

# Duluth Values Open Space

By Glenn Kreag



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## Executive Summary

This report documents how residents perceive the importance of open spaces in Duluth, Minnesota. Duluth is known for its extensive open spaces, particularly their natural ambiance and relation to Lake Superior. The type, nature, and quantity of open spaces contribute significantly to the character and quality of a community, a concept captured locally in the community-wide "2001 & Beyond" visioning process (completed in 1997) where participants indicated maintaining Duluth as an "urban wilderness" was a priority.

The data in this report are the result of an 8-page, 20-question survey that reached 955 Duluth residents in 2001. The survey was conducted at the request of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Committee, a subcommittee of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The EAC is appointed by the City of Duluth. The University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program designed the survey with assistance and review from the EAC, the NRI Committee, and the Minnesota Center for Survey Research. The project was funded by the City of Duluth and Minnesota Sea Grant through a grant from the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership.

Two types of open space were defined: Natural Open Space - places where the native vegetation grows without significant alteration and, Developed Open Space - places where land and vegetation are altered or controlled. There is a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$  on survey results. 399 completed surveys were collected.

## Abbreviated Results

1. **Natural open spaces are valued** – seven of the nine statements presented about the value of natural open spaces received almost unanimous support (94-96%). Two statements received support of 89% and 88%. All nine statements received over 50% "Strongly Agree" responses. The statements are:

- (96% support) Views overlooking Lake Superior and the St. Louis River are an important part of the character of Duluth and must be protected and managed.
- (95% support) Duluth's natural open spaces must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.
- (95% support) Natural open spaces are an essential element to the aesthetics (beauty) of Duluth.
- (95% support) Natural open spaces – forests, meadows, ponds, wetlands, wooded hillsides and creeks – within the city are defining characteristics of Duluth and make it unique. Natural open spaces throughout the city are important to me whether I use them or not.
- (95% support) Small natural open spaces in my neighborhood are important to me whether I use them or not.
- (95% support) Natural open spaces throughout the city are important to me whether I use them or not.
- (94% support) Native plant communities (forests, meadows, ponds, wetlands) within the city are important to me.
- (89% support) It is important to keep existing open space connections and/or make new connections to create public greenbelts (corridors) throughout Duluth.
- (88% support) Forest wildlife (deer, fox, bear, moose, forest birds, etc.) within the city is a defining characteristic of Duluth.

2. **Developed open spaces are valued** – the four statements presented about the value of developed open space received almost unanimous support (93-97%). All four statements received over 50% responses of "Strongly Agree." The statements are:

- (97% support) Developed open spaces must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.
- (94% support) Developed open spaces are important for maintaining the natural character of Duluth.
- (93% support) Having developed open spaces throughout the city is important to me whether I use them or not.
- (93% support) Having developed open spaces in my neighborhood is important to me whether I use them or not.

3. **The amount of open space is about right or more is wanted** – respondents thought the amount of natural open space (61%) and the amount of developed open space (68%) was about right. A sizeable number felt there was not enough natural open space (32%) or developed open space (23%). Few felt there was too much natural open space (7%) or developed open space (9%).

4. **An open space system is desirable** – linking existing open spaces to create better off-road walking and biking access, helping define neighborhoods, and helping maintain wildlife corridors is supported (85%, 31% strong support). This concept was opposed by 15% (4% strong opposition).

5. **Converting open space to developed land would damage Duluth** – if some of Duluth's natural open spaces were converted into residential, commercial, or industrial uses, would the city's image, character, and appeal be changed? Almost two thirds (63%) felt that the appeal and character would be much less than it is now. Another 21% felt it would be somewhat less than it is now. Of the remaining 16%, the appeal and character would be unchanged for 9%, 4% thought the city would be somewhat better than now, and 3% thought it would be much better than now.

6. **Open space protection and funding favored** – Duluthians indicated they are willing to plan for the protection of open space and are willing to consider strategies for funding needed to protect and maintain those spaces. Residents want an open space plan as part of the Duluth comprehensive plan (88%). They favor the use of conservation easements or transfer of development rights to protect land from development (84%). Respondents (80%) think the city should redirect current revenues for open space preservation and maintenance. 70% indicated support for initiating a bond referendum to raise new money for open space purchase or maintenance. However, authorizing a property tax increase for purchase and protection of open space brought a split response (50% opposition, 49% support).

7. **Public health and safety are the most important government functions** – respondents rated 12 functions of the local government. Fire protection/emergency services received the highest ranking (94%), followed by police protection/public safety (86%); education (79%); and water supply, sanitary and storm sewer (70%). Streets and roads (56%); parks, playgrounds and recreation areas (56%); libraries (53%); and natural open space preservation (52%) were viewed as moderately important government functions. Economic and business development (44%); social services (41%); public transportation (40%); and beautification and aesthetic improvements (38%) ranked as less important government functions.

## Introduction

This report is about the perceived importance of open spaces in Duluth, Minnesota. It is based on a survey conducted in 2001 at the request of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Committee, a subcommittee of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The EAC is an appointed committee of the City of Duluth. The NRI needed to document Duluth residents' opinions about open space within the city and additional open space owned by the city outside the city limits. Open spaces are seen as assets and help define the character and quality of communities.

## Definitions

The NRI committee requested that a distinction be made between two categories of open space--natural open space and developed open space. The following definitions were used to distinguish the two types of open space:

**Natural Open Space:** Places in which the native vegetation is left alone to grow without significant alteration. Except for trails, overlooks, etc., there is minimal alteration to the landscape and, generally, no facilities are provided. There is no minimum or maximum size for natural open spaces and ownership may be public or private. Natural open spaces may also include lands that have been previously used and have been left to revert to native ecosystems.

**Developed Open Space:** Places where land and vegetation are altered and controlled. They may have facilities and structures for specific purposes including parks, picnic and beach areas, gardens, sports and recreation areas, golf courses, etc.

## Survey

The organization, design, and size of the survey sample were developed with the coordination of the Minnesota Center for Survey Research. This report is based on results of 399 completed surveys, for a final adjusted response rate of 42%.

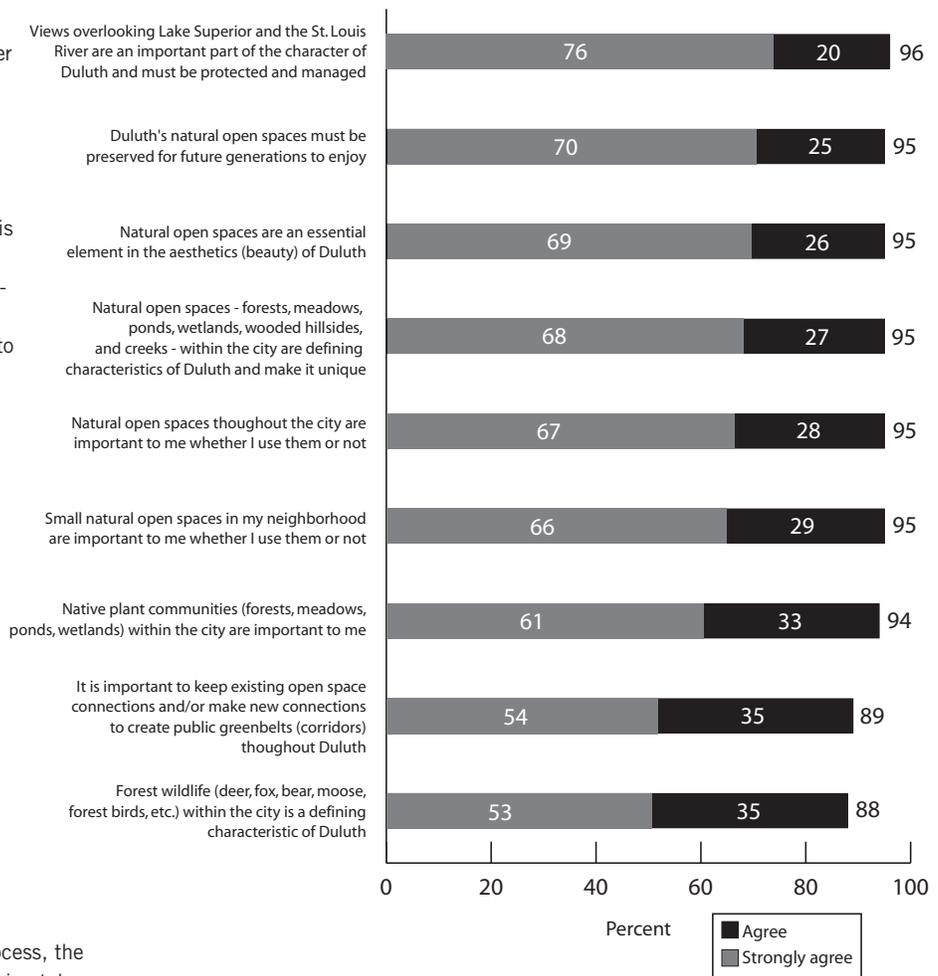
Respondents come from all areas of Duluth. An additional 24 surveys were completed by people residing outside Duluth and are not included in this report. Details about the organization and management of the survey can be found in Appendix A.

To check on whether respondents held different opinions than those who did not respond to the questionnaire, a non-response bias check was conducted. Telephone interviews were conducted with 81 non-respondents who answered a select subset of questions from the survey. The results of this survey showed no significant difference between positive responses and negative responses as compared to the original respondents. The results have possible margin of error of ±5% at a 95% confidence level.

### Natural Open Space Values

The EAC and NRI Committee wished to understand how Duluthians value natural open space. Residents were asked whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with a series of value statements. Figure 1 shows that nearly all respondents value natural open spaces. Notably, the majority of respondents "Strongly Agree" that open space is valuable (53% to 76% depending on statement). At the opposite extreme, depending on the statement, the "Strongly Disagree" response was selected by 1% to 3% of respondents.

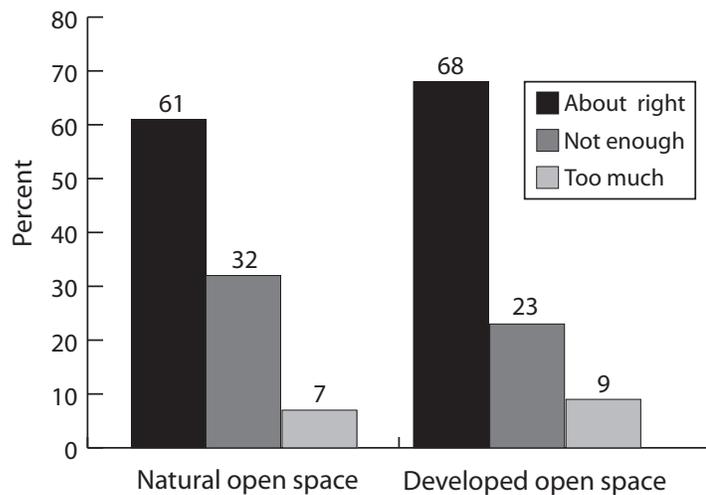
Figure 1  
Natural Open Spaces - Values of Duluth Residents



### Amount of Open Space

In Duluth's comprehensive planning process, the consultant noted that Duluth has approximately three times the open space that most cities of comparable size have. Therefore, Duluthians were asked whether they thought the amount of open space was "Too Much," "About Right," or "Not Enough." Open space was divided into "natural open space" and "developed open space" categories. As shown in Figure 2, about two-thirds of the respondents thought that the amount of open space was "About Right" in both categories. However, for natural open spaces, one-third felt that there was "Not Enough" while few felt there was "Too Much." For developed open space, almost a quarter of the respondents felt there was "Not Enough" with about one-tenth responding there was "Too Much."

Figure 2  
Amount of Open Space in Duluth

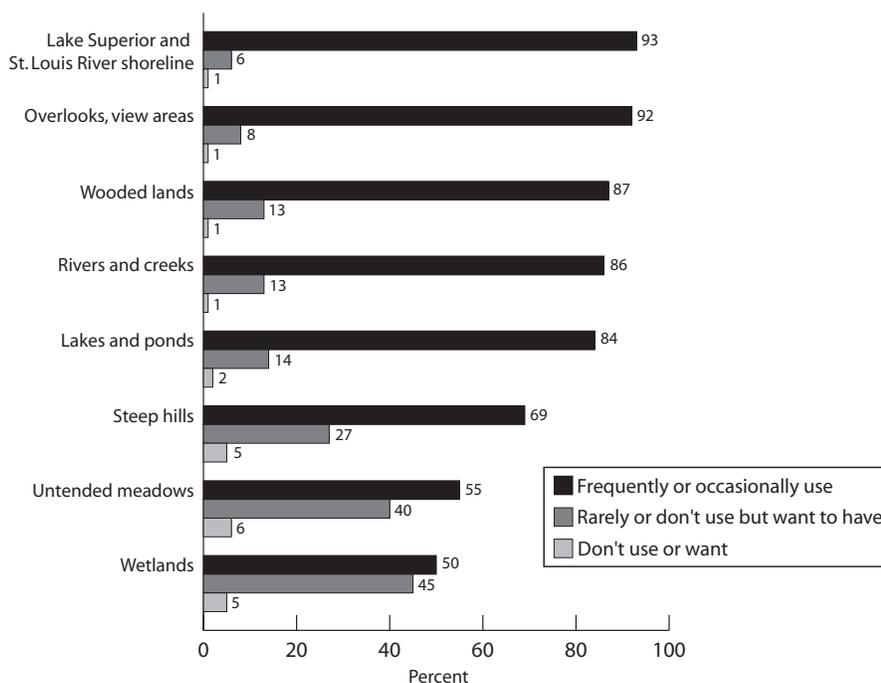


With the amount of existing open space in Duluth, the number desiring more open space might be surprising. However, given the strong value placed on open space (Figure 1), it probably reflects the importance of open space in the lives of many Duluth residents.

## Use and Enjoyment of Natural Open Spaces

Duluthians report that they make extensive use of and enjoy the presence of natural open spaces. This includes both the physical and indirect uses of natural open spaces. The way residents use and enjoy natural open spaces is highly correlated to the strong values placed on these spaces (Figure 1). Even those people who do not use (or have access to) open spaces report that they want to have them for others to enjoy. The number of people who do not use and don't want natural open spaces is minimal.

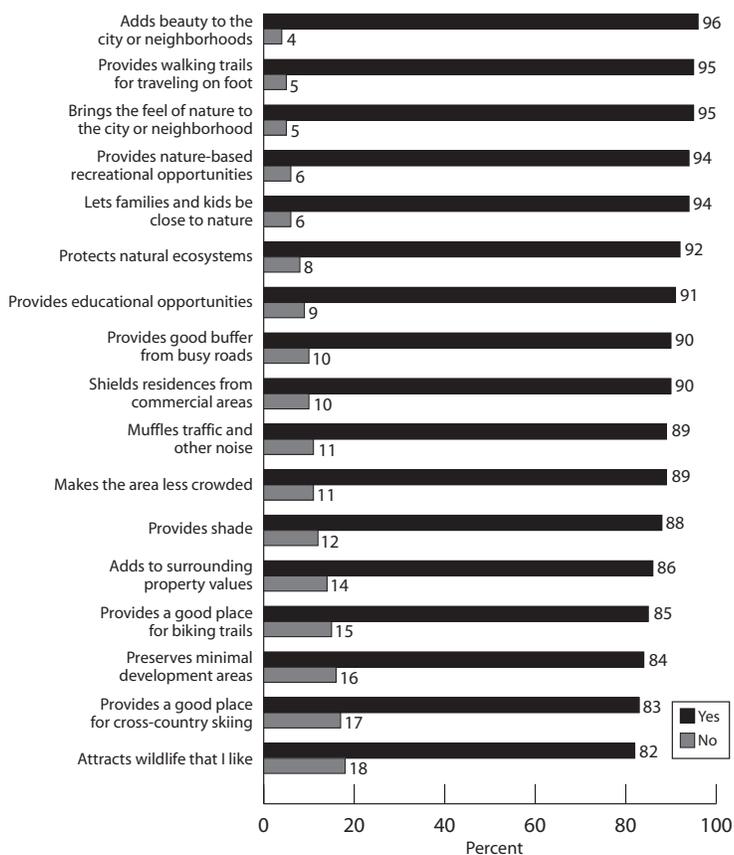
Figure 3  
Use and Enjoyment of Natural Open Spaces



## Personal Value

Respondents were asked which of 17 qualities of natural open space provide personal value. Qualities incorporated active recreation, aesthetics, natural resources, and qualities that enhance urban places. Respondents rated all of the qualities highly, indicating that Duluthians are keenly aware of the ways they benefit from natural open space. In addition, 13% of respondents added comments of other ways that these spaces provide positive value. There was only one negative comment.

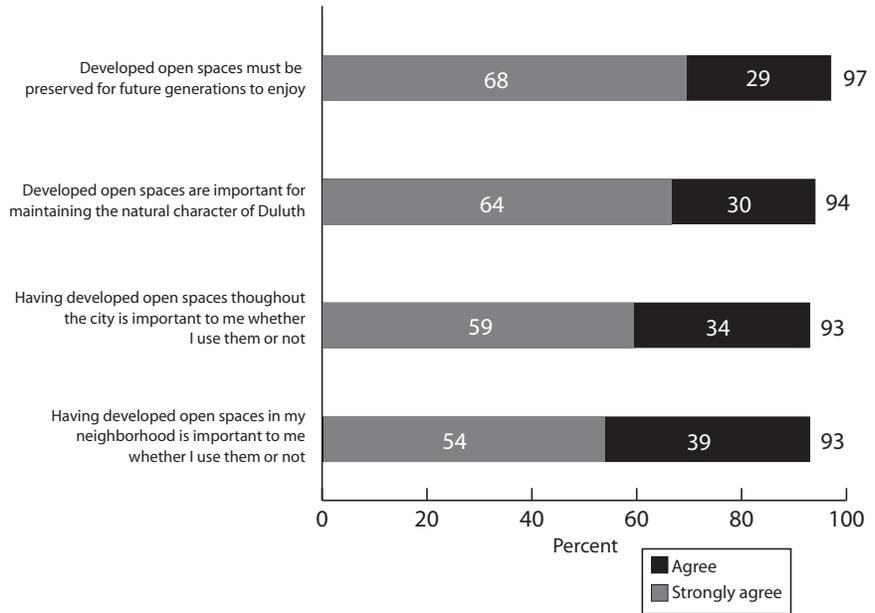
Figure 4  
Which Natural Open Space Qualities Give Personal Value?



## Developed Open Space

Developed open spaces are managed parks, sports facilities, zoos, gardens, picnic areas, beaches, golf courses, etc. They are the other major component of open space. To compare opinions about natural open spaces and developed open spaces, a series of questions were asked paralleling the questions about natural open space. The results for developed open spaces are similar to natural open spaces: nearly all respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" about the value of developed open space.

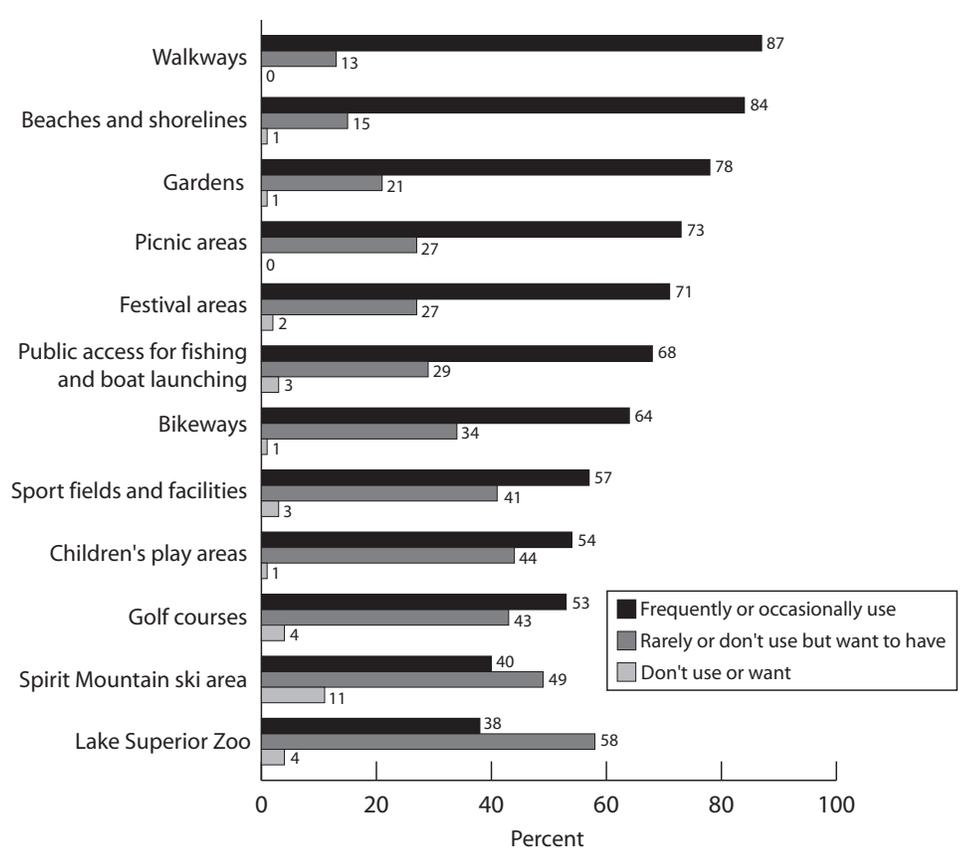
Figure 5  
Developed Open Space Values



## Use and Enjoyment of Developed Open Space

Developed open spaces tend to have facilities for more specific uses and can be expected to attract those interested in that use. The high percentage of people who frequently or occasionally enjoy the array of developed facilities is notable. Of the 12 types of developed open spaces identified, 10 showed levels of participation above 50% with walkways, and beaches and shorelines leading the participation at 87% and 84%, respectively. As with natural open space, most people who do not participate or participate only rarely still want the facilities to exist for others. Only Spirit Mountain Recreation Area had noticeable opposition, with 11% saying they did not want the facility.

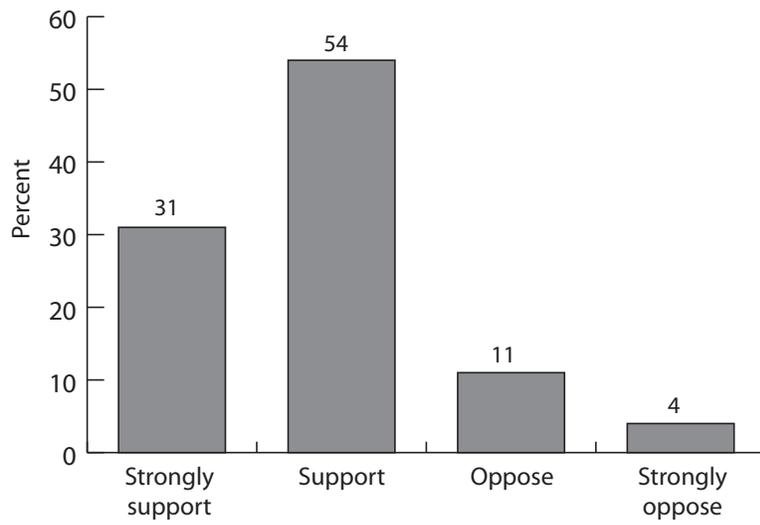
Figure 6  
Developed Open Space Use and Enjoyment



## Open Space System

Planners have noticed benefits for communities where open spaces are connected to create a linked system. The benefits include: helping to define neighborhoods; providing off-street trails for walking, hiking and biking; and providing habitat corridors that allow wildlife to circulate within the city. The survey asked respondents to indicate whether they supported or opposed the creation of an open space system for Duluth. Results show a high level of support (85%) including 31% who strongly support the concept. A total of 15% oppose the idea, 4% with strong opposition.

Figure 7  
Creating an Open Space System

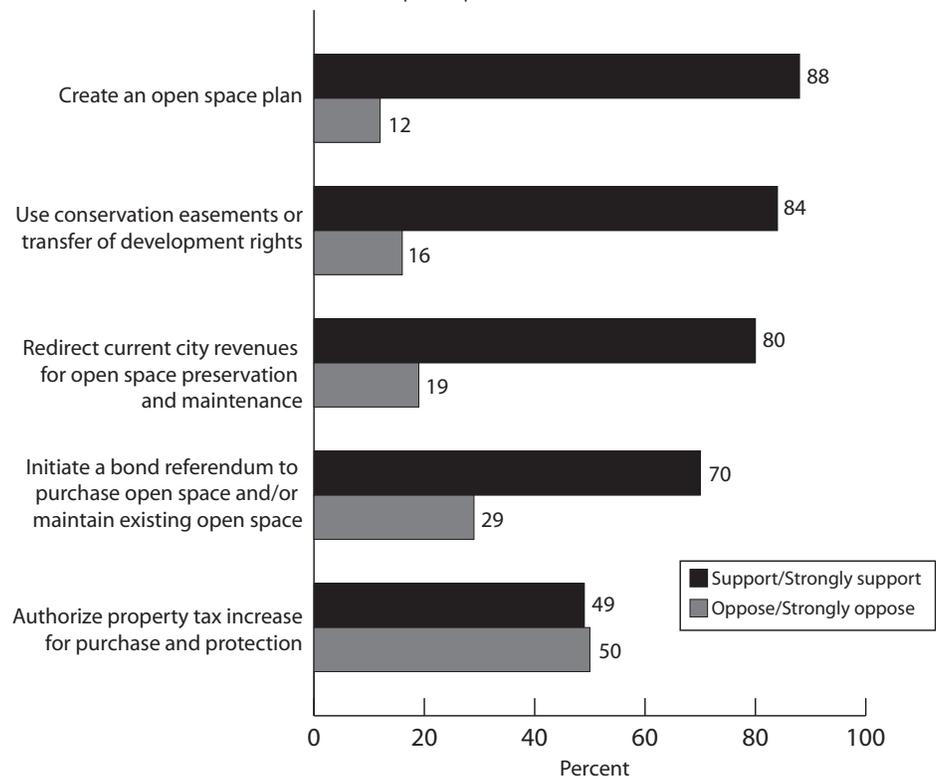


## Open Space Protection and Funding

While high interest and participation in open space indicates that Duluthians value these resources, they only come with planning and financing. Because there are significant areas of open space that are not well protected, questions were asked about how to provide better planning and protection for open spaces. Respondents also expressed their opinions about financing open spaces.

There was strong support for three measures: creating an open space plan (88%), using conservation easements or the transfer of development rights to protect open space (84%), and redirecting existing city revenues for open space preservation and maintenance (80%). Support exists (70%) for initiating a bond referendum to purchase open space and/or maintain existing open space. Increasing property taxes for purchase and protection of open space met with roughly equal support and opposition.

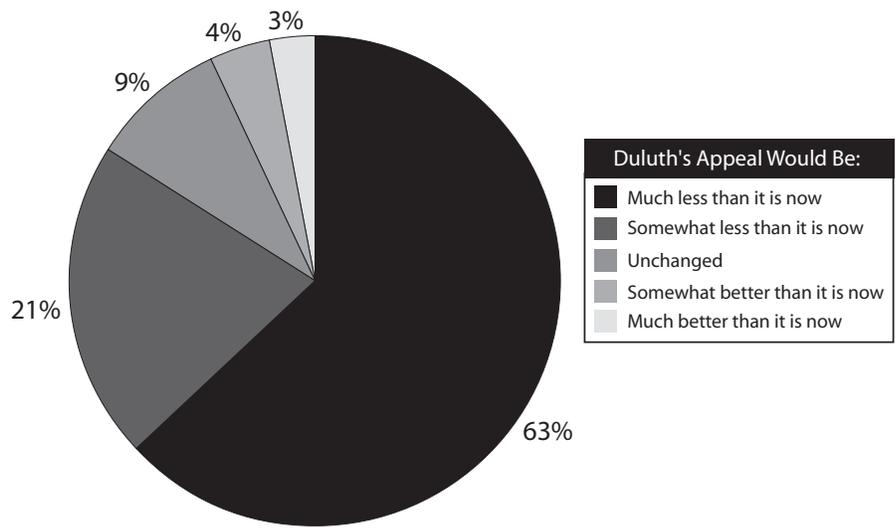
Figure 8  
Open Space Protection Methods



### Open Space and Duluth's Appeal

Considering the large amount of open space in Duluth, some proposals have suggested developing a portion of the existing open space for residential, commercial, or industrial uses. Asked if Duluth's appeal would be affected if development of open space occurred, nearly two thirds (63%) of respondents said the resulting city would be much less appealing than it is now. Another 21% said Duluth's appeal would be reduced somewhat. Combined, 84% of all respondents thought Duluth's appeal would be damaged if open spaces were developed.

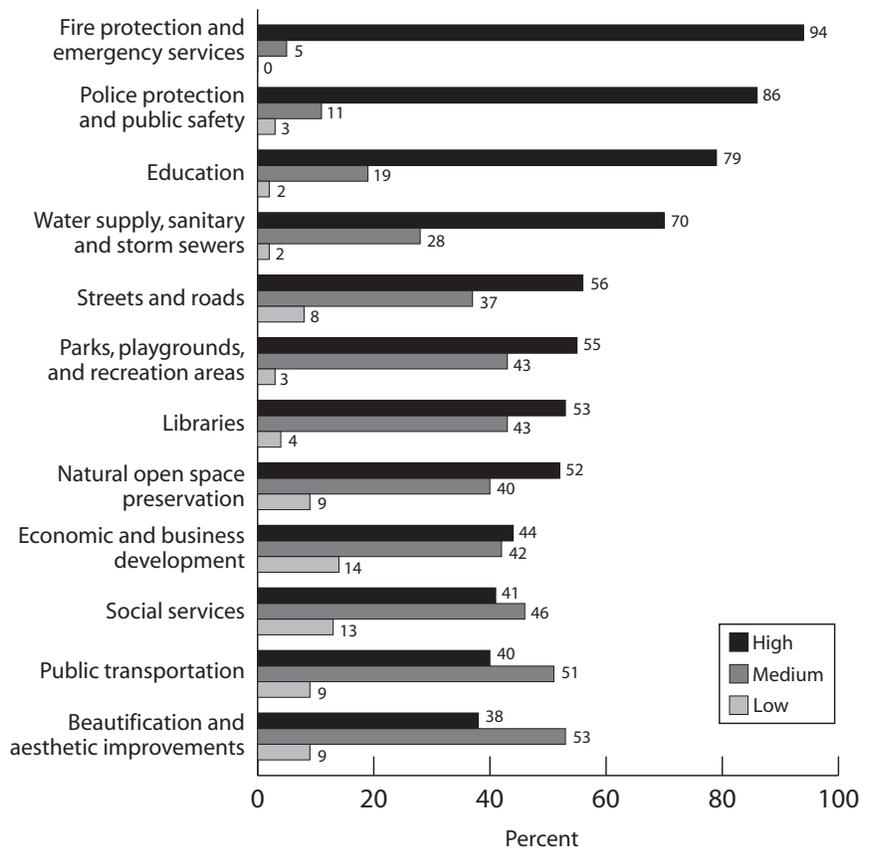
Figure 9  
Duluth's Appeal if Open Space is Converted to Developed Land  
(e.g. residential, commercial, industrial uses)



### Comparing the Importance of Open Space to Other Government Functions

As an indication of the importance of open space relative to other government functions, respondents were asked to rate the importance of 12 functions as either high, medium, or low. Four functions were considered high priorities for Duluth: fire protection/emergency services (94%); police protection/public safety (86%); education (79%); and water supply, sanitary and storm sewer (70%). Just over half of respondents rated streets and roads (56%); parks, playgrounds, and recreation areas (55%); libraries (53%); and natural open space preservation (52%) as highly important government functions. The remaining four functions had the fewest "high" rankings: economic and business development (44%); social services (41%); public transportation (40%); and beautification and aesthetic improvements (38%). The categories with the most "low" rankings are economic and business development (14%), and social services (13%).

Figure 10  
Importance of Government Functions



## Analysis of Duluth Sub-Areas

An analysis was conducted to determine if different areas of the city held different views about open space. Duluth's 29 neighborhoods were grouped into three sub-areas labeled "East," "Central," and "West." The neighborhoods included in each of the sub-areas are as follows:

East (34% of all respondents): Chester Park / UMD, Congdon Park, Endion, Hunters Park, Lakeside / Lester Park, Morley Heights, North Shore, and Woodland.

Central (40% of all respondents): Central Hillside, Downtown / Central Bus. Dist., Duluth Heights, East Hillside, Kenwood, Park Point, Piedmont Heights, and West End / Lincoln Park.

West (26% of all respondents): Bayview Heights, Cody, Denfeld, Fairmont, Fond du Lac, Gary / New Duluth, Irving, Morgan Park, Norton Park, Oneota, Riverside, Smithville, and Spirit Valley.

Figures 11-17 show that most of the sub-areas have only minor variations in response to key questions. Larger differences between sub-areas are shown in the intensity of support or opposition rather than in shifts between support and opposition. Therefore, the net support and net opposition for most questions does not vary significantly between sub-areas. The differences are generally less than the margin of error for the data. The margin of error for sub-areas is  $\pm 10\%$ .

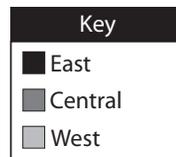


Figure 11  
Amount of Natural Open Space

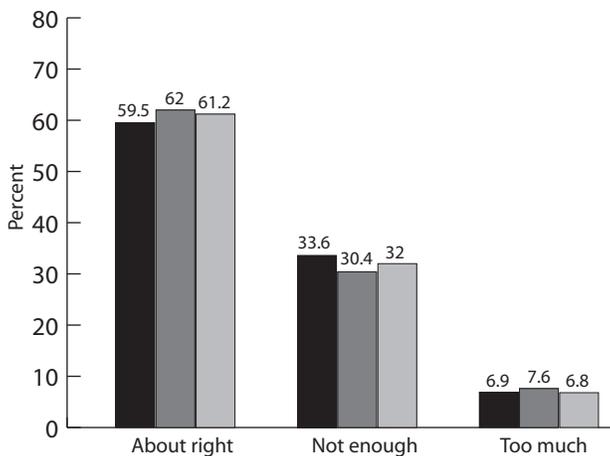


Figure 12  
Amount of Developed Open Space

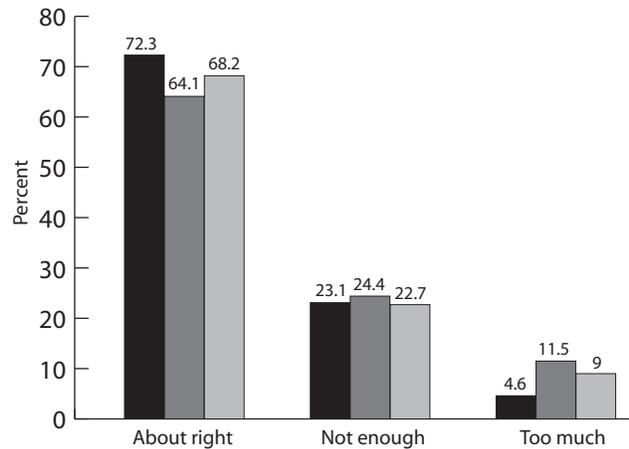


Figure 13  
Create a Plan to Protect Open Space

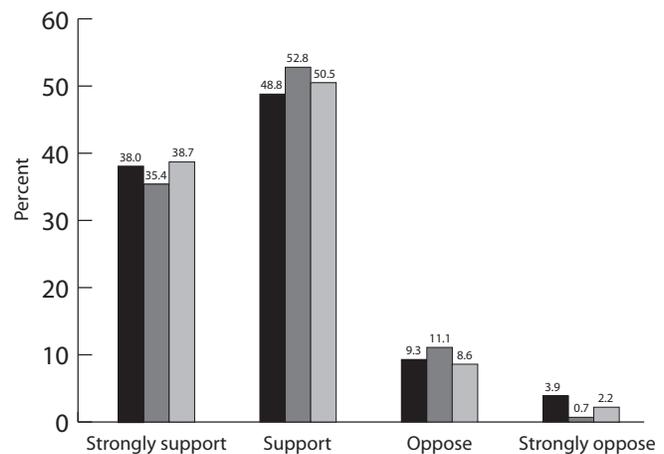


Figure 14  
Protect Open Space with Conservation Easements and Transfer of Development Rights

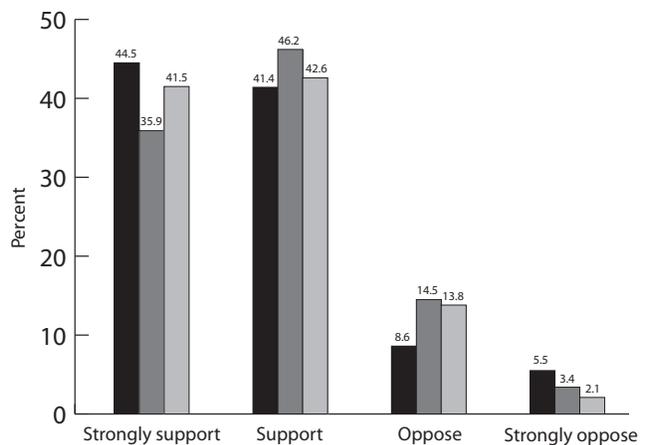


Figure 15  
Redirect City Revenues to Open Space  
Preservation and Maintenance

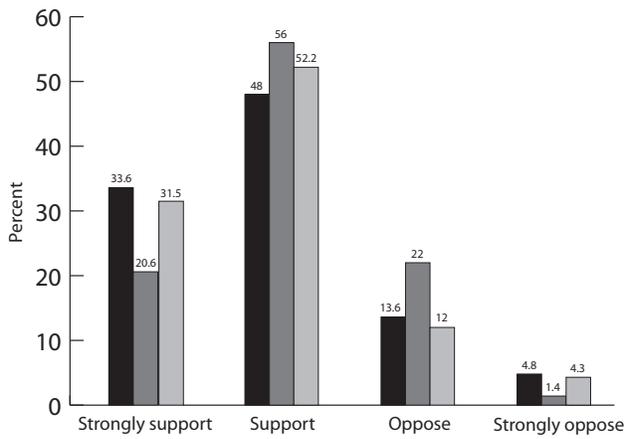


Figure 16  
Property Tax Increase to Purchase  
and Protect Open Space

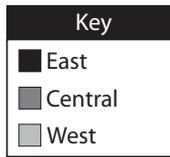
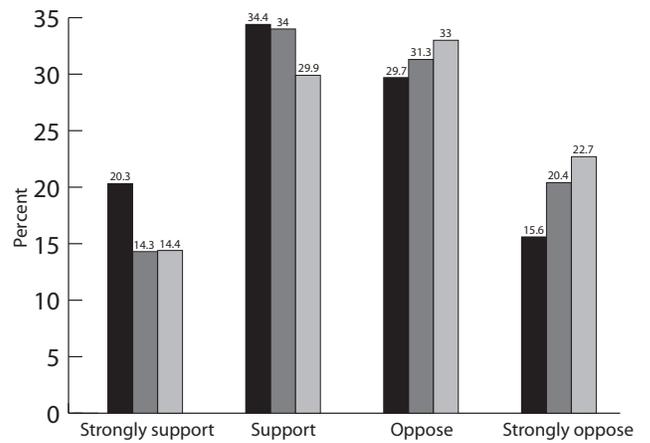
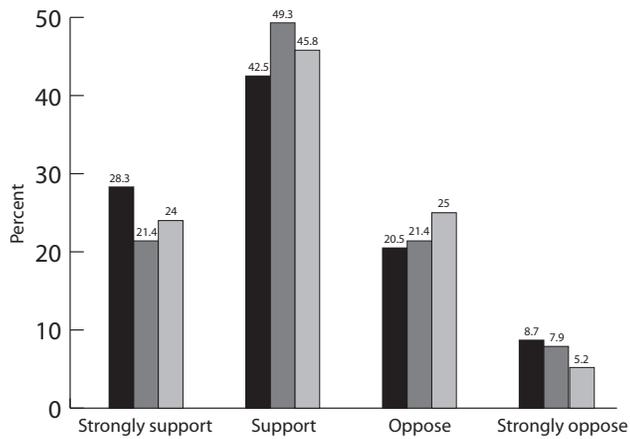


Figure 17  
Bond Referendum to Purchase  
and Maintain Open Space



# Duluth Community Survey

## Resident Perceptions About Open Space

### Overview

The Duluth Community Survey was conducted as a mail survey by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research at the University of Minnesota. The project was funded by the City of Duluth and the University of Minnesota Sea Grant College Program through a grant from the Northeast Region Sustainable Development Partnership.

Respondents answered questions about NATURAL open spaces, where the vegetation is left alone to grow naturally, as well as questions about DEVELOPED open spaces, where the land and vegetation are altered or controlled. For both, they were asked their level of agreement or disagreement with a series of statements about open space, to select the qualities that they value in the Duluth open spaces that they enjoy, and to provide information about use or enjoyment they derive from various types of open space in Duluth. They also responded to several open-ended questions about: (1) whether natural open space land should be developed for other uses; (2) which natural open spaces would be the greatest loss and the greatest gain if removed from open space designation and developed for other uses; and (3) whatever else they would like to say about open space in Duluth. Finally, they were asked about their level of support or opposition to five specific options for funding open space, and to rank the relative importance of twelve local government functions.

Mailing and data collection were conducted from May 16 to September 5, 2001. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 399 Duluth residents and the overall response rate was 42%. The responses were compiled into a technical report by the Minnesota Chapter for Survey Research, entitled, "Duluth Community Survey, Resident Perceptions About Open Space: Results and Technical Report."

### Goals

The goal of the Duluth Community Survey was to gather information from city residents about open space issues, from the value that they place on open space to funding for open space preservation and maintenance.

The survey results were given to city officials and to a city of Duluth citizens' steering committee called the Natural Resources Inventory Committee. This committee advises the mayor and city council about how residents view open space needs. The results were also reported to the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership, a program created by the Minnesota Legislature, which provided funding for this project. Finally, the information will also be used by Duluth city planners, who are currently updating the city's comprehensive plan, and who are managing open space for the city.

### Study Design and Management

The Duluth Community Survey was conducted as a mail survey by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR) at the University of Minnesota. The project was funded by the City of Duluth and the University of Minnesota Sea Grant College

Program through a grant from the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership. The highest standards of quality survey research were employed in conducting this project.

Administrative coordination of the project was provided by MCSR Director, Rossana Armson, who was also responsible for conducting the pretest, revising the survey instrument, data collection, coding and editing, and writing the methodology report. MCSR Data Manager, Anne Hoffman, was responsible for ensuring data accuracy and conversion of the raw ASCII data into an SPSS system file format for analysis. She also converted descriptive data into graphic form.

### Questionnaire Design

In February 2001, a draft version of the questionnaire was provided by Glenn Kreag, who had already worked extensively with city planning staff. This survey draft was revised by Rossana Armson, and a pretest of 50 surveys was mailed on April 26 by the University of Minnesota Sea Grant College Program. A total of eleven pretest surveys were completed and returned, and minor revisions were made to the survey instrument. In addition, the title of the survey was changed from "Duluth Open Space Survey" to "Duluth Community Survey" to encourage responses from individuals whose knowledge about open space was limited.

### Sampling Design

A random sample of 1,250 Duluth households was obtained by Glenn Kreag from Zipsort, Inc. It was a proportional sample from each of Duluth's ten zip codes.

### Data Collection Procedures

The procedures used by MCSR for this mail survey were based on *Mail and Telephone Surveys*, by Don A. Dillman. Mailing and data collection for the Duluth Community Survey were conducted from May 16 to September 5, 2001.

### Mailing Procedures

The first mailing was sent to the entire sample on May 16 and included the following: (1) a cover letter from Glenn Kreag inviting participation in the survey; (2) a map printed on the back of the cover letter for use in answering question 13; (3) a survey instrument; and (4) a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

The second mailing consisted of a reminder postcard, which was sent to all sample households on May 30. The postcard thanked individuals if they had already filled out the questionnaire, and asked them to take time to complete the survey if they had not already done so.

On June 15, a third mailing was sent to all individuals who had not yet returned their survey. This mailing was identical procedurally to the first mailing and included a copy of the questionnaire, a reminder cover letter, and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

**Mailing Procedures (cont.)**

On July 5, a final postcard was sent to everyone who had not yet responded.

Copies of the cover letters and postcards are presented in Appendix C of the Results and Technical Report.

**Supervision and Quality Control of the Mailings**

Staff at the University of Minnesota Sea Grant College Program in Duluth, under the supervision of Glenn Kreag completed the four mailings. Quality checks were made prior to sealing envelopes to ensure that the survey packets were complete and that the address labels and survey identification numbers matched.

**Management of the Data**

**Editing and Coding**

Editing and coding included the completion of three major tasks. First, all surveys were checked for response clarity to eliminate dual responses when single-answer responses were sought, or to create a separate category for dual responses. Second, the coder/editor recorded responses to "other-specify" questions. Third, responses to open-ended questions were reviewed, response categories created, and value labels assigned, or the open-ended responses were transcribed verbatim (see Appendix B of the Results and Technical Report).

Editing and coding were done by a coder/editor who attended a training session to familiarize herself with the survey instrument. Unclear or ambiguous responses were directed to the MCSR Director for resolution. In addition, the MCSR Director conducted quality control and reviewed coded/edited surveys throughout this phase.

**Data Entry and Cleaning**

After coding was completed, the questionnaires were key entered onto a data tape by a commercial data entry firm and a computer data file was prepared. Once a complete file of the questionnaire was constructed, it was examined systematically to remove data entry errors. Data cleaning involved the use of a computer program to evaluate each case for variables with out-of-range values. In addition, the file was examined manually to identify cases with paradoxical or inappropriate responses.

**Constructed Variables**

For analysis three variables were constructed: AREA (geographic area); Q14GRP (years lived in Duluth); and Q15GRP (year born). All three of these variables are presented in Appendix A of the Results and Technical Report. AREA was constructed using the neighborhood codes from Q13 and from the map that had been printed on the back of the cover letter (see Appendix C of the Results and Technical Report). The other two variables were constructed by combining numeric responses.

**TABLE A1  
NEIGHBORHOODS INCLUDED IN EACH AREA**

Area	Neighborhood Numbers*
East	3, 5, 10, 14, 17, 19, 20, 28
Central	2, 7, 8, 9, 16, 23, 24, 29
West	1, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 21, 25, 26, and 27
* For neighborhood names, see p 8, "Analysis of Duluth Sub-Areas"	

**Completion Status**

Questionnaires were completed and returned by 399 Duluth residents. An additional 24 surveys were completed by individuals who lived outside Duluth, but these surveys are not included in this report. Nine individuals declined to participate in the survey, 547 surveys were not returned, and the remaining 295 households were eliminated from the sample for the reasons listed below in Table A2. The overall response rate was 42%.

**TABLE A2  
FINAL STATUS OF THE DULUTH COMMUNITY SURVEY**

Status	Number	Percent
Surveys returned	399	32%
Refusals	9	1%
Surveys not returned	547	44%
Eliminated:		
Deceased	5	0%
Undeliverable mail	158	13%
Not a Duluth resident	82	7%
Pretest households	50	4%
	1,250	101%
	Completed questionnaires	
RESPONSE RATE	= ----- = 42%	
	Total sent - eliminated	

## Respondent Information

The survey was distributed proportionally throughout the city of Duluth. A tally of the respondents' neighborhood is shown below in Figure A1. Figures A2 and A3 show respondents geographic sub-areas (East, Central, and West) and years lived in Duluth, respectively. A comparison of average income for the three sub-areas of Duluth (East, Central, and West) is shown in Figure A4. Figure A5 and Figure A6 shows respondents' age grouping and educational background, respectively.

Figure A3  
Years Lived in Duluth

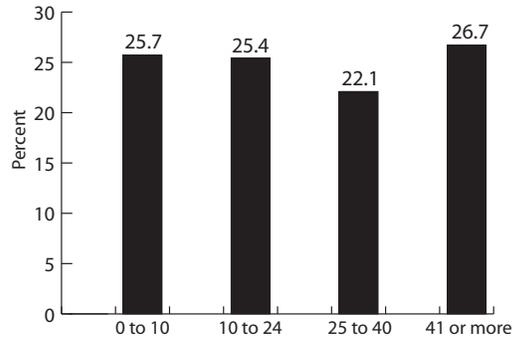


Figure A1  
Distribution of Respondents

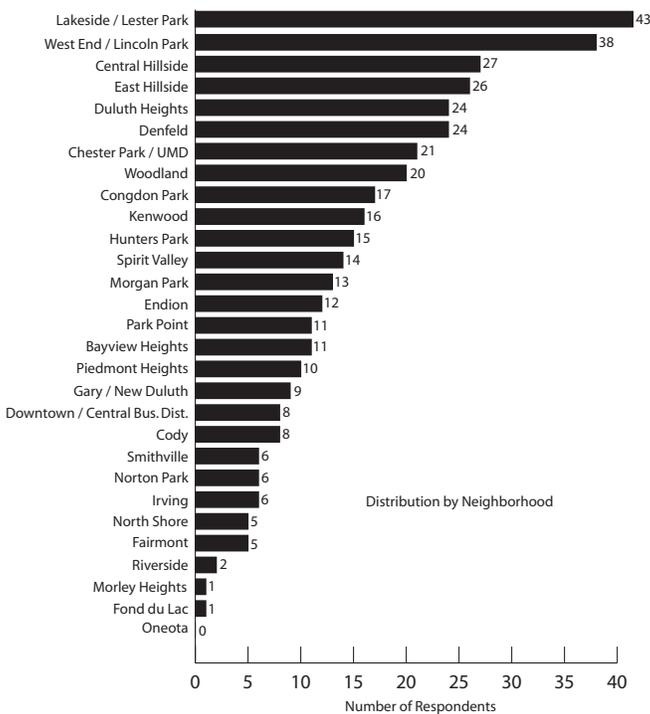


Figure A4  
Total Family Income

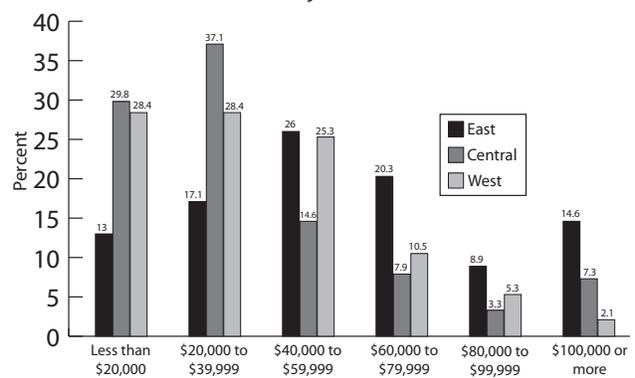


Figure A5  
Respondents' Ages

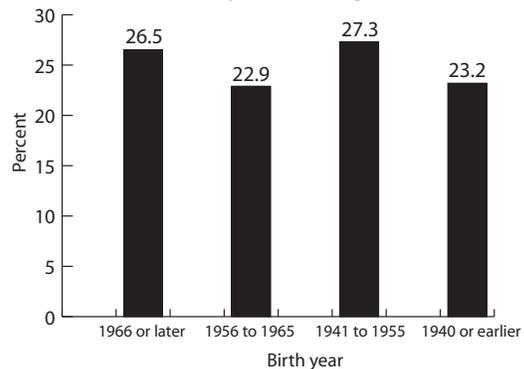


Figure A2  
Distribution of Survey Respondents

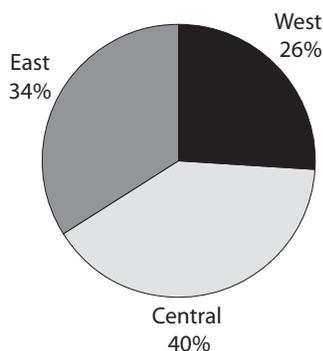
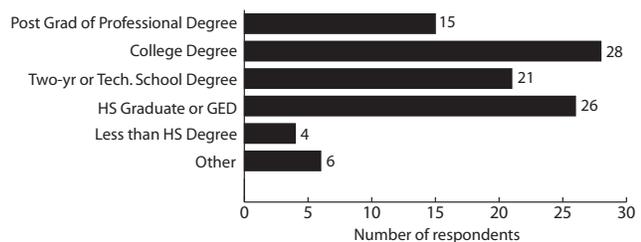


Figure A6  
Education Level of Respondents



## General Comments on Open Space from Duluth Community Survey

Respondents had an opportunity to provide comments at the end of the survey. The comments below are taken directly from the survey without change. Brackets [ ] have words added to clarify the meaning of the comment. The comments have been grouped into general issue or topic categories for ease of understanding.

ISSUE CATEGORY	Protect open space; Limit growth / size; Don't want more development.
1. Keep development in areas such as Miller Hill. Duluth is the perfect size and population now. Efforts to make it grow would make it less appealing place to live.	spaces. We frequently use Lester Park, Brighton Beach, and Hartley for recreational purposes. These open spaces give a rich character to Duluth.
2. I'm upset with all the hotel development at Bayfront & Park Point. I think this is a "slap" in Duluth's face!	21. Please complete the Superior Hiking Trail through Duluth and onward west. Thanks.
3. There should be more [open space].	22. Open space is Duluth. It's part of what makes Duluth special.
4. Keep existing space – it is what makes Duluth the beautiful city it is!	23. Duluth has done a good job
5. I am really sick over construction of Home Depot. The beautiful woods that were once in that spot were destroyed.	24. "The natural beauty of Duluth defines it [the city]. Without it we just become another Midwest town. With it, we attract a high quality of resident interest[ed] in preserving it, plus a vital tourist industry.
6. It [open space] is being used up too fast.	25. I have lived in several different cities. By now, Duluth is the most beautiful. The reason is the preservation of its natural open spaces.
7. Leave it [open space] alone.	26. Develop downtown.
8. Need to develop additional open space. Take advantage of decline in population to purchase areas.	27. I think we need MORE small OPEN areas – such as occurs when two or so vacant lots are available on the same block. Such as sufficient for small kids to play ball on, or other simple games, without them having to walk several blocks to a more formal park-like area. Tot Lot type open areas. May not need any formal playground equipment but having it mowed regularly, or having it available for a volunteer group from the neighborhood to sponsor mowing it regularly, would give more usage to kids that may not be able to afford formal activity. Especially – but not limited to the hillsides – West, Central, East. Yes low income housing is hard to find, but when there is an open area with the 50' lot available, if it is kept up even a little – by a group of concerned neighbors – who have been told it is ok for the kids to use it – I think this would in many cases be better than cramping a new house into the space.
9. Open spaces plundered while downtown dwindles.	28. I believe the tourist industry is extremely important to Duluth's economy and if it weren't for our intricate and beautiful system of parks and playgrounds, people would not want to come back to this area. Plus, most people who choose to live here do so because of the amount of nature preserved within the city limits. Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings.
10. Growing up in Duluth has been wonderful. I would hate to see the elimination of open space areas I used as a child.	29. They [open spaces] are what represents the Duluth area, they're what Duluth is known for.
11. Preserve them [open spaces].	30. Nature, all around us, is a gift especially to those who cannot get away to the cabin on the lake. Natural open space amongst us keeps us sane.
12. I came to Duluth for work, but I stayed here because of its natural beauty and open spaces. If they were compromised, I would most likely leave the area.	31. Easy access to open space throughout Duluth is one of the best things about Duluth. It's why I've lived here 19 years. We don't need more urban development/sprawl. The Miller Mall area is a travesty.
13. I like Duluth the way it is. Worried about nature being ruined by business development. I think we have more than enough stores and shopping malls!	32. I have used and continued to use these spaces all of my life. I went strawberry and raspberry picking with my grandmother in upper Oneota Park in the West End, right under Skyline Parkway, and in Hartley Field. My family and their dogs and I walk on Minnesota Point, Lincoln Park, Chester Bowl at least once a week. I love the fact I don't
14. To keep [open space] at the level it is now but not give it to business.	
15. I walk everyday rain or shine in Hawk's Ridge and Seven Bridges Rd. I need that rejuvenation. It is highly important to me that areas of nature be preserved.	
16. Continued commercial development near Lake Superior corridor should be curtailed and a buffer zone should be created.	
17. Having grown up in the Twin Cities, the move to Duluth in 1984 has become more and more valuable over time. Over-development of the metro area has reinforced my decision to remain in Duluth.	
18. Stop building and expanding malls. Utilize center city for commerce, not open spaces.	
19. Preserve it! [open space]	
20. One of the reasons my husband and I moved back to Duluth (from the Cities) was because of the beauty and accessibility to these open	

## ISSUE CATEGORY

## Protect open space; Limit growth / size; Don't want more development.

have to drive outside of the city for nature and fresh air. The quality of life here is wonderful and extremely important to preserve.

33. Leave it.

34. The 'naturalness' of Duluth's vegetation makes it seem less like a city.

35. I love Duluth and all its open space areas. The open spaces add so much to our way of life here. I enjoy being "out there" and hope the wilder areas will be around for my children.

36. Preservation is of utmost importance.

37. Would be a shame to lose them in the name of progress.

38. Keep it! I know many people who come to this area specifically for the natural beauty. I was one of them! I use these areas as much as time allows and would be disappointed to see them taken over for development of business and/or homes.

39. I think that open space is Duluth's greatest asset and should be preserved at all costs. Our future and quality of life depends on how we act now. I am from the East Coast and have watched areas pulverized by urban sprawl. We all need to have a vision of what we want to live with and how we can preserve the earth for future generations.

40. Tourism is an important part of Duluth's economy. I moved here because of the beauty of Lake Superior and have met many others who feel the same way. I have a child and would like him to experience plants, flowers, trees, bugs, birds, and other animals. It brings him much joy and understanding about our world and our place in it.

41. I think Duluth is a beautiful city and a wonderful place to grow up in. The parks and open spaces make it unique.

42. I think leaving the areas to nature, with little public help, would benefit most. Money for these projects could be used elsewhere.

43. I do not want to become Minneapolis – all buildings and people – no grass. Duluth is beautiful because of its water and green. We can't lose it. I hate the Cities.

44. Please do everything to preserve. I've lived in many cities where the only way to enjoy nature or sites was to drive miles and miles. Here we're in walking distance to all sorts of beauty.

45. As a "new" resident of this city I have to say the sole reason for my moving to Duluth was its natural beauty. I used to live in Rockford, IL, a city at one time respected for its natural/agricultural beauty. It is now an overly developed nightmare of suburbia and strip malls as well as redundant merchants. This is why I left and why I would also leave Duluth if its city planner chose a similar path of development. However, I believe in Duluth and will not leave without a "fight" on behalf of its legacy of natural resources.

46. The natural beauty of the area keeps me connected to Duluth.

47. The open spaces in Duluth are much more valuable than City Planning or City Council realize. They are very valuable for economic/aesthetic reasons, plus environmental protection.

48. Cities with more concrete than chlorophyll bother me.

49. As the population continues to rise it becomes more and more vital in protecting our open space for future generations to come.

50. Nature is very important to Duluthians. This is one of the main reasons why people stay here.

51. When coming into Duluth from any direction it is welcoming. Do not disturb the hills like the city destroyed the lake front with the aquarium and the other things they plan on building. These buildings block the beautiful view of the lake – that used to be. Save as much as possible for us, our grandchildren, and future generations.

52. Let us please think of our wildlife. How about their space?

53. Saving open spaces from development should be #1 concern. People have to change to save the land, not land change to save people. "Live simply so others may simply live." "We have not inherited the land from our forefathers, we are 'borrowing' it from our children."

54. Open space is a very important part of our community and we need to maintain what we have so that it will be here for all generations to come and we need to consider the natural wildlife that lives in these open spaces.

55. It's nice to have a park system we can tell others about.

56. I have always been one to enjoy our parks, walkways, etc. I love the fact that just minutes away from my home I have several options of places to take my family for a "nature" experience.

57. Keep it green!

58. We need to constantly ask ourselves "is this project in the best interest of the environment?" I believe we need to borrow the concept of "7 generations" from the Native American community.

59. Don't try to be like a "big" city. Be Duluth! That's why we live here and that's why the tourists come here. Green is good!

60. Under careful conservation the beauty, integrity, and uniqueness is unsurpassed. The trails, the parks, and the public access to enjoy the outdoors is of utmost importance in my choice to have a residence in the Duluth area.

61. That they are beautiful and that is why I like it here.

62. Duluth is a breather, a relaxer, and a peaceful area where you can be in an uncluttered environment just minutes from the front door no matter where you live in the city. Each area is unique – Enger Park, walk the waterfront, Munger Trail, Hartley, Canal Park, zoo, etc. where else can you find so very many fun places – Spirit Mt. in winter – a place for all seasons. Guard it – take your time in planning each phase. You've done a wonderful job. Thank you so very much. I'm always in awe of Duluth when I take friends and relatives around. My family from Scotland couldn't rave more. They say Duluth is a city hidden in the hills. Friends from Canada ask, "why is it kept such a secret?"

63. It is nice for me to see woodlands and wetlands, fields, and streams throughout the city. I really think that there is too much unneeded building going on. We don't need any more malls, high-priced housing developments, golf courses, etc. I realize that we need businesses and such, however, we also need natural open spaces to ease our souls.

**ISSUE CATEGORY**

**Protect open space; Limit growth / size; Don't want more development.**

64. Open space is important for the preservation of foliage and fauna throughout the area. Without it, hundreds of species that thrive today could become endangered or extinct. The effort to maintain these areas is commendable.

65. Open spaces in Duluth are a valuable resource. They allow us to connect with nature. Give us a place to recreate. A place to meet and gather with friends and families. Open spaces are used to educate. They make our neighborhoods a more beautiful and comfortable place to live. In general, they improve the quality of life for those who live in Duluth. Open spaces also provide us with a way to protect and conserve ecosystems located here.

66. It attracts visitors to Duluth!

67. We need it [open space]!

68. I would like to see an open space system for hiking and biking trails throughout Duluth.

69. I am more concerned in the preservation of natural open space than parks. I have 3 young children and what I wish for them is to be able to grow and appreciate the value of nature. I would hope that this would help keep young adults and young families living in Duluth. Don't over-develop the City of Duluth. Work to improve the old structures, not create more.

70. We need to keep Duluth natural next to the lake. It should be as natural/open space as possible!

71. It is a very important characteristic of Duluth and must be preserved and maintained.

72. Don't make Duluth another Twin Cities or St. Cloud!

73. The open spaces, mostly creeks and streams, make Duluth unique. When down in these [creek] beds all you see are trees. This is awesome.

**ISSUE CATEGORY**

**Balanced growth**

1. Need a balance. There's a reason we have trouble getting people to move to Duluth, not a progressive area. Opposition to all new ideas/projects – freeway to golf course. Sad.

2. Too much disagreement, always lawsuits.

3. We need to consider major green and open spaces, but unless we concentrate on improving our business climate and slow-to-approve commercial development, Duluth will be all green and open space!

4. It is just fine the way it is. We don't need anymore. If people want to be close to nature they can go out to the country. Why do tree huggers live in the city anyway?

5. I also understand the growth of our economy and the need for further business/residential development. I hope we can find a balance that will please everyone.

6. I feel that there should be an equal balance of natural spaces left untouched and developed nature spaces for all different kinds of people to enjoy and use. The city must be careful not to take away too many open spaces to bring more business to Duluth but still bring business and people to our wonderful city.

7. More youth and children's playgrounds in every neighborhood. Less taverns!

8. We need to develop businesses and economics in our area to keep our population growing. But we must keep our city's natural open space areas always in mind while developing.

9. It's a delicate balance – open space is a luxury. Duluth is in great need of development. I support preserving "some" open space and developing others. I think Duluth is special because of the lake...and LAKEWALK. I believe we need more controlled natural spaces (developed).

10. We are relatively new to Duluth and have enjoyed the open spaces and creations that they afford. However, we do worry about the economic future of Duluth.

11. Duluth needs to be sure of its overall priorities when creating long and short range visions for itself. Open/developed garden path spaces are great and I find them personally critical to my enjoyment of living in town. However, without super schools and neighborhoods that have a great sense of community, the rest is just window dressing.

## ISSUE CATEGORY

### Need more growth

1. I am sick of Duluth holding back business development because of a tree.
2. The area around Duluth has large amounts of open space. The areas within the city should be available for development as the need arises
3. We need more commercial development and less politics
4. I would gladly give up my picnic space if it meant better and more jobs. When I tire of urban development I can retire to a small community. Right now I'd be happy to be a part of Duluth's anticipated growth.
5. Maybe more focus should be made on attracting industry to Duluth. What good are parks, schools, etc. if our families have to leave here to seek employment. Their taxes are lost so fewer people have to pay more for services.
6. I love Duluth. It's beautiful. But I can't stay because there are no jobs for scientists like myself. So, development would keep me here but get rid of open space. Irony.
7. I would like to see more development in Duluth so there is a viable economic future for my kids.

## ISSUE CATEGORY

### Lack of environmental sensitivity; Issues of open space maintenance

1. Living on Park Point I can see that it's a fragile environment. People and developers don't have any sense of care about it, trample over it, plow it up, cut down trees and shove more people in a small place and leave trash all over. Makes me really cranky.
2. I like open space but when you come to Duluth and see it, it just looks really bad and not clean so you need to fix that first and then maybe I would like to live in Duluth, but right now I don't like it because it is not clean and all the roads need help. So try to do that first and then talk about open space.
3. Keep it clean.
4. Hilltop view of city and lake is very beautiful, but tall shrubs and trees are obscuring much of it.
5. Maintain golf courses better.
6. I am deeply concerned over loss of wetlands and over development of Central Entrance Corridor bringing in more consumer businesses that do not offer jobs that include benefits and livable wage. We are exploiting the land for commercialism when the population of the city and surrounding communities remain static and do not justify the "need" for more consumer options. The downtown area dwindles and offices are empty, waiting for business – but near sighted individuals allow the open spaces to be plundered.
7. Neighborhoods should help maintain parks, etc. They would be valued more if residents had an active role. Community service options for maintenance. Taxing is not the answer. We have beautiful spaces and citizens need the responsibilities that go with ownership!
8. Organized groups should be encouraged to adopt natural open spaces, and do annual garbage cleanup, i.e., Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, churches, youth groups, etc. At least perimeters and trails where garbage collects. I do not encourage signage that will identify who has adopted the open space (sign pollution). But businesses can donate gift certificates or "rewards" to groups as incentives or "thank yous," i.e., fast food places donating basic meals or gift certificates for food and drinks on the day of clean up.
9. Plant more trees for scenic beauty.
10. Please install a safety rail near the lake walk from the western bridge to Leif Erickson Park for prevention of falls onto the stones and railroad track.
11. A committee needs to look at areas that need attention or improvement (eye sores). I don't want these to be included in a protection plan and left as (untouched messes).
12. Don't screw it up.
13. I would call Miller Creek green space almost a total failure. Amongst the traffic and concrete. Don't want to see that replicated in other parts of the city.
14. Duluth is a beautiful city. But it takes a lot of work to keep it up. Hopefully the City of Duluth can keep this up.
15. The golf courses could use improvements, especially Enger Park.
16. The only concern that I have, as a mother of young children, is that some of our community parks (Good Fellowship and Fond du Lac) aren't always kept up. Good Fellowship is better, but Fond du Lac has broken equipment. I've heard, but not seen, that other parks like this need more maintaining.
17. How about upgrading Skyline Parkway signs and Skyline/Snively Road itself?
18. Putnam [Portland] Square – 10th East & 4th Street – was, has been, and is still an ugly space. Tourists may never see it but Duluthians have had to look at it for too many years as a park that cries "lower class."
19. How about launching a "Beautify your property and Duluth" campaign? With before and after pictures?

**ISSUE CATEGORY**

**Other open space management issues**

1. The open spaces need to be advertised more. Many people who visit the area or live here do not know of all the various places within the city for recreational purposes.
2. Continue bay walk all the way to the fishing pier under the Blatnik Bridge.
3. The city has done a beautiful job with the lake front. Would like to see a bridge (pedestrian) across from Bayfront Park to that first slip and a walk way all the way down to that small "park" area by the remains of the old bridge to Superior.
4. It is hard to find open space – everything is already a neat organized open space.
5. A Frisbee golf course would be cool.
6. Need more police patrols.
7. Why are all the community programs held in Chester? It is the least accessible park in the city. There are several that are on the bus line.
8. I agree they should be protected and "managed," but in what way? If that means restrictions of use or limits on the land for the public use then I would disagree because it's the freedom to explore and feeling the land is actually natural – NOT expensive and man-made.
9. Duluth needs to capitalize on the snowmobile industry through trails, etc. Where do our license fees go?
10. Take care of what we have and do not develop more until our current open spaces are well maintained. Monitor use of public areas and prioritize funds to improve most used areas.
11. Would like to see more camping opportunities in city like Endion Point and Gary/Fond du Lac, and fishing piers. No more soccer fields needed.
12. Needs to be better marked – hiking trails in Chester Bowl, etc.
13. We need to get all of Skyline roadways fixed and open to the public. I feel it will show tourists the true beauty of Duluth – the balance between open spaces and developed spaces equally.
14. I grew up in the Brainerd/Baxter area. Going back breaks my heart when I see the incredible development that has happened. Besides nothing green, you cannot go anywhere without a car. I walk to work along College St. where there is no grass median between the street and sidewalk. Besides being semi-dangerous, I can reach out and touch cars going 40 miles per hour. It doesn't allow for any trees along the street and while this not necessarily green space in regards to the purpose of your survey, 'tree-lined' streets make an incredible difference in the quality of a neighborhood. UMD keeps growing parking lots along its perimeter. This summer they will be cutting down trees along Junction [Ave.] for another lot and filling in a low-lying wet area. They never listen to us at the neighborhood meeting: that this type of growth is not the best. Maybe they would listen to you.
15. Even though Hartley Field is a natural open space, it would be nice if there were some bathroom facilities available. When school children are there for a long period of time it is a problem. Many of them can only go so long between bathroom visits.
16. I think the head of parks and recreation has done a bad job.
17. I would like to see a sidewalk for public use around such areas as golf courses, as traffic is busy and many people walk or hike around these areas. In bigger cities this idea has proved beneficial for all outdoor enthusiastic individuals.
18. It should be created in areas accessible to all income levels. I am especially interested in open spaces for low income families so they can have nature and recreational opportunities which are free of charge.
19. Would like to see an extension of the lake walk to Lester River (and beyond?) using rail corridors. Strongly oppose further development of Hartley Field (i.e., putting in road through park). Oppose Spirit Mountain golf development.
20. Don't let dogs walk on board walk. Is for people to walk, not dogs and their poop!

**ISSUE CATEGORY**

**Political issues**

1. It seems as though no matter what the public has voted for in recent years to preserve natural beauty in Duluth, City Council, the Mayor, Planning Commission find ways to do what they want. People are very discouraged.
2. Concerned about political influence – how mayor and city council handle improvements [developments] and how special interests play [to] favor a few over the many as far as usage and profits are concerned.
3. Good luck in keeping green space. The dollar controls it all. Look at Home Depot, etc. We need stronger laws to keep open space before it's too late.
4. Build golf course and safe harbor.
5. The city council will not cooperate with the will of the majority of Duluth residents, e. g., Miller Hill Mall development and the Spirit Mt. golf development.
6. Do not let anyone take what we have now and what is in the works for the future.
7. I do not support the Spirit Mt. golf course in any way, shape, or form. The McQuade public access should be scaled back, but should be built.
8. If this city is truly committed to protecting natural and developed open spaces – and maybe even expanding them – then we need laws and regulations that cannot be reinterpreted or changed. Officials like Mayor Doty and other city groups who are concerned with economic development think open space is the demon seed of this city. I think they have done many unethical things in this town to serve their own agendas – Doty and his minions cannot and should not be trusted. We need laws to protect these spaces. A lot of past citizens fought for them, donated and paid for them, and we should feel honored to have them. Go to other parts of the U.S.A. – Duluth is a rare jewel. Maybe if Doty and some of the other yahoos in this town who have power had ever stepped outside of Duluth for part of their lives, maybe they would see what they are willing to destroy.
9. Keep as much as possible.
10. Maybe have a couple "Duluth Master Plan for 2020" meetings in a park?
11. The State Legislature has been able to override the vote of Duluth citizens in matters such as the McQuade Rd. marina, the freeway, our highway 53 malls, and most recently the Spirit Mt. golf course. I feel our mayor and city councilors need to do all they possibly can to let the citizens' wishes win out over those of the Legislature members, especially concerning open space.

**ISSUE CATEGORY**

**Miscellaneous**

1. I would like to see the roads that run along Tischer Creek (St. Marie St. entrance – runs parallel to Hawthorne Rd.) preserved. Driving through there when I lived in that area revived my spirits on a busy day. It was exhilarating to go from city to country in seconds. Please take the gates down and maintain those roads.
2. More time and money must be spent to improve the condition of city streets. The potholes are horrible. These streets must be resurfaced, not just filled in with asphalt patches.
3. A great place to have a family!
4. Big business type things bring pollution of all kinds.
5. I just love Duluth – period.
6. There should be no smoking.
7. I feel that Morgan Park needs new housing. It will add to beautifying our community. It will allow more families to move here.
8. Open space is important but it is also relative. I live in an area with enough space, even though it is neither open nor developed. What ruins my space is living on a nearly undeveloped street that serves as a shortcut for traffic to the mall and other commercial stores and businesses. This traffic is not local, but rather from the easterly Duluth neighborhoods. My space and our community safety is compromised.
9. Something needs to be done to control/destroy army worms. The open spaces cannot even be enjoyed with them destroying all of the leaves. They ruin our much-awaited summers for many residents and tourists.
10. Natural open space may be part of the long-standing problem with Duluth. "Multi-use recreation areas" would be a much better name/use. An analogy may be perhaps compared to not taking care of the streets/roads in Duluth for so long that they are now on the historic register! (The "grated" and "scored" streets with the horse rings – a few are great – but!) Many roads/streets in Duluth have NEVER been redone – nor gutters or "parks". Natural is not always better.



S u p e r i o r   S c i e n c e   f o r   Y o u