

Northern Expressions Arts Collective

Connecting Families Together
Through Artistic Play

























































Egg-splosion







Haunted Happenings

















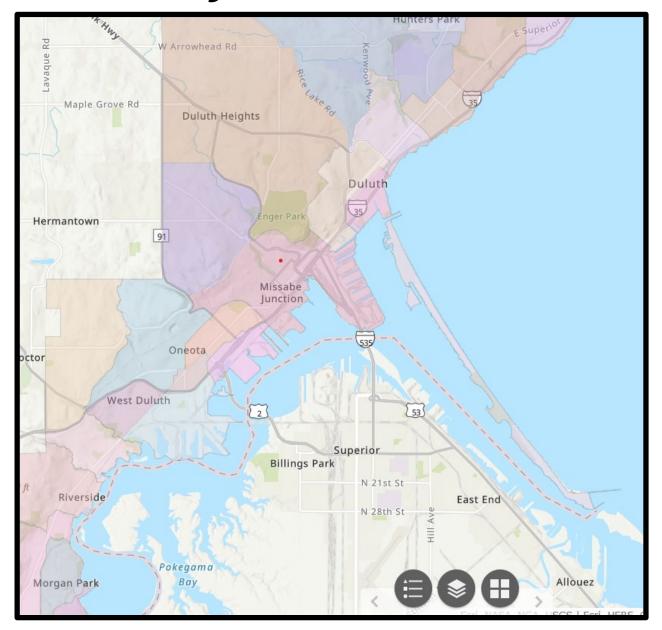








Community Connection Initiative





СПаСИбо 谢谢 THANK YOU ありがとうございました MERCI DANKE धन्यवाद **OBRIGADO**

Duluth Parks & Recreation Athletic Programming

JAROD MEYER
RECREATION SPECIALIST

Winter 2023



Soccer Shots at Washington Center Ages: 5-8 Participants: 16 Date: March-April

Adult Snowshoe Kickball at Cold Front Sponsor: Hoops Brewing Participants: 14





Adult Volleyball League at Washington Center Teams: 6 Date: January-March

Spring 2023



Adult Kickball League at Heritage Center Teams: 12 Date: April-May

Adult Ultimate Frisbee League at Heritage Center Partner: Duluth Ultimate Participants: 46 Date: April-May



Adult Pickleball League at Wheeler Participants: 51 Date: June-August



Adult Ultimate Frisbee League at Irving Partner: Duluth Ultimate Participants: 65 Date: June-July

Summer 2023



Develop Skills to Skate at Heritage Center Ages: 5-10 Partner: Duluth Figure Skating Club Participants: 27 Date: June-August



Intro to Golf at Enger
Ages: 6-13 Partner: CSS Golf Participants: 38
Date: June-August



2nd Annual Twins/Brewers Bus Trip Participants: 25 Date: June 14th

Fall 2023



NFL Youth Flag Football League at Wheeler Athletic Complex Ages: 5-13 Date: September-October League Information: 311 participants, 48 volunteer coaches, 8 officials



Adult Kickball League at Wheeler Athletic Complex Teams: 8 Date: August-October





Holiday Skating Parties at Heritage Center
Date: October, November,
December and February
Participants: average 125 per event

Duluth Parks & Recreation Youth & Family Programming

SAM WERLE RECREATION SPECIALIST

Winter 2023



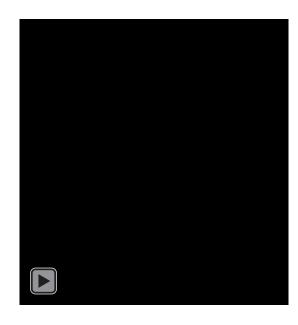








Yeti Hunt 2023

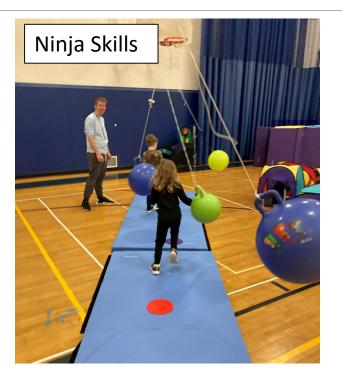


- 50+ participants
- 20+ photos submitted
- 1 EXTRA excited Yeti Hunter

Spring 2023











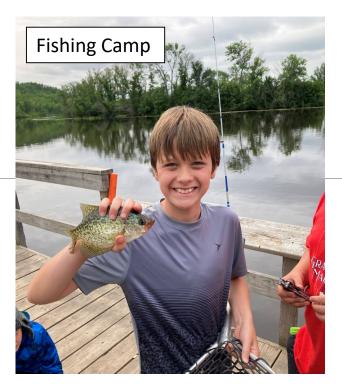
Summer 2023



Canoeing at Chambers Grove















Youth on Trails













Youth on Trails

















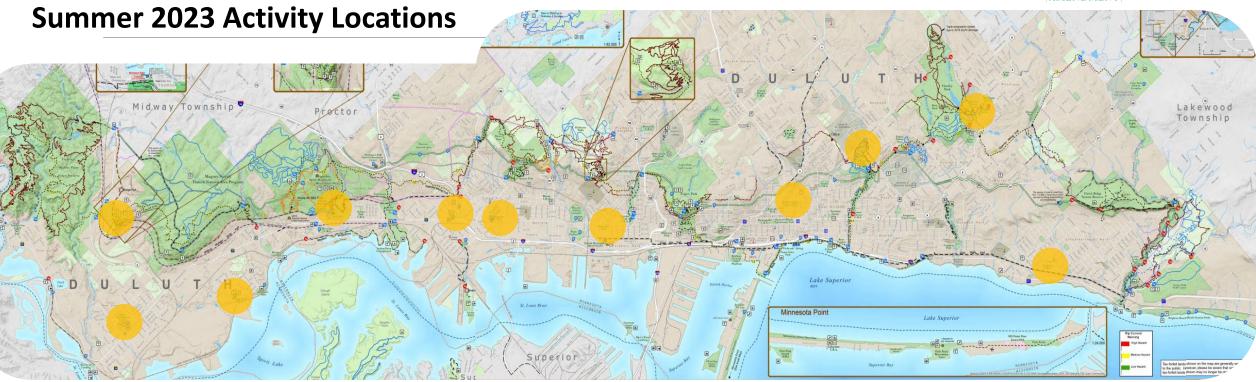


Youth on Trails









Youth Served: 373

Program Sessions: 27

Program Hours: 50.5

Band-Aids used: a few

On-trail Freezies: many

Fun had: SO much!

Fall '23: afterschool MTB Winter '23-'24: indoor bike skills **Next Year:** more in 2024!

Fall 2023



Coming up this fall:

- Archery Classes
- Play Gym
- Afterschool Mountain Bike program(s)
- Crafting Holiday Decorations
- Homeschool Gym Time
- Youth Serving Agency programs
- Adult Cosmic Dodgeball
- And more!





2023 Data Highlights (to date)

- Day Camps: 253 youth participants
- Archery classes: 168 participants in 2023 to date (171 total in 2022)
- Youth on Trails Mountain Biking: 373 youth rode bikes with Youth on Trails
- Youth Serving Agency Programs: 387 youth participants
- Fee Assistance Provided: \$8,721.00

Duluth Parks & Recreation Community Event Programming

MEGAN LIDD RECREATION SPECIALIST

Cold Front

- Annual event at Bayfront Park
- 1st Saturday of February
- Celebrating the best of winter fun
- Anticipated annual attendance ~2,000 people

















S'more Ski Grooming





Partner Program with Duluth XC Ski Club, Park Maintenance, and Parks & Recreation



Women Hike Duluth









- Free monthly hikes for women
- New location each month
- 25-75 hikers each month

Most common reasons people join us:

- Want to learn more about the trails
- Prefer hiking with others
- Want to meet other people to hike with



Parks Night at Quarry Park







- Free "Kick off" to summer event in May
- Provided campfire pie supplies, disc for disc golfing, scavenger hunt, and encouraged hiking/exploring the park

Seasonal and Part Time Rec Instructors











We hire extra seasonal staff in the summer to support daily Parks & Rec programming.

Story & Play

Partner program with Duluth Public Library: Every Monday and one Saturday per month in the Summer. Average attendance: 87









Chester Creek Concert Series

40th Annual Chester Creek Concert Series at Chester Park, Band applications open in January every year Average attendance in 2023: 430





Water Safety Awareness Beach Party

Parks & Recreation host a water safety awareness booth with information on rip currents, hypothermia, and general beach/water safety. This year MN Dept of Health joined us with info on waterborne disease. We also bring additional beach toys/games for beach goers to use.







Pop-Up Splash Pads

Second year of our partner program with Duluth Fire Dept. This year, hosted at four locations: Morgan Park, Grant Park, Keene Creek Park, Portman Park





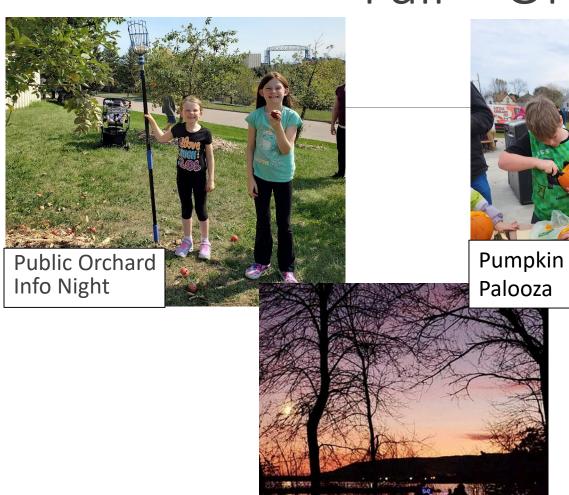






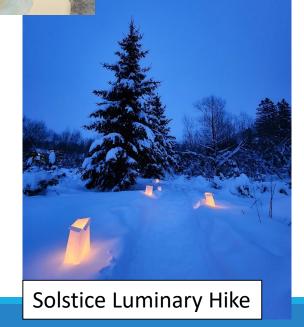


Fall – On the horizon



Glow Hike

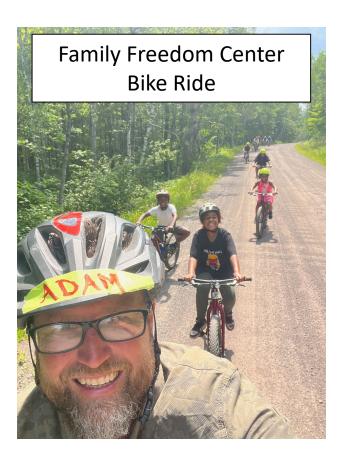




Duluth Parks & Recreation Adult & Family Programming

ADAM FORNEAR RECREATION SPECIALIST

Background



Winter Programming



Bayfront Park

- **1400** Ice Skaters
- Open 7 days a week
- Free Skate Rental @ Bayfront



Winter Hiking and Snowshoeing









- **DUFTA Science Hikes**
 - **40** people since February

Waabizheshikana

Full Moon Hike

- **Snowstompers**
 - **14** Trail Packing Volunteers
- **Full Moon Hikes**
 - **150** people since February

Summer Programming











Gone Fishing

- 50 people fishing from the Gone Fishin' program.
- Fished at Chambers Grove & Perch Lake
- Adult fishing this fall for Salmon at mouth of Lester River

Pop Up Play



- 14 Different Parks
- **450+** In Attendance







Youth on Bikes

- Certified Level 1
 MTB Instructor
- Built Out 20' Cargo Trailers
- Worked with our seasonal MTB staff to produce a respected Intro to MTB program for youth.
- Consistent
 programming with
 Valley Youth Center
 & Family Freedom
 Center





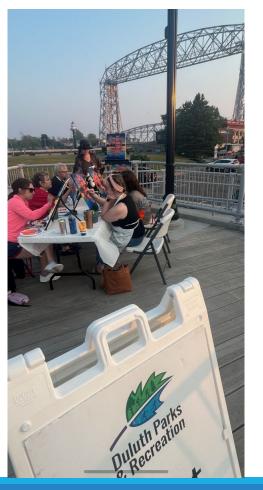


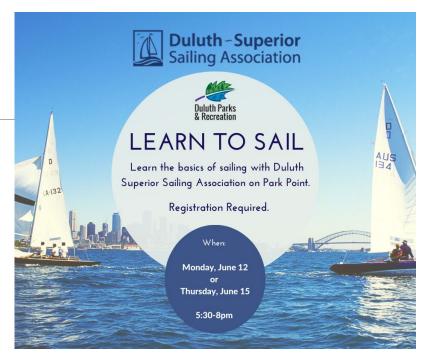


Contract Programming

- Painting In Our Parks 35 signed up
- Learn To Sail 33 people signed up
- Saturday Yoga at Enger Tower over 300 participated over the summer









Partnering Groups

Duluth Superior Sailing Association (Learn To Sail)

Duluth Foot Trails Alliance (DUFTA)

Duluth Public Library (Adventure Book Club)

Full Circle Yoga (Saturday Free Yoga at Enger)

Duluth Climbers Coalition (Flock To Rock)

Ski Hut (MTB Program)

Continental Bike and Ski (MTB Program)

COGGS (Snowstompers)

Valley Youth Center

Family Freedom Center





Future Programming

Bayfront Warming House & Ice Skating Programming

Snowstomper – Grow Program

More Fishing – Adults and Kids





Questions?

Recreation Specialists

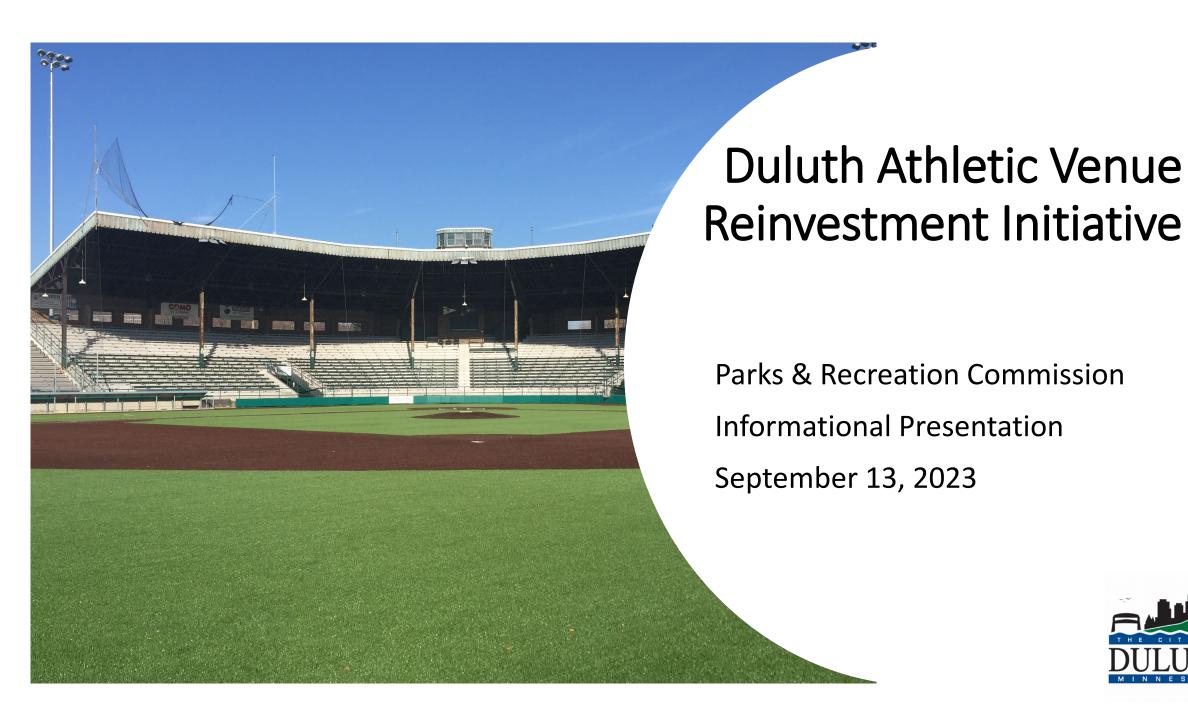
Adam Fornear – Adults and General Programming; afornear@duluthmn.gov; 218-730-4322

Claire Hoffman – Senior Programming; choffman@duluthmn.gov; 218-730-4307

Jarod Meyer – Athletics Programming; jmeyer@duluthmn.gov; 218-730-4314

Megan Lidd – Community Events Programming; mlidd@duluthmn.gov; 218-730-4335

Sam Werle – Youth and Family Programming; swerle@duluthmn.gov; 218-730-4306



Initiative Funding: The "Half-and-Half" Tourism Tax

- The Half-and-Half tax refers to two existing tourism taxes:
 - A 0.5% increment in Duluth's food and beverage tax
 - A 0.5% increment in Duluth's lodging tax
- Per state law, food and beverage taxes and lodging taxes must meaningfully support tourism.
- Current tax authorized in 2014 to fund \$18 million in improvements to tourism-supporting public outdoor recreation facilities in western Duluth.
- How Half-and-Half project financing works:
 - The City borrows to pay for authorized tourism supporting improvements
 - Annual Half-and-Half tax revenues are used to make debt payments



Reauthorization of the Half-and-Half Tax for Sports Tourism

Duluth City Council Resolution 23-0095R

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING ONE-HALF-OF-ONE-PERCENT INCREMENT IN THE CITY OF DULUTH FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX AND THE CITY OF DULUTH LODGING TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING UP TO \$36 MILLION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS-BASED PUBLIC ATHLETIC FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF SPORTS TOURISM AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA.

Unanimously Approved, January 23, 2023

2023 State of Minnesota Omnibus Tax Bill

INCLUDING A PROVISION AUTHORIZING FINANCING FOR THE DULUTH ATHLETIC VENUE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Signed by Governor Walz, May 24, 2023



Additional Council Authorizations Required

Legal Requirements

- Resolution accepting the new state law
- Ordinance authorizing continuation of the tax for a new purpose

Practical Requirement

Resolution of intent charting the direction of the initiative

Future Authorizations

- Approval of bond sales to finance the initiative
- Approval of contracts for planning, design, and/or construction for each project
- Approval of plans for athletic venues that lack them





Parks Commission, Community, and Stakeholder Engagement

- Prior to phased work: Hold stakeholder meetings and Q&A sessions
- Phase 1: Community engagement previously completed as part of adopted plan processes
- Phase 2: Conduct standard park planning process and stakeholder engagement for venue locations that do not have a plan in place
- Phase 3: Conduct community planning process with Mayoral Indoor Sports Venue Task Force oversight
- **Phase 4:** Conduct standard park planning process and stakeholder engagement for venue locations that do not have a plan in place

Anticipated Project Phasing

Phase I

• 2023 - 2024

Phase II

• 2025 - 2027

Phase III

• 2027 – 2029

Phase IV

2030 – 2033



Project Selection: The Sports Tourism Support Test

Does an athletic venue currently host – or could an improved venue in the future host – athletic competitions, activities, and events that will regularly attract numerous participants from outside the Duluth region?















Most Sports Tourism is Concentrated at a Few Sites

- Wade Stadium
- Wheeler Athletic Complex
- Lake Park Athletic Complex (Jean Duluth Baseball & Soccer Fields)
- Fryberger Arena
- Arlington Sports Complex









Venues with Potential for Increased Tourism

- Indoor sports arena(s)
- Enger Park Golf Course (when renewed)
- Spirit Mountain Nordic Center (when complete)
- Gary-New Duluth Skate Park (when complete)









Other Likely Investment Sites

Multi-Sport/Hockey/Community Center Complexes

- Duluth Heights
- Morgan Park
- Piedmont Park
- Portman Park
- Woodland Community Recreation Center
- Como Park (Glen Avon)

Miscellaneous Sports Venues

- Irving Park
- Longview Tennis Courts
- Enger Park Golf Course Clubhouse



Project Sequencing Determinants

- 1. Readiness for construction Is the project fully planned, designed, and funded and has construction begun?
- 2. Urgency of deferred maintenance issues
- 3. Importance of facility for youth sports and the community as a whole
- 4. The necessity for major fundraising and grant seeking





Investment Guidelines

- 1. Sustain and increase sports tourism
- 2. Address deferred maintenance
- 3. Reduce routine maintenance burdens
- 4. Maximize multiple use
- 5. Invest equitably across west, central, and east Duluth
- 6. Lower barriers to athletic participation
- 7. Decrease City carbon emissions

Drawn from state law and prior City Council action, including Council-approved Essential Spaces: Duluth Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan.





Phase I

- 2023 2024, \$4.8 M
- Time-sensitive projects in progress

Phase II

- 2025 2027, \$14.2 M
- Primary outdoor sports venues

Phase III

- 2027 2029, \$32 M (\$8 M Half-and-Half)
- Indoor sports venue

Phase IV

- 2030 2033, \$9 M
- Outdoor sports venues



Phase I

- 2023 2024, \$4.8 M
- Fully planned and designed, time-sensitive projects already in progress

Time-Sensitive Projects

Enger Park Golf Course	Complete irrigation system	\$1.7 M
Spirit Mountain Nordic Center	Complete snowmaking and lighting	\$1.2 M
Wade Stadium	Main building – roof, walls, windows	\$1.2 M
Gary-New Duluth Skatepark	Complete work-in-progress	\$0.3 M
Pre-design for sports tourism Phases II & III		\$0.4 M



Phase II

- 2025 2027, \$14.2 M
- Primary outdoor sports venues

Primary Outdoor Sports Venues

Lake Park Athletic Complex	Modernize facilities and access	\$4.0 M
Wade Stadium & Wheeler Athletic Complex	Complete renewal in progress	\$4.0 M
Arlington Sports Complex	Modernize facilities and access	\$2.2 M
Multi-sport hockey/community center complex - Portman		\$2.0 M
Multi-sport hockey/community center complex – Duluth Heights		\$2.0 M

Duluth City Council Resolution 22-0666R

RESOLUTION OF INTENT FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY EQUITABLE EXPENDITURE OF PARK FUND LEVY PROCEEDS ACROSS WEST, CENTRAL, AND EAST DULUTH.

Proposed Phase I and II Investments by Duluth Geography

West Duluth	Central Duluth	East Duluth
\$6,700,000	\$6,100,000	\$6,200,000



Phase III

- 2027 2029, \$8M
- Indoor sports venue

Indoor Sports Venue

- New indoor athletic venue(s) considerations:
 - Replace Fryberger Arena with new indoor rink
 - Indoor multi-purpose sport court
 - Indoor artificial turf field
- Additional venue(s) to be determined
 - Site, design, budget, public/private partnership model
- To be guided by Mayoral Indoor Sports Venue Task Force
- Final project plan proposed as top City priority for 2026 bonding session



Phase IV

- 2030 2034, \$9 M
- Outdoor Sports Venue(s) (TBD)

Outdoor Sports Venues

- Specific projects to be determined pending further public engagement
- Performance of tourism tax funds will inform when Phase IV may proceed



Next Steps

- 9/25
 - City Council resolution accepting state law
 - City Council resolution to approve investment framework
 - Mayor to announce Indoor Sports Venue Task Force
- 10/9
 - City Council ordinance authorizing continuation of tax
- Future
 - Public engagement with various athletics stakeholders
 - City Council project-specific authorizations







