



Parks & Recreation

Ground Floor
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-4300



parks@duluthmn.gov

September 15, 2025

Park Point Residents:

This letter is intended to serve as an update to the windblown sand problem on a portion of Park Point and the measures we took last fall, as well as present and future actions on our part to mitigate some of the impact from windblown sand. It is important to note that these steps are not a solution to the problem, rather, they are only intended to reduce or slow the impact. Also, the full effect of these measures will take a number of years to materialize.

As you are aware, the City installed a zig-zag pattern fence last fall that is intended to slow the transport of windblown sand by serving as an anchor to create a dune parallel to the shoreline. The fencing and dune had to be placed in a narrow zone between your property line the Ordinary High Water Level, as determined by the MN DNR. While the fencing and dune were only intended to slow the accumulation of sand on private property, the good news is that the fence is performing as expected and is creating the dune that we had hoped for.

Our next step was to plant dune grass plugs on top of the newly created dune to further stabilize it, allow accumulation of sand and growth of the dune to continue and to further slow the movement of sand. In spring we planted nearly 3000 dune grass plugs with the help of numerous volunteers. In most areas, those plantings are doing quite well. This fall, we will install a second row of fencing closer to the shoreline. This is intended to create a second dune and provide additional barriers to slow the sand transport. This second row of fence will have fewer openings for beach access, so please only use the openings we will create and do not modify the fence in any way. This will mean walking a bit farther to find an opening to access the beach, but consolidating and minimizing fence openings are critical to the success of the fencing in creating the dune. In spring of 2026, we will follow up with planting an additional 3000 dune grass plugs.

Finally, if you are having issues with accumulation, please follow the proper procedures for removing sand. There are several options for you depending on how much sand there is to be moved and all of them require a permit from the City of Duluth:



The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

1. You must apply for a permit from the MN DNR to place sand below the Ordinary High Water Level. That line is basically on the lake side of the zig-zag fence the City installed last year. Contact Bri Speldrich: brianna.speldrich@state.mn.us, 218-302-3246.

2. You must apply for a permit from the City of Duluth to place sand between your property line and the Ordinary High Water Level. This is the area between your property line and the zig-zag fence. This can be done on an individual basis or in conjunction with the City of Duluth's General Permit for this area. Contact Jason Mozol for more information: jmozol@duluthmn.gov, 218-730-5331

3. The City is creating another option this fall, where residents can (either by themselves or hire a contractor) move sand off of their property over to the Park Point Recreation Area. This option is only available now through November 1st 2025, and a permit is required from the City of Duluth. We have created a deposit zone in the parking lot near the sand volleyball courts delineated by jersey barriers This option is reserved for those property owners for whom it is not possible to move sand directly from their property back to the beach, due to a number of factors, such as topography, presence of dune grasses, other natural or man-made obstacles, for example. For this option, you must ensure any sand placed in this location is free of organics, noxious weeds, non-native plant debris/seeds, trash, or any other material that could adversely affect the public beach. If this new process is used and successful, we will consider doing it annually. Contact Jason Mozol: jmozol@duluthmn.gov, 218-730-5331.

Reminder: Beach grasses are protected, and are integral to stabilize dunes, provide some protection for your property and contribute to a unique habitat. When moving sand, you may not trample, damage, or transplant any beach grasses. You may not deposit sand on top of beach grasses. The entire length of beach from the Arial Lift Bridge to S. 12th Street has been photo and video documented for beach grass preservation. Any damage caused may be subject to penalties.

As a final reminder, there are no locations that sand can be moved to, either by you or a contractor, other than back to the beach or to the Park Point Recreation area designated deposit zone. A permit is required for either option.

Thanks to all of the volunteers that have assisted with installing the fencing and planting the new dune grass plugs. We will again be asking for fencing installation help this fall, and planting in the spring. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the other regulatory contacts listed herein.



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4750 MINNESOTA AVE

DULUTH

Park Point Sand Deposit Area
(Permit Required)