

Duluth Parks & Recreation 2020 Annual Report



Our Mission

To promote the health and well-being of our community, environment and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities and natural resources now and in the future.

Our Vision

Continue to be the central driving force in strengthening the heritage of a healthy, active community for future generations by continuing on the path of improving and enhancing our parks and facilities; protecting our natural resources; and developing partnerships to deliver recreation programs and services.



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Parks & Recreation

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Dear Duluth City Residents and Visitors,

They say that hindsight is 20-20, and that couldn't be more true as we reflect on the past year, 2020.

What started as a routine year, packed with optimism, big projects, and new programming initiatives, was soon upended as we faced a worldwide pandemic. Closing playgrounds, cancelling programs, promoting road closures for socially-distanced outdoor recreation, and unanticipated budget cuts often left us questioning so much: How to serve the community and keep citizens healthy and safe when the definition of healthy and safe suddenly looked so different?

It would be easy to look back and think, "We should have or could have...." In a year of unknowns and constantly changing standards, one basic understanding held true: parks, trails, and open spaces served our community in a time of great need. What better City to call home during a Stay at Home Order with hundreds of miles of trails, thousands of acres of green space, and dozens of playgrounds perched along the shores of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River estuary?

As the world shifted to virtual connections, so did Parks and Recreation. You'll find a series of videos, trivia, and more on our social media platforms. Passive recreation such as joke trails, treasure hunts, Sled Sheds, Snow Stompers volunteers, and more to bring you recreation even when we couldn't be there to enjoy it with you. We missed sharing our parks with you through face-to-face programs.

We are also humbled by the many committed organizations and non-profits who selflessly gave of their time and talents to adapt their programs and services. Food distribution, sport pods, outdoor classrooms, mask distribution events, critical volunteer projects, and so many pandemic operations plans designed to keep our community safe while being active and social (but distant!).

And, we continued to make steady progress on ambitious project goals. In the St. Louis River Corridor, you'll find new park amenities in Merritt Park, renewed athletic facilities at Wheeler Athletic Complex, signage and wayfinding along Waabizheshikana – The Marten Trail, and new signage at Harrison, Irving, Riverside, Chamber's Grove and GND Rec. Meanwhile, Lakewalk restoration continued at an impressive scale and pace, the new Cross-City Trail River Route segment opened to the public, progress on the Duluth Traverse and the DWP trails continued, and kids can now play on new playground equipment at Keene Park. And, finally, after many years of community planning, joint advocacy, and a little bit of patience, the Department of the Interior formally designated the St. Louis River National Water Trail. This designation underscores the valuable collaborative effort of so many dedicated partners who are committed to access and stewardship of the St. Louis River estuary.

It would be too easy to look back at 2020 and wish we'd have done more or different in our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and in our service to parks users, but looking back, with the information and resources available to us, we remained dedicated to providing valuable opportunities during a challenging year. We hope you found meaning, enjoyment, and value in Duluth Parks!

I look forward to seeing you—in person—in the parks this year!


Jessica Peterson
Parks and Recreation Manager





Parks & Recreation

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Well, yet another year has passed and what a year it was!

We made it through last Winter with business as usual then within moments our world was turned upside down and our priorities changed. We had to learn to live in a world of social distancing and find new daily routines. What we found across the nation is parks and recreation provided a crucial outlet for not only our physical health but our mental health. Studies show that outdoor activities such as cycling, paddle sports, golf and camping had increased participation but also passive recreation such as bird watching, hiking and picnicking. Spring (and Spring Fever) arrived early in 2020 and people were itching for activities and to spend time outdoors. Not unlike Superman, the Parks and Recreation Division swooped in and made sure our community had access to safe and meaningful outdoor activities and recreation. The pandemic shone a spotlight on how imperative our public parks, open spaces, trails and recreation are. The Commission was consistently impressed with the creative ideas that offered to our entire community, despite having to temporarily put in person programming on hold.

Speaking of our Parks and Recreation Commission, we have a diverse and talented group of individuals representing our City. We welcomed two new Commission members to fill District 5 and an At-Large position. In addition, a few of our veteran commissioners signed on for another term! Furthermore, three of our commissioners served on the Public Golf Committee, and we had a representative on the Spirit Mountain Task force.

Despite the global pandemic, the Parks and Recreation Commission was able to carry on monthly to meet the goals set before us. Starting in May we began to meet virtually via Webex, which isn't always ideal but has proven to still be successful. The Commission does miss our monthly in-person meetings as there is something special about meeting together in-person and as a community. I certainly do miss the "feel" of the room and the passion of the people there to support a slice of Duluth's vast parks and recreation system. That being said, virtual methods are more accessible for those who may not be able to attend in person. I hope to continue virtual methods, even when meeting in person, though no formal plans have been announced yet.

Here are a few of the highlights that came across the Commission this past year:

The Parks and Recreation Division increased its online presence with our Commission but also with programming. To provide equitable year round self-guided activities, equipment rentals helped Duluth citizens increase access to recreation. Safe outdoor social distancing opportunities continued, such as guided hikes and personal trainers providing, "Fitness in the Park" exercise classes. Winter didn't slow us down—a pilot program sought volunteer Snow Stompers promoted the use of snowshoes to pack ten miles of designated sections of our trail system through the Winter.

Usually throughout the year we see many parks permits and celebrations for large gatherings such as weddings and family reunions. Obviously large group gatherings were not advised, but within State guidelines, permits were still granted if a pandemic safety plan was approved for limited gatherings, and I'm glad that our parks could host safe picnics, celebrations of life, and other small activities. One of my favorite ideas was the use of Wade Stadium. Since the Huskies didn't hold their season, the stadium space was opened up to our community members to rent for private gatherings! It was a success, and we look forward to carrying on this opportunity for years to come.

We focused a lot of work on our trail system including Chester Park ski trail designation, DWP rail-trail conversion on Sargent Creek Bridge, and the completion of the Cross-City Trail River Route segment. Work continued on the Duluth Traverse, Ely's Peak multiuse trail, and a re-route of the Spirit Mountain Knowlton Creek section of the Superior Hiking Trail.

The Commission worked closely with the Natural Resources Commission on the Hartley native plant community plan, Amity Creek shrub planting, and were presented the E.coli water quality study at Tischer Creek and Keene Creek. And the City-wide Natural Resources Management Program Plan process kicked off last year.

We received updates on the City's volunteer program, and we voted in support of revising City Code to officially include the Memorial Program.

As I write this letter in review of the past year it is truly awesome to see how much we have accomplished, learned, and evolved. I am humbled and blessed to serve as the Parks and Recreation Commission President and look forward to serving another year. Bring on 2021!

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul.” – John Muir

Thank you,



Amanda Crosby
President, Parks and Recreation Commission



**Duluth Parks
& Recreation**

www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

About Us

Parks and Recreation Staff

Jessica Peterson—Manager
Alicia Watts—Assistant Manager
Matt Andrews—Trails Coordinator
Katie Behling—Wedding Coordinator
Nick Budnik—Recreation Specialist
Diane Desotelle—Natural Resources Coordinator
Jessica Haig—Admin Clerical Specialist
**Theresa Iverson—Senior Coordinator
Cliff Knettel—Senior Planner
Megan Lidd—Recreation Specialist
Lisa Luokkala—Senior Planner
**Pamela Page—Recreation Specialist
Chris Severson—Permits Coordinator
Jim Shoberg—Senior Planner
Sam Werle—Recreation Specialist
* *Retired

Parks and Recreation Commission

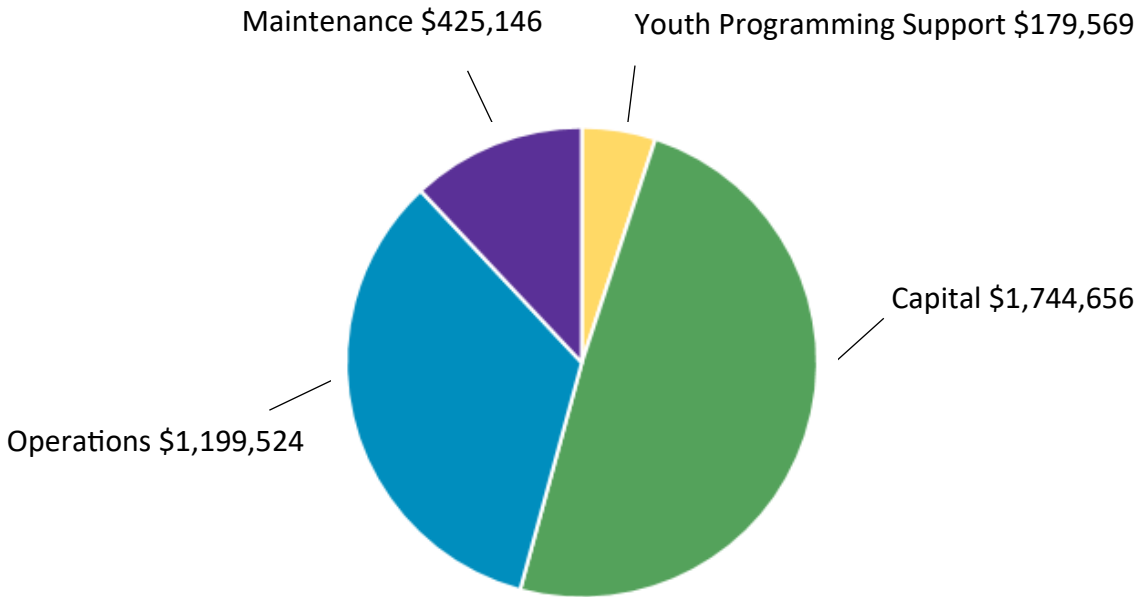
Amanda Crosby—President
Tjaard Breeuwer—Vice President, District 1
David Demmer—Secretary, Land Management
Britt Rohrbaugh—District 3
Jill Joyce—District 4
Barb Darland—District 5
Noah Kramer—Recreation Professional
Natalie Chin—At Large
Jennifer Peterson—At Large

Park Maintenance Staff

Dale Sellner—Parks and Grounds Supervisor
Cheryl Skafta—Operations Coordinator
Robert Dunsmore—Lead Worker (Parks)
Billy Davis—Lead Worker (Trails)
Jack Schade—Lead Worker (Fields)
Clark Christenson—City Forester
Park Maintenance Workers:
Caleb Burst
John Capra
Trevor Christensen
Darin Franckowiak
Greg Hanson
Todd Halbakken
Abbie Hopper
Kevin Jentoft
Don Kienholz
Todd Kobus
Jenny Monroe
Anna Neu
Ben Sosniecki
Cory Wagner
Chris Walz
Wendy Wohlwend
Leah Mullin – Community Forestry Corps (AmeriCorps)



Budget



Operations

- Wages and benefits
- Equipment and supplies
- Marketing and printing
- Vehicles and mileage
- Membership and dues
- Special events and concerts
- Senior programming
- Training and education

Capital

- Community Center upgrades
- Trail repair and improvements
- Park improvements

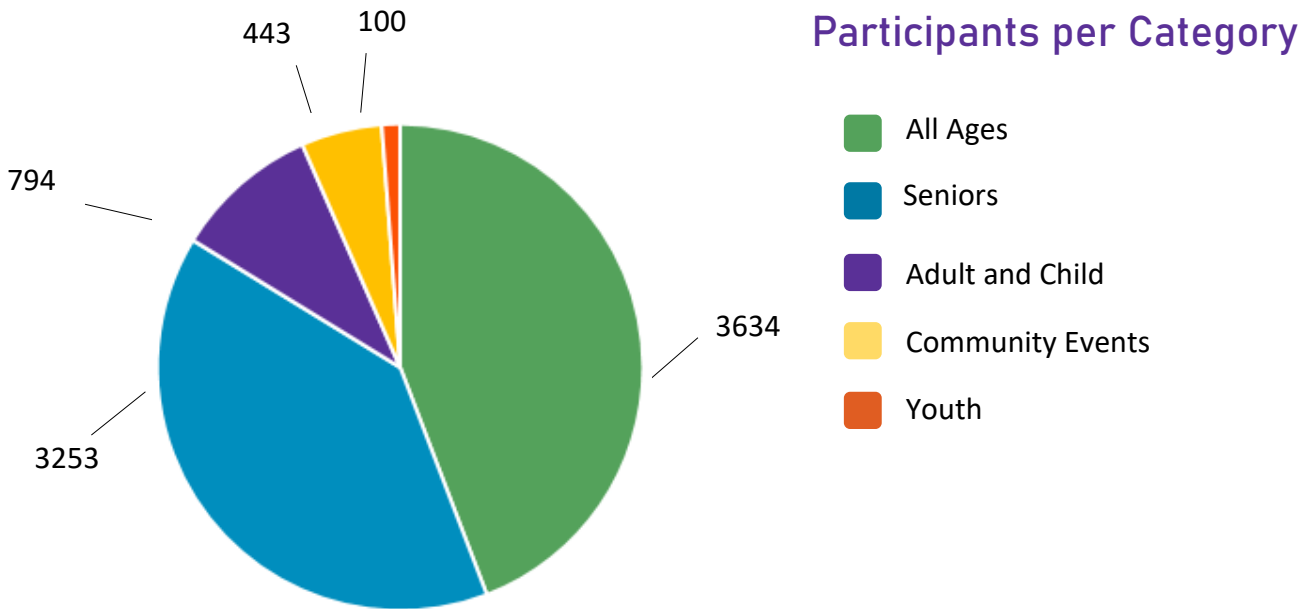
Maintenance

- Wages and benefits
- Cleaning, repairs and maintenance at parks, fields and community centers
- Invasive species removal team
- Training, certifications and licenses
- Forestry operations

Youth Programming Support

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Northland—Lincoln Park
- Chester Bowl Improvement Club
- Duluth Area Family YMCA—Gary New Duluth
- Duluth Area Family YMCA True North AmeriCorps—City-wide
- Duluth Community School Collaborative—East Hillside
- Neighborhood Youth Services—Central Hillside

Programming



Passive Recreation

Our team brought creativity to the forefront as we found new ways to engage community members outdoors without gathering in groups at a traditional program. Passive recreation opportunities were popular throughout the year, providing fun, free chances for citizens to enjoy their parks and trails in new ways. Activities included Trivia Trails, a Visual Egg Hunt, Joke Trails, a Halloween Hunt, a Turkey Search, and a Holiday Walk.

Equipment Rental

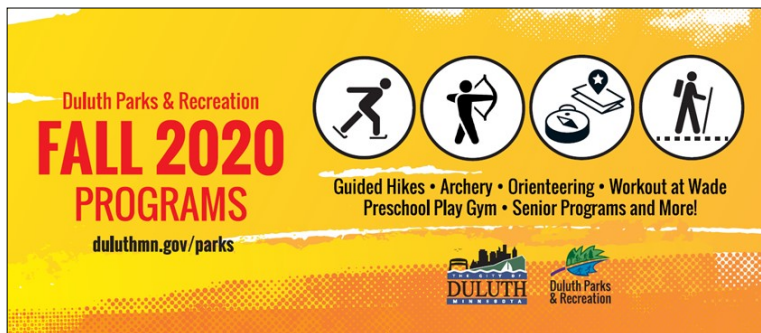
To support independent outdoor recreation even more, Parks and Rec coordinated a new equipment rental program to provide community members with outdoor games and equipment at an affordable price. Summer equipment options included bean bag toss, trekking poles, flag football equipment, bocce ball, giant Jenga, and more. Winter equipment rentals were popular, with rentals of ice skates, snowshoes, sleds, snow play kits, and trekking poles available as either weekend or season-long rentals.



Programming

Comfort Systems Insert

In an effort to increase community awareness of our programs, we partnered with Comfort Systems to get the word out about our Fall Programming Guide. This ‘refrigerator-art’ spinoff of the cover of our Fall Program Guide was included with the October bill mailing, which was sent to 33,000 homes.



Snow Stompers

The new Snow Stompers program emerged in late 2020 as an effort to pack down trail areas to make them more accessible to users throughout the Winter.

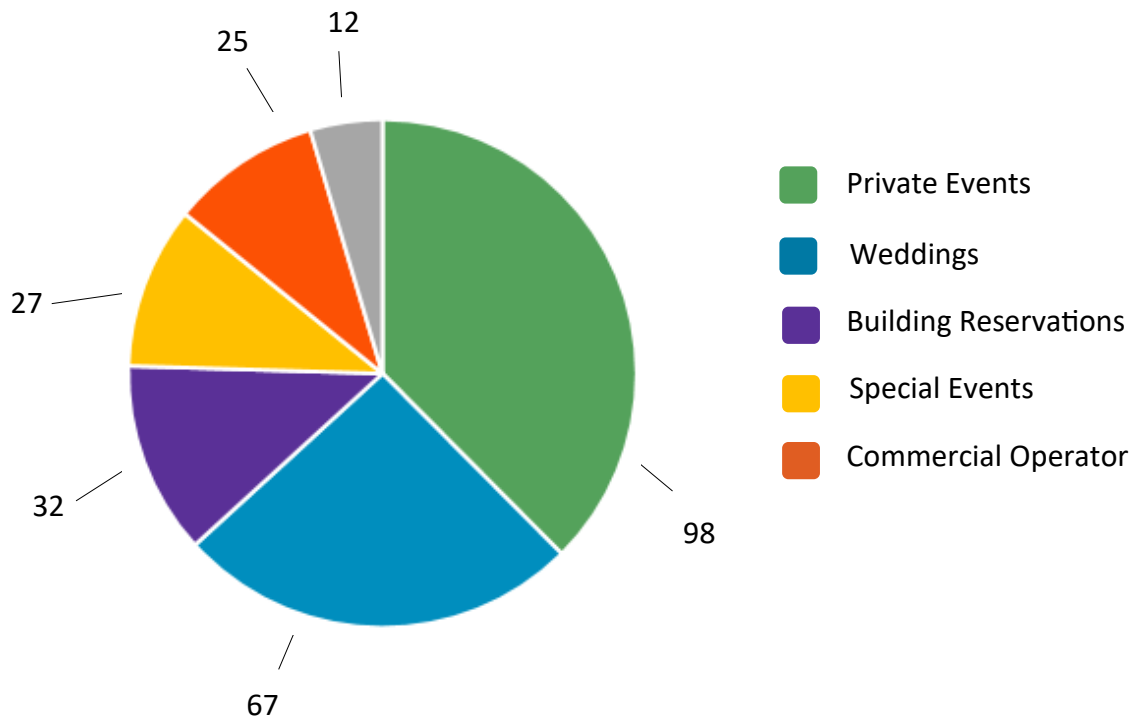
Snow Stomper volunteers could adopt one of the seven designated stomping routes and commit to snowshoeing it after each substantial snowfall. Parks and Recreation loaned snowshoes and trekking poles for the season at no charge in exchange for their volunteer efforts if they did not have their own set. The program opened for volunteers on December 10 and all volunteer openings—up to three per route—were filled in a day!

Snow Stomper Trail Sections:

- Elys Peak Loop Trail, Superior Hiking Trail
- Lincoln Park Drive
- Green Street to the Zoo, Superior Hiking Trail
- Chester
- Morningside, Superior Hiking Trail
- Twin Ponds



Permits



Park Point Pavilions

In the Summer of 2020 Parks and Recreation assumed rental management of the two pavilions located at the Park Point Rec Area, which had been previously rented to the community through an agreement with Duluth Y. The pavilions were rented for 27 private events and two weddings. The transition of the pavilions to the online Parks and Recreation reservation system was the first of two phases of returning both the pavilions and beach house reservations back to the Parks and Recreation Division’s rental system. Beach House reservations for 2021 and beyond were booked through our online system and will be managed through Parks and Recreation moving forward.

Celebration of Life Events

In 2020 city parks provided families and loved ones with safe spaces to hold memorial services and celebration of life events. A dozen permits were issued to members of the public and local funeral home entities. Many permittees had to forego celebration of life events earlier in the year due to the pandemic and were able to safely utilize parks to host a memorable gathering to honor their loved ones. This is a trend we anticipate continuing in 2021.

Permits

Wade Stadium

While Wade Stadium was not used by the Duluth Huskies in 2020, it was instead opened to the public for private reservations above and beyond the traditional youth baseball games and tournaments that adapted and continued in 2020. Wade Stadium hosted five baseball tournaments and 15 private reservations for birthday parties, family gatherings, and celebration of life events. The space allowed renters to host an event that was outdoors and had enough space to allow for social distancing in a unique venue.



Parks Stewardship

The following parks received significant updates in 2020

Keene Creek Park

- Playground
- Accessibility upgrades
- Dog park improvements
- Trail resurfacing and realignment



Piedmont Park

- Site drainage improvements
- Accessible pathway
- Enhancements to wetland
- Invasive species management



Tribal Monitoring

Based on the cultural and archeological sensitivity of Keene Park and Piedmont Park, the City entered into an MOU with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa that provided for monitoring during all grading, groundbreaking, excavation, and ground-disturbing activities performed in conjunction with the park projects, including but not limited to, archaeological testing, studies, surveys, and staging activities.

Parks Stewardship

West Duluth Sports Complex

- Improvements to east athletic fields behind Wade Stadium and Wheeler Athletic Complex
- Accessible pathways
- Accessible water fountain
- Family assist restroom
- Sand volleyball court
- Bocce ball court improvements
- Sport court updates
- Playground surface upgrade
- Standardizing competition dugouts

Merritt Park

- Drain tile installation
- Upgraded playground surface
- Portable toilet enclosure
- Fenced basketball court
- Pickleball striping



Lakewalk Phase 3

Restoration efforts continue and the progress is truly transformational. This phase of the Lakewalk focuses on the shoreline and trail from the corner of the lake towards the shipping canal where the boardwalk joins with a newly designed multi-use viewing platform. Construction Project Coordinator Mike LeBeau, with our PFM Division, was interviewed for a story published in the December 2020 issue of National Geographic, which featured the impacts of climate change, rising water levels, and the importance of resilient shorelines.



Parks Stewardship

Lake Superior Zoo Restoration

Significant milestones in exhibit restoration were reached in 2020. With the Black Bear exhibit completed, it temporarily housed two Alaskan brown bear cubs, Tundra and Banks, while they awaited completion of their future home in Bear Country—the reimagined use of the former Polar Shores exhibit. When Tundra and Banks moved to Bear Country in 2020, the Black Bear exhibit was soon refilled by a black bear from the Como Zoo. An improved Otter exhibit was also completed adjacent to Bear Country. By early 2021, all three exhibits were open to the public with their new occupants happily enjoying their new homes.



Gary New Duluth Skate Park Progress

The GND Development Alliance continues to fundraise for and construct the skate park at the Gary New Duluth Rec Center. This future destination skate park, was designed by Mark Leski, aka “The Wizard.”



The Gary-New Duluth Recreation Area's electronic sign along Commonwealth Avenue towers over a partially built skateboard park, the latest addition in a string of projects that have included the renovation of the community center with youth programming, soccer fields, a dog park, community garden, open-air pavilion and sports court. (Steve Kuchera / skuchera@duluthnews.com)

Trail Improvements

Cross City Trail River Route

Chester Park

- Chester Park Ski Trail Designation
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Hiking Trail Reroute

DWP rail-trail conversion

- Sargent Creek Bridge

Duluth Traverse

- UMD Bagley
- Central Park Craft Connector
- Fairmont Segment

Ely's Peak Multi-use Hiking/Biking Trail

SHT Spirit Mountain Knowlton Creek Reroute



St. Louis River National Water Trail Designation

The St. Louis River Estuary was officially designated as a National Water Trail by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior on October 22, 2020!

The Minnesota Land Trust and St. Louis River Alliance were among leading organizations that worked with the City of Duluth to create a vision for the St. Louis River National Water Trail and bring together stakeholders to create the Water Trail Plan, which led to an application for a National Water Trail Designation. The Water Trail includes 11 loop trails for paddlers of all skill levels and abilities and is intended for various watercraft use. By providing access to wild space in an urban area, the Water Trail enables more people an opportunity to build their own memories and relationships with the St. Louis River.

Signage

The following parks and trails received new signage in 2020

Waabizheshikana – The Marten Trail

Harrison Park

Irving Park

Riverside Park

Gary New Duluth Rec Center

Chambers Grove, along with an Ojibwe co-name: Nagaajiwanaang



Other

Memorial Program

In 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission, followed by City Council, unanimously approved adding the Memorial Program to City Ordinance. Following is the Statement of Purpose from the City Council Resolution to formally amend Chapter 35 – Parks and Recreation to include a new section for the Memorial Program:

This ordinance formalizes the City’s park and green space memorial program through which the City has in the past, and may in the future, permit the placement of memorial elements in the City park system.

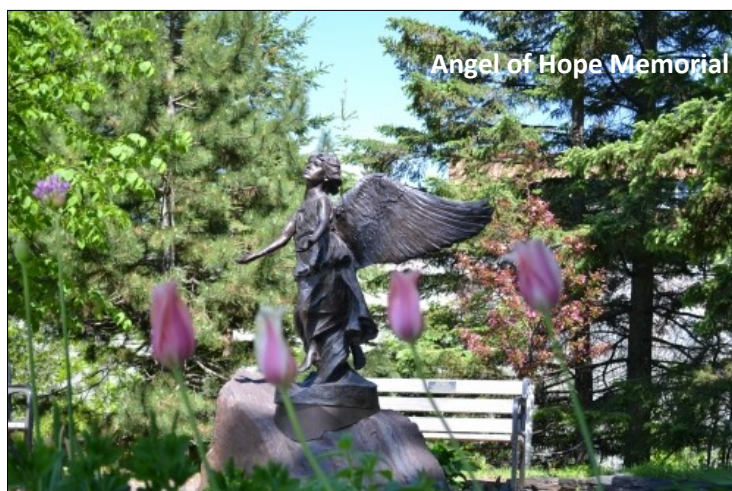
In the absence of clear guidance and authorization in City ordinance, the City has historically implemented a disparate array of park memorial initiatives with varying levels of formalization, consistency, and clarity. These initiatives have generally failed to anticipate the eventual deterioration and failure of memorial elements or the other contingencies that can necessitate their removal or relocation.

Memorial elements throughout the City’s parks and green space are important and emotional recognitions of individuals who have passed away. Formalizing the memorial program for elements to be placed within parks and green space will enable the City to more consistently and comprehensively manage memorial elements in these spaces.

This addition to City code allows for the Parks and Recreation Department to define policies and procedures, establish fees, approve or deny requests, and define maintenance for memorial items within parks and green spaces. At this time, multiple types of memorial elements currently exist in the City’s parks and green spaces, to include trees, benches, picnic tables, plaques, etc.

The only part of the City memorial program that is accepting and approving new requests at this time is the Angel of Hope memorial in Leif Erickson Park whose purpose is to enable grieving family members to honor children who have passed away.

All other requests for the placement of new elements are currently on hold due to staff and resource limitations. Parks and Recreation will continuously monitor resources and inform the public when and if new requests will be considered.

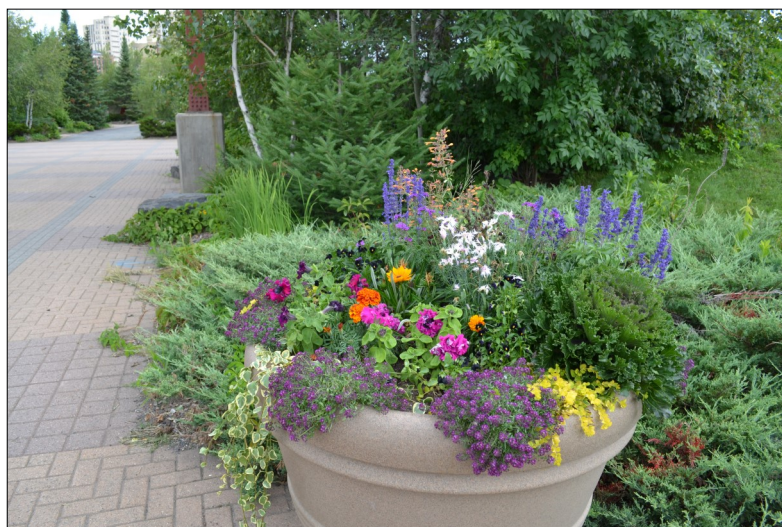


Pandemic Operation Plans

To comply with State Orders and subsequent guidance on allowable activities during the Covid-19 pandemic, Parks and Recreation established a Third-Party Pandemic Operations Plan Policy that required all third-party organizations operating in or on Park facilities to develop and maintain a pandemic operations plan. Parks and Recreation developed internal pandemic plans to resume some operations in mid-June and soon thereafter started working with other entities to develop pandemic plans, allowing them to resume adapted operations as allowed under State Orders. Pandemic Operations Plans were approved for volunteer clean-ups, youth sports leagues, tournaments, summer camps, special events and activities delivered by third-party operators. In total, more than 156 pandemic operations plans were submitted and reviewed by Parks and Recreation in 2020.

Public Golf Committee

In January, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to approve the Public Golf Committee as a sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. This committee was designed to provide recommendations to City Administration and City Council via the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the public golf courses. This committee was also designed to foster communication, cooperation, and consultation between golf management, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Administration, and golfers.



Ribbon Cuttings

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were unable to host ribbon cutting events in 2020. We look forward to coordinating alternate ways of celebrating and acknowledging milestones for the following projects



- Keene Creek Park
- Piedmont Park
- UMD Bagley Duluth Traverse Segment
- Central Park Craft Connector Segment
- Chambers Grove Park
- Merritt Park
- Sargent Creek Bridge
- Ely's Peak Multi-use Trail



Community

Volunteer Program

The volunteer program was impacted significantly by the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to required safety measures and restrictions on social gatherings, it was difficult to implement group volunteer events. Despite the challenges, volunteers found ways to safely steward our parks and trails.

More than 600 people participated in the Keep Duluth Clean Spring community-wide clean-up, collecting more than three tons of litter! An additional 200 people participated in a Fall community-wide clean-up. These clean-ups asked people to clean up where they live, work or play, and to utilize their own supplies to do so. Collected garbage was either placed in personal receptacles or hauled through a partnership with Twin Ports Trailer Trash.

Volunteers with the City of Duluth's service initiative, Duluth Invaders, logged 609 hours. These individual volunteers, through the City-supported Rapid Response Early Detection Team, provide support around invasive species removal. Additionally, Duluth Invaders supported a socially-distanced team of students from Harbor City International School who conducted buckthorn removal at Enger Park and along nearby SHTA trails.

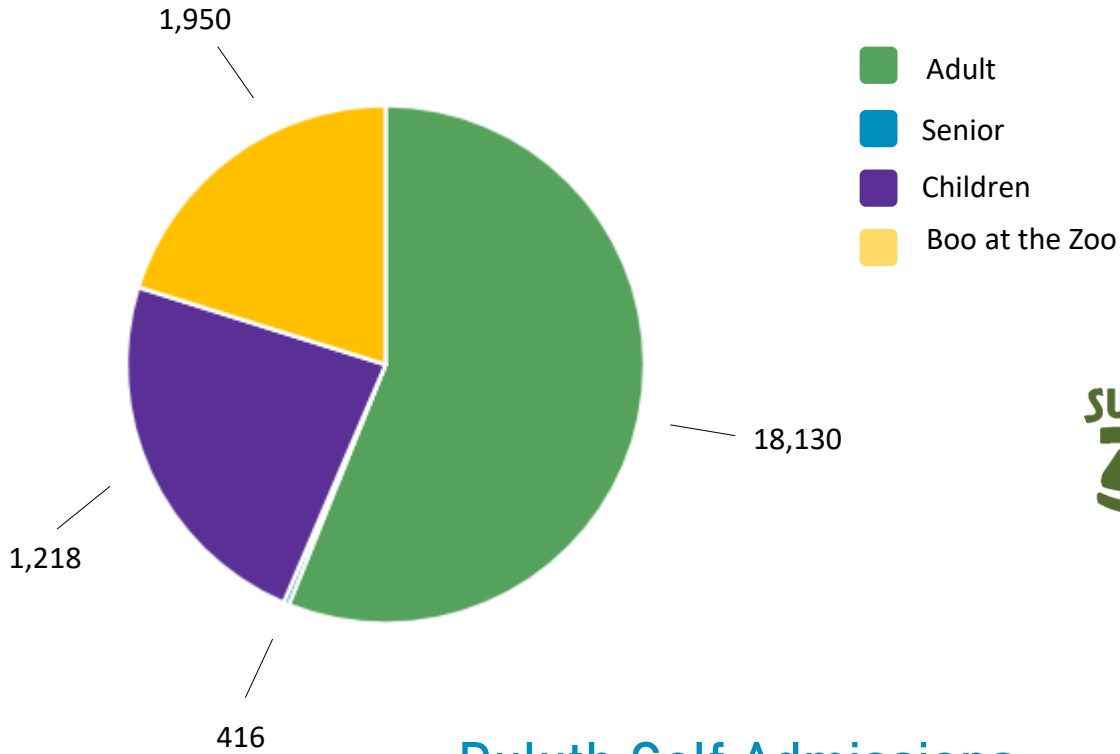
While group clean-up projects were limited, a small number of teams did conduct litter clean-up projects. These groups included teams from the College of St. Scholastica – Physical Therapy, a local Starbucks, College of St. Scholastica – Community Service Orientation, and UMD's Alpha Delta fraternity. Each group operated their clean-up event in compliance with an approved pandemic plan.



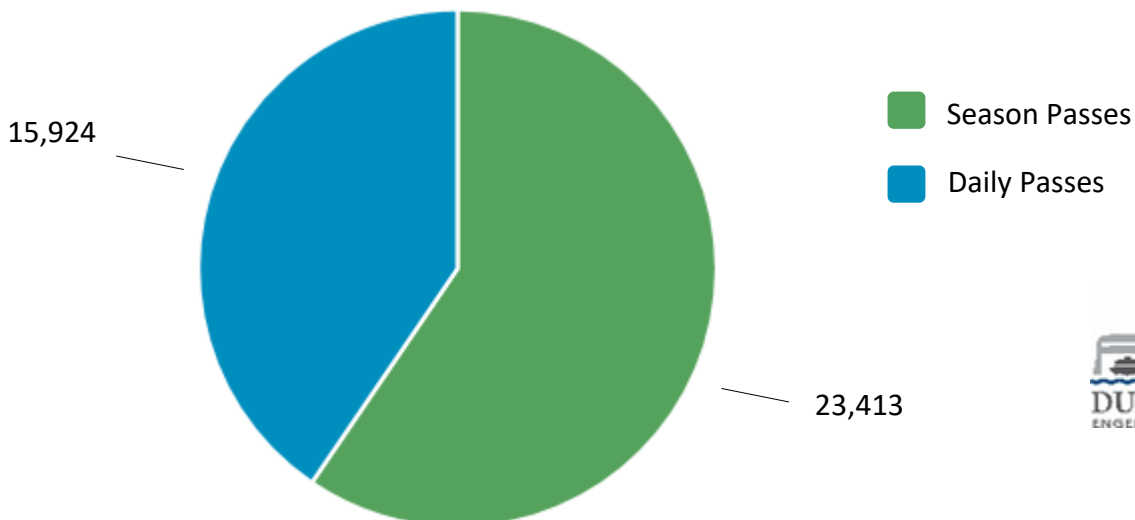
Purple Loosestrife Removal at Park Point

Community

Lake Superior Zoo Admissions



Duluth Golf Admissions



Natural Resources and Forestry

Hartley Native Plant Community Plan

Hartley Park was approved as a Duluth Natural Area in March 2020. All natural areas have management plans to implement and the first task under this plan was to prepare a Native Plant Community Plan. The purpose of a Native Plant Community Plan is to prioritize the actions related to invasive species control and restoration of native trees and plants over the next ten years. This plan includes a proposed schedule and funding needs to perform those actions. The overarching goal is to first protect areas where native plants are in good condition and second to continue to repair and nurture areas where a lot of time and money has already been spent on invasive species control.

Amity Creek Restoration

A Conservation Partners Legacy Grant, was used to contract work with Community Action Duluth – Stream Corps to plant trees into and along Amity Creek where a corridor had been created to make repairs after the 2012 flood. 125 1-inch caliper saplings and 150 10-inch plug seedlings which included, white cedar, white pine, paper birch, American elm, and black willow were planted. The Stream Corps also planted 75 shrubs that included a mix of red osier dogwood, elderberry, alder, and chokecherry. Each plant was caged to protect from deer browsing, mulched, and had a weed mat installed. Next year, surveys will be performed to determine survival rate.

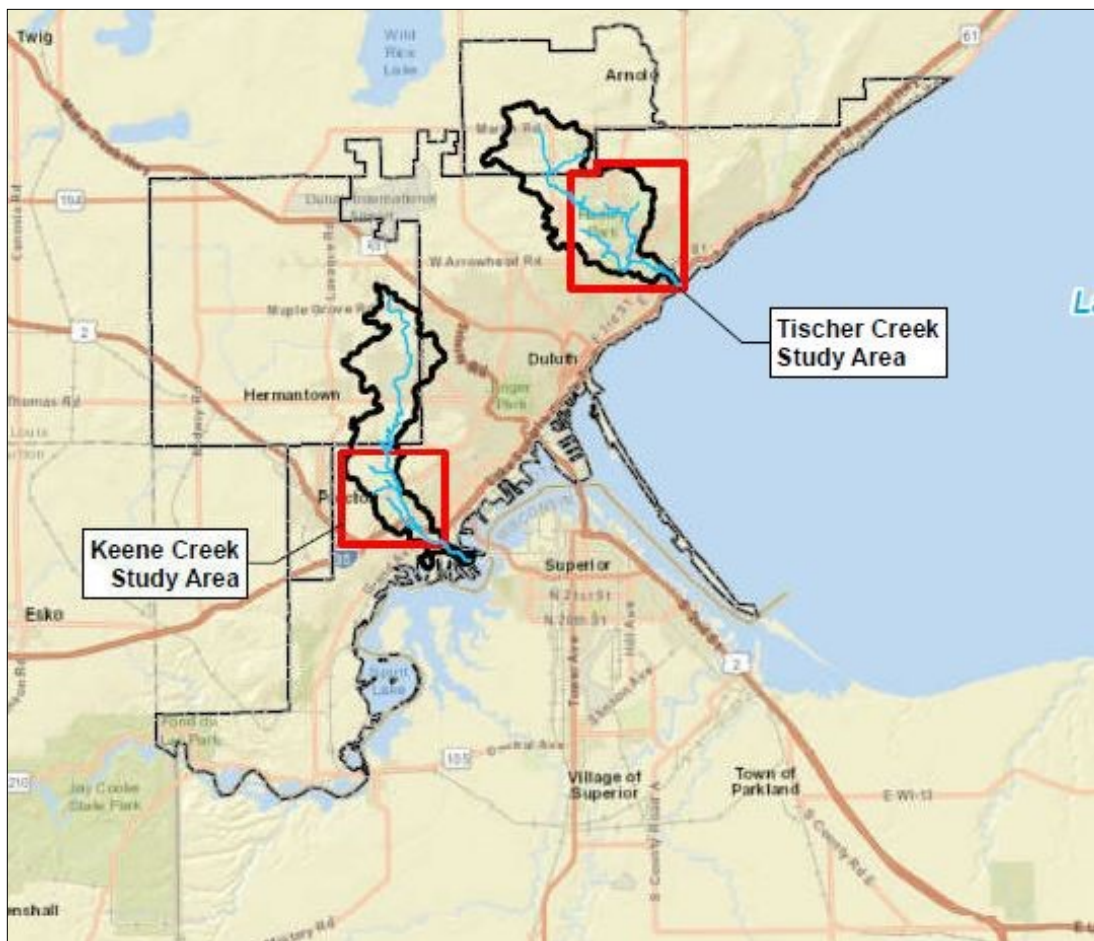
Amity Creek, a designated trout stream, experienced considerable damage during the June 2012 flood. The stream was aggregated (a large amount of coarse sediments were deposited) causing additional bank instability and poor stream habitat. South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Duluth undertook stream channel restoration activities moving the creek away from the sloughing high bank, creating floodplain benches, and installing riffles and pools at appropriate spacing and depth to create a stable channel.



Natural Resources and Forestry

Results on E.coli water quality study at Tischer and Keene Creek

Thanks to a grant from the MN Pollution Control Agency, the City worked with Burns McDonnell to develop a bacterial source identification study on Tischer and Keene Creek. Water quality monitoring data indicates the water quality standards for recreational uses are not being attained based on exceedances of numeric criteria for *E. coli*, a common fecal indicator for bacteria. The report was completed in August 2020 and the information is already being used to implement best management practices that we hope will reduce *E.coli* concentrations in the areas where the conditions showed greatest need. Parks is working closely with engineering stormwater staff who are taking the lead on some of these actions. The City is also working closely with our state partners to obtain watershed-wide planning funds toward prioritizing, repairing and monitoring areas where urban conditions have impacted their health.



Natural Resources and Forestry

Kickoff of Natural Resources Management Plan

There are 3 Project Elements under an EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant underway:

1. Develop and begin to implement Duluth's first ever Natural Resource Management Program Plan.

The City of Duluth (City) has over 10,000 acres of public open space. Setting goals and strategies to permanently protect, restore, monitor, and manage these lands for the benefit of plant and animal habitats, ecosystem diversity, and natural resource resiliency in a changing climate is a benefit to the City's citizens and visitors.

2. Acquire critical tax forfeit lands for permanent protection.

The City is working with the County to acquire tax forfeit lands for less than its market value for the preservation, or restoration and preservation of the land in its natural state along the St. Louis River Corridor.

3. Continue to repair and nurture projects that are underway.

Finally, the grant includes funds to restore native plant communities designed for bird migration and nesting habitat on at least 30 acres in the Kingsbury Creek Watershed just upstream of the St. Louis River Natural Area. The area has been treated for invasive species and will be re-treated in 2021. A good portion of the area is ready for native plant community restoration through tree and shrub seeding and plantings.



Natural Resources and Forestry

The following goals were completed by the Park Maintenance Forestry Program

- 1,000 trees were pruned in West Duluth
- 350 boulevard trees planted in the East Hillside neighborhood
- 150 trees were planted in parks and other neighborhoods
- 40 boulevard tree vaults were planted in the Lincoln Park Craft District
- 350 ash trees were removed along streets to combat Emerald Ash Borer
- 150 street trees of high risk were removed throughout the year because of storm damage or natural aging
- 3 acres of white pine on Park Point were pruned to prevent infection from White Pine Blister Rust, a fatal fungal pathogen



Grant Awards

2020 Grants Awarded

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative-Environmental Protection Agency (GLRI -EPA)

\$900,000 – Grant to secure and protect tax forfeit parcels within and around the St. Louis River Natural Area, restore native plant communities, and develop a comprehensive plan for the long-term management of open space.

Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trail Commission (GMRPTC)

\$889,198 – Grant to will complete conversion of 5.5 miles of the former Duluth Winnipeg and Pacific (DWP) Railroad bed from Spirit Mountain to the intersection of West Skyline Parkway and Becks Road to be a multi-use accessible trail.

MN DNR – Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program

\$11,964 – Grant to provide safety equipment, signage, flags and a billboard along I-35 for rip current awareness along Park Point.

MN DNR – Grant-In-Aid Snowmobile Agreement

\$18,620.02 – Pass-through grant for snowmobile trail maintenance assistance.

MN DNR – Cross-Country Ski Trail Grant-In-Aid Program

\$11,000 – Grant to aid in maintenance of cross-country ski trails.

Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation-Duluth Legacy Endowment Grant

\$2,750 – Park Maintenance grant to support the Keep Duluth Clean initiative.

\$1,750 – Parks & Recreation Outdoor Equipment to purchase skates.



Skating at the Bayfront Family Center

Thank You for Your Partnership!

1854 Treaty Authority
Age Well Arrowhead
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Arrowhead Fast Pitch League
Arrowhead Regional Development Commissions
Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association (AYSA)
Bentlyville Tour of Lights
Boys and Girls Club of the Northland
Central Hillside Community Club
Chester Bowl Improvement Club
Cities of Service
City of Superior
Clean Yer Creek (Loll Designs and Involta)
College of St. Scholastica
Community Action Duluth
Corporation for National and Community Service
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute
Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS)
Destination Duluth
Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club
Duluth Amateur Hockey Association
Duluth Amateur Youth Basketball Association (DAYBA)
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
Duluth Area Family YMCA
Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliances (DAHTA)
Duluth Area Pickleball Association
Duluth Audubon Society
Duluth Bikes
Duluth Children's Museum
Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (Duluth CISMA)
Duluth Climbers Coalition (DCC)
Duluth Community Garden Program
Duluth Community School Collaborative
Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club (DXC)
Duluth Dog Parks
Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA)
Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC)
Duluth Foot Trails Alliance (DuFTA)
Duluth Garden Flower Society
Duluth Huskies
Duluth Invaders
Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Duluth Monarch Buddies
Duluth Preservation Alliance
Duluth Superior Port Authority
Duluth Softball Players Association
Duluth Youth Agency Coalition
Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)
East Hillside Community Club
Ecolibrium 3
Essentia Duluth Heritage Sports Center
Essentia Health
Fond du Lac Community Club
Friends of Duluth Public Golf
Friends of Tennis
Friends of the Lakewalk
Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails
Gary New Duluth Community Club
GND Development Alliance
Grandma's Marathon
Great Lakes Alliance
Greater Downtown Council
Harbor City International School
Harrison Community Club
Hartley Nature Center
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
Head of the Lakes United Way
Hike Duluth
Indian Point Campground
Indigo Golf
Irving Community Club
ISD 709 Duluth Public Schools
Izaak Walton League
Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad (LSMR)
Lake Superior College
Lake Superior Disc Golf Community
Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
Lake Superior Rose Society
Lake Superior Zoo
Lakeside-Lester Community Club
Lincoln Park Business Group
Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative
Longview Tennis Club
Men as Peacemakers
Merritt Community Club
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Geocachers Association
Minnesota GreenCorps
Minnesota Land Trust
Minnesota Point Preservation Society
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Minnesota Sea Grant
Minnesota Power
Morgan Park-Smithville Community Club
Monarch Healthcare Management
North Shore Display
Nah-Gah-Chi-Wa-Nong Reservation
National Bank of Commerce
National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Neighborhood Youth Services
North Shore ATV Club
North Shore Display
North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Northern Expressions Arts Collective
Northern Minnesota Track Club
Northland Paddlers Alliance
Norton Park Community Club
Over the Hill Night Riders Snowmobile Club
Park Point Community Club
Piedmont Heights Community Club
Portman Recreation Association
Rainbow Community/Senior Center
Riverside Community Club
Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT)
RSVP Senior Corps
St. Louis County
Senior Center Clubs
Sierra Club
South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District
Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority
St. Croix Hospice
St. Louis River Alliance
Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA)
Duluth Area Family YMCA
The Stewardship Network
United States Army Corps of Engineers
United States Environmental Protection Agency
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota Extension
U.S. Steel
Valley Youth Center
Visit Duluth
West Duluth Business Club
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
Wheels on Trails
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Youthworks
Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community