

# Council Agenda Item 26-0047R



**MEETING DATE:** 01/26/2026

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT OF \$200,000 FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ATV DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO SUPPORT A STUDY OF POTENTIAL ATV ROUTES IN FAR WESTERN DULUTH.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Cliff Knettel, Assistant Manager of Parks & Recreation

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve.

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:**

24-0922R – Resolution authorizing an application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ATV Dedicated Account for up to \$200,000 to support a study of potential ATV routes in far western Duluth.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Duluth does not currently allow ATV use in parks. ATV-owning residents of far western Duluth, represented today by the Duluth-based nonprofit Head of the Lakes ATV Club, have long wanted the City to designate select routes in Duluth for ATV use to enable Duluth ATV riders to connect to the outlying statewide ATV trail network. An ATV route study is needed to determine appropriate locations for trailheads and routes to connect far western Duluth to the outlying Minnesota regional ATV trail system while identifying and mitigating conflicts between different trail user groups and protecting the most valuable and vulnerable natural resources from potential damage.

Staff have provided informational presentations of the proposed route study to the Parks & Recreation Commission and Natural Resources Commission. In 2024, the City of Duluth submitted a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as authorized by resolution 24-0922R. This resolution authorizes acceptance of a grant of \$200,000 from the ATV Dedicated Account to complete this ATV Route Study with no local matching requirements.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** The funding accepted through this contract requires no local matching funds and will support the full cost of the proposed ATV Route Study. There are no other currently identified funding options to support this work.

**OPTIONS:** Authorize acceptance of the grant agreement to support an ATV Route Study in far western Duluth or forego authorization to decline the funding and halt the project.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Accept the grant contract to support an ATV Route Study in far western Duluth.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Exhibit A – Grant Contract and Exhibit B – Map of Potential Routes for Study