

Council Agenda Item 26-0657R



MEETING DATE: 7/27/2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRACK WHEELCHAIR MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH HARTLEY NATURE CENTER.

SUBMITTED BY: Allison Brooks, Project Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: 22-0943R – authorized an application to the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission for a grant of \$14,280 to support the purchase of a track wheelchair and expand access to Duluth’s parks and trails. 23-0383R authorized acceptance of the grant.

23-0825R – authorized the first track wheelchair management agreement with Hartley Nature Center, which expired on June 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND: This resolution authorizes a new management agreement with Hartley Nature Center for the collaborative management of Duluth’s track wheelchair.

In 2023, the City of Duluth applied for and was awarded a Connecting People to the Outdoors Grant of \$14,280 from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission to support the purchase of a track wheelchair to expand recreational access to Duluth parks and trails. A track wheelchair is an off-road-capable, power wheelchair that can traverse trails, snow, and sand, allowing users to explore areas that traditional wheelchairs might not reach. This agreement with Hartley Nature Center creates an avenue for free rental of the track wheelchair, where Hartley Nature Center has the on-site staffing to support people that wish to use the chair during normal hours of operation. The chair is also utilized by Duluth Parks and Recreation staff at programming at other locations. The chair is available free of charge.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The track wheelchair is owned and maintained by the City of Duluth. Hartley Nature Center supports public interface for free rentals of the track wheelchair in coordination with the City of Duluth.

OPTIONS: Authorize the agreement to maintain track wheelchair rentals at Hartley Park and Hartley Nature Center or decline authorization to halt the collaborative effort and reduce public availability of the track wheelchair.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize the agreement.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Management Agreement