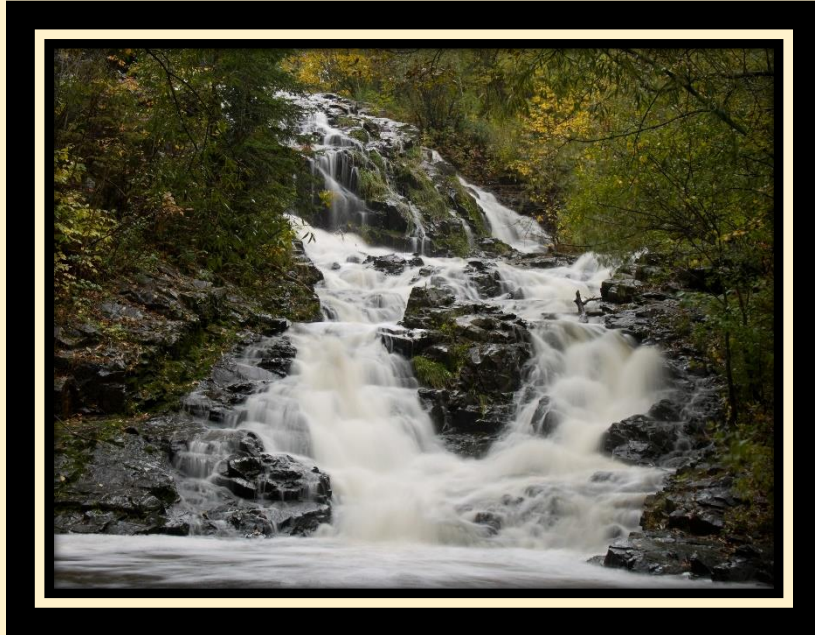


10.Chester Creek Route

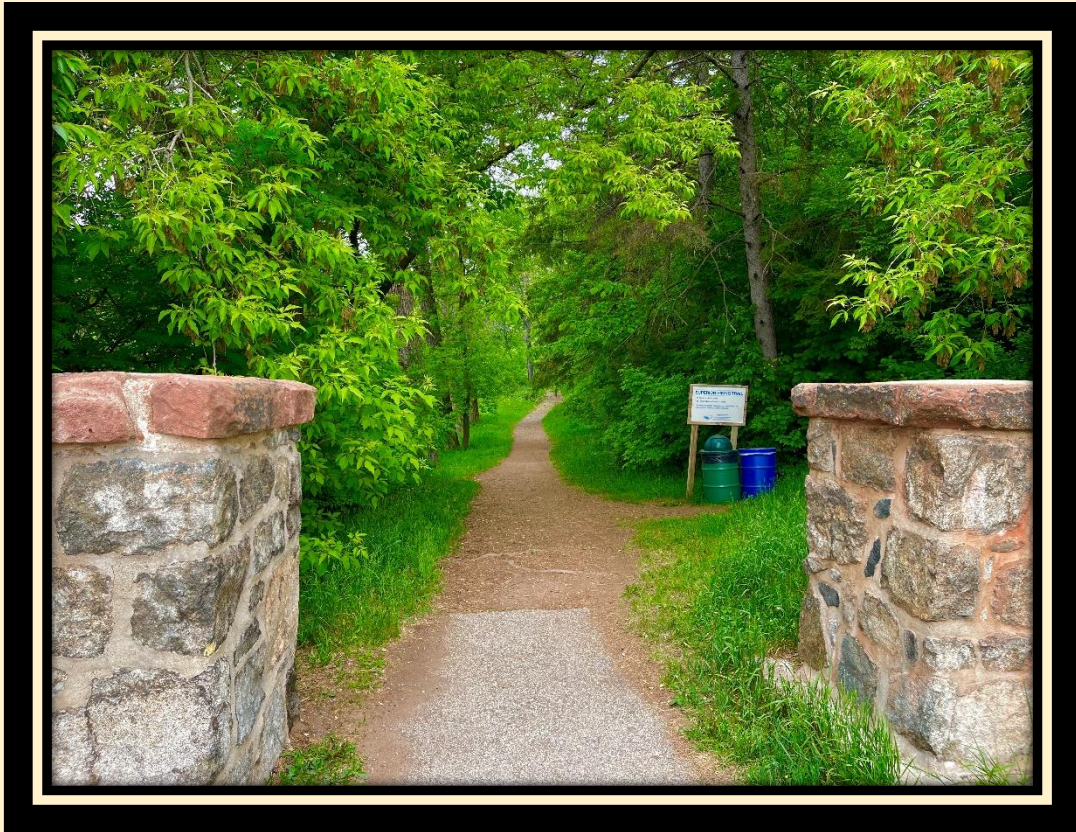


Bottom of a series of waterfalls below E. Skyline Pkwy. photo spot #1

Highlights: The deep valley, towering pines, waterfalls and canyons of this Chester Creek Route can make you forget you are in a city. Once you get on the route you will suddenly forget you are in the city because you get lost in the ancient rock formations and beauty of this park area. The Chester Bowl area is a fantastic area for families.

Parking and Directions:

From I35 driving north. Take the 5th Ave. W. exit and continue on to your right to Lake Ave. Turn left on Lake Ave. and then head straight up the hill to 4th St. Turn right on 4th St. and continue west until 12 Ave. E. Park on E. 4th St. or in one of the Burrito Union parking lots if you are going to Burrito Union after your hike. Parking is also available in Chester Park above the East Skyline Parkway.

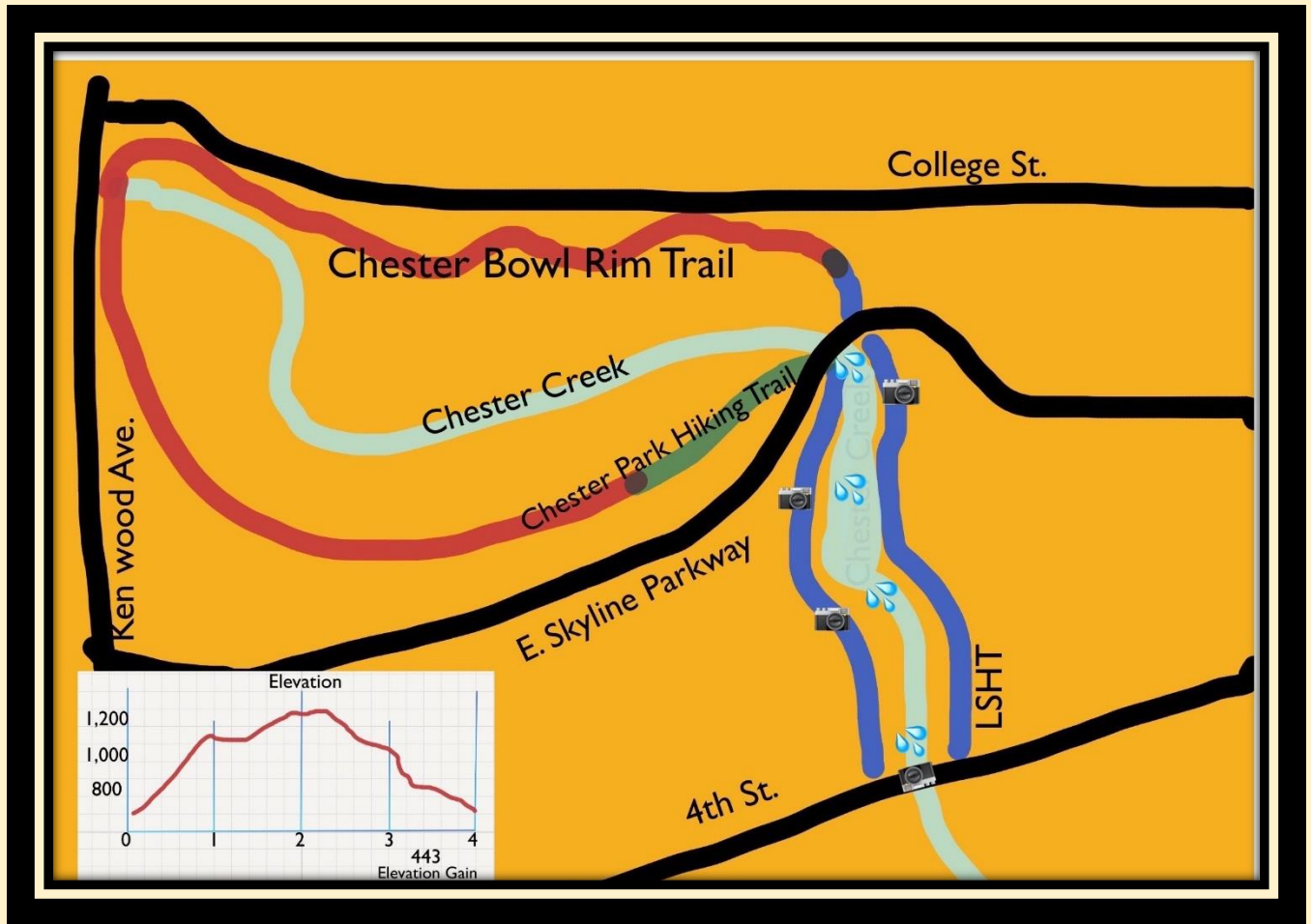


LSHT entrance on the right side of the 4th Street Bridge

Distance: 3.25-mile loop

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Recommended for: most hikers



The Route:

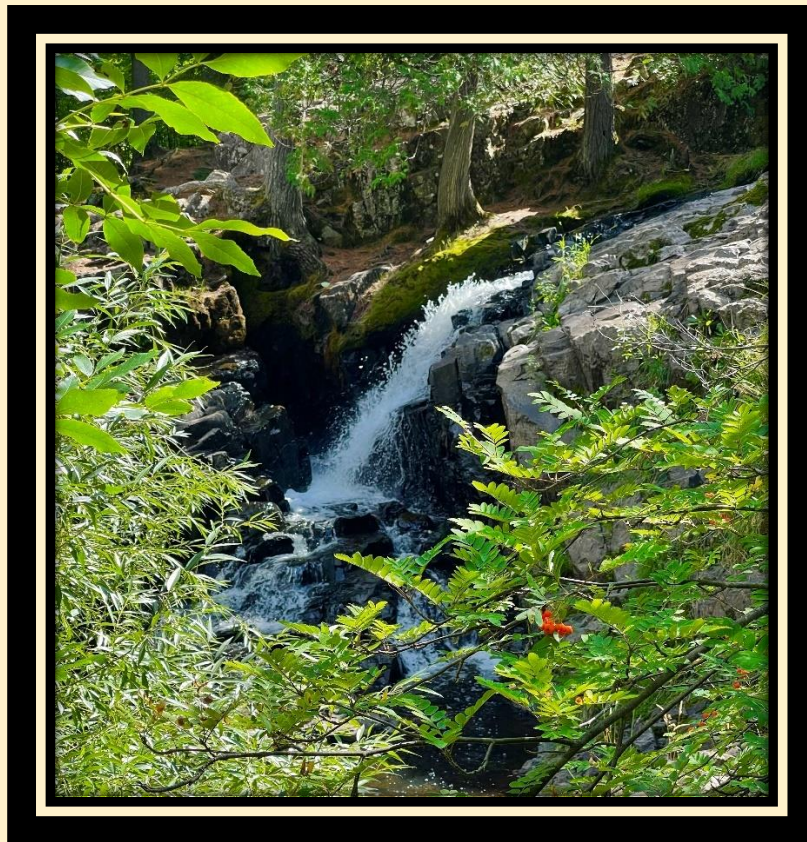
Mile 1: On fourth street you will see the **LSHT sign** on both sides of the **Chester Creek bridge**. I would **head up to the right (see photo below)**. The trail heads up hill and to your left you see more waterfalls and a gorgeous canyon covered with cedar trees. The trail heads up to where it passes under **the E. Ninth-Street bridge** and again you are looking far down to the creek. You will encounter many waterfalls and rapids on the way up the hill but two of the best spots for photos are at the bottom of the big waterfall below E. Skyline Pkwy **Photo spot #1**. Then just about halfway up the hill is one of my favorite spots for photos with the huge pines in the background. **This is photo spot#2.**

Mile 2: **Cross under the E. Skyline Parkway Bridge** and **start looking to your right for a stairway leading up the hill**. When you cross the Chester Park Road, you will see a large **Chester Park sign**. **To the right of that sign is a sign for the LSHT**. On top of the hill, you will find the **Chester Bowl Rim Trail**. Continue on the trail around the bowl for great views of the park and creek. When you get to the city works area, continue across and down to your left.

You will find a sign for the **Chester Park Hiking Trail**. (If water levels are low, you can head down to the path under the **Skyline Parkway Bridge**. If water levels are high, continue straight and go around the concrete barrier. Cross E. Skyline Parkway and head to the right of the bridge, where you will find stone steps leading down to the trail. At this point you are back on the LSHT that leads back down the hill.

Mile 3: Take the stairs down to the heavily wooded area next to the creek. Huge pine trees with plenty of roots, so watch your footing. Find the rock stairway leading down to the main trail. Again, many beautiful areas to explore down the hill. Down at the bottom of the stairs is a great view of the big waterfall. One of my favorites spots is just past the **first pedestrian bridge**, where a series of waterfalls are clustered together. **Photo spot #3.**

Mile 4: The last quarter mile takes you back to 4th Street. But check out the rocks on your left for great views of the bottom waterfalls. Also head up to the historic stone bridge on 4th Street Bridge for more great shots of the lower waterfalls.



Waterfall just below E. Skyline Parkway



Chester Park sign next to LSHT sign



LSHT sign and path



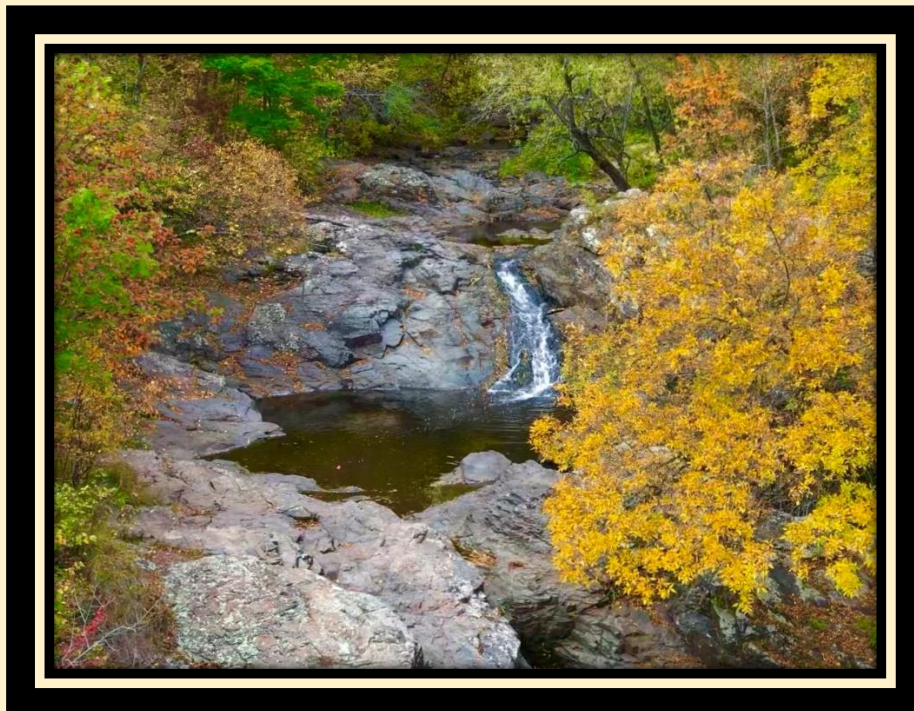
Chester Rim Trail sign



Chester Park Hiking Trail sign



Waterfall under first pedestrian bridge, Photo spot #3



Series of waterfalls just above 4th street, photo spot#4

Extended route: Continue LSHT up through UMD campus to Arrowhead Road

Family Friendly Route: Chester Park has play grounds, picnic areas and soccer fields. There are endless places to play on the creek if the water is low enough. If you venture below the Parkway, **make sure small children are supervised** there are some areas of **cliffs and overlooks that can be dangerous.**

After the Hike:

The park is a great place to spend a day with kids. The loop from 4th Street and back has more waterfalls than you can count and the canyons are spectacular. Finish the hike with a craft beer and nachos at Burrito Union. [Burrito Union - Restaurant in Duluth, MN.](#)

Strava Link

[JL Chester Creek, Chester Bowl Rim Trail Route | 3.1 mi Hiking Trail on Strava](#)