CITY OF DULUTH PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION

2012 ANNUAL REPORT







Jun Places, Great Spaces!

2012 ANNUAL Report

DIVISION MANAGER KATHLEEN BERGEN

MISSION STATEMENT

Promoting the health and well-being of our community, environment, and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities, and natural resources now and into the future.

VISION STATEMENT

Duluth Parks and Recreation will continue to be the central driving force in strengthening the heritage of a healthy, active community for future generations by continuing on the path of improving and enhancing our parks and facilities; protecting our natural resources and developing partnerships to deliver recreation programs and services.

2012 Parks & Recreation Staff

Kathleen Bergen, Division Manager Jeff Anderson, Operations Coordinator Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator Terri Castonguay, Special Events Coordinator Gail Walkowiak, Special Events Coordinator Theresa Mellinger, Senior Center Coordinator Cheryl Skafte, Volunteer Coordinator Shawna MullenEardley, Urban Forestry-GreenCorps Pamela Page, Recreation Specialist Judy Gibbs, Trails Coordinator

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Vision Statement

Our vision is to preserve a naturally beautiful city; to provide innovative and quality Parks and Recreation programs and facilities that will sustain a dynamic quality of life for everyone.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, the Parks and Recreation Division and other agencies and organizations regarding matters related to Duluth Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

Park Commission Members

Voting Members ~ members served all or a portion of 2012		Non-Voting Members	
Eric Viken	Joel Braun, President	Emily Larson	
Jon Welles	Edwin Hall	- City Council Liaison	
Thomas Beery	Erica Erickson	Judy Seliga-Punyko	
Karen Erickson, Secretary	Barbara Stark	- ISD 709 Representative	
Kristin Ridgewell, VP	Susan Beasy-Latto	Frank Jewel	
Andy Holak		- St. Louis County Representative	
		Kathy Bergen - Division Manager	

- •The Commission provides the opportunity for public process to determine how the needs for parks and recreation and the community are met.
- •Through motions, recommendations are made to the Mayor and Administration.
- •In-depth discussion always follows a motion before a vote is taken to assure that the recommendation is beneficial to our community.

PARKS AND RECREATION 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

-INTRODUCTION-

'PARKS FUND' BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO CITY PARKS AND TRAILS

2012 was an historic year for Parks and Recreation in many ways. The year brought implementation of the Parks Fund and recorded the biggest flash flood in Duluth in over 500 years.

Parks and Recreation was extremely excited with the passage of the Parks Fund. With the Parks Fund, our park spaces will be improved for people of all ages and abilities. To be afforded the opportunity to perform maintenance needs, as well as begin, and complete, projects at our parks and trails was monumental.

Duluth is blessed to have nearly 12,000 acres of park space. Despite dedication from employees, increased utilization of volunteers and focused efforts from work programs, our parks have never reached their potential. To bring our park system to a basic level of maintenance will take time. We have momentum now – with committed non-profit organizations, devoted volunteers, dedicated staff, and the Parks Fund – we can make a difference.

The voting of ardent Duluth citizens (regarding green spaces) sanctioned passage of the Parks Fund. The following brief historical account highlights the passage of the fund.

FALL 2011 PARKS AND RECREATION REFERENDUM FACTS

The Duluth City Council unanimously approved an Ordinance creating the Parks Fund. A special election on November 8, 2011 was schedule for voters to determine implementation of a Special Levy of \$2,600,000 to support the fund.

NOVEMBER 2011

On November 8, 2011 Duluthians made history by voting "yes" to the establishment of an annual 2.6 million dollar Parks Fund. The Parks Fund purpose is dedicated to the improvement and maintenance of local parks and trails. After years of budget cuts to local parks and trails the "yes" vote boldly stated the passion of Duluth citizens for their coveted green spaces. Simply stated, voters recognized the past funding level for our city parks and trails could not properly maintain and/or improve our recreational areas.

JANUARY 2012

City staff utilized the Parks Master Plan and Trail and Bikeway Master Plan as guidelines for establishing operational improvements and implementation of the Parks Fund. The Parks Fund allows the City to raise the level of park maintenance programs so athletic fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, trails and gardens will be improved. The addition of seasonal maintenance staff and supplies will substantially improve the appearance and function of city parks in the first year of the Parks Fund.

MARCH 2012

Maintenance and building projects for 2012 were decided:

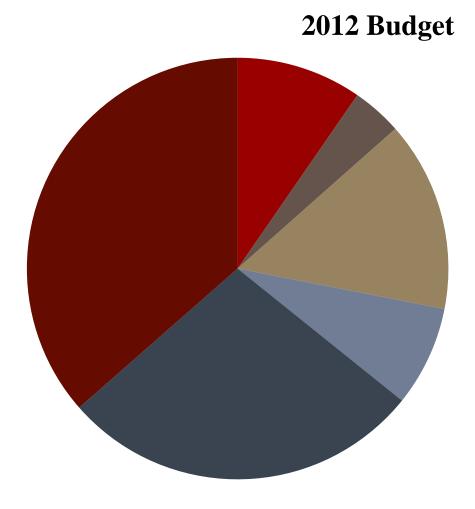
- Build a new playground at Lester Park
- Continued development of the Duluth Traverse trail connecting the city from east to west
- Hire temporary summer workers to maintain and improve our city parks and green spaces
- Upgrade the bathrooms at Indian Point Campground.
- Resurface several basketball and tennis courts throughout the city.
- Plant \$30,000 worth of trees throughout the city with the Re-Leaf Duluth program
- Upgrade athletic fields, picnic tables and water fountains.
- Conduct mini-master plans for Gary, Morgan Park, Memorial, Washington Square, Brighton Beach, Lower Chester and Chester Bowl with the purpose of building better parks for our communities.
- Upgrade electrical system in Enger Park and begin construction on the addition of a new gazebo.

Through the passage of the Parks Fund, major accomplishments and improvements of the Parks and Recreation division were implemented for 2012. This new territory, for staff and our community partners, contains five primary aspects: Youth Programming, Neighborhood Grants, Enhanced Maintenance, Capital Projects and General Operations.

The five aspects involved changes in staff and partners as well as establishing new protocols and agreements. (These efforts will continue as one of the main focuses for 2013.)

JUNE 2012

The June 2012 flood delayed many of the Parks Fund initiatives as well as projects underway. Refinement of our processes to accomplish more of the established initiatives is another of the Parks and Recreation goals for 2013.



Parks Fund

Youth Programming 10%= \$250,000

- Neighborhood Grants 4%= \$100,000
- Seasonal Maintenance Staff 15% = \$380,000
- Enhanced Maintenance Projects 8% = \$200,000
- Capital Projects 28% = \$722,000
- Parks & Recreation
 Operating Budget 35% = \$948,000

\$2.6 million levy

2012 STATISTICS Estimated totals for <u>all</u> usage and events	
Permitted Facility Use	Attendance
~ Private & Public Park Events	12,485
~ Indoor Facility Private & Public Events	22,894
Total	35,379
Special Events	
~ Summer Concerts	5,300
~ Movies in the Park	13,000
Total	18,300
Recreation	
~ Senior Programs	18,129
~ Warmer By the Lake	3,000
~ Sandmodeling Contest	300
~ Bayfront Skating	580
~ Rink Rat Hockey (Spring and Fall)	221
~ Play Gym	780
~ Ultimate Frisbee	48
~ Art Kits	150
~ Heritage Center Skating	4,342
~ DECC Family Skating Parties	1,000
~ Bayfront Family Center (summer season)	1,200
~ Turf Time (spring and summer)	631
Total	35,681

CITY WIDE, KIDS' & SENIORS' SPECIAL EVENTS

These events were sponsored or co-sponsored by The Parks & Recreation Division. Attendance numbers are included the previous statistics chart.

Warmer By The Lake Celebration

Sand Modeling Contest

Whipper Snapper Races (3000 spectators)

26th Annual Fall Festival

Lester River Rendezvous

30th Annual Chester Creek Concerts

DECC Family Skating Parties

Movies in the Park

38th Annual Billiard Tournament Finals

Senior Appreciation Days

100 Year Birthday Party

26th Annual Holiday Banquet & Bentleyville Tour of Lights

Peregrine Watch at Lake Place Park

29th Annual Chester Bowl Fall Festival

Free Defensive Driving Classes

November Turkey Bingo

Bentleyville Tour of Lights (over 203,000 spectators)

RECREATION

These events or programs were sponsored/co-sponsored by The Parks & Recreation Division. Attendance numbers are included in the previous statistics chart.

Ultimate Frisbee at Heritage Sports Center

Play Time for Tots and Parents

Turf Time at Heritage Sports Center

"Rink Rat" Hockey Program

Adult Softball

Ice Skating at the Heritage Sports Center

Art Kits and Recreational Equipment Programs

Bayfront Family Center

Park Point Beach

New Website for Park Point Beachgoers

Flag Football

DECC Skating Parties

Senior Citizen Providers Network

Hockey

Downhill Skiing at Chester Bowl





PARKS FUND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Zoo Events

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

Family Fun Fest at the DECC

Family Fun Fest was held at the DECC in February. It was a great opportunity for Parks and Recreation to let the public know about the opportunities available in our park system.

Peregrine Watch at Lake Place Park

In June, the public was invited to visit with Hawk Ridge naturalists and get a close-up view of the young chicks as they prepare to fly.

30th Anniversary Chester Creek Concert Series

2012 marked the 30th anniversary of the Chester Creek Concert Series. Mayor Ness helped kick off the season by wearing a kilt while introducing the popular Irish band McInnis Kitchen. Concerts ran from June to August.

Movies in the Park at Leif Erikson Park

Movies in the Park featured a weekly movie in Leif Erikson Park. This event, running from July to September, was sponsored by the City of Duluth and the Greater Downtown Council.



Sandmodeling Contest and Water Safety Expo

Held in July, at Park Point Beach, was the annual Parks and Recreation Sandmodeling Contest. In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation's Annual Sandmodeling Contest, the Duluth YMCA offered additional fun activities. This year the event was combined with the annual Water Safety Expo, sponsored by the Minnesota Sea Grant College Program and the National Weather Service of Duluth.

29th Annual Chester Bowl Fall Festival

The 29th Annual Chester Bowl Fall Festival was celebrated in September. Visitors enjoyed fresh local produce, local artisan crafts, tasty seasonal foods, and other offerings from over 100 vendors.

Free Defensive Driving Classes

The AARP Defensive Driving Classes were offered throughout the year. In November, an honorable offer for all veterans - either a "First Time 8-Hour Class" or a "Refresher 4-Hour Class" at no cost.

November Turkey Bingo

Bingo is a highlight any time of the year for seniors at our City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Centers. But in November, the added bonus of offering turkeys or gift certificates as prizes added to the fun

Bentleyville Tour of Lights

Bentleyville's Tour of Lights drew 203,000 visitors to Bayfront Festival Park. Warm temperatures contributed to the increase in attendance this year along with new and innovative displays.



Annual Holiday Banquet

The annual Holiday Banquet and Bentleyville Tour of Lights was held on Tuesday, December 11, at the DECC. Santa Claus was on hand, along with emcees Dan Hanger and Diane Alexander from FOX TV, who greeted attendees before a delicious turkey dinner was served. Following dinner, the 2012 edition of the Bentleyville DVD was presented, produced exclusively for the banquet by photographer Dennis O'Hara. The City of Duluth has been proudly offering this holiday tradition to senior citizens for 26 years.

Warmer by the Lake

Warmer by the Lake was held at Bayfront Festival Park on the last day of the Bentleyville Tour of Lights, Wednesday, December 26th. Marshmallow roasting and skating were available to everyone. At 6:30 PM, visitors were amazed at the spectacular fireworks display.

RECREATION

Spring Ultimate Frisbee at Heritage Sports Center

Kids learned 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.

Play Time for Tots and Parents

Offered at the Duluth Heights Community Center on Wednesdays, from 9 – 11 am, Play Time is a great opportunity for parents to supervise and observe their child(ren) while they learn to socialize, make new friends and have fun. Open space is available for toddlers and preschool age children to play with provided age-appropriate toys.

Art Kits and Recreational Equipment Program

Offered out of Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center, the Art Kits and Recreational Equipment Lending Program was a new implementation for the summer of 2012.

Spring Turf Time at Heritage Sports Center

UMD Athletes, Parks Staff, and Men as Peacemakers assisted Youth Groups and their adult leaders in character development activities and sports-oriented games on the indoor Turf Facility at the Heritage Center this summer.

Parks and Recreation Flag Football

Over 125 kids enjoyed Flag Football this season marking the eleventh year of the league. Flag Football is a non-contact sport, which teaches boys and girls in grades 2 through 5 the fundamentals of football. More importantly, children are having fun while being taught sportsmanship and the benefits of participating and interacting with a team.

New Website for Park Point Beachgoers

ParkPointBeach.org is live! As many have discovered, weather conditions along Lake Superior can be dramatically different from conditions a mile inland. No matter how hot the air temperature, the water may be frigid. From June through October, potential beachgoers can access ParkPointBeach.org, a public service website designed to deliver information regarding current air, water, and safety conditions.



😫 Park Point Beach

The YMCA is the current manager of the Park Point Beach House. This is the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation's sanctioned swimming beach and was staffed with lifeguards from 11 am to 4 pm. Lifeguards were on duty seven days a week, weather permitting, until last week in August.

Fun Opportunities for Groups and Families at the Bayfront Family Center

Bayfront Festival Park was a great place for people to go with friends and family this summer to play. The Family Center was open along with recreation equipment available to use.



Parks and Recreation DECC Skating Parties

This year marked the 18th year of the DECC skating parties. Four skating parties are held between November and March and are free to the public. Skaters enjoy cookies, music, and free door prizes for the kids.

New Heritage Sports Center "Rink Rat" Hockey Program Launched

The City of Duluth, DAHA, and the Duluth Heritage Sports Center offered a spring "Rink Rat" Hockey program for children ages 6 – 11. This program was designed to give those interested in trying out the sport of hockey a chance to do so in a non-competitive, indoor environment with experienced adult interaction and supervision.

Hockey

A variety of hockey organizations prepared for their 2012-13 season. These organizations run entirely on volunteer help and as partners 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!

Ice Skating at the Heritage Sports Center

The Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions held at the Heritage Sports Center year-round. These sessions were free and open for pleasure skating.



Downhill Skiing at Chester Bowl

Chester Park was devastated by the June floodwaters rushing down Chester Creek. Our major challenge was providing for downhill skiing with safety being our biggest concern. The solution implemented was an ice/snow bridge across the stream to connect the ski hill to the Chalet for both skiers and our groomer. Many thanks to the City staff, Chester Bowl Improvement Club members, and volunteers that made this happen!





PARKS FUND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

YOUTH PROGRAM EXPANSION FROM PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH FUNDS

Due to an increase in funding from the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation, several youth programs in Duluth made great strides forward in 2012. Many Duluth youth were positively affected by additional programs, more opportunities and positive adult role models. Youth received educational and academic support. Examples of that support include being taught habits for healthy living, the necessity for learning positive social interaction skills and learning how to apply these skills in daily living.

Programs that received funding included:

- Valley Youth Center (West Duluth)
- Neighborhood Youth Services (Central Hillside)
- Grant Community School Collaborative (East Hillside)
- Boys & Girls Club (Lincoln Park)
- Neighborhood Youth Services (new expansion to Morgan Park with partner, Valley Youth Center)
- AmeriCorps Members (placed throughout the city and school district)



- City of Duluth committed \$150,000 to create AmeriCorps Partnerships.
- 81 AmeriCorps members provided 139,320 hours of service to Duluth children (67 full time equivalent positions).
- If AmeriCorps were not utilized, \$150,000 would purchase 3.5 FTE governmental youth serving staff.
- City support will leverage \$1,077,300 from the Corporation for National and Community Services and \$40,500 from the Serve Minnesota Innovation Fund and over \$100,000 from the Minnesota Department of Education (State Funds). Total leverage support will exceed 1.2 million dollars.
- AmeriCorps programs provided services to youth agencies, schools, Out of School Time programs, summer youth programs, and Parks and Recreation sites.
- Children targeted included those struggling with attendance, behavioral issues, and school academics.
- Out of School time programming, summer programming, Service Learning, mentoring/tutoring, youth engagement through activities both academic and recreational, and family engagement will be utilized to accomplish this goal.

A total of 7,008 children benefited from increased funding provided by the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division.

New Opportunities

A larger percentage of our community youth were reached in 2012 than in recent years. The increase is attributed to greater funding to Youth Programs. For the first time coordination between Neighborhood Youth Services and Valley Youth Center offered programming in Morgan Park, including collaboration with Stowe Elementary. This is a great example of collaboration as well as expansion of services to ensure that even more youth have access to a variety of enrichment programming. Correspondingly, a number of pre-existing programs were able to improve quality by upgrading equipment and adequately staffing their programs.

Funding was made available to provide a needed match for the AmeriCorps Members placed at different programs and schools throughout Duluth. These members reached a total of 825 students, offering specialized tutoring support. Between the Parks and Recreation Funds and other funds that were matched because of the Parks funding; 40 full-time True North AmeriCorps Members were placed in schools, community centers, and youth centers. An additional 10 full-time AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, 17 Minnesota Reading Corps members, and 4 Math Corp members were placed with partial support from the Parks and Recreation Funds.

EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

A core focus of all of the youth programs is to see the youth they work with do well in school. Homework assistance and tutoring is a key part of each program. Students receive support, including 1-on-1 tutoring, peer support, and group tutoring sessions. College volunteers are often utilized to help with homework and learning programs.

The summer programs are often a way to bridge the summer learning loss that occurs with a big break in traditional education. Opportunities offered by the different programs include environmental education, education based computer programs, reading programs, math and science. Other enrichment programs offered included life skills like; banking and saving, nature and science based learning, and safe computer usage. College and workplace readiness programs help to establish steppingstones for the futures of youth.



One program specifically, Valley Youth Center is working with Laura MacArthur Elementary to help students graduate grade levels on time and complete high school, with special emphasis on minorities, which will include more programming with a wide focus to help bring the minority grade graduation rates up.

Grant Community School Collaborative collects specific anecdotal responses from youth which show a good range of what their program is offering and what the youth are gaining from being involved:

"I get my homework done."

"I can read!"

"It's made me happier!"

Many of these programs have success rates of 70% or greater, meaning the youth are indeed developing new skills. Along with educational support, our youth are receiving guidance from positive role models. Having positive role models helps to strengthen youth as individuals and helps them gain positive life perspective.

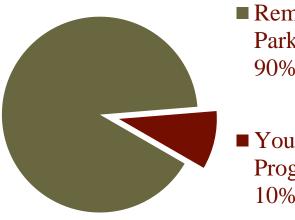
DEVELOPING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Each program integrates living healthy lifestyles into their The programs work to integrate healthy programs. nutritional snacks and meals into their program. But they go above and beyond simply offering food, several of the programs conduct cooking/gardening activities so the youth begin to learn how to make healthy eating choices while at home. Programs like Chef's Club and the Organic Gardening Program help with nutritional education. Additionally, many other programs offer countless activities that promote the formation of healthy active lifestyles. A number of these activities include outdoor wildlife programs, swimming lessons, fishing education and a variety of sporting and athletic opportunities.



DEVELOPING POSITIVE SOCIAL INTERACTION SKILLS

Learning how to have positive social interactions is a theme that runs through all of the youth programs. Program staff members realize that part of setting the youth up to succeed in the future has a lot to do with communication and social interaction with peers and adults. These skills are developed through contact with positive role models from college volunteers, agency staff members, and AmeriCorps representatives. The Valley Youth Center leads a program that specifically works with kids who have struggled in group settings and works to promote volunteerism, community service, and positive social interaction. This program is showing significant improvement in over half the kids involved.



Remaining Parks Fund 90%

■ Youth Programs 10%

- Local match for 30+ AmeriCorps members to be placed in youth programs across the City
- Five \$20,000 grants to underserved neighborhoods to support and expand youth programming:
- Morgan Park (Neighborhood Youth Services)
- West Duluth (Valley Youth)
- Lincoln Park (Boys & Girls Club)
- Central Hillside (NYS)
- East Hillside (Grant Collaborative)

Youth Programming





PARKS FUND NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Neighborhood Grants were awarded in the spring to 9 groups and in the fall to 6 groups that used the funds to leverage additional monies and most importantly, volunteers, to improve their neighborhood park/trail/recreation area or provide additional youth programming.

In 2012, the City made \$100,000 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 and for final approval by 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: Promoting the health and well-being of our community, environment and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities and natural resources now and into the future.
- 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

GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR THE SPRING OF 2012:



AGENCY: Courage Center Duluth- \$3,000

PROJECT: Community Adaptive Sailing

Courage Center Duluth, in partnership with Duluth Superior Sailing Association (DSSA), will 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.

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.

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.

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.

AGENCY: Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores-\$3,000

PROJECT: Hartley Mountain Bike Trail System

Signage and Sustainability Upgrades

The Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee 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 way finding signage throughout the whole system.

AGENCY: Piedmont Hockey Association-\$5,000

PROJECT: Piedmont Rink Restoration

This year the Piedmont Hockey Association is committed to restoring the warped uneven boards, fencing, hinges, and doors of the main arena.

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.

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.

GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR THE FALL OF 2012:

AGENCY: Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores-\$5,000

PROJECT: Mountain Bike Trail System Sustainability Upgrades

Funding awarded to upgrade three existing mountain bike multi-use trail systems. To accomplish the task during the 2013 rebuilding season eight hand built reroutes around the unsustainable sections of the trail need to be completed.

AGENCY: Gary-Morgan Park Hockey Association-**\$5,000**

PROJECT: Player Boxes Rebuild & Rink Repair

Receipt of grant funds will enable purchase of materials and labor for rebuilding the players' boxes and repairing rink boards.

AGENCY: Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Inc.-\$5,000

PROJECT: Interpretive Signage for Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve

Replace and update current interpretive displays as well as new interpretive and safety signage for site visitors.

AGENCY: Park Point Community Club Lafayette- \$3,200 PROJECT: Lafayette Summer Youth Program

Funding use to provide educational recreation opportunities for children ages 5-12 from June through August.

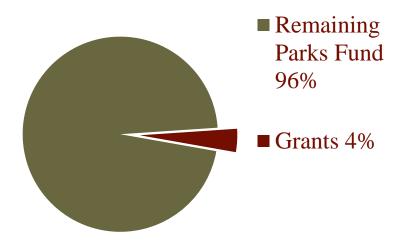
AGENCY: Woodland Amateur Hockey Association-\$5,000

PROJECT: Public Skating Rink Resurface

The Woodland Amateur Hockey Association will update rink surfaces at the public skating and hockey rinks.

AGENCY: YMCA of Duluth Woodland Community Center-\$3,076

PROJECT: Woodland Community Center Garden and Kitchen – "From Garden to Plate" This program includes both educational and recreational opportunities relating to gardening, harvesting and preparing foods. Funding will be used to purchase materials and equipment for a community garden as well as materials and repairs for the existing kitchen to obtain a "small establishment" license.



- Partner with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation to offer grants to neighborhood and community groups in the spring and the fall
- Maximum amount per grant is \$5,000
- Selection committee made up of Parks Commissioners, a City Councilor, City staff, Duluth Legacy Board members, and Foundation staff

Neighborhood Grants

2012 Spring Neighborhood Parks Fund Grant Applications

Organization	Program Name	<u>Amount</u>
Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association	Grant Nettleton Soccer Program	\$5,000
Boys & Girls Club of Duluth	Bringing Programming to Lincoln Park	\$4,800
Courage Center Duluth	Community Adaptive Sailing	\$3,000
Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores (COGGS)	Hartley Mountain Bike Trail System Signage and Sustainability Upgrades	\$3,000
Duluth Heights Amateur Hockey Association	Rink Upgrade	\$5,000
East Hillside PATCH, Inc.	Summer Parks Sampler	\$2,000
Hartley Nature Center	Hartley Pond Dock Installation	\$5,000
Piedmont Hockey Association	Piedmont Rink Restoration	\$5,000
Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club	Ski Trail Grooming Equipment	\$5,000

TOTAL \$37,800

2012 Spring Grants

2012 Fall Neighborhood Parks Fund Grant Applications

Organization	Program Name	<u>Amount</u>
Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores	Mountain Bike Trail System Sustainability Upgrades	\$5,000
Gary-Morgan Park Hockey Association	Player Boxes Rebuild & Rink Repair	\$5,000
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Inc.	Interpretive Signage for Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve	\$5,000
Park Point Community Club	LaFayette Summer Youth Program	\$3,200
Woodland Amateur Hockey Association	Public Skating Rink Resurface	\$5,000
YMCA of Duluth	Woodland Community Center Garden and Kitchen	\$3,076

\$26,276

TOTAL

2012 Fall Grants





PARKS FUND ENHANCED MAINTENANCE

Enhanced Maintenance funds provided the City with the opportunity to hire seasonal and temporary employees. The addition of these employees allowed for improvement in customer service.

Though the improvements are too numerous to mention, listed below are some of the benefits and services afforded by the enhancement of the maintenance fund:

Improvements of:

parks gardens trails recreation areas playgrounds ball fields sport courts

Services:

more plantings longer hours for restroom availability repairs to ball field fencing and dugouts resurfacing basketball courts working with volunteers to clear and repair trails

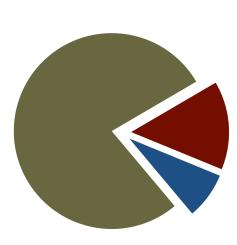


MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING PROJECTS FOR 2012

Along with the ability to hire additional employees, the enhanced maintenance fund assisted in or provided for, the following projects:

- Hired temporary workers to maintain and improve our City parks and green spaces.
- \$30,000 worth of trees planted through Re-Leaf Duluth program 170 apple and 20 cherry trees were planted.
- Athletic fields, picnic tables, and water fountains were upgraded.
- New gardens installed on the boulevard at 5th Avenue West. Staff planted eight Spring Snow Crabapples and 40 shrub roses
- The old gazebo from Enger was recycled for use at Morgan Park.
- Longview Tennis began the process of improvements bleachers, stairs and landscaping.
- New dugouts were built at the Merritt Park softball field. Improvements at Portman and Piedmont fields were completed. Other field improvements include those completed by our Roving Field Crew.
- Hillside Sport Court fences were replaced.
- The Leif Erikson stage was repaired.
- Graffiti was cleaned up at Lake Place Park.
- Designed and installed Angel of Hope Statue and Garden
- Planted boulevard trees through the ReLeaf program
- Engineered, built and installed a new "ice bridge" at Chester Bowl to facilitate the 2012/2013 ski season
- Supported 465 permitted Park Events for 2012

- Supported over 1,000 soccer, softball and baseball games at Wade/Wheeler Complex, Jean Duluth and Arlington Soccer Fields
- Installed culverts to repair storm damage on our Cross Country Ski Trails
- Pruned over 800 boulevard trees
- Installed new softball dugout structures for the Wheeler softball complex
- Provided maintenance to support park washrooms staying open longer into the fall season
- Upgraded water pressure at Chester Bowl ski hill for snow making
- Painted ski lift at Chester Bowl
- Poured concrete slab at Jean Duluth soccer for future concession/bathroom building
- 😫 Remodeled Norton Park
- Replaced two boilers at the zoo
- Tuck-pointing at Duluth Heights Community Center and Zoo
- Upgraded lighting at Chester Bowl ski hill to LED
- Painted Longview tennis court
- Renovated Woodland Community Center
- New concrete sidewalk at Piedmont Community Center
- Replaced hockey rink fencing at Piedmont Hockey rink
- Replaced piping in Morgan Park Hockey Garage
- 😰 Renovated locker room area at Fryberger Arena
- Replaced stairs and entry doors at Duluth Heights Community Center



- Remaining Parks Fund 77%
- Seasonal Maint Staff 15%
- Maint Projects 8%

- Seasonal and temporary staff for enhanced maintenance at all Park facilities:
- Mowing
- Restrooms open longer
- Trail brushing
- Planting flowers
- Planting trees

Enhanced Maintenance - Staffing



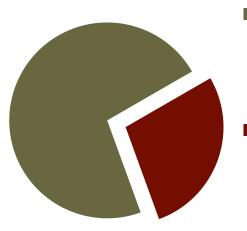


PARKS FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The City has not been able to move forward with Parks Capital Projects for decades, thus the need is great. Some projects can be put on a replacement schedule, like playgrounds. Some projects require planning and public involvement. For the projects requiring planning and public involvement, Mini-Master Plans were developed. During 2012, we tackled seven Mini-Master Plans: Gary recreation area, Morgan Park recreation area, Memorial Park, Chester Bowl, Lower Chester recreation area, Washington Square Park, and Brighton Beach. Completion of some of these was delayed due to the June flood but will be completed soon. The Mini-Master Plan for Chester Bowl will continue into 2013. These plans provide us with blueprints for future projects and a method to phase in projects and prioritize. One special project was started in 2012: support for the Duluth Traverse Trail. Capital Project funds will be provided annually until the completion of the trail, working with our partners, Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores (COGGS) and writing grants.

REFERENDUM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Installed New Playground Portland Square Tot Lot
- Renovation of the Indian Point Campground bathrooms was completed. Indian Point Campground, under new management, has launched a fresh new website -<u>http://www.duluthindianpointcampground.com</u>.
- Washington Center improvements
- Completed Enger Tower Gazebo
- Duluth Traverse Trail continued development of the trail which connects the city from east to west
- Various basketball courts were resurfaced throughout the city
- Mini- Master Plans for Gary/Stowe, Morgan Park, Memorial, Brighton Beach, Lower Chester, Washington Square, and Chester Bowl were conducted
- Upgraded the electrical system in Enger Park and constructed a new gazebo



 Remaining Parks Fund 72%

Capital Projects 28%

- Projects determined by a committee of City staff with input from Administration, City Council, Parks Commission, and the public.
- Project list is updated throughout the year as circumstances arise (example: June flood)
- Projects are varied to address needs across the City, across different recreational pursuits, and safety and accessibility concerns.

Capital Projects

PROJECT	ТҮРЕ	LOCATION	LOCATION DESCRIPTION
Indian Point Campgrount	parks	west	restroom/shower building upgraded, new shed built, new roof for office and restrooms, WiFi added
Wheeler Athletic Field	fields	west	rebuilt dugouts
Replace basketball nets, standards, backstops, fencing	courts - fields	west and central	Norton Park backstop; Merritt basketball standards and rebuilt softball field dugouts; Hillside Sport Court fencing
Duluth Traverse Trail	trails	west and east	reports needed to complete EAW for Legacy Grant to build trail in Mission Creek and Lester Park. Flood damage delayed the process.
Mini-Master Plans	parks	3 west - 2 central - 2 east	Gary/Stowe, Morgan Park, Memorial are at the final public input stage. Lower Chester, Washington Square, Brighton Beach are completed. Due to flood damage, Chester will continue into 2013.
Portland Square	parks	central	tot lot playground equipment replaced
Resurface basketball courts	courts	central	refurbished courts at Central Hillside Park
Enger Park	parks	central	electrical upgrades to entire park including service to new gazebo
Washington Center	community center	central	refurbished interior: painted hallways, gym, restrooms; add drinking fountain; replaced retractable basketball hoops and padding around gym walls; resurfaced gym floor
Miscellaneous Engineering	parks - courts	central and east	Beach House stairs and Longview viewing platform
Lester Park	parks	east	replacement playground equipment and fall zone material purchased but installation was delayed due to other flood related projects





PARKS FUND GENERAL OPERATIONS

The final aspect of implementing the Parks Fund was changing Parks and Recreation division general operating expenses from the City's General Fund to the Parks Fund. This move provided the monies in the General Fund to enhance Library hours. Our division was also able to hire seasonal employees to help with trail work, as Park Hosts, and as Park Rangers. For the first time, the City hired a Volunteer Coordinator to work in Parks and the Library. And the timing couldn't have been better – nine days after starting the position, the June flood occurred, and this person was put to the test. All of these changes were made to improve our customer service.

Parks and Recreation move offices to City Hall

Parks and Recreation moved to City Hall in April of 2012. Our phone numbers and email addresses remained the same. Our mailing address is now: Parks and Recreation, City Hall – Ground Floor, 411 West First St, Duluth, MN 55802.

Additional seasonal and temporary staff

Parks and Recreation were able to hire seasonal and temporary staff due to the passage of the Parks Fund. Those positions were for Parks Hosts and Trail Workers. Park Hosts visited our parks and trails when we had permitted activities to make sure that the arrangements were complete, the park was picked up between permits, and to answer any questions or concerns. The Trail Workers assisted our Trails Coordinator, GreenCorps Member, and volunteers with a variety of trail projects.

We also hired 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 patrolled 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 was to educate about good etiquette and stewardship.

Minnesota Legacy Grants Awarded

The City received two Minnesota Legacy Grants early in 2012. The money came from the sales tax increase voters approved in 2008 to support outdoors, clean water, parks and arts projects. The grants total \$538,000:

- \$288,000 grant for a Cross-City Trail that will link Duluth's Lakewalk to the Willard Munger Trail in West Duluth.
- \$250,000 to help the Cyclists of Gitchee Shores begin work on the Duluth Traverse, a natural-surface trail running along the length of Duluth's ridgeline and catering to mountain bike riders.

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. They did 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.

Jean Duluth Soccer Complex Groundbreaking Ceremony

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 19th, for the new Bob Pratt Soccer Facility. Soccer volunteers, along with City officials, broke ground for this long anticipated addition to one of Duluth's most used soccer complexes.

Public Invited to Park Dedication

The public was invited to the dedication of the new park located at the corner of Lake Avenue and the Lakewalk on Thursday, September 20th. With the holding tank completed, construction began early in the summer on the new park located on top of the holding tank. The new park is host to one of the most beautiful vistas on the Lakewalk.

Duluth Awarded \$25,000 Cities of Service Grant to Implement Let's Grow-Lincoln Park

Cities of Service announced that it awarded the City of Duluth a \$25,000 grant to implement a service initiative designed to address food access equity.

The Let's Grow-Lincoln Park initiative will develop community gardens in the Lincoln Park neighborhood to increase residents' access to affordable, fresh, healthy food. The City of Duluth is partnering with the Duluth Community Garden Program (DCGP), as well as the Healthy Duluth Area Coalition (HDAC), Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC) and other community partners who have been engaging neighbors in Lincoln Park on food access issues. Working together and with volunteer support, the Let's Grow-Lincoln Park will yield 1,700 pounds of fresh produce.

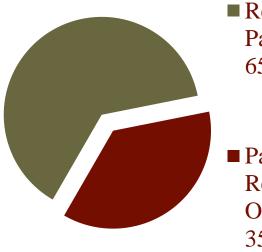
Partners and Outside Agencies

- Chester Bowl Improvement Club (CBIC)
- Duluth Heritage Sports Center
 Community Action Duluth (StreamCorps, Seeds of Success)
- United Way (Volunteer Center)
- Duluth Community Garden Program
- West Duluth Community Development Corporation (formerly known as SVCNDA)
- YMCA
- YWCA
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA)
- Scyclists of Gitchee Shores (COGGS)
- Duluth Cross Country Ski Club
- Duluth Outdoor Alliance
- Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance
- Spirit Mountain
- Over the Hill Night Riders snowmobile club
- Drift Toppers snowmobile club
- Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA)

- St Louis River Alliance
- St Louis County
- ISD # 709
- UMD
- Age Well Duluth
- B Healthy Duluth Area Coalition
- Bentleyville Tour of Lights
- Greater Downtown Council
- Safe and Walkable Community Coalition
- On the Move Lincoln Park
- Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC)
- Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)
- Junior League of Duluth
- Rotary
- Northwood Children's Home
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA Senior Dining)
- Community Clubs
- Senior Clubs
- Rainbow [Senior] Center
- Lincoln Park [Senior] Center
- Neighborhood Youth Services (NYS)

- Grant Community School Collaborative
- Boys and Girls Club
- Valley Youth Center
- Youth Sports groups (soccer, basketball, hockey, football, softball, baseball)
- NAACP
- Duluth Softball Players Association (DSPA)

- Duluth Huskies
- B Hartley Nature Center
- Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
- Grandma's Marathon
- MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Cities of Service



Remaining Parks Fund 65%

 Parks & Recreation Operating 35%

- Wages and benefits
- Equipment and supplies
- Marketing and printing
- Maintaining community centers and facilities
- Phones and internet
- Vehicles and mileage
- Memberships and dues
- Special events, concerts, skating, skiing, turf time,
- Training and education
- Parks Commission

Parks & Recreation Operating Budget





VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND INITIATIVES

CITYWIDE SPECIAL VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Global Youth Service Day's Twin Ports Watershed Clean-Up (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 teamed up to clean up Duluth's streams and rivers. They spent the day pulling garbage and trash out of the many Duluth watersheds with a focus on plastic. Over 500 youth volunteers participated in the day of service.

17th Annual Clean and Green Community-Wide Clean-Up (April 21-May 5)

Community members and organizations were invited to join us during these weeks of community pride. Our goal was to have hundreds of citizens working together in our parks, neighborhoods, business districts, and along the waterfront, so that by the end of the two weeks our City was be spruced up for another summer season.

Arbor Day 2012 (May 17)

City of Duluth celebrated Arbor Day. For the 23rd year and the first time since 2004, Duluth was named a Tree City USA. Mayor Ness was joined by Tree Commissioners, City Councilors and County Commissioners for the ceremonial planting of the Arbor Day tree and the unveiling of the Tree City USA signs in Duluth. Additionally, students from East and Denfeld High Schools and Lester Park Elementary School planted 300 tamarack and white spruce saplings in their school forests and around Kingsbury creek in celebration of Arbor Day!

National Trails Day (June 2)

COGGS had 39 members out on the trails in Hartley Park rerouting about 1,000 feet of trail. In western Duluth, the Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance had about 20 people brushing the old Duluth Winnipeg Pacific railroad bed in preparation for the City replacing failed culverts. Disc Golfers worked to build a new staircase from hole nine to hole one at the Miller Creek Disc Golf Course. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory enlisted volunteers to brush Skyline Parkway and planted new crab apples and dogwood trees.

St. Scholastica's Community Day (October 3)

Nearly 200 students, staff and faculty from CSS went into parks and onto trails as part of the College of St. Scholastica's Community Day. Projects included:

- Lakewalk landscaping
- Enger Park gardening
- Bayfront Park painting/landscaping and City Hall garden projects
- 😫 Rose Garden maintenance
- Superior Hiking Trail flood recovery project
- E Lester, Chester, Piedmont, Magney and Hartley Ski Trail flood recovery and trail brushing
- 😫 Chester Park flood recovery trail project

FLOOD RECOVERY IN OUR PARKS AND ON OUR TRAILS

The outpouring of support from the community after the flash flood in June was amazing.

FLOOD RECOVERY by the Numbers

Hours of Flood Related Volunteer Service:1336Total Volunteer Service Value:\$ 85,349.63

Listed below are the volunteer efforts completed in the days, weeks and months following the flood. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help.

Trail Recovery Action Corps - (TRAC) The TRAC team, five individuals hired by our local Community Action Duluth, worked alongside City staff and several volunteers to upgrade trails that were damaged by the flood in June. TRAC worked first in Lincoln Park to fill in ruts and built retaining walls. They moved on to Enger Park where flood waters gouged out a trail there, and continued working at Chester Park along the lower hiking trails throughout the remainder of the summer.

Chester Park Flood Recovery Community Days provided two general flood clean-ups of the park. Over 400 people showed up for the first day and an additional 130 volunteered on the second.

Hartley Nature Center Boardwalk Flood Project was completed by nearly 80 volunteers who stepped up the Sunday after the flood to re-seat several hundred feet of boardwalk and dozens of yards of crushed bluestone that had been washed away due to the floodwaters.



Women of Phi Sigma Sigma

UMD's Phi Sigma Sigma sent over 70 volunteers out to the Fond du Lac Playground to replace contaminated sand from the flood with clean sand.

United Health Care sent a team to the Memorial Community Center to assist in removal and disposal of items impacted by the flood.

US Postal Service (Duluth Team) dismantled a rotting and flood affected bridge in Magney.

St Benedict's Catholic Church from Duluth, MN, volunteered for two days of service! Visitors to St Ben's from Dominica (an island nation in the Caribbean) volunteered to remove garbage and debris from the Lakewalk beaches and do trail work in Lincoln Park with the Trail Recovery Action Corps.

Conservation MN office staff spent the day in Chester filling in washouts left from the floodwaters.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church, from Fridley, MN, provided three full days of flood recovery service doing trail work in lower Chester and completing a painting project at the YWCA. They also built four trail kiosks on a day when weather prevented them from being on the trails.

Duluth Public Library staff rallied around the trails and volunteered on Congdon Park and Chester Park trails.

Minnesota Conservation Corps sent several teams to Duluth throughout the summer to help reroute a flood affected section of the Lester Ski Trail. Several members also participated in the stream damage assessment soon after the flood.

Friends of the Lakewalk assisted in trail recovery along the gravel portion of the Lakewalk near the Ledges Townhomes.

Stream Assessment Team, a group of individuals from both the public and various agencies, documented flood damage along Duluth streams with GPS units and cameras.

The **2012 Voyageur Full and Half Ultra Marathon** organizers received help in preparation for their 2012 races from over 20 community members who showed up to fill washouts and provide trail maintenance to flood affected areas.

Lakewalk Flood Recovery Work Days -Immediately following the flood, over 30 people came down to the Lakewalk to help remove flood debris that was choking up the beaches.

Lester Park Flood Recovery Community Work Days provided two general flood clean-ups of the park and did extensive trail repairs along Amity Creek. Volunteers filled washouts and cleared debris. Additional beach cleanup happened at Brighton Beach.

Church of Latter Day Saints Youth Conference (UMD) did flood recovery trail



work in Lower Chester. Additionally they planted willow trees to help replace those lost in the flood and tackled some buckthorn removal.

Superior Hiking Trail Association rallied volunteers and worked with City staff to start flood recovery efforts on the Kingsbury Creek Trail. A new bypass trail was constructed to guide hikers to a different bridge, as the designated trail bridge was washed out.

Community volunteers planted 32 white pines, led by the Alaska Wilderness League in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Tongass National Forest. The Duluth Stream Corps helped lead the effort in Chester Park in recognition of the many trees Duluth lost in the June flash flood.

The College of St Scholastica - Community Service Orientation Group, provided trail work on the Superior Hiking Trail at Enger Park.

Other volunteers assisted in historical research of Congdon and Chester Parks, took pictures of flood affected trails and parks, and assisted in administrative tasks related to the flood.

FEATURED FLOOD VOLUNTEER

Dan Proctor has been an advocate and steward for the lower trails in Chester for years. His efforts had been previously recognized when the trail was named in honor of him. A long-time resident of the Chester Park neighborhood, the lower trails are Dan's backyard. When the flash flood crashed through Chester, the trails that Dan has long labored over were devastated with slope failures that dropped tons of mud and trees over the path, coupled with large washouts. Since the June rain, Dan has been out on the trail nearly every day logging more than 300 individual hours between June 20 and November 1, 2012. Thank you, Dan, for your commitment and dedication to the lower trails of Chester Park.



PEOPLE AND OUR TRAILS AND PARKS

Duluthians love their public spaces. From community to school groups, people come out to help protect, preserve and improve our parks and trails. Below is a list of volunteer projects that were completed in 2012 with the help of volunteers.

Harbor City International School students literally moved tons of gravel onto the trails in Chester Park. Water had been seeping downhill and the gravel helped to harden the trails. This work help minimize the damage caused by the June flash floods.

First Lutheran Church (Duluth) sent their day camp participants out on the Lakewalk and in the Rose Garden to help pick up trash.

Community volunteers joined members of the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory for a Community Work Day. Individual volunteers, as well as groups from the local US Coast Guard and Woodland Hills, brushed back the roadway, helped brush out several trails near the banding station and hauled wood chips and gravel.

Safe Routes to School – Students will find it easier to walk to Lincoln Park Middle School thanks to a new trail connection on Devonshire Avenue, constructed by nearly 20 students from Lincoln Middle School, along with 14 community volunteers associated with **On the Move Lincoln Park**.

The Federated Church from Morris, MN, provided two full-days of service removing invasive species at Hawk Ridge, as well as brushing and pruning the overlook.

The City of Duluth staff, Lake Superior Rose Society and community volunteers tipped the roses at the Rose Garden in the spring and helped bury and cover them again in the fall

UMD's Office of Civic Engagement staff assisted park staff at the rose garden doing weeding and pruning.

The Zenith City Flyers rehabilitated Miller Creek Disc Golf Course. The course, originally an 18hole course, had been shut down due to erosion and compaction issues. The newly designed 9-hole course reopened following the volunteer labor efforts of installing steps, wire mesh on trees, mowing new fairways and picking up litter.

1,511 additional hours of service were provided by community members to Brighton Beach, Enger Park, the Rose Garden, Leif Erikson and Fitgers.

UP AND COMING: ADOPT-A-SPOT

Duluth has a long history of individuals and groups "adopting" trails and parks around the city. The City of Duluth is revamping this program and will be re-launching it in 2013 with current and new partners. Tabled below are the parks and trails adopted in 2012.

<u>Group or Individual</u>	Adopted Park or Trail(s)
Dan Proctor	Lower Chester Trails
Duluth Cross Country Ski Club (DXC)	Duluth Ski Trails
Hartley Nature Center	Hartley Trails
Superior Hiking Trail Association	Superior Hiking Trail
Friends of the Lakewalk	Lakewalk
Cyclists of Gitchee Shores (COGGS)	Biking Trails
Duluth Area Horse Alliance	Horse Trails
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory	Hawk Ridge Park and Trails
Chester Bowl Improvement Club	Chester Park
Norton Park Community Club	Norton Park
Roger Petry	Mission Creek Trail
DAMAGE Boardshop	Midtown Skatepark
Girl Scout Troops 4054, 4055, 4080	Hawk Ridge (Blue trail)
Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial	Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial (Bunker)
Jerry Smith	Kingsbury Creek Trail
Morgan Park Community Club	Morgan Park Community Center/ surroundings
Northwoods Children's Home	Merritt Community Center
Robert Berg	Enger Park
CHOICE, Unlimited	Lakeplace Park
Larry Spears	Lakewalk (Bridge to Vietnam memorial)

PARK AND TRAIL PARTNERS AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Duluth Cross Country Ski Club (DXC)

- Assisted with trail brushing on all ski trails
- Designed a new trail sign system and maps and hung them up on ski trails
- 🛱 Hosted trail workdays
- Partnered on the CSS Community Day project
- Coordinated extra grooming efforts and secured additional state funding for those efforts
- Entered into an official agreement with the City of Duluth and the Spirit Mountain Authority to manage the Spirit Mountain Cross Country Ski Trails
- 😫 Featured Volunteer: John Ipsen

Hartley Nature Center (HNC)

- Hosted two invasive species community education programs
- 😫 Helped restore boardwalks and trails after the flood
- Maintenance of Old Hartley Road
- Stained the city-owned nature center building
- Ongoing invasive species management throughout the park
- Entered into a new, long-term agreement with the City of Duluth for management of the nature center building and some grounds around it
- 😫 Featured Volunteer: Dave Yount

Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA)

- Partnered on the CSS Community Day project
- Assisted in flood recovery efforts on Kingsbury Creek trails and in Chester Park
- Ongoing regular maintenance of the 39 miles of trail in the City of Duluth
- Featured Volunteer: Norm Herron

Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores (COGGS)

- Restored and improved bike trails in Hartley Nature Center Park by completing reroutes of more than a mile of single-track trails
- B Hosted trail workdays on the Piedmont, Lester and Hartley Trails on a weekly basis
- Worked with city staff to complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the MN Legacy Fund grant for the Duluth Traverse
- Created new maps for Hartley and Lester Park single-track trails
- Featured Volunteer: Matt Evingson

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (HRBO)

- Partnered on hosting several Hawk Ridge Community Work Days
- Assisted with the siting of the proposed new Duluth Traverse trail to go through Hawk Ridge
- Ongoing invasive species management
- Trail maintenance, including flood repair work on the Amity Trail
- Featured Volunteer: Beth Miller

Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance (DAHTA)

- Held several trail work days on the Duluth Winnipeg Pacific railroad corridor right of way
- Worked in conjunction with the city and Jay Cooke State Park to site a trail from the DWP to the state park and its equestrian trail system
- Featured Volunteer: Irene Apane

Zenith City Flyers Disc Golf Club (ZCF)

- Held several workdays on the Miller Creek Disc Golf Course to install new structures such as steps and trails
- Held public meetings to gather input for new disc golf courses
- Worked with the city to install a new nine-hole course in Lincoln Park which was slowed due to the June flood; donations were gathered from area businesses to purchase the baskets
- Featured volunteer: Charlie DeVille

Northern Minnesota Track Club (NMTC)

- Committed to a weekly night of trail work on the ski trails in Magney Snively to help dry out and harden the ground by pulling up rocks and digging drainage ditches.
- Held several work sessions with city support to ensure a trail was safe for the Voyageur Half and Full Marathons
- Featured Volunteer: Kris Glesener

Wheels on Trails (WOT)

- Sponsored a National Trails Day event at Hartley Park
- Sponsored events: camping at Indian Point Campground and 'strolls' on the Lakewalk
- Assisted city staff in identifying potential sites for accessible trails

Snowmobile Clubs (Ridge Runners and Drift Toppers)

- Both clubs leapt into action to photograph and document extensive flood damage to their trails
- Performed routing trail maintenance such as brushing

Duluth Stream Corps (DSC)

- Partnered with the city to bring over 250 large white pines from a tree farm in Cohasset, MN, which were subsequently planted in Duluth Parks
- Partnered with the city and Hartley Nature Center to eliminate buckthorn from an area near the Tischer Creek and replanted with native species
- Partnered with the city and Duluth Audubon Society to eliminate buckthorn and honeysuckle in an area near Kingsbury Creek and replanted with native species
- Partnered with the city to plant hundreds of trees in Chester Park after the flood

Safe and Walkable Hillside Coalition

- 😫 Safe Routes to School
- Bicycle and Pedestrian routes

On the Move Lincoln Park

Safe Routes to School – Devonshire Street

EAGLE SCOUTS AND GOLD AWARDS

The City of Duluth, Eagle Scout Josh Thompson and his mentor, Dave Johnson, joined with retired Marshall School teacher, Larry Weber, to open Duluth's newest park: "Web Woods." Josh created the trail in the park (including boardwalks and wood chips) and mapped it for the new kiosk that he also built. Located not far from Marshall School on Oak Bend Drive (just off Baylis and Pecan), it's a lovely walk through large, old trees with several ponds.

The City of Duluth and Eagle Scout Patrick J. Stojevich repaired the trail between Perch Lake and Boy Scout Landing along the St Louis River. Patrick worked with volunteers to fill in low spots along the trail, replace existing broken culverts and installed benches.

INTERNS AND AMERICORPS

The City of Duluth welcomed two AmeriCorps members in Parks and Recreation to focus on our reLEAF initiative and our volunteer program.

Shawna MullenEardley (Minnesota Green Corps) – Urban Forestry Specialist - Shawna MullenEardley received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. During college, she was an active member of the Gustavus Greens, a campus group devoted to sustainability education and advocacy. Shawna has worked as an Interpretive Naturalist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and a Biologist Technician for the Bureau of Land Management in Utah where she supervised and directed different groups in conservation projects. Shawna is in her second year with the City, and she is overseeing the Tree Inventory program which also uses dozens of volunteers to assist her, and the reLeaf Duluth program where homeowners can purchase a tree for \$25.

Jesse Meehl (True North AmeriCorps) – Jesse Meehl is serving his first year with True North AmeriCorps. He enjoys seeing the inner workings of the city and being a part of them. He worked in the past with the Northwoods League, CBS Radio, and the U.S. Census Bureau. Jesse's service year is focused on doing research projects to improve city services, assisting with volunteer recruitment and event management and other special projects as assigned.

The City of Duluth welcomed three interns this fall who are focused on developing our invasive species management plan and our volunteer program.

Brandon Nelms is an aspiring graduate of Winona State's Department of Recreation and Tourism. He is serving this Fall Semester as a full-time intern with the City of Duluth's Volunteer Program. His focus is on researching and developing potential volunteer initiatives for the City of Duluth, including an Adopt-a-Spot program, the Edible Duluth program and the Buckthorn Brigade.

Mark Tomshack is a senior at the College of St. Scholastica, studying Biochemistry. He is one of our Invasive Species Management Program interns. His focus is researching methods to manage invasive species populations in Duluth. He'll also work on researching restoration and re-planting, utilizing his knowledge and study of ecology.

Steph Gibeau is senior at UMD, studying GIS, a new major for the university. She will be using her GIS skills and knowledge to help develop a mapping database of invasive species in priority parks.

SENIORS KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN TO PROGRAMS

Seniors gave hundreds of hours to support programming and recreation activities at neighborhood community centers.

Senior Programming/Recreation Support by the Numbers

Morgan Park	488
Portman	370
Evergreen	1100
Total Number of hours:	1958

COMMUNITY CLUBS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Our many community centers throughout Duluth are kept open and busy through the support of volunteer organizations and clubs. From offering recreational skating in the winter to youth development programs in the summer, these volunteers work to ensure that citizens have access to their public parks. Additionally, the Community Clubs facilitate building rentals, open the centers for the public and coordinate special community events (the annual Fall Fest at Chester Bowl or the Lester River Rendezvous). The City of Duluth thanks the Community Clubs, listed below, for their amazing efforts.

Central Hillside Community Club Chester Bowl Improvement Club East Hillside Community Club Norton Park Community Club Fond du Lac Community Club Gary New Duluth Community Club Harrison Community Club Irving Community Club Lakeside-Lester Park Community Club Neighbors of Lower Chester Merritt Community Club Morgan Park / Smithville Community Club Park Point Community Club Piedmont Heights Community Club Portman Recreation Association Riverside Community Club Volunteers Caring and Patrolling – Lincoln Park

RELEAF DULUTH VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

The City of Duluth was awarded a Minnesota GreenCorps member for a second year. Shawna Mullen Eardley (see bio above) was selected a second year for the GreenCorps position.

The Duluth Audubon Society teamed up with the City of Duluth and the Duluth StreamCorps to work on the Kingsbury Creek restoration project. Some invasive species were removed and over 2000 new trees and shrubs were planted.



Working with the City of Duluth and Duluth StreamCorps, students from Harbor City International School, Cromwell and East High School planted trees around Duluth.

Staff from Nortrax (parent company of John Deere) assisted the City of Duluth and the Duluth StreamCorps in planting 150 red and white pine near Kingsbury Creek.

Volunteers were trained to take inventory of the city's boulevard trees throughout the summer. Inventory includes identification, measuring the size and noting the general condition of each tree. Volunteers also document the available planting spaces along boulevards, as well, for future trees.

87 volunteers helped plant 80 boulevard trees (maples, oaks, Japanese tree lilacs, and crabapples) at Tree Planting Parties throughout September in various neighborhoods around Duluth including Morgan Park, Lincoln Park, East Hillside, and Central Hillside. Volunteer groups that showed up to help out included the Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln Park, UMD, NERCC and the Church of Latter Day Saints.

The City of Duluth was recognized for its partnership with Community Action Duluth and two of its programs: The Seeds of Success and the Duluth StreamCorps. The City of Duluth provided low-use parklands to grow food and worked with the StreamCorps for tree planting projects; including large white pines and storage of tree planting materials.

reLEAF by the Numbers

Total Volunteer Hours:	3036
Total Number of Volunteers:	761
Total Volunteer Value:	\$ 67,199.55
Total Number of Trees Planted:	1631
Total Number of Trees Pruned:	3500
Full Time GreenCorps Member:	(hours of service) 1700

BUCKTHORN AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive, non-native plants can be devastating to native plants, trees and wildlife habitat. The City of Duluth, through its reLEAF program, is committed to addressing the influx and growth of invasive populations in our community. Through community education, mapping and outreach, eradication events and treatment efforts, we are taking on invasives. Below is a listing of projects and efforts completed in 2012 to address the invasive plant populations in Duluth.



Hartley Nature Center and the City of Duluth held two public education programs about buckthorn. About 30 people came to view a slide show, to tour the removal and restoration areas in Hartley Park, and to learn about methods and materials needed. Participants were also recruited to volunteer to slow down this invasion in Hartley Park and other areas around Duluth. Several Garlic Mustard educational programs and pulls were held on what is hoped to be Duluth's only patch.

The City of Duluth initiated a volunteer community advisory group to assist in the development and implementation of an Invasive Species Management Plan. The primary role of the advisory group is to develop work groups that will look at the important aspects of managing the invasive plant populations in Duluth, including: restoration and re-planting, eradication and removal, disposal standards, public policy, volunteer events, homeowner/community education, tracking and mapping.

Informational programs for the general public on Emerald Ash Borer and Gyspy Moths were held at various community centers and garden clubs.

The tedious process of removing buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive species from our parks is time intensive. Volunteers are critical to our efforts to keep the invasive population from growing. Along with volunteers who attended community projects, the following groups and/or individuals assisted in the invasive species removals:

Harbor City International School (Hartley Park, Hawk Ridge) United Health Care (Hartley Park, Chester Park) Marshall School and Dave Johnson (Web Woods) Duluth Audubon Society and Denfeld High School (Kingsbury Creek) Federated Church of Morris, MN (Hawk Ridge) Church of Latter Day Saints 2012 Summer Youth Conference (Chester Park) Dan Proctor and Alan Hartley (Chester Park) Dan Nyquist (Central Park) Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory and Bob Owens (Hawk Ridge) Tom Kunze (Congdon Park) University of Minnesota – Duluth (Bagley Park) Hartley Nature Center and Dave Yount (Hartley Park)



TRAILS AND TREES

MN GreenCorps member, Shawna MullenEardley, collected these facts for the Tree City USA application:

- 761 volunteers giving 3,036 hours (for a total value of \$67,199.55)
- 1,631 trees planted (by volunteers, the City, and contractors)
- 3,500 trees pruned (by volunteers and the City)
- \$4.43 per capita was spent on tree-related activities (planting, tree removal, administration, equipment, employee trainings, pruning, volunteer time, etc.) in the year 2012. The minimum required by the Arbor Day Foundation in order to be a Tree City is \$2 per capita.

Parks and Recreation/Hartley Nature Center Partnership Event

The invasive, non-native buckthorn can be devastating to native plants, trees, and wildlife habitat. To combat this invader, Hartley Nature Center held two community Buckthorn Workshops to inform residents about this plant and how to control it. As they do each year, Hartley Nature Center (HNC) and the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division have recruited volunteers to slow down this invasion in Hartley Park and other areas around Duluth.

Duluth Celebrates Arbor Day

This year's celebration marks the 23rd year of Duluth being a Tree City USA. Mayor Ness was joined by others for the ceremonial planting of the Arbor Day tree and the unveiling of the Tree City USA signs in Duluth.

The City of Duluth is being recognized for its partnership with Community Action Duluth and two of its programs: The Seeds of Success and the Duluth StreamCorps. The City of Duluth offered little used parklands to grow food, and worked with the StreamCorps on tree planting projects. The StreamCorps projects included planting large white pines and storage of tree planting materials.

Tree Inventory Training

Volunteers assisted the City of Duluth with its Tree Inventory Project! Two dozen volunteers have been trained on basic tree identification, tree health, and condition rating.



Tree Restoration at the Zoo

The Duluth Audubon Society and the City of Duluth planted trees for a forest restoration project at Kingsbury Creek.

Build a Safe Route to School

Volunteers helped build a trail to connect the two dead ends of Devonshire Street with the newly constructed School District walkway between Lincoln Park Middle School and the neighborhood. Volunteers cleared brush, built a small retaining wall and moved gravel onto the pathway.



Trees Planted in September

Duluth residents were invited to take part in Tree Planting Parties throughout September in various neighborhoods around Duluth. The Tree Planting Parties were sponsored by the City of Duluth and the Minnesota GreenCorps. By the end of September, the City had planted 150 trees throughout Duluth.

Tree Planting Update

During the month of September, 87 volunteers of all ages (including the Lincoln Park Boys and Girls Club, students from UMD, N.E.R.C.C., Latter Day Saints, and others - "regular" community members) planted 80 trees (maples, oaks, Japanese tree lilacs, and crabapples) in the boulevards of Endion, East Hillside, Central Hillside, Lincoln Park, and Morgan Park.

Trail Recovery Action Corps - (TRAC)

The TRAC worked alongside City staff, Luke Moravec, and several volunteers to upgrade trails that were damaged by the flood in June. The TRAC worked first in Lincoln Park to fill in ruts and built retaining walls. They moved on to Enger Park where floodwaters gouged out a trail there, and worked at Chester Park.







2012 GOLF SEASON ENGER AND LESTER PARK



Due to dry conditions in April, the 2012 Golf season started early. Both Enger and Lester Park golf courses had good conditions with a lot of play at both courses.

The golf courses introduced a new, web based, point of sale system. The system has the ability to track a customer's playing preferences (days, times, purchases, etc.) and more accurately track rounds than in past golf seasons. Additionally, the system has

the ability to send e-mails to customers informing them of deals or discounts available at the courses.

June brought rain and the flood. Lester Park Golf Course came away from the flood with very little damage. Enger Park Golf Course did not fare as well. Damage was sustained at Coffee Creak. The creek washed out a cart bridge and irrigation pond. The City was able to procure some



FEMA monies for repairs. The City and the DNR plan to repair and improve Coffee Creek and the surrounding area. Repairs are estimated to begin May of 2013.



The remainder of the season was dry and warm, encouraging the increase of rounds. The average of rounds was comparative to previous years.

The 2012 golf season closed with the courses on October 31, 2012.

	2012 Gol	f Season	
Season Passes	#Sold		
Unlimited	201		
Sr. Unlimited (62+)	316		
Sr. Family Dual	25	A	
Young Adult (19-24)	95	LESTER PA	
Junior Unlimited	110	GOLF COUR	SE
Family	56		
Patron Card	225		
Total	1,028		
Green Fees	#Sold		
Member Rounds	44,536	Engen D. N.G.	ç.)
Patron Rounds	5,083	Parts	
Adult Public Rounds	21,536		
Senior Public Rounds	6,616		
Junior Public Rounds	1,382	Cart Rentals	#Sold
Twilight Public Rounds	910	Season Private (240)	22
Golf Specials	4,677	Member Carts	2,1291
Total	84,740	Public Carts	1,9292
		Private Cart Est.	1,100
Miscellaneous		Cart Specials	705
Miscellaneous Driving Range	\$ 66,185.00	Cart Specials Total	705
Driving Range	\$ 66,185.00 \$ 199,044.00	Total	
Miscellaneous Driving Range Merchandise Food and Beverage		Total	
Driving Range Merchandise	\$ 199,044.00	Total	705 42,410







Lake Superior Zoo

The Duluth zoo offers year-round recreational opportunities for animal lovers of all ages. You'll find Amur Tigers, Snow Leopards, African Lions, Brown Bears, Kangaroos, Gray Wolves, plus a variety of birds, reptiles, primates and barnyard animals.

The following lists highlight animal acquisitions, transfers and births. Additionally, a list of the Zoo wide accomplishments and information regarding the flood is included.

Animal Acquisitions	
😫 Large Spotted Genet	2 Chinese Goral
Burrowing Owl	😫 3 Babydoll Sheep
😫 Milk Snake	2 Pygmy Goats
😫 Corn Snake	3 Nubian/Alpine Goats
😫 Green Tree Python	😫 Pygora Goat
3 hedgehogs	🔁 Llama
3 hairless rats	2 Shetland Sheep
Degu	4 Pekin Ducks
🖸 Common Crow	

Animal Transfers	
😫 Polar Bear – Kansas City Zoo	2 Bat-eared Fox – Potter Park Zoo
😫 Chinese Goral – St. Louis Zoo	😫 2 Harbor Seals – Como Park Zoo
😰 Seals – Como Park Zoo	

Animal Births	
3 Ring-tailed Lemurs	 8 Pekin Ducklings

Zoo Wide Accomplishments

- Participated in Pallas Cat Artificial Insemination Study with Dr. Bill Swanson and the Cincinnati Zoo
- Bats in Our Backyard curriculum
- To the Bats bat house scavenger hunt
- Participation in a lentiviruse/anti-virus host defense research project with the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- The Zoo helped the DNR relocate a nuisance black bear within the city
- Completion of the Sustainable Twin Ports Program
- 68% increase in summer outreach programs from the previous year
- Zoo volunteers logged 4,220 hours for an in-kind donation of over \$90,000
- The zoo raised \$13,000 during Give to the Max
- Zoo staff volunteer at both The Wildcat Sanctuary and Great Lakes Aquarium
- Bowling for Rhinos raised \$500 for rhino conservation
- AAZK raised \$500 for "Bat Conservation International" through "Buy a Pumpkin Save a Bat" at Boo at the Zoo.

The Flood

- The Zoo was flooded this summer and closed for 1 month
- Berlin, the polar bear and two harbor seals, Vivian and Feisty, escaped their exhibits during the flood. All three animals were returned safely. The seals are at the Como Zoo and Berlin is at the Kansas City Zoo.
- The zoo is working with ELM to develop conceptual designs for an amphitheater in Polar Shores, Bear Territory that will include polar, black, brown and Andean bears and a Penguinarium
- The zoo and the city are working together to remove debris from Kingsbury Creek
- An amazing group of volunteers spent Saturday/Sunday June 23-24 cleaning up the zoo. Thank you all!
- The zoo raised approximately \$150,000 for flood relief. Thank you everyone!





2012 LAKE SUPERIOR ZOO Admissions Report

Paid Admission	Price	No. Sold
Adults (13 yrs and older) (Post-flood Reduced Rate)	\$8.00	10,819
Adults (13 yrs and older)	\$10.00	11,259
Adult & children 13 and up (group) (Post-flood Rate)	\$7.00	361
Adult & children 13 and up (group)	\$9.00	1,954
Seniors (62+) (Post-flood Reduced Rate)	\$7.00	1,210
Seniors (62+)	\$9.00	699
Adult, half off reciprocating member (Post-flood Rate)	\$4.00	559
Adult, half off reciprocating member	\$5.00	644
Senior, half off reciprocating member (Post-flood Rate)	\$3.50	21
Senior, half off reciprocating member	\$4.50	22
Children (3-12 yrs) (Post-flood Reduced Rate)	\$4.00	4,337
Children (3-12 yrs)	\$5.00	4,500
Children 3-12 (group) (Post-flood Reduced Rate)	\$3.00	504
Children 3-12 (group)	\$4.00	5,316
Children, half off reciprocating member (Post-flood)	\$2.00	348
Children, half off reciprocating member	\$2.50	406
Boo at the Zoo	\$10.00	6,815
Adult GLA Joint Ticket (Suspended following flood) (\$20 cost, our portion = to group rates)	\$7.50	57
Child GLA Joint Ticket (Suspended following flood) (\$10 cost, our portion = to group rates)	\$3.00	21
TOTALS	N/A	49,852

Gratis Admissions	Number	% of Total Admissions
Lake Superior Zoo Members	15,857	22%
Other Members (excluding 1/2 off reciprocating)	363	.05%
Free (children 2 and under/coupons/comp. tickets)	5,770	8%
Total number of Gratis/Membership Admissions	21,990	30.6%
TOTAL PAID ADMISSIONS:	49,852	
TOTAL NUMBER ADMISSIONS:	<i>71,842</i>	