

## Council Agenda Item 25-0495R



**MEETING DATE:** 06/16/2025

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT OF \$150,000 TO SUPPORT ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS AT PERCH LAKE LANDING.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Cliff Knettel, Assistant Manager of Parks & Recreation

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve.

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:**

March 27, 2017 (17-0233R) – Approved the [St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail Master Plan](#) and authorized implementation as funding becomes available. The Plan identifies opportunities for the development and management of the Water Trail to establish a nationally significant paddling destination. Among other needs, the Plan identified a need for infrastructure improvements at Perch Lake to improve water access.

March 25, 2024 (24-0227R) – Authorized acceptance of a subgrant of \$156,600 from the MN Department of Natural Resources to support access improvements at Perch Lake Landing. This subgrant provided funding to complete full design of Landing improvements, the purchase of equipment and materials including signage and an accessible paddle launch, and pedestrian bridge repairs. The subgrant did not provide funding for construction or equipment installation.

**BACKGROUND:** Perch Lake Landing is located at 12100 MN State Highway 23, Duluth, MN, 55808.

In 2024, the City of Duluth received a subgrant (as authorized under 24-0227R) from the MN DNR with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that was associated with the Perch Lake Habitat Restoration Project. The Restoration Project completed by the MN DNR and the MN Land Trust restored connectivity between Perch Lake and the St. Louis River and dredging to restore deep water habitat within Perch Lake to improve water quality. The MN DNR and City of Duluth seek to implement site access improvements so that the community and visitors are better able to enjoy the restored area. The GLRI subaward to the City supported final design of landing improvements, repairs to the existing pedestrian bridge, and purchase of materials and equipment for use in future implementation of access improvements.

This cooperative agreement will provide necessary funding to support the construction of previously designed site improvements and installation of previously purchased equipment and materials. Use of funding provided through this cooperative agreement is limited to project construction costs, to include plan review, initial site grading and preparation, the development of the access paved parking lot including public road ingress/egress, facility stormwater systems, a portable toilet enclosure or vault toilet, installation of an accessible kayak dock, and post-construction site restoration.

In addition to carry-in access, the site will serve as trailhead access to Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail. The City will obtain all permits, prepare plans, specifications, and funding proposals, administer project implementation, and comply with all local, state, and federal guidelines.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** Under the previous subgrant, the City was able to design Landing improvements and purchase materials and equipment for installation. The materials are currently stored at Park Maintenance and will need

to be installed. This cooperative agreement provides necessary funding to support construction of designed improvements and installation of previously purchased equipment and materials. Without this cooperative agreement, the City of Duluth would need to identify other funding options, which would significantly delay project implementation.

**OPTIONS:** Authorize acceptance of the cooperative agreement and associated funding to support installation of previously designed access improvements or forego authorization to decline the \$150,000 financial support and delay project implementation.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Authorize acceptance of the cooperative agreement.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Exhibit A: Perch Lake Public Water Access Cooperative Agreement