



— 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 Summer Hikes begin May 15**  
**Photographing Waterfalls**  
**with Wanda Percy**  
hike & photography tips.  
See inside for the 2004 schedule.

## **Superior Hiking Trail Association to Start Building Trail in Duluth This Summer**

by Gayle Coyer, SHTA Executive Director

After two years of route finding and approval processes, the Superior Hiking Trail Association received permission to build the Superior Hiking Trail in the City of Duluth.

Construction will begin in June with eight miles of trail in west Duluth slated for this year. The approved route will include some of the most scenic features Duluth has to offer including Ely's Peak, Bardon's Peak, the high ridgeline overlooking the St. Louis River, the Magney Snively forest and Spirit Mountain -- at Spirit Mountain, the trail will go below the ski hill and then up along Knowlton Creek.

The trail will be a natural soil treadway 18 inches in width with a narrow brush clearance on both sides of the trail. No large trees or even smaller trees will be cut, and the forest canopy will not be disturbed.

SHTA plans to work cooperatively with SPPA on highlighting the historic Skyline Parkway and developing some driving/hiking options.

If you would like to be put on the notification list for scheduled construction work projects, please call the SHTA Office at 834-2700 (not long-distance from Duluth) or send e-mail to [suphike@mr.net](mailto:suphike@mr.net).

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday June 15, 6 pm

**PICNIC AT  
LINCOLN PARK**

Pack your own meal and join us at Lincoln Park for an evening with some other folks interested in Skyline Parkway.  
For more information, call 525-5098.



ELY'S PEAK - One stop along the Superior Hiking Trail Duluth segment being added this year. Great expansive views!

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- SPPA Summer Hike Schedule
- Spirit Mountain Recreation Area
- SPPA meets with the Mayor
- Keene Creek
- Protecting Duluth's Parks

**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.*





### SPPA MEETSWITH THE MAYOR

In April the SPPA board met to identify our priorities for Skyline Parkway. The following were identified as the top issues:

1. Learn more about the federal transportation bill money for Skyline Parkway and the Aerial Lift Bridge.
  2. Designate responsibility in City Hall for Skyline Parkway
  3. Create a plan for managing vegetation along the parkway
  4. Seek National Byway status of Skyline Parkway (Skyline Parkway already has State Scenic Byway status)
- We then met with Mayor Herb Bergson and city planner Chuck Froseth prior to the SPPA April 20 meeting to discuss the future of Skyline Parkway. A few comments from the Mayor were that he loves Skyline Parkway, especially Bardon's Peak. He'd like to see the Parkway cleaned up, have more overlooks cleared, have all the Parkway open year-round and pave all of the parkway.



Chuck Froseth, Doug Stevens, Barb Forrest, Nancy Nelson, Mayor Bergson and Terry Brown at the April 20 SPPA meeting.

Here is a brainstormed recommendation list for Skyline Parkway made by SPPA members and friends at the SPPA April meeting:

- Put up "NO LITTERING" signs
- Establish a speed limit and enforce it
- Resolve remaining issues surrounding the proposed golf course at Spirit Mt.
- Convert the entire road to gravel or some other pavement that would make it distinctive
- Pursue listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Repair and maintain the shoulders of the Parkway
- Prohibit big trucks from the Parkway
- Bring back the trash cans at overlooks
- Clean up litter along the entire Parkway
- Better identify the road
- Manage vegetation
- Improve wayfinding and make sure the Parkway is integrated into the city's heritage tourism plans
- Establish a group (such as a Skyline Parkway Commission) that can help implement the Corridor Management Plan
- Decide on a design for the Parkway logo and use it consistently
- Find a way to make interpretive markers that cannot be destroyed
- Establish driving "loops" and create brochures that give driving directions and travel time, etc. (similar to Forest Service fall color tours)

### SPIRIT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

Mayor Herb Bergson is keeping his campaign promise to diversify representation on the city's boards and commissions. Last month the Mayor appointed Nancy Nelson, CJ Bird, Ken Buhler, and Pauline Olsen to the Board that oversees the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area. They joined continuing Board members Eric Kaiser, John Goldfine, and Sid Mason.

Recent meetings have focused on familiarizing the new Board members with the Recreation Area's staff, programs, and budget. Over the next year the Board will be working toward developing a new vision for the Recreation Area. In addition to gathering public input, the Board will receive assistance from nationally-recognized design professionals through the Mayors Institute on City Design. Mayor Bergson was invited to discuss the Spirit Mountain issue at this special city design forum during its annual Midwest conference at the University of Texas - Austin this month. The objective of the conference is to bring mayors together with urban designers, architects, landscape architects, planners, and developers. Mayor Bergson will present the Spirit Mountain issue to the design resource team and the other mayors in attendance, and they will work together to design potential solutions.

The Spirit Mountain Board currently meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. in the chalet at Spirit Mountain. Spirit Mountain Executive Director Rick Certano is searching for a location that will provide a friendlier atmosphere.



If you have any suggestions for the future of Spirit Mountain, contact Nancy Nelson at 728-1002 or [nancynelson@duluth.com](mailto:nancynelson@duluth.com).

Spirit Mt Rec. Area is open year-round. Summer activities include hiking, birdwatching, camping, plus special events. Call 1-800-642-6377.

SPPA board members : Terry Brown, Nancy Nelson, Barb Forrest, Wendy Grethen, Ron Hendrickson, Tim Larson, and Doug Stevens.  
Newsletter editor: Wendy Grethen.

To submit announcements or articles to the newsletter, call 525-5098 or email [contact@skylineppa.org](mailto:contact@skylineppa.org). The next newsletter deadline is 8/1/04.

Join SPPA email list by emailing your request to [contact@skylineppa.org](mailto:contact@skylineppa.org). SPPA Website: [www.skylineppa.org](http://www.skylineppa.org).  
SPPA Contact: 728-1002





## A New Era of Protection and Restoration for Skyline Corridor and Duluth Natural Areas

by Jeff Brown, Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation

Thanks to the hard work of Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation members and friends and the wisdom of Duluth's Mayor and city councilors, ATVS, dirt-bikes, motorcycles and four-wheel drive trucks are now prohibited on all city land. Through an agreement with St. Louis County these machines are also prohibited on all state-owned county-managed tax-forfeit land making all public lands in Duluth ATV free. Well almost. With the new ordinance in effect enforcement is the next step and immediate concern. MRR members are working with city staff to accomplish city-wide compliance. An updated version of MRR's "Duluth Off-Highway Vehicle Monitoring card will soon be distributed via [www.MNResponsibleRec.org](http://www.MNResponsibleRec.org) website, mail and media. A volunteer effort to restore impassable trails and degraded streams is being organized. Those interested in helping to enforce the new city ordinance and to restore ATV damaged area are encouraged to contact MRR's Paul Bergstrom at 525-8398.

### Keene Creek

by Doug Stevens

At the intersection of Vinland, Getchell, and Highland streets, a mystery bridge crosses Keene Creek. Why was the bridge built and abandoned? Who was the creek named for? After months of searching, here is what I found out.

A man by the name of Freeman Keene came to the village of Oneota in April of 1854. He was born in Oxford County, Maine, on November 20, 1831. He was a lumberman and a lawyer enjoying life until the Civil War in 1861. At President Lincoln's first call for 75,000 men, Freeman Keene took a steamboat for Detroit and at once enlisted in the First Michigan Battery.

After 3 long years of fighting, Mr. Keene returned to Oneota in the fall of 1864 to live with the family he had started. Not all men who went off to war made it back; he was one of the lucky ones. He lived in Oneota until he died on August 21, 1902, and was laid to rest in Oneota Cemetery along with his mother, wife, and children.

There is no higher honor than to have something named after you. Keene's last name will be forever remembered as the decades go by. Hopefully we can pass this information along so people will remember for whom Keene Creek was named.

## Skyline Parkway Events

### **SPPA Summer Hikes**

During May through October SPPA will offer a free hike at a local park along Skyline Parkway on the 3rd Saturday of the month

#### **May 15, Photographing Waterfalls along Tischer Creek**

Meet at 9 AM at the Mount Royal Bixby's Bagels. After a short morning meeting we will head out to Congdon Park and learn photography tips from Wanda Pearcy. Bring 100 speed film, separate shutter release and tripod if you can.

Guest Leader: Wanda Pearcy

**June 19,**

#### **Tramping in the Oneota Forest**

Meet at Beaner's Central at 9 AM.

Leader: Doug Stevens

#### **July 17, Visit Keene Creek**

Explore the old bridge and more. Meet at Beaner's Central at 9 AM. Leader: Doug Stevens

#### **August 21, Explore Mission Creek**

Meet at Beaner's Café at 9 AM.

Guest leader: John Donahue

**September 18,**

#### **Adventure in Lester Park**

Meet at the New London Central (former location of Pepper McGregors Cafe) at 9 AM.

#### **October 16—Superior Hiking Trail**

#### **Ely's Peak to Bardon's Peak**

Meet at Beaner's Central at 9.

Guest Leader: Dr. John Green

*Please bring water and wear appropriate footwear on hikes.*

**Check [www.skylineppa.org](http://www.skylineppa.org) or call 525-5098 for any SPPA event updates.**



Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance

Wendy Grethen  
4005 McCulloch St.  
Duluth, MN 55804

Are you a current member? Please check your address label. If not, please join or renew. We will be trimming the mailing soon.



SPPA SUMMER HIKES BEGIN MAY 15. See [www.skylinepppa.org](http://www.skylinepppa.org) for the full 2004 hike schedule

**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

\_\_\_\_ Donation beyond basic membership fee.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer to help at clean-ups or other SPPA activities.

Please make checks payable to:

**Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance (or S.P.P.A)**  
and send to

SPPA, 1101 W. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55806.

**Thank you for your support!**

Feel free to copy this form or mail your contact information to the SPPA address.

Thanks to volunteers who helped pick up trash on April 24 SPPA Bardon's Peak Clean-up:

Please help keep the parkway clean.

Report violators to the city police department at 723-3434. It's sad to also report that many of the Skyline Parkway overlooks are loaded with litter.

If you can spare some time, why not recruit some people, put on some old gloves and fill a bag or two to help clean-up the parkway.

**PLEASE KEEP THE PARKWAY CLEAN**

A new batch of updated *Skyline Parkway: A Guide to Exploring the Streams of Duluth* brochures is available. Go to the Duluth Convention & Visitor Bureau or come to any SPPA events for a free copy.

Help support SPPA by purchasing beautiful blank photo note cards with photos taken along Skyline Parkway. A new set of scenes from all seasons and all sections of Skyline Parkway is available. Come to a SPPA event, pick some up at Northern Lights Books & Gifts, or call 728-1002. Pass on the treasure of the beauty of Duluth's Skyline Parkway to a friend.