



Good News from PARKS AND RECREATION

OCTOBER 2014



Parks and Recreation Resources and Links

Parks and Recreation Website

www.duluthmn.gov/parks

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

duluthmn.gov/parks/master-plan

Trail and Bikeway Plan

duluthmn.gov/parks/trailsbikeways/trails-bikeways-master-plan

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan

Like us on FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/pages/DuluthParksMN/210522078966064

Sign Up for all Parks and Recreation press releases, this newsletter, and other City announcements at www.duluthgov.info/db_frames/web_subscriptions.

RECREATION

September was a month to catch up, reorganize and continue planning for the new season. Bayfront closed and School-Year Skating started. At the end of September, we partnered with Wilderness Inquiry and several other environmental agencies in a Voyager Canoe and St. Louis River information event for three days: two days of the event allowed every 7th grader in Duluth to participate in numerous learning stations and paddle on the St. Louis River. On the third day of the event, those learning stations and canoe opportunities were offered to the general public, with over 100 canoe rides given. Chambers Grove was also full of bicyclists- some there for competitive events and some there just to ride the trails.

October will see extra skating opportunities on the 16th & 17th from 2-4 for the MEA school holiday. There will also be a Halloween Skating special event on Wednesday, October 29th, with a DJ, Costume Contest, "Haunted" Locker Rooms, Face-painting, a Mad Science Lab, Pumpkin Walks and treats. Hockey organizations are jumping into the season with both feet running, Community Clubs are resuming their meetings and forward thinking after a wonderful Neighborhood Picnic season and the City's Park Fund Grant application process has begun.

SENIOR SERVICES

CALLING ALL CENTENARIANS!!!

The City of Duluth Parks & Recreation Division is looking forward to honoring those who turn 100 years or older in 2014 at the annual 100 Year Birthday Party Celebration. This event will be held on October 16th at 10:00 AM during the "Senior Expo" at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC). The public is invited to attend.

At the time of this writing, there are thirteen guests expected, with the potential for a few more. They come with interesting stories and a rich heritage of lives long-lived. This year there will be two new sisters on the guest list – Margaret Kreager and Violet Norman. Also joining the party again will be our lone male, Millard LaJoy. Mr. LaJoy is a local musician living in his own home who attended last year and is excited to return at age 101 with his ukulele and his son on guitar. The two will treat us to some music during the party. Another new member of the "Centenarian Club" is Janet Petersen – a.k.a. "Mrs. Pete", retired Denfeld High School physical education teacher. Jan, also residing in her own residence, will liven up the stage with her enthusiasm. These are just a few of the people that will fascinate you with the history they have experienced along with the outlook that helped carry them to 100+ years of living.

Mayor Don Ness will be on hand with emcees Dan Hanger and Diane Alexander of Fox 21 in reading biographies and presenting guests with a framed certificate from the City of Duluth. Following the on-stage activities will be birthday cake and coffee served first to the 100-year-olds and their families. Audience members will then enjoy the remaining cake or delicious cupcakes for as long as they last. Refreshments are sponsored by the AEOA Senior Dining Program and RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program).

Come early at 9:30 AM to Pioneer Hall as talented musician, Todd Eckart, warms up the crowd with music from the Rat Pack era. Close your eyes and you will think they are in the room with you! Todd will also be around to lead a rousing version of "The Birthday Song" at the end of the birthday party for a memorable experience for both the centenarian and their families.

For more information on the party, contact Gail Walkowiak at 218.730.4306 or gwalkowiak@duluthmn.gov. For information on the Duluth Senior Expo, contact Tracy Lundeen at 218.727.1177 or www.seniorexpoduluth.com.

AARP DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASSES FOR OCTOBER

Are you a licensed driver age 55 or older, and wanting a discount on your car insurance? If so, join us in October for AARP's Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher Class at your choice of two sites and dates. This is for qualified drivers that have previously attended the AARP 8-Hour Class for defensive driving. Evergreen Senior Center will host a refresher class on Tuesday, October 14th, from 1-5 PM and Portman Senior Center will host the same class on Wednesday, October 22nd, from 1-5 PM. AARP members pay a \$15 class fee; non-members pay a \$20 class fee.

Is this your first time taking the AARP Defensive Driving Class? If so, we have good news for you! Evergreen Senior Center will host the two-day course from 1-5 PM on October 28th and 29th. Registrants must attend all eight hours over both days for a course certificate.

Pre-registration is required. Call 218.730.4319 to sign up. Classes brought to you by AARP and the City of Duluth Parks & Recreation Division.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

Two and a half years after the 2012 flood, repairs to the Bike Path in Congdon Park have begun. Construction engineers arrived at the top of the Trail off Vermilion on Monday, September 29th, to begin the work. Construction is expected to be complete before the snow flies.

Another flood repair update: the paved bike path in Lincoln Park that had been damaged in the flood was repaired recently in a combination effort of volunteers and city staff. Check it out!

The westward expansion of the Lakewalk from Canal Park to the Heritage Sports Facility at 30th Avenue West is nearly complete at this writing. There will be a grand opening of this section of paved, off-road bikeway in the near future.

Work has begun on London Road in the restriping project which involves removing some concrete barriers, repaving, and then removing old lane stripes. New striping will include bike lanes after lanes are reduced. The work is expected to be complete this fall.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Thank you to the following groups and individuals who contributed their time and talent to parks!

UMD Outdoor Recreation Program

Clean and Green and Invasive Projects in Lincoln Park

Phi Sigma Sigma – UMD Chapter

Rose Garden Beautification Projects

Northwood Children’s Home – Timberwolves Team

Tree Planting event along Cross City Trail

Gamma Sigma Sigma – UMD Chapter

Tree Planting event along Cross City Trail

UMD SERVE

Tree Planting event along the Cross City Trail

College of St. Scholastica’s Annual Community Day

Over 140 volunteers at six community projects, including the Traverse Trail, Rose Garden, Lakewalk, Bayfront Park, Edible Duluth’s Emerald Garden, and the Adopt-a-Spot Ordean Courtyard garden.



Volunteers from the College of St. Scholastica brave the rainy weather to plant trees along the Cross City Trail.



Park Maintenance staff teach youth from the Boys and Girls Club about seed saving.

Boys and Girls Club of the Northland

Harvesting beans from the Library Circle Gardens on Michigan Street, in collaboration with the Duluth Public Library’s Seed Saving Library program.

Cub Scout Pack 3043

Clean and Green litter pick-up in Lester Park.

Dan Proctor, Luke Sharman, Luke Moravec and David Pagel

Chester Creek trail culvert work



St. Scholastica Community Day volunteers help out at the Ordean Courtyard gardens, an Adopt-a-Spot location.



Community Volunteers

Volunteers have been helping out at our ongoing Duluth Invader events – over a dozen individuals assisted in our Bamboo Blastings in September.

Clean and Green – Register your Clean-Up Today: Individuals and families, as well as school, faith, and community groups, are encouraged to register your organization for a Clean and Green 2014 project. Once registered, you'll receive garbage bags, gloves, and access to clean-up tools and equipment. Groups willing to clean in early spring are encouraged to schedule their clean-up according to anticipated snowmelt, with flexibility for changing conditions. Groups are also encouraged to register for multiple clean-ups of a specific park or location throughout the summer and fall season (April – November).

Ready to register? Please visit www.duluthmn.gov/parks/volunteers and complete the *Clean and Green Request Form*. You'll be asked to indicate any geographic preferences. However, if you do not have a specific location you'd like to clean, one can be assigned to you, depending on group size, age, and time availability. Completed *Clean and Green Request Forms* should be sent to cskaft@duluthmn.gov. Please contact Cheryl Skaft, Volunteer Coordinator, at 218-730-4334 with any questions.



Volunteer CPR Program – Sign-up for a training today! The Duluth Fire Department is partnering with Duluth Parks and Recreation to host a series of community training sessions on the basics of Hands-

Only CPR. Training is free of charge and takes approximately 40 minutes. Participants are invited to take the pledge and train their friends and family using the same hands-only CPR techniques they learned.



Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Skaft, and Duluth Firefighter Dan Sarvi at the American Heart Association's Duluth HeartWalk.

Duluth Invader Events Scheduled for October and November. You can get involved with our service initiative to educate, eradicate and restore our community on the impact of invasive, non-native terrestrial plants. Throughout October and early-November, volunteers are invited to help remove Buckthorn and Japanese Knotweed from various park locations. These volunteer events take place every Tuesday from 5-6:30PM. Dates and locations are listed below.



- Oct. 14 | Hartley Nature Center
- Oct. 21 | Western Waterfront & Pulaski
- Oct. 28 | Irving Park & Main Street
- Nov. 4 | Chester Park (parking lot)
- Nov. 11 | Lester Park (parking lot)

The Duluth Invaders service initiative is dedicated to slowing the spread of terrestrial, invasive plants through education, eradication and restoration. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and should dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is encouraged as service locations may change and are weather dependent. RSVP to Cheryl Skaft at (218) 730-4334 or cskaft@duluthmn.gov.

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 in 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 E & Superior St
Grassy Point Trail --- end of Leisure Street
Hartley Park Trails --- 3001 Woodland Ave
Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve --- 4000 E Skyline Pkwy
Kingsbury Creek Trail --- Dead end of Waseca St
Lakewalk --- Canal Park to Brighton Beach
Lester Park Trail --- 60th Ave E and Superior St

Lincoln Park Trail --- Lincoln Park Dr and W 3rd St
Magney-Snively Trail --- 1/4 mile west of
100th Ave W and Skyline Pkwy
Park Point Trail --- end of Minnesota Ave
Piedmont Trail --- Adirondack & 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 areas are also available. The skateboard park is located at 35th Avenue West and Grand Avenue. Skate ramps are also located in Gary New Duluth, Keene Creek Park, and Midtown Park.

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 & Railroad 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 Second 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 Third 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 Third 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 Please use the phone numbers listed or call the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.