

Good News from Parks and Recreation
December 14, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

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

Trail and Bikeway Plan - available on this website:
http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

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

Indian Point Campground Improvements – information available on this website:
<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - available on this website:
<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

Working together we achieve more!

We thank everyone who supported the Parks Referendum!! Your support has been overwhelming. Staff are working on a budget and a list of capital improvements for the coming year. We will be sharing this with you soon and looking for your input. Watch for more information on this.

A lot of time and effort goes into keeping our parks, trails, centers, and recreation areas working for everyone. There are City staff from many Divisions working together on projects, grants, plans, and maintenance. There are community organizations working with City staff to provide recreational opportunities and programs. And there are hundreds of volunteers working thousands of hours to beautify our parks, clean up our trails, make ice for rinks, open concession stands for center users, help at special events, and much more. These ongoing, consistent, and positive relationships help make Duluth a great place to live. Thank you!

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, averaging about 100 people each time.

Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 14	6:30-8:00 PM	
Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 21	6:30-8:00 PM	
Family Skate	Monday-Dec 26	1:30-3:00 PM	(Holiday School Break)
Family Skate	Tuesday-Dec 27	10-11:30 AM	(Holiday School Break)
Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 28	10-11:30 AM	(Holiday School Break)
Family Skate	Thursday-Dec 29	10-11:30 AM	(Holiday School Break)
Family Skate	Friday-Dec 30	1:30-3:00 PM	(Holiday School Break)
Family Skate	Wednesday-Jan 4	6:30-8:00 PM	
Family Skate	Wednesday-Jan 11	6:30-8:00 PM	
Family Skate	Wednesday-Jan 18	6:30-8:00 PM	
Family Skate	Monday-Jan 23	1:30-3:00 PM	(No School)
Family Skate	Wednesday-Jan 25	6:30-8:00 PM	
Family Skate	Friday-Jan 27	1:30-3:00 PM	(Early Release Day for Schools)

Holiday Closings for Parks and Recreation Office

Our office will be closed on the following days for holidays:

Thursday, December 22

Monday, December 26 – Merry Christmas!

Monday, January 3 – Happy New Year!

Effective January 2012: Our Parks and Recreation office will now be open on Fridays. Our hours will still be 8 am to 4 pm.

DECC Skating Party December 18th

The second Mayor's DECC Skating Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 18th. The skating party will be held in the DECC Arena from 3:00-5:00 PM. This is a great event for families. Music will be provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. There will be free door prizes for the kids. DECC concessions will also be open during this time period. All skating parties are free and open to all ages. Participants need to bring their own skates. The other skating parties will be held on January 22 and February 26th.

Bentleyville Tour of Lights: voted "Best Holiday Lighting Display in the state of Minnesota by WCCO TV in Minneapolis.

DULUTH (WCCO) — True Minnesotans know that the best things about Minnesota aren't all in the metro area. In Duluth, there is a holiday lights display that is definitely worth the drive. Watch Matt Brickman's report on Bentleyville Tour of Lights:

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2011/12/03/best-of-mn-bentleyville-usa-holiday-lights-display/>

Bentleyville Tour of Lights Closes December 26th

Bentleyville opened on Saturday, November 19th and so far, an estimated 110,000 people have already attended this year's display. Visitors have been greeted by the tallest steel Christmas tree in the United States complete with a new 8 feet wide star perched at the top of the 120 foot structure. See the Bentleyville castle, stop by the Cookie House to pick up some hot chocolate/coffee and cookies, then stroll through the 1,000 foot lit archways on their way to Santa and other displays, 15 fire pits where you can roast marshmallows, and pick up popcorn at the Polar Popcorn Hut. Also to be enjoyed is the Aerial Lift Bridge, thousand foot ore boat, and Enger Tower display. Bentleyville will be open from 5:00 PM - 9:00 daily to December 26th. For more information, go to the Bentleyville web site at: bentleyvilleusa.org. Remember to bring a non perishable food item or children's toy to the Salvation Army Bentleyville Tour of Lights gift box (look for the big red bow).

Warmer by the Lake joins Bentleyville Tour of Lights

This year, Warmer by the Lake and the Bentleyville Tour of Lights will present a fun filled day of outdoor activity at Bayfront Festival Park. Warmer by the Lake will bookend the Bentleyville Tour of Lights by being presented on Monday, December 26th. Sleigh rides, bon fire, marshmallow roasting, snow shoeing, skating, and sliding will all be available to everyone to experience from 3:00 - 6:30 PM. At 6:30 PM visitors will be amazed at the spectacular fireworks display. After the fireworks display, visitors can enjoy the final night of Bentleyville Tour of Lights.

Ice Skating Season is here but the weather is not cooperating!

A variety of hockey organizations have been preparing for their 2011-12 seasons. Morgan Park, Irving, Piedmont, Duluth Heights, Woodland, and Portman are at our centers. There are also hockey organizations at Glen Avon (Como Park) and Congdon School. These organizations run entirely on volunteer help and most with a partnership with the City. The Hockey organizations located at our centers, in exchange for the use of the building and utilities, maintain ice and open building hours for the general public. This is a huge task and we thank them for their volunteer efforts. City staff and

volunteers are working together to make these rinks happen. **New this year:** a pleasure skating rink at Memorial.

Pleasure skating will soon be available (weather permitting). We are working with volunteer groups to determine hours the buildings will be open, but once the ice is ready, you can skate at any time.

Pleasure skating only	Hockey rinks and pleasure skating
Bayfront Gary/Stowe Norton Park Memorial Lafayette Merritt Lincoln Park Lower Chester (also has a hockey rink but no league)	Morgan Park Irving Piedmont Duluth Heights Woodland Portman

The Bayfront Family Center will be open for skating during the hours of Bentleyville. Beginning Tuesday, December 27, the Bayfront Family Center will be open by City staff Monday – Friday from 4 to 8 pm; Saturday from 1 to 8 pm; and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm.

Chester Bowl Ski Hill – the weather isn't cooperating for snow making either!

There is very little natural snow so far this season and City staff and the Chester Bowl Improvement Club have been making snow whenever the temperature allows. Unfortunately, this latest warm spell has delayed the opening of the ski hill. The plans are now to open on Monday, December 19 from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Check out their website for more information: <http://www.chesterbowl.org/>

Cross Country Ski Trails

Although there is not enough snow to groom the trails yet, you can keep informed by calling the ski hotline at 730-4321. The City is working with Spirit Mountain and the Cross Country Ski Club to incorporate the 22 km of cross country ski trail into the City's system. The work on this will continue through the winter and we will keep you informed.

Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance sells old roadway signs "The Perfect Christmas Present" - Signs sell out in 30 minutes

On Saturday, November 26th, the Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance held a one-day sale at the Coppertop Church selling the old roadway signs which guided visitors along Skyline Parkway since the 1970s. In less than 30 minutes well over 100 signs were sold to shoppers.

The signs were designed by Nelson Long (1890-1977), who was the art director for the Stewart Taylor Company and also worked for the Duluth News Tribune. The proceeds from the sale will benefit SPPA and the Enger Tower and Park Restoration Project Fund. These two organizations are dedicated to improving facilities along the parkway. SPPA hopes to use the funds to clear trees from blocked lookouts.

Play Time for tots and parents

Now offered at the Duluth Heights Community Center on Wednesdays, from 9 – 11 am, Play Time is a great opportunity for socializing, making new friends, and having fun. There is open space for toddlers and preschool age children to play. Age-appropriate toys are provided for parents to supervise their own children. There is no fee to participate and it is open to the whole community.

Changes . . .

- The City has a new garbage and recycling vendor: Nordic Waste. Staff are working with them to make sure the correct size containers are placed at our centers and parks and that the pick up times are working for the needs. Contact Pamela at 591-0699 if you have questions about this change.
- We are encouraging everyone to recycle! New containers will be located inside our centers with outdoor bins for pick up.
- The City is in the process up updating our computer infrastructure and software. We will soon be using Outlook for our emails. Staff are receiving training on how to use the new and updated programs. We also hope to update our website very soon.

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
- 2 golf courses, each offering 27 holes
- Keene's Creek Dog Park
- Disc golf courses
- Skatepark at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Lake Superior Zoo
- Wade Municipal Stadium
- Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- 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.