



— Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance—

# The View from Skyline

Skyline Parkway, Duluth, Minnesota - Rogers's Boulevard - Lester River to Jay Cooke State Park (now Beck's Rd)

Welcome to *The View from Skyline*, newsletter of the Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance (SPPA). Recognizing Skyline Parkway as an outstanding — but nearly forgotten — resource for the City of Duluth, a group of citizens joined together in 1999, dedicated to the protection and preservation of the aesthetic, environmental, and historic character of Duluth's Skyline Parkway. Since then, SPPA has sponsored monthly meetings, summer interpretive hikes, and annual cleanup days along the Parkway. We now invite you to share our newsletter as we bring you the news and history of Skyline Parkway.

The Parkway was built over a period of decades, beginning in the 1880s. It was envisioned by its creators as a park-like ribbon that would traverse the length of the city, generally following a beach ridge of glacial Lake Duluth and providing commanding views of the St. Louis River, the city, the harbor, and Lake Superior. By 1940, Skyline Parkway extended all the way from the Lester River on the east to Jay Cooke State Park on the west. Thanks to the foresight of early Duluth leaders like William K. Rogers, Clarence R Magney, and Sam Snively who made the parkway a reality, Duluthians of the 21<sup>st</sup> century can still enjoy the park-like atmosphere and wonderful views of this very special roadway.

Whether you prefer walking, biking, or driving on the Parkway, I'm sure there are times when you've felt just like Mayor Sam Snively when he said,

**"Sometimes when I become discouraged, I say to myself I should have gone to another city to seek my fortune. But when I look over these hills and see the great natural beauties of our community, I console myself and wonder—where in all this wide world could I find such a view as this."**

Nancy Nelson

## Next SPPA Meeting

### What Does the Future Hold for the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area?

**Tuesday February 19, 6:30 p.m.**  
**"Coppertop" Church, 230 E. Skyline**

**Rick Certano**, Executive Director of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area, will join SPPA to discuss the future of Spirit Mountain. Mr. Certano is well aware that members of SPPA are very concerned about the impact that the proposed golf course project would have on the old-growth forest at Spirit Mountain. Rather than focusing on this controversial project, Mr. Certano will discuss the financial parameters of the recreation area, the direction the Board of Directors believes the business needs to take in order to succeed, and possibilities for the future. He will share with us some of the history of the recreation area and the current proposed changes to the master plan. For more information, call 728-1002.

*Please come with creative suggestions about your vision for the future of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area.*

**Join SPPA** (see form inside).

**Become a SPPA Volunteer**

Help needed on the following committees:  
Membership, Administrative  
Educational Outreach, and History

**Visit SPPA on the web  
at [www.wsppa.org](http://www.wsppa.org)**





**Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance Mission:** *To be actively involved in short-term and long-term planning for protecting and preserving the aesthetic, environmental, and historic character of Skyline Parkway.*



Skyline  
Planning & Preservation  
Alliance

# Events Page

\*\* If you have something you would like added to the Events Page, please call 525-5098.

When & Where	What
February 9 Meet at 9 am at Beaner's Central	 SPPA Snowshoe/Hike in Magney-Snively Forest. FMI call 525-5098
February 19 6:30 pm Coppertop Church 230 E. Skyline	SPPA Meeting—Guest Speaker <b>Rick Certano</b> , Executive Director of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority <b><i>What Does the Future Hold for the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area?</i></b>
March -Date TBA DECC	Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan Open House
March 30 1 pm at Mission Creek Trail, Fond du Lac	<b>Porcupine "Hunt"</b> - Join Hartley Nature Center staff on a hike along the Mission Creek trail to look for porcupines. Call 724-6735 for more information. \$
April 16 6:30 pm Coppertop Church 230 E. Skyline	SPPA Meeting— Guest Speaker: <b>Dr. John Green</b> , Professor Emeritus at UMD Geological Sciences Department <b><i>Duluth's Unique Geology</i></b>
April 27 9 am at Bardon's Peak, West Skyline	City-wide Clean-up Day <b>SPPA Annual Bardon's Peak Cleanup.</b> Bring gloves and wear old clothes. Bags will be provided.
May 11 Meet at 9 am at Beaner's Central	 1st 2002 SPPA Hike <b>Wildflower Photography Hike with Erik Hahn</b> at Magney-Snively Forest. Co-sponsored event with Hartley Nature Center (HNC). Please bring a \$5 donation for HNC. 
June 8 9 am	SPPA Monthly Hike FMI call 728-1002
June 18 6 - 8:30 pm Enger Tower	SPPA Summer Potluck Picnic Celebrate the (near) Solstice Special Guest— <b>Betty Dahl</b> — local anthropologist 

Monthly Second Saturday Summer Hikes Begin May 11. For more information, call 728-1002.





## SPPA Receives Grant. Maps on the Way...

Thanks to **Andrew Slade** and **Sally Keyes** for submitting a proposal to the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund. SPPA has been awarded \$2500 to develop a map of streams crossing Skyline Parkway. The grant project involves making a clear product for local Duluthians and tourists to become more familiar with Skyline Parkway.



The map is being designed by  
**Sally Rauschenfels.**

The text will be written by **Nancy Nelson.**

The **Corridor Management Plan** for Skyline Parkway, initiated in the spring of 2001, is underway. The Plan seeks to balance the competing needs of users and the many roles the parkway system must play – as a recreational route, a city street, a historic road and a visitor attraction. Here are some of the issues the plan will address:

- Enhancing recreational use, especially by bikes and pedestrians,
- Vegetation management, so that key views of the city and lake are preserved or restored,
- Restoration of historic bridges, retaining walls and culverts;
- Interpretive strategies that tell the parkway's story to residents as well as visitors; interpretive facilities that can withstand harsh winter weather and discourage vandalism.
- Management of existing facilities such as overlooks to discourage dumping and vandalism.
- Wayfinding signage that can guide the traveler through connected streets and intersections;
- Traffic management at intersections with arterial streets;
- Management of the public conservation lands and parklands along the route; potential land development for housing or other uses;
- Potential alternate routes through the UMD Gap area and potential redesign of "city street" segments with a "parkway" character.

If you would like to find out more about the Plan, email Suzanne Rhees at [suzanne\\_rhees@urscorp.com](mailto:suzanne_rhees@urscorp.com).

### -MANY THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS-

SPPA is a volunteer organization. Thanks to all who have been a part of this growing expanding group: hike leaders, program speakers, SPPA planners, and clean-up volunteers.

SPPA is in the process of becoming a 501c(3) organization and forming an official board. If you would like to become a SPPA Board Member or help on a committee, call Nancy at 728-1002.

## The Beginnings of SPPA by Doug Stevens

West Skyline Parkway Preservation Alliance was a group of 8-10 people meeting at the home of **Russ Stover** on Skyline Parkway interested in preserving and protecting the character of the parkway. They decided to have a public meeting to get an active citizens group together to let the city know that we care about West Skyline Parkway. A meeting was November 3, 1999 and packed the room so they knew there were other people who cared. At that time WSPPA focused on the western stretch of Skyline between 27th Ave west and Lincoln Park to Beck's Road near Gary-New Duluth. The mission statement was drafted to be actively involved in short-term and long-term planning for the protecting and preserving the aesthetic, environmental, and historic character of Duluth's Skyline Parkway. Spirit Mountain and the development of the proposed golf course was a concern. In the past a section of Skyline was moved up to make room for the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area. The Parkway truly melds the neighborhoods of the city together with this astounding 24 miles of beautiful winding roads along the old lake shore high above the city. Sinclair Lewis was taken by his driver up to Skyline and loved the steel blue lake and the wonderful views and commented that he wanted to stay a while. Just last year about this time Dan Marriott of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was taken up to see Skyline Parkway. Dan also has written *Saving Historic Roads* and is an expert on historic roads, rural and heritage. He was very impressed with Skyline, its history and historic bridges.

Thanks to **Jill Fisher** and many hours of hard work, Skyline Parkway was designated as a State Scenic Byway in 1999. Grant money is being used for a corridor management plan. Cleaning up Skyline has been a priority and the group adopted a western section of Skyline. In 2001 the group expanded to include all of Skyline from Beck's Road to Lester River. The group's new name is **Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance**. In the future SPPA would like to see Skyline become a Local Historic Landmark, receive National Scenic Byway status, and be on the National Register of Historic Places (Stewart Creek Bridge is on the register.)

Please feel free to join the group. Come to the SPPA monthly summer interpretive hikes and the Tuesday (third Tuesday of the month) night meetings at the First United Methodist Church at 6:30 pm. Check out the SPPA Events Page for more specifics.

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Wendy Grethen  
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- **What does the future hold for the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area?**
  - **Why do we have Hawk Ridge, Skyline Parkway, Park Point, and Bardon's Peak?**

Come to the SPPA upcoming Tuesday night meetings to hear from **Rick Certano**, Executive Director of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area (Feb. 19), and **Dr. John Green**, geology professor (April 16) .  
See Events Page for more information.

Visit the SPPA website:  
[www.wsppa.org](http://www.wsppa.org)

**Check up on the SPPA Calendar  
Maps Gallery & More**

**If you want to be added to the SPPA email list,  
send an email to [skylineppa@yahoo.com](mailto:skylineppa@yahoo.com)**

*If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please call 525-5098 or email [wendyupnorth@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyupnorth@yahoo.com). Please call or email if you have articles, events, photos, etc. to share with SPPA. Thank you. Enjoy.*

### Skyline Videos Available

Did you have a chance to see the two videos released in March 2001 on Skyline Parkway? SPPA showed *Snively's Road* last March and October to full houses. *On the Boulevard* aired on Channel 8 last March. If you'd like your own copies, here's how to obtain them....

Mark Ryan's video—***Snively's Road***  
To order, call 612-926-6095  
[www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/4839/  
SevenBridges](http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/4839/SevenBridges)

WDSE Video— ***On the Boulevard***  
Free with \$75 membership pledge to  
Channel 8 Public TV.  
To order, call 724-8567