

Lester River Route



View of waterfall just below the stone bridge, photo spot #1

Highlights: This is a beautiful trail heading up through a pine forest along the Lester River. There are several waterfalls along the first half mile and last half mile of this route.

Photographers will want to first head down to Superior Street on the bike trail and capture photos of the waterfalls and stone bridge. Head to the stone bridge and cross back to the parking lot. Head up the east side trail up the river. Look for stone steps down to the river at about a quarter mile. Head down to the river trail and turn right. You will find a great spot to photo the Lester River Falls in front of a big pool. Watch your step.

Besides photos from the trail, there are many side paths to explore for many more photo locations. You will never run out of great shots in this area, especially in June and October.

Parking and Directions:

From the I35 continue on London Road until you get to 60 Ave. East. Take a left on 60th and then a right on Superior St. On Superior St. you will cross the Lester River Bridge and take a left on Lester River Road. The Lester Park parking area is to your left. Cross the stone bridge to get to the bike trail that heads down to Superior St. and the Lake Walk bridge over the river. The overlook of the river will be your starting point going back up the hill.

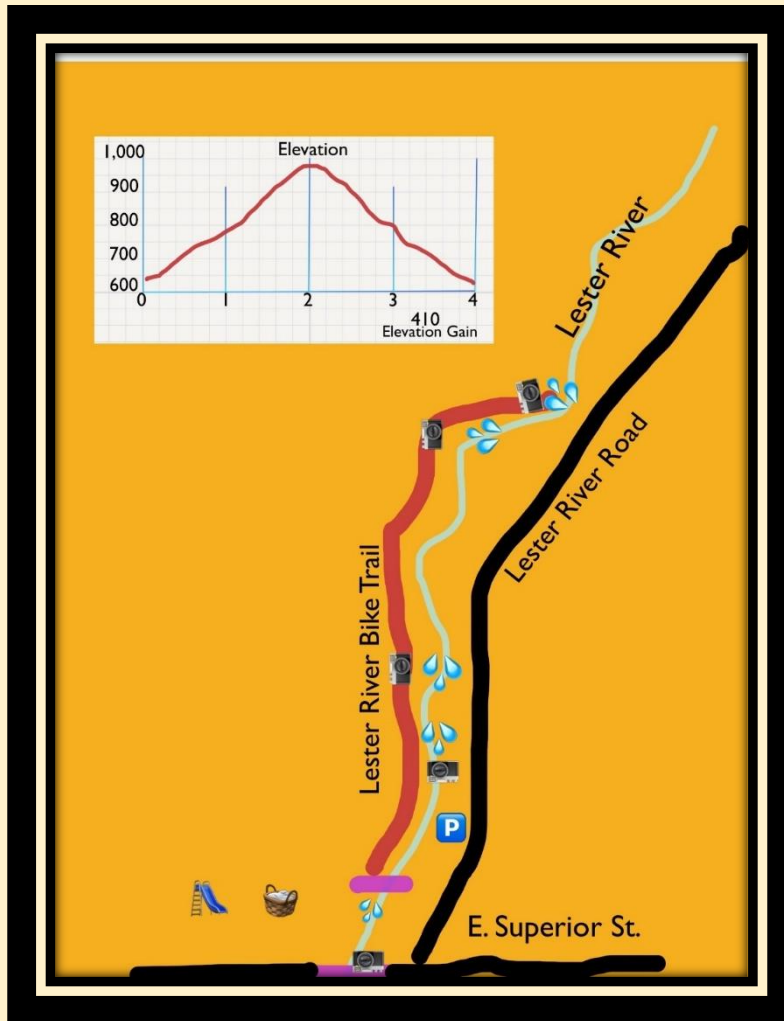
Distance: 3.82 up and back or 4+ miles if you photograph the two waterfalls

Difficulty: easy

Recommended for most hikers



Lester Park Sign



The Route:

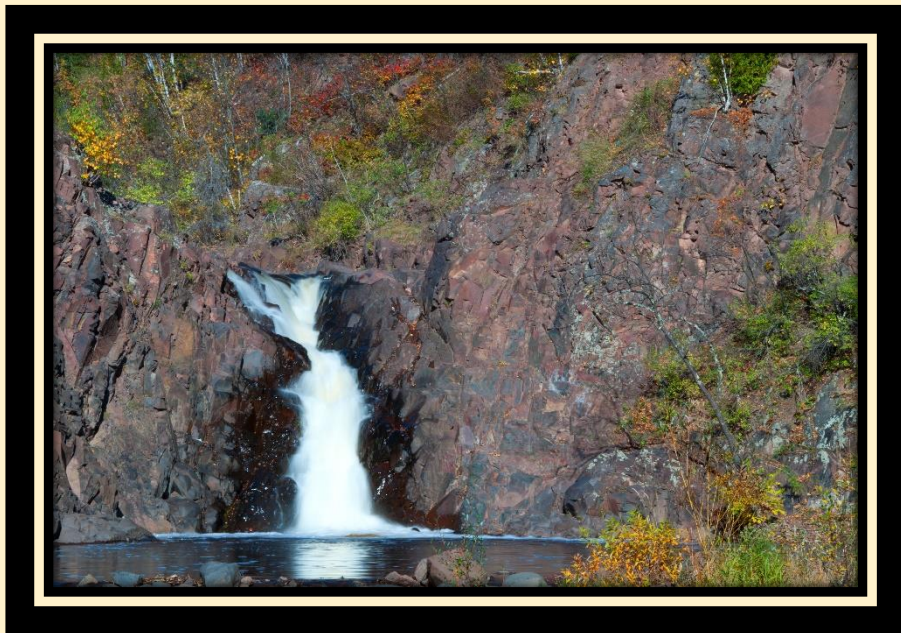
Mile 1: Once on the trail, you will be amazed at the waterfalls, cascades, rock walls and towering pine trees. At about a **half mile** in, there is a beautiful little waterfall and rock outcrop. This is **photo spot #3**. The trail turns into the woods containing a mix of towering birch, poplar and basswood trees. The trail heads up and away from the river but into a quiet area of the forest.

Mile 2: The trail winds through the woods and crosses several other types of trails so much sure you follow the bike trail. Just about one mile and one third there is a **beautiful series of waterfalls coming down out of the woods**. This is a very nice spot in the fall and is **photo spot #4**. Continue up the trail up to about the mile and nine tenths, where there is a **large overlook with a series of waterfalls coming through a canyon**. This is **photo spot #5**. This is your turn around spot if doing the regular hike.

Mile 3: and Mile 4: Head back down the trail being careful to follow the bike trail and enjoy the great scenery.

Extended Route: When you get to the regular turn around spot continue into the woods following the **Lester River Trail**. **Continue on the Lester River Trail until you meet the East Amity Trail**. **Follow the East Amity Trail back to the parking lot**. The Lester Amity Loop is about 5.6 miles and I think one of the most beautiful hiking loops in the area.

Family Friendly Route: Parking in the Lester Park lot there are many places to explore. You can walk down the bike trail just over the stone bridge and **explore the waterfalls and pools** of the Lester River. In the middle of the summer this is a **favorite swimming whole for families**. You can explore the trail along the river that leads from the parking area to a overlook of the **Lester River Falls**. Or you can take that same trail and cross the river on a pedestrian bridge to the trails on the other side. **There is a great playground and picnic area in the middle of the park**. On the other side of the park, you will find another pedestrian bridge that leads to a beautiful trail along **Amity Creek and another waterfall**. **Head to Eighth Street Video on 47th Ave. E. for candy or ice cream.**



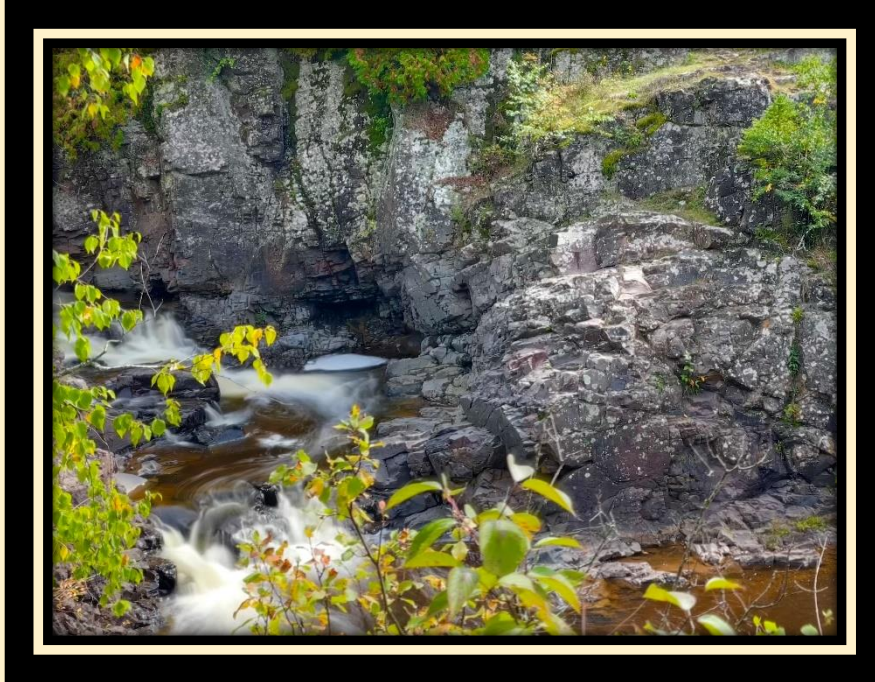
View from river level of Lester River Waterfall, photo spot 2



View of cascade about a half mile up trail, photo spot #3



View of a series of waterfalls about one and one third miles up trail, photo spot #4



View from last overlook and photo spot #5

After the hike:

The Lester River Trail is truly spectacular with amazing waterfalls, rapids, canyons and pools. You will be totally in awe of this stretch of river. If you do the whole loop, you may not see scenery like it except on the north shore. Finally head to the new **Lake Superior Brewery** for craft beer and appetizers or pizza. [Lake Superior Brewing \(lakesuperiorbrewingduluth.com\)](http://lakesuperiorbrewingduluth.com)

Strava Link

[JLLester River Route | 3.6 mi Hiking Trail on Strava](#)