



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division**

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**DATE: 11/14/2011**

**SUBJECT: Bentleyville Tour of Lights Opens Saturday, November 19th**

**BY: Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator**

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## **Bentleyville Tour of Lights Opens Saturday, November 19th at Bayfront Festival Park**

Everyone will experience the magic of nearly 3 million lights illuminating Bayfront Festival Park located on the shores of Lake Superior during the Bentleyville Tour of Lights. The largest holiday light show in the Midwest comes to life every evening from Saturday, November 19th-Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Bentleyville will be open from 5:00-10:00 PM Friday and Saturday and 5:00-9:00 PM Sunday-Thursday. Admission is free.

Highlighting the 2011 Bentleyville Tour of Lights is an 8 feet wide ball with 28-3 foot LED blue spikes placed at the top of the twelve story tall steel Christmas tree in the center of Bayfront Festival Park. Laden with over 60,000 sparkling LED lights the 120 ft. giant tree will be shining brightly in the crisp evening sky. Synchronized to music, this LED trimmed Christmas tree will dance with images to holiday tunes throughout the season. Also new this year is the kids "Dino Land" display, lighted tunnels extending all around the park and a "new" home for Santa.

Visitors will also be greeted by the spectacular Bentleyville castle which stands 24 feet high and 78 feet long and the Cookie House where visitors are welcome to complimentary hot chocolate, coffee and cookies as they stroll through the park. A dazzling lighted tunnel leads you to Santa, 15 fire pits for roasting marshmallows and the Polar Popcorn Hut. Everyone will be amazed at the local displays of the Aerial Lift Bridge, Tall Ships, a replicate of a thousand foot ore boat and Enger Tower.

Bentleyville Tour of Lights is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. The community mission of this event is to raise non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys for families in need. Bentleyville Tour of Lights is an official drop off site for the Salvation Army. Please make a donation.

For more Bentleyville Tour of Lights information: [www.bentleyvilleusa.org](http://www.bentleyvilleusa.org) For further information contact: Nathan Bentley, Bentleyville Tour of Lights (218) 740-3536; or Mayor Don Ness at (218) 730-5320; or Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator City of Duluth (218) 730-4312 or Kristi Stokes, Greater Downtown Council at (218) 727-8549.

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