

CITY OF DULUTH

Community Planning Division

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File Number	PL 17-116		Contact	Steven	Robertson	
Туре	Vacation of Sewer Easement		Planning Commission Date		August 8, 2017	
Deadline	Application Date		N/A	60 Day	s N/A	
for Action	Date Extension Letter Mailed		N/A	120 Da	ys ^{N/A}	
Location of S	ubject					
Applicant	Property Owner and City of Duluth		Contact	Ronald and Rebekah Karkhoff		
Agent			Contact	Eric Shaffer, Ch	Eric Shaffer, Chief Engineer of Utilities	
Legal Description		See attached				
Site Visit Date		July 39, 2017	Sign Notice Date		July 21, 2017	
Neighbor Letter Date		July 27, 2017	Number of Letters Sent		60	

Proposal

Applicants propose a partial vacation of a platted utility easement on their property, to allow room for a future home expansion.

	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/MU-N	Residential	Traditional Neighborhood/Recreation

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.

UDC Section 50-37.6C. The Planning Commission shall review the proposed vacation, and the 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 #7 – Create and maintain connectivity: Connectivity should be provided for vehicular and non-vehicular modes.

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. Parks and open space areas are scattered through or adjacent to the neighborhood.

History: This utility easement was initially dedicated to the public for utility purposes as part of the 1930 Riverside Plat by the McDougall-Duluth Shipbuilding Company. The sewer line was relocated in 2012. There is no public infrastructure in this location.

Review and Discussion Items

- 1.) The applicants are requesting the City vacate a platted utility easement on the applicants' property. The platted easement is 10 feet wide and bisects the property. The applicant is seeking to vacate just the portion of the utility easement that is on their property. The utility easement itself runs the entire length of Block 9, Lots 1 to 11, approximately 480 feet, 40 of which is on the applicants' property.
- 2.) The existing sewer line that was in this easement was moved into Riverside Drive as part of the City's infrastructure project in Riverside in 2012. There is an old, unused, steam line running through this easement that was not built nor maintained by the City. This steam line remains in place within the utility easement, and can be removed by future property owners if so desired.
- 3.) The utility easement is not needed to promote the public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of Duluth. The City (Engineering) is a cosigner of this application.
- 4.) At the time that this staff report was written, no comment was received from the public. According to the City Chief Engineer of Utilities, all public utilities in the easement have been abandoned in place; vacation of the easement will be on a case by case basis based upon need. No other public, agency, or City comments were received.
- 5.) 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.

Recommendation

Based on the above findings, Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the partial vacation of a utility easement as shown in the attached vacation exhibit, without conditions.

City Planning

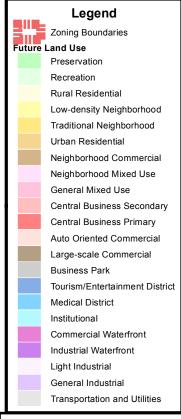
21 Riverside Drive

Legend Bike Multi-Use - Paved Mountain Biking and X-Country Skiing Climbing Trout Stream (GPS) Other Stream (GPS)

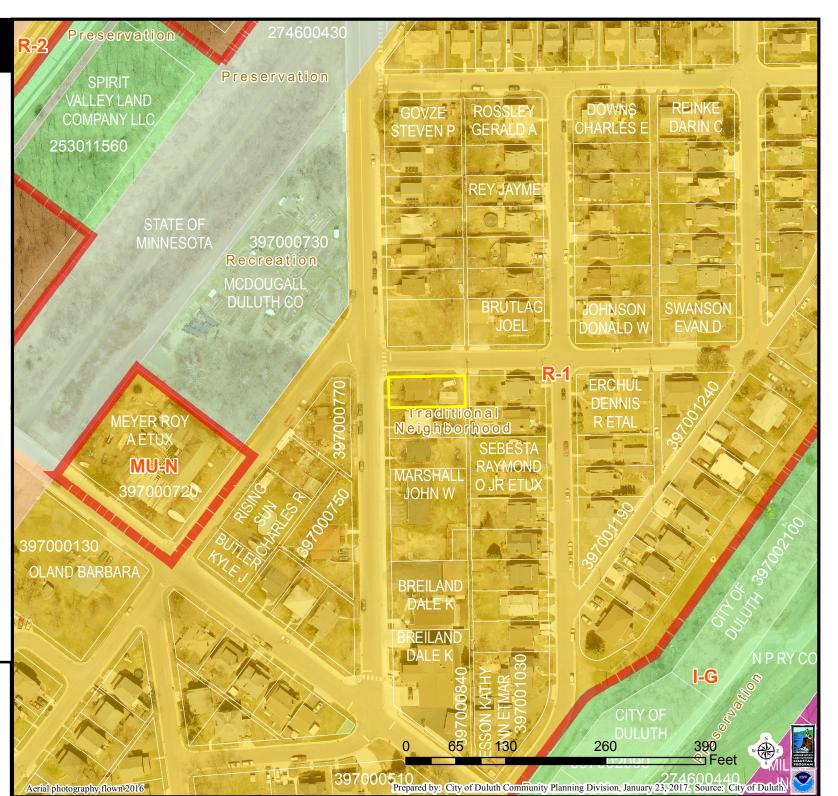


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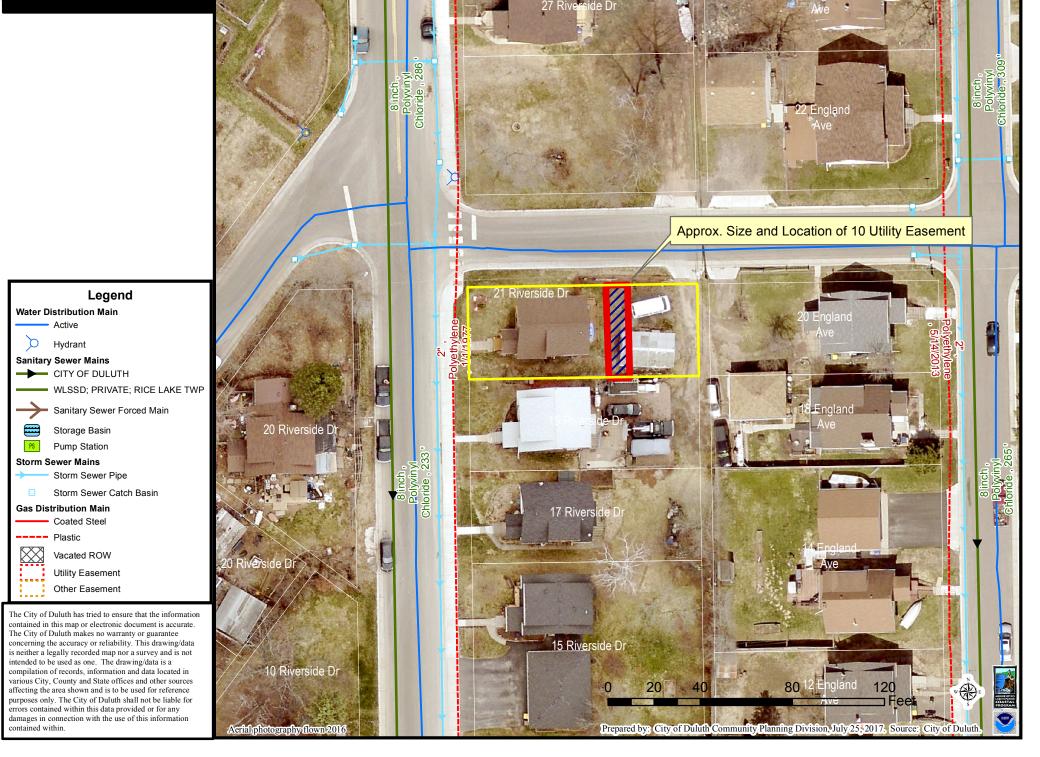
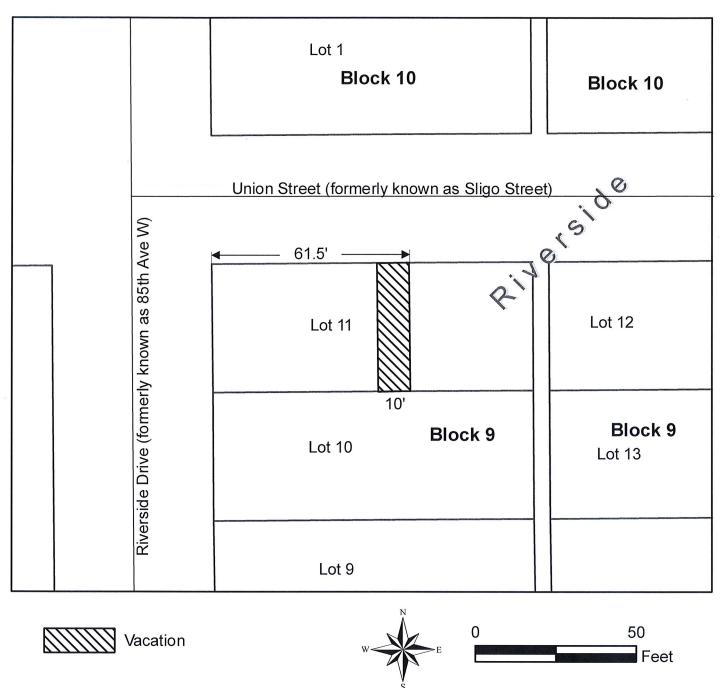


Exhibit A



Vacation description:

A sewer easement in the east 10.00 feet of the west 61.50 feet of Lot 11, Block 9, Riverside, City of Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota.

APPROVED BY CITY ENGINEER

7-17-11

DATE

