



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation Division

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SUBJECT: Duluth Hires William Roche as New Parks Manager

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office

Duluth Hires William Roche as New Parks Manager

[Duluth, MN] – The City of Duluth is pleased to announce the addition of William Roche as Duluth’s new Parks Manager. Roche has over 25 years of experience working in parks and recreation in various capacities and most recently in a leadership role with the Epley Institute for Parks and Public Lands based in Indiana.

Roche started with the City of Duluth this week and is excited to share his experience, love and knowledge of parks management with Duluth.

“I have had the honor of being able to fulfill my ultimate passions: love of the outdoors and applying my leadership experience in a thriving energetic environment. I look forward to the exciting projects currently underway in Duluth and building strong collaborations with our partners and staff. Duluth is a community which has incredible quality of life and place and I proud to be part of continuing that vibrancy. I look forward to serving the residents of Duluth,” said William Roche.

As the new Parks Manager, Roche will oversee over 100 parks, trails, facilities and amenities and will report directly to Jim Filby Williams, the City’s Director of Public Administration. “William brings vast knowledge, energy and passion to the City and I am confident he will succeed and bring new fresh perspective and expertise to advance the Parks and Recreation mission for the benefit of all,” said Filby Williams.

Earlier in his career, Roche served as Director of Parks and Recreation using grants and university students to provide recreation services to underserved areas in Clare County Michigan. He then became Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in Hendricks County Indiana, where he led the development of the newly formed parks agency for nearly ten years. Most recently, Roche worked as a Senior Program Manager over strategic planning services for The Epley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, an institute within Indiana University which was tasked with helping park agencies through the implementation of a variety of strategic planning and training efforts.

William holds B.S. Degrees in Biology and Outdoor Recreation and an M.A. in Parks and Recreation Administration from Central Michigan University, and also received an MBA from Butler University’s Andre B. Lacy School of Business. William is also active in the National Recreation and Park Association, having achieved Certified Park and Recreation Executive certification and actively serves as a visitor for the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, conducting reviews of agencies who have applied for the highest level of nationally recognized accreditation.

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