



## Good News from Parks and Recreation March 2013

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

Trail and Bikeway Plan - [http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail\\_bikeway\\_master\\_plan.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm)

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - [http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master\\_plan.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm)

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** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

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

We are working on obtaining a Parks Twitter account to improve communication with the public. The City already has a Twitter account – sign up at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/>

*Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission*

*Annual Meeting, April 3, 2013 at 5:00 PM*

*Public Safety Building*

*2030 North Arlington Avenue*

*Hear about your Parks Fund at work during 2012,  
updates on repairs to flood-damaged parks and trails,  
and what is planned for 2013.*

## *Recreation and Special Events*

**For updated information on cross country ski trail conditions,  
Call the City's Trails Hotline at 730-4321.**

The cross country ski trails are in excellent condition. Spring skiing should be very good.

### **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>. **The last day the ski hill will be open is Sunday, March 17 from 11 am to 4:30 pm.**

### **Parks and Recreation Heritage Skating**

The Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM every Wednesday until the end of May. 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. We also have special skating opportunities on Early Release School Days.

### **Parks and Recreation Adult Softball Team Registration Now Open**

Duluth Parks and Recreation is now taking registrations for Adult Softball teams (men, women, and co-rec) for Wheeler Field. Teams can register by contacting Rick McArthur at 218-310-4553 or email [mac465@hotmail.com](mailto:mac465@hotmail.com) for more information. The league cost is \$600 which includes league fees, umpires and softballs for the season. The registration deadline is April 5th with league play beginning early May.

### **Play Gym at Duluth Heights**

Unstructured, free, rain or shine playtime for preschoolers. There have been a total of 16 new families and one early childhood/ special needs teacher that has made use of the Play Gym at Duluth Heights in the past three months. It has been suggested that a second morning be added, though a parent volunteer who can work with us needs to be found.

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.

**Ice Rink Update:** All ice rinks are now closed for the season.

Bayfront just recently closed. It lasted the entire month of February, which has not been the case for most of the past five years! Also, it stayed in excellent shape through the entire winter and this was a first for at least five years! Record numbers of participants and a good reception of some to the additional activity options of snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sliding, and art projects.

Hockey organizations have begun to close down. All reported great seasons because of the steady winter weather that kept the ice in great condition.

### **New Kid Centered Rental Activity Fee Established**

Four Youth rentals at the new "kid-centered activity" rental fee of \$50/4-hour time slot have already occurred, with more coming up! Feedback has initially been very positive and appreciative. A special information pamphlet that details the types of activities that qualify, as well as the special equipment and opportunities that exist at Duluth Heights for these kinds of items will be published soon.

### **Parks and Recreation Spring Break Skating Schedule for Bayfront Park and the Heritage Sports Center**

Spring Programming is being planned and will start with activities during Spring Break, every day on both Turf and Ice.

The Parks and Recreation spring break skating sessions at the Heritage Sports Center will be held daily from 2:00-4:00 PM from April 8-12. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West.

These sessions are free and open to all ages for pleasure skating.

Monday, April 8 @ 2:00-4:00 PM  
Tuesday, April 9 @ 2:00-4:00PM  
Wednesday, April 10 @ 2:00-4:00 PM  
Thursday, April 11 @ 2:00-4:00 PM  
Friday, April 12 @ 2:00-4:00 PM

### **Spring is near! Time to sign up for Duluth's Annual Clean and Green**

Duluth's annual Clean & Green community clean-up will be taking place from April 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> this year. Throughout this week, community groups and volunteers coordinate spring cleaning events in city parks, neighborhoods, business districts and waterfronts. Mayor Don Ness hopes to achieve a goal of 1000 hours of volunteerism throughout the city during Clean & Green Week this year, and in doing so, get our city cleaned and ready for another wonderful summer.

Community groups and individuals are invited and encouraged to participate in this city-wide endeavor. Contact Cheryl Skafte at the Duluth Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4334 or [cskafte@duluthmn.gov](mailto:cskafte@duluthmn.gov) to sign up your group, to volunteer your time, or if you have any questions. Together, as a community, we can make a difference.

## *Administration*

### **Community Club Presidents' Meeting**

This is the first Community Club Presidents meeting in a very long time. It will be held on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center. So far almost every Club is sending a representative.

### **City of Duluth Awarded "Growth Award"**

The Tree City USA Growth Award is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects, increased commitment resources for urban forestry, and provides an opportunity to share new ideas and successes across the country.

There are several activities that cities can submit to receive the Growth Award. There are many categories available, and each activity is given a point value. When you receive enough points, you earn a growth award. Each activity submitted has to be a new activity, started this year. The City of Duluth qualified because of the new parks referendum money and the official designation of the Web Woods trail. Receiving the award signifies that the City of Duluth has taken steps toward increasing their commitment to a maintaining a healthy urban forest.

### **Park Maintenance Staff Begins Pruning of City Trees**

Tree pruning season is upon us again, and the friendly faces of our parks maintenance staff can be seen pruning our boulevard trees all around the city. The goal of pruning public trees is to make them as safe and healthy as possible and to minimize conflicts with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, road signs, and buildings. Therefore, pruning is both beneficial and necessary. City staff strives to create clearance of 14 feet over the street and 10 feet over the sidewalk. Any dead or diseased limbs are also removed. This prevents them from falling and causing damage or injury, and it also reduces the risk of decay or disease entering the rest of the tree. Structural defects are also corrected whenever possible and hazardous trees are evaluated for removal. Finally, branches are pruned back from buildings and away from overhead utility lines. There are many things to evaluate before beginning pruning of each tree. Location, surrounding environment, the current condition of the tree, size of the tree, and the species are all taken into consideration before any branch is pruned. Every tree is unique, and each one will have a different course of action when it comes to pruning. Each and every cut made is deliberate and well thought-out.

Our City is fortunate to have a staff of skilled professionals, many of whom are DNR certified Tree Inspectors and International Society of Arboriculture certified Arborists that leave our trees safer and more beautiful.

### **Public Invited to Discuss Plan for Chester Creek**

The public was invited to provide input on two options for the restoration of Chester Creek within Chester Bowl Park. This meeting was held on Wednesday, February 27th from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Central Hillside Center located at 12 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. **The plan is posted on the Parks web site to encourage additional comments from the public.**

### **\$86,000 Available to the Community in Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants**

The City will make \$86,000 available as part of the Parks Fund to support projects and initiatives which will 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 maximum grant to be awarded is \$5,000 per request. The City is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation on this granting program. Grant applications are due on April 1, 2013. To download the application, go to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

<http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/apply-for-a-grant-2>

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee with recommendations for funding presented to the Parks Commission then for final approval from 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 to fulfill the essential recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental needs that create a dynamic community; and
- Encourage both financial and volunteer efforts.

Priority is 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.
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