



Council Agenda Item 25-0663R

MEETING DATE: 08/25/2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH CYCLISTS OF GITCHEE GUMEE SHORES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF DULUTH TRAVERSE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE FROM 2025 TO 2028 AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

SUBMITTED BY: Tim Byrns, Project Technician, Parks & Recreation

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

July 28, 2017 (17-0306R) – Approved the [Duluth Traverse Mini Master Plan](#) and authorized application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Trails Commission for regional trail designation for the Duluth Traverse.
March 3, 2021 (21-0193R) – Authorized a three-year agreement with Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores (COGGS) for the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of Duluth Traverse.

BACKGROUND: In the early 2010s the Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores (COGGS) began collaborating with the City of Duluth to develop Duluth Traverse (DT), a bike optimized, multi-use trail that spans the City's ridgeline, linking neighborhoods and connecting users to other regional trail systems and natural areas.

In 2017, the [Duluth Traverse Mini Master Plan](#) was approved by the City, and in 2018 the DT was designated as a regionally significant trail by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. This designation recognized DT as a key recreational asset in the region.

In 2021, the City authorized the first three-year agreement with COGGS, outlining their permissions and responsibilities for the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the DT.

Currently the Duluth Traverse is 90% complete, with approximately 42 miles of constructed trail. This agreement will allow COGGS to continue to perform trail maintenance activities under the terms and conditions set forth in this, the second iteration of this partnership.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Partnership with COGGS significantly reduces the requirement for City maintenance staffing or funding associated with ongoing maintenance of the Duluth Traverse. Without COGGS volunteer activities, the City of Duluth would be responsible for maintenance. There are no City funding sources available for this project.

OPTIONS: Authorize the acceptance of the agreement with Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores for the

improvement of Duluth Traverse infrastructure or decline the agreement to halt maintenance and progress on Duluth Traverse Trail development.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize the approval of this agreement

ATTACHMENTS: COGGS Trail Maintenance Agreement 2025-2028