

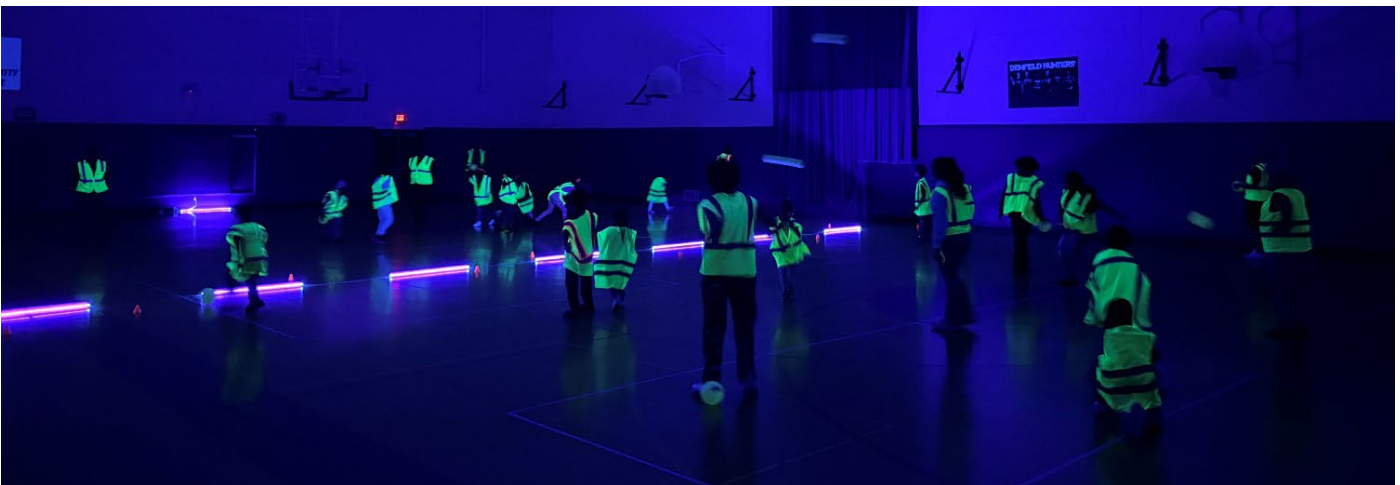
## Parks and Recreation Division Report

December 2024

### PROGRAMMING

#### Youth Activities at Washington Center Gym

As the temperatures cool down, the Washington Center Gym heats up! Youth activities in November included more families at Toddler Playtime (48 people on November 13!), Archery classes, and Homeschool Gym Time. We also played Cosmic Dodgeball with Family Freedom Center with glow-in-the-dark dodgeballs and blue lights. Both the kids and staff at Family Freedom Center were excited to join us for this fun program again!



#### Science Hike Partnership with Duluth Foot Trails Alliance

November's science hike with Duluth Foot Trails Alliance (DUFTA) took place on an evening just before sunset in Morgan Park. Five participants set out on a hike along the new trail on the Spirit Lake Delta Cap, formerly known as Slag Point. The discussion centered around how this new hiking area came to be, including all the parties involved in making it happen, as well as noticing different plant and bird species along the way. It was a brisk, enjoyable evening with a mix of old and new faces!



### **Full Moon Hike Along Waabizheshikana**

Twenty folks from around the city joined Parks and Recreation for our monthly Full Moon Hike. Leaving from the Pulaski Street Trailhead, the group hiked along Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail for a full hour, stopping at the fishing dock at Indian Point Campground to watch the moon rise over the St. Louis River Estuary. No matter the weather, these easy hikes are always well attended.

### **Athletics**

The fall regular season of Parks and Recreation’s adult volleyball league is in full swing, taking place on Sunday nights beginning in November at Washington Center Gym. This league has grown from six teams last year to now ten teams with 60 total participants. The upcoming winter volleyball league will start up in the new year and run from January to March.

Another popular athletics program is drop-in pickleball, also held at the Washington Center Gym. Beginning in October, the gym has been turned into three pickleball courts four mornings each week. This program averages 20 participants and will continue through mid-May.



### **55+ Day Trip**

A coach bus brought 35 people to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre to see White Christmas. This was the first time the Dinner Theatre performed White Christmas, and the show was sold out! Participants enjoyed a front row seat to the performance and the opportunity to meet new people and sing along while getting into the festive spirit.



## 55+ Annual Senior Holiday Party

The Annual Senior Holiday Party is once again being held at Morgan Park Community Center on December 12 at 10:30 a.m. This anticipated event will feature a lunch, raffle prizes, and live music from the Blue Water Big Band. Parks and Recreation Commissioners are invited to volunteer at this event! If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Bridget in the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.

## Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Parks and Recreation hosted our first ever Jigsaw Puzzle Competition at Evergreen Community Center on November 14. It was such a fun night, with 22 teams racing to complete a 500 piece puzzle. This event was such a success that another is being planned for this spring!



## Solstice Luminary Hike

The annual Solstice Luminary Hike will be taking place on Thursday, December 19 at Enger Park Golf Course. Drop in anytime between 5-8 p.m. for a free hike along a candlelit path. If Parks and Recreation Commissioners are interested in volunteering at this event, please reach out to Bridget in the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.

## Save the Date! Cold Front 2025

Saturday, February 1 at Bayfront Park; visit [coldfrontduluth.com](http://coldfrontduluth.com) for more information and updates!

A promotional graphic for the Cold Front 2025 event. The background is light blue with white snowflake patterns. On the left, the text reads "COLD FRONT" in large blue letters, followed by "SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025" and "NOON-6 P.M. | BAYFRONT PARK" in black. Below that, it says "SAVE THE DATE!" in large orange letters. At the bottom left are logos for "DULUTH WISCONSIN", "DULUTH PARKS AND RECREATION COLD FRONT", and "Duluth Parks &amp; Recreation". In the center is a hexagonal collage of six photos showing winter activities: a person on a bicycle, a person on a sled, a person on skis, a person on a snowboard, a person on a sled, and a person on a sled. On the right, the text reads "CELEBRATE THE BEST OF WINTER FUN!" in large orange letters, followed by "Sponsorship opportunities available now!" in black, and "coldfrontduluth.com" in orange at the bottom.

**PERMITS**

PERMIT TYPE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
Park & Building Rentals	65	65	73	80	111	221	191	226	136	102	47
Commercial Operator Permits	1	1	2	6	6	3	2	0	2	1	0
Busker Permits	0	0	9	3	5	3	3	1	0	0	0
Alcohol Consumption Permits	2	5	5	15	14	18	17	7	5	6	2
<b>Total</b>	68	71	89	104	136	245	213	234	143	109	49

**PROJECT UPDATES**

**Park Point Recreation Area Planning**

Through a \$75,000 federal grant under Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program, the City will be initiating a comprehensive, community informed Plan for the Park Point Recreation Area. The Plan is intended to support resilient landscape design, safe water access, and inclusive and multi-use recreational facilities capable of serving community members and visitors of Duluth for years to come.



## **Athletic Venues Reinvestment Initiative (AVRI) Action Plan**

RDG Planning & Design (RDG), the City's consulting firm for the AVRI Action Plan, has wrapped up project's Discovery phase and has entered the Concept Development phase. The Discovery phase included extensive community engagement and surveying of athletic groups, a comprehensive sports tourism-focused market analysis and systemwide financial review, an assessment of each facility's current and potential future uses, and in-depth case study reviews. Using this well-rounded set of information, RDG is developing a series of conceptual approaches for how to best invest AVRI funds to meet community needs. In early 2025, RDG will present their initial concepts to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to the general public through public meeting and community workshops. The exact time and dates of the community workshops have not yet been set but are anticipated to take place in mid-January.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Magney-Snively Natural Area Management Plan**

The Advisory Committee for the Magney-Snively Natural Area Management Plan Update met for the first time on November 22. This is a group of around 10 people, half representing user groups and half natural resources professionals. The plan update is being completed under a Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant held by the Minnesota Land Trust. Approval of the updated plan is projected to occur by the end of 2025.

## **PARK MAINTENANCE DIVISION UPDATES**

### **Park Point Recreation Area Fencing Replacement**

Park Maintenance teamed up with 12 volunteers from the Park Point Community Club to replace old plastic fencing to the north of the Park Point Beach House along a path to the lake. The fencing is in place to prevent blowing sand building up along the path and to keep it out of the grassy park between the two picnic areas along the Point. Thank you to the Park Point Community Club for this collaborative effort!



### **Forestry**

Tree crews finished planting all of the trees for the year, with an approximate total of 700 trees planted in 2024! The forestry crew also completed a tree climbing training, which will allow them to prune certain size trees with better technique.