

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Duluth Parks and Recreation



DULUTH PARKS

Fun Places, Great Spaces!



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CITY OF DULUTH

PARKS & RECREATION

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Duluth Parks and Recreation is to promote the health and wellbeing of our community, environment and economy by facilitating recreational opportunities and coordinating the enhancement of our parks, facilities and natural resources now and into the future.

VISION STATEMENT

Duluth Parks and Recreation will continue to be the central driving force in strengthening the heritage of a healthy, active community for future generations by continuing on the path of improving and enhancing our parks and facilities; protecting our natural resources; and developing partnerships to deliver recreation programs and services.

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DULUTH PARKS

Fun Places, Great Spaces!

PARKS & RECREATION

INTRODUCTION





Public Administration Department Parks and Recreation Division

City Hall - Ground Floor • 411 West First Street • Duluth, MN • 55802
218-730-4300 • www.duluthmn.gov/parks



March 1, 2017

Dear Friends:

The Parks and Recreation Annual Report provides us an opportunity to update our partners, community members, visitors, and friends by sharing our projects and accomplishments in, while taking a brief look into the year ahead.

The projects that make up the St. Louis River Corridor Initiative moved full speed ahead in 2016. Mini-master plans for 14 neighborhood parks were passed by City Council. These projects are funded through the ½ and ½ Tourism Tax, which was passed by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2014. We spent approximately \$2.7 million on St. Louis River Corridor Initiative implementation this year. Project-specific updates follow in this report.

In 2016, we continued our focus on securing grant funds for park and trail projects that leverage the ½ and ½ Tourism Tax. We received over \$1 million in federal and state grants for projects such as the Stewart Creek bridge restoration, Clyde Connector trail, and Chambers Grove interpretive trail. We also received \$50,000 from US Bank to relocate and enhance the playground at Lincoln Park. These projects will move into implementation in 2017.

In our fifth year of administering the Parks Fund, we are again proud to report on the impact of those dollars. The Parks Fund provides resources which allow us to address deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects across the City. Specifically, in 2016, it allowed us to respond effectively to the destructive windstorm on July 21, which resulted in hundreds of downed trees across our park and trail system.

One of the most important highlights of 2016 was the \$500,000 budget supplement for Park Maintenance. This funding allowed us to create and equip a neighborhood ballfield crew, a neighborhood parks roving crew, and a new trail maintenance work group.

Finally, we welcomed a number of new Parks & Recreation staff members in 2016, including Theresa Bajda, Administrative Information Specialist, Kraig Decker, Parks Permit Coordinator, and Andrew Slade, Assistant Manager. In the Property and Facilities division, we welcomed Mike LeBeau, Construction Project Supervisor.

The Parks & Recreation, Park Maintenance, and Property & Facilities Management teams will continue to work diligently to support our mission and vision, working alongside the thousands of residents and visitors who enjoy our parks, trails, and recreation facilities year round.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Dean
Parks & Recreation Manager

Erik Birkeland
Property & Facilities Manager



Public Administration Department Parks and Recreation Division

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February 8, 2017

CONTINUED RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF OUR PARK FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS IS VITAL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

As I complete my six years of service on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and these last three years as its President, I call on the City of Duluth and all Duluthians to continue the restoration and enhanced maintenance of our city's parks, trails and community centers as a high priority in the years ahead.

A renewed awareness of these critical needs began in 2011 when the citizens of Duluth went to the polls and overwhelmingly approved a referendum that established a dedicated Parks Fund to enhance critical *annual* funding for our city's extensive parks system.

This vote sparked the beginning of a renewed energy and focus that has leveraged significant additional federal, state, local and private funding for a broad range of new initiatives. Duluth should be proud of all that has happened since 2011.

Our citizens helped design a Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan, a Cross Country Ski Master Plan, numerous mini- master plans for parks and recreation areas from Brighton Beach, Hartley Park, Chester Bowl, Central Hillside, the Wade Wheeler Western Sports Corridor, Memorial Park, Irving Park, Morgan Park, and Gary New Duluth to Chambers Grove. It has also expanded Duluth's landmark Lakewalk, renovated Enger Tower and Wade Stadium, built new Duluth Traverse and Cross City trails systems and developed a plan for a new Grand Avenue Nordic Ski Center.

In 2016 alone we've seen dynamic new plans approved for a revived Lake Superior Zoo, an enhanced Fairmont Park in West Duluth, a restored Lincoln Park, a new Quarry Park, Master Plans for fourteen St. Louis River Corridor Neighborhood Parks, a St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trails Master Plan and a St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan.

These are impressive accomplishments, earning Duluth public accolades as a world-class parks and trails system. However, in my view they are just the beginning of a dynamic ongoing commitment needed to enhance the scope and quality of Duluth's public spaces for its citizens and future generations.

Unfortunately, until 2011, the City' parks system had operated over many years with a declining budget, and little money was put into park and facilities maintenance and upkeep. As President of the Parks Commission, I have stressed the importance of not just new initiatives to enhance our parks system, but of addressing the extensive, and unacceptable, accrued deferred parks maintenance and capital needs throughout the city.

The 2011 Referendum Levy for the new Parks Fund only restored the *annual* budget for the Parks Division from a ten-year decline, and is currently not sufficient to service our enhanced and growing parks system on an annual basis.

Recent comparisons of the six largest cities in Minnesota showed Duluth with the lowest annual spending on parks maintenance and forestry operations of any of the six cities, yet Duluth has one of Minnesota's largest parks system with 129 parks, 11,000 acres of green space, 6,834 acres of city parks and a 250-mile diverse trail system.

In September of 2015, the Parks Commission called on the City to "conduct a comprehensive inventory of its deferred Parks maintenance with estimated costs and timetables for addressing the accrued deferred maintenance and capital improvements needed" throughout the city.



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This inventory has been completed and significant capital investments have already been made, or committed, by the City to address a number of the city parks' capital investment needs. Many of these investments and future commitments are referred to above, and set forth in the Parks Division Annual Reports and on the Parks Division website. This represents huge progress our city should be proud of.

Now it is time build off this strong momentum, take one more big step and develop a new, up-to-date comprehensive citywide Strategic Parks Facilities Plan. This initiative would evaluate the condition and identify the financial resources required to restore, or replace, the rest of our city's park facilities and community centers.

A comprehensive Strategic Parks Facilities Plan should, of course, incorporate the principles of the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan previously approved by the Parks Commission and City Council, reflect the significant work already accomplished, and the objectives and financial commitments set forth in the broad range of mini-master plans and initiatives approved since 2010.

In 2017, resources should be devoted to developing this Strategic Parks Facilities Plan, with broad community input and leadership. A thoughtful, fact based and inclusive evaluation will clearly take most of the year, if not longer. The Strategic Parks Facilities Plan should make recommendations for the future use and maintenance of all the city's park facilities and community centers, identify the costs and timetable to implement the Plan, and make recommendations for raising the funds required to continue building a shared vision for the city's parks system.

I commend and thank Mayor Ness and Larson, members of the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, Director of Public Administration, Jim Filby Williams, the Parks and Recreation Division under the leadership of Kathy Bergen and Lindsay Dean, Parks Maintenance under Dale Sellner, Property and Facilities under Erik Birkeland, and many others in city government who reached out to an enthusiastic and diverse array of user groups, volunteers and citizens citywide, and together, created a remarkable momentum since the 2011 referendum.

This community-wide commitment truly recognizes that Duluth's public parks, gardens, community centers, recreation areas, community centers, forests and trail systems are vital to our quality of life and a vibrant growing economy.

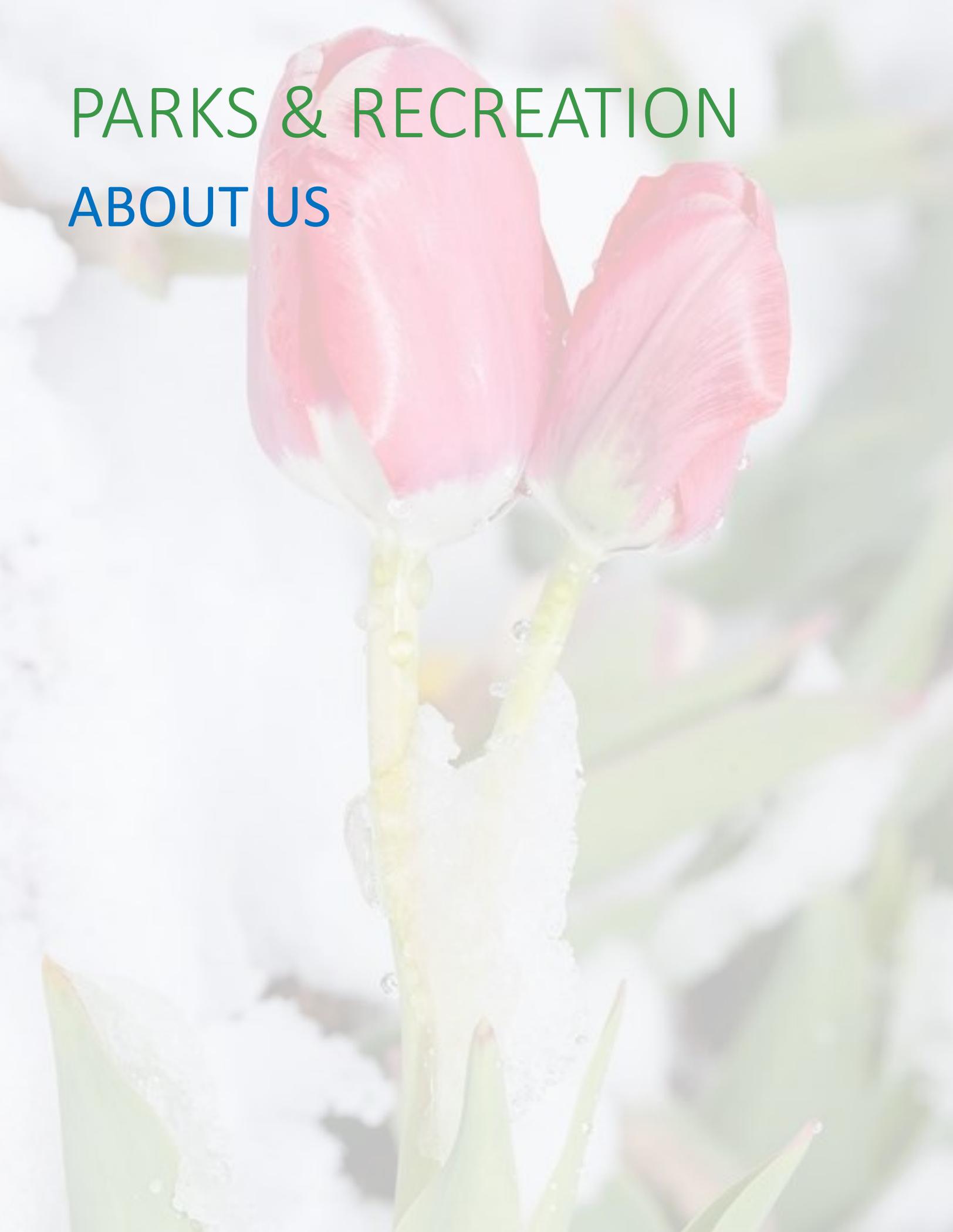
I have said many times that we are the fortunate beneficiaries of the foresight and commitment to open spaces that generations of civic leaders insisted be set aside and dedicated to public enjoyment and recreation.

Now, at the conclusion of my service on the Parks Commission, I am encouraged by a remarkable commitment and momentum throughout the city to preserve, maintain and enhance these open public spaces.

Thank you for your continued support in helping assure the conservation of Duluth's extraordinary public parks and recreation areas for future generations.

Sincerely,

Edwin King Hall, President
Duluth Parks & Recreation Commission

A close-up photograph of two pink tulips. The tulips are in focus, with several clear water droplets resting on their petals and stems. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy or misty environment. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the texture of the petals.

PARKS & RECREATION

ABOUT US

City Staff

Parks & Recreation

Lindsay Dean—Manager
Andrew Slade—Assistant Manager

Operations

Josh Abraham—Recreation Specialist
Theresa Bajda—Administrative Specialist
Katie Behling—Wedding Coordinator
Kraig Decker—Permits Coordinator
Gail Walkowiak—Special Events Coordinator
Terri Castonguay—Special Events Coordinator
Theresa Mellinger—Senior Coordinator
Pamela Page—Recreation Specialist

Stewardship

Judy Gibbs—Trails Coordinator
Michael Krick—Project Technician
Lisa Luokkala—Project Coordinator
Jim Shoberg—Project Coordinator

GreenCorps— Duluth Invaders

Mike Nordin
Kevin Malmquist

Property & Facilities

Erik Birkeland—Manager
Joe Miller—Facilities Operations Supervisor
Dale Sellner—Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

Park Maintenance

Billy Davis—Lead Worker
Bob Dunsmore—Lead Worker
Doug Rosas—Lead Worker
Jack Schade—Lead Worker
Cheryl Skafta —Volunteer Coordinator
Larry Abrahamson—Nola Honkala
Robert Bugbee—Kevin Jentoft
John D. Capra—Donald Kienholz
Dawn Daniels—Todd Kobus
Jennifer Monroe—Dena Petite
Darin Franckowiak—Tammy Gosline
Benjamin Sosniecki—Todd Halbakken
Dale Stanek—Greg Hanson
Cory Wagner—Joanne Highlan
Wendy Wolhwend

Project Management

Michael LeBeau—Construction Project Supervisor
Rob Hurd—Construction Project Coordinator
Alexander Jackson—Energy Coordinator

Property Services

Hank Martinson—Property Services Supervisor
Danielle Erjavec—Property Services Specialist

Commissions

Urban Forest Commission

Voting Members

Liz Johnson
James Lemmerman
Janet Nelson
Christine Penney
Michael Pennington
Jacob Shaw
Barbara Stark

Mission Statement

The mission of the Commission is to educate and inform the public and act as an advocate for preservation, protection, and promotion of Duluth's urban forest and to advise the City on the management of this forest.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Voting Members

Edwin Hall—President, At Large
John Schmidt—Vice President, At Large
Amanda Crosby—Secretary, Commission on Disabilities
Tjaard Breeuwer—District #1
Jon Welles—District #2
Tiersa Wodash—District #4
Dean Vogtman—District #5
Michael Schraepfer—Land Management
Erik Torch—Community Education
Jodi Tervo Roberts—Recreation Professional

Non-voting Members

Joel Sipress—City Council Liaison
Frank Jewell—St. Louis County Board Liaison
Art Johnston—ISD #709 Board Liaison

Vision Statement

Our vision is to preserve a naturally beautiful city and to provide innovative and quality Parks and Recreation programs and facilities that will sustain a dynamic quality of life for everyone.

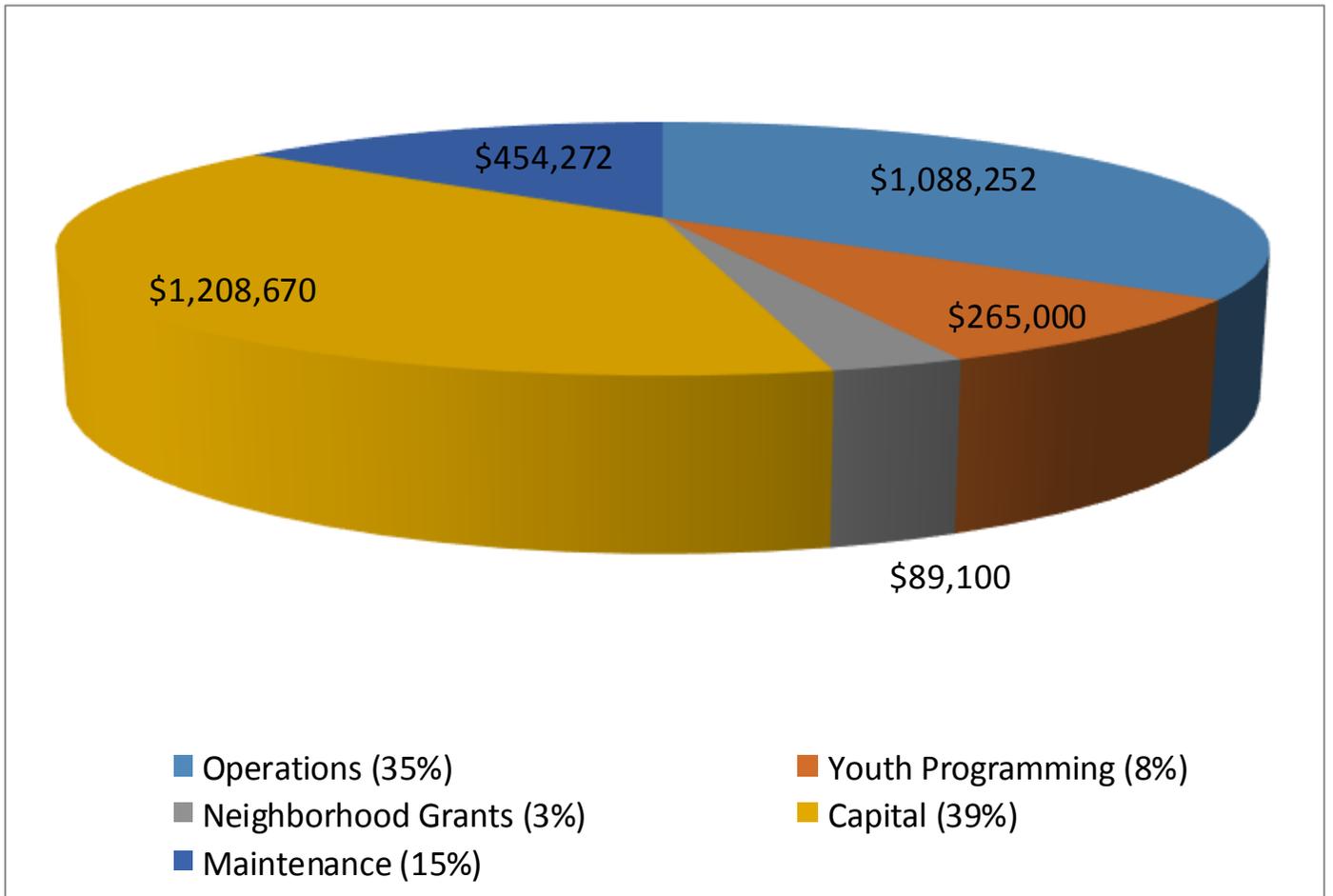
Mission Statement

Our mission is to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, the Parks and Recreation Division and other agencies and organizations regarding matters related to Duluth Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

A photograph of a garden path. The path is made of dark gravel and is bordered on the left by several large, smooth, light-colored rocks. To the left of the rocks are various plants, including a large bush with red and yellow variegated leaves. In the background, there is a large tree trunk and a house with a white roof. The overall scene is a well-maintained garden.

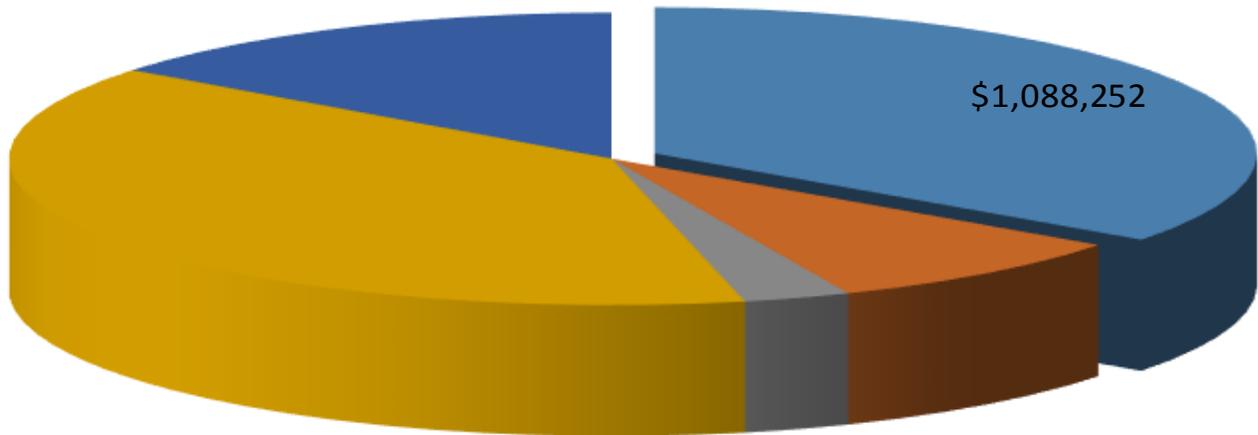
PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET

2016 Parks Fund Budget



2016 Expenditures: \$3,105,294

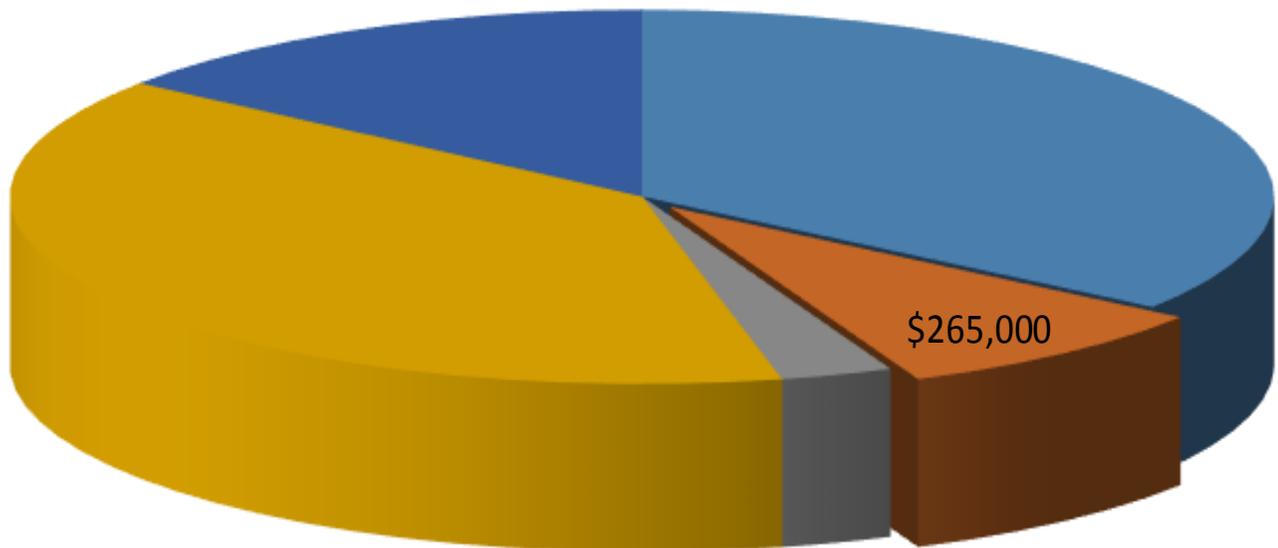
2016 Parks Fund Budget



Operations: \$1,088,252.46

- Wages and Benefits
- Equipment and Supplies
- Marketing and Printing
- Vehicles and Mileage
- Membership and Dues
- Special Events and Concerts
- Youth Programming
- Senior Programming
- Training and Education
- Parks Commission

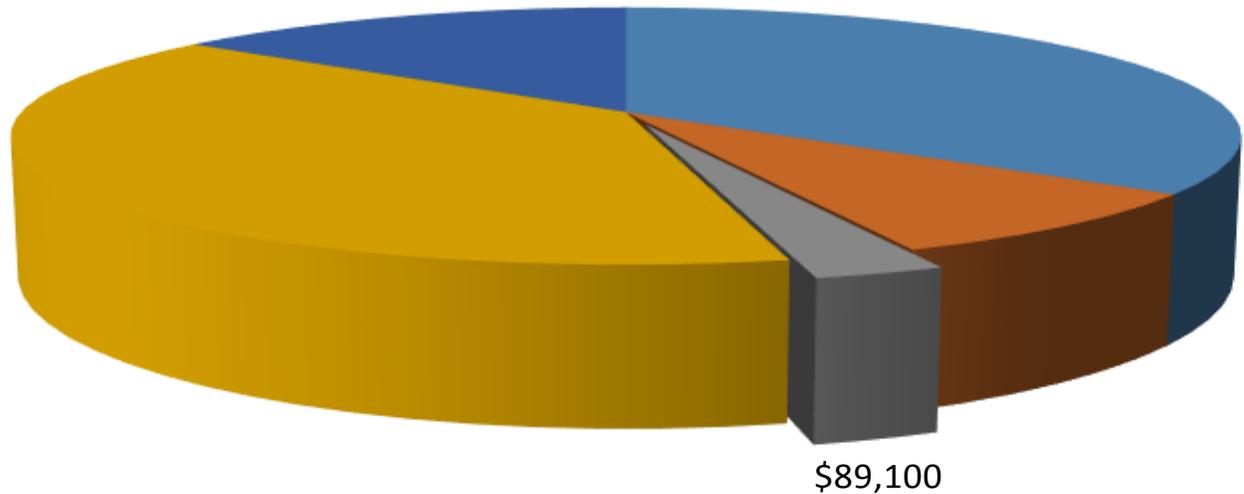
2016 Parks Fund Budget



Youth Programming

- \$150,000 to support the YMCA in placing and training 34 AmeriCorps members in full-time positions throughout the City
- Five \$20,000 grants to underserved neighborhoods to support and expand youth programming:
 - Gary New Duluth (Valley Youth through 6/2016; YMCA starting in 7/2016)
 - West Duluth (Valley Youth)
 - Lincoln Park (Boys & Girls Club)
 - Central Hillside (Neighborhood Youth Services)
 - East Hillside (Myers-Wilkins Collaborative)

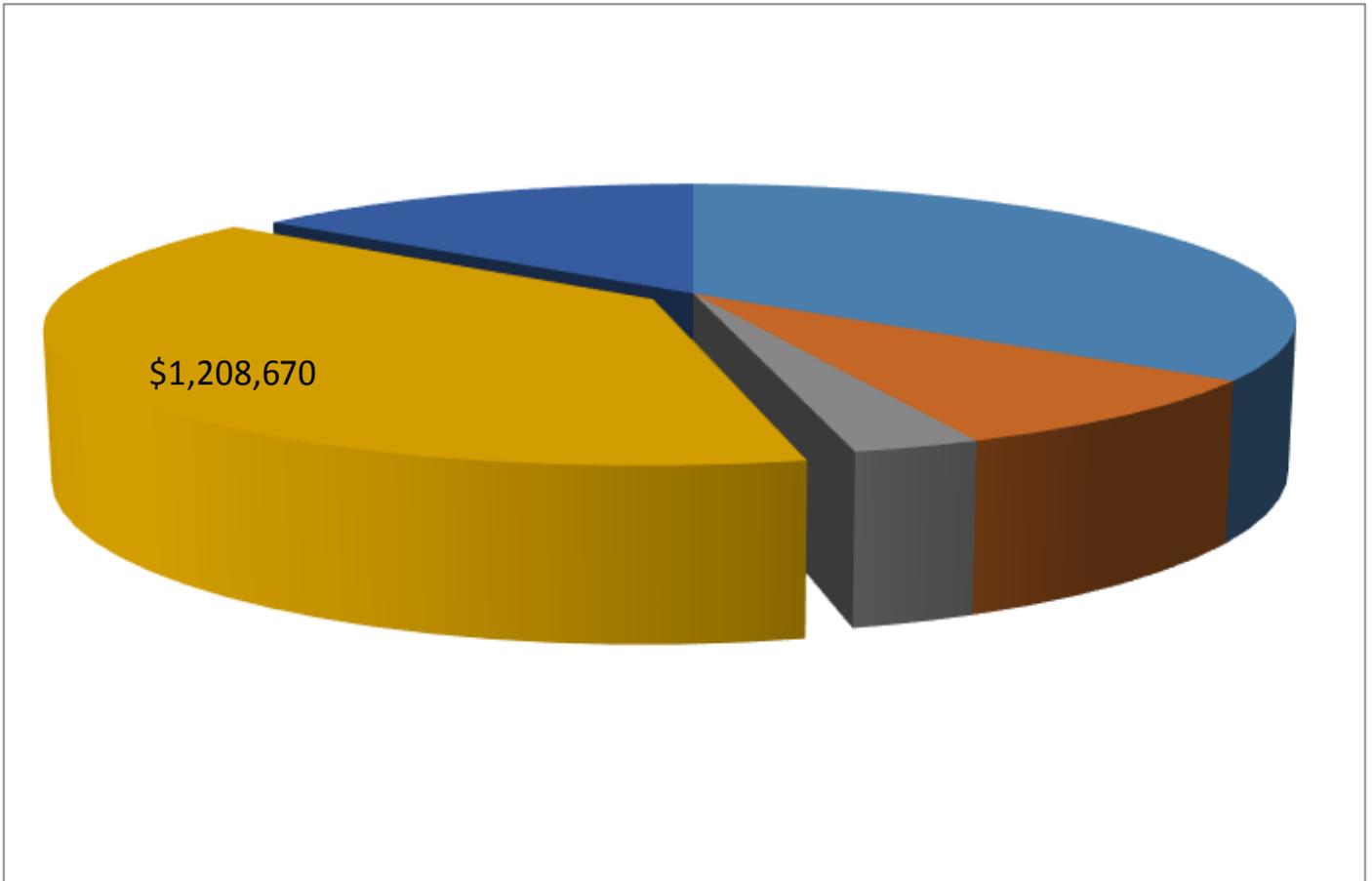
2016 Parks Fund Budget



Community Parks & Recreation Program Grants

- Partner with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation to offer grants to neighborhood community groups in the spring and fall
- Maximum amount per grant is \$5,000
- Awarded \$89,100 in 2016

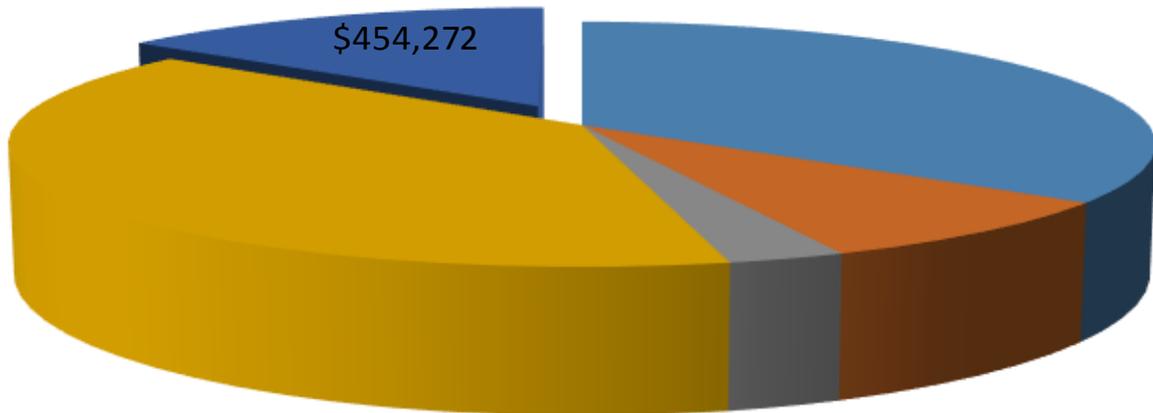
2016 Parks Fund Budget



Capital

- Community Center Upgrades
- Trail Repair and Improvement
- Cross City Trail Mini-Master Plan
- Hartley Park Mini-Master Plan Implementation
- Duluth Traverse Trail Construction
- Playground at Chambers Grove

2016 Parks Fund Budget



Enhanced Maintenance

- Seasonal maintenance staff
- Invasive species removal team
- Cleaning, repairs, and maintenance at parks, fields, and community centers
- Training, certifications, licenses

PARKS & RECREATION

WHAT'S NEW





Hartley Park Legacy Grant Implementation

Restoration of Old Hartley Road began in late 2016 with new boardwalks, improved drainage, and reduced slopes for accessibility. A boardwalk pier off Old Hartley Road was added, which now provides a unique perspective of the wet meadow.

In the ski trails system, nearly 900 fallen trees were removed. The City's trail maintenance team constructed a new entrance trail and established a beginner loop near the parking lot. On the Hunter's Hill side of the trail system, a reroute was completed to remove it from private property and make a steep hill less dangerous.

The Superior Hiking Trail Association removed over 300 trees off their segment of trail in the park. They also reconstructed a segment that was disturbed due to the July storm and summer tree thinning project.

A sustainable route to Gazebo Point was built from the end of Fairmont Street, and a new sustainable trail to the top of Rock Knob was established. Both are replacing badly eroded trail segments that will be eliminated and naturalized in 2017.

Duluth Traverse's Root Canal Trail was reconstructed, including a 1500-foot linear boardwalk over the upper wet meadow. The Traverse was also extended from Hartley Field across Woodland Avenue to the Nature Center, and reconstruction of a shared segment of the Superior Hiking Trail and the Duluth Traverse, from Arrowhead Road to Old Hartley Road was completed.

Invasive Buckthorn was removed from 69 acres, and Community Action Duluth planted 3,500 tree seedlings, both part of the 2016 pine thinning project. A 3.5-acre pollinator meadow was prepped for planting in spring of 2017, contributing to the ecological diversity at Hartley Park. Grant funds were awarded for parking lot construction to commence in 2017.

3,500 SEEDLINGS PLANTED AT HARTLEY PARK

- 750 Tamarack
- 750 Bruce Spruce
- 750 Eastern Cedar
- 750 Balsam Fir
- 500 Black Willow

Western Waterfront Trail Renewal & Restoration

Western Waterfront Trail (WWFT) renewal was completed in fall 2016, after over 30 years of deferred maintenance. The 3.3-mile trail, from the Irving neighborhood to the Riverside community, was restored to an 8ft width of hardened limestone with 1ft gravel shoulders on each side. Accessibility was improved from South 63rd Avenue West to South 72nd Avenue West by reducing slopes to more manageable grades, and creating a firmer and stable trail surface. Bridges were resurfaced with rot resistant timbers and a boardwalk was replaced. Storm water infrastructure was improved through implementation of drainage best practices and installation of additional culverts to divert water off trail surfaces. Corridor habitat restoration, including the removal of invasive species and replanting of native vegetation will be ongoing until spring of 2018.

Campus Connector College Street Segment

On September 22, 2016 we celebrated the grand opening of the Campus Connector Trail in partnership with the University of Minnesota Duluth and the College of St. Scholastica. The designated bicycle trail is ten feet wide, and runs along College Street between Junction Avenue and Kenwood Avenue. While it's only about 2,600 feet, the trail plays a significant role in connecting the two campuses and serves as a foundation for an even greater vision to connect elementary, middle, high school, and two college campuses along a 4+ mile trail from Rice Lake Road to the Lakewalk.

Storm Recovery

On July 21, 2016 a severe thunderstorm roared through Duluth, bringing with it winds greater than 80mph. The aftermath was devastating, leaving over 78 documented stumps uprooted on city boulevards and in city parks, and over 200 trees with hanging branches or other related hazards. Park Maintenance changed their summer work scope to tackle clean-up efforts, deploying full-time, part-time, seasonal, and temporary workers to assist. Staff contributed 5,750 hours, including 938 overtime hours on storm recovery. Park Maintenance recorded over 1,000 debris piles designated for curbside pickup, with crews hauling over 8,600 cubic yards of debris; the equivalent to over 1,400 dump trucks.



Jean Duluth Dog Park

The newest of Duluth's three dog parks officially opened in August 2016. The Jean Duluth Dog Park, located at 3567 Riley Road, is a 3.5-acre fenced area with a double-gated entry. The park features a separate area for small dogs under 20 pounds, with a ¼ mile walking path near the perimeter. The park was made possible through the collaborative efforts of City staff and community advocates. Park Maintenance workers created the parking area and driveway, and poured the concrete bases for the entry and benches. Fencing materials, benches, signage, and other necessities were made possible through dedicated volunteer efforts, donations, and a Parks Fund Grant. According to a usage survey conducted in September 2016, over 100 dogs visited the park daily. Thank you to the many volunteers who dedicated over 1,300 hours of their time to the Jean Duluth Dog Park!



FEMA Update

FEMA granted funds were used in 2016 for completion of a pedestrian bridge in Lester Park, located over the northwestern side of Lester River near the River Road Parking lot. Congdon and Chester Park hiking trails were restored with FEMA grant funds, and damaged ski trails in the upper bowl area of Chester Park were repaired.

Youth Outdoors—Duluth

Youth Outdoors—Duluth was formed in 2016 with a mission to ensure that all youth have access to a progression of nature-based experiences through community wide coordination of resources and expertise. Funded by the Duluth Area Family YMCA, City of Duluth Parks and Recreation, and the Northland Foundation, Youth Outdoors—Duluth provides youth with meaningful outdoor experiences, regardless of their ability to pay. In the first ten months, Youth Outdoors—Duluth conducted six tabling events and two youth focus groups to determine the interests, motivations, barriers, and needs of both the community and 14 local youth serving agencies. Under the management of Duluth Area Family YMCA, Youth Outdoors—Duluth developed 13 lesson plans and trained 36 AmeriCorps members and eight YMCA Out of School Time Youth Specialists in outdoor skills and education methods. Beginning June of 2016, Youth Outdoors supported summer pilot programs which reached 360 youth and clocked 9,776 hours of outdoor engagement. To date, Youth Outdoors—Duluth has leveraged \$45,000 in new grant support, and continues to support Outdoor Clubs at local schools. The following goals will direct the Youth Outdoors—Duluth’s focus in 2017: Community events and family focus groups, gear and curriculum library, adventure series and training and instruction resource support for outdoor clubs.

Local Youth Serving Agencies

- Valley Youth Center
- Neighborhood Youth Services
- Steve O’Neil Apartments
- Boys & Girls Club
- Mentor Duluth
- YMCA Out of School Time Program
- Damiano Kids Café
- Girl Power!
- Chester Bowl Ski Program
- Chester Bowl Adventure Camp
- Myers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative
- Family Freedom School
- Woodland Hills
- YMCA



Wade—Wheeler

Wade Stadium hosts a number of local teams, including the Duluth Huskies, College of St. Scholastica, University of Minnesota Duluth, Denfeld High School, and Marshall School. In 2016, the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament, as well as multiple high school baseball sectional tournament games took place at Wade Stadium. A new batters eye was installed in 2016 and art installation above gate entrances is planned for 2017.

Wade Stadium 2016 Usage

Practices	64
Games	144
Camps	2
Other Events	5



Wheeler Athletic Complex (fields 1-7) 2016 Usage

Practices	100
Games	1,423

Duluth Traverse “DT” 2016 Updates

In Hartley Park, Root Canal Trail was reconstructed, connecting Hartley field from Woodland Avenue to the Hartley Nature Center, while a 1,500 linear foot boardwalk was installed over the wet meadow. Construction volunteers, managed by City staff, reconstructed a shared segment of the Superior Hiking Trail and the Duluth Traverse from Arrowhead Road to Old Hartley Road. Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS) removed over 1,000 wind thrown trees on the segment of trail between Hartley and Lester Park, 700 of which were in Hartley Park.

A one-mile segment of the DT was constructed around the perimeter of Upper Chester Bowl. In addition, one of the most urban segments of trail from Highway 53 to the Lincoln Park Middle School was constructed in spring 2016. The segment continues up through Piedmont Recreation Area, where it eventually connects to existing Duluth Traverse trail in Brewer Park. Construction continued from the western edge of Brewer Park down along Keene Creek to Green Street. Lastly, a segment was constructed from the Lake Superior Zoo to Spirit Mountain.

Mission Creek trails were expanded, including the establishment of a 1.5-mile section known as the “St. Louis River Trail”. This trail is the western terminus of the Duluth Traverse Trail. A ¾-mile advanced black diamond trail was constructed at the top of the old ski jump hill above Fond du Lac. Five miles of traditional cross-country mountain bike trail, and a ½ mile of Duluth Traverse was constructed along Mission Creek Parkway, connecting that trail center to Becks Road.

New Trails Lead Worker



In 2016, City Council recognized a need for a dedicated work group to maintain and expand trail systems within Duluth parks. It was from this commitment a new Maintenance Operations Trails

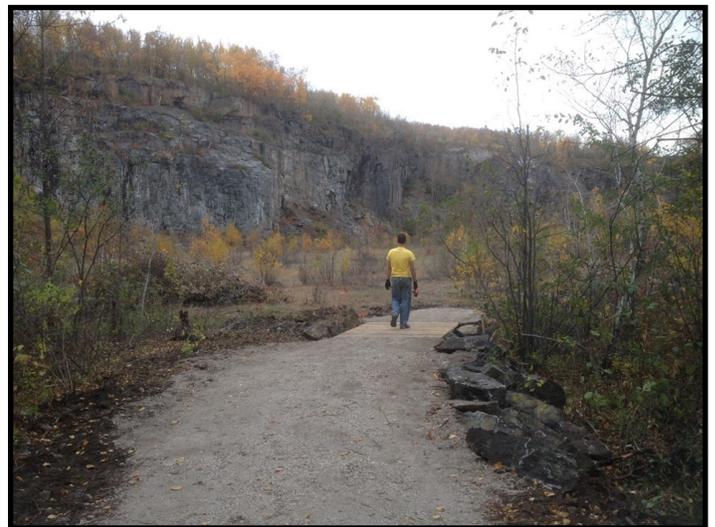
Leadworker position was created. Additional resources were also dedicated for seasonal employees and the materials and supplies necessary to enhance and maintain this valued parks asset. This positive addition to the Parks and Recreation team has resulted in increased routine trail maintenance, new trail construction, and more frequent ski trail grooming, while providing improved support to our community partners. Billy Davis, a Parks employee since 2007, accepted this promotion in spring of 2016 and currently leads an experienced, engaged, and dedicated staff group that provides year-round maintenance on our trail systems.



Quarry Park

In 2015, the City of Duluth began the process to acquire 30 acres of land in the Cody neighborhood in an effort to re-purpose an abandoned quarry as a City park. The quarry wall is nearly 1,000 feet in length and extends over 100 feet vertically at some sections, offering a unique recreational climbing opportunity to the public. Used for decades as an informal green space by ice climbers and hikers, the Duluth Climbers Coalition worked in partnership with the City to pursue park status and assure legitimate access to the site for the community and future generations. The quarry formally became part of the Duluth Park system in spring of 2016, after the adoption of the Quarry Mini Master Plan.

Physical site improvements began in October of 2016, when Duluth Climbers Coalition led a volunteer effort to build the main access trail from the parking lot on 59th Avenue West into the floor of the quarry. This trail was built to universal design standards to provide access to all. The City is working to secure additional grant dollars to build added connector trails, install signage, and improve the parking lot. The City is also pursuing funding for an ice farming system in partnership with Duluth Climbers Coalition to ensure consistent ice for climbing. Ice farming controllably and renewably generates ice for ice climbing purposes. In addition, the Lake Superior Disc Golf Community has committed to build a 9-hole course in Quarry Park, and Cyclists of the Gitchee Gummee Shores (COGGS) are committed to build a neighborhood connector trail through the park up to the larger Duluth Traverse Trail System. Quarry Park will soon have high-quality year-round recreational activities for a broad array of users with help from these strong community partner organizations.



Gary New Duluth Recreation Area

Gary New Duluth Recreation Area is one of four qualifying parks for the Grand Avenue Parks Fund, which is part of the St. Louis River Corridor project. In 2016, phase 1 of the Mini Master Plan was completed. This included remodeling the recreation building, and adding a new storage building and pavilion. New park lighting was installed and two youth soccer fields were constructed. Storm water management was improved by creating a permeable paver parking lot, two rain gardens, installing drain tile, and improving storm water infrastructure with a new 30" culvert. The new system will correct standing water issues and provide storm water management educational opportunities. To date, the Gary New Duluth Development Alliance has received \$91,000 from the NOAA Coastal Program and \$500,000 from the ½ & ½ tax (by matching \$500,000 in cash and in-kind labor contributions). The City of Duluth, GND Development Alliance, and the Gary New Duluth community are working collaboratively to revitalize the recreation area.

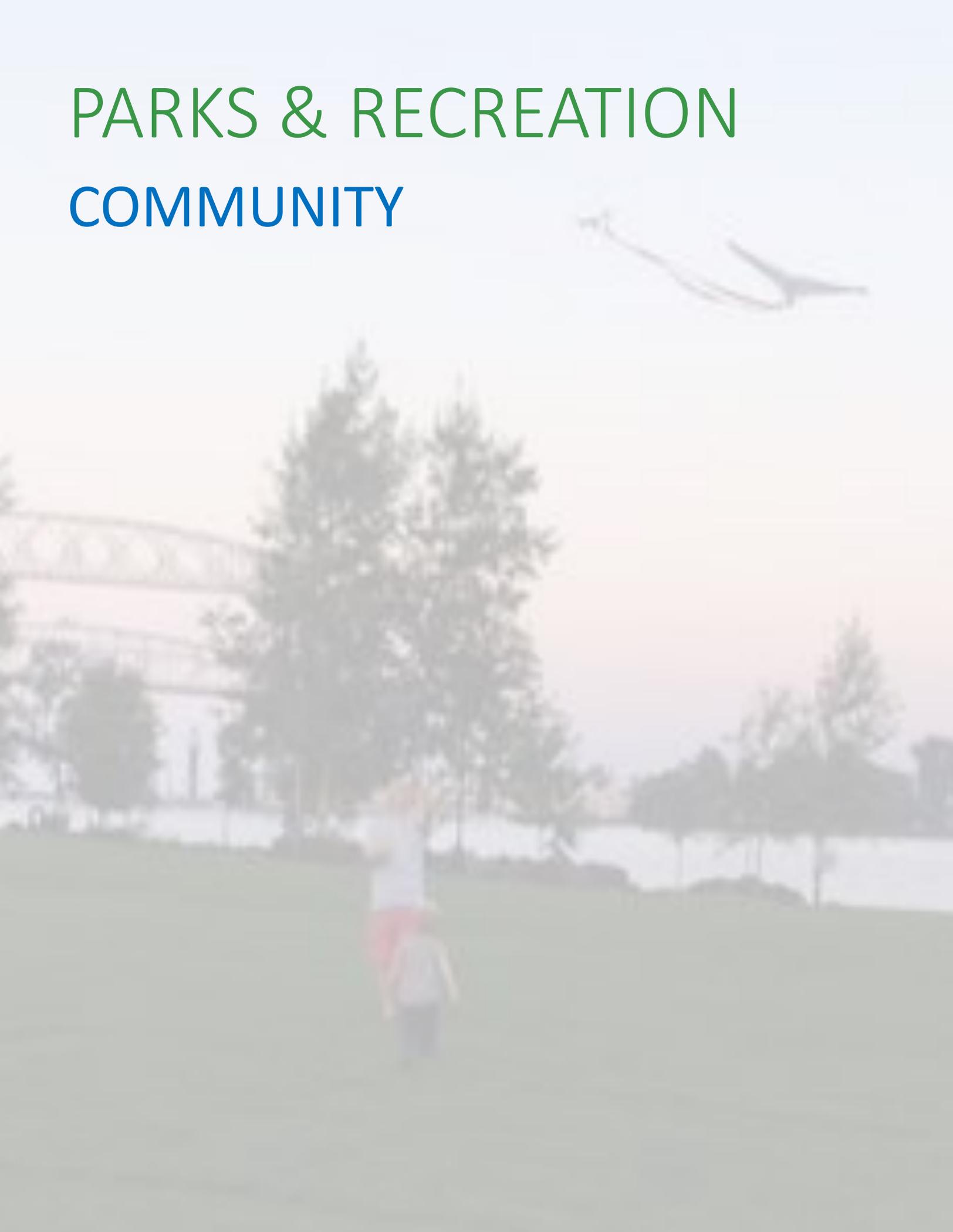


Chambers Grove 2016

In 2016 Chambers Grove Park underwent numerous improvements including new restroom facilities, a parking lot, park lighting, playground equipment, trails, and bank stabilization. A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant funded restoration of the wildlife/storm water management pond, as well as the construction of the bio filtration swales, which capture runoff from the parking lot and building structures, thereby discharging cleaner runoff to the St. Louis River. Accessibility was improved by reducing trail grade and selecting compactable materials for trail construction. Design elements and infrastructure at Chambers Grove Park emphasizes accessibility and resiliency in response to damages from the 2012 flood, with an eye towards the future.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMUNITY



Sports & Recreation

Youth Recreation Participation

Bayfront Skating	1,400
Heritage Skating	5,500
Bayfront Family Center (summer)	1,440
Special Turf Activities (spring)	110
Learn-to-Skate (DAHA)	148
Champions Building Champions	250
Art Kits	720
Ultimate Frisbee	85
Flag Football	140
Play Gym	1,560

Flag Football

The 2016 flag football program offered boys and girls in grades second through fifth the opportunity to get outside and have fun, while learning the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. Approximately 140 participants made up the 11 teams that developed their football skills through weekly practice and games.

Special Events Participation

Valentine's Skate for Your Heart	200
DECC Family Skating Parties	380
Boo Bash	330
Gobbler Glide	215
Santa Skate	350

Washington Recreation Center Rental

*Number of rentals

Gym	548
Conference Room	75

Adult Softball League

Teams	65
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All City Athletic Fields

(Wheeler, Wade, Jean-Duluth & Arlington)

Games	3,097
Practices	1,488

Neighborhood Athletic Fields

*Maintained weekly by Park Maintenance or daily by neighborhood partners.

Games	832
Practices	1,324

Sports & Recreation

Parks and Recreation continues to offer a variety of year-round programming, which provides families, youth groups, and community organizations with the space and equipment for recreation and fun. In 2016, Parks and Recreation played a key role in planning a one-day staff training session, offered to all Duluth Youth Agency Coalition members and other local partner organizations. Sessions covered a range of topics including: youth mental health, outdoor education, summer lunch programs, and indoor game ideas. A special keynote address was presented to participants regarding working effectively with youth who suffer from poverty and trauma.

Youth Programming

- Bayfront Family Center winter and summer programming
- Skating at Heritage Sports Center
- Pre-school Play Gym
- Ultimate Frisbee Skill Sessions
- Community Art Kits



Ultimate frisbee skill sessions



Kite flying at Bayfront Family Center



Cross-country skiing at Bayfront Family Center



Outdoor games at Bayfront Family Center



Open skating at Heritage Center



Indoor fun at Play Gym

Permits & Special Events

From breathtaking views of the Duluth port at Enger Park, to lush landscaping at the Rose Garden, we offer several sites for wedding, private, and special events. Parks and Recreation also manages and permits four community buildings for meetings, parties, or other events. All alcohol consumption permits that pertain to city parks or facility rentals are processed by Parks and Recreation.

Park Name	Private Event Attendance	Private Event # of Permits	Wedding Event Attendance	Wedding Event # of Permits
Brighton Beach	1,552	41	885	18
Chester Park	410	8	75	1
Enger Park	941	21	2,717	48
Leif Erikson Park	160	5	2,885	25
Lester Park	3,447	52	1,360	8
Lincoln Park	1,315	13	40	1
Rose Garden	0	0	1,641	35
Old Main	0	0	220	2
Misc.	775	7	0	0
Totals	8,600	147	9,823	138



Miscellaneous Permits

Busker Permits	25
Special Event Permits	118

Alcohol Permits

Building	53
Parks	12

Movies in the Park

The City of Duluth and the Greater Downtown Council put together another successful Movies In the Park series in 2016; showcasing eight movies with a total of over 13,000 attendees. The first wedding proposal took place in 2016 before the movie “Battleship”! The happy couple had their first date at a Movie in the Park, and three years later the groom-to-be proposed in front of a crowd of over two thousand.



2016 Chester Creek Concerts

The Chester Creek Concert series drew in approximately 4,750 visitors in 2016! The movie schedule was as follows:

- June 14: Teague Alexy
- June 21: The Brothers Burn Mountain
- June 28: A Band Called Truman
- July 5: Listening Party
- July 12: Boku Frequency
- July 19: Plucked up String Band
- July 26: The Adjustments
- August 2: SplinterTones
- August 9: Mama’s Stolen Horses
- August 16: Mary Bue and the Holy Bones

2016 Building Rentals

Location	Attendance	# of Permits	Attendance Seniors	Senior Program Use
Duluth Heights	3,400	69	6,677	423
Evergreen/City Center West	1,630	85	2,360	370
Morgan Park	1,605	36	6,139	110
Portman	695	15	1,900	247
Piedmont	92	3	0	0
TOTAL	7,422	208	17,076	1,150



Senior Programming

Duluth Parks and Recreation offers a variety of senior programming at three facilities within the City of Duluth. Evergreen, Morgan Park, and Portman senior centers serve as a gathering space to visit and socialize, enjoy lunch time meals, or participate in fun activities such as exercise programs, bingo, card games, or crafts.

Special Event Participation

Billiard Tournament (+Spectators)	228
Senior Appreciation Day	110
100 Year Birthday Party (+Spectators)	210
Holiday Banquet	252

Senior Center Participation

Evergreen Senior Center	8,054
Morgan Park Community Recreation Center	3,948
Portman Community Recreation Center	4,966



Seniors at the Morgan Park Senior Center received a special visit from Santa during the Holiday season. At 92 years of a age, Ernie Johnson, aka “Santa” has visited the center for over 21 years!



One senior decided to “entertain the entertainer” at the annual Portman Center Holiday Party!



Portman Center Seniors were invited to the Lakeside Fire Department for a “Lunch and Learn” event geared towards home safety.



An excited winner shows off her prize during one of the City's ongoing Senior Center Bingo days, where prizes are frequently donated by local sponsors.



Over 140 Seniors attended the pontoon ride events arranged by the City in July and August of 2016. St. Louis River Experience guided these relaxing tours along the St. Louis River, each lasting about 2 hours.



In June, local Seniors represented Duluth at Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency's (AEOA) Carnival Picnic in Eveleth, Minnesota. The City sponsored 28 local seniors to attend the event. The event gathered over 300 seniors from around Northern Minnesota.



On August 22, 2016, J.C Curtis was recognized as a finalist for the SilverSneakers Richard L. Swanson Award (1 of 10 nationwide from 300+ nominations). J.C. Curtis is a regular participant of SilverSneakers Flex exercise program, which supports a healthy and active lifestyle.

Youth Programming

2016 Highlights

- True North AmeriCorps members provided 22,208 tutoring hours and 16,363 mentoring hours
- 91% of students in the COMPASS program received 75+ hours of academic assistance
- Neighborhood Youth Services added an on-site therapist to their program in 2016, enabling access to personalized support
- 2,616 youth visits to Duluth City Parks during the summer 2016 season.

Duluth Parks and Recreation continued financial support of local youth programming in partnership with the following agencies in 2016:

Boys & Girls Club (Lincoln Park)

Duluth Area YMCA True North AmeriCorps (Citywide)

Myers -Wilkins Community School Collaborative (East Hillside)

Neighborhood Youth Services (NYS) (Central Hillside)

Valley Youth Center (West Duluth)

Valley Youth Center/YMCA (Gary New Duluth)

In 2016, these youth programs reached just over 4,100 youth, which exceeded the previous year by over 200. True North AmeriCorps members (48) served at various Duluth sites, including ISD 709 elementary schools, local charter schools, YWCA Girl Power, Girl Scouts, Myers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative, Harbor Highlands Community Center, Valley Youth Center, and Neighborhood Youth Services. Beyond academic support, programming also focused on the development of healthy lifestyle habits and positive social interaction. Here are some highlights of youth programming around town in 2016.

Academic Support

True North AmeriCorps implemented a new evaluation process in 2016, which focused on academic and social change over the course of a year. Standardized test scores, reports of behavioral and social changes by teachers, and youth self-evaluations were utilized. While AmeriCorps members offer one-on-one tutoring throughout the year, this evaluation helps identify any external forces that may impact a child's academic success. Myers-Wilkins incorporated academics into many of their enrichment programs in 2016, using play scripts at their Hillside Youth Theatre Camp as a fun and engaging way to study new vocabulary. The COMPASS program at Myers-Wilkins provided homework help in math and reading.



Healthy Lifestyle Habits

Valley Youth Center offered hundreds of hours of outdoor nature based activities, including rock climbing, kayaking, fishing, and trail exploration. At the Gary New Duluth Recreation Center, the YMCA implemented its healthy eating guidelines for all snacks provided during programming. Myers-Wilkins partnered with St. Louis County in 2016 to offer seven weekly sessions on healthy eating and nutrition, and continued their outdoor adventure club. Youth Outdoors-Duluth, facilitated by the YMCA, utilized True North AmeriCorps volunteers to provide 2,616 youth visits to Duluth city parks over the summer months. Neighborhood Youth Services provided indoor and outdoor rock climbing opportunities and started an outdoor garden at the Washington Center to integrate lessons about growing and preparing healthy foods into their Chef's Club program.



Social Interaction and Mentorship

Youth participated with one another in a variety of engaging activities in 2016, but they're also learning lessons in tolerance and diversity. Neighborhood Youth Services helped youth explore perspectives on race and racism in Duluth, using a video interview series that aimed at capturing what it's like to be a person of color in Duluth. Youth were also immersed in different cultural traditions by attending cultural festivals and powwows that explored different song, dance, and cooking.



Volunteer Programs

Volunteer with us:

- To keep parks clean and safe
- To keep trails maintained and usable
- To keep invasive species populations at bay
- To keep trees healthy and maintained
- To keep the community education and informed
- To keep recreation programs supported and available

2016 Duluth Parks Interns

- Alexa Shapiro
- Lindsey Bushnell
- Paul Bjork
- Zosha Carroll

Recreation

In 2016, volunteers contributed **96 hours** to recreation programs and offerings. Volunteers help Duluth Parks and Recreation offer opportunities like skating at the Heritage Sports Center and other special events.

CLEAN AND GREEN

Litter - it's a never-ending battle. Through the City of Duluth's Clean and Green service initiative, hundreds of volunteers gave thousands of hours of their time during 2016. Groups and individuals helped remove unwanted trash from our parks and trails, and contributed to beautification projects like weeding in the Rose Garden and mulching trees in various neighborhood parks.

2016 Clean and Green Accomplishments

- 6,057 Hours of Service
- 19,239 Pounds of Bagged Garbage Collected



DULUTH INVADERS

Invasive, non-native plants can be devastating to native plants, trees, and wildlife habitat. The Duluth Invaders service initiative is committed to addressing the influx and growth of invasive plant populations in our community. Through community education, mapping and tracking efforts, as well as eradication events and treatment efforts, we are taking on invasives.

2016 Duluth Invaders Accomplishments

- 1,100 Hours of Service
- 20+ R2ED Team Members Recruited & Trained



EDIBLE DULUTH

Promoting, growing, and developing public edible landscapes are the focus of the Edible Duluth service initiative. Partnering with programs that advocate for food access and equity, Duluth Parks and Recreation is excited to be exploring the role that we can have in this issue.

2016 Edible Duluth Accomplishments

- 231 Hours of Service



reLEAF DULUTH

A healthy urban forest is an important community resource. The reLEAF service initiative works to promote volunteer engagement in protecting our urban forest, educating the public on the importance of our urban forest and hosting service activities that include tree inventory, pruning and planting.

2016 reLEAF Accomplishments

- 44 Hours of Service



ADOPT-A-SPOT

Duluth Park's Adopt-A-Spot program invites individuals and groups to care for and maintain public lands for the benefit of the community. The partners listed below have formally adopted the listed spot.

-Dan Proctor adopted Chester Creek Trails

-Carla Melandar & Lutheran Social Services adopted Ordean Courtyard Gardens

-Jill Kimball and Family adopted Fond du Lac Edible Duluth Orchard and Garden

-Brad Leick adopted Lester Park Connector Trail

-EcoRotary adopted Lakewalk Edible Duluth Orchard

-Northwood Children's Services adopted Pennel Park and Merritt Park
-Edible Duluth Orchards

-Dick Gould adopted Park Point Mutt Mitt Containers

-Colten Marquardt adopted Webb Woods

TRAILS

In 2016, volunteers contributed **764 hours** to trail projects. These hours include projects that were completed with our Park partners, like Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS) and Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club (DXC). Additionally, volunteers contributed hours to support the completion of the Rock Knob Trail re-route in Hartley Park. Individual volunteer, Dan Proctor, also provided substantial service to our trails.



Community Parks & Recreation Program 2016 Grant Awards

Organization	Project	Spring 2016
Chester Bowl Improvement Club	Ski safety tester	\$5,000
Duluth Eastern Little League (DELL)	Baggs Baseball Field rehabilitation	\$3,800
Duluth Heights Amateur Hockey Association (DAHA)	Rink repairs and equipment	\$5,000
Duluth Superior GLBTAQI Pride Inc.	2016 Duluth Superior Pride Festival	\$1,500
GND Development Alliance	Installation of soccer field fence	\$5,000
Goodwill Industries Vocational Enterprises, Inc.	Goodwill/Yes! Duluth Summer Employment Program	\$2,700
Hartley Nature Center	Community building round two: outdoor pavilion	\$5,000
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory	Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Forest Management Plan	\$5,000
Morgan Park Smithville Community Club, Inc.	Morgan Park Community Club chair refurbishing	\$1,000
Neighbors of Lower Chester Park	Lower Chester Park improvements	\$4,000
Northland Paddlers Alliance	Paddle Duluth-community paddling events	\$5,000
Piedmont Heights Amateur Hockey Association (PHAHA)	Concession stand renewal renovation	\$5,000
Salvation Army	Dunkin' In Duluth	\$2,000
		\$50,000
Organization	Project	Fall 2016
Chester Bowl Improvement Club	Purchase of helmets	\$5,000
COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores)	Duluth Traverse Trail maintenance	\$5,000
Duluth Climbers Coalition	Community climbing event	\$4,800
GND Development Alliance	GND recreation area community garden	\$5,000
Hartley Nature Center	Hartley Park stewardship: awareness & education	\$5,000
Lincoln Park Business Group	19th Ave. W & Superior St. corner park rejuvenation	\$5,000
Neighbors of Lower Chester Park	Community use project	\$4,300
YMCA Duluth	Outdoor Collaborative: nature backpacks & events	\$5,000
		\$39,100





2016 Lake Superior Zoo Admissions Report

* Admission totals reflect cash register transactions only.

Paid Admissions	Price	Number Sold
Adults (13 years+)	\$10.00	25,280
Adults (Group Rate)	\$9.00	1,553
Adults (1/2 off reciprocating member)	\$5.00	1,104
Adult (Military)	\$9.00	367
Seniors (62+)	\$9.00	2,125
Seniors (1/2 off reciprocating member)	\$4.50	48
Seniors (Military)	\$8.00	29
Children (ages 3-13)	\$5.00	10,386
Children (Group Rate)	\$4.00	4,877
Children (1/2 off reciprocating member)	\$2.50	725
Children (Military)	\$4.00	126
Boo at the Zoo (advance ticket purchase)	\$9.00	2,600
Boo at the Zoo (gate ticket purchase)	\$10.00	3,906
Bulk and prepaid tickets	Varies	1,196
TOTALS	N/A	54,322
Gratis Admissions	Number	% of Total Admissions
Zoo Member Adults	7632	10%
Zoo Member Children	6665	8.73%
Free (children 2 & under)	4614	6.04%
100% Reciprocal	1930	2.52%
Volunteers	1553	1.51%
TOTALS	21,994	28.8%
TOTAL Paid Admissions	54,322	71.2%
TOTAL Gratis Admissions	21,994	28.8%
GRAND TOTAL ADMISSIONS	76,316	100%



2016 Golf Update

Enger & Lester Public Golf Courses

Billy Casper Golf continued management and operations of Enger and Lester public golf courses in 2016.

The 2016 season was largely impacted by weather, with June, July and August witnessing heavy rainfall creating wet conditions. Shared rounds of golf were down 6% for 2016.

In 2017, Billy Casper Golf will take initiative to close an earning deficiency by combining two full-time staff positions and setting fixed opening and closing dates at Lester.

Season Passes	# Sold
Unlimited	161
Senior	330
Young Adult	124
Junior	62
Family	30
Skyline Pass	2,102
Total	2,809

Miscellaneous	Sales (\$)
Driving Range	\$87,501
Merchandise	\$151,710
Food & Beverage	\$386,987
Other Rentals	\$10,391
Total	\$636,589

Daily Fees	# Sold
18 Hole	9,593
9 Hole	11,797
18 Hole (Sr/Jr)	3,206
Outings	3,876
Twilight	9,149
18 Hole Special	5,979
9 Hole Special	1,561
Total	45,161

Cart Rentals	# Sold
18 Hole	29,517
9 Hole	16,217

PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS PLANNING



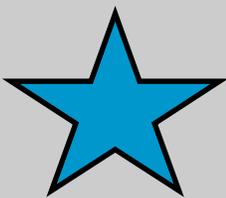
Parks Planning



St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

2016 marked the third year of the \$18 million investment by the City of Duluth in the St. Louis River Corridor. Major projects have already been completed, and others are moving quickly out of the planning phase and into implementation.

2016 Community Input Opportunities



34 Public Parks Meetings



65 Parks-led Stakeholder Meetings

St. Louis River Natural Area

The City will lead an 18-month public process under the framework of the Duluth Natural Area Program to prepare a complete, community-supported nomination package and management plan for the approximately 1000 acre St. Louis River Natural Area. This regionally unique riverfront is located in Duluth's western neighborhoods. The proposal will integrate conservation, recreation, and development; all critical to the overall goals of the St. Louis River Corridor Initiative. The Duluth Natural Area Program was created in 2002 and provides the City with a strong tool to protect ecologically important spaces, while maintaining local control over management and planning. Magney-Snively Natural Area is currently the only designated natural area in Duluth.

Mini-Master Plan Progress

Completed in 2016

- Quarry Park
- Lincoln Park
- Historical Park
- Fond du Lac Park
- Blackmer Park
- Smithville Park
- Riverside Recreation Area
- Norton Park
- Grassy Point Park
- Keene Creek Park
- Merritt Community Recreation Center
- Harrison Community Recreation Center
- Piedmont Community Recreation Center
- Lake Superior Zoo & Fairmount Park Concept Plan

In Progress 2016

- St. Louis River Water Trail
- St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan
- Signage, Wayfinding and Gates Plan
- Cross City Trail
- Western Waterfront Trail
- Duluth Traverse Master Plan



“Small acts when multiplied by many people will transform a community”

-Piedmont Community Recreation Center

National Water Trail Leadership Team

- City of Duluth, MN
- City of Superior, WI
- St. Louis County, MN
- Douglas County, WI
- MN DNR
- WI DNR
- Minnesota Land Trust
- St. Louis River Alliance
- Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwa
- Duluth Visitors Bureau “Visit Duluth”
- The Chamber and Visitors Bureau—Superior Douglas County Area
- National Parks Service—Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

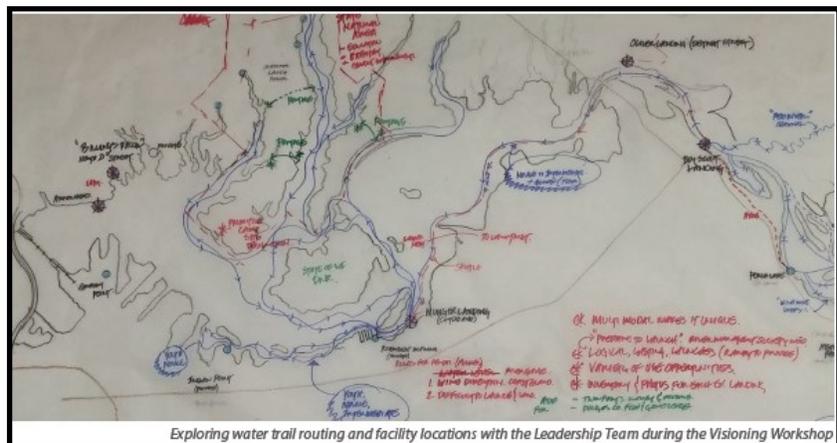
Piedmont Park Starts Mini Master Plan Implementation

The banner outside of the recreation center building reads, “Small acts when multiplied by many people will transform a community.” Over the last year, Piedmont residents and organizations have made this slogan a reality in their park. Piedmont Park implemented the first phase of their Mini Master Plan in fall 2016 thanks to strong neighborhood leadership. The community club has leveraged \$40,000 to date in grants, private donations, and in-kind services to supplement a grant from the St. Louis River Initiative Neighborhood Park Grant Fund. The first phase of the project included storm water improvements, accessible sidewalks, lower and upper ice rink improvements, vegetation restoration, building improvements, and new signage; totaling approximately \$75,000. Donations were secured from MSA Engineering, Piedmont Youth Hockey Association, Arrowhead Concrete, Arrowhead Supply, and many others.



National Water Trail Application

Supported by excellent public outreach, the St. Louis River Estuary Water Trail Master Plan was approved by the Parks Commission in December 2016 and awaits submittal for National Water Trail designation in early 2017. Designation would allow surrounding communities to engage both local citizens and visitors to once again return to this amazing resource and learn about its past, present, and future.



Exploring water trail routing and facility locations with the Leadership Team during the Visioning Workshop

PARKS & RECREATION GLIMPSE AHEAD



Recycling in Parks

Duluth park users should expect to see additional recycling options in 2017. Park Maintenance will be piloting a recycling program at three major parks – Chambers Grove, Enger Park, and Lester Park. Currently, Duluth offers recycling options at 23 park locations through our Big Belly solar compactor trash receptacles. Big Belly solar compactors are primarily located along the Lakewalk, but can also be found at Morley Heights, Washington Square, Portman Park, Merritt Park, Grassy Point, Woodland Recreation Center, Keene Creek Park, Duluth Heights Recreation Center, Rice’s Point Boat Landing, the Skate Park by the Duluth Public Library, and Hartley Park. Efforts to incorporate recycling at additional locations is ongoing with the hope that a recycling program in Duluth parks will be fully integrated in the next three to five years.



Recreation Management System

In 2017, Parks and Recreation will launch an online recreation management software. Public users can search availability and register for programming like youth flag football, or reserve park facilities for various private events like youth birthday parties. This new online system streamlines the permitting process for wedding, private, and special events taking place on park property, while enabling fee payments via credit card for the first time.

Asset Management System

In 2016 Property and Facilities Management (PFM) completed assessments of all community centers and a number of other ancillary park facility assets. The data was placed in PFM’s asset management system, which will help guide a comprehensive review of short and long term facility maintenance and capital needs. PFM and Parks plan to utilize this information after analysis in development of a strategic facilities plan for Parks facilities in 2017.

Wayfinding & Signage

Duluth is a city blessed with thousands of acres of green space and over 100 parks and trail centers. Navigating to these areas, in a city that stretches nearly 30 miles along the St. Louis River and Lake Superior, can be challenging. Presently, it is unlikely that trails are adequately marked for visitors to navigate, plus, with all this green space it is possible for folks to get deep into our park systems. Working closely with the Duluth Police and Fire Departments, Parks is developing a signage, wayfinding and gates program driven by the following goals: protect our parks and trails, improve safety, and enhance the visitor experience. Once designs are finalized, the first parks to receive new signage will be Chambers Grove and Quarry Park.



Tree City USA

The City of Duluth was recognized as a 2016 Tree City USA. The application for this certificate is reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. Duluth has received this recognition for a total of 26, non-consecutive years. The City of Duluth joins more than 3,400 communities nationwide that have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA. To achieve Tree City USA status, a city must meet four core standards of sound urban forestry management:

- Maintain a tree board or department
- Have a community tree ordinance
- Spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
- Celebrate Arbor Day

On Thursday, September 29, 2016, Mayor Larson offered an Arbor Day Proclamation and helped plant trees with volunteers in Hartley Park. Arbor Day partners included the Hartley Nature Center staff, the Urban Forest Commission and Community Action Duluth's Stream Corps.

Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park, located in the heart of the Lincoln Park neighborhood, is 125 years old; one of the City's oldest parks. The Lincoln Park Mini Master Plan, which leads a vision of restoration and park enhancement was completed in February of 2016, after the park was identified as one of the St. Louis River Corridor Initiative's signature parks. Shortly after, Mayor Larson identified the implementation of this Mini Master Plan as a City priority.

The Lincoln Park neighborhood experiences some of the greatest health disparities in the City, with an average life expectancy rate 11 years less than other neighborhoods. Parks are proven to help improve resident's health, particularly if they are well programmed and well maintained. Leading the way in partnership with area nonprofits and businesses, the Mayor and City staff have spent 2016 working towards securing funding to implement Phase one of the Mini Master Plan, and will continue to pursue additional funding opportunities in 2017.

Miller Creek Restoration, a FEMA-funded project which addresses 2012 flood damage will begin in 2017. In addition, a new playground will be built in a safer location within the park, thanks in part to U.S. Bank Places to Play Initiative and Essentia Health. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to make a donation, please contact: lluokkala@duluthmn.gov.

Grant Summary— 2017 Project Implementation

Recognizing the broad impact of Duluth Parks, state and federal funding agencies awarded six major grants to the City of Duluth in 2016, totaling \$900,000. The largest grant-funded projects were the Steward Creek Bridge and the Clyde Connector, two linked projects that will be constructed in 2017.

- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program—Funds to upgrade public restrooms at Lafayette on Park Point (\$100,000)
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program—Funds will support restoration and upgrades at Chambers Grove Park (\$100,000)
- Transportation Alternative Program—Funds will extend the Lakewalk from its present terminus at Lester River through Brighton Beach (\$300,000)
- Regional Trail Grant Program—Funds will support the Stewart Creek Bridge Restoration, a critical span on the Duluth Winnipeg Pacific (DWP) railroad bed. This trail will run from Spirit Mountain Recreation Area to Becks Road (\$200,000)
- Federal Recreation Trail Program—Funds will support construction of the Clyde Connector that will connect the Munger State Trail at the bottom with Skyline Parkway at the top (\$150,000)
- US Bank Places to Play—Funds will support playground replacement/renewal at Lincoln Park (\$50,000)

Park Partners

1854 Treaty Authority	Head of the Lakes United Way
AEOA Senior Dining	Healthy Duluth Area Coalition
Age Well Duluth	Indian Point Campground
Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance	Irving Community Club
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission— ARDC	Lake Superior College—LSC
Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association— AYSA	Lake Superior Disc Golf
Bentleyville Tour of Lights	Lake Superior Rose Society
Boys and Girls Club of the Northland	Lake Superior Zoological Society
Central Hillside Community Club	Lakeside-Lester Park Community Club
Chester Bowl Improvement Club—CBIC	Lincoln Park Children & Family Collaborative
Cities of Service	Lincoln Park Community School Collaborative
Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores— COGGS	Lincoln Park Community/Senior Center
College of St. Scholastica— CSS	Local Geocachers
Community Action Duluth (Seeds of Success & Stream Corps)	Local Initiatives Support Corporation - LISC
Corporation for National and Community Service	Longview Tennis
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute - Northland	Men as Peacemakers
Destination Duluth	Merritt Community Club
Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club	Merritt Creek Academy
Duluth Agency Youth Coalition—DYAC	Metropolitan Interstate Council—MIC
Duluth Amateur Hockey Association— DAHA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture— MDA
Duluth Amateur Youth Basketball Association—DAYBA	Minnesota Department of Health—MDH
Duluth Area Family YMCA	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources— DNR
Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance—DAHTA	Minnesota GreenCorps
Duluth Area Pickleball Association	Minnesota Land Trust
Duluth Area Youth Softball Association - DAYSA	Minnesota Point Preservation Society
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency—MPCA
Duluth Children’s Museum	Minnesota Power
Duluth Climbers Coalition	Minnesota Sea Grant

Duluth Community Garden Program	Monarch Buddies
Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club— DXC	Morgan Park/Smithville Community Club
Duluth Disc Golf	Myers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative
Duluth Dog Parks	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—NAACP
Duluth Economic Development Authority—DEDA	Neighbors of Lower Chester Park
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center— DECC	North Shore ATV Club
Duluth Flower and Garden Society	Northern Minnesota Track Club
Duluth Huskies	Northland Paddlers Alliance
Duluth Invaders—R2ED Team	Northwood Children’s Home
Duluth Outdoor Alliance	Norton Park Community Club
Duluth Preservation Alliance	Over the Hill Night Riders Snowmobile Club
Duluth Public Schools	Park Point Community Club
Duluth Softball Players Association—DSPA	Portman Recreation Association
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation—DSACF	Piedmont Heights Community Club
East Hillside Community Club	Rainbow Community/Senior Center
Ecolibrium3	Riverside Community Club
Environmental Protection Agency	RSVP— SeniorCorps
Essentia Duluth Heritage Sports Center	Senior Center Clubs (Portman, Evergreen, Morgan Park)
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	South St Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District
Fond du Lac Community Club	Spirit Mountain Authority
Friends of Tennis	St. Louis County
Friends of the Lakewalk	St. Louis River Alliance
Friends of West Duluth Parks & Trails	Stewardship Network
Gary New Duluth Community Club	Superior Hiking Trail Association— SHTA
Gary New Duluth Development Alliance	University of Minnesota—Duluth
Goodwill Industries	University of Minnesota—Extension
Grandma’s Marathon	Valley Youth Center
Great Lakes Alliance	Visit Duluth
Greater Downtown Council	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District— WLSSD
Harbor City International School	Wheels on Trails
Harrison Community Club	Woodland Hills
Hartley Nature Center	Youth Sports Groups
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory	Youth Works



DULUTH PARKS

Fun Places, Great Spaces!