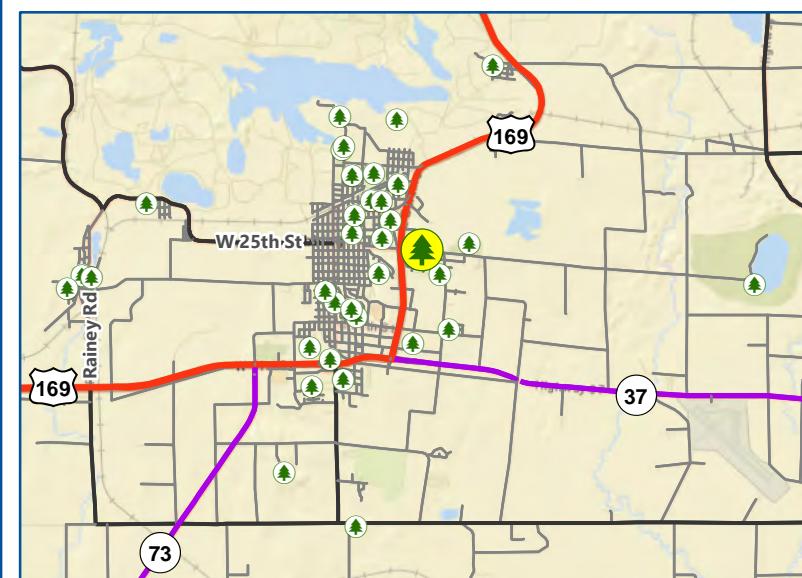
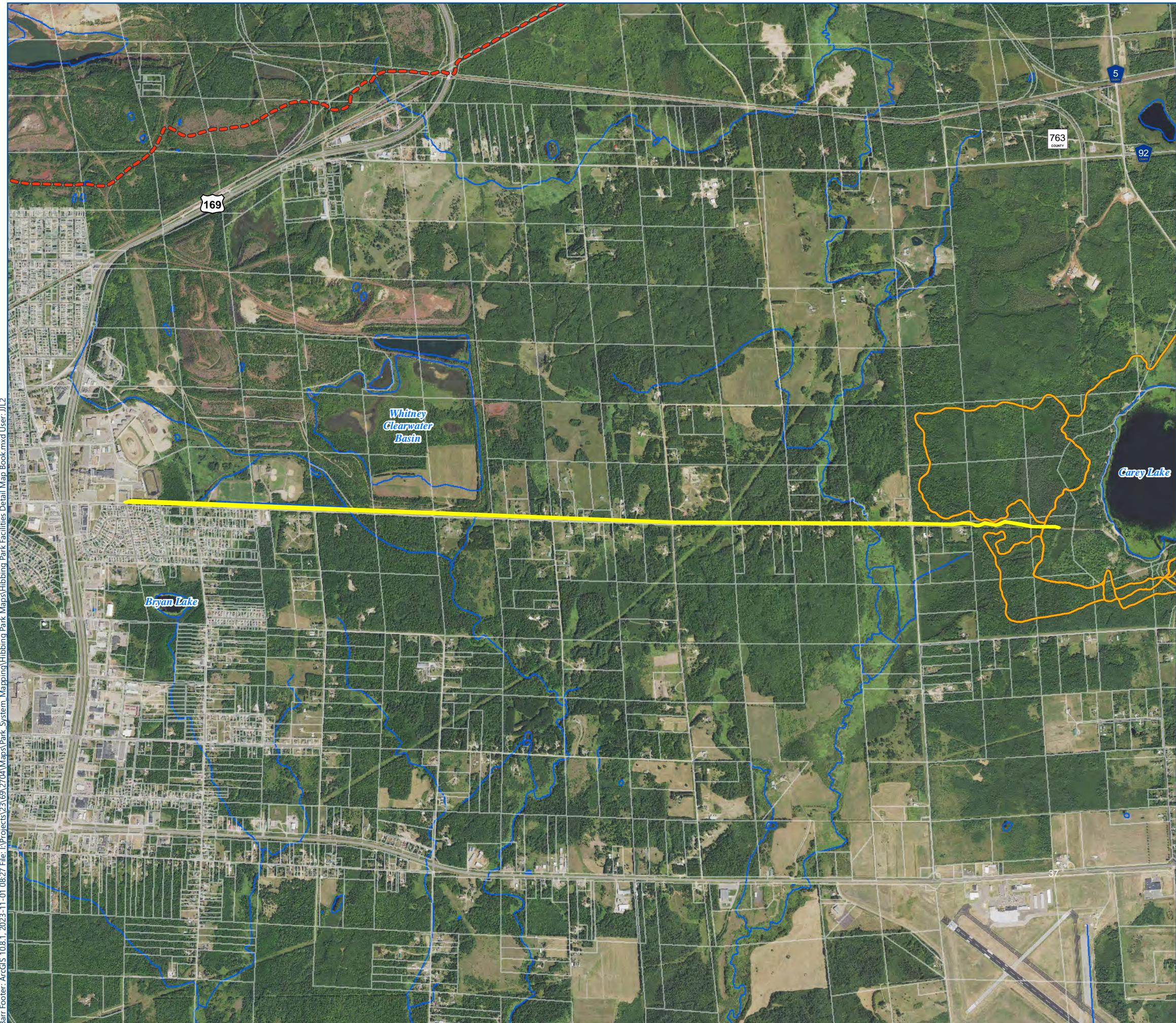
0 1,000 2,000  
Feet

\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Carey Lake



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Carey Lake Bike Trail
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.41808; Longitude: -92.8833
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	--
<b>Acres:</b>	



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

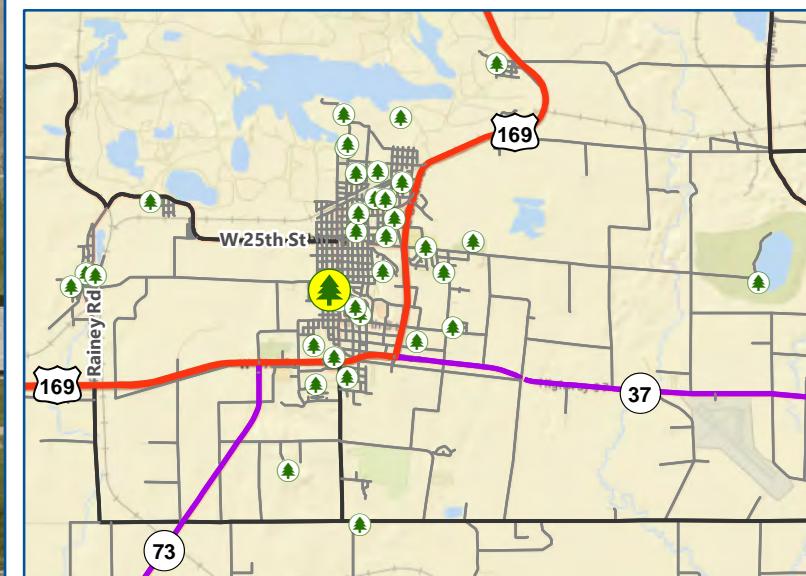
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Carey Lake Bike Trail**



Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\23\6912704\Maps\Park System Mapping\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Cobb Cook Park
<b>Address:</b>	262 32nd St W
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0010-01120
<b>Acres:</b>	2.4

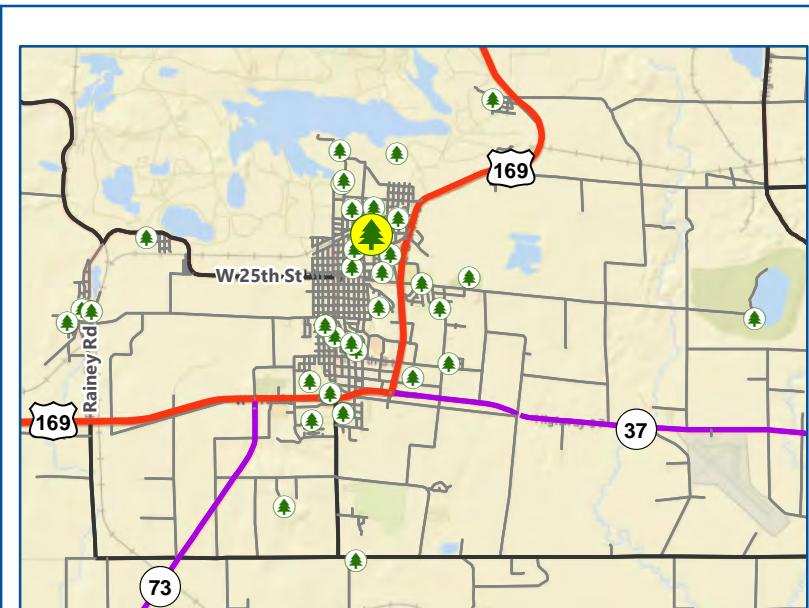


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



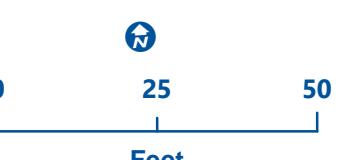
**Cobb Cook Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Frank Hibbing Park
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.42931; Longitude: -92.93184
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0220-02190
<b>Acres:</b>	1.3



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

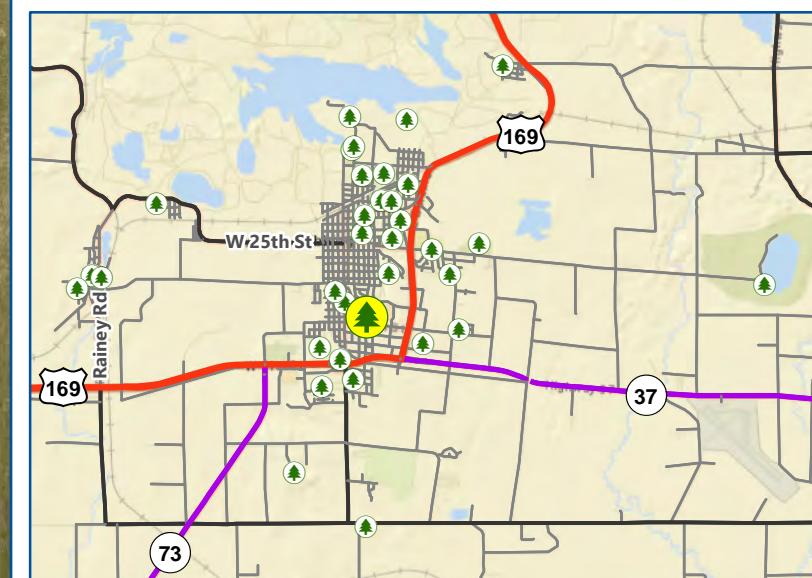
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Frank Hibbing Park

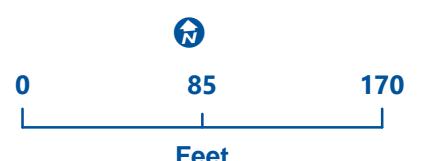


Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\23\6912704\Maps\Park System Mapping\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Greenhaven Park
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.40806; Longitude: -92.93458
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	101-0098-02325
<b>Acres:</b>	2.5



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

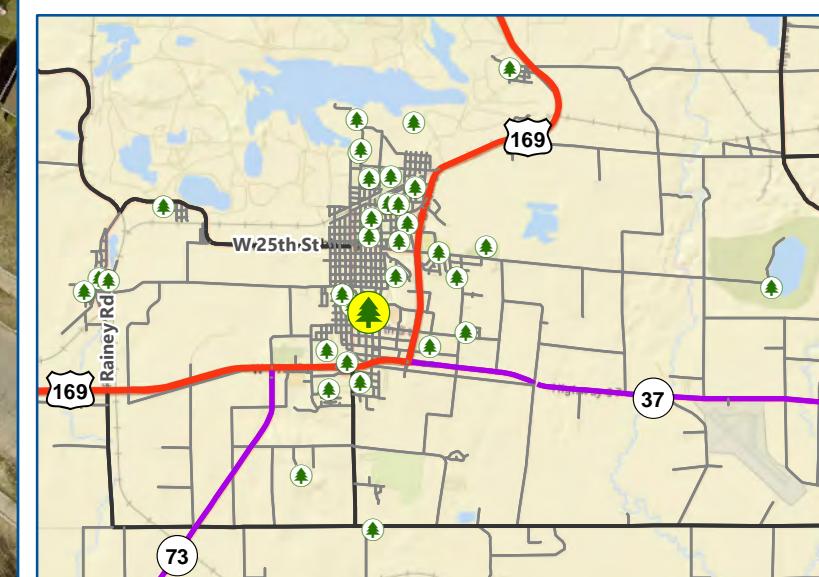
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Greenhaven Park



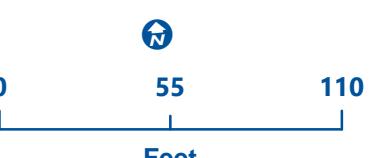
Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\236912704\Maps\Park System Mapping\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Inner Greenhaven Park
<b>Address:</b>	In-between Inner Dr S and Inner Dr North
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0098-02310
<b>Acres:</b>	3.8



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

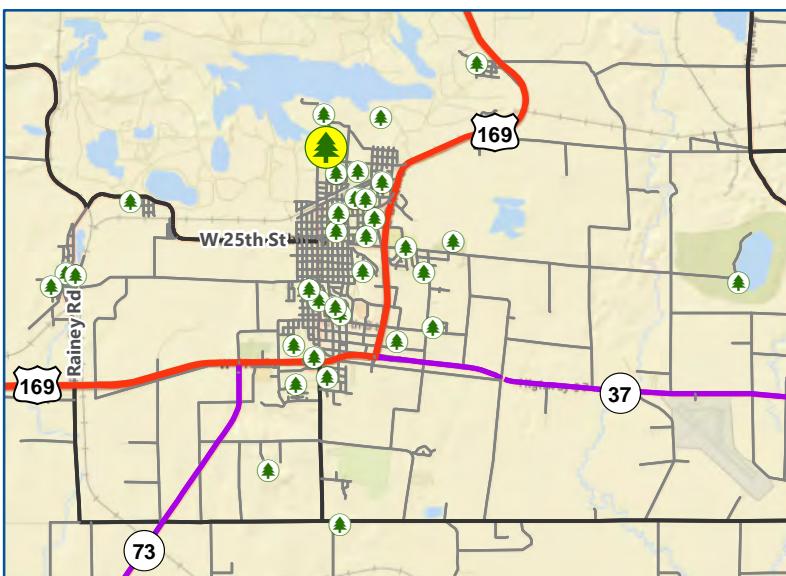
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Inner Greenhaven Park



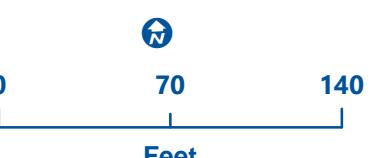
Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\236912704\Maps\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Greyhound Bus Museum
<b>Address:</b>	1201 Greyhound Blvd
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00362
<b>Acres:</b>	9.3

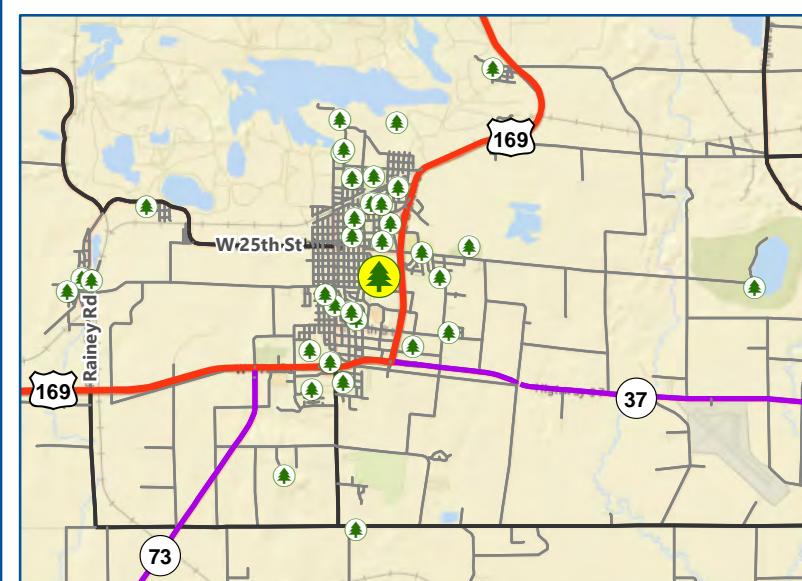


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



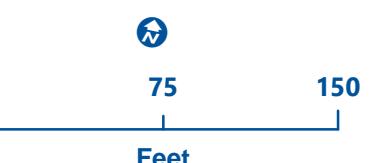
Greyhound Bus Museum



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Highland Park
<b>Address:</b>	Next to: 307 Park Dr E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00816
<b>Acres:</b>	4.2

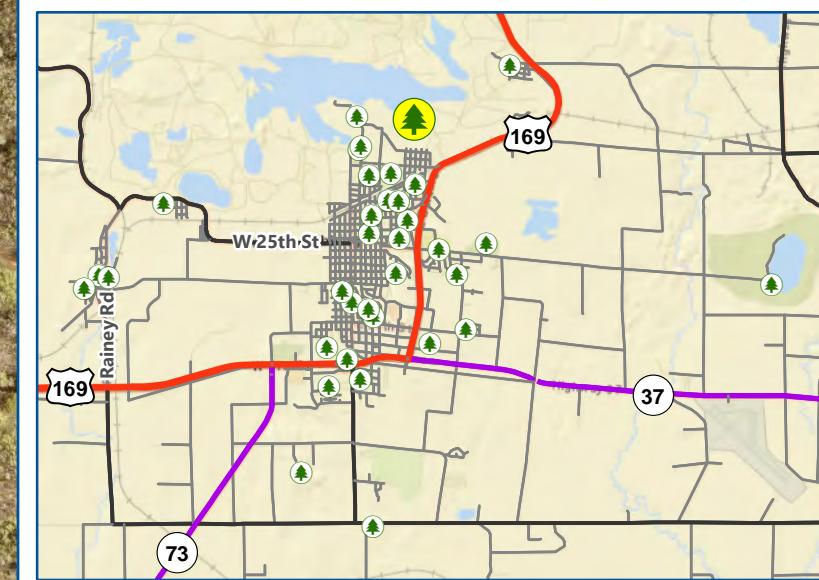


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



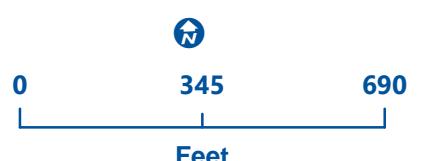
Highland Park



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Hull Rust Mine View
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.44211; Longitude: -92.92762
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00260
<b>Acres:</b>	182.3

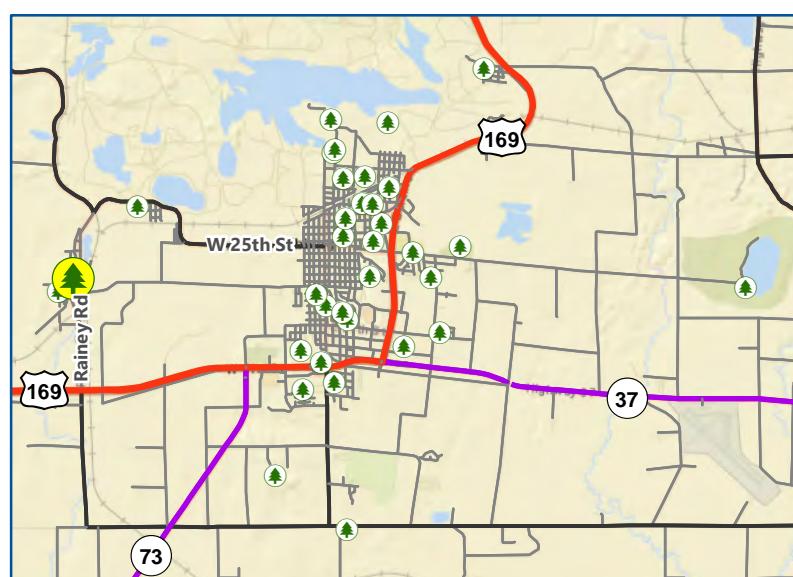


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



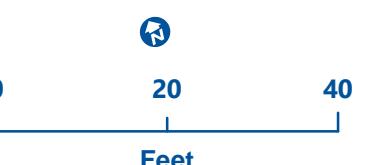
Hull Rust Mine View



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Waterbody

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Kelly Lake Beach
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.41594; Longitude: -93.0078
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0195-00070
<b>Acres:</b>	0.3

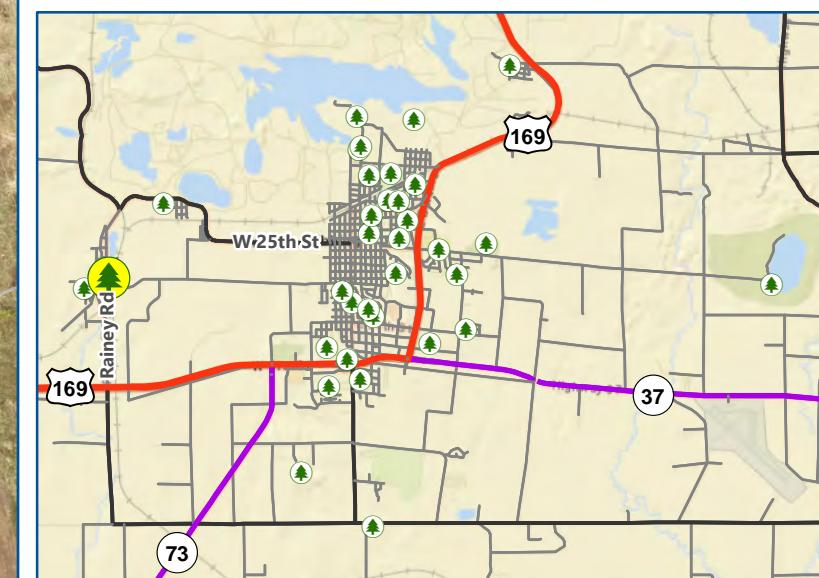


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



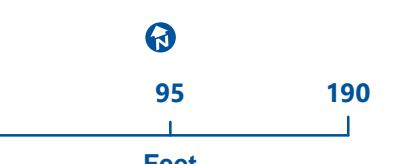
**Kelly Lake Beach**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Kelly Lake Dock
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.41409; Longitude: -93.00688
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0050-02490
<b>Acres:</b>	0.2

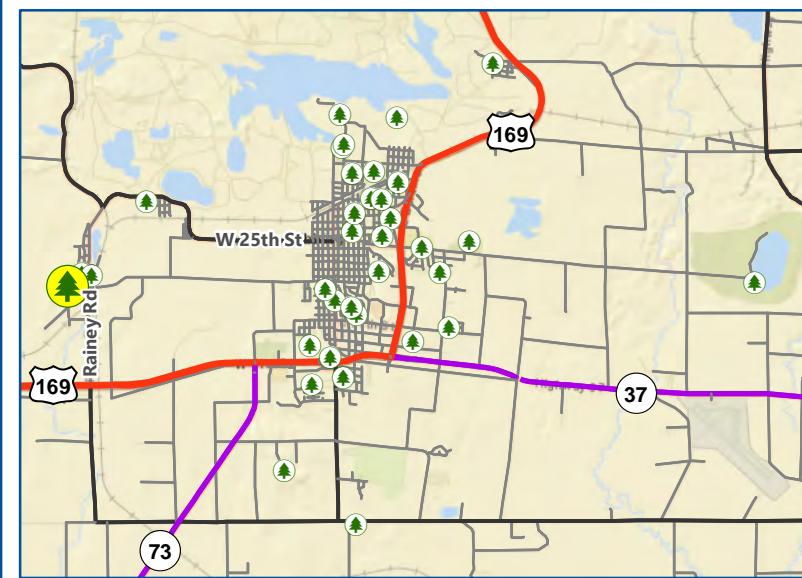
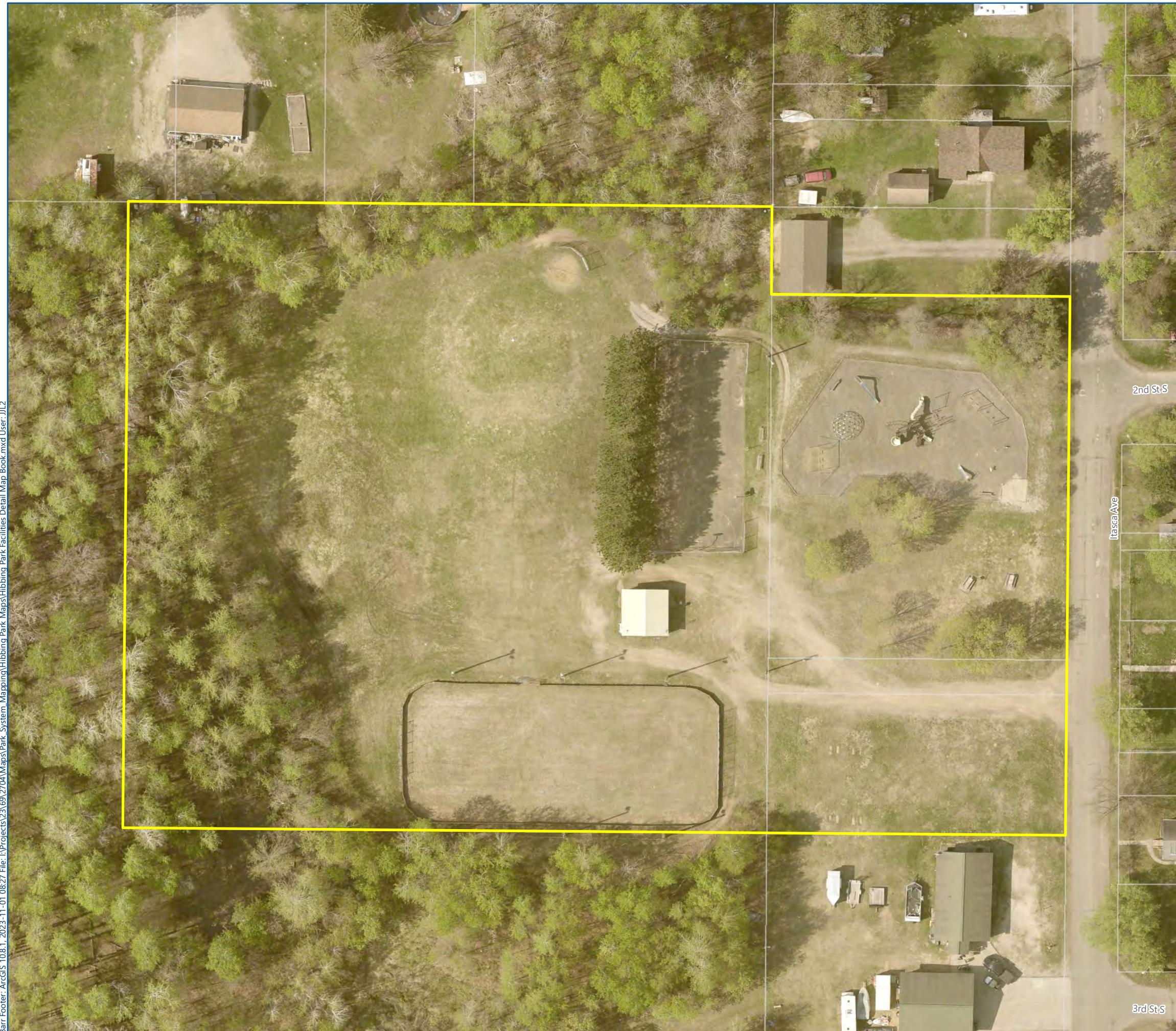


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



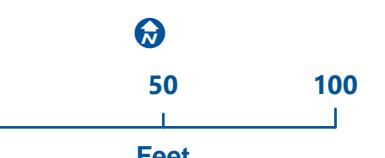
**Kelly Lake Dock**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Kelly Lake Park
<b>Address:</b>	205 Itasca Ave
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0050-03597
<b>Acres:</b>	4.2

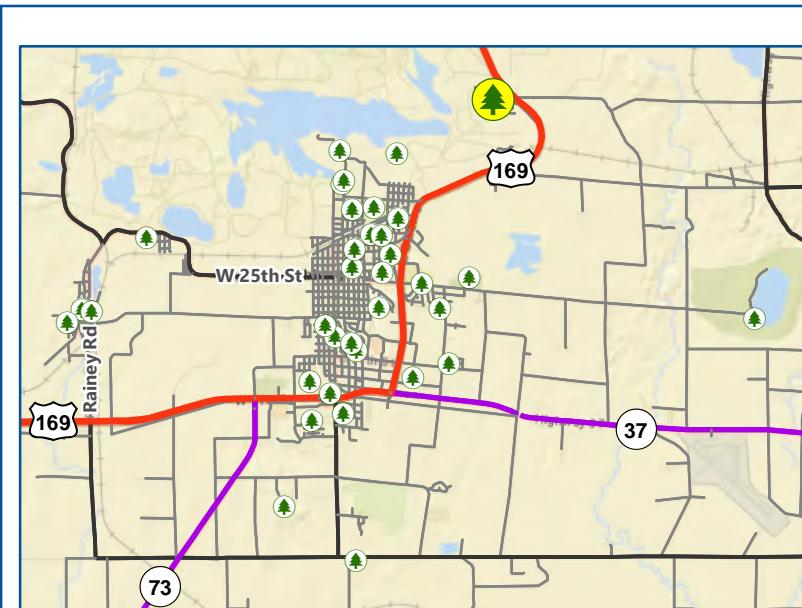


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Kelly Lake Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Kitzville Park
<b>Address:</b>	next to: 124 4th St
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0120-00680
<b>Acres:</b>	1



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

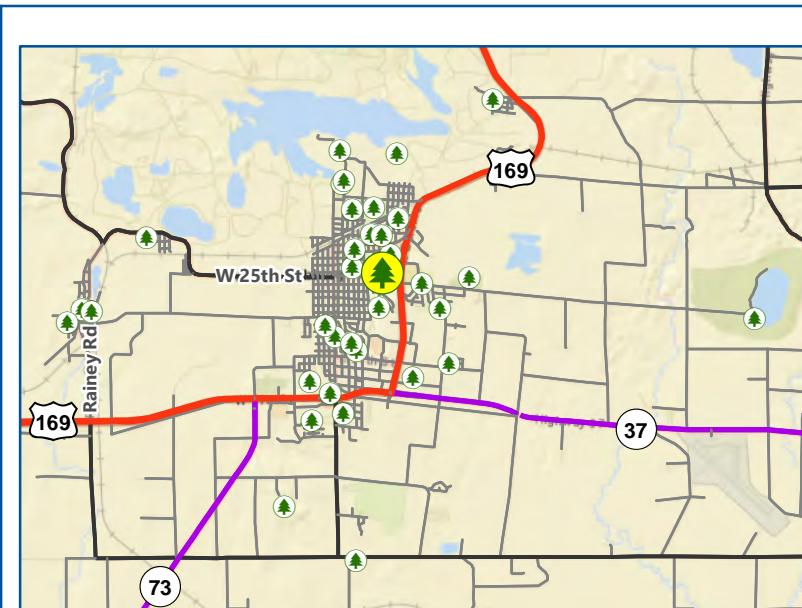
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Kitzville Park



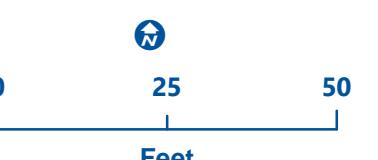
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- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Lebanon Park
<b>Address:</b>	Between 10th Ave E & 11 Ave E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0135-00760
<b>Acres:</b>	1.4

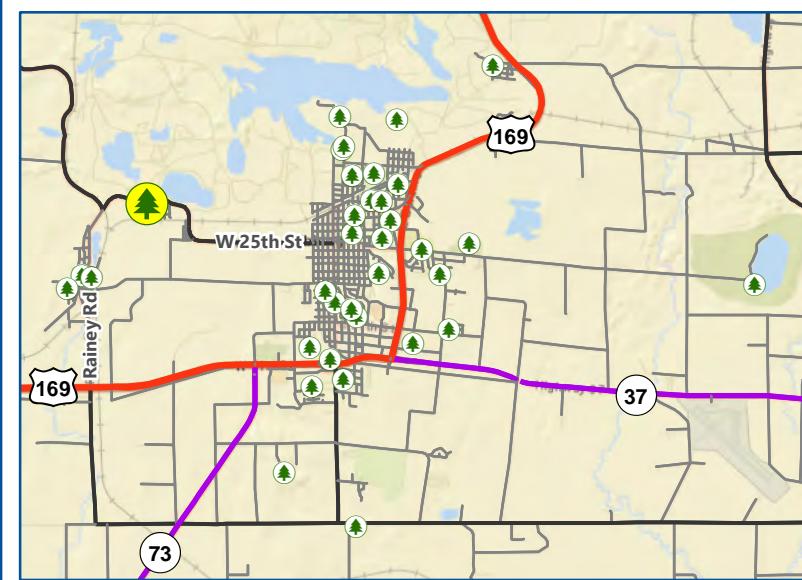


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



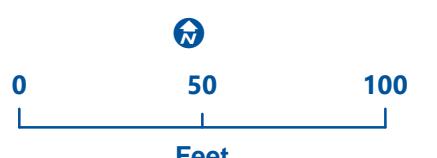
**Lebanon Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Leetonia Park
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.42873; Longitude: -92.99084
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0050-01965
<b>Acres:</b>	2.9

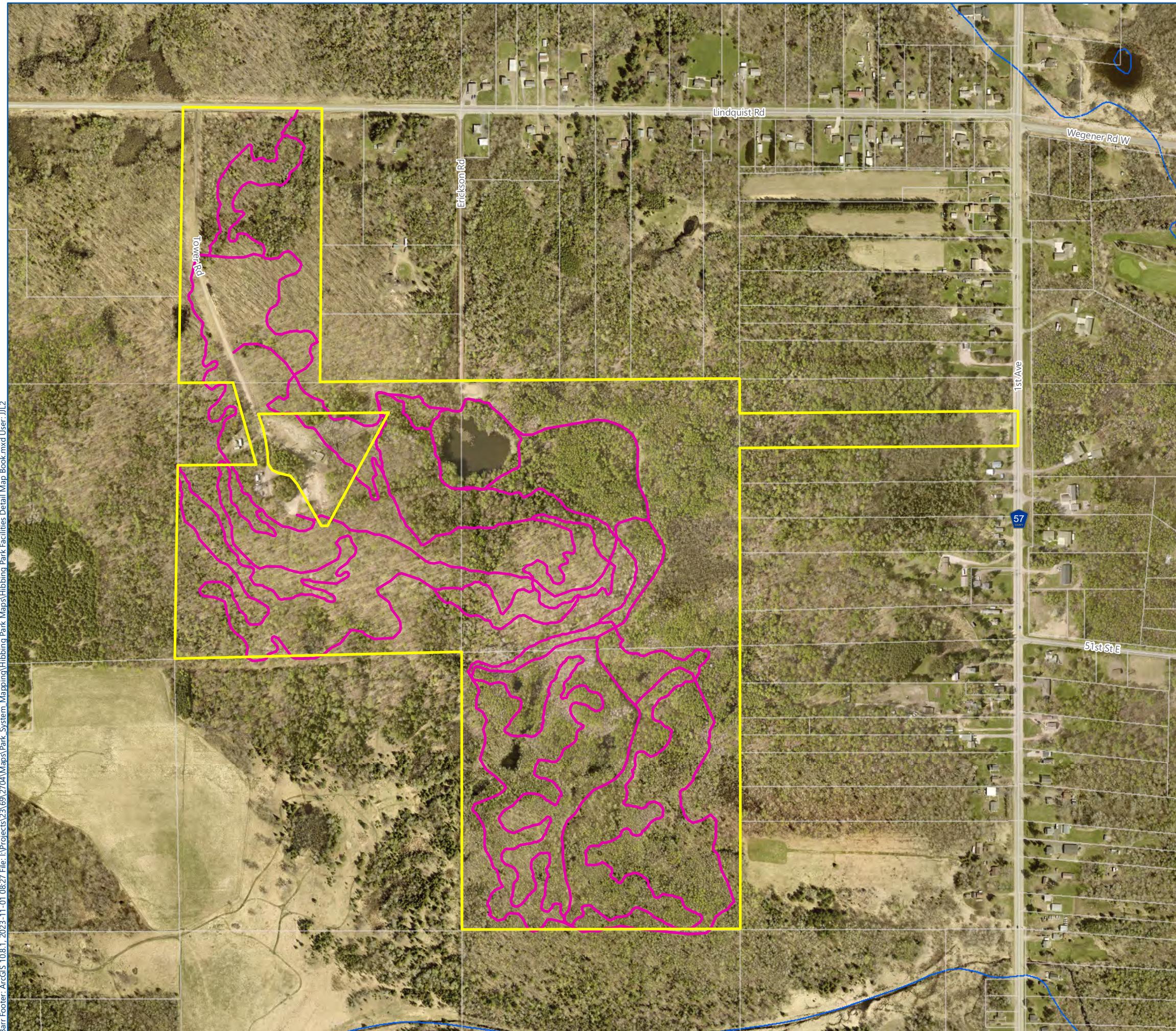


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

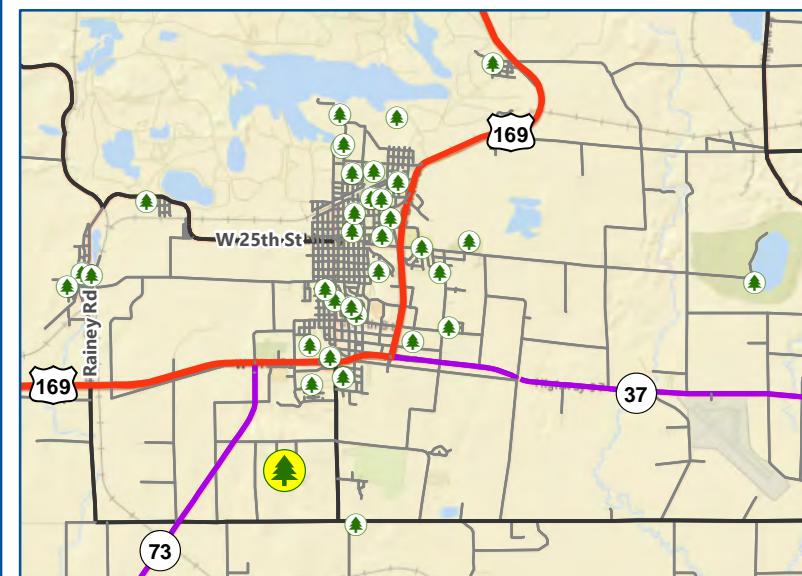
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Leetonia Park



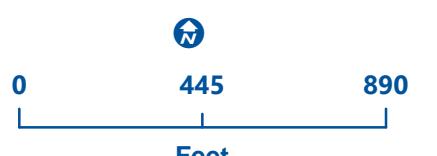
Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\236912704\Maps\Park System Mapping\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Maple Hill Park
<b>Address:</b>	3617 Tower Rd
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0050-07210
<b>Acres:</b>	137.2

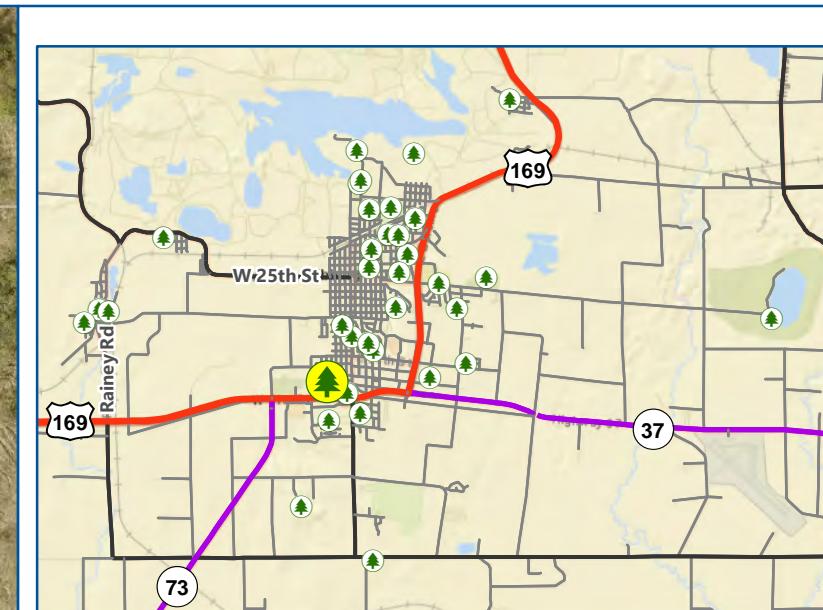


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



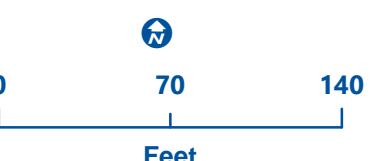
**Maple Hill Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Mesaba Addition
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.40305; Longitude: -92.94805
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	139-0050-04676
<b>Acres:</b>	4.9

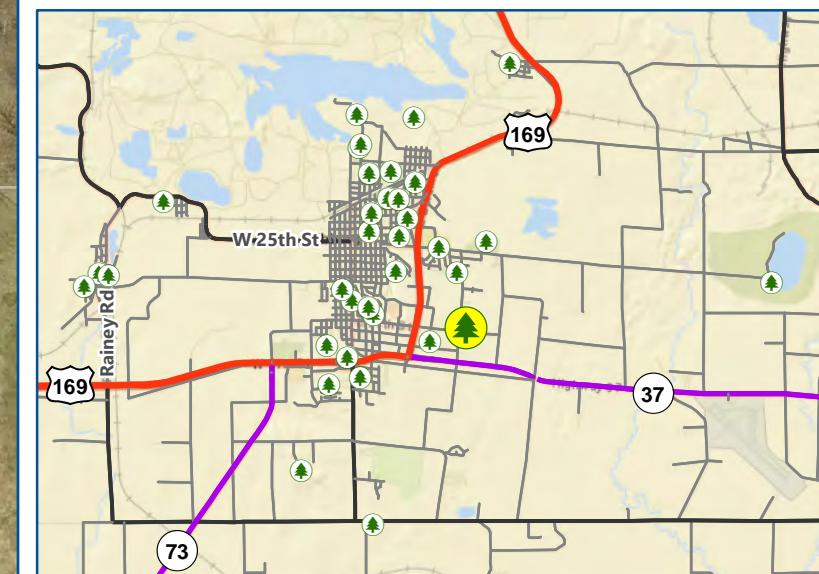


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Mesaba Addition**

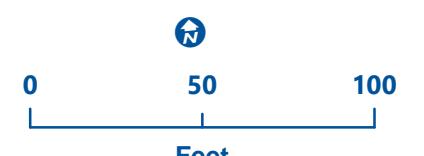


Legend:

- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Mesaba Manor Park
<b>Address:</b>	1915 37th st E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	--
<b>Acres:</b>	1.6

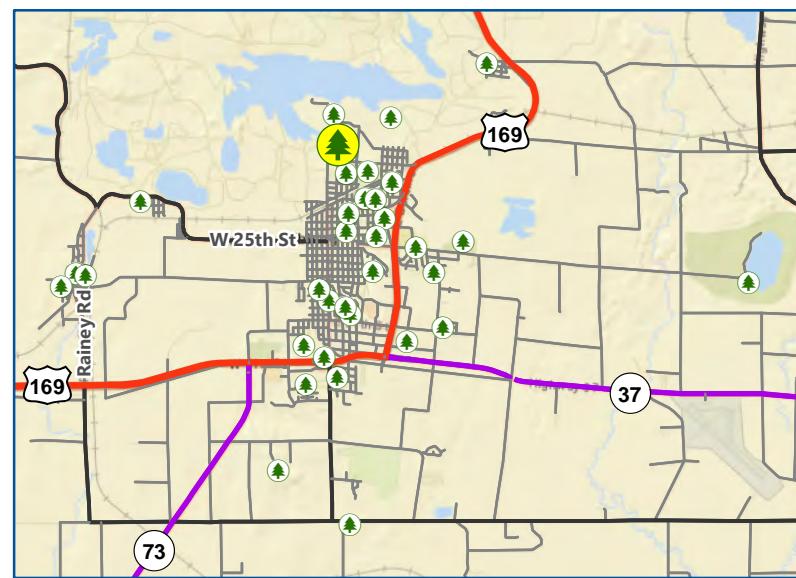
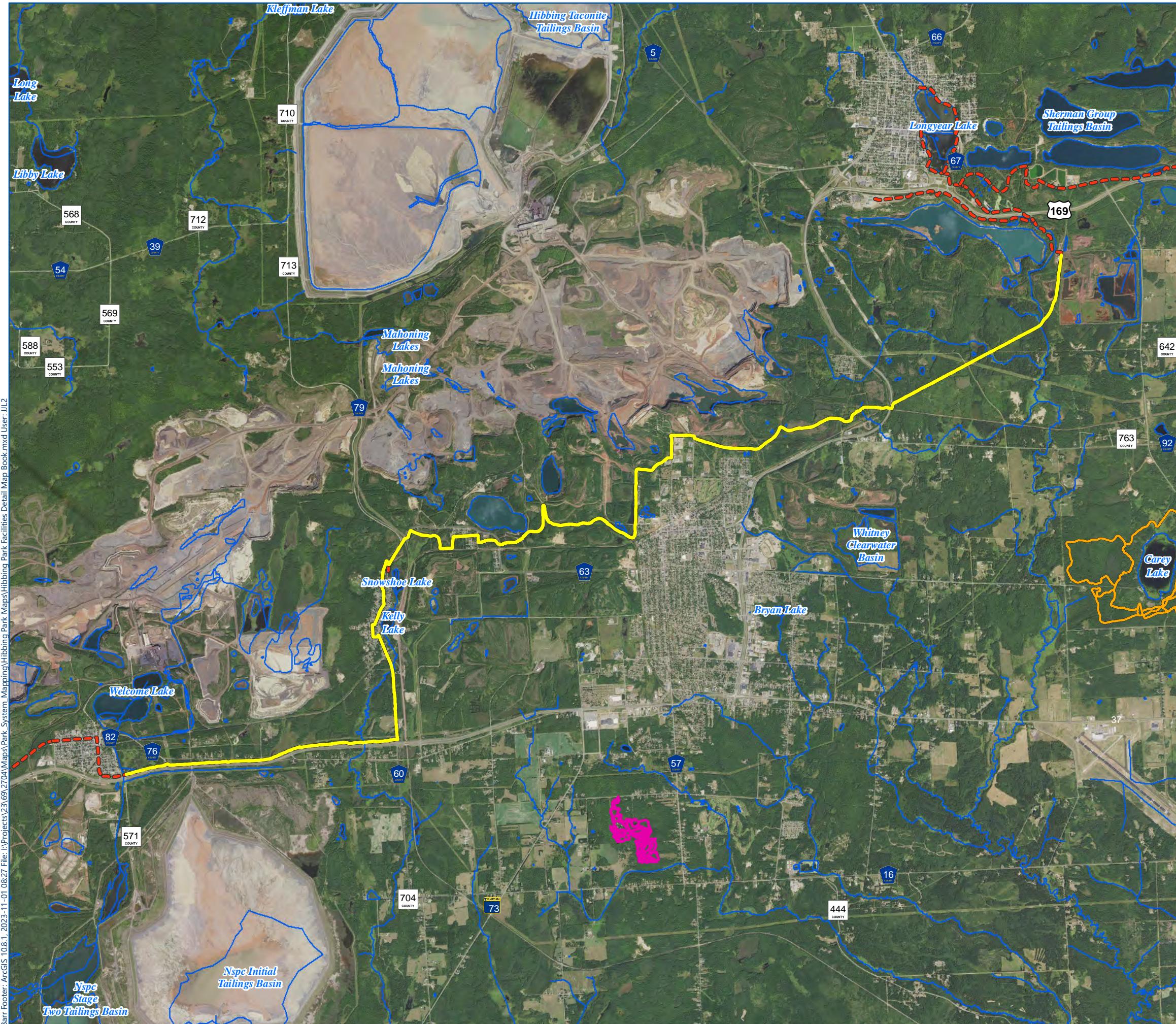


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Mesaba Manor Park**



- ~ Carey Lake Trails
- ~ Maple Hill Trails
- ~ Mesabi Trail
- ~ Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Mesabi Trail
<b>Address:</b>	Runs through Hibbing
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	--
<b>Acres:</b>	



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

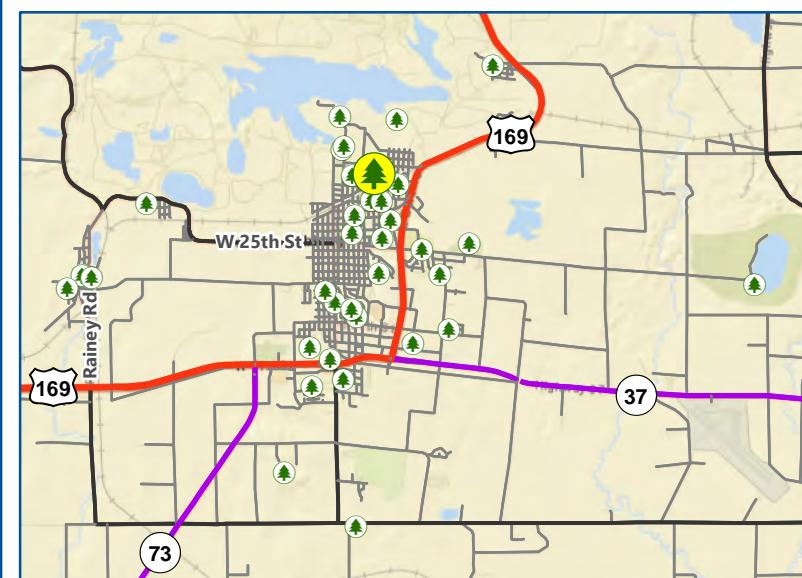
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Mesabi Trail**



Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\23\6912704\Maps\Park System Mapping\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Hibbing Municipal Golf Course
<b>Address:</b>	1524 7th Ave E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00390
<b>Acres:</b>	47.7

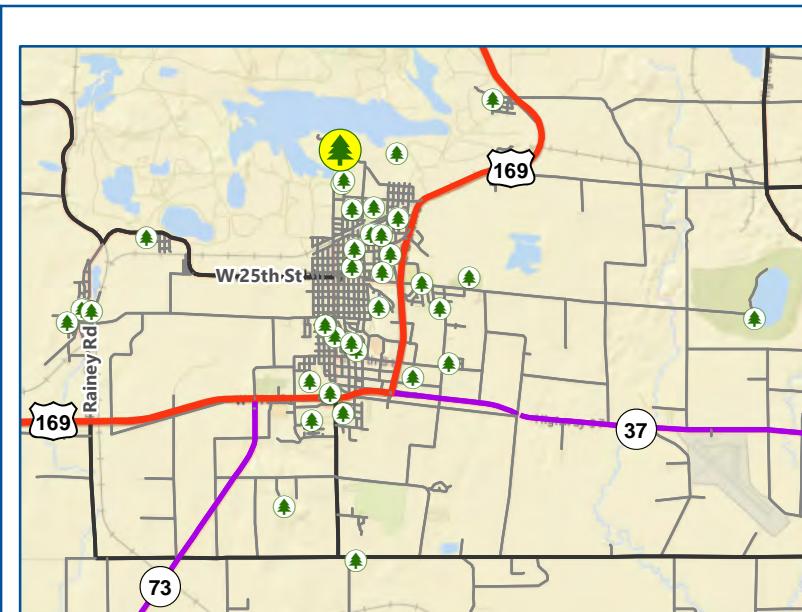


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County

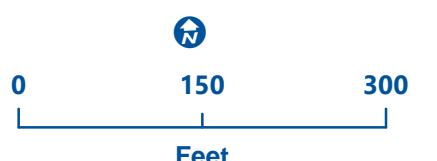


**Hibbing Municipal Golf Course**



#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	North Hibbing
<b>Address:</b>	620 1st Ave
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00201
<b>Acres:</b>	24.5



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

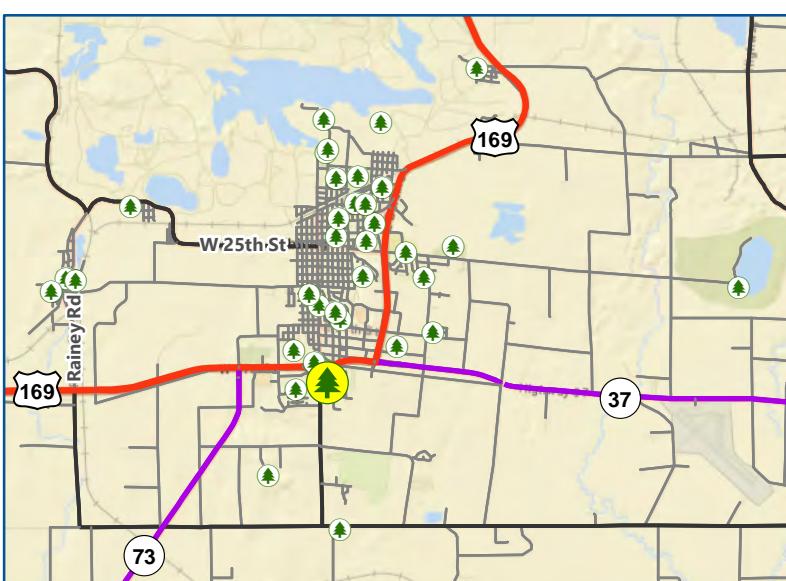
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



North Hibbing



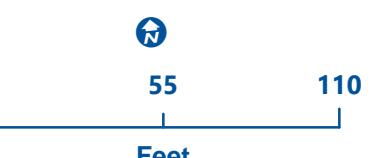
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- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Ryan Addition
<b>Address:</b>	215 44th St E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0210-00110
<b>Acres:</b>	1.9



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

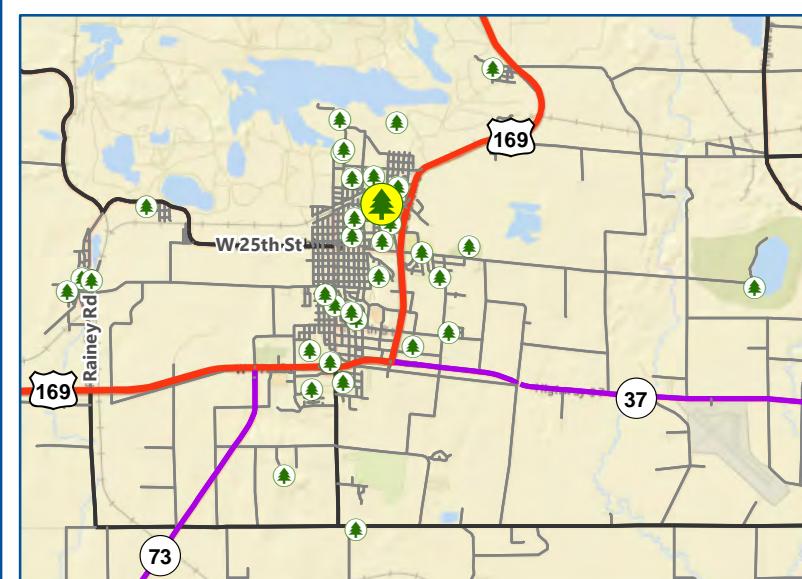
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Ryan Addition



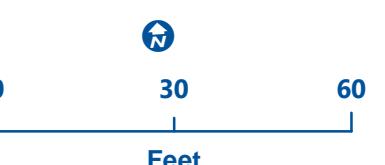
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- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Sargent Park
<b>Address:</b>	Latitude: 47.42919; Longitude: -92.92911
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0220-02280
<b>Acres:</b>	1.4

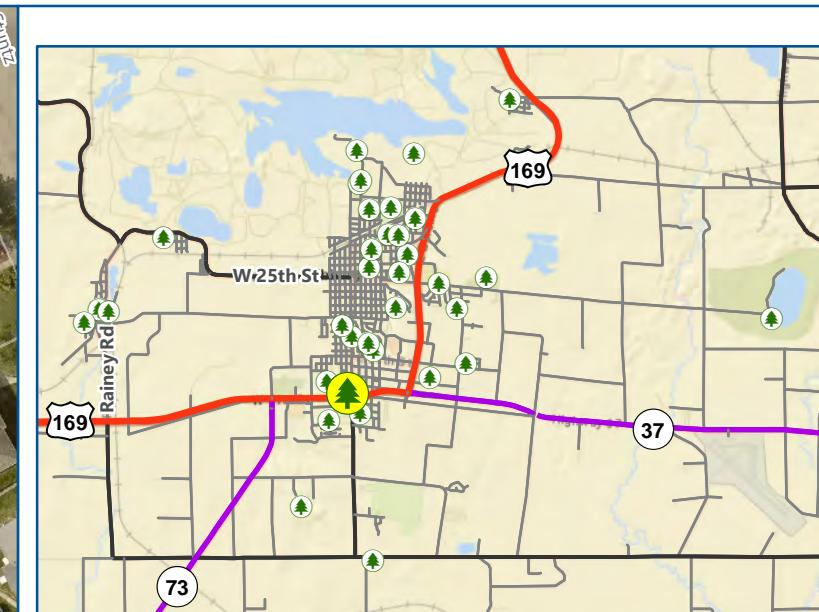


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



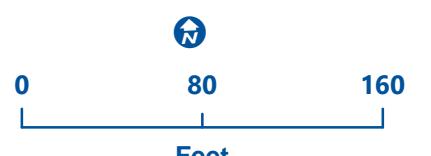
**Sargent Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Veterans Park
<b>Address:</b>	4052 1st Ave
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0290-00606
<b>Acres:</b>	6.2

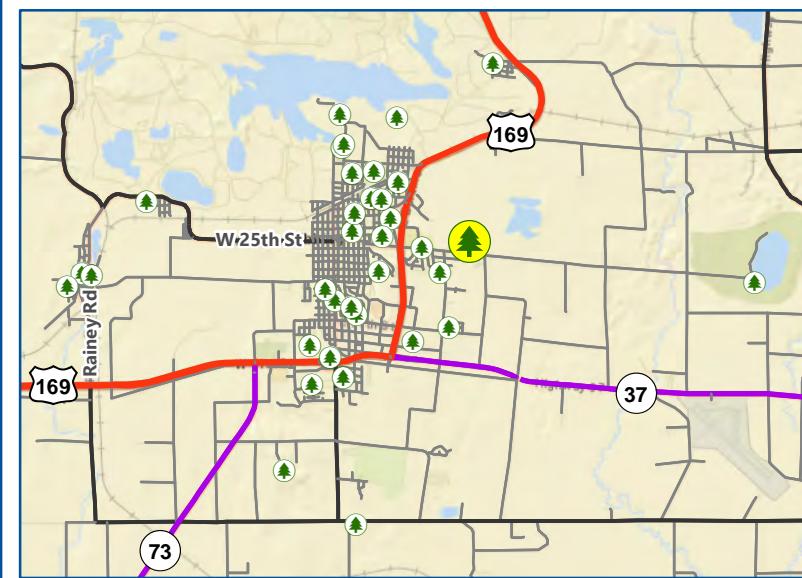


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



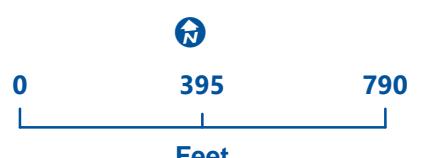
**Veterans Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Waterbody
- Maple Hill Trails
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Vic Power Park
<b>Address:</b>	2159 25th St E
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0270-00550
<b>Acres:</b>	135.9

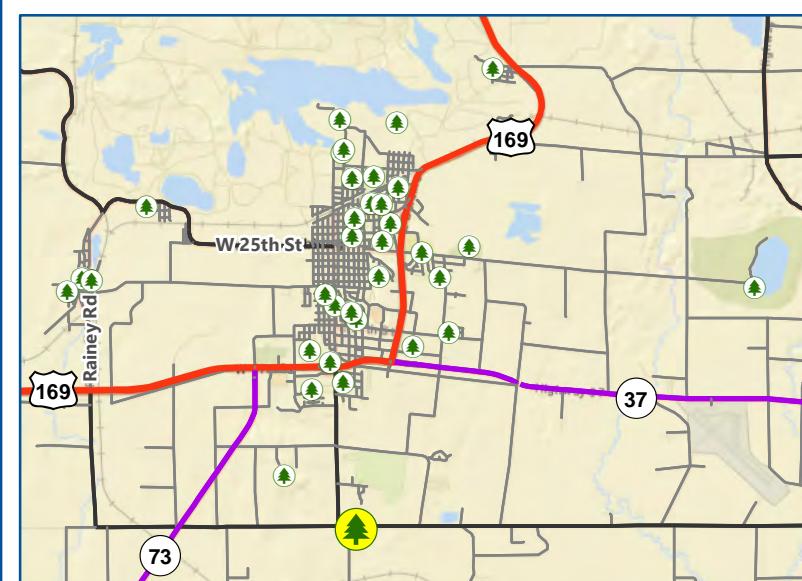


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



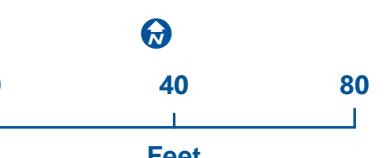
**Vic Power Park**



- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Wells Woodland Park
<b>Address:</b>	11866 Townline Rd
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0010-01020
<b>Acres:</b>	2.6

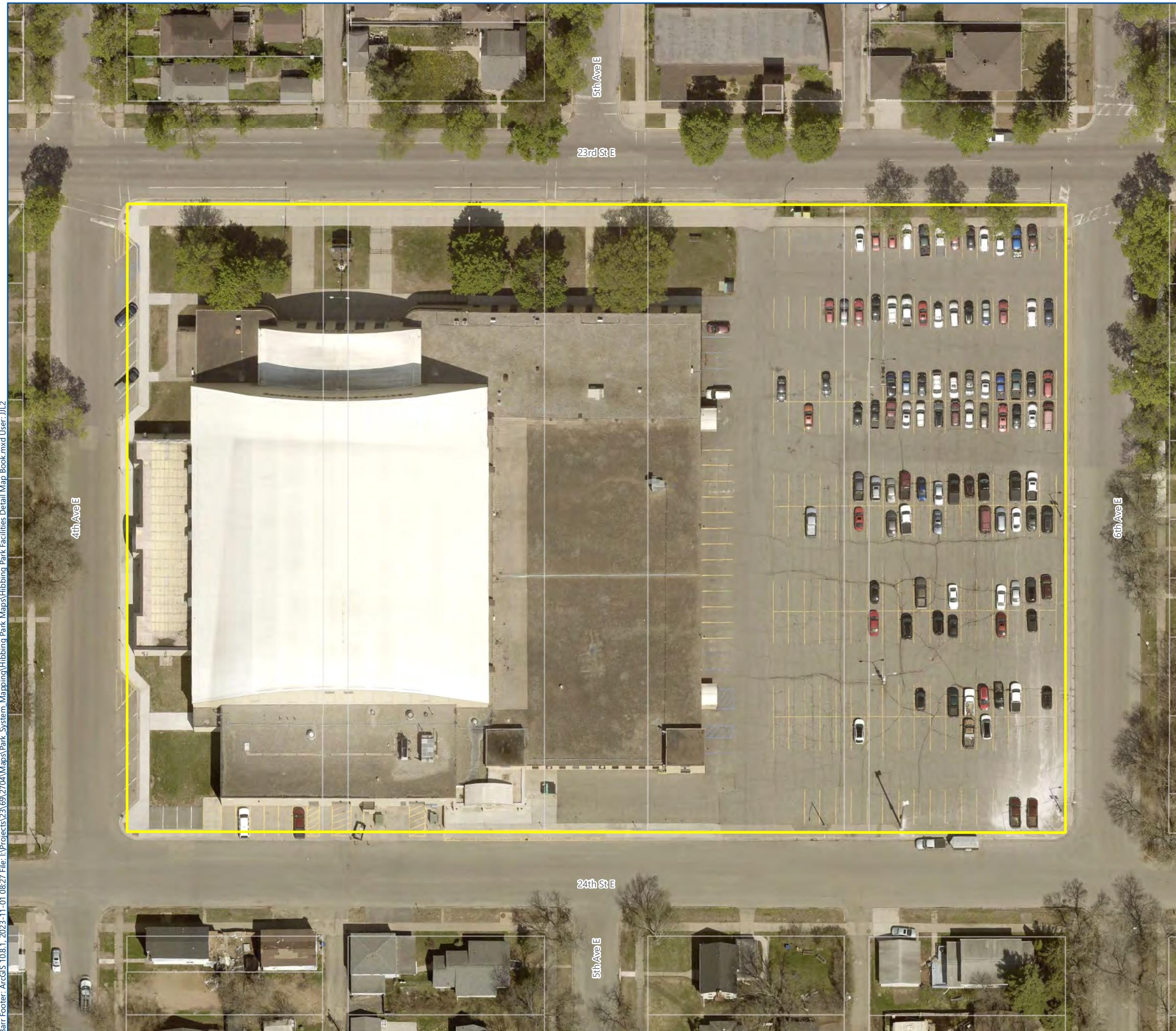


\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

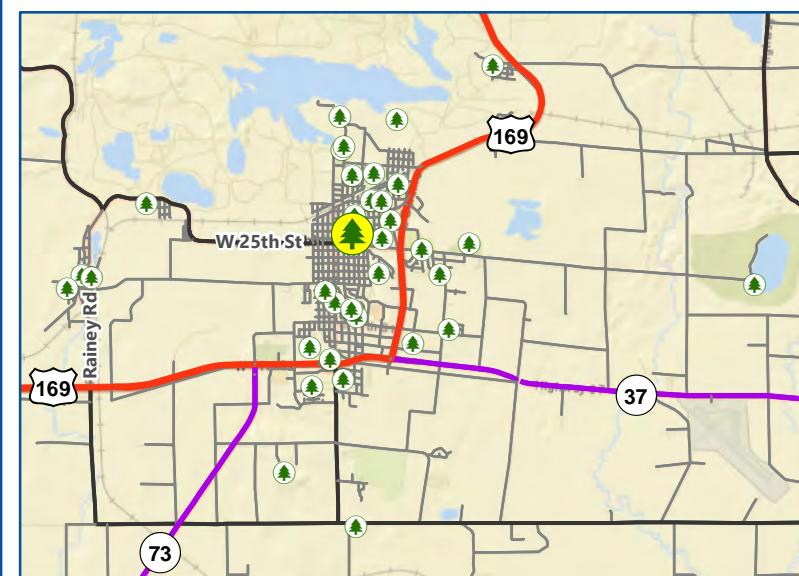
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Wells Woodland Park



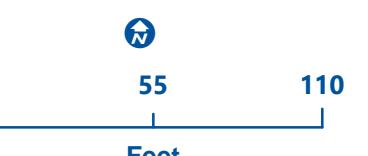
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- Carey Lake Trails
- Maple Hill Trails
- Mesabi Trail
- Stream
- Park Boundary\*
- Property Boundary\*\*
- Waterbody

#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Memorial Building
<b>Address:</b>	400 E 23rd St
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	141-0090-02200
<b>Acres:</b>	5.5



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

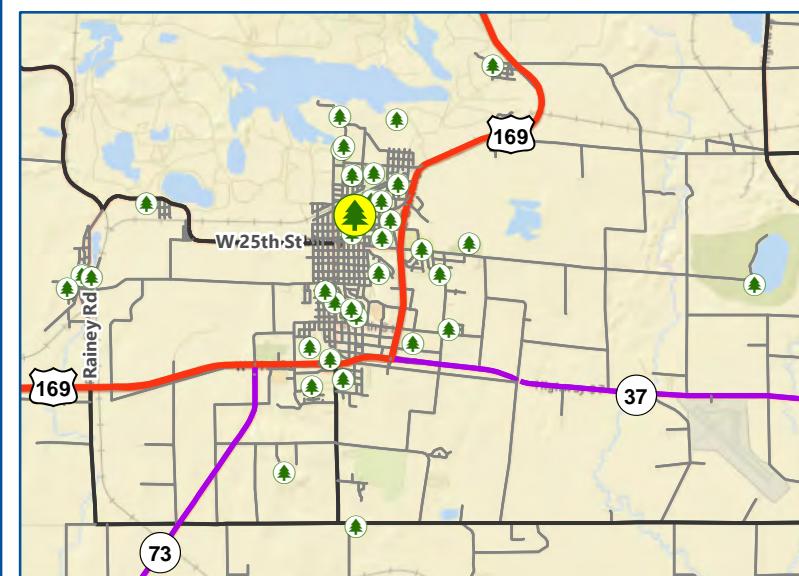
\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



Memorial Building

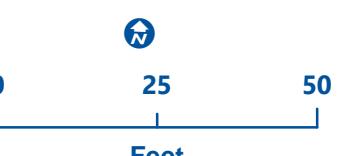


Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2023-11-01 08:27 File: I:\Projects\236912704\Maps\Park System Mapping\Hibbing Park Maps\Hibbing Park Facilities Detail Map Book.mxd User: JJJ2



#### Hibbing Park Facility Information

<b>Park Site:</b>	Hibbing Public Library
<b>Address:</b>	401 E 21st St
<b>Parcel ID:</b>	140-0070-01240
<b>Acres:</b>	0.7



\* Estimated park boundary for mapping purposes only

\*\* Parcel boundaries provided by St. Louis County



**Hibbing Public Library**

## Appendix G

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### Trail Maps



# Potential Bike Trails

