

RECREATION IS IN OUR NATURE: Carey Lake Recreation Area

The site:

Carey Lake Recreation Area is in the top 5 most visited sites in Hibbing, according to the 2018 City of Hibbing Comprehensive Plan. The 1,100-acre park is located about 4 miles east of Hibbing's downtown and provides public access to natural open spaces of mostly pristine and undeveloped wetland and forested areas. Carey Lake, which covers about 139 acres in the park, is the largest body of water within the city limits of Hibbing. Further, the park contains 13 miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, providing year-round recreation opportunities for Iron Range residents. For many years, the City of Hibbing has maintained a basic bathhouse, pavilion and utility garage within the park area to provide basic recreation services to visitors.

The project:

As part of the community engagement during our most recent comprehensive planning, Hibbing residents reported that they would like to see additional development at Carey Lake to make it a destination recreation area. Our residents suggested adding a campground, additional trails and enhancing the beach and public facilities. Further, this recreation-based development would enhance the 1,100-acres and keep it accessible to residents and visitors, alike. Finally, community residents suggested that the city explore the alignment of the trails in the Carey Lake Recreation Area with all-terrain-vehicle trails, Redhead Mountain Bike Park and the Mesabi Trail.

Estimated cost: \$10.5 million. The ask:

We are seeking \$5.2 million from the bond proceeds. Funds would be for design, construction, furnishing and equipping improvements and amenities to enhance recreational opportunities in the Carey Lake Recreation Area. Enhancements would include the shoreline, campground, north park road and the creation of new ski, bike and multipurpose trails.

This investment will:

- Connect people with the outdoors
- Improve the well-being of Hibbing residents
- Create a destination recreation area for residents & visitors
- Enhance recreational opportunities for generations to come