

Good News from Parks and Recreation

May, 2012 Parks Commission Meeting

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Trail and Bikeway Plan -

http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue Facebook icon on our website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

30th Anniversary Chester Creek Concert Series

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Chester Creek Concert Series.

- July 10 Circuit Breakers
- July 17 Rock a Billy Revue
- July 24 Sh Boom
- July 31 Busterville
- August 7 Sound Incorporated *Rain Dates August 14 and 21

Parks and Recreation Free Summer Fun

Parks and Recreation is offering several summer recreation opportunities for kids and families at the Bayfront Family Center and the Duluth Heritage Sports Center. All activities are free.

Fun Opportunities for Groups and Families at the BAYFRONT FAMILY CENTER!

Bayfront Festival Park is a great place for people to go with friends and family almost any time! Take a walk around the festival grounds, stage and past the harbor... Play on the biggest, most innovative playground in Duluth... Check out the **Bayfront Family Center**, open Monday-Thursday from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM, which has sheltered seating, extra bathrooms and vending machines-Recreational Equipment is available for people to use free of charge and includes: Frisbee Golf, Kites, Volleyball Sets, Kickballs and Croquet.

Turf Time at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center

UMD Athletes, Park Staff and Men as Peacemakers will assist Youth Groups and their adult leaders in character development activities and sports oriented games on the indoor Turf Facility. A variety of equipment, participants and discussion topics make this a fun and interesting opportunity for all involved who desire active play with NO Weather worries! Snack provided! Summer session will run from June 21-August 23 every Thursday from 1:00-3:00 PM for ages 7-17, with adult group leader or care-giver. This event is free.

Summer Skating at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center

The summer Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions held at the Heritage Sports Center will begin on Wednesday, June 13th -August 29th from 1:30-3:00 PM. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West. These sessions are free and open for pleasure skating. Please bring your own skates. Free and open to all ages for pleasure skating.

First Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants Announced

Mayor Don Ness announced the organizations selected to receive the first Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants, pending City Council approval. The City made \$50,000 available as part of the Parks Fund to support projects and initiatives which would enhance and improve city parks and recreation.

The Neighborhood Grant program is designed to provide direct support for community groups and organizations to add value in our City parks. The City is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation which accepted and processed the applications. Proposals were reviewed by a committee with recommendations for funding presented to the Parks Commission then for final approval from the City Council.

Parks Fund Neighborhood Grant 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 was 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.

The grant recipients are:

AGENCY: Courage Center Duluth- **\$3,000**

PROJECT: Community Adaptive Sailing
Courage Center Duluth in partnership with Duluth Superior Sailing Association (DSSA) has provided adaptive sailing lessons for people with disabilities of all ages for 15 years. During the summer of 2011, low water levels in the Duluth Harbor made it impossible for them to conduct the program in its original format. The plan for 2012 will be to redesign a program to include a target population of teenagers with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in addition to some young adults and adults with traumatic brain injuries, cerebral palsy, stroke, spinal cord injuries and other neurological impairments.

AGENCY: Duluth Heights Amateur Hockey Association-**\$5,000**

PROJECT: Rink Upgrade

The grant monies will be used to rebuild the Mite Hockey rink (60' X 90') at the Duluth Heights Community Club prior to November 2012. The small rink is in need of replacement/upgrade to keep the rink in a safe, playable condition. The Duluth Heights hockey families will provide the labor to install the new rink. The rink will be used for hockey practice, games, jamborees, and open community skating.

AGENCY: Hartley Nature Center-**\$5,000**

PROJECT: Hartley Pond Dock Installation

Funding will be used to install a new handicap accessible 50' dock on Hartley Pond in Hartley Park. Once installed, this new, longer dock will connect the thousands of annual visitors to Hartley Park to the water and better enable hundreds of school-age children to learn about streams and ponds. Lastly, the new dock will all but eliminate shoreline degradation near the dock and the corresponding silting of Tischer Creek and Lake Superior.

AGENCY: Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association-**\$5,000**

PROJECT: Grant Nettleton Soccer Program

The Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association (AYSA), in partnership with the Grant Nettleton Collaborative, will work with the Imagination Station Summer Program to build healthy lifestyles in kids from that community by offering weekly soccer skills and scrimmage sessions at the Grant Recreation site. Expert soccer coaches from AYSA would lead volunteers in soccer skills activities and games. Coaches and volunteers would also implement the Champions Building Champions curriculum developed by Men as Peacemakers in order to work on values and character development during those sessions. They also hope to identify players that will continue with the sport and enroll in their summer leagues

AGENCY: East Hillside PATCH, Inc.-**\$2,000**

PROJECT: Summer Parks Sampler

The project PATCH will implement is a new program called "Summer Parks Sampler". This summer PATCH will be able to take youth to a new park each week of their summer program; their summer program is 8 weeks in length, meaning that they would visit 8 new parks in the city of Duluth, beginning with Magney/Snively Park in the west and ending up at Brighton Beach in the east. Staff will create programming around visits to these new parks including nature scavenger hunts guided day (or part-day) hikes picnics and relay races.

AGENCY: Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores-**\$5,000**
PROJECT: Hartley Mountain Bike Trail System Signage and Sustainability Upgrades

The Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores (COGGS) will be upgrading the existing Hartley mountain bike multiuse single track trail system by designing and hand building three sustainable reroutes around old unsustainable sections of trail as well as adding trail and wayfinding signage throughout the whole system. The old unsustainable sections of trail would be closed down and restored to a near natural state. This project would be completed with a mixture of volunteer and hired labor.

AGENCY: Piedmont Hockey Association-**\$5,000**
PROJECT: Piedmont Rink Restoration

Piedmont Hockey Association has been a viable non-profit organization that has been around over forty years. The organization currently works out of the Piedmont Community Center. Over the years, due to weathering, ground heaving, and use, the arena rinks are in need of repair. This year the Piedmont Hockey Association is committed to restoring the warped uneven boards, fencing, hinges, and doors of the main arena.

AGENCY: Zenith City Flyers-**\$2,200**
PROJECT: Duluth Disc Golf Park Improvement

The Zenith City Flyers was created to help foster disc golf in Duluth and the surrounding areas. Their goals are to:

Improve Miller Creek Disc Golf Course by putting in permanent tee boxes (cement), build more stairs for erosion control and do some tree wrapping to help protect the trees. They are also, in-conjunction with Duluth Parks and Recreation, going to do some replanting in key areas in the Park and along the creek.

Create signs for the Miller Creek Disc Golf Course. Aid with the installation of the Lincoln Park Disc Golf Course and use GIS and other aids to find a suitable location for a future 27 hole championship course.

AGENCY: Boys & Girls Club of Duluth-**\$4,800**
PROJECT: Bringing Programming to Lincoln Park

The Boys and Girls Club at Lincoln Park will provide outdoor programming in Lincoln Park for the area youth. This programming will be in the areas of outdoor sports and science, particularly environmental science. The program would be open to all area youth, both their over 600 club members and non-club members of the community.

AGENCY: Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club-**\$5,000**
PROJECT: Ski Trail Grooming Equipment

The Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club plans to purchase lightweight grooming equipment to be used by DXC volunteers on City of Duluth public ski trails. This piece of equipment will be available for all neighborhoods to provide and improve grooming surfaces for cross country skiers of all ages and abilities.

Public Invited to Watch Timber Framers Guild Hand Build Enger Gazebo

The public was invited to watch the Timbers Framers Guild build the Enger Park Gazebo. These folks donated their labor to form the heavy timbers and erect them in place. If you've never seen this art form, it was well worth the effort to stop in and visit with these folks. They do most of this work by hand with old, original tools, some as old as 100 years! They donated their services to help promote their trade. The City of Duluth encouraged everyone to stop up at Enger Park and spend a little time watching the Timber Framers Guild work their craft!

Summer Rink Rat Program Adds Second Session

Parks and Recreation and Duluth Area Hockey Association (DAHA) have added a second summer session of FREE Rink Rat Hockey times. The following dates have been added in July and August at the Heritage Sports Complex:

Thursday, July 5, 4-5pm

Thursday, July 12, 3:45-4:45pm

Thursday, July 19, 4-5pm

Thursday, July 26, 3:45-4:45

Tuesday, July 31, 3:45-4:45

Thursday, Aug 9, 4:15-5:15

Thursday, Aug 16, 3:45-4:45

These sessions are designed for children ages 6-11 who are interested in trying out the sport of hockey in a non-competitive, indoor environment with experienced adult interaction and supervision. Each one hour session will include skill introduction and fun drills, followed by an informal game where players will be equally rotated in. Sessions are FREE, but are limited to 30 participants, with preference being given to first-time players. Some equipment is available for use but participants are encouraged to bring their own Helmut, elbow/knee pads and stick.

Re-Leaf Tree Inventory Volunteers Needed

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to assist city staff in taking inventory of all the street trees in Duluth. Volunteers interested are asked to attend the Re-Leaf tree inventory volunteer training on Wednesday, July 11th from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Central Hillside Community Center located at 12 East 4th Street (corner of Lake Avenue and 4th Street). Volunteers will be trained on the methodology of our tree street inventory along with identification of the tree species, size, and simple condition assessments. People do not need any tree ID experience to participate but are asked to attend the training. Tree inventories can be done by volunteers on their own or in pairs as often as they have time throughout the summer.

The last City of Duluth tree inventory was conducted in 1994. This newly gathered information will be used to determine our species diversity, age diversity of the trees, calculate benefits of our urban forest, such as lbs. of

carbon sequestered, and the number of gallons of storm water runoff avoided because of the trees, which amounts to more than a million gallons a year. The collected information will also be used to determine where the City can plant more trees in the future. For more information contact Shawna MullenEardley.

Call for Volunteers: City of Duluth Trail Work

The Parks and Recreation Division needs volunteers to help out with our city trails. To register to volunteer at any these events contact City of Duluth, Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Skafte at 218-393-9879 or cskafte@duluthmn.gov.

Flood-Related Trail Work Days

The City of Duluth requests volunteer assistance to repair and restore flood-damaged trails. No experience necessary, all ages welcome, tools and equipment provided. Dress for the weather, bring sturdy shoes, water and gloves (if you have them).

- Thursday, July 12, 5-8pm – Trail Restoration for the Half-Voyageur Ultra-Marathon!

Volunteers needed to help disperse top soil and wood chips along the flood damaged lower hiking trails at Kingsbury Creek to ready the trail for the upcoming annual Half-Voyageur Ultra-Marathon Race. Meet at the trailhead at the end of Waseca Street, just off Grand Avenue, east of the Zoo.

- Saturday, July 14, 9-12pm and Wednesday, July 18, 4-7pm – Lester Park Work Days! Volunteers needed to help disperse gravel and top soil along the lower flood-damaged Amity hiking and ski trails at Lester Park. Meet near the playground.

Advanced Trail Building Work Day

Do you have some experience with construction and trail building? Check out the opportunity below! No experience is necessary, but folks with carpentry skills particularly needed. Tools and supplies provided; bring your own battery-operated drills or saws, eye protection and gloves (if you have them).

- Monday, July 15, 5-8pm - Stair Building at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve - The City of Duluth seeks volunteers to help construct a set of trail stairs from the Main Overlook down to the lower level viewing area.

Trail Brushing and Weed Whacking

The City of Duluth seeks volunteers to help weed whack and brush trails around Duluth. You can help keep our trails well maintained and user-friendly. Tools will be provided; bring own weed whacker and other tools if available. Dress for the weather; bring sturdy shoes, water, eye protection, and gloves.

- Tuesday, July 17, 5-8pm - Weed Whacking at Lester Park. Meet at the main parking lot off Lester River Road.

- Tuesday, July 24, 5-8pm - Weed Whacking at Hawk Ridge. Meet at the main overlook on Skyline Parkway, about a mile in from Glenwood Street.

- Tuesday, July 31, 5-8pm – Weed Whacking at Chester Park. Meet at the main entrance to Chester Bowl.

Buckthorn Brigade

The City of Duluth seeks volunteers to help remove buckthorn, an invasive shrub, from our parks. Training and tools will be provided; bring own if available. All ages welcome! Dress for the weather; bring sturdy shoes, water, eye protection, and gloves.

- Thursday, July 19, 5-8pm; Thursday, July 26, 5-8pm – Buckthorn Brigade @ Hartley Park. Meet at main parking lot in Hartley Nature Center. There will likely be a short hike to get to the work location.
- Friday, July 20, 1-3pm; Friday, August 3, 1-3pm – Buckthorn Brigade @ Chester Park. Meet at the main entrance to Chester.

City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Trail Conditions Update(July 6)

Hartley Park: All trails open throughout the park.

Lester Park: All ski trails open and recently mowed. All multiple use trails (COGGS hiking/biking) are open. The hiking trails along lower Amity Creek remain closed until after the trail work days July 14, 9-12pm and July 18, 4-7pm.

Piedmont Park: All ski trails open and recently mowed. All multiple use trails (COGGS/SHT biking/hiking) are open.

Congdon Park trails: the natural surface footpaths in Congdon Park, alongside both sides of Tischer Creek are open. The paved bike path is closed until further notice.

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve: All trails open. The Amity Creek Trail is open, however, use caution as drainage is poor in that area.

Magney-Snively Park: The SHT through the park is open. Ski trails remain closed.

Park Point Nature Trail: The sandy trail to the end of Park Point is open and in good condition.

Grassy Point Trail: The board walked Grassy Point Trail is open and in good condition.

Western Waterfront Trail: the WWFT is mostly open, however, use caution near the Keene Creek where the railroad culvert washed out and took away portions of the trail.

Lakewalk: The Lakewalk is completely open. The Superior Hiking Trail is open in Duluth except in the far western stretches in Mission Creek and Jay Cooke Park. Those sections remain closed until further notice.

Closed trails:

Chester Trails – closed until further notice

Irving Bike Path - closed until further notice

Kingsbury Creek Trails - closed until further notice

Mission Creek Trails - closed until further notice

Munger Trail - closed from Duluth to Carlton until further notice

Duluth Parks and Recreation Mini Master Plan Meeting Schedule

The public is invited to attend the following Parks and Recreation Mini Master Plan meetings. The Parks Master Plan was passed in January of 2011. Each project area will have its own mini-master plan planning process. This will include utilizing professionals and city staff and incorporating public participation.

Mini Master Plan Sites:

Lower Chester: Public meeting to be held on Thursday, July 12th at 6:00 PM in the Lower Chester Community Recreation Center located at 1417 East 5th Street

Brighton Beach: Public meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 24th at 6:00 PM at the Portman Community Recreation Center located at 4601 McCulloch Street

Washington Square: Public meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 25th at 6:00 PM at the Portman Community Recreation Center located at 4601 McCulloch Street

Volunteers Needed at Miller Creek Disc Golf Course Saturday, July 21

Volunteers are needed at the Miller Creek Disc Golf course on Saturday, July 21st from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM for a general cleanup day. Volunteers are asked to bring weed trimmers or lawn mowers and work gloves. Work will be focused on trimming and cleaning the entire disc golf course. Please meet at the parking lot across from Lake Superior College on Arlington Avenue. All ages welcome, no experience necessary. Dress for the weather. For more information contact City of Duluth, David Markman at 320-339-0305.