



Good News from Parks and Recreation July 2013

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

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

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Recreation and Special Events

Annual Park Point Sandmodeling Contest Summer Beach Bash and Water Safety Expo Thursday, July 18 at the Park Point Recreation Area

Parks and Recreation will hold the Annual Sandmodeling/Summer Beach Bash and Water Safety Expo on Thursday, July 18th from 11:00-4:00 PM.

Annual Sandmodeling Contest: Sandmodeling teams are invited to create their own works of art in the sand from 11:00-1:30. Bring your shovels, pails, creativity and build a work of art. A panel of judges will review all the sand sculptures with prizes given in several categories. The YMCA will be on hand to coordinate activities such as a beach tug of war, hula hoop contest, water balloon toss, treasure hunt, beach volleyball, field games, and face painting. Live music will also be provided.

Water Safety Expo: The event will take place at the Park Point Beach House which is located at 45th Street and Minnesota Avenue. The Water Safety Expo is **FREE** to the public. There will be informational booths, games, with several demonstrations on safety topics such as rescue boards, throw rings, life jacket fittings, and more. Other demonstrations will include weather safety, rip currents, and kayaking. Various organizations will provide guests with tips on how to stay safe at the beach this summer, including information about severe weather, hypothermia, and, of course – rip currents. Organizations include Duluth YMCA Lifeguards, Northland Red Cross, Amateur Radio Club, Duluth Fire Department, National Weather Service, Duluth Power Squadron, Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant, Essentia Health/SMDC, MN Department of Health, Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project, UMD Recreational Sports Outdoor Program, US Coast Guard Duluth, USCG Auxiliary.

This event is sponsored by City of Duluth Parks and Recreation, YMCA, and MN and WI Sea Grant.



Annual Park Point Sandmodeling Contest/Summer Beach Bash and Water Safety Expo

Thursday, July 18 • Park Point Beach
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

It's time to have some fun in the sun!

Bring your shovels, pails, creativity and build a work of art in the sand from 11:00-1:30. Prizes will be given in several categories. Join the YMCA in a beach zumba exercise routine, beach tug of war, hula hoop contest, water balloon toss, treasure hunt, beach volleyball, field games, and face painting.

Water Safety Expo

Learn how to be safe in the water. There will be games and several demonstrations on safety topics such as rescue boards, throw rings, life jackets plus demonstrations on weather safety, rip currents and kayaking. Learn tips on how to stay safe at the beach this summer, including information about severe weather, and hypothermia.



Youth Soccer Team from Columbia Visit Duluth's Heritage Sports Center Wednesday, July 10th

On Wednesday, July 10, approximately 60 young athletes, from Primavera Camping Tours (PCT) Colombia visited Duluth and the Duluth Heritage Sports Center (DHSC) during a stopover on their way to participate in the Schwan's USA Cup Soccer Tournament in Blaine, MN.

While, in town, the PCT Colombian youth, ages 10 – 16 years old, will be treated to an ice cream social, have a chance to skate on the DHSC's Sill Arena ice, kick the soccer ball around on the Seitz Arena turf and tour the Duluth Children's Museum, before they head south to the Blaine area. The Duluth stopover was arranged through the City of Duluth Parks by former Minnesota native Daniel Skillings, who is PCT Colombia's general manager. This event is being hosted by both the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department and the Heritage Sports Center.

According to the information released by PCT Colombia, their trek to the United States is an annual event. For more than 25 years, Skillings has brought teams north to participate in the USA Cup, a youth soccer event that has attracted teams from all over the world. More than 500 teams are registered to participate in this year's program. PCT Colombia has entered seven of those teams.

Major sponsors of this event are the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation, the Duluth Heritage Sports Center, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Children's Museum.

Chester Creek Concert 31st Season

Celebrate Duluth's 31st season of the Chester Creek Concert Series. The season line up of singers such as Charlie Parr, Sarah Krueger and Band, and Rock a Billy Revue will provide lots of music entertainment throughout the summer. Here is the summer concert line up.

2013 Chester Creek Concert Series

- July 16 Matt Ray and Those Damn Horses
 - July 23 Rock a Billy Revue
 - July 30 Sound Incorporated
 - August 6 Busterville
- *Rain Dates August 13 and 20

Admission is free. Everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating, while enjoying the beautiful outdoor setting of Chester Bowl located at 1800 East Skyline Parkway. All concerts will be held from 7:00-8:30 PM throughout the summer every Tuesday night until August 6th.

Please call, after 6:00 PM, the Chester Creek Concert Hotline at 218-730-4326 or go on our Facebook page by going to www.duluthmn.gov/parks to check for weather related cancellations.

Movies in the Park at Leif Erikson Park Starts this Friday

Movies in the Park will be held on Friday evenings beginning July 12th in Duluth's Leif Erikson Park. The movie starts approximately 15 minutes after sunset on a 40X20 foot outdoor screen. Go to www.downtownduluth.com to check for cancellations.

- July 12 - Thor
- July 19 - X-Men First Class
- July 26 - The Incredibles
- Aug 2 - The Amazing Spiderman
- Aug 9 - The Dark Knight

- Aug 16 - Superman 2 (The Richard Donner Cut)
- Aug 23 - Iron Man 2
- Aug 30 - Labor Day Weekend - no movie
- Sept 6 - The Avengers

Summer Turf Time at the Heritage Sports Center

Location: Duluth Heritage Sports Center, 120 30th Ave West

UMD Athletes, Park Staff and Men as Peacemakers will assist youth groups and their adult leaders in character development activities and sports oriented games on the indoor Turf Facility. A variety of equipment, participants and discussion topics make this a fun and interesting opportunity for all involved who desire active play with NO Weather worries! Snack provided!

Summer Session Dates: June 20-August 22

Time: Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

Ages: 7-17

Cost: Free

Contact: Call 730-4322 for more information. Call-in reservation is suggested to save you a spot and a registration/permission form must be signed the day of the activity.

Fun Opportunities for Groups and Families at the BAYFRONT FAMILY CENTER!

Bayfront Festival Park is a great place for people to go with friends and family almost any time! Take a walk around the festival grounds, stage and past the harbor... Play on the biggest, most innovative playground in Duluth... Check out the **Family Center**, open Monday-Thursday from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM, which has sheltered seating, extra bathrooms, and vending machines. Recreational equipment is available for people to use, free of charge, and includes Frisbee Golf, Kites, Volleyball Sets, Kickballs, Croquet, and more.

Dates: May 27-September 19th

Contact: Call 730-4322 for more information

Re-Leaf program encourages residents to plant affordable boulevard trees

The City of Duluth recognizes the value of urban trees and is committed to planting trees in order to expand our urban forest. Re-Leaf Duluth is our resident cost share street tree planting program that provides affordable boulevard trees to citizens. If you have a boulevard (strip of grass between the street and sidewalk), and it is at least four feet wide, you may qualify for this program. Trees cost \$25 and will be planted by the City Forestry Crew. The City will also provide tree stakes and mulch, but ask that homeowners take responsibility for watering the tree during the first two years after planting. Watering each week during the first years after planting is critical to the survival of the tree. Trees ordered after June 1st will be planted in the fall. Visit www.duluthmn.gov/parks/re-leaf/ to place an order.

Parks and Recreation Summer Heritage Skating

The Parks and Recreation sponsored summer skating sessions will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 pm every Wednesday until the end of August. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West. These sessions are **free** and open to the public for pleasure skating. Please bring your own skates.

Play Gym at Duluth Heights

Unstructured, free, rain or shine playtime for preschoolers. Play Gym is held every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center, 33 Mulberry St. For more information, call 730-4322.

Administration

Hartley Pond Inspection Report Available

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has completed inspections of the dam impounding Hartley Pond before and after the flood of 2012. The inspection reports that vegetation on the earthen dam and in the spillway must be removed. City of Duluth Park Maintenance staff will be performing a clearing of the earthen dam and spillway in the summer of 2013. For more information, contact 218-730-4491 or 218-730-4303.

Erosional Effects of Vegetation on Earthen Dams

Constructed of local, non-organic material, earthen dams can function effectively for many years as long as erosion, the largest threat to an earthen dam, is controlled. Though there can be several causes of earthen dam erosion, the most common and widespread is problem vegetation growth. Trees and woody vegetation can make a dam susceptible to erosion in several ways:

- The decaying roots of dying vegetation create a seepage path in the embankment for stored water or wastewater. This path can lead to internal erosion (piping) of the embankment.
- Woody vegetation shades the embankment and reduces dense grass coverage, which can make affected areas more prone to erosion
- Woody vegetation loosens compacted soils of the embankment
- Roots can penetrate existing cracks and joints in the foundation rock and embankment, potentially leading to internal erosion and seepage.

Hydraulic Effects of Vegetation on Earthen Dams

Like any other type of dam, earthen dams are designed to manage a certain amount of water. Proper management requires that all the hydraulic structures work to their design capacity. Trees and woody vegetation can impair the hydraulic efficiency of the dam in several ways:

- Uprooted or overturned trees and large brush reduce the freeboard of the reservoir
- Vegetation in the emergency spillway reduces the spillway capacity
- Uprooted trees displace a large amount of soil, lowering the dam crest and reducing the effective width of the dam.
- Falling trees and large vegetation can damage dam facilities, such as the emergency spillway and outlet structures.

Dam Inspection Effects of Vegetation on Earthen Dams

Operational inspections are conducted regularly to ensure proper function and integrity of the dam crest, slope, outlets, channel, spillway, and toe. The inspection relies heavily on observation to determine seepage, cracks, slumps, and similar hazards. As such, problem vegetation can decrease the effectiveness of an inspection in many ways:

- Dense ground cover obscures animal burrows, which can undermine dam integrity
- Dense ground cover obscures dam defects.
- Heavy vegetation limits access to critical inspection areas.

Viking Ship to be Moved

The City of Duluth will be moving the "Viking Ship" out of Leif Erikson Park on Thursday, July 11th. The ship will be temporarily stored at the City's 42nd Ave West Toolhouse until a final location is determined and a secure structure to house the ship is constructed. Viant Crane will be on site this Thursday, beginning at 6:00 AM, to move the ship. It is anticipated that the move will take all morning, possibly into the afternoon. This section of the Lakewalk will be closed to pedestrian traffic during the moving of the ship. The City has established an alternate Lakewalk route along London Road and the Rose Garden. We ask the public to please follow the signs designating the detour. The Police Department and the City of Duluth Parks Maintenance staff will escort the ship along First Street until it is out of the downtown area.

Volunteer Events and Information

Duluth Invasive Species Team to Target Garlic Mustard

The public had the opportunity to learn about an invasive terrestrial plant that is making its home in Duluth - garlic mustard. Typically, garlic mustard flowers arrive in late April to early May, but with the uncharacteristically cool spring, Duluth's patches have held off until June. The weed is among the most noxious in Minnesota, forming a dense carpet that can crowd out tree seedlings and native wildflowers. It is particularly troublesome because it infests shaded areas, which is unusual for invasive plant species. "At first glance, one might mistake it for Creeping Charlie," says Mark Tomshack, one of five Invasive Species Management Interns serving with the City of Duluth this summer. Its appearance is characterized by small, round, scalloped-edged evergreen leaves in its first year. Second-year plants have larger, arrow-shaped leaves. The second-year plants also bolt to heights of up to two feet and produce a small, white, four-petaled flower. "Other giveaways are that the leaves and stems will smell like onion or garlic when crushed, and when you gently pull up its root, it has a quirky bend to it," adds Tomshack. Currently, there are only two known patches of garlic mustard, both located in east hillside neighborhoods. There could be more, warns Tomshack, stressing the importance of community education and awareness. "This is a long-term problem," he explains. "Getting rid of even a single patch is a multi-year effort."

For more information, please contact Cheryl Skafte, Volunteer Coordinator, City of Duluth, at cskaft@duluthmn.gov or 218-393-9879. Those seeking more information about garlic mustard and other non-native plants are encouraged to visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/garlicmustard.html>.

Duluth Invasive Species Council

The informal Duluth Invasive Species Council has been busy this spring and summer educating the public and getting at some invasive plants.

The City of Duluth's Invasive Species program has enlisted five summer interns who be taking a lot of initiative on specific projects (see below). Returning from previous semesters are Steph Gibeau, UMD and Mark Tomshack, CSS. New this summer are Jonathan Afhls, UMD; Sarah Allen, CSS; and Matt Detjen, UMD. Welcome aboard!

Want to get involved with the work of the Duluth Invasive Species Council? Check out the action teams below!

The Duluth Terrestrial Invasive Management Plan

Help outline and develop the local management plan for terrestrial invasive populations. This document will complement the EAB Plan and the Master Tree Plan. You can get involved with all three or just one!

-- Terrestrial Invasive Management Plan: Contact intern Mark Tomshack at mtomshac@css.edu

-- EAB Plan or Master Tree Plan: Contact Judy Gibbs at jgibbs@duluthmn.gov

Buckthorn Trackers

Help map the density of buckthorn throughout all of Hartley Park in summer 2013! Can we do it? With your help we can! Call Cheryl at 218-730-4334 or email cskafte@duluthmn.gov

Getting Rid of Garlic Mustard and Bamboo

Help raise awareness and help eradicate some Garlic Mustard and Bamboo by emailing Judy Gibbs at jgibbs@duluthmn.gov

Website and Educational Materials

Want to get others to understand the importance of our efforts? Help with our website and/or educational material development! Get involved by calling Shawna at 218-730-4311 or email at smulleneardley@duluthmn.gov

Lakewalk Visitor Counts and Origin Survey Begins

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation is working closely with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coalition (GMRPTC) with the goal of conducting a visitor count and origin survey of Lakewalk visitors. The City hopes that the project will provide statistically representative and useful data on visitor origin; along with beginning the process of documenting uses and preferences of Lakewalk visitors.

The Lakewalk Visitor Counts began on Memorial Day and will continue through Labor Day. There are a dozen access points that have been identified from the Canal to 26th Ave E. The Lakewalk Count is a part of the 2011 Legislature initiated study (called the 175 Study) that directed the GMRPTC to “establish protocols to determine the origin of visitors, and project potential use of Greater Minnesota’s regional parks & trails.” The Lakewalk is one of the pilot sites where the count is happening this summer. It is thought that completion of the visitor count and origin survey protocol will be a requirement for *established* parks and trails when applying for support from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund.

Many existing practices and methods were reviewed to determine the most appropriate protocols for Regional Park and Trail managing agencies in Greater MN, including MN DNR, Met Council, National Park Service, MN DOT, Bike Walk Twin Cities, National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project, and others. Based upon this review, protocols developed by the Met Council have been modified for use in Greater MN.

Volunteers needed! Want to assist in the collection of information? Contact Cheryl Skafte, Volunteer Coordinator, City of Duluth, at 218-730-4334 or cskafte@duluthmn.gov for more information.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

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, 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 web site at <http://www.coggs.com/trails.php>

Park Point Beach/Swimming

Park Point Beach, located at the end of Park Point, is the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation's sanctioned swimming beach and is staffed with life guards from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Life guards are on duty seven days a week, weather permitting, until the last week in August.

Another option for swimming is Twin Ponds located near Enger Tower on Skyline Parkway. No lifeguards are on duty at Twin Ponds.

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 available. Deck observation and seating area 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 Miller Creek Disc Golf Course by Lake Superior College and a nine basket course at the Morgan Park Community Recreation Center.

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 Lesure 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 60th Ave East
- 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

Youth Golf at Lester and Enger Golf Course

Lester Park Golf Course: 525 – 0828

Enger Park Golf Course: 723 – 3451

www.golfinduluth.com

Both Enger and Lester golf courses offer a Junior Golf Program.

Junior Golf League

League play only for youth ready to play on the main golf courses. Team play based on age and skill.

League is not designated for beginners. Must be 9 years old.

Fee: \$30/per player with season pass, \$60 per player without season pass.

Date: June through August

Free Junior Golf Clinics:

This program is designed for all youth golfers. Event will be held on driving ranges and will feature many skilled adult volunteers and golf professionals as instructors. No sign up necessary just come out.

Junior Golf Lessons:

This program is designed to take a player through all aspects of the game of golf. Kids will receive instruction on putting, driving, irons etc.

Dates: June-July

Time: mornings

Cost: \$50

Soccer Fields

Arlington --- 601 S Arlington Ave

Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway

Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St

Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W

Jean Duluth (Lake Park Fields) --- Riley & Jean Duluth

Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave

Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St

Rose --- Rose & Livingston St

Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Baseball Fields

Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St

Gary/Stowe --- 801- 101st Ave W

Como Park (Glen Avon) --- 2403 Woodland Ave

Wade Stadium --- 35th Ave W & 1st St

Wheeler #5 --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave

Woodland ---3211 Allendale Ave

Softball Fields

Blackmer --- Beverly St & 84th Ave W
Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway
Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Wheeler --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave
Central Hillside --- Lake Ave & 4th St
Fond Du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St
Tennis Courts:
Endion --- 1602 E 2nd St
Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St
Harrison --- 3000 W 3rd St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Keene Creek --- Bristol St & 63rd Ave W
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Longview --- 326 N 25th Ave E
Wheeler --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Basketball Courts

Gary New Duluth --- 801-101st Ave W
Grant --- 901 E 11th St
Harrison --- 3000 W 3rd St
Hillside Sport Center --- 408 E 8th St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Lincoln Park --- 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
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Riverside --- 55 Cato St
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

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 Square --- 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.