

Good News from Parks and Recreation
November 9, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

Indian Point Campground Improvements – information available on this 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

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

New website: <http://www.mnbeaches.org/> has helpful information about beach conditions.

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

Family Skate	Wednesday-Nov 2	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Nov 9	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Nov 16	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Friday-Nov 18	1:30-3:00 PM (Early Release from School Day)
Family Skate	Wednesday-Nov 23	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Nov 30	6:30-8:0 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 7	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 14	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 21	6:30-8:00 PM

Holiday School Break Schedule

Family Skate	Monday-Dec 26	1:30-3:00 PM
Family Skate	Tuesday-Dec 27	10:00-11:30 AM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Dec 28	10:00-11:30 AM
Family Skate	Thursday-Dec 29	10:00-11:30 AM
Family Skate	Friday-Dec 30	1:30-3:00 PM

Park Referendum Passes!!

Duluthians have spoken with their vote and have affirmed their support for our park system and libraries. We now have some exciting work ahead of us as we work on improvement plans to implement in 2012. The Parks Commission can take a leadership role in this process by helping us work with the public and actively participating in the planning.

Holiday Closings for Parks and Recreation Office

Our office will be closed on the following days in November and December for holidays:

Thursday, November 24 – Happy Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 22

Monday, December 26 – Merry Christmas

Monday, January 3 – Happy New Year

Reminder: our office is closed every Friday.

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.

Hockey Season will be here soon!

A variety of hockey organizations are 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.

Speaking of Volunteers . . .

There are many areas where volunteers are needed: at hockey rinks and pleasure skating rinks including Bayfront, at our indoor skating time at Heritage, for Warmer by the Lake on December 26, at any of our parks and trails. If you are interested, call the Parks office for more information: 730-4300.

Bentleyville Tour of Lights Opens Saturday, November 19th

Bentleyville began installing lights on Saturday, September 24th. Hundreds of volunteers and nearly three months later, it is now ready to open for the midwest holiday spectacular Bentleyville Tour of Lights. Bentleyville opens on Saturday, November 19th at 5:00 PM. An estimated 200,000 people are expected to attend this display over the 37 day run. Visitors will be 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. Visitors will be able to see the huge 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.

Make plans now to attend this spectacular event hosted by Bentleyville Tour of Lights and the City of Duluth. Bentleyville will be open from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM daily from November 19th 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).

DECC Skating parties begin Sunday, November 27th

It's time for the annual Mayor's DECC Skating Parties to begin, with the first one scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend, Sunday, November 27th. 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 December 18, January 22, and February 26.

Annual Senior Holiday Banquet

HOLIDAY BANQUET AND BENTLEYVILLE TOUR OF LIGHTS



Tuesday, December 13, 2011 • 5:00 PM
Lake Superior Ballroom (DECC)

Tickets
\$16

Limited number on sale at Duluth Senior Centers



Cost includes bus transportation to the DECC, a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, musical entertainment by Denfeld Solid Gold show choir, a holiday sing along, and a "Video Picture Tour" of the Bentleyville lights projected onto a large screen with musical accompaniment - all in the warmth of the DECC. (The indoor video replaces the former bus tour of lights and the live walk-through of Bentleyville.)

"Video Picture Tour" produced by photographer Dennis O'Hara.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 7 thru DECEMBER 5 (or earlier, if sold out) at:

Evergreen Senior Center (5801 Grand Av.): Thursdays, 12:30-3 pm
Morgan Park Community Rec Center (1242 88th Av. W.): Wednesdays, 10 am-2 pm
Portman Community Rec Center (4601 McCulloch St.): Mondays, 10 am-2 pm
Central Hillside Community Rec Center (12 E. 4th St.): Mon-Thur, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Sponsored by the
City of Duluth
Parks & Recreation Division
Senior Recreation Program
with support from the
AEOA Senior Dining Program

Call 218.390.4971
or 218.730.4306
for more information.



Warmer by the Lake joins Bentleyville Tour of Lights on December 26

This year Warmer by the Lake and 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.

Trails Report

Significant trail work has been happening all over the city on Duluth's trails. The Trail and Bikeway Master Plan passed City Council on October 24, 2011.

COGGS: the Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores has been working on several fronts in Lester Park, Hartley Park and Piedmont. Many trails in those areas had simply evolved with neighbors following deer trails. COGGS made an effort in all these areas to re-route wet, eroded trails to create a very usable system of purpose-built trails. The new trail in Lester Amity is nearly complete. Plans are in place to connect this system to the Hartley system. Other work has been done in identifying key corridors for future trails.

DXC: the Duluth Cross Country Ski Club has been actively recruiting volunteers and they have brushed nearly all of the city's ski trails, including the addition of 22 km at Spirit Mountain. DXC will be opening the chalet at Spirit Mountain this winter. DXC is also working to upgrade all maps, both on the trails and for the City of Duluth website. City staff mowed the ski trails.

SHTA: the Superior Hiking Trail Association has been working, as usual, to upgrade all of its trails, including those that are shared with the City of Duluth. An effort was made to remove unsafe, old structures on the Mission Creek Trail. Several work days improved the trail leading from Twin Ponds to Enger Tower. In Hartley Park, the SHT worked with COGGS and the City to upgrade boardwalk structures and a trail to be able to accommodate multiple user groups. One volunteer group from Fargo pulled tons of garbage out of the overlook of Amity Creek on Vermillion Road.

DHTA: the Duluth Horse Trail Alliance began work days on the 'clyde connector' trail leading from Grand Avenue to Skyline Parkway. Over 45 people gave two days of work to build 41 structures designed to slow water from washing straight down the old, eroded road. Members also have walked the old Duluth Winnipeg Pacific railroad bed to begin to identify structural concerns for this important trail corridor. This corridor has been identified in the new Trail Plan as a key corridor for multiple uses: bikes, walkers, horses and others.

HNC: Hartley Nature Center spent a considerable amount of money and effort upgrading trails near the nature center. Directing many volunteers, scouts and staff, they upgraded the 'tunnel trail', extended an accessible trail within their deer enclosure, had ramps built to cross over the dam, and upgraded almost all of old Hartley Road with tons and tons of limestone and new boardwalks. They work closely with DXC, COGGS and the SHTA.

HRBO: Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory: volunteers brushed out many of the trails prior to the migration season beginning, including brushing the area around the banding station and along Skyline Parkway and the teaching areas. Several groups of volunteers hauled in wood chips for the trails leading to the banding station. Senior High School volunteers re-routed the bottom of the Red Trail leading to the Amity Trail. This organization is working with COGGS to put a connector trail through HRBO from the Lester Amity Trails to the SHT heading to Vermillion Road.

WWFT: City staff hauled tons of limestone to the Western Waterfront Trail and spread it over the entire length of trail, replaced 13 culverts, repaired the bridge over Kingsbury Creek and mowed the trail.

Chester Park: As usual, Dan Proctor has led the efforts to maintain the trail system in Chester Park, joined by other volunteers on occasion. The Conservation Corps Minnesota gave a week of service within the park, upgrading the seriously eroded trails down to the swimming hole just above 4th street. They built rock steps in one location and wooden 'c' steps in the other. They were joined in giving service by half a dozen students at UMD. City staff have evaluated broken water and sewer structures that are causing issues on our trails.

There are many more details for all of the projects above. Scouting has been done for new trails in Mission Creek, Spirit Mountain and west of Keene Creek. Next year, the Munger Trail and the Lakewalk will be extended. New trail is hoped to be built in Hawk Ridge to connect the two hubs of trails in Lester/Amity and in Hartley Park as part of the Duluth Traverse, a natural surface trail system to extend the length of Duluth. Planning is underway for other trail and trailhead improvements.

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.