

Council Agenda Item 26-0049R



MEETING DATE: 01/26/2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT L30862 WITH ZENITH TRAIL CONTRACTING LLC FOR ADDITIONAL TRAIL WORK ON THE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT SPIRIT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

SUBMITTED BY: Kooper Andringa, Project Tech, Property & Facilities Management

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Resolution 23-0986R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,254,471 FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA.

Approved Resolution 23-0611R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ZENITH TRAIL CONTRACTING LLC FOR THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN LEGACY MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS PROJECT PHASE I

Approved Resolution 24-053R - RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GREATER MINNESOTA LEGACY GRANT FOR \$531,590 FROM THE GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION AND MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPLEMENT THE 2021 SPIRIT MOUNTAIN LEGACY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT.

BACKGROUND: The Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Authority (SMRAA) implemented a multi-phase expansion of its mountain bike trail system to meet growing demand and improve connections to the Duluth Traverse network. The project is funded in part through a Minnesota Legacy grant, which supports public outdoor recreation and sustainable trail development.

This project will result in the construction of five distinct trail types, including downhill jump lines, connectors and reroutes between existing downhill lines, an enduro cross-country loop, a connector trail for cross-country, and an adaptive cross-country trail.

The project is part of a larger \$1.8 million grant-funded project to renew, repair, replace, enhance, and expand trails in and around Spirit Mountain Recreation Area for snowmobiles, mountain bikes, and cross-country skiing. The City will contribute \$113,587, or about 6%, of total project costs. The City contribution will be sourced from a one-half-of-one-percent increment in the City's tourism taxes dedicated by the State of Minnesota Legislature and the City Council to capital improvements to public facilities in western Duluth for the purposes of outdoor recreation and tourism.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Increase the original contract by \$66,640.00, for a new contract total not to exceed \$480,472.25 from Tourism & Recreational Projects, Finance, Improvements Other than Buildings, Half & Half Tax Projects, Nordic – Lower Spirit. Funded by the Greater Minnesota Legacy Grant

OPTIONS: Approve the resolution and the design of the trail can continue as planned. If denied the project will be halted.

NECESSARY ACTION: Approve

ATTACHMENTS: