

SIGN-ON LETTER:

A PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL DULUTH MINNESOTA, JULY 29, 2014

Dear Community Members, Duluth, Minnesota:

We believe that Duluth City Planning Department's characterization of Park Point platted street ends as "useless" is incorrect. The facts reveal that not only are the Park Point platted street ends "useful" but we believe they are also "priceless" because of their importance and value to the residents, and to the City of Duluth.

Clearly, the marketing of Park Point by the tourism industry has highlighted the infinite value of the Lake Superior & Superior Bay and their attributes: scenic vistas, wildlife and water and ice sports of every type.

We have tried listing the activities available with only a "pedestrian pathway" at every platted street entry to the beach of Lake Superior or Superior Bay. Please see list below.

Pedestrian pathways have always been open to the residents since 1856, when first platted, for pedestrians to use to walk freely to the beaches at all platted streets on Park Point.

In response to the increasing numbers and usage pressure, some residents have constructed blockades to the once universal availability of pedestrian pathways to the beaches, thus preventing both their neighbors and the public from accessing the beaches of the lake and bay. These blocking actions are detrimental because this increases the pressure on the remaining pedestrian pathways, causing crowded parking and larger crowds on fewer sites.

The pressures of public recreation and the tourism industry have increased the usage of the park areas and waters of Park Point. We support the City of Duluth's continued improvements of the beach at 12th, Lafayette Square, and at the Beach House. We look forward to three accesses to Superior Bay with complete amenities: parking, bathrooms and reliable garbage service. Hours of operation and rules of use and safety information should be posted at the major accesses to the beach and bay. We support the use of Park Rangers to remind users of rules and safety points.

ACCESSIBLE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE AT LAKE AND BAY BEACHES OF LAKE SUPERIOR AND SUPERIOR BAY:

Human (and dog) exercise, walking and running, Summer and Winter

Rowing

Beach combing

Picnics of all sorts

Swimming, and Winter plunges

Bird watching, Summer and Winter

Access to designated boat anchorages in Superior Bay

Picture taking, Summer and Winter

Fishing, Summer and Winter.

Emergency services to anyone in need

Sand castles

Ports in a storm to get off the water

Beach games

Emergency assistance sought for water-borne passengers

Paddle boarding

Skiing on water and on snow

Wave surfing

Ice skating and ice boating

Wind surf sailing, Winter wind boarding

Beach bicycling

Kayaking

Snowmobiling, and Ice auto racing

