

## 12.Upper Tischer Creek Route



View from overlook looking east towards the cemetery, photo spot one

**Highlights:** The overlooks, both branches of Tischer Creek, Hartley Pond, [Hartley Nature Center](#), biking, cross country ski and hiking trails make it a winner for all seasons.

### **Parking and Directions:**

From the I35 take the **21<sup>st</sup> Street exit** and head up the hill until you reach **Woodland Ave.** Follow **Woodland Ave. north until you see the Hartley Park sign.** The trail starts in the Hartley Park parking lot. Upper Tischer Creek is actually two creeks, West Tischer Creek and East Tischer Creek. East Tischer Creek comes down through the Ridgeview Golf Course, then through Hartley Pond and finally heads downhill behind the parking lot toward Woodland Ave. East Tischer Creek comes down from Howard Gnesen Road, flows along the Guardrail bike trail, through the wet meadow and turns down toward Arrowhead Road. They meet at Woodland Ave. and St. Marie St

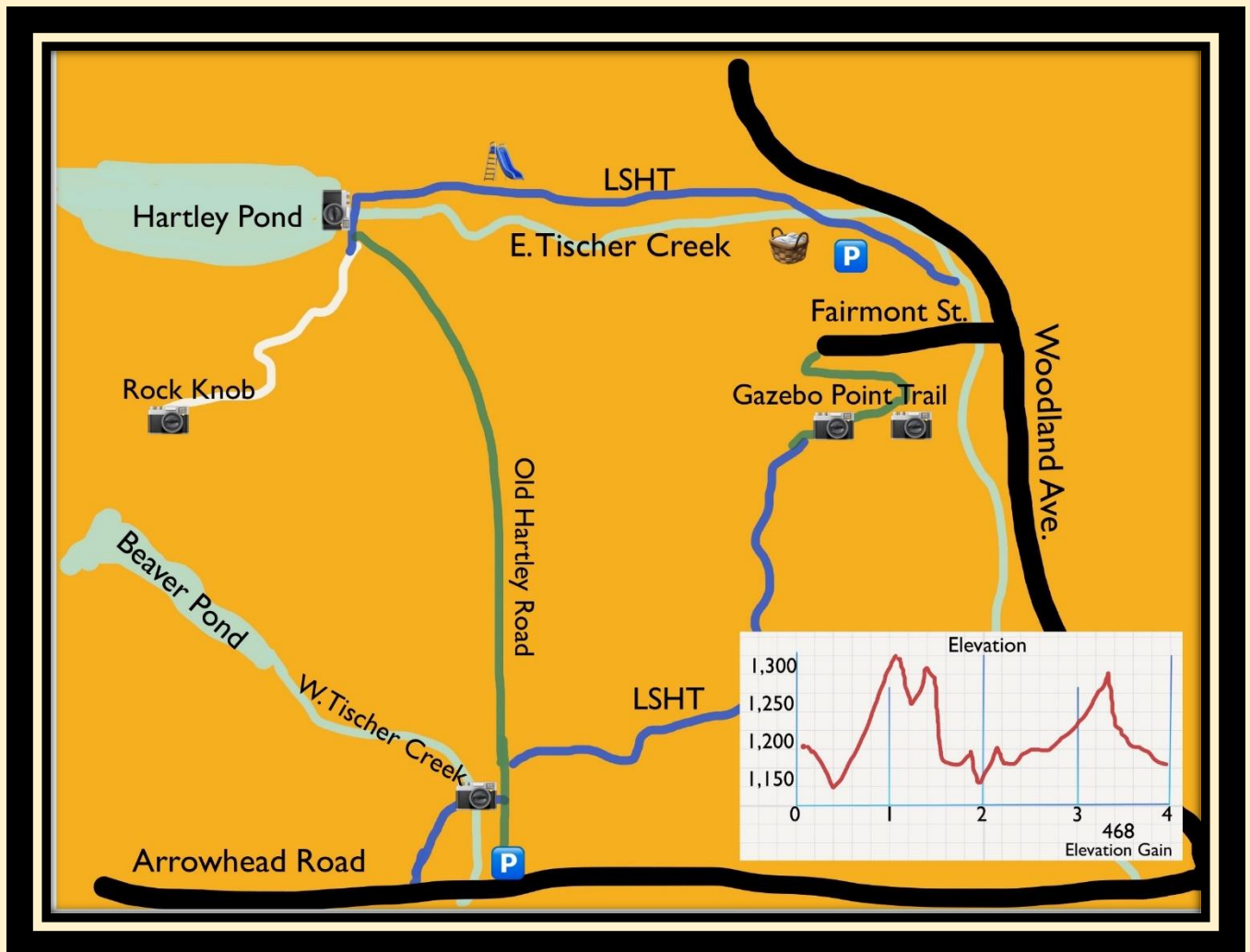
**Distance: 4-mile Loop**

**Difficulty: moderate (some climbing involved)**

**Recommended for most hikers**



**Hartley Nature Center Sign**



## The Route:

**Mile 1:** Starting in the **Hartley Park parking lot**, check out the East Tischer Creek section flowing behind the parking lot. From there head to the **east end of the parking lot** and look for the Lake Superior Hiking Trail signs. Follow the trail along the creek until it leads out to **Woodland Ave.** From there head down Woodland Ave. to **Fairmont St.** and cross the bridge. There is a nice view on both sides of the bridge of the creek. Head up Fairmont St. to the end and look for a **trail heading off to your left**. The trail looks like it dead ends but actually heads up hill back

towards Woodland Ave. This is the **Gazebo Point Trail**. At the top of the ridge is a spectacular view from a cliff overlooking Woodland Ave. and the cemetery. This is a great spot in October and is **photo spot #1**. The trail heads down a short hill and to the left where you find **Gazebo Point** overlooking Hunters Park and Lake Superior. This is another great stop and is **photo spot #2**. Head back along the trail you came and continue around the corner and up a slight hill. At the top of the hill, you will see signs and markings for LSHT. Follow the trail until you get to Old Hartley Road. This stretch starts out with great views of Lake Superior.

**Mile 2:** Once on **Old Hartley Road** take a **left and watch for signs on the right to continue on LSHT**. Shortly after leaving Old Hartley Road, you come to a **bridge over West Tischer Creek**. This is **photo spot #3** and is beautiful in every season. Last year I was surprised to find a Great Blue Heron standing in the creek. From the bridge head up the hill and to the left. This leads through a beautiful pine forest and a cliff overlooking the creek. The trail ends at Arrowhead Road and is the turnaround spot.

**Mile 3:** Head back to the bridge and then Old Hartley Road. Take a left at Hartley Road and follow it **back to Hartley Pond**. Be sure to stop at the boardwalk leading out to the wet meadow.

**4:** When you get to the pond, you will see a trail behind you that is a **LSHT spur trail to Rock Knob**. The trail winds through the woods then up a rather steep hill to a large rock outcropping. This is **Rock Knob** and it has a vista covering most of Hartley Park. **This is photo spot #4** and is spectacular in late May and mid-October. Head back down to **Hartley Pond** where you will find **photo spot #5**. When the pond is like glass it hard not to take a photo. Last summer the pond was visited by an Osprey, Great Blue Heron and a pair of Trumpeter Swans. When finished head to the bridge over the dam and follow the trail back to the parking area.

**Extended Route:** There are many different trails in Hartley Park but if you would like to explore the beginnings of the East Tischer Creek you would follow the Wet Meadow, Pines, Rhamnus, Guardrail bike loop. You will need an **Trailforks** or **AllTrails** app to follow the trails.

**Family Friendly Route:** **Hartley Nature center** was designed for kids to explore. There is a **nature playground on the trail leading by the center and to the pond**. **It is open to visitors on weekends**. There are trees to climb and you can fish the pond. The best trail is **the Old Hartley Road** with stops at the **root cellar and boardwalk**. There is a lot of nature to see all year round.



**View looking south on Gazebo Point photo spot 2**



**Fall reflection from the East Tischer Creek Bridge and photo spot three**



**View from Rock Knob and photo spot #4**



**View Hartley Pond at twilight**

## After the hike:

This trail has so many options for fun and exploration by any age hiker. Not to mention many spots for great photos any time of the year. Head down the hill to [Local Pizza Restaurant | Duluth, MN | Bulldog Pizza & Grill \(bulldogpizzaandgrill.com\)](#), or [TAVERN ON THE HILL - DULUTH, MN \(tavernduluth.com\)](#) for a local craft beer and appetizers.

## Strava Link

[JLUpper Tischer Creek, Hartley Park Route | 3.9 mi Hiking Trail on Strava](#)