



Legislation Text

File #: 23-0616R, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,375,000 TO EXPAND RECREATIONAL ACCESS ALONG THE ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY.

CITY PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to accept and execute an Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant contract agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, in an amount not to exceed \$1,375,000, with said funds to be deposited into fund 452-030-4220-01-HANDHTAX-1501-04 (Tourism & Recreational Projects - Finance - State of Minnesota Capital - Half & Half Tax Projects - Waabizheshikana Trail - Seg 0-3: 63rd Ave W to Boathouse Pt).

FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Duluth has the legal authority to accept these funds and the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to ensure proper planning and maintenance of the project. There is no local match required.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Duluth City Council names the fiscal agent for this project as Jen Carlson, City of Duluth Finance Director, 411 West 1st Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This Resolution authorizes acceptance of a \$1,375,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to expand recreational access along the St. Louis River and estuary.

The City applied for these funds through the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) in 2022. The LCCMR funding is approved by the State Legislature and is administered by the Minnesota DNR. Access to the St. Louis River will be improved through the implementation of three relevant comprehensive plans: the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail, Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail, and Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Heritage Trail Interpretive Plan. Expanding access to the St. Louis River aligns with the vision of the City of Duluth's St. Louis River Corridor Initiative, which aims to support environmental restoration, enrich neighborhood quality of life, attract new homebuyers and businesses, establish a nationally significant visitor destination, and stimulate economic development.

These funds - in combination with awards and support from the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Greater Minnesota Legacy Parks and Trails Commission - are intended to support the implementation of the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail, as well as the design and completion of accessibility improvements along segment 0 and construction of segments 1-2 of Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail. There is no local match required for this grant program.