



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-730-4309 | www.duluthmn.gov | Kathleen Bergen, Parks and Recreation Division Mgr.

For more information contact Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-4312

DATE: 11/17/2009

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation invites public to help with Master Plan

BY: Amy Norris

Parks and Recreation invites public to help with Master Plan.

The City of Duluth recently began work on a city-wide parks and recreation master plan. An invitation is being extended to the public to share thoughts and ideas regarding our parks and recreation opportunities in the city.

In conjunction with the park planning consultant, the Hoisington Koegler Group Inc, we are inviting the public to participate in this process - as individuals or representing volunteer groups, non-profit organizations, and other agencies. Community participation will help efforts to coordinate plans for parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs and will help identify priorities and partnership opportunities.

This vital Master Plan process will analyze our Parks and Recreation Division, inclusive of Parks Maintenance; forecast our current, short term, and long term facility needs and conditions; and recommend improvements with estimated costs associated with assembled results.

Surveys will be mailed to random community members to determine park use, satisfaction, needs, and preferences regarding park financing, park bond referendums, consolidation/improvements, communications, etc. In addition, an on-line questionnaire will be posted on the City website to obtain additional feedback.

Three community open house sessions will be held to obtain input and ideas on park and recreation needs, issues, opportunities, and actions.

- Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Central Hillside Community Center, 12 E 4th St
- Thursday, December 3, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Depot-Great Hall
506 West Michigan Street
- Thursday, December 3, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Portman Community Center, 4601 McCulloch St

- Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
City Center West, 5830 Grand Ave

In early spring, the draft report, inclusive of the needs assessment and survey results, will be presented to the Parks Commission for discussion and refinement. Following City staff review and any subsequent refinements, the Master Plan will be reviewed with the community through a community open house and a subsequent public hearing. The open house will allow those interested in the plan to review the work at their own pace and to engage in direct conversation with the consultants, City staff, and the Parks Commission. It is anticipated that City staff, and Park Commissioners will be active in the open house, representing their role in the creation of the plan and establishing a sense of ownership of the Plan. The Parks Master Plan will be presented to the City Council for final approval.

For more information on the Master Plan go to www.duluthmn.gov Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

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