



# *The Breeze*

## *Of Park Point*

### Upcoming Events

**Park Point  
Community Club -  
August Meeting  
Cancelled**

**Lafayette Edible  
Garden  
Zoom Meeting with  
Chef Arlene Coco  
August 13<sup>th</sup>, 6PM**

**Park Point Garden  
Club  
August 27<sup>th</sup> Possible  
Meeting Outdoors  
Contact: JoAnn  
Ellison 722-5757  
All are Welcome**

**Life's  
Better on  
the Beach**

**Editor's note:** I decided to run this article in its entirety, because there's just so much good information here. Had to shrink things a bit to fit it, but I think it was worth it. And even more information can be found on our website, [parkpointcommunityclub.org](http://parkpointcommunityclub.org)

### **The Coastal Dune Ecosystem: Part I**

#### **We are all in this together**

Minnesota Point is a relatively young and distinctive landform in Minnesota. This seven-mile stretch of sand that separates the Duluth Harbor and Superior Bay from Lake Superior formed about 1,200 years ago. The land we recognize today as Minnesota Point formed by deposition from longshore currents. People have inhabited the area for centuries. The unique dunes of Minnesota Point are well loved, used and enjoyed by thousands of people every year, yet the natural resource features and concerns are often not widely understood by residents and visitors. The dunes of Minnesota Point function as a barrier, protecting homes from coastal storms. Staff from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and City of Duluth are working together to share information with you, readers of *The Breeze*, residents, landowners, visitors, and land managers. Whether or not we realize it, all of us are coastal "managers". Your participation is essential for protecting and restoring the unique natural resources of Minnesota Point. We will continue sharing natural resource information in the coming months and hope to engage you in our common goals of natural resource stewardship of Minnesota Point.

Regardless of your current knowledge or experience, we hope you will collaborate in effective stewardship of Minnesota's only coastal dune ecosystem. Understanding the function, value and best practices to protect and restore the coastal dune ecosystem is a first step in building our common knowledge of the resources we all enjoy.

#### **Sand Dunes: Shifting Sands and Moving Plants**

A sand dune is a mound, hill or ridge of sand that lies landward, beyond the beach. Dunes are dynamic systems, formed of windblown sand deposits. You may have heard about the recent "Sahara sunset," an enhanced view made possible by westerly winds carrying fine particles (dust) from the Sahara Desert in Africa, and prompting consideration of dune impermanence. Globally, dunes may take up a new location somewhere overnight, and some dunes may even be gone in a day. It is common to find dunes in beach settings where there is sand, water levels fluctuate and distribute or scour grains, and winds pick up and deposit sand. Locally, the ecosystem arises when plants, such as beach grass, colonize areas of open sand and become established. The dune increases in size and decreases in mobility when vegetation or other stationary objects trap more sand. Dune grasses anchor the dunes with their roots, holding them temporarily in place, while their leaves trap sand promoting dune expansion. Wind and waves constantly influence form and location of dunes. Vegetation is a critical factor of dune formation and (relative) stability. The coastal dune ecosystem of Minnesota Point functions as a reservoir of sand for the beach and protection from coastal storms.

Minnesota Point dunes provide a line of defense to inland areas from storm surges, floodwater, and wind and wave action that can erode shoreline and damage property. Coastal dunes are part of an essential ecosystem on Minnesota Point, providing habitat for unique flora and fauna. For example, healthy dune ecosystems provide nesting and foraging habitat for coastal bird species, including migratory birds. The many native plants present on Minnesota Point are important to healthy dune ecosystem function, including some protected by law. All components of the coastal dune ecosystem are necessary for preservation of both rare and common species and maintaining ecosystem functions. High water levels and storm events in recent years have caused erosion to the dune system. Activities on or near the dunes may exacerbate erosion, further destabilizing the dune ecosystem. Development, tourism, foot traffic, and removal of plants could have unintended consequences.

(Continued on page 3)

## ***The Breeze***

Editor: Alan Dartanyan

[breezeditor@msn.com](mailto:breezeditor@msn.com) 726-0110

Submissions for the September issue are due by 8/27/20

### **Park Point Community Club**

#### **officers:**

**President: Dawn Buck**

[parkpointcc@gmail.com](mailto:parkpointcc@gmail.com)

525-1764

**Vice President: Tom Griggs**

3429 Minnesota Ave.

[Thom0313@gmail.com](mailto:Thom0313@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Sheryl Robins**

722 Minnesota Ave.

720-6518

**Treasurer: Al Robins**

722 Minnesota Ave

720-6518

#### **Committees:**

**Art Fair: Carla Tamburro**

[coordinator@parkpointartfair.org](mailto:coordinator@parkpointartfair.org)

218-348-7338

**Rummage Sale: Dave**

**Lavamaki** [pointer12@q.com](mailto:pointer12@q.com)

729-8925

#### **Hospitality:**

**Diane Gould** 727-4067

**Ted Buck** 525-1764

**Lafayette Square Rentals:**

**Chris Seversen, Parks Permit**

**Coordinator** 218-730-4305

[www.duluthmn.gov/parks/registration](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/registration)

**The Postcard: Dawn buck**

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**Park Point Community Club**

**P.O. Box 16326**

**Duluth, MN 55816-0326**

[www.parkpointcommunityclub.org](http://www.parkpointcommunityclub.org)

## **President's Report**

Hi Neighbors,

Happy deep summer! The gardens on Park Point look fabulous! Thanks to everyone who brings joy, color & sustenance to our community through gardening. I am not a great gardener but I enthusiastically assist by doing the dirt moving, clean-up, anything but the direct plant care. My dear Park Point grandmother, who could grow anything anywhere, including lemons in the winter, left me one of her beloved orchids. I was terrified of that delicate beauty and sure enough, the little orphan orchid caught a chill and died while in my care. Luckily, a wonderful photo of Granny and her prize winning orchids lives on in my hard drive for sharing. Don't fear the orchid; we now have the internet for more support!

News on the Minnesota Point Speedway- the DPD is working with neighbors on solutions for this major concern. You may have noticed the trailer collecting speed data a few weeks ago. If you see dangerous driving, get the plate number, the make and model and a description of the driver and then call 911 and report this information. Calling to report generic speeding on Park Point without a description is not effective. The specific details will be shared with other patrol cars and will be stored and considered if the car is pulled over in another part of town. Thanks to Lt. Chad Nagorski and Officer Ethan Roe for their willingness to help solve this dangerous problem on Park Point. I read online that Officer Ethan Roe was named 'Police Officer of the Year' by his peers in March 2020. Congratulations to Officer Roe who has been on the police force for eleven years.

July 5th on a Park Pointer's deck-what goes up must come down and with unintended consequences. A neighbor sent me a picture of a red Sky Lantern that landed, stuck firmly and melted her deck. These types of lanterns are illegal in several countries and in a list of states.

If you have a new neighbor moving in, consider welcoming them to our community. It's hard to arrive amidst a pandemic. LeAne Rutherford wrote a delightful letter and it's on our website. <https://parkpointcommunityclub.org/?p=3123> Remember that our meetings will be on the third Tuesday when life returns to the new normal, whatever that might look like. New members are welcome all year long! A big thank you to PPCC members who have included an "extra boost" with their membership fees. The funds pay for The Breeze which reaches every Park Pointer via community volunteers. This is especially important when meeting in person is not possible. The Breeze and the 12th Street Postcard sign are key to staying in touch and up to date re. Park Point happenings.

The beach nourishment project from the bridge to 12th will be underway when this edition of the Breeze arrives in your doorway. The Erosion and High Water Committee is meeting regularly and is crafting a long range plan for Park Point. Thank you to all Park Pointers who responded to the survey in the Breeze last September. The data collected and the work of the committee in bringing the problem to the attention of the City and the agencies involved is resulting in action being taken now, not years from now. Yes, more work besides sand from dredging will be needed to manage the shorelines of Park Point on a long term basis. The additional sand will surely be an asset when the gales of Oct. are soon here. This is a good start on the long journey into the future of shoreline management in Duluth.

The lake has been quite warm to the delight of all ages, seems like the swimmable temps started in early July ahead of the norm. Hope to see you in the water! With more guests to the beach, comes more intriguing & creative art work with driftwood, rocks, and more. The beach is a great place to find the distance to spread out and enjoy the experience. Remember to PB4UGO & bring your own bag to pick up and pack out trash including dog waste. The "new" Lafayette latrines are not open yet; there are two portapotties in the Lafayette field.

See you out and about on extraordinary Park Point!

Dawn & Bruno, new dog paddler on Park Point who likes the warmer water

(Coastal Dune Ecosystem, continued)

If you have spent much time observing the dunes on the Point, you have likely seen increasing erosion and degradation of the dune itself. What you may not have noticed is loss of dune habitat and function of buffering property from coastal storms. Coastal sand dunes are dynamic systems where sand movement is a natural process. Enhanced natural restoration and protection of this dune system is imperative for these magnificent dunes of Minnesota Point. Now, more than ever, we need to protect the dunes so they may protect your homes. Recognizing the ways our activities can influence the dunes and their function is a first step in protecting what we love.

**Recommendations for Stewardship**

Beachgrass and other species found in the dune ecosystem are adapted to the constantly shifting sands. Native plants stabilize existing dunes and increase dune build-up by catching more sand from wind (deposition). There are many things happening in the dunes at any given time. Our actions in and adjacent to dunes affect the dune ecosystem. Here are some best practices for living and recreating near dunes.

Use the trail, and please don't make a new one!

Attempting to create a permanent trail to the lake could actually create more erosion problems for landowners. Any paths created across the dunes, perpendicular to the water line, weaken the surface integrity of the dune by creating channels for wind to funnel landward. Constructed paths increase erosion and potential for "blow-out" areas.

As tempting as it may be to have individual paths to the beach, the DNR and City of Duluth strongly encourage use of established entry points to avoid unnecessary impacts to the vulnerable and dynamic dune area. Creating new paths can negatively affect natural processes, increase loss of habitat, and further endanger state-protected species.

· If your usual point of entry near your property is too steep from the face of the dune to the beach, consider temporary, lower-impact ways to reach the beach such as a combination path/roll out ladder or rollout path.

**Care for native plants of the dune systems.**

Revegetation of sandy areas that have become barren can contribute to dune build-up and help control further wind erosion. However, it is important to establish native species that are adapted to dune habitat and do not pose a threat of competitive spread.

Use only native, local sources of plant material appropriate for revegetation in this coastal dune ecosystem. Contact DNR staff for species lists and local sources of plant material.

· Get to know American beach grass! This plant is a pioneer colonizer of barren sand dunes and has adapted to the dynamic nature of this system. A little bit of sand movement/sand accretion will stimulate growth in this species. American beach grass, seemingly abundant, is a state-protected (status threatened) species in Minnesota. Minnesota Point is the unique home for the westernmost communities found (of this genotype) of American beach grass. These native plants are essential components of the coastal dune ecosystem, functioning to keep the sand in place, as reservoir for beach sand, and (mostly) out of homes and off the street.

· Know that a DNR rare species permit is required for any activity that involves disruption or impact to state-protected plants including (but not restricted to) American beach grass and beach heather. You may submit a request to the DNR to have a project reviewed for potential impacts. More information can be found online at:

[https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis\\_data\\_request.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis_data_request.pdf)

· Please do not import beach grass into Minnesota. There is a moratorium against it. When you order beach grass from commercial sources, the genotypes are coming from other states and may even be cultivars. There are multiple concerns regarding importation of beach grass material into a threatened population on the edge of the species range. Thus, Minnesota has placed restrictions on beach grass.

**Be aware of property lines.**

Recognize the beach and significant portions of the dunes on Minnesota Point are public property. Talk with City of Duluth staff about dune management on public property.

· Any activity affecting the dune or beach sand on Minnesota Point, between the Lake Superior shoreline and the ordinary high water level (OHWL) may require a permit for work in the bed of DNR public water. For Lake Superior, the OHWL is where water from storm wave run-up and lake water levels has resulted in evidence on the landscape. Contact DNR Area Hydrologist, Patricia Fowler with questions related to OHWL and shoreland alterations on the Lake Superior side of Minnesota Point. Help manage invasive species. This is no small task...

· Learn to recognize invasive species. Do you know baby's breath and bouncing bet are invasive species and a threat to healthy coastal dune ecosystems? Be extremely cautious about using mixed seed packets and use native plants whenever you can.

· Assess your site for any existing invasive species. If necessary, make a plan for managing invasive species in your yard and neighborhood. It is helpful to work with others in your community to address invasive species.

· Natural resource managers need your help to report and deter invasive species using a common reporting system called EDDMapS. Their app called Great Lakes Environmental Detection Network (GLEDN) is free to all smart-phone users in the App Store. We recommend and use this tool in the protection of native plant communities from invasive plants in Minnesota and across the Great Lakes. Increased public participation will amplify results of protecting native plant communities in Minnesota.

[www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org)

By Julie McDonnell, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Prepared in consultation with DNR staff.

## News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

### As Seen On TV:

On July 16 the Fox 21 film crew filmed two cooking classes with Chef Arlene Coco in our community garden. She featured easy dishes made with fresh veggies and gave viewers a peek at what's growing in our garden. News anchor Brett Scott got a tour of our garden and was very impressed with our work. The segments aired on the morning news July 23 and 30. They are now available on the Fox 21 website.

To follow up with the cooking shows, Arlene will present a free zoom class for us on August 13 at 6 p.m. The class is titled "What is your veggie IQ?" Bring your supper to your desk and join us in our virtual face-to-face dinner meeting.

### Growing Update:

Harvest has begun. In July, gardeners enjoyed greens, peas, beets, radishes, broccoli, raspberries, herbs and garlic. We sampled the test varieties of basil planted by Ted Buck and were impressed by how varied the tastes were between the different basil. Ellie planted second crops of lettuce, spinach, and beets. By August 1, summer squash, onions and tomatoes will be ready to pick. With all the craziness going on in the world, it is comforting to see that the rhythm of the garden doesn't change.

For future reference, The Lafayette Community Garden is located at Lafayette Park, 3016 Minnesota Ave. on Park Point. Coral McDonnell is the contact person for folks interested in our community garden and potluck dinners. She can be contacted at 218- 727-6455, coraljean@charter.net. Our monthly potluck dinners are FREE and open to all Park Pointers. They usually take place at the Lafayette Community Club. Please bring your own plates, silverware, beverage and a dish to share.

### NEW SAFETY PROCEDURES IN OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN:

The city still requires us to use pandemic practices so wear your masks, gloves, and keep a physical distance from others. Please bring your own tools, if possible. Plan on sanitizing all tools after each use. Use hand sanitizer. We need to keep track of groups gathered in the garden. So, there is a signup to sign when you come and go.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday August 13, 6 p.m, Zoom meeting with Chef Arlene Coco presenting a program on "What's your veggie IQ?"

Monday, September 14, 6 to 8 p.m. Program on climate change with Rachel Wagner – If we have access to the Lafayette Community Center by then.

-Susan Peters



Community Gardeners show off the 2020 garlic harvest

## Environmental Report

Hearding island has gone thru a lot of change since we began planting it with a variety of trees about 1989. The white pine we planted are seeding down and creating quite a few new trees for the future forest.

There are many kinds of birds nesting on the island now, along with Beaver, Otter, Mink, Fox and many other critters.

What a terrific change the trees have made.

Dick Gould

**Park Point Community Club  
Executive Board Meeting**

The PPCC Executive Board -or most of it – met outside at Lafayette on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Among the items discussed was whether to hold a general meeting in August. Having received direction from the Parks Permit Coordinator, printed below, and given that there are no pressing issues, or need for membership votes, the general consensus was that it just wasn't worth the effort. So stay home for another month, and enjoy one more free Summer evening.

Looking toward the future, though – and there will be one – if we hope to have an Art Fair next year, we will soon need to begin planning for it. Most of that work falls to the Art Fair Committee, and Coordinator, Carla Tamburro. So we will soon have to resume paying her monthly contract, which has been on hiatus during the, well, hiatus. Most of the Club's expenses are pretty small, the exception being the printing of the Breeze. But our largest source of income is the Art Fair. Though membership fees – and some generous donations – have kept our finances healthy, if we wish to continue to support such things as our tree plantings and Summer Youth Program, we need the Art Fair. That means approving a budget, and that will require a meeting or two. So, yes, at some point, we will meet again.

**Other items discussed:** You've probably seen the speed trailer parked on Minnesota Avenue. The City is considering installing a permanent one somewhere on the Point, but they're still "gathering data".

The opening of the intersection of Superior Street and Lake Avenue has been pushed back until mid-August. Beach Nourishment, from the bridge down to approximately 10<sup>th</sup> Street, should begin August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Haphazardly reported by Alan Dartanyan

**From Duluth Parks and Rec:**

As of 7/17/20, all Park and Recreation indoor facilities will remain closed until October 1, 2020. Between now and then, the pandemic situation will be monitored and the building status could again change. Access to all buildings is not allowed.

**Community Clubs and other Regular Facility Users:**

· If you'd like to resume meetings/gatherings for your respective affiliation in an outdoor park setting, please reach out to me to make a reservation. In doing so you will need to adhere to current City of Duluth guidelines:

- o A gathering size of 25 or less
- o Social distance of 6ft
- o While face masks are not required in outdoor spaces, they are strongly encouraged and required if social distancing cannot occur

· If you'd like to hold an event/activity on behalf of your affiliation, the above guidelines still stand and a pandemic operations plan is required to be submitted and approved before the event/activity. That information can be found here... <https://duluthmn.gov/media/9992/pandemic-operations-plan-updated-62220.pdf>

Thank you all for your patience and understanding and on behalf of everyone at the Parks and Recreation Department we miss you and can't wait to engage with you in the future when it is safe to do so. Please reach out to me if you have further questions.

Chris Severson

Parks Permit Coordinator

Need music? Call: (218) 606-1670



*Len & Lois*

*Park Point Residents*

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*We are a people on the Way to  
knowing, loving, and serving God  
and neighbor!*

- May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
  - May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
  - May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.
  - May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.
- from *Prayer for a Pandemic* is by Cameron Bellm

The Rev. Marta Maddy  
Sunday Eucharist Service: 9:45 a.m.  
[standrewsbythelake.org](http://standrewsbythelake.org)  
2802 Minnesota Ave 218-727-1262  
[standrewsbythelakeduluth@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsbythelakeduluth@gmail.com)  
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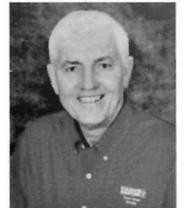
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As in-person meetings, and even conversations have become rare, communication within our community can be difficult. That has made the "Postcard" sign at the S-curve even more important. Thank you, Rory Strange for keeping us all "Posted"



Distanced start, lonely finish



### Park Point 5-Miler

On July 16<sup>th</sup> the Park Point 5-miler was held on Park Point. Normally not a big news item – it is Northern Minnesota’s oldest running race – but this is 2020, and in the midst of a pandemic, and it’s the first “event” that has been pulled off down here all Summer. It took an 8-page proposal, revised twice, to get the permits from the city. And it sure didn’t look like a normal race, Where you would normally see several hundred runners and walkers gathering in the evening at the recreation area, with a couple hours of road closures on much of Minnesota Avenue, this one stretched out through the entire day, and was run entirely in the recreation lane. So no road closures, though the traffic lanes were a little constricted in places. Runners can down during their assigned time slots, got their temperatures checked, stepped onto their socially distanced spots in the starting gates with masks on, and started the chip-timed race two at a time. There were no crowds at the start, no spectators at the finish, small individual bottles of water at the water station you could pick up and carry with you. But you know, it worked. I ran in an early morning slot on what I consider my home course. I was able to wave at a couple of neighbors, nod at a few familiar runners, and actually race. In this time when everyone is just trying to figure things out, the crew from Grandma’s Marathon, who put on this race, put in the time and effort and made it happen. It’s not a template for all races – you couldn’t run the Marathon this way – but for this race, in this place, it worked. And for giving me just a little taste of normal, I thank them.

Alan Dartanyan

### News from the Erosion and High Water Committee

First and foremost, we received notice from Melissa Bosman from the USACE that the MPCA approved the human health risk assessment for the Beach Nourishment along the North end of park Point. In fact the work has already begun. The dredge material holding basin is being constructed at 8th street and the Bay. Next to the USACE Bldg. .Placement of that material is set to begin in early Aug.

The EHWC met on 7-14-2020 at a members house. We were joined by Julie McDonnell from the DNR. We had a good discussion on shoreline protection and dune vegetation.

We were also joined by Isaac Schultz from Rep. Pete Stauber's office. He offered Federal assistance along with coordination with City and State programs. This aligns with our efforts to bring all levels of government and agencies together to address the issue facing Park Pointers.

The committee is working on a long range plan that we can submit to all of these agencies. .It will take a coordinated effort from all to achieve lasting results.

This Sept. there will be webinar available to all Park Pointers on flood insurance. Paul Treuer from our committee has been working with Melanie Percello from the DNR to set this webinar up. Look for date and time in the Sept. Breeze

Respectfully submitted by:

Hamilton Smith Chair  
PPCC EHWC



Sand dredged from the shipping lanes will held in a crib a 8<sup>th</sup> street and the bay (shown at left) then piped over and deposited on the beach (shown at right) from the bridge to approximately 10<sup>th</sup> street



## *The Breeze*

Park Point Community Club  
P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326



Park Point Resident

### **Numbers you can use**

Got (non-emergency) issues you'd like to discuss, but don't know whom to call?

Here are some helpful contacts

Public Works and Utilities 24 hr. emergency contact numbers:

Natural Gas 730-4100, Streets, Water & Sewer 730-4000

Lift Bridge Supervisor Dave Campbell 723-3387

Community Police Officer Ethan Roe 218-730- 5747 [eroe@duluthmn.gov](mailto:eroe@duluthmn.gov)

Dog issues: [clane@duluthmn.gov](mailto:clane@duluthmn.gov)

City Councilor Roz Randorf [rrandorf@duluthmn.gov](mailto:rrandorf@duluthmn.gov)

Quotations from *The Farmer's Mother's Almanac, 2020* by Janne Goldbeck and Paula Jull

August:

#### **Care of the body in high summer.**

Go naked as much as possible, always remembering to use sunscreen, heavily applied, against deep burning. Do not lie out in the sun; this encourages the body to take on vegetable shapes and textures. Interrupt any chores you may be doing to stand wherever you can find a breeze; stay still as long as it continues.

It's the "growing season" on Park Point, and things have been growing – including bushes, hedges and tree branches that overhang or obstruct the sidewalks. If your vegetation is among the offenders, please trim it back. Our sidewalks see heavy use this time of year.

