



MEMO

Date: June 2, 2023
To: Duluth City Council
From: Jim Filby Williams, Property, Parks, and Libraries Director
RE: Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project – Acquisition of Tax Forfeit Parcels from St. Louis County pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(e), § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(h)(2) and Subd. 1(a)(h)(3)

In accordance with the Strategic Public Lands Realignment Project, and the Duluth Natural Areas Program, the City of Duluth respectfully submits this list of tax-forfeit parcels the City wishes to acquire under free conveyance, for lands to be protected for recreational trails, public parks, and civic recreation facilities under Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(e), and for less than market value under Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(h) for lands to be protected for drainage or storage of stormwater and Restoration and preservation of natural resources.

The parcels to be acquired were selected on the basis of the Guidelines for Selecting Tax Forfeit Open Space Parcels for City Ownership and Protection approved by the City of Duluth Natural Resource Commission (July 1, 2020), Planning Commission (July 14, 2020), and City Council (Aug 17, 2020).

In August of 2021, the Natural Resources Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission each unanimously approved a recommendation that Council authorize City acceptance or acquisition of tax-forfeit parcels in the Mission, St. Louis River, Piedmont, Hartley/Downer, and Lester/Amity Program areas. The lists reviewed and approved by these Commissions included parcels to be conveyed under two separate state statutes:

1. Parcels to be conveyed to the City at no cost under Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(e).
2. Parcels to be acquired for less than market value per Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(h).

On September 13, 2021, the City Council authorized a resolution accepting those parcels to be free conveyed under Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(e). On March 14, 2022, the City Council authorized acquisition of those parcels to be acquired at less than their market value under Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a)(h).

Figures 1 through 11, attached, show the lands to be both free conveyed and the lands to be purchased. Accompanying these Figures are tables listing parcel data information. An explanation of the table columns is provided below:

- **Project Area:** The project area of selected parcels as shown in Figures 1 through 8.
- **Parcel Number:** Parcel identification number
- **GISAcres:** Parcel size according to mapping (may differ from the title survey)