

## Planning & Development Division

Planning & Economic Development Department

Room 160 411 West First Street Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5580



planning@duluthmn.gov

File Number	PL 21-164  Vacation of Public Easement		Contact	Contact Jenn Mos		
Туре			Planning Commission Date		October 12, 2021	
Deadline	Application Date		Sept 10, 20	Sept 10, 2021		November 9, 2021
for Action	Date Extension Letter Mailed		N/A	N/A 120 Da		January 8, 2022
Location of Su	bject	1 Viewcrest Avenue				·
Applicant	City of D	ry of Duluth Contact Cindy Voigt		oigt		
Agent	N/A		Contact	N/A		
Legal Descript	ion	Outlot 1, Plat of Riverside	(see attached)	-		
Site Visit Date		October 1, 2021	Sign Notice	Sign Notice Date		eptember 28, 2021
Neighbor Letter Date		September 27, 2021	Number of	Number of Letters Sent 43		3

#### **Proposal:**

The City of Duluth proposes to vacate an unimproved storm sewer easement. As part of the vacation, a new easement will also be dedicated as a replacement easement.

<u>Recommendation:</u> Staff recommends approval of the vacation, subject to conditions.

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

#### **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. 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 #12 – Create efficiencies in delivery of public service.** As this storm sewer easement is not needed, it can be vacated.

**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. Includes many of Duluth's older neighborhoods, infill projects, neighborhood extensions, and new traditional neighborhood areas

**History:** Riverside was platted in 1930. The storm sewer easement was dedicated in the plat over portions of Outlot 1, but the easement was never used for a storm sewer or other conveyance.

#### **Review and Discussion Items:**

- 1) This easement was platted as part of Riverside in 1930, and has never been developed with storm sewer or other utility infrastructure.
- 2) A replacement to the existing infrastructure in this location, to include improved conveyance for portions of the existing stormwater conveyance, is currently proposed. The existing waterway provides conveyance to the St. Louis River at the western side of the Riverside neighborhood.
- 3) City Engineering states that an easement for the nearby existing storm sewer infrastructure will be brought to the City Council at the same time as this vacation.
- 4) Staff finds that the existing easement is not needed for the supply of utilities nor to promote the public health, safety, or welfare.
- 5) One inquiry was received from the property owner with questions about the vacation. No other public or City comments have been received at the time of drafting this report.
- 6) 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 to City Council approval of the petitioned alley vacation with the following condition:

- 1) The vacation must be recorded within 90 days of final approval by City Council, or such approval will lapse.
- 2) The Council resolution considering the vacation shall include appropriate replacement easements to provide for conveyance of applicable surface water runoff from this area of the city.



PL21-164 Vacation of Easement 1 Viewcrest Ave

# Legend

## **Boundary Lines**

<all other values>

### Subtype, ROW\_TYPE

Lot Line

—— Parcel Line

ROW (Road)

rtorr (rtouu)

-- ROW (Not Road)

Subdivision Line

Water Line

-- Survey Line

Municipal Boundary

The City of Duluth has tried to ensure that the information contained in this map or electronic document is accurate. The City of Duluth makes no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability. This drawing/data is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. The drawing/data is a compilation of records, information and data located in various City, County and State offices and other sources affecting the area shown and is to be used for reference purposes only. The City of Duluth shall not be liable for errors contained within this data provided or for any damages in connection with the use of this information contained within.



## **EXHIBIT A**



