



Good News from Parks and Recreation February 2014



Parks and Recreation Resources

Parks and Recreation Website - <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master-plan/>

Trail and Bikeway Plan - <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trailsbikeways/trails-bikeways-master-plan/>

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases, this newsletter** and other City announcements - http://www.duluthgov.info/db_frames/web_subscriptions/

Like us (DuluthParksMN) on Facebook or see the blue Facebook icon on our website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/>

Sign up for the Parks Twitter account at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/>

Find information about our beaches at <http://www.parkpointbeach.org/>

Recreation and Special Events

Parents and Pre-school Children Invited to Participate in Play Gym at Duluth Heights

Play Gym continues every Wednesday from 9:30-12:00. This is an excellent opportunity to give your little one room to run off steam and interact with others. **Play Gym** will be expanding to *Fridays* due to the current parent volunteers' change in work schedule. *Wednesday* sessions will continue through the spring as a new volunteer leader is recruited.



**WINTER SKATING PARTIES
2013-14 • DULUTH, MINNESOTA**

- ▶ Sunday, December 1 AMSOIL ARENA 3:00-5:00 PM
SKATE WITH THE BULLDOGS DAY!
- ▶ Sunday, December 22 DECC 3:00-5:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, January 26 DECC 3:00-5:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, February 23 AMSOIL ARENA 3:00-5:00 PM

All Skating Parties are FREE!
Bring your own skates • No tag or skating fast
No chairs, sticks, pucks or shoes on the ice
Prizes for kids • Music provided
Kids 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult



It is time to head down to the DECC for the **final** Parks and Recreation skating party. Join us for this great family-friendly event!

The skating party will be held in the AMSOIL Arena.

Skaters can enjoy music provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. Youth can enter for door prizes.

DECC concessions will also be open during this time period.

Skating parties are FREE and open to all ages. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

**** Participants need to bring their own skates.**

Free Open Skating at Heritage Sports Center



School Release Days:
12:30-3:30
Friday, Oct 18th
Tuesday, January 21st
Friday, May 16"

December Holiday Break:
Mon. 12/23 2-4
Thurs. 12/26 9:30-11:30
Fri. 12/27 9:30-11:30
Mon. 12/30 2-4
Tues. 12/31 2-4

Mid-Winter Holiday Break:
Feb. 17th - 21, M-F, 2-4

Spring Break:
April 7-11, M-F, 2-4

Summer KICK-OFF:
June 6th, Friday, 12-4

120 South 30th Avenue West
Sponsored by City of Duluth Parks and Recreation

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, 6:30 - 8:00
WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

* SPECIAL EVENTS TO HONOR HALLOWEEN, T-GIVING, CHRISTMAS, VALENTINES DAY, SPRING FLING



Heritage Valentine Skate

In honor of Valentine's Day, **Heritage Skating** on Wednesday, February 12, will be devoted to "Peace, Love and Happiness". The fun includes special music and lighting by a live DJ, low lighting in the arena, special fun in the Lobby—including heart healthy activities, science displays and crafts—and treats for all. Regular skating sessions on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30-8:00 PM, are going stronger than ever. Each session has been attended by at least 100-150 people. *Skating Races* are being planned for March 19th---*Volunteers Needed!*

Senior Billiard Tournament Celebrates 40th Anniversary

In 1974, two enthusiastic pool players started an event they had no idea would have the endurance it has had. Now, in 2014, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the pool tournament founded by the late Harold Gronningen and Lam Fyhre. Formally known as the "City of Duluth Senior Eight-Ball Pocket Billiard Tournament", it is open to men and women age 55 and above of all levels of ability. To this day, its mark of distinction is the tremendous camaraderie among the participants. This adds significantly to the friendly competition between some highly-skilled players.

Sign up was in January, round robin play is all of February, and finals occur on March 5 at the Lincoln Park Center. This year's tournament celebration is co-sponsored by the City of Duluth and UCare Minnesota. At the finals will be food, prizes, awards to first and second place players in the AA, A and B divisions, along with all kinds of other surprises for participants. An event that is "40 years proud" is well worth having a party! A symbolic thank you to Harold and Lam - not only for the great memories (of which there are many) but also for an event that continues to bring such pleasure to so many!

Bayfront Skating

Regular hours for the Bayfront Family Center Warming House are Monday-Friday, 4:00-8:00 PM, Saturday 1:00-8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM. Friday evening includes an outside fire and free hot chocolate - while supplies last! Sleds, snowshoes and small cross-country skis are available for kids to try with their parents' supervision. **Bayfront** skating is excellent! While there have been quite a few days that we have had to close due to extreme cold, the cold weather has provided the opportunity to make great ice, and lots of it. Hopefully this will help the rink stay around well into March. Also, our "Friday Fires" have been well attended, with people of all ages showing up to enjoy the wonderful ambiance and FREE hot chocolate. There have been informal 'pot lucks' & winter picnics, with people bringing in their own dinners and sharing them with others. A special "Valentine's Day Fireside Skate Date" evening will be held this Friday, with Music and Low-Lighting to accompany the regular bonfire!

DECC Skating Party Update

The **Skating Party** at the DECC on January 26th was VERY well attended—over 150 people skated to our DJ's sounds and the kids waited patiently for the prize drawings. Every session boasts new attendees, along with many who come every time. The next and LAST skating party is Sunday, February 23, 3-5pm at the AMSOIL ARENA!

Outdoor Skating Rinks

The outdoor skating rinks are doing well. We thank all the Hockey organizations and community volunteers for providing these skating opportunities. With the Parks Fund, City staff has been able to provide more assistance to community groups for making and maintaining ice.

Visit the City of Duluth website for an interactive map of the skating rinks:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/skating-rinks/>

Stowe Skating Rink

Filmore & 101st

The City is maintaining the skating rink at Stowe this year. There is no building access.

Morgan Park Skating Rink

1242 88th Ave W

The Morgan Park skating rink hours of operation are Monday – Friday 5:00PM – 9:00PM, Saturday and Sunday Noon– 8:00PM.

Norton Park Skating Rink

Coleman & 81st Ave W

Norton Park rink is maintained by residents for public use, there are no regular open hours for the building.

Memorial Park Skating Rink

5315 Grand Ave

The City is maintaining the skating rink at Memorial this year. There is no building access.

Merritt Skating Rink

4017 W 7th St

The Merritt skating rink is open Tuesdays 5:30PM-7:30PM, Thursdays 7:00PM-9:00PM and some other days that are unscheduled.

Piedmont Skating Rink **2302 W 23rd St**

The Piedmont skating rink is open Monday-Friday 5:00-8:30 PM, Saturday and School Holidays 12:00-8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM.

Duluth Heights Skating Rink **33 W Mulberry St**

The Duluth Heights skating rink is open Monday-Friday 5:30-8:30 PM, Saturday 12:00-4:00 PM and Holiday Breaks Monday-Friday 12:00-9:00 PM. Hours for the Holiday break are extended, however they vary widely.

Bayfront Skating Rink **Railroad St and 5th Ave W**

Bayfront is open Monday-Friday 4:00-8:00 PM, Saturday/School Holidays 1:00-8:00 PM, Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM.

Lafayette Skating Rink **3026 Minnesota Ave**

Lafayette skating rink is maintained by residents for public use, there are no regular open hours for the building.

Lower Chester Skating Rink **1417 E 5th St**

The Lower Chester skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 4:00-9:00 PM, Saturday 12:00-9:00 PM, Sunday 12:00-6:00 PM. Holiday and School Break days are usually 12:00-9:00 PM.

Woodland Skating Rink **3211 Allendale Ave**

The Woodland skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 5:00-9:00 PM and Saturday and Sunday 11:30 AM-5:30 PM. Hours for the Holiday break are extended, though vary widely.

Portman Skating Rink **4601 McCulloch St**

Portman's skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 5:30-8:30 PM, Saturday 11:00 AM-8:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM-5:00 PM. During the holiday and mid-winter breaks hours are Monday - Friday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM and Saturday & Sunday 11:00 AM-5:00 PM.

*** ALL rink hours listed are dependent on Volunteer supervision and...the Weather!

Updated information for many rinks with Hockey Associations can often be found at <http://www.duluthhockey.com/> --- choose the "Associations" tab.

Make your 2014 Park Reservation Now

It may be hard to think about doing any sort of outdoor event as we sit in the "deep freeze" of winter. But the warmer weather will be here before we know it, along with the season of outdoor events. Prime dates in many of our beautiful City of Duluth parks fill up quickly, so the first step in event planning needs to be the reservation. All events to include 40 or more people require a permit. But to secure the park for your personal use, a permit is recommended for all size events. Without one, there is risk of another permitted event at the park at the same time. Secondly, whoever arrives first has the opportunity to occupy the pavilions and other favored areas. Only with a permit can you technically ask someone to move. There are three types of permits available, depending on your use of the park.

Special Event Permits – A special event is either: 1) open to the public, and/or, 2) charges an admission/registration fee. To be held in a City of Duluth park, the proper permit is required. Contact Gail at gwalkowiak@duluthmn.gov or call 218.730.4306 to secure a permit for your special event.

Private Event Permits – Private events are “By Invitation Only”: 1) from a club or organization membership, and/or, 2) a personal invitation from a permit holder. This includes company or church picnics, birthday parties and graduation parties, but excludes weddings, which require a separate permit. Contact Terri at tcastonguay@duluthmn.gov or call 218.730.4320 for a Private Event Permit.

Wedding Event Permits – A wedding event is one that is: 1) a wedding ceremony, 2) a wedding rehearsal, or, 3) a wedding ceremony and picnic reception combined (not to include alcohol, live music, or dancing). Formal wedding receptions serving alcohol and having live music or DJ services are not allowed. Contact Amy at agodsell@duluthmn.gov or call 218.730.4330 for more information.

Event guides for each of these permits are available online at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/reservations/> or by contacting the appropriate staff listed above.

Trails Update

New CC Ski Maps on the Trails

While you are out enjoying the ski trails, check out the new maps developed by Duluth Cross Country Ski Club volunteers Gary Larson and John Ipsen. The maps feature color coded levels of difficulty and topographic lines. There is contact info on each map and we'd love to get your feedback. Email: jgibbs@duluthmn.gov

Hiking and Biking on City Cross-Country Ski Trails

Duluth Parks and Recreation reminds the public that hiking and winter bikes (commonly called “Fat” bikes) on City cross-country ski trails is **prohibited**. Only cross-country skiers are allowed on our cross-country ski trails.

"Fat" bikes, so-called for their 4-inch tires, are growing in popularity. Where can Fat bikers ride? All of the mountain bike trails in Duluth are open and Hartley's trails in particular are in great shape for biking. Riding is also possible on the Lakewalk, Western Waterfront Trail, Skyline Parkway east and west where they are closed to traffic, and the Seven Bridges Road. More information is available at www.coggs.com.

The City of Duluth has 55 kilometers of skiing on six cross-country ski trails. The trails provide a great skiing experience for every level of skier. Maps and brochures for each trail are available at the Duluth Parks and Recreation office at City Hall (Ground Floor, 411 West 1st Street) or online at www.duluthmn.gov/parks.

A reminder: in order to help maintain good skiing conditions, all cross-country skiers are requested to follow good trail etiquette:

- Ski in indicated direction
- Leave pets at home
- Hikers, bikers and dogs are not allowed on groomed ski trails.
- Try to fill any holes and smooth track if you should fall.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

For information on the condition of City of Duluth Trails, call the Cross-Country Ski Trail Hot Line at 218-730-4321. Information is also available on the Parks Facebook page or at www.Skinnyski.com.

Senior Services and Events

For more information about senior recreation activities, contact (218) 730-4310

Evergreen Senior Community Center: 5830 Grand Avenue

THURSDAYS 12:30 - BINGO

FEB 11, 1:00-5:00 PM - AARP DEFENSIVE DRIVING REFRESHER CALL 218-730-4319

FEB 11, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM - THINK KIDS MTG-PUBLIC WELCOME

FEB 13, 10:30-11:30 AM - COMMUNITY ACTION SENIOR INFORMATION

FEB 27, 10:45-11:30 AM - VISION PROGRAM-LIGHTHOUSE CENTER for VISION LOSS

Morgan Park Senior Center- 1242 88th Avenue West

WEDNESDAYS 12:30 - BINGO

FEB 10, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM - THINK KIDS MTG-PUBLIC WELCOME

FEB 12, 10:30-11:30 AM - COMMUNITY ACTION SENIOR INFORMATION

FEB 19, 10:45-11:30 AM - VISION PROGRAM-LIGHTHOUSE CENTER for VISION LOSS

Portman Senior Community Center: 4601 McCulloch Street

FEB 8, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM - ST CLOUD DRIVING PROGRAM -1-888-234-1294

FEB 10, 10:45-11:30 AM - VISION PROGRAM -LIGHTHOUSE CENTER for VISION LOSS

FEB 12, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM -THINK KIDS MTG-PUBLIC WELCOME

FEB 14, 10:30-11:30 AM - COMMUNITY ACTION SENIOR INFORMATION

FEB 14, 12:30 PM - VALENTINE'S BINGO PARTY- ALL SENIORS WELCOME

FEB 20, 1:00-5:00 PM - AARP-DEFENSIVE DRIVING REFRESHER-218-730-4319

FEB 13, 10:30-11:30 AM - COMMUNITY ACTION SENIOR INFORMATION

Volunteer Events and Information

Clean and Green:

Keeping Duluth beautiful through clean-up and green-up projects.

Efforts to organize Clean and Green 2014 will soon be under way. Start thinking about spring by volunteering your family, organization or group for a clean-up! Email Cheryl Skafte at cskafte@duluthmn.gov for more information.

Edible Duluth:

Promoting edible landscaping and community gardening.

The Duluth Public Library is kicking off their new Seed Lending Library on Saturday, February 22nd from 1:00-4:00 PM. During its first growing season in 2014, the Duluth Public Seed Lending Library will offer seeds for garden favorites including varieties of tomatoes, peppers, peas and the "One Vegetable One Community" Vegetable of the Year - beans. Participants will have access to borrowing up to ten packets containing 10 seeds. Learn more at <http://www.duluth.lib.mn.us/programs-events/duluth-public-seed-lending-library/>.

Volunteer CPR Program:

The Duluth Fire Department is partnering with Duluth Parks to host a series of community training sessions. The sessions start in April at our community centers to educate residents using hands-only CPR techniques. Training is free of charge and takes approximately one hour. Participants are given a CPR Anytime Kit and are asked to train their friends and family using the same hands-only CPR techniques they learned. For a listing of class dates, times and locations, visit www.duluthcpr.org.

Recreation Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers who are comfortable on the ice are needed to provide general assistance during the winter season at Bayfront and the Heritage Center. Schedules are flexible. Families and groups are invited to volunteer together. To schedule a volunteer time, please contact Cheryl Skafte at cskafte@duluthmn.gov or 218-730-4334.

Duluth Invasive Species Council:

Working to educate the community, to eradicate invasive plant populations, and to restore habitats to their native roots.

Individuals interested in getting involved in the Duluth Invasive Species Council are encouraged to email Cheryl Skafte at cskafte@duluthmn.gov to learn more. Volunteers are currently needed to help develop community education materials and signage.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Chester Bowl Downhill Skiing

Located in the heart of Duluth at 1800 East Skyline Parkway, Chester Bowl Ski Hill offers a wide variety of downhill skiing experiences. Daily lift tickets for all ages are \$5.25/per day. Besides being affordable, Chester Bowl is a great place to learn how to downhill ski for people of all ages. For more information go to <http://www.chesterbowl.org>

Cross-Country Ski Trails

Chester Bowl Ski Trail (Skate/Classic)

Access: 1800 E Skyline Parkway

Length: 2.8K

Level of Difficulty: Advanced

Hartley Ski Trail (Double Tracked Classic)

Access: 3001 Woodland Ave

Length: 5.3K

Level of Difficulty: Intermediate

Lester-Amity Ski Trail (Skate/Classic)

Access: lower Seven Bridges Rd or E Superior St & Lester River Rd

Length: 11K/4.3K Lighted Ski Trail

Level of Difficulty: Beginner to Advanced

Lester Park Golf Course (Skate/Skijoring)

Access: 1860 Lester River Rd

Length: 4K

Level of Difficulty: Beginner

Magney-Snively Ski Trail (Skate/ Classic)

Access: 9758 W Skyline Parkway

Length: 13.2K

Level of Difficulty: Intermediate to Advanced

Piedmont Ski Trail (1K Skate/Classic; 4.5K Double Tracked Classic)

Access: 2225 Hutchinson Rd

Length: 1K/4.5K

Level of Difficulty: Beginner to Advanced

Spirit Mountain Ski Trail (Skate/Classic; does not require a DNR Ski Pass)*

Access: 9758 W Skyline Parkway

Length: 16.7K/1K Lighted Ski Trail

Level of Difficulty: Beginner to Advanced

**Visit spiritmt.com for maps and more information on winter sport activities.*

For more information, call the City of Duluth Winter Ski Trail Hotline at (218) 730-4321. Or visit www.duluthxc.com for ski trail maps, grooming updates, and calendar of events. A Minnesota Ski Pass (\$6/daily or \$20/annual) is required for skiers age 16+ on City of Duluth ski trails. Get your pass by calling 888-665-4236 or online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/skipass/index.html. Passes are also available at any DNR license outlet.

Snowmobile Trails

For more snowmobile trail information and maps, visit www.snowmobiletrails.com/local.htm

Duluth Cross Town Trail - West Section – 33 miles

Trail access at Hwy 23 and 131st Avenue West or Grand Avenue and 72nd Avenue West

Maintained by Over the Hill Night Riders Snowmobile Club

Duluth Cross Town Trail - East Section – 2 miles

Trail access at 61st Avenue East and Lester River Road

Maintained by Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club

Mountain Biking in Duluth

Mountain biking in Duluth is a fun and challenging adventure. We currently have 30 miles of single-track biking in Duluth with trails located at Piedmont, Hartley Park, Brewer Park, Spirit Mountain, and Lester Park. Mont du Lac Recreation Area also has mountain bike trails. To download a mountain bike trail map go to the COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gummi Shores) website at <http://www.coggs.com/trails.php>

Take a Hike! On Duluth's City Trails

- Chester Park Trails - 1800 East Skyline Parkway
- Congdon Park Trails - 32nd Ave East and Superior Street
- Grassy Point Trail - end of Leisure Street
- Hartley Park Trails - 3001 Woodland Ave
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve - 4000 E Skyline Parkway
- Kingsbury Creek Trail - Dead end of Waseca Street
- Lakewalk - Canal Park to Brighton Beach
- Lester Park Trail - 60th Ave East and Superior Street
- Lincoln Park Trail - Lincoln Park Drive and West 3rd Street
- Magney-Snively Trail - 1/4 mi west 100 Ave West and Skyline Parkway
- Park Point Trail - end of Minnesota Ave
- Piedmont Trail - Adirondack and Hutchinson Rd
- Western Waterfront Trail - 7300 block off Grand Ave/Pulaski St

Skateboard Park at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex

The skateboard park is open for use 7 days a week, weather permitting, until 10 pm. Skateboarders, in-line skaters and bikers are all welcome. Indoor vending machines and bathrooms are available. Deck observation and seating area are also available.

Location: The skateboard park: 35th Avenue West and Grand Avenue. Skate ramps are also located at Gary New Duluth, Keene Creek Park, Midtown Park and the Depot parking lot.

Disc Golf Course

People wanting to play disc golf can use the nine-basket course at Miller Creek Disc Golf Course by Lake Superior College (2101 Trinity Rd) and a nine-basket course at the Morgan Park Community Recreation Center (1242 88th Ave W).

Playgrounds

Bayfront Festival Park / Playfront
Playground--- South 5th Ave W & RR St
Blackmer --- Beverly St & 84th Ave W
Cascade --- 6th St & 1st Ave W
Central Hillside --- Lake Ave & 4th St
Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway
Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St
Endion --- 1602 E 2nd St
Fairmont --- 72nd Ave W & Grand
Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St
Franklin --- 12th St & Minnesota Ave
Grant --- 901 E 11th St
Grosvenor Square --- Pitt & 49th Ave E
Harrison --- 3002 W 3rd St
Hillside Sport Center --- 408 E 8th St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Keene Creek --- Bristol St & 63rd Ave W

Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Lester --- 61st Ave E & Superior St
Lilliput --- 315 E 5th St
Lincoln --- 25th Ave W & 5th St
Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St
Morgan Park --- 1242-88th Ave W
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W
Observation --- 914 W 3rd St
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St
Portland Square --- 4th St & 10th Ave E
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Riverside --- 55 Cato St
Washington Sq. --- Superior St & 43rd Ave E
Wheeler Field --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Parks and Recreation can provide additional information concerning recreational activities, maps, and updated schedules for special activities by going to our website at www.duluthmn.gov/parks Where listed, please use the phone numbers or call the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.

***Enjoy our fantastic parks, playgrounds,
and outdoor spaces!***