FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation

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DATE: 5/20/2021 SUBJECT: Lifeguarding Services to resume at Park Point Beach House BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer

Lifeguarding Services to resume at Park Point Beach House

[Duluth, MN] The City of Duluth and YMCA have partnered to bring lifeguarding services to the Park Point Beach House this summer. Lifeguards monitor safety conditions and provide residents and visitors a publicly accessible place to enjoy Lake Superior with trained and knowledgeable Lifeguards keeping watch. Lifeguard services will resume Memorial Day weekend and continue – through Labor Day on an updated schedule that provides more guard hours on typical high use days. Lifeguard services were funded through 2021 Tourism Tax allocations of \$25,000.

The Duluth Fire Department will continue to support lifeguarding and beach safety through managing flags, electronic signs and respond to emergencies. Flags and rescue stations will be in place and start May 26 for the season. Up to date beach conditions are posted on <u>www.parkpointbeach.org</u>.

"The Duluth Area Family YMCA is looking forward to our 13th season of providing lifeguarding services for our community and tourists at the Park Point Beach House," said Emily Ranta, Executive Director of the Duluth Area YMCA. "While Duluth summers are beautiful alongside Lake Superior, it is imperative that users understand the risks associated with big-water swimming, including cold water temperatures, sudden weather changes, and RIP currents. We encourage you and your family to come down to the beach house, enjoy time by the lake, and learn more about Great Lake water safety from our Waterfront Certified Lifeguards this summer!"

The public may access restrooms and use the Beach House during public hours when no special events are scheduled. Instead of concessions, food trucks will be onsite on select days to offer food and refreshments for purchase. Food trucks interested in provided such services should contact <u>https://secure.rec1.com/MN/duluthparks/catalog</u>.

"We appreciate the Duluth Y's commitment to beach safety and their willingness to continue to provide these important lifeguarding services to the public this Summer," said Alicia Watts, Parks, and Recreation Assistant Manager. "I'd also like to thank the Duluth Fire Department for their commitment to maintaining the flags as conditions change along the beach throughout the Summer."

The Park Point Beach House is also available for rentals through Parks and Recreation. More information can be found here (<u>https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-listing/park-point/</u>).

2021 Lifeguarding Hours:

May 29-31: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

June 5-6: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

June 12-30: Noon – 5:00 p.m. daily (No Lifeguards June 19)

July 1 - Sept. 3 Monday-Thursday noon-5:00 p.m., Friday - Sunday 11: 00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 4-6: Noon-5:00 p.m.

A digital version of this calendar: hours-of-operation-final-2021.pdf (duluthmn.gov).