

Good News from Parks and Recreation

September 14, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

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

Trails/Bikeways Master Plan - available on this website:
http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_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>

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<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.

Trails/Bikeways Master Plan Update:

The Plan has been posted on our website since September 6 and there is a place online to make comments. Publicity has been sent out for our public input meetings. We added one in the western part of Duluth. The community is invited to attend an open house meeting to review the draft Duluth Parks and Recreation Trails and Bikeways Master Plan. There will be a presentation by TAG members and then display areas to review, comment on, and ask questions. All open house meetings will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM.

- Wednesday, September 14 at the Parks and Recreation Offices, located at 12 East 4th Street (corner of Lake Avenue and 4th Street)
- Monday, September 19 at City Center West, located at Grand Ave and 59th Avenue West
- Wednesday, September 21st at the Hartley Nature Center located at 3001 Woodland Ave

The draft Parks and Recreation Trails and Bikeways Master Plan establishes a blueprint to achieve an economically sustainable trail and bikeway system. These public meetings will allow those interested in the plan to review the work and to engage in conversation with Master Plan Committee members and City staff.

28th Annual Fall Festival at Chester Bowl Park September 17th from 10:00-4:00 PM

The 28th Annual Chester Bowl Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, September 17th, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM at beautiful Chester Bowl Park located at 1801 East Skyline Parkway. Admission is \$1.00, with all proceeds going toward youth ski program. There will be over 100 booths featuring crafts, fresh local produce and tasty fall foods. One of the most popular attractions is the farmers market, with hand dipped caramel apples, fresh pressed apple cider and locally grown sweet corn. Children will enjoy pony rides and the new playground. The park stage will feature live entertainment throughout the day. There will be a free shuttle bus, from the UMD parking lot, to Chester Bowl, that will run continuously at no charge.

Bayfront Park Family Center

The Bayfront Park Family Center is no longer staffed and open to the public now that summer is over. Bentleyville will be moving in on September 24 and there are still a few special events scheduled.

Our biggest news: Lake Superior Zoo achieves AZA accreditation

After five years without accreditation status, the Lake Superior Zoo was awarded accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) on Tuesday. The accolade places the zoo in the top 10 percent of zoos and aquariums in the United States.

The announcement was made at the AZA conference in Atlanta, GA. The zoo's CEO, Sam Maida, and the Director of Animal Management, Peter Pruett, were in attendance. Maida said he was delighted to see the zoo back in such prestigious standing. Having lost accreditation in 2006, Maida said the staff and community have put countless hours and resources into re-establishing a world-class zoo. "This is a very happy and proud moment for everyone," he said. "This achievement is the result of the interest, dedication and hard work of many people. The AZA's acknowledgement of our efforts brings us not to the finish line, but to the starting line, where we begin the journey from good to great."

The zoo's Director of Animal Management, Peter Pruett, said he was honored to see the zoo recognized for its exemplary animal care and dedicated enthusiastic staff in every department of the zoo. "I couldn't think of a better way to thank and reward all the staff's efforts and the community's support than by gaining AZA accreditation," he said. "The northland community has yet another reason to proud, there's a world-class zoo they get to claim as their own."

AZA President and CEO Jim Maddy complimented the zoo, saying only "the best of the best" rise to such status. "By meeting high Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation Standards, the Lake Superior Zoo has demonstrated its leadership among zoos and aquariums," he said. "We congratulate the professionals at the Lake Superior Zoo for their hard work." To become accredited, the zoo underwent a thorough investigation to ensure it has met, and will continue to meet, ever-rising standards, which include animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education, and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the Association. This rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the Association.

The accreditation process included a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspection team observes all aspects of the institution's operation in areas such as animal care; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff, and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and other areas. The inspection team prepares an extensive written report for AZA's independent Accreditation Commission. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal Commission hearing, after which accreditation is granted, tabled, or denied.

New signage to adorn scenic Skyline Parkway

New wayfinding signs now adorn Duluth's most historic scenic byway. The City, in partnership with the Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance, received a \$79,000 federal grant from the Scenic Byways Program to create wayfinding and stream signs for historic Skyline Parkway, which was dedicated in 1929. A design was selected after a public input process. In all, 127 new signs were installed over the past three days along this scenic byway that spans almost the entire length of the city from Gary-New Duluth to Lester Park.

Consistent and clear wayfinding along the entire length of Skyline Parkway was identified as an immediate priority in the 2003 Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan. The Parkway's length, winding character, and differing street names can be challenging and confusing for travelers. The signs were installed to help guide travelers along the route. The wayfinding project includes production of brochures, which include a map, posters and web site for the parkway, as well as an inventory of cultural resources along the route.

"The wayfinding project is one component of broader enhancement goals for this treasured route.

We're making a long term commitment to restore Skyline Parkway and make it a true point of pride for Duluthians once again," said Mayor Don Ness.

Work is currently under way to mill and overlay the section of the road from Observation Road to Piedmont Avenue. Earlier this summer, crews made ditch and storm drain repairs leading up to the reclamation and paving work.

The City's Parks Maintenance staff has made tremendous efforts to clear brush, trim overgrown trees, and fix stonework along the parkway. The recently restored Enger Tower is an added attraction along Skyline Parkway. The newly paved road should be accessible in the next two weeks, depending on weather. The road is accessible but motorists should be aware of possible delays due to the use and movement of heavy equipment.

Parks and Recreation Youth Flag Football League registration up from last year

Flag football registration has increased by 15% this year. Nearly 200 kids have signed up for the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division sponsored flag football. Flag football is for boys and girls who are going into 2nd to 5th grade this fall. The cost is \$55 per player and includes a team jersey. Youth Flag Football is a non-contact continuous football action that teaches youth the fundamentals of the game. Youth Flag Football competition begins early September and runs until the end of October. There are two age divisions this year: 2nd and 3rd graders and 4th and 5th graders. All games will be held at the Wheeler Athletic Complex, located at 35th Avenue West and Grand Avenue.

Interesting Writing Class Offered

Have you considered writing accounts of family events or memories, but did not know where or how to begin? Have your children or grandchildren asked you to "write down" some of your favorite family stories? You may have wished you could record these precious memories, but believe you have no gift for writing. Surprise! You can develop the skill to create a legacy of memories to live on for generations to come. The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division and the Lake Superior Writers invite you to join a group of other beginning writers in our community to share this exciting adventure at an upcoming 6-week class.

"Writing Our Life Stories" will be offered, free of charge, on Tuesdays from 10 AM-12 PM, from September 20 – October 25 at the Central Hillside Community Recreation Center, 12 East 4th Street. Class instructor is Donna Schilling, author of "Slices of Life (A Minnesota Memoir)".

Calling All 100 Year Olds!

The City of Duluth Parks & Recreation Division is looking for those who turn 100 years or older in 2011 for the annual 100 Year Birthday Party Celebration.

This event will be held on October 19 at 10:00 AM during the "Senior Expo" at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC). The public is invited to attend. Each honoree will be acknowledged by the City with a special certificate, a short biography, and birthday cake. Your help is needed in identifying all persons in the Twin Ports and surrounding area who may wish to be our guest. If you know of anyone in the above age group, call 218.730.4306. Or send their name, address, age, and a contact person's name and telephone number by October 5 to

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King and Queen of Norway to Visit Duluth's Enger Tower October 17th

The public is invited to attend the official rededication of Enger Tower. More than a structure, Enger Tower ties together Duluth's past and present.

History will be made in Duluth on Monday, October 17, with the visit of King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway. King Harald's father, King Olav, dedicated Enger Tower in 1939 and now more than seventy years later his son, King Harald will be here in Duluth to perform the rededication ceremony.

Duluth will literally be rolling out the "red carpet" for this spectacular event. It is not everyday a king and queen visit our city. The King and Queen will arrive in Duluth the morning of October 17th and travel to the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center Haborside Room for the "Royal Luncheon". It is anticipated that 500 people will attend this luncheon which is a fundraising event for further renovations of Enger Park. At the luncheon the King and Queen will be entertained by the world renowned singer Andy Gangstead, a Two Harbors native. An official gift will be presented to the King and Queen at the luncheon. Well known artist Michael Tonder's creation of "Enger Tower in Glass" will be presented by Mayor Don Ness on behalf of the citizens of Duluth.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the King and Queen will travel to Norway Hall located on Lake Avenue between Superior Street and 1st Street. There he will meet with the Sons of Norway delegation comprised of area Norwegian members.

At 3:00 PM the rededication ceremony of Enger Tower will begin. It is our hope Duluthians will gather in large numbers to greet the King and Queen waving both American and Norwegian flags. The Arrowhead Chorale, University of Minnesota Pep Band and the Chamber Choir will perform. On hand will be Mayor Don Ness, Governor Mark Dayton, Former Vice President Walter Mondale and other local and state dignitaries.

After the rededication ceremony the King and Queen will return to Minneapolis where he will continue his official visit which will end in New York City.

The Public is invited to attend the Rededication Ceremony of Enger Tower: Monday, October 17, 2011. Festivities will begin at 2:30 with the ceremony at 3:00 PM. Parking will be available at the Enger Golf Course with shuttle service to the tower. Show your American/Norwegian pride by bringing a flag to wave.

The public is also invited to attend the "Royal Luncheon" held at noon. Tickets for the event are \$100 per person and can be reserved through the Mayor's office at (218) 730-5230 or by emailing ply@duluthmn.gov

Bentleyville begins light installation

Bentleyville Tour of Lights will begin installing lights at Bayfront Park on Saturday, September 24th. Volunteers are needed on Saturday and Sundays from 8:00-4:00 PM.

Bentleyville Tour of Lights will run from November 19th-December 26th, concluding with the annual Warmer by the Lake event (new date for this event).

Park Referendum Question will be on the November 8 ballot

Duluthians will have the opportunity when they vote in November to decide if they want to pay additional property taxes for a special Parks and Trails Fund. This fund will pay for operating expenses, wages for seasonal park employees, and pay-as-you-go capital improvement projects.

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

New Saturday evening skating times available through October.

September

Public Skate	Saturday-Sept 17	7:30-9:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Sept 21	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Friday-Sept 23 (School Early Release Day)	1:30-3:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Sept 28	6:30-8:00 PM

October

Public Skate	Saturday-Oct 1	7:30-9:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Oct 5	6:30-8:00 PM
Public Skate	Saturday-Oct 8	7:30-9:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Oct 12	6:30-8:00 PM
Public Skate	Saturday-Oct 15	7:30-9:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Oct 19	6:30-8:00 PM
Family Skate	Thursday-Oct 20 (School Early Release Day)	1:30-3:00 PM
Public Skate	Saturday-Oct 22	7:30-9:00 PM
Family Skate	Wednesday-Oct 26	6:30-8:00 PM
Public Skate	Saturday-Oct 29	7:30-9:00 PM