

Planning & Development Division

Planning & Economic Development Department



Room 160 411 West First Street Duluth, Minnesota 55802

File Number	PL 24-044		Contact		John Kelley, jkelley@duluthmn.gov		
Туре	Vacation of utility easement		Planning Commission D		Date	May 14, 2024	
Deadline	Application Date		April 2, 2024		60 Days	June 1, 2024	
for Action	Date Extension Letter Mailed		April 17, 2024		120 Days	July 31, 2024	
Location of Subject		3800 Greysolon Place					
Applicant	Matt Schiller & Betsy Schwartz		Contact				
Agent			Contact	ct			
Legal Description		See Attached					
Site Visit Date		April 26, 2024	Sign Notice Date			April 30, 2024	
Neighbor Letter Date		April 19, 2024	Number of Letters Sent		nt	44	

Proposal

The applicant is requesting to vacate a portion of a 10-foot-wide platted utility easement traversing east and west across the central portion of the property located at 3800 Greysolon Place located in the Congdon neighborhood.

Staff is recommending approval with conditions.

	Current Zoning	Existing Land Use	Future Land Use Map Designation
Subject	R-1	Residential	Traditional Neighborhood
North	R-1	Residential	Traditional Neighborhood
South	R-1	Residential	Traditional Neighborhood
East	R-1	Residential	Traditional Neighborhood
West	R-1	Residential	Traditional Neighborhood

Summary of Code Requirements:

Vacation of public rights of way and/or easements require a Planning Commission public hearing with a Recommendation to City Council. City Council action is to approve or deny by resolution. Resolutions approving either a full or partial vacation require a 6/9's vote of the council.

UCD Sec. 50-37.6.C – The Planning Commission shall review the proposed vacation, and Council shall approve the proposed vacation, or approve it with modifications, if it determines that the street, highway, or easement proposed for vacation:

1. Is not and will not be needed for the safe and efficient circulation of automobiles, trucks, bicycles, or pedestrians or the efficient supply of utilities or public services in the city;

- 2. Where the street terminates at a waterfront or shoreline, the street is not and will not be needed to provide pedestrian or recreational access to the water;
- 3. Is not otherwise needed to promote the public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of Duluth.

Comprehensive Plan Governing Principle and/or Policies and Current History (if applicable):

Governing Principle #5 - Promote reinvestment in neighborhoods. The vacation will allow for additional area to add onto a garage and/or construct a detached garage.

Future Land Use - Traditional Neighborhood - Characterized by grid or connected street pattern, houses oriented with shorter dimension to the street and detached garages, some with alleys. Limited commercial, schools, churches, and home businesses.

History – The utility easement was platted in the Greysolon Place Addition plat in 1955

Review and Discussion Items:

Staff finds that:

- 1. The applicant is requesting to vacate a portion of a 10-foot wide platted utility easement traversing east to west across the central portion of the property at 3800 Greysolon Place, as shown on the attached exhibit.
- 2. The proposed vacation will allow the applicant additional area to add onto a garage and/or construct a detached garage.
- 3. The utility easement was platted in the Greysolon Place Addition plat in 1955 but never utilized for its intended purpose.
- 4. The utility easement will not be needed by the City for the safe and efficient circulation of automobiles, trucks, bicycles, or pedestrians or the efficient supply of utilities or public services in the city and City Engineering does not expect to need it in the future.
- 5. The applicant spoke with Minnesota Power regarding the vacation of the easement and they have stated this utility easement is not needed for future power lines.
- 6. Two public comments were received via phone calls. One public comment was received regarding the location of the utility easement and a second comment was received from a neighboring property to the east regarding concerns with storm water runoff. No other public or City comments have been received at the time of drafting this report.
- 7. Vacations of rights of way and easements lapse unless the vacation is recorded with the county recorder within 90 days after final approval. The vacation recording is facilitated by the City of Duluth.

Staff Recommendation:

Based on the above findings, Staff recommends that Planning Commission recommend approval of the vacation with the following conditions:

1.) The vacation must be recorded within 90 days of final approval by City Council or such approval will lapse.



PL 24-044 Area Map

Legend ■■■■ Road or Alley ROW Vacated ROW

Easement Type
Utility Easement
Other Easement
Zoning Boundaries

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