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Press Advisory

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Hap & Judy Lutter Trails

The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation is excited to announce the opening of the new Hap & Judy Lutter Trails – the trails that will be used for the 2011 Junior Olympics.

The Hap and Judy Lutter Trails make up the main competition loop at Theodore Wirth Park. The Hap Trail includes the new dedicated cross country skiing staging area and the now-2.5 kilometer snowmaking and lighted loop. The Judy Loop is made up of the advanced trails on the north side of the park (adjacent to the Courage Center and to Golden Valley Road). (See below for a map that shows the trails).

How did the trails become the Hap & Judy Trails? Hap and Judy Lutter have been long-time proponents of active sports in the Twin Cities area. Both were marathon runners. Hap was an orthopedic surgeon and helped young people with brittle bone disease. Judy founded and ran the Melpomene Institute, which advocated for girls and women to lead active, healthy lifestyles. Both Hap and Judy turned 70 years old this year.

At the behest of Hap and Judy's friends and family, and to honor Hap and Judy's lifetime of achievement in active living, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board re-named the trails in honor of Hap and Judy on Friday, October 2, 2009. It was a moving ceremony. The occasion was a surprise for Hap and Judy. Hap has been battling cancer and had grown significantly sicker in the week before the event. In a show of great courage he mustered his energy for the event and showed up with a big smile.

For his part, Mayor R.T. Rybak proclaimed it "Hap and Judy Lutter Day" in the City of Minneapolis.

Two days later, on Marathon Sunday, Hap Lutter passed away in his home, surrounded by his family. The Foundation feels honored to have played a role in the life of this great man.

With the support of Hap and Judy’s friends and family, the Foundation has been able to make great advances in the trail system. The Foundation has:

- built a dedicated “stadium” area for cross country skiing;
- added an extra half-kilometer to the trail system;
- upgraded the trails on the snowmaking loop to meet international standards;
- purchased a new “Kitty Cat” snow gun – specially designed for making snow on narrow trails instead of wide, open areas;
- built a new staircase from the Chalet up to the new stadium area.

The Foundation is currently raising funds in an effort to finish the Hap and Judy project. Specifically, the hope is to raise the funds necessary to add an electrical/water station that would allow for the Park Board to make snow on the last half-kilometer of the Hap Loop: making for a 2.5 kilometer loop with full snowmaking capability.

More information: Call the Loppet Hotline at 612 604-5330, send an email to info@cityoflakesloppet.com or send correspondence to:

City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation
1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55422

The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation . . .

- Outfits over 400 Minneapolis area youth with skis and coaches each year;
- Improves ski trails in the Minneapolis area;
- Is responsible for adding a 2 kilometer snowmaking loop with lights in Theodore Wirth Park; and
- Runs various events designed to keep people active and enjoying the outdoors throughout the year. Events include:
 - City of Lakes Loppet Cross Country Ski Festival
 - City of Lakes Tri-Loppet: a paddle-trail run-mountain bike triathlon
 - City of Lakes Trail-Loppet – a half-marathon and 5 kilometer run on trails

For more information on the Foundation visit www.loppet.org or call 612 604-5330.




Hap & Judy Lutter Trails

In celebration of Hap and Judy's love of life, the outdoors, adventure and athleticism. Trail improvements funded through donations by Hap and Judy's friends and family, with much admiration and affection, in honor of their 70th birthdays.

Trail Pass Required for Skiing

Purchase at www.minneapolisparcs.org or at Theodore Wirth Chalet

Cross Country Ski Trails

	color	difficulty
Judy Lutter Trail		Most Difficult
Hap Lutter Trail		More Difficult
Back 40 Trail		Easiest

Signs provided by City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation

Twin Lake

Judy Loop

Hill Bypass

Hap Loop
Snowmaking and Lights



Plymouth Ave

Chalet

Parking

Back-40 Loop

Prarie Loop

Theodore Wirth Parkway

Mommsen's Mound

