

.....May 30, 2026

Dear du Nord Community Members,

It has been a busy year here at Camp du Nord, and we are thrilled to dive into another summer on North Arm Road!

As always, there have been some changes and updates to all that we do, but the core of our mission remains the same—giving families from all walks of life the opportunity to disconnect and reconnect, grow and discover through outdoor adventure, and create lasting memories with one another and others.

This spring we are wrapping up the final structure at The Grove (formerly known as the Auto Tent Sites). The central hub will be ready for summer, providing a space for cooking, storage, and both handwashing and dishwashing space for our tent campers.



Additionally, we are excited to have finalized our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, focusing on five 'pillars' as we look ahead to the next five years:

- Creating a Welcoming Space
- Nurturing Wellbeing
- Embracing Spirituality
- Strengthening Environmental Stewardship
- Addressing Capacity Limitations

The Strategic Plan can be found in the camp store and on the website if you're curious to learn more.

This past fall, we bittersweetly bid farewell to camp's Property Manager of 36 years, Scott Olson. It was wonderful to celebrate him and his family in February. Scott's contribution to camp will never be forgotten, and his impact on both du Nord's facilities and culture of kindness and selflessness will continue for years to come.



As we said goodbye to Scott, we welcomed our new Property Manager, Sam Kujawa. After spending several years at Camp Northern Lights, Sam joined the du Nord team in January. He has hit the ground running, tackling everything from preventative maintenance, to designing organizational systems, and much more. We are thrilled to have him join the du Nord family!

Furthermore, we have completed our second year of forestry work through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This federally supported initiative provides reimbursement for forestry work done on private land. In du Nord's case, the project involves the removal of balsam fir and the planting of new shrubs and trees. This five-year effort is integral to our wildfire risk mitigation efforts. Our maintenance team, along with volunteers, the US Forest Service, and other local agencies will continue to tackle this work through 2029.



Pivoting to our ongoing fundraising efforts, last year we started using a platform called Just Giving, which allows our incredible community of campers, alumni, and volunteers to help raise funds for camp through their own customizable fundraising pages. This fall, we are excited to again launch these pages with intention, inviting folks to create personalized cases for support that represent a variety of du Nord populations (think 90s alumni or Women's Retreat

participants). We are excited to create a little competition, all in an effort to support the place we collectively love – more on this coming soon!

Lastly, I want to share a personal update. After 22 years serving as a du Nord staff member, I am moving into a new role with the Y of the North, taking on the position of Associate Vice President of Adventure. Camp du Nord has been, and will continue to be, the most important place in my life. I am so lucky to have truly grown up here, gaining innumerable relationships, connections, and experiences that have shaped me. I feel beyond fortunate to have had the opportunity to build programs, support staff, be silly, and make lifelong friends through this incredible place that is home to me. In the fall, we will hire a new Executive Director, and I will have the privilege to support them directly – because let's be real, I could never stay too far away from the best place on earth!



These updates represent the growth and evolution of a community that you help sustain. Your generosity is behind every first-time camper finding their courage to try something new and families from all walks of life having a seat at our table.

Looking ahead to summer and beyond, I am filled with gratitude. Together, we are stewarding a legacy of connection and belonging that stays with people long after they leave camp.

Thank you for being the heart of the du Nord community. We are honored to have you by our side as a partner and friend, helping to keep our mission and all it carries shining bright. Here's to another unforgettable summer!

In gratitude,

Andy Sinykin
Executive Director, YMCA Camp du Nord

