

From: Nancy Nelson [mailto:nnelson1001@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Council
Subject: Resolution 15-0590R - Skyline Parkway

Concerning Resolution 15-0590R: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE SKYLINE PARKWAY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR CITY POLICIES AND ACTIONS.

I encourage you to support this resolution as a way to ensure that Skyline Parkway receives the attention and management that is needed to maintain it as a unique and valuable asset to the city of Duluth.

The first section of Skyline Parkway was developed between 1889 and 1891 by Duluth's Board of Park Commissioners. The Parkway that they built was an integral part of the city's park system, connecting Lincoln Park and Chester Park. After the Board of Park Commissioners was dissolved in 1913, responsibility for the park system, including the Parkway, fell to the city's mayor. Recognizing the value of the Parkway for attracting tourists to Duluth, in the 1920s and 1930s Mayor Sam Snively put a great deal of time and money into extending the Parkway to both east and west to create a scenic roadway that crossed the city all the way from Jay Cooke State Park to Congdon Boulevard and the North Shore of Lake Superior. Over the years, thousands of tourists have come to Duluth to enjoy the stunning views of the St. Louis River and Lake Superior visible from the Parkway.

In 1998 city planning staff succeeded in designating Skyline Parkway as a State Scenic Byway, and in 2001 a Citizens Task Force of over 20 people came together to work with the URS Corporation to create a Corridor Management Plan for the Parkway. The Task Force included people from neighborhood associations, environmental and preservation organizations, as well as recreational users and interested residents. I was one of these citizens. This plan, which was first published in 2003, was updated this year, again with the input of many citizens.

It is time now for the City Council to adopt the Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan as the framework for the city's official policy so that we can continue to preserve this historic and valuable resource.

Thank you.

Nancy Nelson

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