Presented at Norton Park United Methodist Church

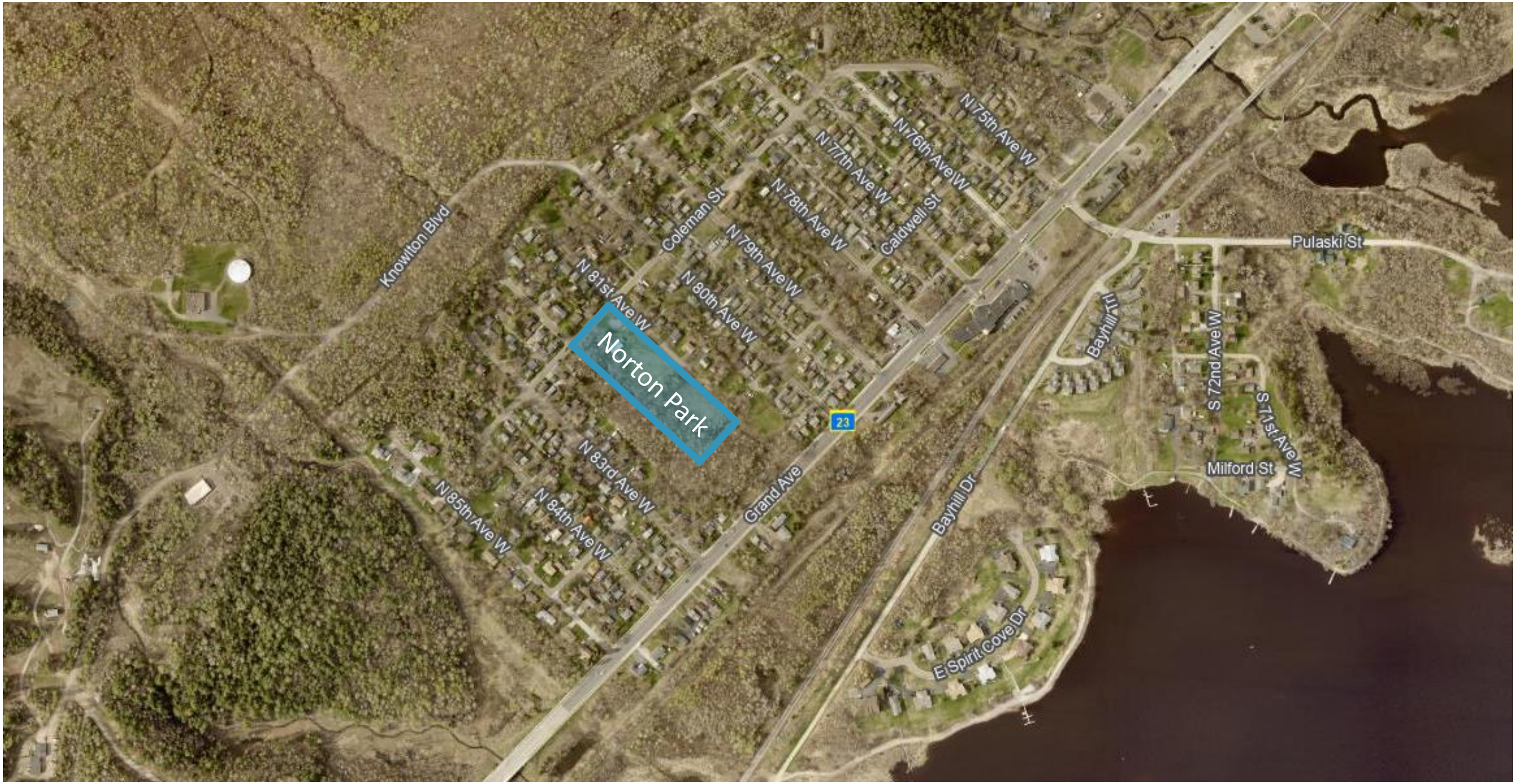
by Allison Brooks and Cliff Knettel

April 30, 2024

Duluth Parks & Recreation

Norton Park

COMMUNITY INPUT ON PARK IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES


Norton Park
Knowlton Blvd
Coleman St
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N 75th Ave W
Caldwell St
N 83rd Ave W
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Grand Ave
23
Bayhill Dr
Bayhill Trl
Pulaski St
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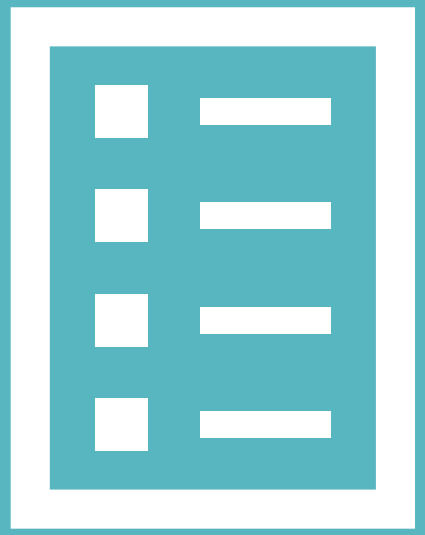
Milford St
E Spirit Cove Dr

Session Agenda



- Welcome and staff introductions

- Presentation
  - St. Louis River Corridor Initiative History
  - 2016 Neighborhood Park Plans – Norton Park
  - Updates on funding and plan changes

- Small group breakouts

- Back together to share highlights from your discussions

- Wrap-up

Session Outcomes

- **Understand community priorities and values**
  - Which park elements are most important?
  - Which existing park elements should we invest in first?
  - Which new park elements should we consider?
  - Which activities/programs would be most meaningful here?

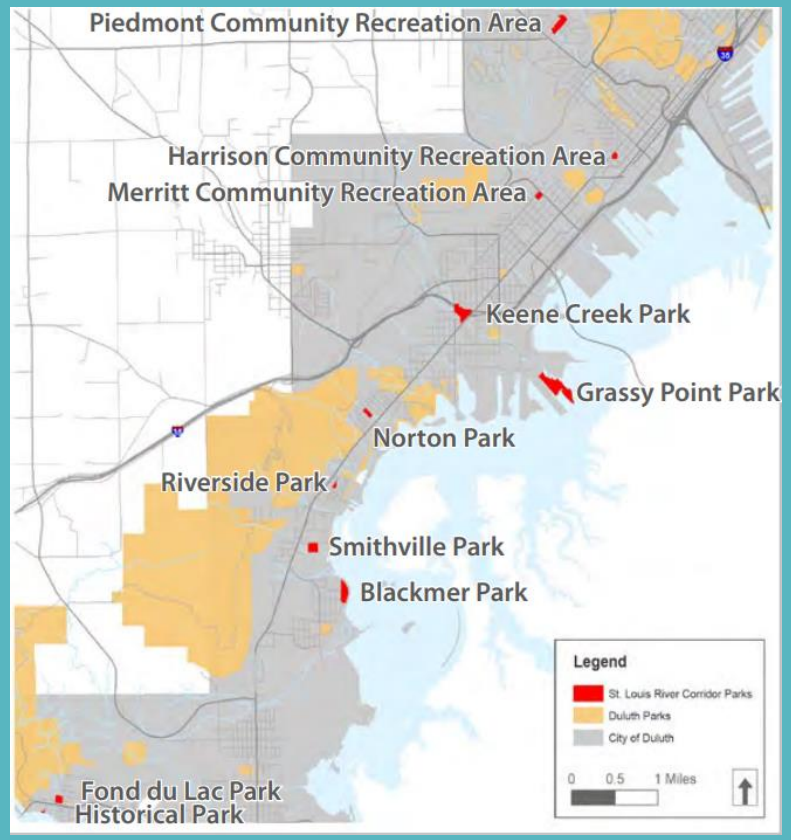
- **Gather input and ideas**
  - Will not make any decisions about park elements tonight
  - Creating consensus on community priorities

- **Identify next steps**
  - Likely that park needs/wants will outweigh funding resources
  - Some City funds available
  - Looking to leverage additional funding

Background

St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

Neighborhood Parks



- Initiative authorized in 2014
- Neighborhood parks were one component of the Initiative
- St. Louis River Corridor Parks Mini-Master Plans adopted in June of 2016

- Neighborhood parks status
  - Implementation Complete:
    - 2017: Harrison Park
    - 2018: Riverside Park
    - 2021: Keene Creek Park, Merritt Park, Piedmont Park, Grassy Point
  - Planned Implementation:
    - 2024-2026: Blackmer Park, Munger Landing, and Waabizheshikana
    - **2026: Norton Park (scope to be determined)**

2016 Norton Park Plan Recommendations

- Signage
- Replace playground
- Improve connections
- Sports facilities
- Stormwater management
- Stream restoration
- Invasive species control

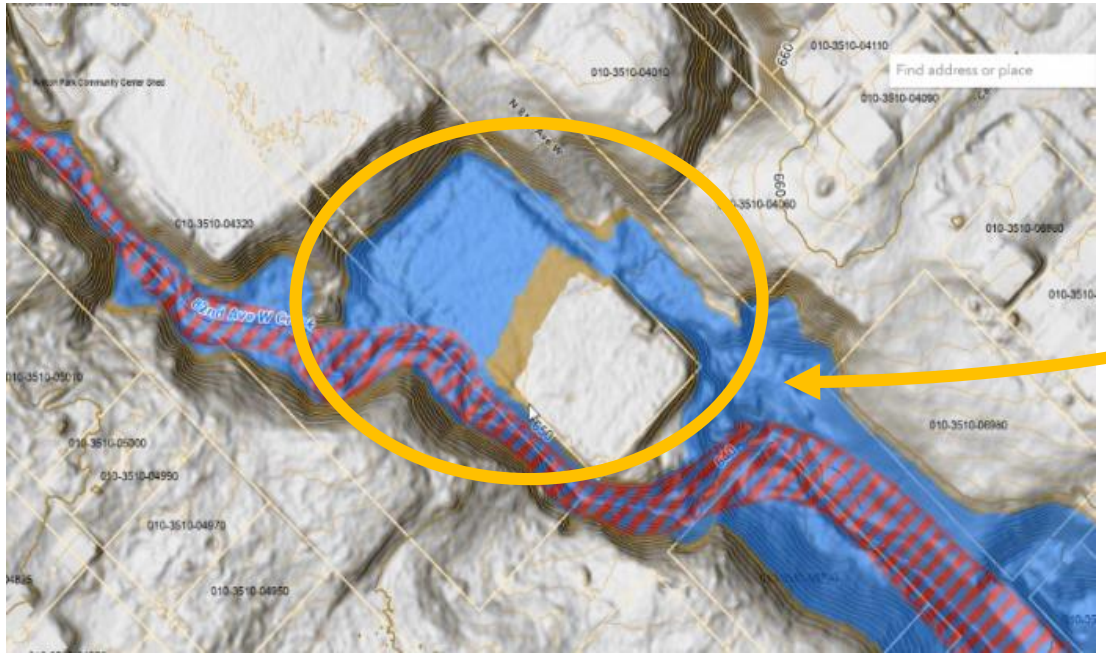
Current Layout

Funding

- Between 2024-2026, City has approximately $390,000 allocated to Norton Park
- Funding comes from:
  - St. Louis River Corridor Initiative ½ and ½ tax
  - Parks Capital
- City can pursue additional funds from the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program

Plan Updates

- Given time since plan was adopted, it is time for updates and additional community feedback.
- Planned changes include:
  - Quonset building proposed to be removed in 2024
  - The lower area (old hockey rink location) will remain naturalized due to access challenges and flood plain
  - Old lighting at field will be removed



The lower park area is within the 82nd Ave Creek floodway

Water Resources:
82nd Ave Creek
&
Stormwater Management

- 2016 Park Plan included:
  - Restoring the stream bank
  - Installing stormwater management basins
- Scope of the Norton project will likely still include some level of restoration and stormwater management. To be determined based upon funding availability.

Park Priorities
Small Group Discussions

Current Layout

Small Group Discussion

What we do

What we wish

What we love

Investment Priorities

Existing Elements

Please rank the order in which these park elements should be improved:

Where would you spend money 1st, 2nd, and 3rd?

- Renew the sport court
- Replace the playground
- Restore baseball field

Investment Priorities

Changing Elements

Please rank the order in which these park elements should be added or expanded:

Where would you spend money 1st, 2nd, and 3rd?

- Minimize changes to park elements
- Expand the sport court to full size court, stripe for multi-use (basketball and pickleball), and add fencing
- Convert baseball field to open multi-use field
- Add a pavilion/covered seating

Open Green Space

How would you most like to see open green space used and programmed?

Examples:

- Soccer
- Kickball
- Story & play
- Bike skills clinic
- Family celebrations
- Community Picnic
- National Night Out
- Holiday celebrations
- Picnic tables

Group Reflections

BIG IDEAS & TOP TAKE-AWAYS FROM YOUR GROUP

Timeline

April 30, 2024	Community engagement session
Spring – Fall 2024	Prepare park designs
April 1, 2025	Submit Outdoor Recreation grant application to MN DNR
Fall 2025	Notification if awarded grant funds Finalize park designs based on available funding
Early Spring 2026	Put project out for bid
Summer – Fall 2026	Project implementation

Contact Info

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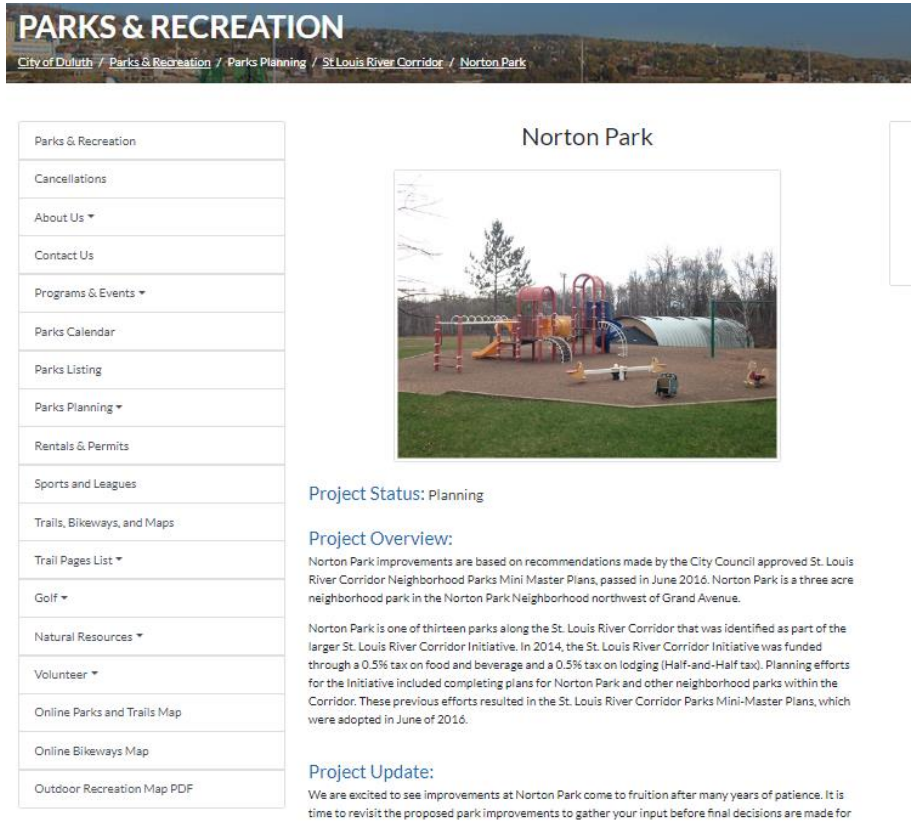
Duluth Parks & Recreation

- Thank you!
- For more information and to view materials for the project, please visit the Norton Park Project page:

duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-planning/st-louis-river-corridor/norton-park/



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