

From: Paul n Doug [mailto:pollendug@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Jeff Cox
Subject: City council meeting about Skyline Parkway Vegetation plan

My name is Doug Stevens and I have been an advocate for Skyline Parkway for many years. The documents above will explain what I worked on with the Duluth Tree Commission in March 22 2010. This is a revised draft dated May 2010. My hope is these documents will help with the decision to adopt the Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan for vegetation and view shed completed in August 2003.

I found out about the meeting from Sharla Gardner at the Chester Park celebration yesterday for the 100 year anniversary. I apologize for the last minute email and hope this can still reach the city council members before this evening. I will also plan on being at the meeting to speak.
Thanks, Doug Stevens

- Spirit Mountain Recreation Area section: Contact executive director Renee Mattson at 218-624-8501 or renee@spiritmt.com.
- All sections: Contact Duluth Tree Commission by way of City Forester Kelly Fleissner at 218-723-3586 or kfleissner@duluthmn.gov.
- All sections: Contact Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance Chair Doug Stevens at 218-724-0820 or paulxdoug@charter.net.

Specific Locations

Starting at Hawk Ridge and traveling west, these are the recommendations of Doug Stevens from the Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance and Jim Larson from the Duluth Tree Commission. Underlining indicates highest priority areas.

1. **Hawk Ridge:** Seven Bridges Road to Hawk Ridge/Glenwood St. should be left alone. The Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is maintained by the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.
2. **Glenwood St to Kent Road/Chester Park:** Skyline Parkway was never constructed in this area; as a result, little can be done in this section because the property is either residential or part of the University of Minnesota Duluth. Along Snively Road between Glenwood and Woodland, there may be some opportunity for select tree thinning on the lower side of the parkway to enhance the view.
3. **Chester Park to Kenwood Ave:** There are some views and one informal overlook east of Kenwood Ave that could be kept open.
4. **Kenwood Ave to Mesaba Ave:** This is a residential area. Just east of the Coppertop Church near Brewery Creek some tree thinning has taken place; this could be maintained.
5. **Mesaba Ave to West 7th Street:** This is a residential area with no views.
6. **West 7th Street to Observation Rd/10th Ave West:** The formal overlook near the intersection with Observation Road should be kept open.
7. **Observation Rd to Hank Jensen Drive:** Two recent clearings should be kept open (near West 5th Street and near Hank Jensen Drive).
8. **Hank Jensen Drive to 24th Ave West:** West of the Enger Park golf course the trees block the view; this is a dedicated city park (Central Park), but it would be difficult to open the view without major expense because the woods are too deep.
9. **24th Ave West to Oneota overlook (above 30th Ave West):** This is primarily a residential area; some sections west of 29th Ave West could be thinned to enhance the view.
10. **Oneota overlook to Haines Rd:** The formal overlook should be kept open. West of the overlook some select views could be opened.
11. **Haines Rd to Keene Creek:** There are three formal overlooks. Only one overlook is currently open; this should be kept open. The other two overlooks could be opened as resources become available. Some select views could be opened up west of the overlooks.
12. **Oneota Cemetery to Highland Street:** Nothing needs to be done; there are no views of the lake.
13. **Highland Street to Highway 2:** There are two overlooks. One, near the power line, should be kept open. The other one could be opened to a limited extent, but would require significant tree removal.
14. **Highway 2 to Spirit Mountain:** Nothing needs to be done at this time. Monitor growth of trees and remove as needed.

3. If a consensus can be reached among abutting owners, property owner may hire a qualified tree service or contractor to perform the work, with monitoring by the city. (Note...This is the process when the property owner wants the trees cut...this plan also needs to spell out a process for cutting/trimming trees if the city is requesting that the trees be removed.)

2) Maintain Ecological Diversity/Replacement Vegetation

Although vegetation will be removed to keep the views open, maintaining ecological diversity is also a goal for the vegetation management activities along Skyline Parkway. To reduce the need for ongoing maintenance while still keeping the views open, it may be necessary to use an appropriate herbicide to control regrowth of some tall species, such as poplar, after cutting. Low-growing species of native trees and shrubs should be planted to replace the taller species and to help slow the growth of invasive species. The following varieties of low-growing trees and shrubs are appropriate for replanting.

VARIETY	MATURE HEIGHT (FEET)
Showy Mountain Ash	15-20
Serviceberry/Juneberry	15-20
Ironwood	15-25
Eastern Red Cedar	15-25
Dogwoods*	6-10
Sumacs	6-10
Highbush Cranberry*	6-10
Arrowwood Viburnum*	8-12
Hawthorn	15-20
Elderberry	8-12
Common Ninebark	6-12
Winterberry	6-12
Snowberry	4-6
Chokeberry	5-7
Pin cherry	10-20
Chokecherry	10-15

* some sensitivity to road salt

3) Maintain Wildlife Habitat

A third goal for vegetation management activities along Skyline Parkway is to maintain wildlife habitat. (Note: Need to consult resources such as DNR to help develop some guidelines about managing the vegetation to provide wildlife habitat.)

Organizations Involved With Skyline Parkway

In addition to various city departments, the following organizations are responsible for or should be involved in vegetation management decisions along specific sections of Skyline Parkway.

- Hawk Ridge section: Contact Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory executive director Janelle Long at 218-428-6209 or jloug@hawkridge.org.
- All sections west of Observation Road: Contact Superior Hiking Trail Association at 218-834-2700 or hike@shta.org.

Skyline Parkway Vegetation and Viewshed Management Plan REVISED DRAFT - May 2010

Introduction

Skyline Parkway, which was constructed in segments between 1889 and 1939, is a designed landscape that dramatically combines the concepts of “urban” and “wilderness” and provides the traveler with a constantly varying series of sweeping views and perspectives. The views along the roadway shift from the open expanse of Lake Superior, to steep wooded stream valleys, to the busy industrial port, to historic residential districts, and back to dense native forest. In 1998 the Parkway was designated as a State Scenic Byway. The Skyline Parkway Corridor Management Plan (CMP), completed in August 2003, called for a vegetation management plan with the goal of managing vegetation at key overlooks and other important viewpoints to maintain or restore the views traditionally associated with Skyline Parkway (CMP, page 48). On March 22, 2010, Doug Stevens from the Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance and Jim Larson from the Duluth Tree Commission drove the length of Skyline Parkway and developed the following plan, which follows the guidelines established by the CMP.

Goals for Vegetation Management Activities

1) Preserve the Views

The primary goal of vegetation management activities along Skyline Parkway is to maintain the down slope view in selected areas by careful thinning and removal of some trees and/or shrubs. Little management is needed on the upper side of the parkway.

Overlooks

As stated in the CMP, highest priority for preservation of views should be given to the existing overlooks (refer to CMP Table 1, page 23, for an inventory of Overlooks, Turnouts, and Views).

Priority 1: Keep views from all existing “formal” overlooks clear.

Priority 2: Re-open and clear the overlooks that have been closed along the Western Extension.

Other View Corridors

Priority 3: Open specific view corridors not associated with the formal overlooks (to identify these corridors, refer to CMP Table 1, page 23, and list of “Specific Locations” in this plan).

- Where vegetation blocking these views is located on city-owned land or tax-forfeited conservation lands, the city should assume responsibility for periodic clearing or trimming of vegetation.
- Where vegetation blocking views is located on privately owned land, no vegetation will be cut or trimmed without the consent and cooperation of the property owner. Vegetation may also be removed at the request of a property owner. The following process established by the City Forester should be followed:
 1. Property owner meets with city forester on-site to evaluate the vegetation of concern, potential erosion problems, aesthetic issues, and other environmental concerns.
 2. City forester meets with owners of abutting property.

15. **Spirit Mountain Recreation Area:** (Note: The staff at Spirit Mountain should be consulted to develop a plan for maintaining views within the Recreation Area.)
16. **Spirit Mountain to Stewart Creek Bridge:** The SPPA has thinned the vegetation to open up the monument to Mayor Snively near the Stewart Creek Bridge; this should be kept open.
17. **Stewart Creek Bridge to Bardon's Peak:** This area is part of the Magney-Snively Natural Area and is protected; refer to the official management plan for the natural area. The Bardon's Peak overlook should be maintained and kept open.
18. **Bardon's Peak to Ely's Peak overlook:** This overlook should be kept open.
19. **Ely's Peak overlook to boundary of Magney-Snively Natural Area:** This area is part of the Magney-Snively Natural Area and is protected; refer to the official management plan for the natural area.
20. **Boundary of Magney-Snively Natural Area to Beck's Road:** this section is privately owned with no views.