

## The Laurentian Vision: How To Do It

Good information, cooperation and very hard work have made the Laurentian Vision a reality. Collective imaginations and shared financial and human resources have created positive and possible outcomes for the Iron Range and grown support among the regional community. There is a strong commitment to seeing the Vision continue. Projected activities for 2003-2004 are no less promising. Five major tasks continue the Laurentian Vision's efforts to be informative, visionary and strategic:

⚡ **Training.** Iron Range mining companies are interested in future land design and have the professional staff, skills and equipment to build new landscapes with community partners. We propose conducting a short course for mine engineers and community planners covering: land planning and design at site and regional scales, visual analysis, design and technical solutions to problems associated with mine features, and strategies for developing company and community partnerships.

⚡ **Public Design Charrettes.** We will continue to develop and conduct public design charrettes with local sponsors in selected localities throughout the Iron Range. The charrettes will explore end use development and other applications as an integral part of mine planning and operation, and formulate land designs that meet community goals and enhance larger landscape contexts. Local sponsors will provide match moneys to help cover outreach, workshop and publication costs.

⚡ **Regional Workshop.** We propose holding a regionwide workshop to bring together resource and community interests from across the Iron Range. The workshop would foster regional land design and planning, familiarize people with available geographic information, and encourage regional strategies for economic and environmental development. Such a 'range-wide look' would illustrate the benefits of multi-use land design approaches, regional networks of responsibility, and lay out human, financial and technical resources for implementation.

⚡ **GIS Atlas.** Strategies for upgrading and managing the Atlas need to be formulated and implemented based on Laurentian Vision needs and future workshop and other applications.

⚡ **Funding.** The Laurentian Vision needs base funding to sustain long-term activities. Public and private sources will be solicited.

⚡ **Outreach.** Having public support and the cooperation of more and more people is key to continued efforts, additional resources and a strong coalition committed to a vital future for the Iron Range. We will continue to increase awareness of the Laurentian Vision to interests throughout the region and state, and publish and distribute illustrated materials.



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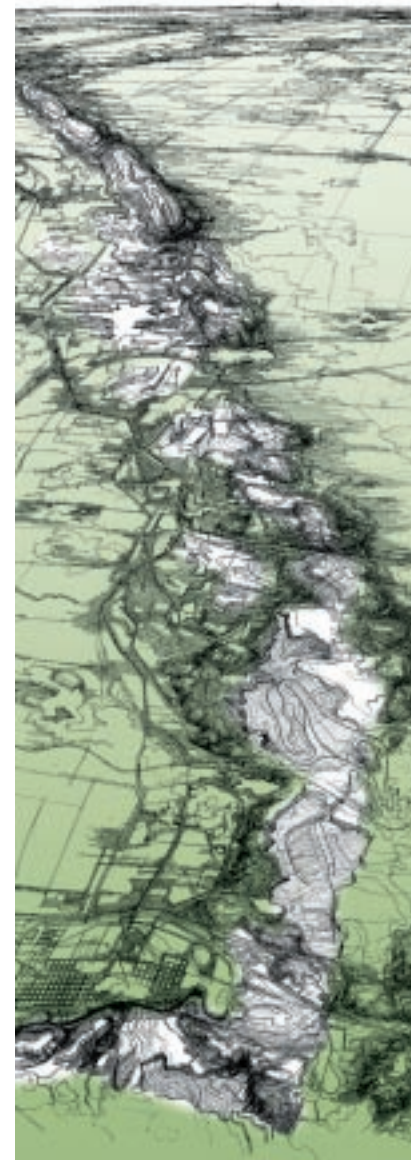
*Chisholm and Hibbing: Lakefront communities circa 2030*

# Work Plan



## The Laurentian Vision

### Mining the Present to Shape the Future



For the past two years, the Laurentian Vision Partnership has been building collaboration between mining and community interests that will help sustain taconite mining and economic development on the Mesabi Iron Range. The Partnership, a voluntary coalition of industry, government, business, education and community groups uses design and collaboration techniques to help parties cooperate on local resource, economic and other issues, understand land design and implementation options and participate in long term solutions that include rebuilding mine landscapes into productive sources of community well being.

The Laurentian Vision partners believe that effective collaboration and coordinated decision making among all interests, comprehensive resource information applied to local and regional issues, and design ideas that link planning decisions to actions and actions to changes in the landscape, will

- increase economic opportunities for the region
- protect jobs, and
- ensure environmental vitality

The capacity of the Iron Range landscape to be rebuilt into community and environmental assets can unite residents around common issues related to the future of the region. The Laurentian Vision encourages such thinking among stakeholders through active participation in land design efforts.

## Results

Since 2000 the Laurentian Vision has

- **Built** a diverse, proactive and effective partnership unique for the Iron Range.
- **Initiated** local partnership agreements that have resulted in joint decisions and actions between communities and mine companies in planning future land designs.
- **Conducted** successful hands-on design workshops with mine companies and communities that demonstrate the feasibility of using existing mine land as infrastructure for future build-able land.
- **Designed** and **illustrated** landscapes that provide opportunities compatible with industry, community and other goals.
- **Developed** and **distributed** a comprehensive regional GIS database to help local and regional interests make informed decisions about development and the use of areas adjacent to depleted, active or future mine lands.
- **Engaged** communities and mine companies and helped them visualize short and long term land design scenarios using GIS modeling techniques.
- **Encouraged** rural empowerment. By encouraging collaboration between industry and community, and by using technical design and planning tools to explore land design options, the Laurentian Vision is providing a model for rural development in mineral-based economies. It allows maximization of mineral resources but anticipates the future of mineral depletion by linking mining procedures with new landscape and economic infrastructure.



## Partnerships in Action

Successful projects are guided by many parties. The Laurentian Vision uses industry, government, education, community, business and individual skills to address long-term land design issues. It uses many networks to increase understanding of the positive opportunities for active and post-mine areas and to encourage community interest in them. Although it has coalesced around taconite mining, the Laurentian Vision will bring other Iron Range interests into the Partnership to encourage action among all regional resources.

## Practice in Action

The Laurentian Vision uses specific tools to explore land design options and build meaningful participation among partners. Three of its most important tools are public design charrettes that illustrate new landscapes for post mine sites, a unique mine and geographic information (GIS) database, and stakeholder workshops that promote decision making and on-the-ground action.

## Design Charrettes: New Land, New Visions

A design charrette is an intensive, carefully structured participatory workshop. Local and outside professionals and non-professionals work together to quickly generate design solutions for a site or problem. They draw maps, plans and other illustrations to describe ideas to the community. A charrette is both a process and a product. It illustrates opportunities and establishes an effective way to begin more detailed community planning and design work. Two successful Laurentian Vision charrettes are described below.

The Laurentian Vision uses design charrettes to

- Illustrate how earth moving practices can create productive, future land and water areas
- Allow mining companies and local decision makers to see and re-view how new land designs affect operations and the existing built environment
- Help people visualize possibilities and expand their thinking
- Engage and energize stakeholders



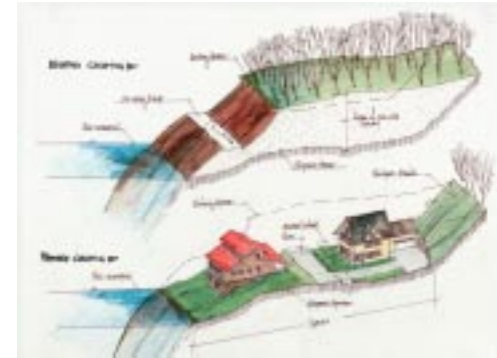
*"...This process will be a great tool in creating a better central Iron Range of the future."*



### Laurentian Vision Partnership

Minnesota Iron Range delegation, Minnesota DNR, IRRRA (Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Agency), MN Power, US Steel, Minnesota Ore Operations, Hibbing Taconite Company, Eveleth Mining Company, Cliffs Mining Services Company, National Steel Pellet Company, Northshore Mining Company, Summit Consulting, Meriden Engineering, Eveleth Fee, Iron Mining Association, Range Association of Municipalities, St. Louis County, Itasca County, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board, Natural Resources Research Institute-University of Minnesota, Dept. Landscape Architecture-University of Minne-

*"...Amazing to see everyone in the same room - mining companies working side by side with community members to create possible joint efforts on the land."*



*New shoreline development*

*"The charrette truly expanded options available to us as local leaders. We are anxious to plan now for the benefit of future generations. I am extremely appreciative of everyone's participation and contribution."*

*"As a mine engineer I enjoyed being part of the experience. The creativity was amazing - people were working at all hours of the day and night, barefoot and everything!"*

*"This is a fantastic tool... We've been butting heads for a long time but the maps put things in context and steer us to see and seek what's in it for all of us."*

*Making new land in Virginia*



**Central Iron Range Design Charrette.** The Central Iron Range Design Charrette, held in May 2003, developed land design options for the Highway 169 corridor between Hibbing and Kinney, MN. It also identified new locations for economic development that protect taconite reserves and improve project opportunities. Two teams of landscape architects and mine engineers from Hibbing Taconite Company and Minnesota Ore Operations (Minntac) worked for three days with local experts and citizens. The teams

- Redesigned the highway as a community corridor with rich landscape amenities, distinctive towns and historic resources.
- Illustrated how existing and future mine lands can build new and attractive land, lakes, shoreline, forest and habitat, parks, and development parcels.
- Introduced citizens to highly skilled mining professionals interested in working with them to shape future central Range landscapes.

**Virginia Design Charrette.** The Virginia Design Charrette, held in 2001, designed EVTAC Mine Company's 500 acre Auburn Pit, an active mine located within the city limits of Virginia, MN. During three and one-half days, three teams of landscape architects, architects, mine engineers from EVTAC and community representatives built new land to solve community housing, economic development, open space and resource restoration issues. The teams

- Reshaped the mine as an attractive lake with business, residential, civic and recreation amenities.
- Connected Virginia directly to proposed new land activities and to other communities (Midway and Eveleth).
- Maximized the extraction of iron ore.

## Atlas of Mine and Geographic Information

The Atlas of Mine and Geographic Information, Mesabi Iron Range, Northeastern Minnesota, is a comprehensive regional geographic information system (GIS) that displays combined layers of detailed mine and other resource data. Available in electronic and hard copy formats, the Atlas is unique for illustrating past and current mining resources and coverages for projected short and long-term reserve development. The Laurentian Vision has provided each Iron Range community with a complete CD set to encourage informed decisions in land planning and design.



sota, MN DOT, University of Minnesota Design Institute, US Steel Foundation, Northland Foundation, Blandin Foundation, Virginia Foundation, Chisholm Foundation, City of Hoyt Lakes, City of Virginia, Virginia Economic Development Authority, Virginia, Gilbert and Mt. Iron Chamber of Commerce, Quad Cities Area Alliance, Regional Rail Authority, Ironworld, City of Hibbing, Hibbing Community Economic Development, Hibbing Chamber of Commerce, Architectural Resources, City of Chisholm, Chisholm Economic Development, Balkan Township, Great Scott Township, City of Buhl