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City of Duluth Communications Office

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-730-5230 | www.duluthmn.gov | Don Ness, Mayor

For more information contact Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-5309
or Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-4312

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SUBJECT: Neighborhood Grants available to support youth recreational opportunities

BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator

Neighborhood Grants available to support youth recreational opportunities

[Duluth, MN] – The City of Duluth is making \$50,000 available as part of the Parks fund to support projects and initiatives which leverage community volunteers to enhance and improve city parks and recreation. Each project will receive a maximum of \$5,000. Grants will range from \$500-\$5,000.

“The Neighborhood Grant program is designed to provide direct support for community groups and organizations to add value in our City parks,” said Mayor Don Ness. “These neighbors are passionate about these parks, neighborhoods, and their projects. A small amount of financial support can leverage tremendous value in the form of private donations and volunteer time.”

The City is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation to accept and process applications. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee with recommendations for funding presented to the Parks Commission then for final approval from the City Council.

“We’re honored to work with the City of Duluth on this important initiative to maximize local community engagement for the advancement of our neighborhood parks and recreational opportunities,” says Holly C. Sampson, President of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. “Our grant making expertise, paired with the strong history of our Duluth Legacy Endowment Fund and its community volunteers, will help foster sustainable, vibrant neighborhoods.”

Summary of grant guidelines:

Projects must:

- Take place entirely or primarily on existing recognized units of Duluth’s parks, recreation, and trails system;
- Support the mission of Duluth’s Parks and Recreation Division to fulfill the essential recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental needs that create a dynamic community; and
- Encourage both financial and volunteer efforts.

Priority will be given to projects that support one or more of the following key elements of the Parks and

Recreation Master Plan:

- €€ **Improve the quality of existing parks (especially neighborhood parks),**
- €€ **Focus on connecting the community through trails and bikeways,**
- €€ **Have fewer, but higher quality recreation buildings,**
- €€ **Enhance stewardship of natural resources,**
- €€ **Expand partnerships with schools for community recreation and gathering, and**
- €€ **Increase use and recognition of volunteers and volunteer groups.**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for funding, an organization must:

- Be classified as a charitable organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or have another 501(c)(3) willing to serve as a fiscal agent for the project, and
- Be primarily located in or provide services to residents within the City of Duluth.

Interested groups or organizations can submit inquiries to the Community Foundation for eligibility. The Community Foundation will then request formal proposals from eligible applicants. The formal proposals for this year's funding are due **May 25, 2012**.

The application materials are available online at,

http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/grants/Funding_Inquiry.shtml or by calling the Community Foundation at (218) 726-0232.

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