



General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Last Update

02 Jun 2017 06:25:45

Park or Trail Name

Duluth Traverse

District

1

Location Description

The Duluth Traverse runs the length of Duluth Minnesota, located at the southeastern most corner of Lake Superior. The Traverse runs from Brighten Beach on the NE boundary of Duluth to Chamber Grove on the SW boundary of Duluth.

Park/Trail Address

411 West 1st Street

City

Duluth

Park/Trail State

Minnesota

Zip

55802

Latitude

46.783814

Longitude

-92.1052753

Map of Park/Trail

Description:

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Location Map_e96d62.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth%20Traverse%20Location%20Map_e96d62.pdf)

Facility Website

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor/duluth-traverse/>

Organization

City of Duluth

Lead Contact Person

Jim Filby Williams

Title

Director of Public Administration

Mailing Address

411 West 1st Street

City

Duluth

State

Zip

Minnesota

55802

Phone

218-730-5319

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Joint Applicants

Joint Applicant #1

City of Duluth

Upload Resolution

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/City of Duluth DT Resolution_d57563.pdf

Joint Applicant #2

Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores (COGGS)

Upload Resolution

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/masterform02e521_COGGS Board Resolution.PDF

Joint Applicant #3

Joint Applicant #4

Other project supporters

Description

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Regional Significance Statement

The Duluth Traverse Trail (Traverse) is a bike-optimized multi-use natural trail system that includes more than 100 miles of linked trails and parks. The Traverse connects several trail centers across Duluth that expand route options for a variety of experiences across multiple skill levels. The variety and high quality earned a Gold-Level Ride Center status from the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) one of only six in the world.

Classification

Regional Trail (Non Motorized)

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

Overview

The Traverse spine is a 40-mile, two-way, single track, that traverses Duluth along its ridgeline and connects neighborhoods to green spaces and parks. Five Trail Centers connected to the Spine encompass over 60 miles of multi-use, single track trails with a range of skill levels and variety of terrain. Short connectors link Duluths neighborhoods to the Traverse System and focus on underserved neighborhoods. Inter-city connectors link adjacent communities to the Traverse. Please see Attachment A.

Groups served

The Traverse provides a high quality trail experience for cyclists from novice to expert riders and accommodates hikers, cyclists, snowshoes, backcountry skiing, winter fat biking, and trail running as well. When complete, the average distance from any home in Duluth to the Traverse system will be less than a mile.

Facilities

Traverse provides a variety of experiences and appeals to many skill sets and riding styles including, cross

country, downhill, freeride, enduro, cyclocross, and all weather. Cross Country trails appeal to the majority of users and offers a progression of difficulty from beginner to advanced with varying terrain, distances, and ride experiences. All weather trails are open when others are closed due to wet conditions. Downhill, enduro, and freeride emphasize technical challenge. Please see Attachment B.

Skill areas and bike parks are part of the system and include jump and pump tracks. Skills areas have an emphasis on balance maneuvers, mountain bike skills development, and progression in riding capabilities. Skills areas are typically smaller scale, not centralized, and found throughout the system and can fit into the fabric of an existing park. Bike Parks are usually larger, centralized areas with features emphasizing skills and progression. Both appeal to wide market, including youth, and can cater to competitions and racing. Spirit Mountain is the only designated Bike Park in Duluth. Please see Attachment C.

oPrograms

Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS), youth serving agencies, schools and others sponsor programs to build biking skills and get families outdoors and moving. Many programs encourage underserved groups to participate. Youth Outdoors Duluth is a new service collaborative that emerged after a needs analysis showed that underserved youth were not accessing the broad opportunities in outdoor recreation available in Duluth. The collaborative works to ensure that all youth have access to a progression of nature-based experience through community wide coordination of resources and expertise. Please see Attachment D for list of programs and events.

oRelationship to other parks and trails

The Traverse connects to Lester-Amity Park, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Downer Park, Hartley Park, Chester Park, Hill Top Park, Central Park, Enger Park, Piedmont Recreation Area, Brewer Park, Bellvue, Quarry Park, Oneotta Park, Fairmount Park, Lake Superior Zoo, Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, Magney-Snively Natural Area, the F.R. Paine Forest Preserve, and Chambers Grove Park. The Traverse will connect to the Munger State Trail and the Cross City/Lakewalk and Superior Hiking Trails as well as Jay Cooke State Park to the south and the Lakewalk extension on the Scenic North Shore Drive to the north.

Total Acreage or Mileage

104

Acquisition and Development Status

Existing Park or Trail

N/A

80%

Development status

Some development, but more proposed

New facilities proposed

Facility Listing

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics .

Existing Facilities

- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities

- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities Other Information

Information kiosks at trailheads

Signage/wayfinding

Expanded parking

General Site Characteristics

Provides a Natural and Scenic Setting Offering a Compelling Sense of Place

The Traverse travels some of the most unique and breathtaking terrain in the Midwest, linking Duluth parks and historic, cultural, and scenic waypoints. The ancient mountains of the Sawtooth Range along Lake Superior's north shore provide more elevation, topography, and scenic views than anywhere else in Minnesota.

The number and variety of scenic overlooks and interesting destinations found along the Traverse are numerous: Lake Superior, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, the St. Louis River Estuary, the Duluth-Superior Harbor and Aerial Lift Bridge, Bardons Peak, Elys Peak, Skyline Parkway, Enger Tower, and Jay Cooke State Park. The trail will traverse through old growth oak and maple forests with stunning color displays in the fall, through gallery stands of mature white pine, skim over the ancient bedrock lava flows that make up the southern tip of the Canadian Shield, and will cross over or nearby close to 30 cascading creeks and rivers. The Traverse takes advantage of scenic views, points of interest, and vistas where possible to enhance the trail experience.

Duluth has more than 10,000 acres of parks and open space in and surrounding the city. These lands are primarily wooded and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Mammals found in the area are black bear, deer, porcupine, rabbits, skunks, raccoons, mice, bats, an occasional wolf, and transient mountain lions and moose. Reptiles and amphibians, such as the common garter snake and American toad, are found in the forests in and surrounding Duluth. Dozens of bird species nest in the area and hundreds migrate through it as Duluth sites in a principal migratory flyway.

Site characteristics upload

Description:

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Attachment E Site Characteristics_e6ca94.pdf

Master Plan

Master Plan Status:

Master Plan meeting requirements of strategic plan is available

Additional Supportive Information:

The Duluth Traverse is a unique mountain biking experience that is a significant asset for the citizens of Duluth, all Minnesotans, the US, and mountain biking communities around the world. The Traverse Spine and connected trail centers provide public access for bikers and hikers, to otherwise inaccessible vistas and natural landscapes along the ridge line. These trails are destinations to themselves and provide iconic views of the estuary and lift bridge. The Duluth Traverse Spine connects to several local, regional, and state parks, recreation facilities, and natural resource areas. The system complements and adds variety to the excellent state and regional trail connections that intersect in Duluth. Please see Attachment F for Development, Budgets, and Phasing

Classification Details

Regional Trail (Non-Motorized) Classification

Provides a High-Quality "Destination" Trail Experience

Criteria #1 Images

• Located in a highly scenic and/or natural setting The Traverse travels some of the most unique and breathtaking terrain in the Midwest, linking Duluth's parks and historic, cultural, and scenic waypoints. Routes along Lake Superior's north shore provide more elevation, topography, and scenic views than anywhere else in Minnesota. The spine trail is 40 miles long with 27.8 miles of natural surface single track and 10.8 miles of natural surface double-track, both natural surfaces wind through wildlands such as parks and green space. Only 1.4 miles (or 4%) are on local streets and 96% visually separated from traffic or buildings!

• Serves as a destination unto itself Duluth is a premier national mountain bike destination. Duluth was awarded Gold Ride Center status from the IMBA International Mountain Bicycling Association: one of six worldwide. Their rating system runs from Bronze to Gold which represents IMBA's Model Trail recognition for large-scale mountain bike facilities that offer something for every rider. The Duluth Traverse features more miles of groomed singletrack than anywhere else in North America. The length of existing trail combined with winter grooming positions the Traverse as the premier national fat biking trail system. The Traverse infrastructure facilitates many races and community-based events and programs. Please see Attachment D: Programs and Events

• Minimal disruption to travel There are minimal disruptions on the Traverse Spine route due to roadway crossings. For the 40 mile spine crossing the city, there are 15 at-grade crossings, a ratio of 2.7 miles to 1 crossing. Five cross local streets with very low traffic, four cross at minor collectors, and five cross arterial streets either at a light or with adequate sight lines. The ratios for crossings for those riding within a trail center, like Lester Park or Mission Creek is considerably less. In Lester Park there is a crossing every 5.3 miles. At Mission Creek the ratio is 13.7:1. The four developed trail centers combined have five crossings on quiet parkway roads over 64 miles of trail. Most trail centers provide ample parking and as part of Duluth's park system have access to support services such as restrooms, water, and picnic facilities.

• Rail-to-trail corridor The Duluth Winnipeg Pacific abandoned rail bed is the largest remaining section of trail development in the Duluth Bicycle Trail System. This DWP segment is a critical connection for the Traverse as DWP bridges are the only way for the Traverse to cross two major stream courses and connect the western terminus of the trail system in Mission Creek to the Spirit Mountain trail center. The DWP provides stunning views along with the feeling of remoteness and solitude within the city.

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Well-located (i.e., Convenience of Access/Adequate Length) to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination

• Located in close proximity to regional population center Tourist destination: Duluth is the fourth largest City in Minnesota and serves the regional population of 279,601. Duluth is the regional hub for the North and South Shores of Lake Superior, Iron-Range, and “northwoods” of north-eastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. The City is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the state, attracting well over 3 million visitors throughout all 4-seasons. If one is looking for exercise, adventure, or solitude, appropriate activities are available year round. Warm weather activities include hiking, biking, kayaking, stand up paddling, rowing, fishing, duck hunting, birding, swimming, camping, and picnicking. Winter activities include skiing, winter fat biking, skijoring, snow shoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, ice kiting, dog sledding, and snowmobiling. Regional need: When complete, the average distance from any home in Duluth to a segment of the Traverse system will be less than a mile, providing extensive opportunities for diverse users to access short or long segments of the trail: getting outside after work, on weekends, and to walk the dog. Community engagement for the Master Plan indicated that many residents utilize the trail daily or weekly, either for the trail experience itself, or to connect to several of the destinations along the trail. Existing segments of the Traverse have been serving this diversity of users successfully. The Traverse is accessed throughout the length of the city and the Master Plan identifies several additional connections to neighborhoods that are under-served. • Trail length and connections When the Traverse spine trail is complete it will cover 40 miles and will travel the full length of Duluth (about 6 ½ hours of bike riding at an average 6-7 mph). 64 miles of connecting loops of varying degrees of difficulty will add an additional 10½ hours of bike recreation.

Criteria #2 Images

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Enhances Connectivity to Regional Destinations

• Connects to/complements state trails and/or other regional trails The Traverse connects to regional and state trails— Superior Hiking Trail, Munger State Trail, Gitchi-Gami State Trail, C.J. Rams-tad/North Shore State Trail, Cross City Trail, and Lakewalk. • Connects to local, regional, and state parks, recreation facilities, and natural resource areas Recreation Areas - Lake Superior Zoo, Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, Piedmont Recreation Area, Quarry Park. City Parks – Chambers Grove, Mission Creek, Fairmont, Keene Creek, Oneotta, Brewer, Bellevue, Lincoln, Enger, Central, Hilltop, Chester, Hartley, Downer, Amity,

Criteria #3 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA_3_3f27c6.pdf

Lester. Nature/ Environmental Learning Areas – Bagley Nature Center, Hartley Nature Center, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, F.R. Paine Forest Preserve, Magney-Snively Natural Area. • Connects to multiple public interest destinations The League of American Bicyclists rates communities as to their level of Bicycle Friendly Community: award levels run from Bronze to Platinum. These designations are frequently used by recreationists and businesses to find bicycle friendly places to visit or locate. Duluth is at the Bronze level. The Traverse connects schools and universities – Lincoln Park Middle, Marshall School, College of St. Scholastica (CSS), University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), and Lake Superior College. The spine trail connects neighborhoods, open spaces, schools, business districts and tourist areas.

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within a Region

• No regional or state-level trail mountain bike trails exist nearby Duluth's extensive trail network appeals to a diverse set of user groups and modes of recreation. However, until recently, mountain bikes did not have an equivalent trail network in the city or region. In fact, COGGS' work to create a designated trail system is the result of conflict between other user groups and mountain bikes on other city trails. The growing interest in the sport made clear the need for a designated trail system. Growth in mountain biking has been steady over the last decade. According to research conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association's Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, 2016, mountain biking participation grew from 6.7 million participants in 2006 to 8.3 million participants (approximately 3% of Americans) in 2015. Minnesota and Wisconsin each have two systems: the two closest are 75 miles and 100 miles away. These locations, Cuyuna Lakes, MN and Hayward, WI are smaller, rural communities without the extensive support facilities available in Duluth. The residential, tourism and business amenities are a significant difference between Duluth and these other centers and could serve as a significant business and industry draw to northern Minnesota.

Criteria #4 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 4_312a3f.pdf

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload		http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Budget & Finances_ad3b37.pdf

Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Proposed Duluth Traverse Overview_8dabd8.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Development Policy_594150.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Existing Facilities_ac92dd.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification3 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 3_3f27c6.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification4 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 4_312a3f.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification2 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 2_1a9f45.pdf
Rgnl Trail Classification1 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 1_9ff70a.pdf
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 4_82d08b.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse - Public Engagement_ff4bcc.pdf
Site Map Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Overview_63dd6e.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Regional Context_8fd020.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Attachment E Site Characteristics_e6ca94.pdf
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/CRITERIA 1_334810.pdf

Regional Demographic Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Research_14f10b.pdf
Additional Attachment	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Attachment E Site Characteristics_e569de.pdf
Park Trail Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Location Map_e96d62.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Prioritization Chart_4db581.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Development Budget_8d9140.pdf
Additional Attachment	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Attachment D Events and Programs_a5037c.pdf
Additional Attachment	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Attachment C Skill Areas and Bike Parks_6e3e79.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area A Mission Creek_f31072.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area B Magney.Ely Peak.DWP_a26381.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Design Specs_a99905.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Trailheads_e06738.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area C Spirit Mt and Fairmont Park_ac39e8.pdf

Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area D Brewer and Piedmont_200824.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area E1 Lincoln & Enger_da8f20.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area E2 Antenna Farm_9f0851.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area F1 Chester and Bagley_a79b1f.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area F2 Hartley & Downer_9c4928.pdf
Development Feature Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Area G Hawk Ridge Lester Amity_02e3c6.pdf
Joint Org Responsibilities Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Maintenance Plan_e68656.pdf
Maintenance Operations Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Trail O+M Plan Draft_89f5b7.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse EAW_d008f2.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse EAW Amendment_6e2340.pdf
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse Marketing Sample_c20f19.pdf
User Metrics Research Plan Upload	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Duluth Traverse - Trail Counters_7357b9.pdf
Additional Attachment	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Att

Additional Attachment

[achment A Designation
Overview_f4284c.pdf](#)

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/
uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Att
achment B Trail
Types_1b9620.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/17-0196-D/Attachment B Trail
Types_1b9620.pdf)