

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation**

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**SUBJECT: City of Duluth Parks and Recreation announce winter outdoor recreation activities**

**BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer**

**City of Duluth Parks and Recreation announce winter outdoor recreation activities**

[Duluth, MN] The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation division announce winter activities for the general public. The activities and programs are outlined below.

**1. Winter Equipment Rental**

While Parks and Recreation, per the Governor's Orders, is unable to deliver in-person programming, staff are making recreation equipment available to the general public for rent on the weekends or on a seasonal basis. Items available to rent through Parks and Recreation include:

1. Snowshoes, ice skates, sleds, trekking poles, and snow play equipment. Fee Assistance is available for those who qualify.
2. Items, details, and rental instructions can be found under the "Winter Equipment Rental" tab at [duluthmn.gov/parks/register](http://duluthmn.gov/parks/register).

**2. Monthly themed activities in parks and on trails**

Similar to past activities like the popular trivia trails and scavenger hunts, City staff encourages citizens to follow the DuluthParksMN Facebook and Instagram pages for updates on fun destination hike activities. Additionally, as safety precautions allow, staff will be present at Equipment Pop Ups which are opportunities to use outdoor equipment free of charge while onsite. Pop Up equipment will include:

1. Snowshoes
2. Sleds
3. Snow play kits

When State guidelines allow, Parks and Recreation will return to offering in-person programs including guided hikes, ice skating, archery, outdoor skills classes, and more.

**3. Snowshoe Stompers Volunteer Program**

Do you love snowshoeing? Want to help pack trails in your neighborhood? Whether you have a pair of snowshoes or need one for the season, Parks and Recreation staff would love to connect you with a trail on the stomping list! The Snowshoe Stomper Volunteer program matches volunteers to a designated trail that they agree to pack with snowshoes on a regular basis after each substantial snowfall. This will help those who enjoy walking and/or require a more stable walking surface to enjoy the trails too.

Parks and Recreation would like to thank the avid snowshoers and walkers who are already out packing walking and hiking trails. A limited number of Snowshoe Stomper Volunteers are being sought for the following specific trail locations.

1. Ely's Peak Loop Trail, Superior Hiking Trail (Approximately 3 miles)
2. Green Street to the Zoo, Superior Hiking Trail (Approximately 1.25 miles)
3. Lincoln Park Drive (Approximately 0.75 miles)
4. Twin Ponds to 24th Ave W, Multi-use Trail (Approximately 1.95 miles)
5. Chester Rim Multi-use Loop Trail (Approximately 1.16 miles)
6. Chester Creek Trail (Approximately 1.75 miles)

Volunteers will be provided with instructions, maps, and a pair of snowshoes and trekking poles for the season if they don't already have their own and will need to complete a volunteer waiver and commit to tracking their stomping hours. The link to the volunteer sign-up form is available on the Parks and Recreation website: [duluthmn.gov/parks](http://duluthmn.gov/parks).

A limited number of volunteers will be accepted as we pilot the program in its first season.

**4. Skating Rinks**

The City of Duluth would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers of the Duluth Area Hockey Association (DAHA) for their ongoing commitment to flooding neighborhood skating rinks. While the State continues to press pause on play for organized sports, these committed volunteers have continued to move forward with plans for rink flooding. Flooding will begin as soon as temperature and weather conditions permit the ice to set. Warming shacks will be closed to the public all season. Seating will be available outdoors for changing skates and portable toilets will be placed at all rink locations. The rinks will not be supervised. All users are asked to adhere to social distancing and health precautions while enjoying the rinks. When organized sports are permitted to resume, scheduling for the rinks will be updated to accommodate hockey practices and games along with open skating times.

The Bayfront skating rink will be flooded after Bentleyville concludes for the season. The Bayfront skating rink typically opens for the season around the first of the year. More information to come.

Information on all City skating rinks can be found at: [duluthmn.gov/parks/programs-events/skating-rinks/](http://duluthmn.gov/parks/programs-events/skating-rinks/)

#### 5. Road Closure – Lincoln Park Drive

Effective Friday, December 11, Lincoln Park Drive from 10th Street down to the turnaround below the bridge in the lower portion of the park and the access at 6th Street will be closed for the winter to allow for pedestrian-only use. This location is also one of the designated Snowshoe Stomper Volunteer Program locations. Citizens interested in volunteering to pack a walking route may sign up through the Snow Stompers Volunteer Program by visiting [duluthmn.gov/parks](http://duluthmn.gov/parks). The attached map shows the locations of the road closure. Citizens are reminded to adhere to all parking regulation signs.

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