



— Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance —

The View from Skyline

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

SPPA Receives Award



Nancy Nelson, Doug Stevens, Barb Forrest, Tim Larson and Tom Ryther receive the award for SPPA

SPPA received the Milton E. Pelletier Environmental Stewardship Award at the January 2006 St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee awards night.

Open Views

Thanks to Mayor Herb Bergson for budgeting money to clear some key Skyline Parkway overlooks this past fall. Minnesota Conservation Corps crew was hired and managed by Duluth forester, Kelly Fleissner.
Ahhh, What Awesome Views! What a place Duluth is!

Mayor Bergson presents Doug Overland with a surprise proclamation from the city at the SPPA Skyline Celebration last fall. The proclamation states that September 21, 2005 will be called Douglas Snivley Overland Day. The SPPA Skyline Parkway History Poster is in the background which was on display at the Depot throughout the fall.

See page 5 for more on the celebration.



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY

February 26, 3 pm

Snowshoe Spirit Mt.

Doug Stevens & Tim Larson will lead a trip in new portions of the Superior Hiking Trail, stop at an old Italian homestead and share information on the original route of Skyline Parkway in the area. Meet at the Magney Snively parking lot.

TUESDAY

March 21, 6:30 pm

First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Pkwy

Spirit Mountain:

Past, Present, &

Future

Where is it going?

Guest Speaker: Renee Mattson,

Executive Director of the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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 board members

Terry Brown
Barb Forrest (Treasurer)
Wendy Grethen
Tim Larson
Nancy Nelson
Tom Ryther
Doug Stevens

Newsletter editor:
Wendy Grethen.

To submit announcements or articles to the newsletter, call 525-5098 or email contact@skylineppa.org
The next newsletter deadline is April 25, 2006.

SPPA Contact Information

Phone 525-5098
contact@skylineppa.org
www.skylineppa.org

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.

Relevant Contacts for Skyline Parkway

Mayor Herb Bergson 730-5230
City Planner Bob Bruce 730-5580
City Planner Chuck Froseth 730-5580
City Council 730-5740
council@ci.duluth.mn.us

To report significant trash dumpings along Skyline call the Fire Dept at 723-3280
Call 911 if you have specific information (license #, etc)

Informative Website
www.amitycreek.com

PROPOSED SPPA 2006 PROJECTS

1. Direct attention to Spirit Mountain and have people provide input on what they think Spirit Mountain should be like, learn more about the Spirit Mountain of today and its history and be involved in its future
2. Create a more permanent display on the history of Skyline Parkway and display it around town
3. Raise funds via donations and/or grants to put in signs naming the streams along the Parkway
4. Work with the City as the watchdog group so the Corridor Management Plan proceeds and protection and preservation of Skyline Parkway is addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. In particular, check on the wayfinding enhancement opportunities
5. Promote Skyline Parkway through hikes, other activities, presentations, Letters to the Editor and correspondence with key people
6. Maintain Skyline Parkway website www.SkylinePPA.org and Email List for Parkway information & announcements

T Our SPPA first-ever trolley tour covering Skyline Parkway from end to end was a success!
R October 1 was a gorgeous fall day and a full load boarded the bus. Doug Stevens and Mark Ryan pointed out sights of historical interest and stories of the people involved in making the Parkway a reality.
O

Thanks to Mark Ryan and Doug Stevens for narrating the tour.

Thanks to the participants who went on the tour. We hope you enjoyed it!

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Oct. 1, 2005



The first stop was at Bardon's Peak and tour continued through Seven Bridges Road.

SPPA 2005 Highlights

- ◆ Organized Seven Bridges Road Restoration Presentation (over 40 people attended)
- ◆ Brought numerous local talent together showing art on Skyline Parkway
- ◆ Organized a clean-up along W. Skyline Parkway
- ◆ Held a picnic at the Thomson Hill Info. Center
- ◆ Organized five monthly summer hikes along Skyline Parkway (May-Sept)
- ◆ Participated at city council, planning commission, & parks & recreation commission meetings
- ◆ Held a reception at the Depot celebrating Skyline Parkway and Mayor Snively
- ◆ Designed a large poster display on the history of Skyline Parkway which was on display throughout the fall to visitors at the Depot
- ◆ Provided Fall Skyline Parkway Trolley Tour
- ◆ Delivered presentations on Skyline Parkway history to seniors and other groups
- ◆ Received the Milton E. Pelletier Environmental Stewardship Award
- ◆ Maintained SPPA website www.skylineppa.org





Spirit Mountain

Have you been to Spirit Mountain lately? It's hoppin'. It gets about 240,000 skier visits per year (skiers and snowboarders). The winter seasons generally runs from Thanksgiving to April 1st. There's plenty to do at Spirit Mountain Recreation Area year-round. SPPA is offering a free snowshoe outing on Sunday, February 26 at 3 PM. We are also planning an early fall camping outing at the Spirit Mountain Campground. Come to the SPPA March 21 meeting to meet the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Executive Director, Renee Mattson and ask her questions. She'll also let us know more about some new things going on at Spirit Mountain, such as the Moosehead Saloon opening during summer months beginning June 22 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through October. The menu will be sandwiches and more. Spend a morning, afternoon, night, or overnight at Spirit Mountain sometime this year.

Comprehensive Plan Meetings

There will be another round of public comment and open houses for you to comment on Duluth's future.

Monday February 27, City Center West
6:30 to 7 PM Open House
7 to 8:30 PM Presentation and Public Participation

Tuesday, February 28, Lake Superior College
Commons Area
6:30 to 7 PM Open House
7 to 8:30 PM Presentation and Public Participation

Saturday, March 4, Environmental Protection Agency
9:30 to 10 AM Open House
10 to 11:30 AM Presentation and Public Participation

The Comprehensive Plan Committee holds regular meetings on the fourth floor of city hall starting at 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday and the third Wednesday of each month. These are open to the public.

More related information can be found on the city web site.

Go to www.duluthplan.com

Skyline Parkway Events

FEBRUARY 26 3 PM

SPPA SNOWSHOE OUTING

MEET AT THE MAGNEY SNIVELY PARK AREA
BRING YOUR OWN SNOWSHOES
CALL 724-0820



FEBRUARY & MARCH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PUBLIC MEETINGS

ATTEND AND GIVE INPUT ON THE IMPORTANCE
OF SKYLINE PARKWAY.
SEE DATES LISTED TO THE LEFT.

MARCH 21, 6:30 PM

SPPA PROGRAM:

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

GUEST: **RENEE MATTSON**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN REC AREA
HELD AT COPPERTOP CHURCH, 230 E. SKYLINE PKWY.

APRIL 12

DULUTH PARKS & REC ANNUAL MEETING

PROVIDE INPUT TO THE
PARKS & REC DEPT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
723-3337



APRIL 29, 9 AM BARDON'S PEAK CLEAN-UP

HELP PICK UP TRASH AND
DUMPED ITEMS NEAR BARDON'S PEAK. BAGS WILL BE ON
HAND. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WORK GLOVES.

MAY THROUGH OCTOBER MONTHLY SPPA HIKES

If you are interested in helping at a clean-up,
leading a hike or have a suggestion for a
program, please call Wendy at 525-5098.

Keeping an Eye on the Parkway

by Nancy Nelson

FOR SALE: 16 acres of city park land; prime location adjacent to Skyline Parkway, Twin Ponds, and Enger Park; includes a prominent rocky knob overlooking Lake Superior and the St. Louis River; land is currently open for public access but zoned R-1-B so it's a great opportunity for a residential development. Make an offer.



Park Land for Sale

That's a brief summary of a surprising communication that was sent out by the city administration late last year. This was not a case of developers asking the city to sell land. Instead, the city initiated this potential land sale by sending out a request for proposals (RFP) to about a dozen developers. The city's RFP stated "The city is open to consideration of housing at various densities and building types on this site." The RFP included two parcels of land at Enger Park, totaling 27 acres. Fortunately, no serious proposals were received, and this project appears to have faded into history for the moment. But there have been suggestions from some city staff members to sell off other parcels of land at Lincoln Park and near Seven Bridges Road.

Last year we also saw the City Council approve the rezoning of 65 acres on West Skyline Parkway from "S" suburban (a maximum of 13 homes) to R-1-A (75 or more homes). The developers of this project (Sugarloaf Enterprises) promised to maintain a 235-foot forested buffer along Skyline Parkway and to design the project so that it conforms to the natural contours of the land and minimizes the impact on the forest. However, it is not clear how much legal authority the city has to make sure these promises are kept.

And even though there is no longer a viable proposal to build a golf course at Spirit Mountain, the forest has no formal protection and remains vulnerable to future development projects. The Spirit Mountain Board of Directors will soon be working on updating the master plan for the Recreation Area. Spirit Mountain is a major component of the western segment of Skyline Parkway, and it is important that the updated master plan does not include a golf course.

What all of this means is that even with a Mayor, City Council, and Planning Director who are generally supportive of maintaining Skyline Parkway and preserving green space, we can't let down our guard. We must all continue to monitor projects that could significantly impact Skyline Parkway and Duluth's Greenbelt and speak up when we see problems. It is crucial that SPPA members talk to the Mayor, to City Councilors, and to members of the Planning Commission and the Comprehensive Plan Committee at every opportunity.

LET the DECISION MAKERS KNOW that you want Skyline Parkway and the Duluth Greenbelt maintained and protected!

Skyline in the News

by Doug Stevens

Skyline Parkway was in the news this past year. **Spirit Mountain, Hawk Ridge, Magney Snively Forest, and Seven Bridges Road.** Spirit Mountain Recreation Ski Area will join Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in this years 2006 Rand McNally Road Atlas. City officials and others from Visit Duluth gathered at Spirit Mountain to announce the honor for both attractions last September. Hawk Ridge was chosen by Rand McNally editors as "Best of the Road." Spirit Mountain will be included as one of 50 adventure opportunities within 15 minutes of the Eisenhower Interstate System, which turns 50 this year. Hawk Ridge and Spirit Mountain have been enjoyed by locals for years. Now the secret will be out and they will be great tourist destinations that will provide memorable experiences for all that come to Duluth to enjoy the outdoors.

The Magney Snively Forest, an 1,800 acre area located in western Duluth, is the first property formally entered into the Duluth Natural Areas Program. Mayor Herb Bergson announced it on December 16, 2005. The DNAP was approved in 2002 and was a joint effort between the city of Duluth, the Nature Conservancy, the Minnesota DNR Conservation Partners Program, the Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Areas Program and the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. The DNAP was created to conserve our most ecologically significant lands and leave a legacy for generations to come. This area will not be developed. Recreation that will damage the area is prohibited, but hikers and gentle users of the land are welcome to enjoy the beauty of the Magney Snively Forest.



Skyline Parkway Celebration

City of Duluth

 Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, We are honored by a visit today by the great nephew of Mayor Samuel Snively. Even though Douglas Snively Overland now lives in New Brighton, Minnesota, he still considers Duluth his home. He has many fond memories of the great mayor Snively; and
- WHEREAS, Mayor Samuel Snively was renowned for his charitable acts, hosting an annual orphan's picnic and learning who the destitute citizens were, so he could quietly help them, not even looking for recognition; and
- WHEREAS, Though it is rumored Mayor Snively could "swear like a sailor," he was known for building and preserving treasures of Duluth such as the forest in the western part of Duluth, Seven Bridges Road and Skyline Drive...which he actually helped build; and
- WHEREAS, Although spittoons and cigars filled city hall, it had no shortage of love for his fellow citizens. Douglas Overland should be proud of the legacy left behind by a great man who has left behind a legacy of preservation and charity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Herb W. Bergson, Jr., Mayor of the City of Duluth, do officially proclaim Wednesday, September 21st, 2005 as

Douglas Snively Overland Day

in the City of Duluth.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Duluth to be affixed in the City of Duluth this 21st day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand five.

Herb W. Bergson
 MAYOR



Thanks to artists: **Arna Rennan** and **Vera Socha**. History buffs: **Doug Stevens**, and **Mark Ryan**.

On September 21st, 2005 SPPA organized a celebration about Skyline Parkway. About 85 people attended the evening's program. Co-sponsor for the event, the St. Louis County Historical Society, delivered a few comments and several local artists decorated the Great Hall with their works. Our hero, Mark Ryan, also brought a sampling of his Skyline Parkway history and memorabilia collection and gave a presentation on the Mysteries and History of Seven Bridges Road. Two very special guests—nephews of Mayor Samuel Snively—also attended. The Overland brothers, Doug and Bill, shared their favorite memories of their uncle and his passionate project of building Skyline Parkway. Doug

Thanks to the **Overland brothers** and family for attending and making the celebration extra special.

The SPPA Skyline Parkway History posters remained up in the Depot's Great Hall throughout the fall for others to learn about Skyline Parkway's past and present. Plans are to turn the display into a more solid exhibit and have it set up around town. If you would be interested in helping on this project, call 525-5098.

Overland donated a portrait of Samuel Snively (pictured in the background of the photo on this newsletter's front page), Mayor Snively's cane, and Snively's Duluth Hall of Fame wood plaque to the St. Louis County Historical Society. While in town, Doug stopped in the current mayor's office and recalled his memories when he had been in the room decades earlier when his uncle was mayor. The evening's celebration was also the 70th birthday of William (Bill) Overland and several other family members attended. Ever heard of Doug Overland Day? At the reception, Mayor Bergson dropped in for a surprise visit.

The Mayor declared the proclamation that

September 21 be Douglas Snively Overland Day!!



Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance
www.SkylinePPA.org

Wendy Grethen
4005 McCulloch St.
Duluth, MN 55804

What's your favorite stretch of Skyline Parkway? We'd like to know. Email contact@skylineppa.org

DID YOU NOTICE?

In the January 2006 issue of *Minnesota Monthly* magazine, **Seven Bridges Road** was listed as **Favorite Picturesque Drive**.

Is your SPPA membership current? Check address label. Also, you may join the SPPA Email List. Send an email request to contact@skylineppa.org.

A glimpse from the past



If you are interested in having the PowerPoint program: **Duluth's First Attraction— a History of Skyline Parkway** shown to a local organization, call 724-0820. It's ready to go.

Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance Membership Form

Date _____ New Member Renewing Member
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Annual Membership: \$10 Fixed-income \$20 Individual \$35 Family \$50 Business
___ I would like to be a clean-up volunteer ___ I would like to help plan SPPA events.

Please make checks payable to: **Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance (or SPPA)**
and send to SPPA, 1101 W. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55806.

Thank you for your support!