

Good News from Parks and Recreation
March 14, 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

Save the Date!

The Parks Commission's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 4

5 pm

Training Room in the new

Public Safety Building

2030 N Arlington Ave

Agenda includes:

Welcome by the Mayor

Comments on the Parks Fund

Updates on Current Plans

Input on Future Plans

2012 Zoo Events

March 31	Earth Hour
April 7	Easter Egg-Stravaganza
May 13	Mothers' Day & Teddy Bear Clinic
May 15/June 15	Membership Drive
June 7	M.A.D. Safari (Member Appreciation Day)
June 17	Wild About Dad (Fathers' Day)
August 2	Spirit Valley Days Parade
August 4	Run Like an Animal (run/walk)
August 16	Wine Tasting Event
September 9	Lion's Birthday & Grandparents' Day
October 13 & 20	Boo at the Zoo
December 8	Berlin's Birthday & Photos with Santa

Ice Skating at the Heritage Sports Center (120 South 30th Ave West). All skating sessions are free. Attendance at the skating sessions has been great!

Friday - March 16	1:30-2:30 PM (Early Release School Day)
Wednesday - March 21	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday - March 28	6:30-8:00

Wednesday - April 4	6:30-8:00 PM (Early Release School Day)
Friday - April 6	1:30-2:30 PM (Early Release School Day)

No School – Spring Break

Monday - April 9	1:30-3:00 PM
Tuesday - April 10	1:30-3:00 PM
Wed - April 11	1:30-3:00 PM
Thursday - April 12	1:30-3:00 PM
Friday - April 13	1:30-3:00 PM
Wednesday - April 18	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday - April 25	6:30-8:00 PM

Duluth Weather Rules Again!

After the recent snow storms, all City cross country ski trails were groomed and ready for skiing. The City of Duluth has 55 kilometers of skiing on six cross country ski trails. Skiers had great conditions for about two weeks. With the unusually warm weather and rain, most, if not all, of the trails are no longer skiable.

We did experience some problems on our cross country ski trails after the recent snow. With a very mild winter, walkers have been using the ski trails – both people and dogs. After the snow, we finally had enough snow to properly groom the trails. Unfortunately the walkers continued to walk on the ski trails, destroying the grooming and making it dangerous for skiers. We issued a press release reminding the public that hiking on City cross country ski trails is prohibited. Others helped spread the word via the newspaper, Facebook pages, and a great volunteer posted several dozen signs at Lester Park.

The City of Duluth Bayfront Park skating rink is now closed for the season. We were able to keep it open longer than most years – until March 4. The sun and warmer temperatures won the battle of the ice. We'll try again in December.

Skiers at Chester Bowl were hoping for a week longer season (until March 18) but again the warmer temperatures did not cooperate. Once the creek opens up, skiing is over for the season. The final day of skiing was on March 11 with a "water skiing on the pond" event to wrap up the season.

Public Meeting at Spirit Mountain Nordic Ski Chalet March 21 at 5:30 pm

Discussion will take part about looking at our ski trail system as a whole and in particular, how to improve Spirit Mountain's trail system. Bring your concerns and ideas. For more information, contact Judy Gibbs at jgibbs@duluthmn.gov or 218-269-4712.

Public Meeting to be held about Disc Golf in Duluth on April 3 at 5:30 pm

(Location to be determined.) The eighteen hole disc golf course at Lake Superior College is scheduled to be reduced from 18 holes to 9, due to erosion issues. Discussion will be around re-structuring the remaining holes and where the nine holes might be moved to. For more information, contact Judy Gibbs at jgibbs@duluthmn.gov or 218-269-4712.

Spring Ultimate Frisbee at Heritage Sports Center

Kids will learn how to play the game of Ultimate Frisbee! It's a fun, fast moving game similar to football, played with a frisbee but with very little physical contact. Show up for direction, skill practice, and pick-up games with well-seasoned players.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 18 - May 23

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Ages: 7-17

Cost: Free

Global Youth Service Day is coming - April 20

TrueNorth AmeriCorps, Minnesota GreenCorps, the City of Duluth, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Ecolibrium 3, American Lung Association, Natural Resources Research Institute, ARC Northland, and regional public and private schools are teaming up to clean up Duluth's Streams and Rivers. They will spend the day pulling garbage and trash out of the many Duluth watersheds with a focus on plastic bags. Volunteers are encouraged to help out. Contact Courtney Schmidt at cschmidt@truenorthamericorps.org or 218-722-4745 ext 121. Check out the YouTube video done about the "life cycle of a plastic bag" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLgh9h2ePYw>

Spring Turf Time at Heritage Sports Center

UMD Athletes, Parks 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!

Dates: April 26 - May 31

Time: Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 PM

Ages: 7-17, with adult group leader or care-giver

Cost: Free

Parks and Recreation will be moving their offices to City Hall

We have been working toward this move for many months now and the moving date is fast approaching. If all the arrangements continue on schedule, we will be moving around April 13. Our phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. Our mailing address will be: Parks and Recreation, 411 West First St, Duluth, MN 55802.

Additional seasonal and temporary staff

Parks and Recreation is now able to hire seasonal and temporary staff due to the passage of the Parks Fund, something we have not been able to do for many years. Those positions are for Parks Hosts and Trail Workers. Park Hosts will visit our parks and trails when we have permitted activities to make sure that the arrangements are complete, the park is picked up between permits, and to answer any questions or concerns. The Trail Workers will be assisting our Trails Coordinator, GreenCorps Member, and volunteers with a variety of trail projects.

Maintenance Operations is also able to hire seasonal and temporary staff. They have experienced budget reductions for several years with more reductions planned if the Parks Fund did not pass. They can now hire enough seasonal and temporary staff provide the level of service at our parks, ball fields, and trails that we would like to provide.

We are also hiring Park Rangers, something we haven't been able to do in several years. This is a joint effort between Parks and Recreation, Park Maintenance, and the Police Department. Park Rangers will be able to patrol our parks and trails to improve safety, reduce vandalism and graffiti, and encourage the public to follow park and trail rules. A big part of their job will be to educate about good etiquette and stewardship.

We are excited to have this opportunity to improve our customer service to Duluthians!

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation has one of the most extensive park systems in the country. The City owns and maintains 11,862 acres including the following special areas:

- 129 municipal parks, playgrounds and public places
- Neighborhood community recreation centers
- Bayfront Festival Park
- Lake Superior Zoo
- 2 golf courses, each offering 27 holes
- Keene's Creek Dog Park
- Disc golf courses
- Skatepark at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Wade Municipal Stadium
- Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Hartley Nature Center
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
- Year round ice skating at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center
- Swimming at Park Point Beach
- Over 40 miles of mountain biking trails
- 55 miles of hiking trails
- Over 7 miles of the Duluth Lakewalk along the shores of Lake Superior
- 45 miles of snowmobile trails
- 70 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails
- 13 beautiful self-guided hiking trails

Currently, Duluth has 160 miles of trails within the city limits, including 40 miles of the national North Country Trail/Superior Hiking Trail, a hiking trail spanning the backbone of our 26-mile long city, connecting all of its neighborhoods. Duluth's trail system is incredibly diverse from cascading waterfalls in the gorge of Congdon Park, towering sand dunes on Park Point and waterfowl-filled habitats of the St. Louis River along the Western Waterfront Trail. Trails range from accessible to rugged. There is something for everyone here in Duluth.