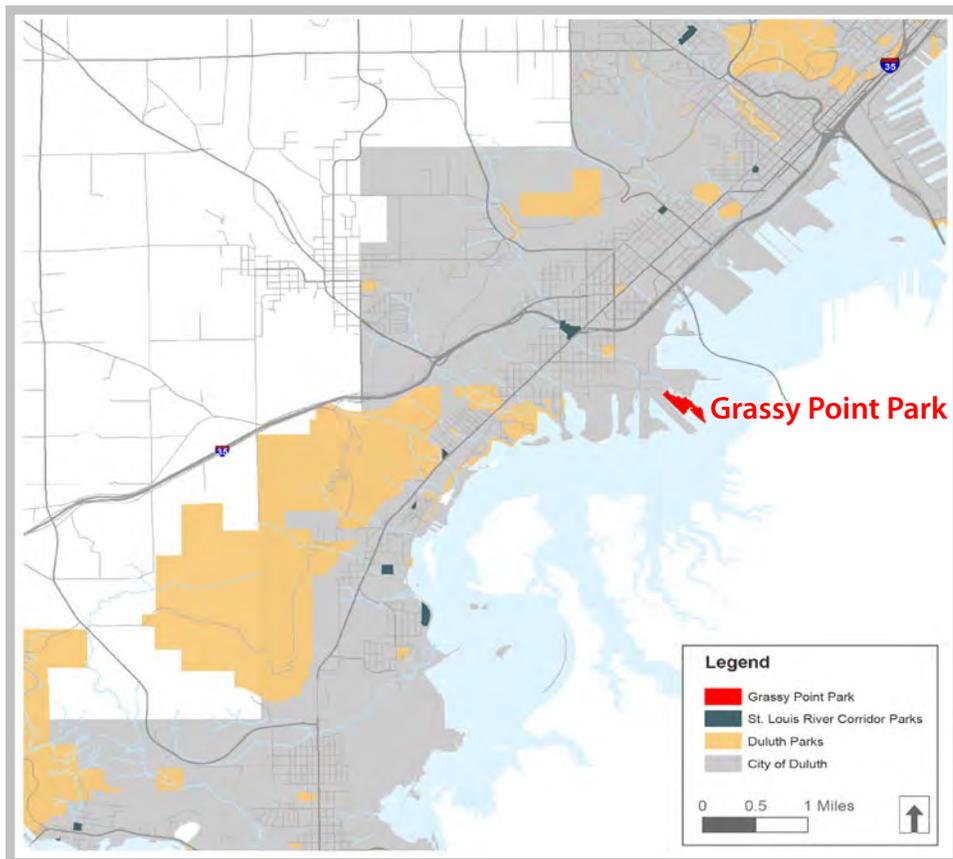




GRASSY POINT PARK

Summary and Overview

Grassy Point Park is a 26 acre linear park and boardwalk trail that is located in the Irving Park Neighborhood. It is isolated from residential areas as it is surrounded by the industrial, port area of the St. Louis River estuary. It also lacks connectivity to other trails, which makes it a destination trail to be accessed typically by car. The park and trail itself has river access, wildlife viewing opportunities, and a fishing dock. Recent sinking of the boardwalk has made the trail inaccessible.



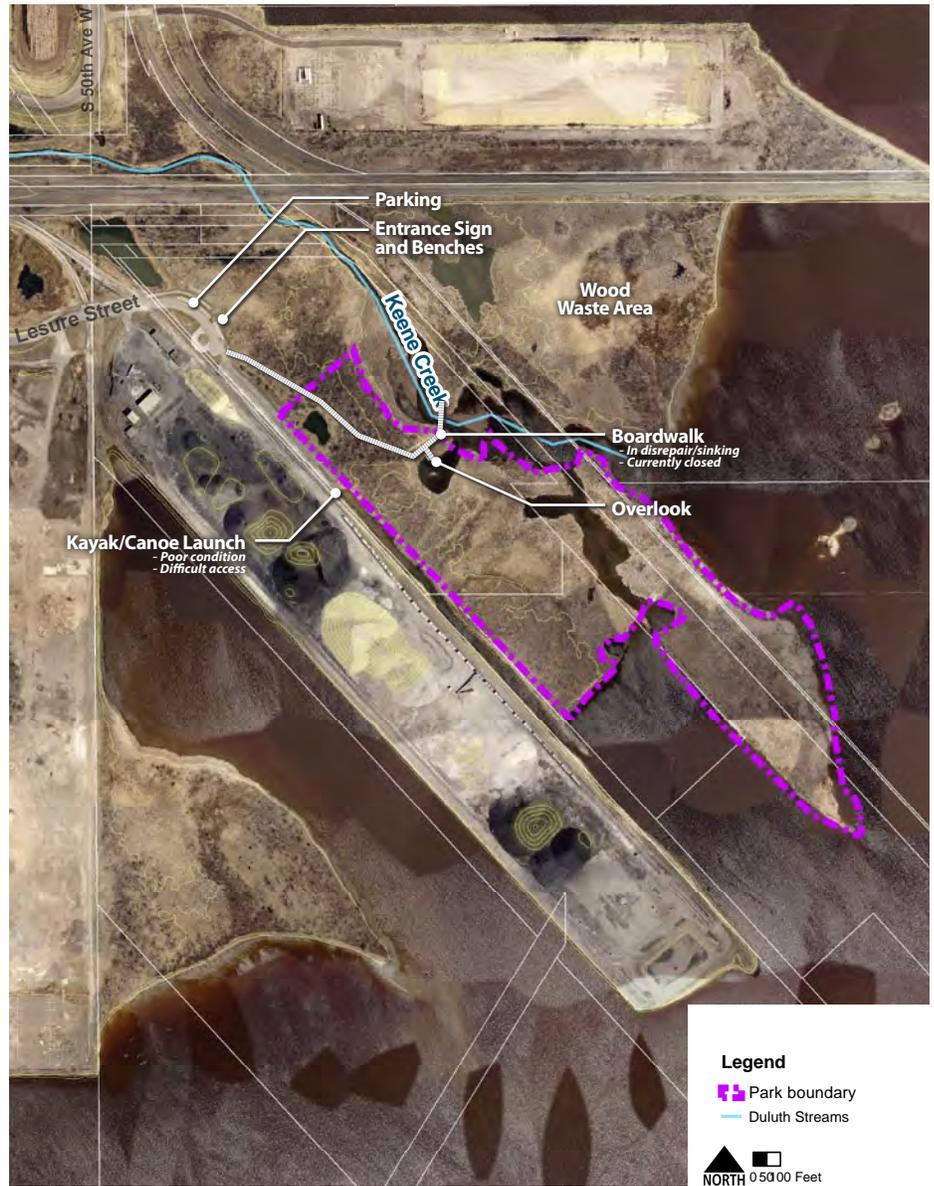
GRASSY POINT PARK LOCATION MAP

STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Good birding location
- » Good fishing at the dock
- » The MNDNR is managing and planning for habitat and vegetation restoration, in coordination with the MPCA, the EPA Area of Concern, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – the document “Conceptual Design Plan: Grassy Point Project” identifies restoration areas and initiatives
- » Park entrance has benches and signage, but the opportunity exists to make it more of a gathering space with better informational signage

ISSUES:

- » Park is difficult to find in the industrial neighborhood
- » Parking is limited
- » Informal canoe/kayak launch is difficult to find and far from the parking area
- » Boardwalk is under water in areas and inaccessible
- » The isolated location of the park makes it attractive to vandalism and unintended users
- » Invasive species exist throughout the park
- » Better signage is required to describe the features and access points of the park and trails

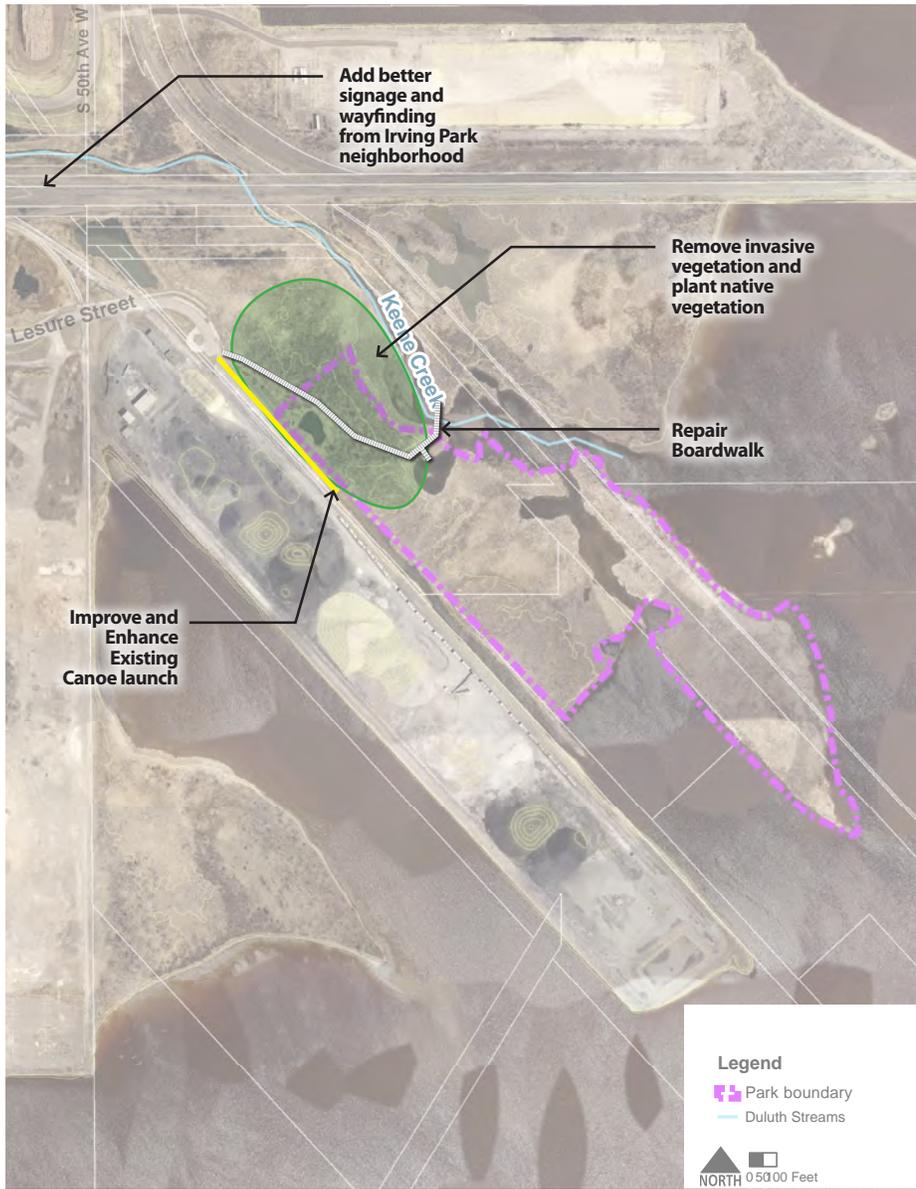


GRASSY POINT PARK SITE INVENTORY

Existing Conditions

Grassy Point Park is located at the end of a dead end road surrounded by river industry. Most of the park is marsh land at the mouth of the Keene Creek to the St. Louis River. The site was part of the sawmilling industry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and contains many areas of piled up wood waste materials. Invasive vegetation exists throughout the park, but there are beautiful views of the river and wildlife. The existing boardwalk trail is about ¼ mile long and in current disrepair. An informal canoe/kayak launch exists southeast of the park entrance area. Much of the park area is inaccessible.

The Wheels On Trails organization completed a report in 2008, in which it evaluated several trails in Duluth, including Grassy Point Trail, for ADA accessibility. The report identified the entire boardwalk as accessible with areas of dangerous drop-offs, where the boardwalk does not have the appropriate edges for wheelchairs. The organization has advocated for improvements, such



Existing wayfinding



Most segments of the existing boardwalk have edges to improve wheelchair safety along the trail



The existing overlook provides great views of the river



The floating boardwalk is becoming unstable, sinking with applied weight

GRASSY POINT PARK SITE ANALYSIS

as an accessible boardwalk, at Grassy Point Park, which were installed. Since that time, the boardwalk has sunk in areas making in inaccessible to all trail users.

Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Benches exist at the entrance to the park, but should be added along the boardwalk trail at appropriate viewing stops. A picnic area does not exist at Grassy Point Park today, but may be needed in coordination with canoe/kayak launch improvements. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. Wayfinding and directional signage is a need in and around Grassy Point, as it is difficult to find in the neighborhood. Information signage is also needed to describe the park amenities at the entrance to the park.



FIGURE 2.19 GRASSY POINT PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

Other desires from the community include adding bird blinds, fishing docks, and a more formalized canoe/kayak launch. The trails should be repaired to be usable and functional in all four seasons, with the potential addition of snowshoe trails, cross country ski trails, or ice skating trails.

Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Grassy Point Park prioritizes and identifies the natural resource and habitat restoration improvements that are currently being planned by the MN DNR and MPCA. Other improvements include trail repair and accessibility, and canoe/kayak launch improvements. Close coordination with the DNR will ensure proper installation of improvements.

Phasing & Cost Estimates

PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM



FIGURE 2.20 GRASSY POINT PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--|----------|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Circulation | Install New Park Sign | \$5,000 |
| 1 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Signs (2) | \$2,000 |
| 1 | Furnishings | Install New Picnic Table | \$2,000 |
| 2 | Circulation | Improve Trail Access to Canoe/Kayak Launch | \$6,000 |
| 3 | Circulation | Address ADA Concerns on Boardwalk | \$5,000 |
| 4 | Vegetation | Remove buckthorn | \$6,000 |
| 5 | Recreation | Improve Canoe/Kayak Access | \$5,000 |
| 6 | Circulation | New Water Trail Signage | \$1,000 |
| 7 | Circulation | Repair Boardwalk | \$1,500 |
| 8 | Recreation | New Overlook Structure/Bird Blind | \$12,500 |
| Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | | | \$46,000 |
| Total Improvement Costs | | | \$46,000 |

PHASE 2: LONG-TERM



Long-term improvements at Grassy Point Park to be made in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.