



**Council Agenda Item 26-0343R**

**MEETING DATE:** April 27, 2026

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO ZENITH TRAIL CONTRACTING LLC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HAWK RIDGE TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADE PROJECT

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** Approved Resolution 22-0527R - RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE MINI-MASTER PLAN

Approved Resolution 24-0226R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE CITIZENS COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES FOR FUNDS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND FOR UP TO \$155,000 TO SUPPORT ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE.

Approved Resolution 25-0723R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$155,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCING PRESERVATION AND ACCESSIBILITY AT HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Duluth was awarded \$155,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to support Phase I implementation of the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Mini-Master Plan. The grant focuses on improving universal accessibility and restoring ecological integrity within the reserve. Specifically, the funded work includes construction of approximately 1,300 linear feet of universally accessible trail, development of an accessible loop, and improved accessible access to an existing viewing platform. All trail improvements are required to meet Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) recreational trail accessibility standards.

Phase I addresses two priority issues identified in the mini-master plan: the lack of equitable access to high-quality outdoor recreation and conservation-based education for individuals of all abilities, and the degradation of native plant communities caused by terrestrial invasive species. Completing this phase will lay the groundwork for future improvements, including accessible parking, educational spaces, and an overlook area, all of which are anticipated to be supported through subsequent grant funding.

To fulfill the commitments associated with the grant and begin on-the-ground implementation, the City solicited proposals from qualified trail-building contractors. The proposed contract will authorize a trail builder to complete Phase I construction activities in alignment with the mini-master plan and grant requirements. Advancing this work represents the first step toward making Hawk Ridge a safer, more sustainable, accessible, and equitable natural space, while expanding opportunities for conservation-based education and stewardship.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** Budget is \$137,200.00 from the Parks Fund-Community Resources-Parks Capital-Improvements Other than Buildings-Cap Mtce Fund 205-Hawk Ridge-Mini-Master Plan fund.

**OPTIONS:** Approve the resolution and construction can commence on the Hawk Ridge Trail. If denied the project will be halted.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Approve.

**ATTACHMENTS:**