



# Duluth's urban cragger

A GUIDE TO CLIMBING AND BOULDERING IN THE CITY OF DULUTH

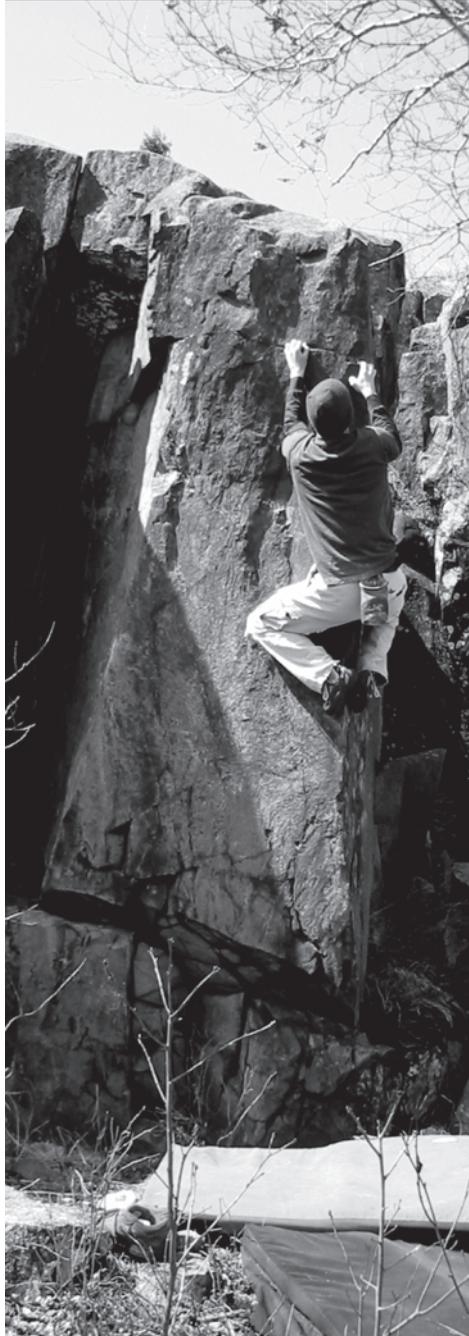
by Laura Petersen and Josh Wiese

# INTRODUCTION

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If Duluth had no more long frigid snowy winters, less languorous days brought on by happy-hour drink specials, and if Duluth only had world-class bouldering - this town would be a climbing mecca. Instead we're stuck with winter as the longest of our four seasons, cheap drinks abound to help us deal, and climbing that's world-class only if your world goes no farther than the Minnesota state border. These conditions have bred a hardy group of audacious drinkers, imaginative but intrepid adventurers, and bold but humble climbing styles, that can brave cold, rain, and mosquitoes. The hearts of most of Duluth's climbing tribe lies an hour north at Palisade Head, Shovel Point, and the Inland Domes, but modest urban crags in and around town offer enough to keep everyone almost satiated when not up the shore. This guide is the first attempt at providing a comprehensive look at Duluth's urban crags. The focus is on bouldering since that's mostly what we've got. Roped lines are also included where they've been established.

A few disclaimers are probably appropriate here. This guide should serve as a reference to point people towards climbing locales in town. Anything beyond that is just hyperbole and shouldn't be trusted. Many of the lines may have names other than what we've given them, grades that are more appropriate, and 'must be told' first ascent stories that we didn't bother to research or include. You the climber are instead left with just a few hints for where to go, what to do, and the rest... is a blank canvas, paint away.



SCOTT THE LEGEND HAHN RIDING THE MOBY AT THE SADDLE STONES NEAR LY'S PEAK.

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**WARNING:** CLIMBING IS A SPORT WHERE YOU MAY BE SERIOUSLY INJURED OR DIE. WE CANNOT ASSURE THE ACCURACY OF NAMES, GRADES, OR ANY OTHER INFORMATION PRINTED. PLEASE BE CAREFUL, AND ALWAYS USE GOOD JUDGEMENT.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This book would not have been possible without the previous guidebooks produced by Dave Pagel and Rick Kollath (of "Superior Climbs"). Although Dave and Rick have no direct involvement in this book, their work was a valuable reference for us and many thanks are due to them.

Laura would like to offer special thanks to Greg Petry and Luke Will for contributing some great photographs for the book. Thanks to Shelby Gonzalez, Lukas Kramer, Mark Machacek, and Angie Merritt for taking time to go out to the boulders to be models for some photographs, hopefully you don't mind being in the book. She would also like to thank Kaija Webster, Scott Salzer, Jenny Kozubik, Nick Fleming, Todd Hunter, Karl Engebretson, Matt Johnson, Stuart Meints, everyone involved with the North Shore Climbers, and those of you who I forgot to mention...you know who you are.

Josh would like to thank Jason McNabb, Rylan Bachman, Gabe Tiller, Scott Hahn, Scott Salzer, Eric Owens, Lee Henry, Brian Kramer, Karl Engebretson, Todd Hunter, Kevin Koprek, Dean Einerson, Kaija Webster, Vicky Zimmerman, Michael Reiser, Lukas Shield, Ben Smith, Steve Olsen, Guy Evans, Nick Fleming, Nick Judson, Matt Johnson, Tim Shasky, Mike Schlangen, Jon Noll, Avery, Eric, Abe, Kelly, Kaili, Jay, Rachel, and many many others for their pioneering contributions to climbing in town and Duluth's climbing community at large. He would also like to apologize for the misspelling of their names and all the omissions of due thanks that could have filled this book and then some.

We would also like to thank the many people who reviewed draft copies of this guide. Questions, comments and requests for additional copies of this guidebook should be sent to Laura Petersen at: laurajpetersen@gmail.com



## ETHICS

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Please take care of our crags; they're all we've got.

✓ Respect the local environment by staying on established trails.

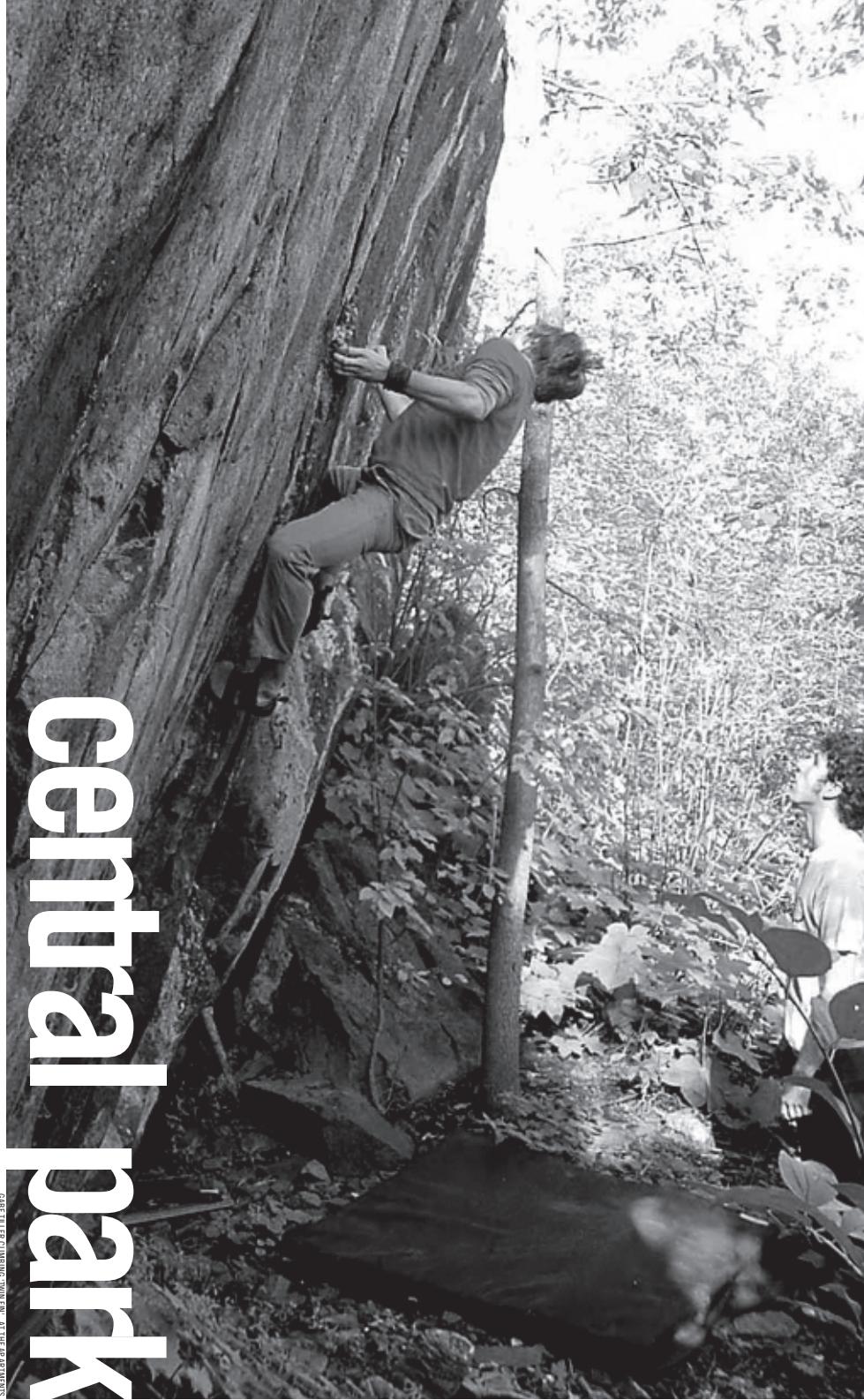
✓ Don't leave trash at the sites or on the trail.

✓ Don't chip holds and avoid excessive chalking.

✓ Many of the crags are surrounded by private land, so research access information carefully!

# Urban Cræger

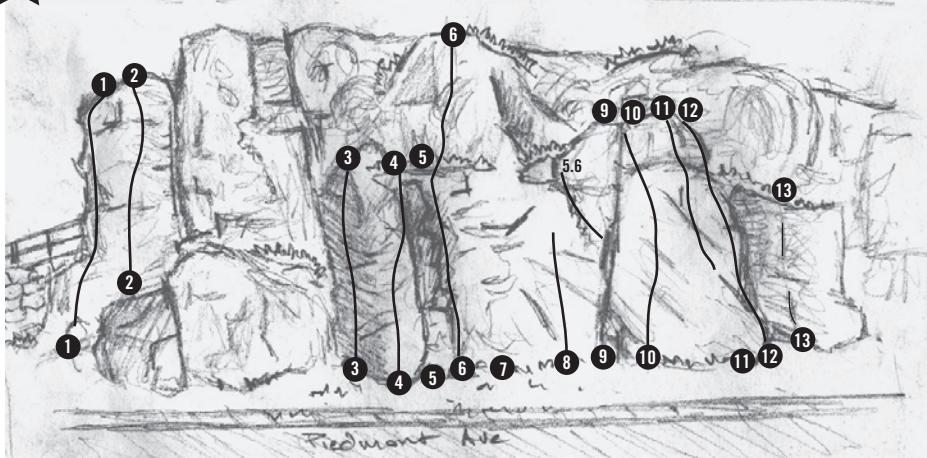




Central Park

GABE MILLER CLIMBING TWO FIVE AT THE APARTMENTS

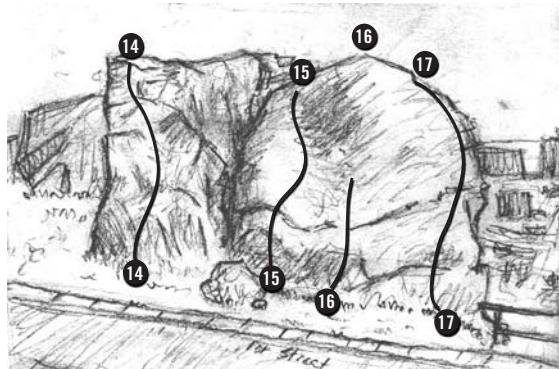
# ★ WHOPEE WALL



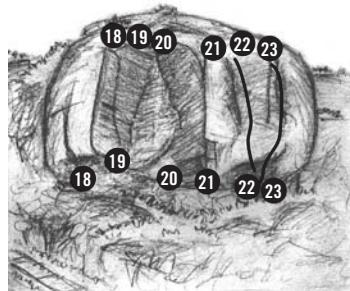
WHOPEE'S PIEDMONT AVENUE SIDE

## crag in brief/directions

Located on the corner of Piedmont Avenue and 1st Street, Whopee Wall is where most of Duluth's indoor climbers get deflowered and thrown into the world of real rock. Like they say, the first time is always disappointing. In spite of it not living up to everyone's teenage expectations, the crag has been frequented for over 25 years, hosting an array of fun top-rope, lead, and boulder problems. With sidewalks going almost all the way around, the feel is decidedly urban. With that come all the hazards of real urban climbing: broken glass, traffic, spray-painted holds, noise, etc. Whopee is a popular teaching area for both university and park and rec classes. For the routes, bring nuts and long slings. For bouldering, crashpads will save your ankles from tree roots looming at the base.



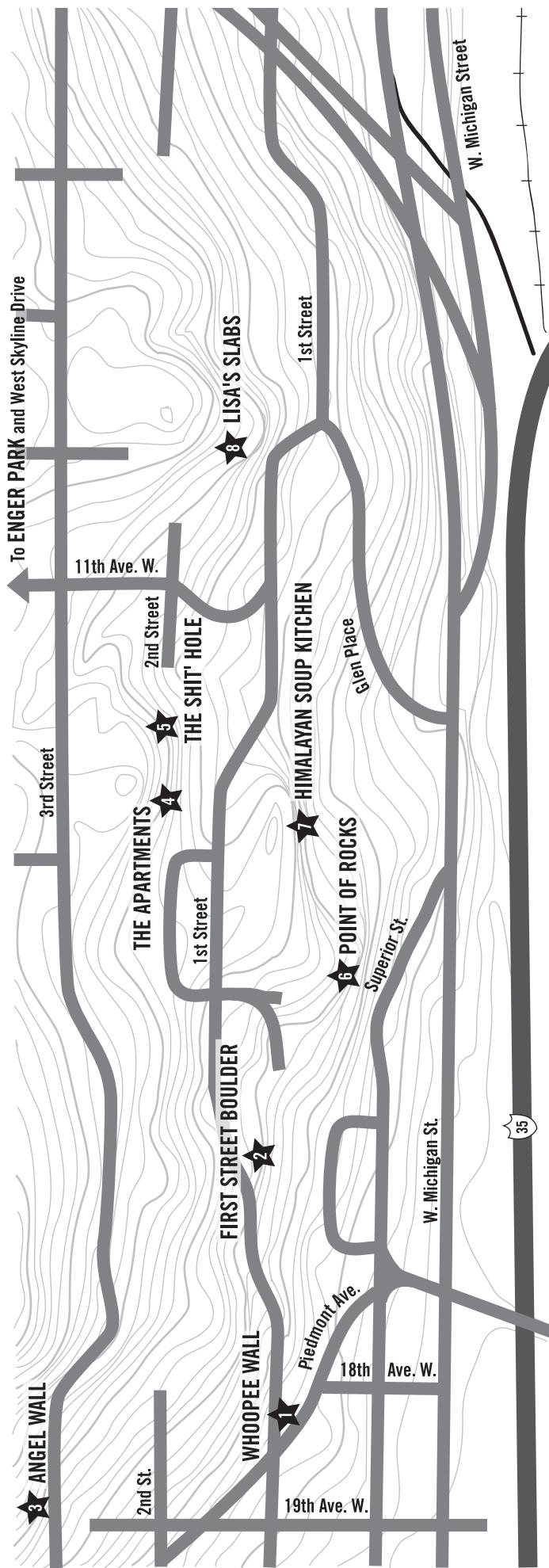
WHOPEE'S 1ST STREET SIDE



WHOPEE'S EAST END ALONG PIEDMONT AVENUE

## the routes

1. Malice in the Heart of Man	5.9	12. Pinching Pennies	5.9
2. Question of Balance	5.10d	13. Deadline	5.7
3. Cracked Rib	5.10a	14. Aliens Land Here	5.8
4. Dark Boulder Face	5.8	15. The Longest Yard	5.8
5. Hoodwink	5.5	16. The Whope Wall	5.10
6. If At First	5.6	17. Whope Wall Right Side	5.4
7. Bobby	B2	18. The Iron Bar	5.11
8. Arrow	B2	19. Knife Edge	5.7
9. The Alcove	5.6	20. Contrived	5.12
10. Stove	5.11b	21. I Need To Know Where This Relationship is Going	5.7
11. The Lord is Coming Wall	5.8	22. Unknown	5.8



# the central park crags

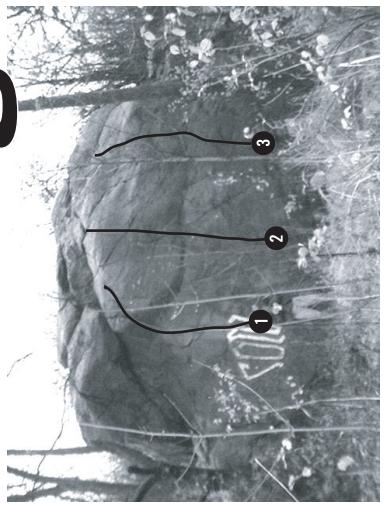
## ★ THE APARTMENTS

### Directions

This well hidden escarpment of 10-15 foot cliffs is located behind two large square apartment buildings on the uphill side of 1st Street between 12th and 13th Avenue West. It probably figures that access to the best steep lines in town take you right through someone's backyard. But, as far as urban cragging adventures go, one should expect nothing less.

### Crag in brief

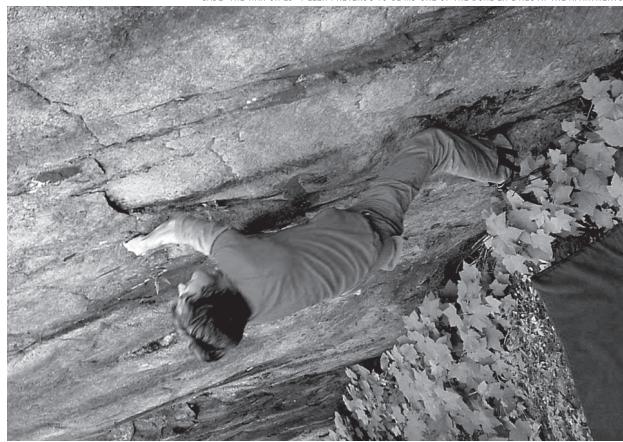
There isn't a huge array of stuff here, but what you get is hard, steep, and high quality. Unfortunately, much to the dismay of the authors, most of the lines here have proved too difficult to top out, at least for now. Access is a tricky issue, so when following the vague directions given above either ask permission to approach through the landowners yard or rappel in catlike from above to avoid conflict



## ★ THE SHIT' HOLE

### Directions

From 11th Avenue West, going uphill from 1st Street, turn left on 2nd Street. Drive to and park at the end of the street. Walk straight ahead and you're there... rock should be on the right hand side in case you missed it.



## ★ THE APARTMENTS

### Directions

Tall low angle slabs on some pretty solid rock. The Shit' Hole holds two good lines and one that's alright all on the brink between top roping and bouldering. You decide. The left most route, not so uniquely named 'shit hole', a double-entendre hinting at both the type of holds and early climbers' feelings on the crag itself, makes this place worth the trip.

- 1. **Fun As All Hell** V1  
Climb through the crimps, then up and around the overhang.
- 2. **Tiller's Thriller** V2  
Standing start, chuck to the horizontal from the arete, and try to smile while negotiating the thin slab above.
- 3. **Shit' Hole** V1  
Standing start, climb up and past the middle seam.

### Crag in brief

## ★ 1st STREET BOULDER

### directions

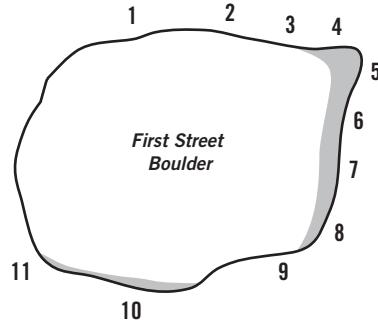
It's probably no surprise that this boulder is located on 1st Street. It's between 14th Avenue West and Piedmont Avenue. Park on the roadside beneath the huge powerlines. You can see the top of the boulder peeking out from behind the railing on the downhill side of the road..

### crag in brief

This little erratic is indeed "the best boulder on First Street". Again bring a crashpad and watch out for broken glass. The lines are often crimpy and steep, the landing is flat, and there are endless variations to the problems listed.



LONEHILL SHOT FOR A SESSION AT 1ST STREET



### the routes

1. **Unknown** V1  
Sit start on the rail, and climb straight up
2. **Teabag** VO  
Standing start low on two flakes, dynamic moves take you to the top.
3. **Unknown** VO-  
Start on face holds right of the arete, traverse up and right.
4. **Unknown** V1  
Same start as problem 3, but move towards the arete and then to the top.
5. **Stump Chump** V3  
Sit Start, climb up and left of the arete.
6. **Rocket's Revenge** V6  
Start on the holds on and left of the horizontal. Climb straight up the crimps to the top.
7. **Unknown** V2  
Starting at the horizontal above a crescent dish, climb up using the diagonal seam
8. **Unknown** VO+  
Start on the corner, move right and up into the shallow dihedral
9. **Unknown** V2  
Starting left up the arete, climb up the face.
10. **Unknown** V3  
Standing start on crimps, climb through slopers and a mantle to the top.
11. **Yuder's Arete** V2  
Climb up the arete

## ★ 3 ANGEL WALL

### crag in brief/directions

Located on the right side of 18th Avenue West and 3rd Street, this short but challenging wall should be toproped. Two bolts located at the top provide access to a few of the obvious variations.

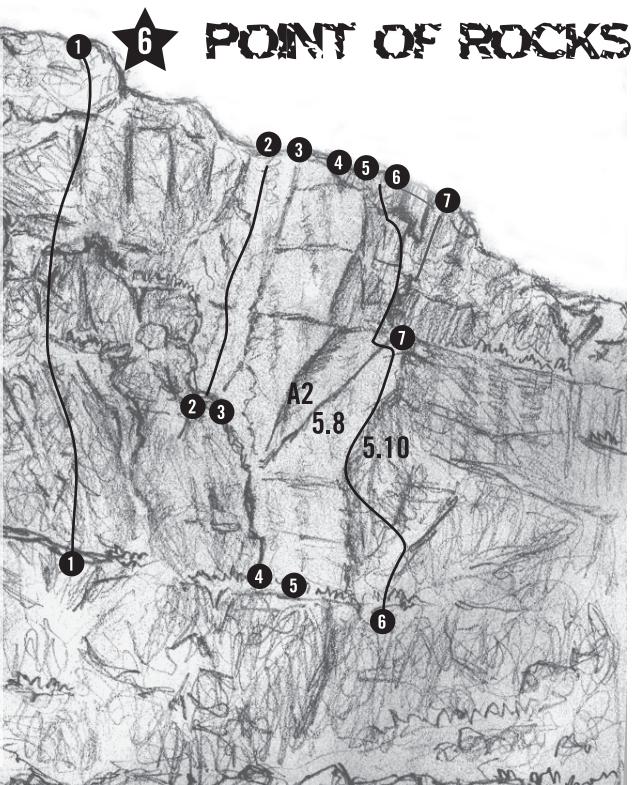


## directions

From 1st Street, turn downhill on 14th Avenue West heading towards the lake. Park half a block down in a dirt pull-off next to a big rock. Following the trail straight leads to the top of some broken bouldery slabs, following the more prominent trail left will lead you to the top of Point of Rocks. Access is also possible from Superior Street, or the parking lot below the Himalayan Soup Kitchen.

## crag in brief

Looking up from below this huge blasted face, it's hard to imagine any real gems in the cluttered mix of broken ledges and cracks. Clean slabs on the right and carefully trodden lines on the main wall do offer some fun climbing. Black Feather, a 5.10 finger crack is definitely the crag's classic. As always, beware of loose rock, especially on the heavily blasted sections.



## the routes

### 1. Jailhouse Rock

Climb any of the winding lines up the heavily blasted portion of the face.

### 2. Hard Climb For Sale

Wander up the slab just left of Black Feather. It's fun with balancy moves on good holds.

### 3. Black Feather

Climb the obvious crack. This is some of the best crack in town.

### 4. Midnight Run

A2+

Hang your way up the thin seam deep in the corner. Finish on Prime Rib.

### 5. Baked While You Sleep

5.8

Same starting place as Midnight Run. Climb the diagonal crack on the face. Finish on Prime Rib.

### 6. Prime Rib

5.10d

A meandering face climb with a bit of the chossy stuff at the top to remind you that you're in Duluth.

### 7. Hampster Huey and the Gooey Kablooie

5.9

It's ledges and drilled holes to a crack and then the fun begins.



## HIMALAYAN SOUP KITCHEN

## crag in brief/directions

We usually park at the lot located on the corner of Glen Place and W. Michigan Street though we're not sure who owns it. Head uphill towards a creek following a faint trail left to the crag. You might consider bringing a machete to help break through the brush and weeds. Soup Kitchen classic Tibetan Refugees is a short line up an overhanging arête, located inside a cluster of boulders a few yards below the cliff base. There is toprope and lead potential, but the cliffs are broken and ledgy.

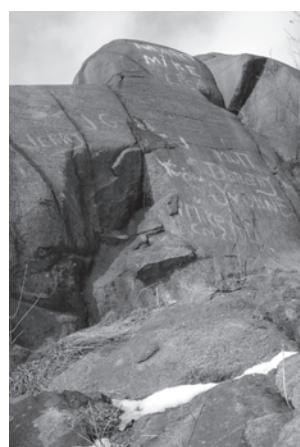
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## USA'S SLABS

## crag in brief/directions

Park across from the apartment complex (Summit Square Apartments) located on 1st Street and Glen Place. Hike up the hill from the northeast corner of the apartments to set of spray painted slabs. The slabs in the picture have a few challenging lines with ankle twisting landings. There are also more climbs to the left and to the far right of this slab. Easier shorter stuff can be found below Observation Park, just over the hill and to the right.



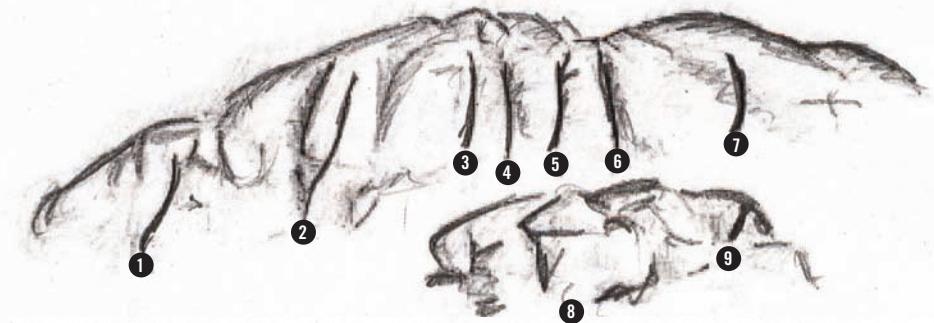
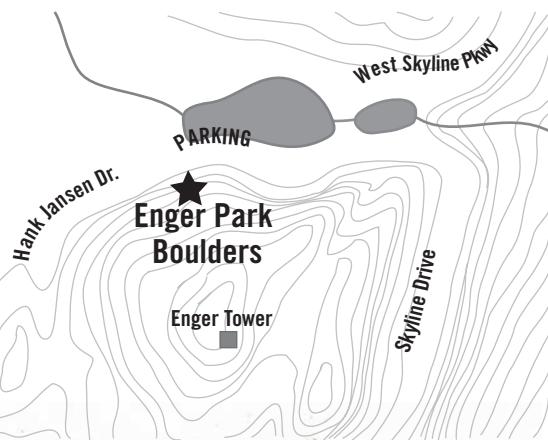
## directions

Park at the pull-off next to the pond. Hike west along the road until the roadcut on the left tapers. At the end of the roadcut follow the faint trail up and left.

## crag in brief

Duluthers head to the Enger Park Boulders so they can hone their low angle groveling skills. Lines here are mostly short slabs with a few slopers and a few cracks. The rock is solid, but some of the landings are bad. A big lawn and even bigger trees in the park on top of the hill make for good slacklining/grilling sessions post climb.

## ENGER PARK



## the routes

### 1. Vik

5.8

Find your own way.

### 2. Pucker

V2

Standing start, chuck to the horizontal from the arete, and try to smile while negotiating the thin slab above.

### 3. The Vagina Monologue

V1

Standing start, climb up and past the middle seam.

### 4. Pounder's Crack

5.9

Standing start, climb crack and face.

### 5. Pounder's Other Crack

Unrated

Standing start, climb up crack and face.

### 6. Unnamed

5.8

Standing start, climb crack and face.

### 7. Unnamed

Unrated

Start in the middle of the slab, and make your way up.

### 8. Unnamed

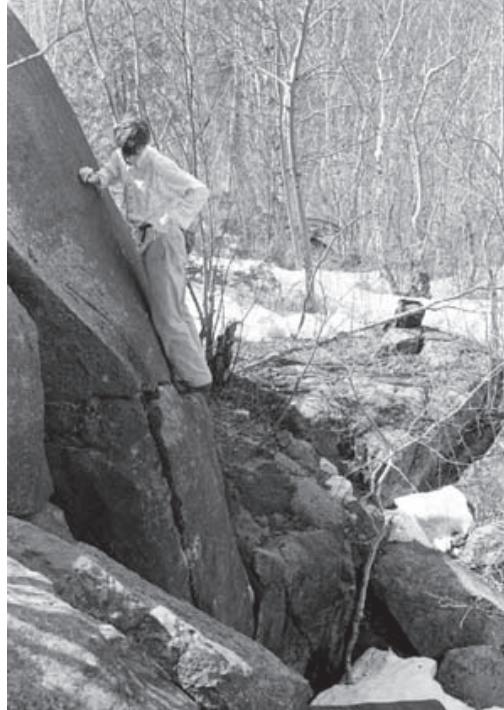
Unrated

There are a lot of good short problems on this face with many variations.

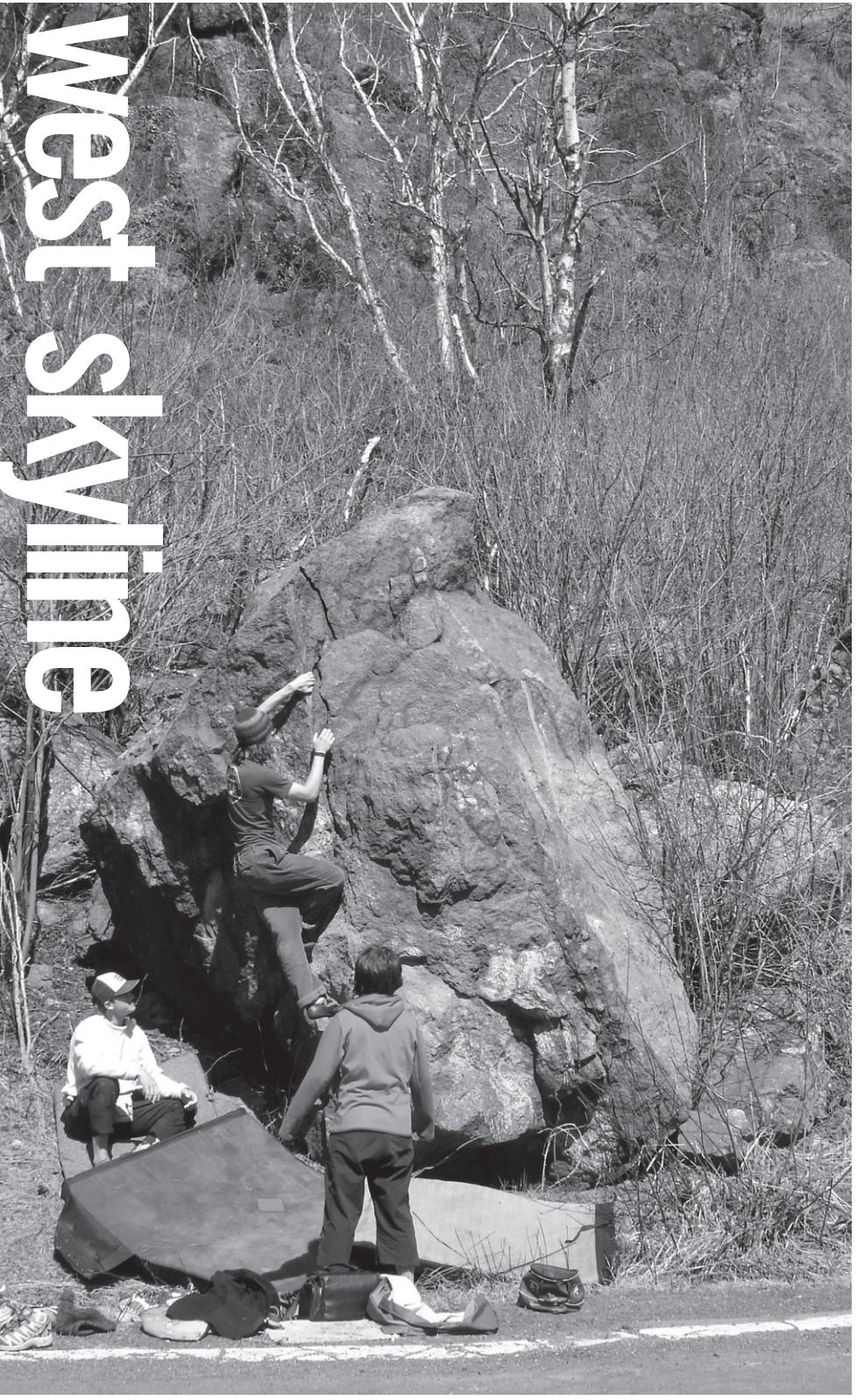
### 9. Warchild

Unrated

Sit start in the cave and climb out on the right.



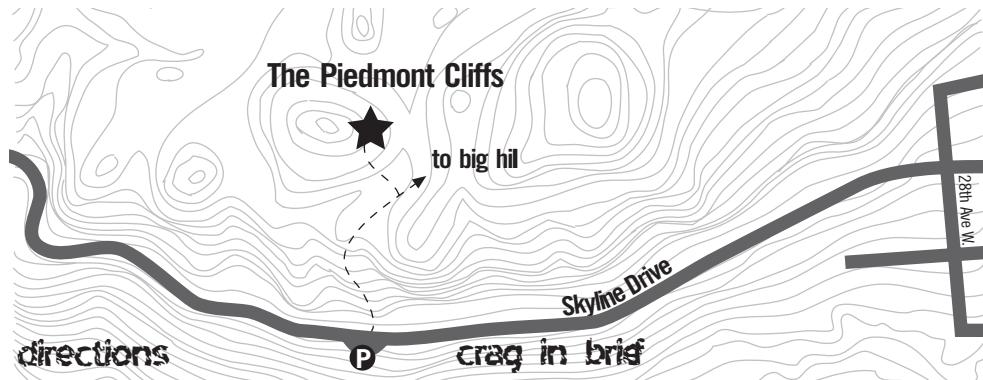
JOSH WEST GRIPPED WITH FEAR AS VING VENTURED TO THE SELDOM VISITED HEIGHT OF 7 FT OFF THE DECK .



# West skyline

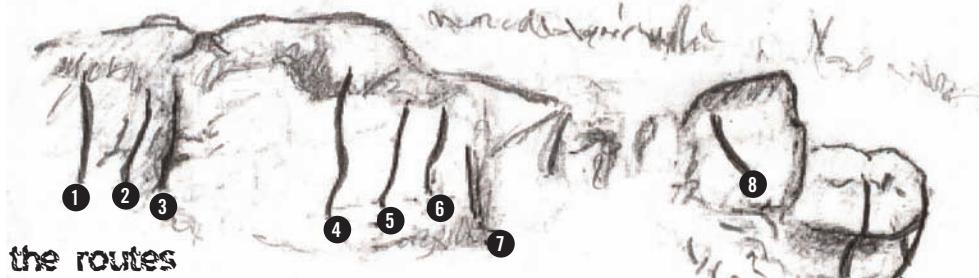
GREGORY WORKS HIS STUFF ON VIDEK IN BREWER PARK

## PIEDMONT



Take 28th Avenue West up the hill and get on Skyline traveling west. Go down the road until you reach a large overlook on the left hand side. Park here. From the overlook/parking lot, follow the obvious trail up and over the rocky hill. As the trail heads back down the hill look for a more faint trail leading off and left. Go about 50 yards, you'll reach a cliff band... you're there.

Walking over the big hill on the cliff's approach leaves most of the city sounds behind. Piedmont's seclusion is enough that you can forget you're still in town. The rock here holds together better than most of the stuff along West Skyline and the problems are pretty unique. Its only drawback is that with little exposure to the sun, the wall is slow to dry after rain or snow.



- |   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>1. Tim Shasky</b>  | <b>Unrated</b> |  |
| Standing start, climb the face in front of the tree. The Brad Pitt of Superior's Northshore.                          |                |  |
| <b>2. Unnamed</b>   | <b>Unrated</b> |  |
| Standing start, climb slopers on the left face in front of problem 3.   |                |  |
| <b>3. Leesa Lives</b>   | <b>Unrated</b> |  |
| Sit start and climb the face between the corner and the arete. For harder variations eliminate the left crack (V2).   |                |  |
| <b>4. Oh Goddamn'</b>   | <b>V1</b>      |  |
| Sit start, climb up and through crimps.   |                |  |
| <b>5. The Flying Wiese</b>  | <b>V4</b>      |  |
| Sit start, with both hands on the horn, climb up through really small crimps. Slippery when wet!                      |                |  |
| <b>6. Tribute to the Turd</b>   | <b>V2</b>      |  |
| Sit start on big lieback. Climb straight up.  |                |  |
| <b>7. Arete Problem</b>   | <b>V2</b>      |  |
| Sit start, climb up arete.  |                |  |
| <b>8. Leap of Faith</b>   | <b>V3</b>      |  |
| Standing start on the face just left of the arete. Go big for the holds high and to the left, then mantle to the top. |                |  |
| <b>9. Jebus Jive</b>  | <b>V4</b>      |  |
| Sit start below the roof, climb straight up and over. Easier variations exit right.                                   |                |  |
| <b>10. Warchild Pulled One Off</b>  | <b>VB</b>      |  |
| Sit start around the corner from "Jebus Jive", climb up and through roof.   |                |  |



## THE ZOO

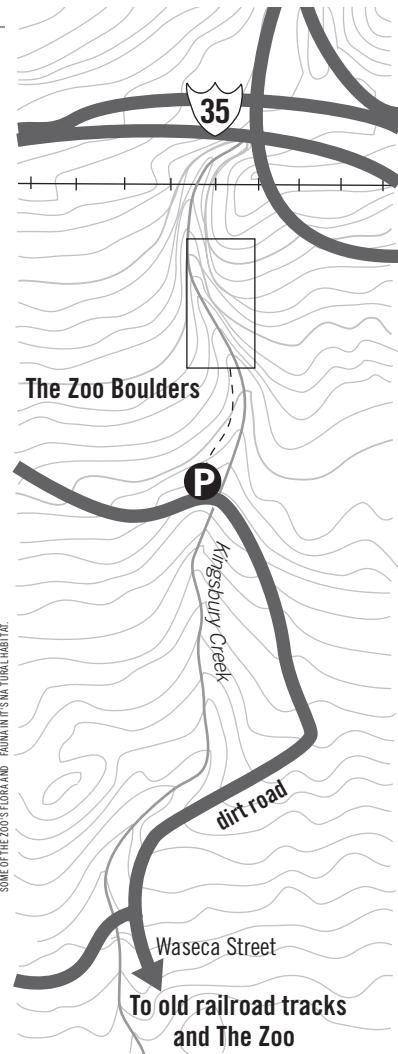


### directions

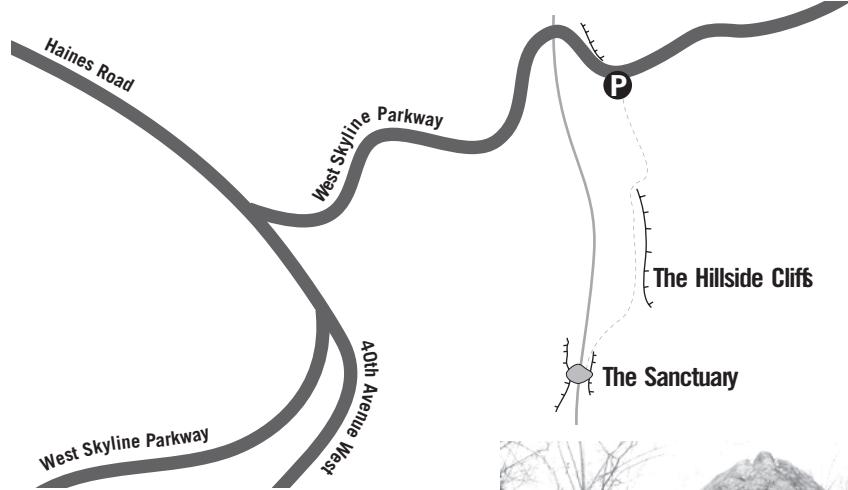
From Grand Avenue (traveling south) turn right onto Waseca Street. Drive to the end of Waseca Street and turn right onto a dirt road. Follow this road around to the left and park before the old railroad bridge. Follow the Kingsbury Creek Trail by foot up the creek for about .5 mile. Go to the second bridge and move off the trail into the creek bed. The climbing stretches from here to the highway on the right side of the creek.

### crag in brief

Your nose lifts with the sweet smell of wildflowers, a gift from a gentle breeze. A softly babbling creek flows at your feet as you gaze upon the friendly glowing orange and brown cliffs that line the eastern valley rim. A small brook trout jumps for a mosquito as a fawn prances up the western bank to catch up with its mother. The Zoo is beautiful. It's so beautiful that it inspired this beauteous portraiture. The climbing is decent too.



## THE SANCTUARY



### crag in brief/directions

From Haines Road, travel .3 miles East on Skyline Drive and park at the pull-off after the creek to the left. Follow a trail down a grassy hill for about a quarter mile. Once you find a safe place, travel downhill towards the creek. Above the creek you will find a cliff band that holds a few fun short lines, the natural rock bridge below on the river holds a few more challenging problems, and there are some good lines just downstream. Climbing at the Sanctuary is best when water levels are low.



TWO FALLEN PILLARS MAKE A NATURAL BRIDGE OVER THE CREEK

## about the authors

Layout proved a bit trickier than anticipated and we found ourselves at a loss for what to place on this half of the page. As it happens, all good ideas come with time, and the thought eventually occurred to us that we should do what we always do when at a loss for words, talk about ourselves. Here's a little about the authors:

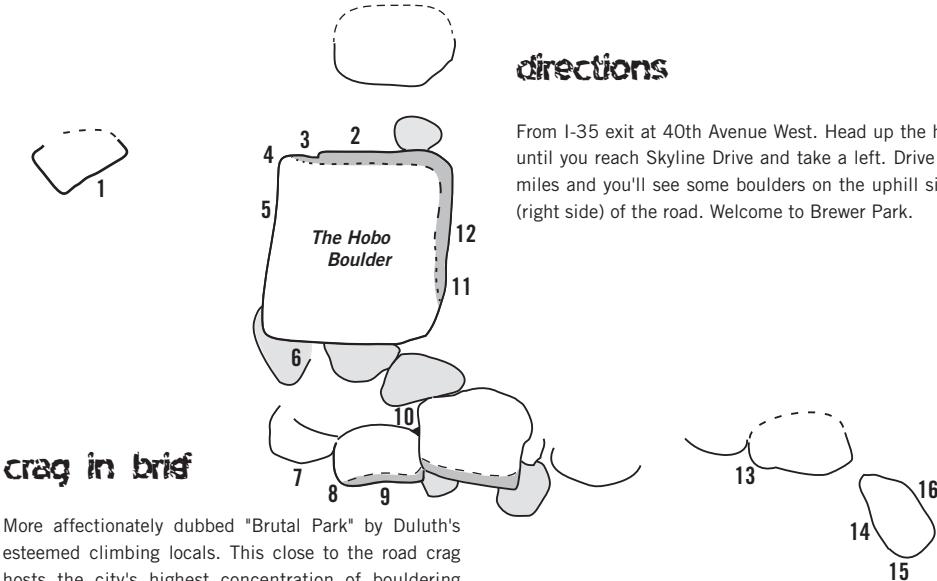


**Josh Wiese** hails from and began climbing in Appleton, Wisconsin. He's 25, brown eyed, 5'11", very very attractive and single. He only recently discovered interests outside of climbing, some of which include political activism, anthropology, and surfing. Duluth's been his happy home for the last 6 years. He's currently looking for a new home.

**Laura Petersen** loves the undo button, will do anything for dark chocolate, cookies, and a chance to get on the rock to climb. Born and raised in Wheaton, Illinois, she currently resides in Duluth after graduating from the University of Minnesota Duluth, in May 2005, with a BFA in Graphic Design. She hopes to stay in the north country or move to the mountains.



## BREWER PARK



More affectionately dubbed "Brutal Park" by Duluth's esteemed climbing locals. This close to the road crag hosts the city's highest concentration of bouldering lines. From climbing through tiny crimps on slabs to finding heel hooks above your head, there is plenty of variety here. Boulderers beware; Brewer's lines are rife with skin cutting crimps and sharp crystals. Add loose rock to the picture, and you get a stout reminder that in Duluth, climbers sometimes have to take what they can get.

The season is pretty limited to spring and fall. Winter seems to cold for the crimps and thick summer vegetation usually covers the boulders completely by July. If you do decide to brave the mosquitoes and underbrush, one might consider tossing brush cutting tools, a screen bug suit, and DDT into the crash pad.

## the routes

### 1. Funky Bitch V3

Sit start, climb face without the aretes.

### 2. Liquor Sick V3

Standing start with sit start variations. Start left of rock, traverse right and climb up face. Stay left of arete.

### 3. Trapanese VB

This kickin' little line is more or less a standing start up the dihedral, with a fun throw to the last jug.

### 4. Hobo's Arete V4-

Sit start on the face holds left of the arete, then climb straight up the arete.

## directions

From I-35 exit at 40th Avenue West. Head up the hill until you reach Skyline Drive and take a left. Drive .5 miles and you'll see some boulders on the uphill side (right side) of the road. Welcome to Brewer Park.

### 5. Hobo's Face V4+

Start sitting with face holds in hand and climb up. (Starting lower under the boulder adds a lot.)

### 6. Project V?

Sit start left of rock fin with hands low on the face and feet underneath. It goes more or less straight up from here.

### 7. Slabby Joe VO

An array of sharp crimps up the face with good sit start variations.

### 8. Pedals of Blood V5

Standing start, climb up the arete.

### 9. Pools and Fat Kids V3

Standing start on the crimps mid face, climb up and through without either arete.

### 10. The Girth Simulator VF

Start head first, descending into the hole climb towards road and finish with mantle back to where you started.

### 11. Project V?

Sit start on good hand holds with awkward feet.

### 12. Blue-Green Olga V7

Start with left hand in seam, right on the lower crimp. Move up right while climbing through shitty crimps.

### 13. Bumblefuck V4

Sit start on a low rail, climb out and up a face following the right arete.

### 14. Yuder VB

Sitting or standing start that climbs up and left.

### 15. Unnamed VB-

Standing start that climbs through loose holds up the face.

### 16. Norskeluce' VO-

Sit start with hands on flake, follow cracks up and right.

## THE HUBERS

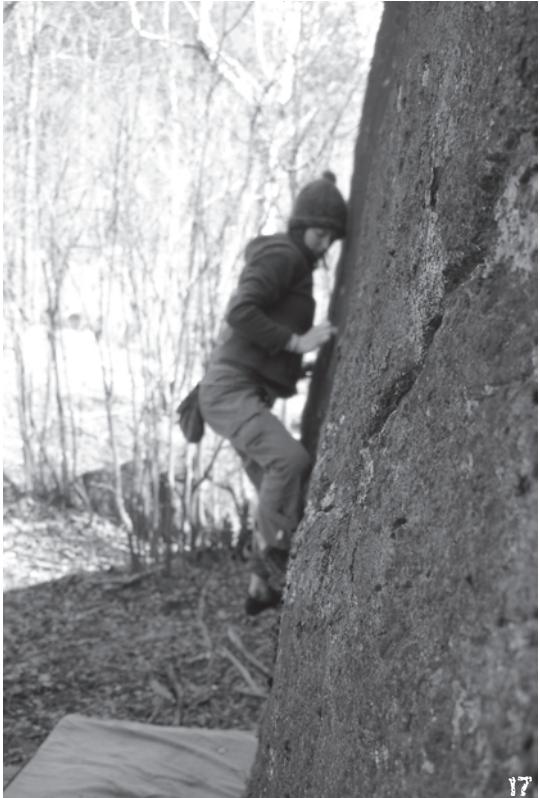
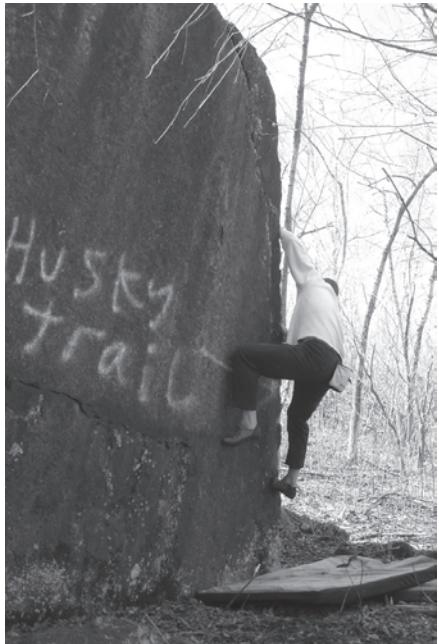


### directions

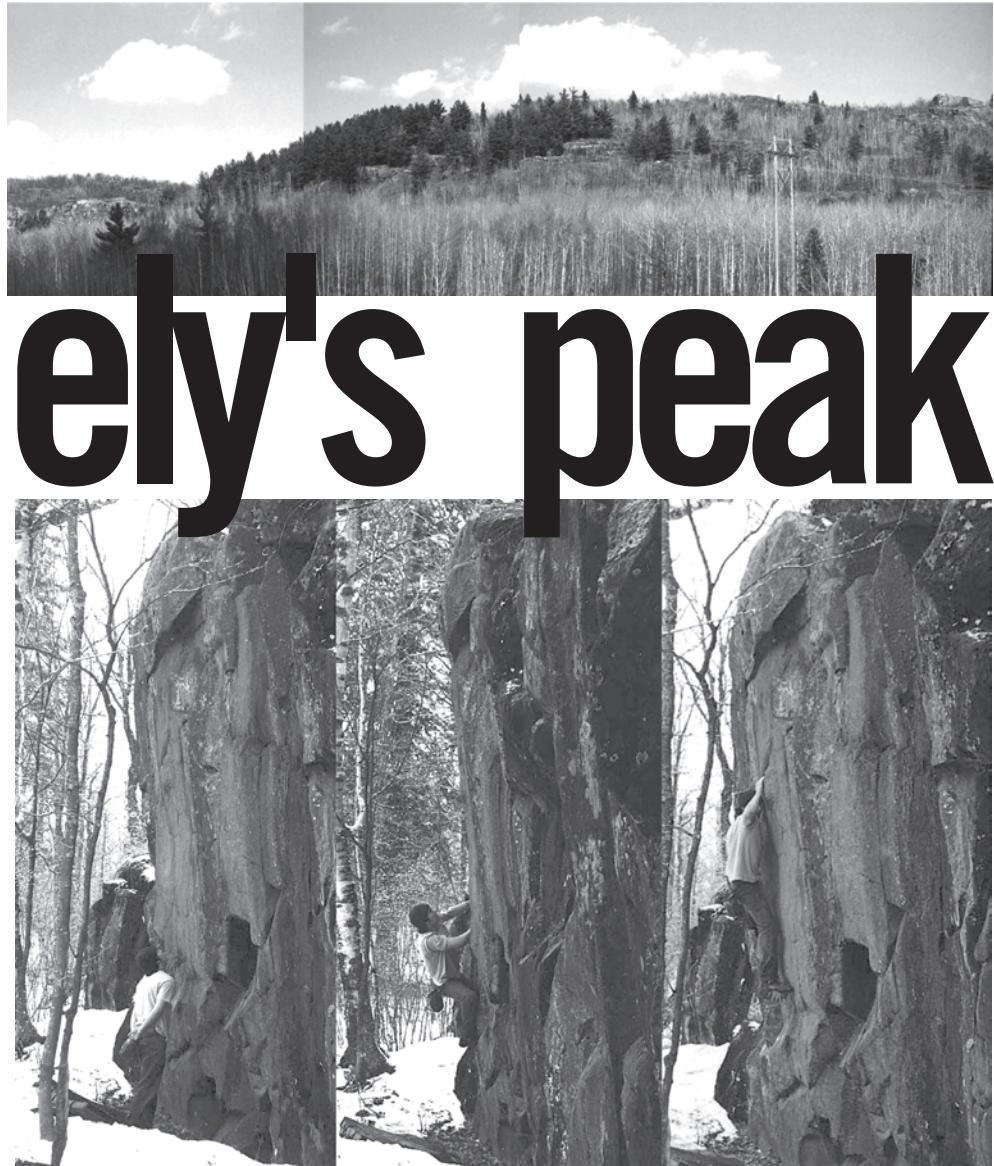
Park in the pull-off at the corner of Skyline Drive and 40th Avenue West. Walk across the road. Hop the guard rail. Since at the time this was written there were no established trails, all we can offer is that you should wander your way down the hill until you find the rock.

### crag in brief

The upper Hubers, marked with the number 1 on the map, are typical Duluth hillside slab climbs with a few lines up shallow seams. The lower Hubers, marked with the number 2, are a combination of hillside slab climbing and some erratics close to the creek. The best lines we found are on an elephant skin slab spray-painted "Husky Trail".



LUKAS AND LAURA ON THE SLABS OF THE LOWER HUBER S



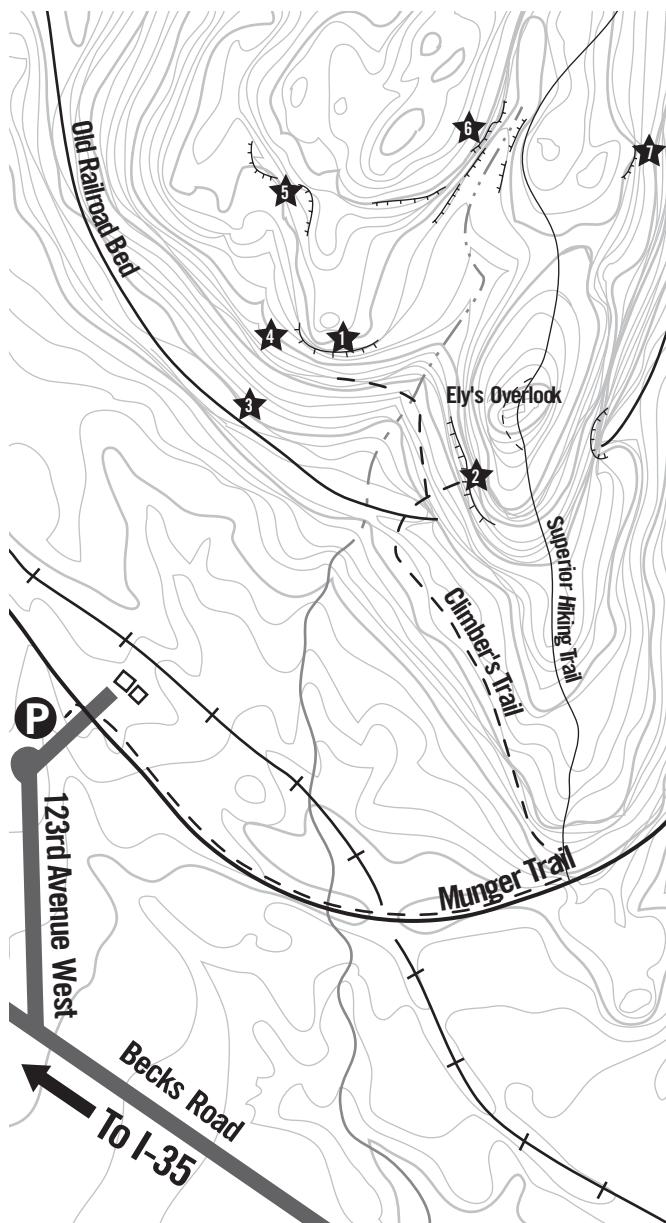
avery cesar bouldering at the ghetto

## to get there

From I-35, take the Midway Road exit and travel south for about four miles. Make a left hand turn onto 123rd Avenue West. Park in the lot on the left 200 yards down, before you reach the Munger Trail. Take a right onto the Munger Trail and walk (or rollerblade, because a lot of people rollerblade) about .5 miles until you reach blasted rock on the trailsides. You'll see the Superior Hiking Trail (SHT) on the left hand side heading up and right into the woods above the rock and the Climber's Trail running left and down the hill. Use the SHT to get to the top of the Tunnel Bluff, the Saddle Stones or Wiese's Spire; for everything else the Climber's Trail is quickest.



# overview



## 1. Tunnel Bluff

a little lower angle than the Northwest Bluff, with quite a few routes.

## 2. Northwest Bluff

this dandy South facing cliff plays host to a few of Ely's taller classics.

## 3. The Trailside Boulders

blasted but fun bouldering above the old railroad.

## 4. The Bluff Boulder

a small erratic with some fun bouldering.

## 5. The Ghetto

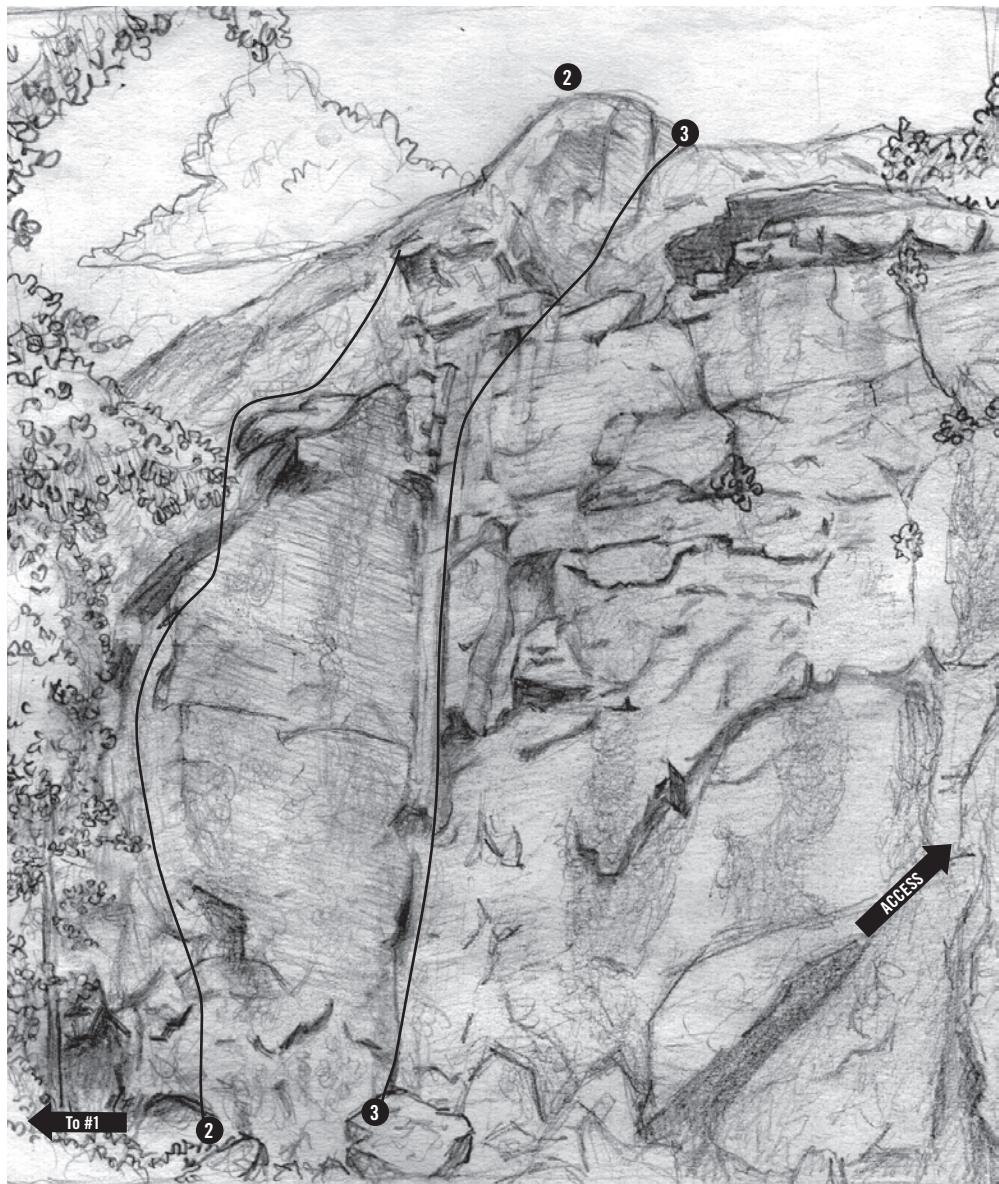
great shorter lines offering scary highballs or short topropes.

## 6. The Saddle Stones

blocky, overhanging, and sharp bouldering.

## 7. Wiese's Spire

bouldering on cliffs on the hill, a phallic tower, and lots of short lines in the talus



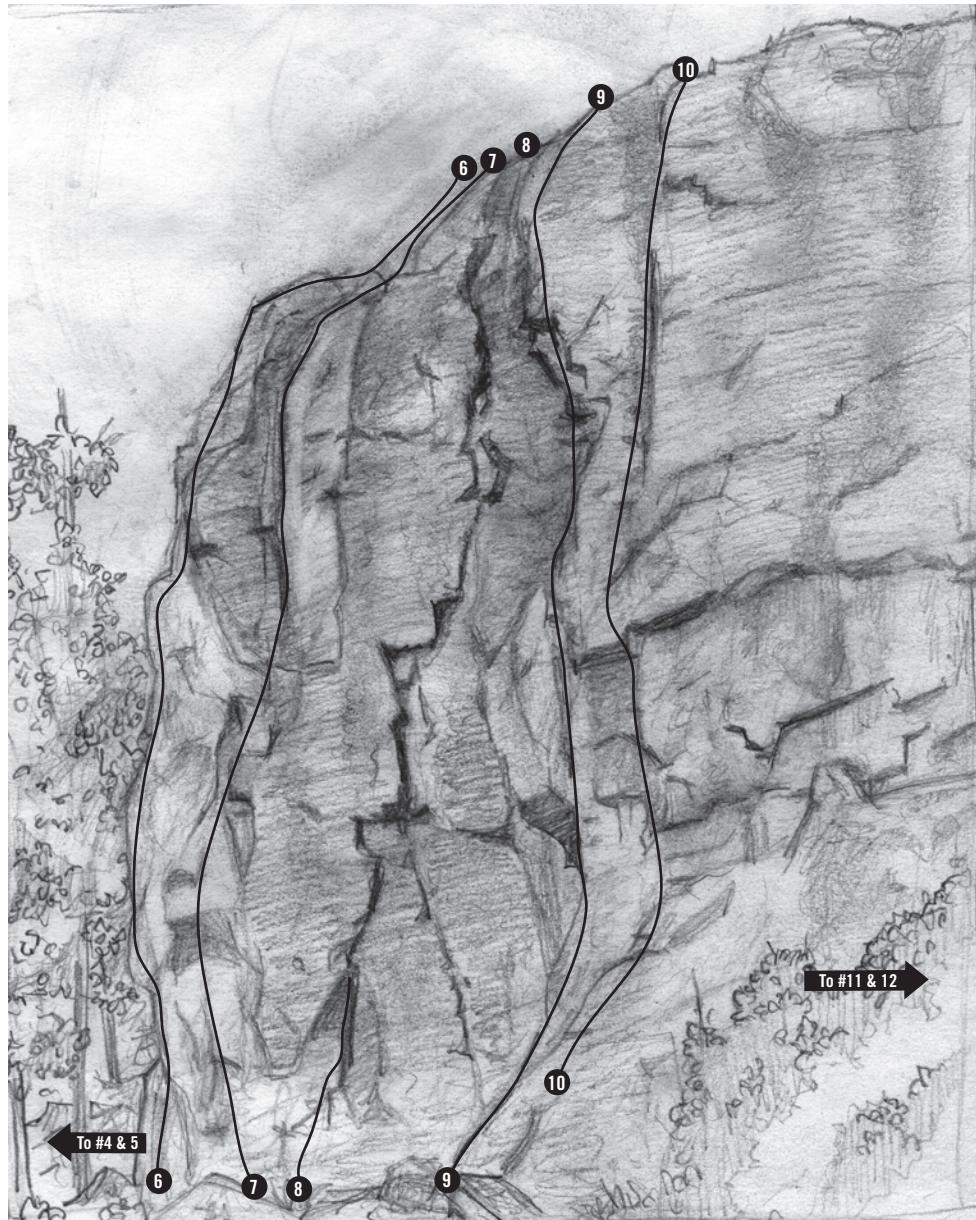
## ★ EIY'S PEAK NORTHWESTERN BLUFF

### To reach the Northwestern Bluff:

From the Old Railroad Bed, look for a trail that travels into the woods (to the left of the trail going up the Tunnel Bluff). Follow this trail gradually uphill, cross a small stream following a faint trail left and wander up to the base of the wall. A brushy ramp left of 'Kindly Step Aside' and right of 'Corner Geometry' provides quick and easy access to the clifftop

### the routes

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>1. Open Your Wrist or Slit Your Throat</b>  | <b>5.11</b>  |
| Face climb up to reach a thin vertical crack or start left, make a difficult traverse right to reach the crack.    |              |
| <b>2. Mandarin Love Squabble</b>   | <b>5.11-</b> |
| Bouldery start left of the arete; follow the arete to the edge and slab to the top.                                |              |
| <b>3. Corner Geometry</b>  | <b>5.6</b>   |
| This climb follows an excellent dihedral that holds a lot of good rests. The top rounds off to a low-angle corner. |              |
| <b>4. Kindly Step Aside</b>  | <b>5.10a</b> |
| Undercling past a small flake and then find your way up the face above.  |              |



**5. Take Two, They're Small**

**5.10b**

Climb through a small overhang and then up, passing just left of a small tree.

**6. The Boys of Summer**

**5.10c**

Move slightly left, then move sharply right into a short, difficult corner.

**7. The Bulge**

**5.9**

The first half is slippery and awkward. Make sure not to block crucial jams with pro when leading.

**8. The Flake**

**5.8**

Climb cracks on the left-hand face to holds around a jammed block. Stem right into the dihedral and monkey your way up to the top.

**9. Coming Unhinged**

**5.10d**

Climb just to the right of The Flake. Slap your way through a bulge and lieback to the top.

**10. Eric's Scream**

**5.12**

A hard thoughtline through a roof, move left into the flaring crack that will take you to the top.

**11. Two Left Feet**

**5.10+**

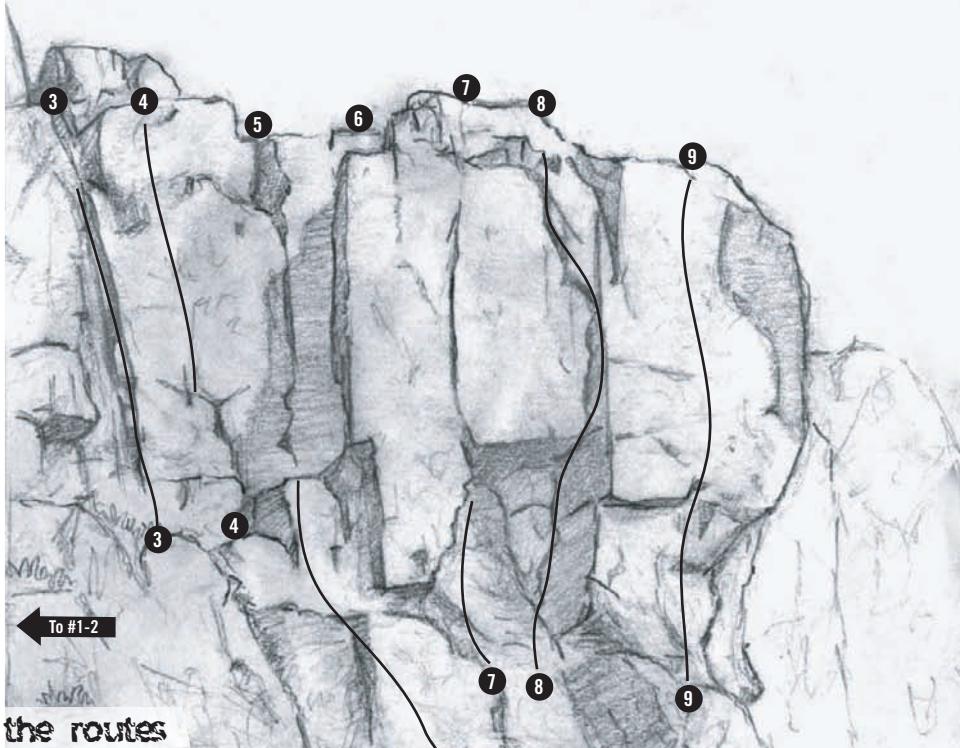
This climb starts the same way as Two Right Feet but works it's way left through a small roof, then up through a fairly bare face to the top.

**12. Two Right Feet**

**5.9**

This climb starts in front of a birch tree and follows somewhat along a blocky edge on the right hand side. When in doubt step right.

## ★ ELY'S PEAK TUNNEL BLUFF



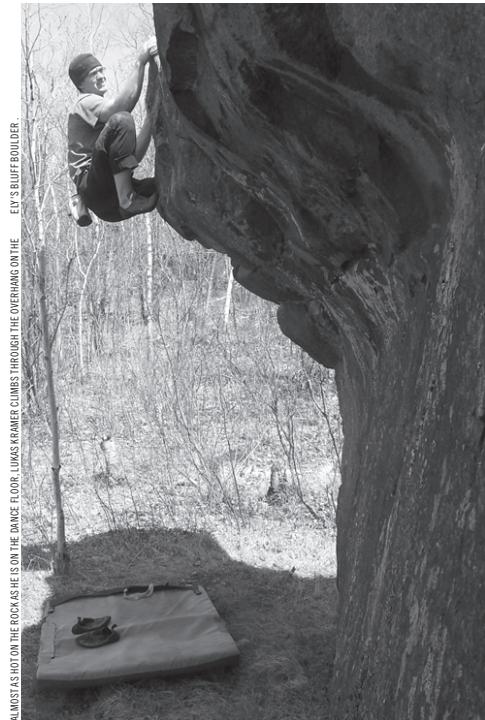
### the routes

- 1. Royal Robbins F12 Overhang      5.8**  
This route is located well to the left of the tunnel opening on the large broken wall that lies beneath the highest point of Ely's Peak. Stem up a wide dihedral and turn a tricky little overhang.
- 2. Cakewalk      5.5**  
A pleasant, but seldom visited flake, face and jam crack located about thirty feet to the left of Simple Corner.
- 3. Simple Corner      5.3**  
Standing start, climb crack and face.
- 4. Static Is A Four Letter Word      5.9**  
The taller you are the easier this climb is going to be. C limb as high as you can on face holds, then rreach for the large shelf above.
- 5. Beginner's Crack      5.5**  
Like the title says, a crack for beginner's.
- 6. New Corner      5.5**  
Stem up the corner to the top.
- 7. Bionic Finger Crack      5.12a**  
One of the best finger jamming cracks in town. Good luck trying to smear on the slick featureless face.
- 8. Dislocation Overhang      5.6**  
A straight forward, yet intimidating route working up and through a roof that can be lied back once you get over it, if you can.
- 9. Jigsaw      5.8**  
An excellent face climb that can be done from the same anchor as Dislocation Overhang.

### 3

## TRAILSIDE BOULDERS

This has potential to be the best approach for any of the climbing at Ely's Peak. If you're brave enough to chance trespass charges and almost certain death should the train bridge collapse, you're able to drive right along the old railroad bed and park feet from this cliff's base (we don't recommend it). Blast tunes from the truck stereo, cook a few brats on the tailgate and it'll feel just like Whoopi Wall without the traffic. If you're the sensible type and wish to avoid fines or possible injury, walk up the Climbers Trial to the old railroad bed and hang a left. You'll see the boulders after a few hundred meters on the right hand side. The first obvious set of cliffs is blasted and pretty much unclimbed. The second set which hosts classic lines like 'Gumby' (V4) and 'Snooky Loves Curly' (A2 since it hasn't been freed) are easy to spot when you see the spray-paint that says 'Gumby' and 'Snooky loves Curly'.



LAURA THE D-TOWN SONE PAPING QUEEN HANGIN IT ALL OUT ON GUM

### 4

## THE BLUFF BOULDER

This boulder only has a few lines up, out and around the roof, but it's a fun feature and worth including in the guide. Follow the trail along the cliff base past Corner Geometry and you'll see it on your left.

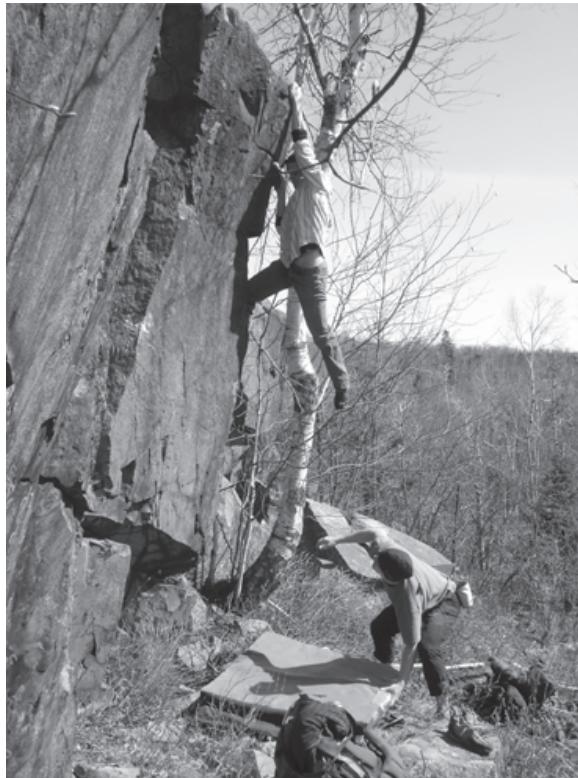


LAUREN, LUCAS KRAMER R. ON THE READY TO THROW DOWN

### 5

## THE GHETO

Look at that wondering expression on Lucas' face. He's lost in the sea of rock before him. Okay, perhaps we've been in Duluth too long. The Ghetto is more like a pond of rock... or maybe a puddle. There are quite a few lines, stretched out over a big area. Much of it is bouldering; some of it is tall enough to consider a rope. Just follow the trail along the cliff base past the Bluff Boulder and to the right.



## 6 SADDLE STONES

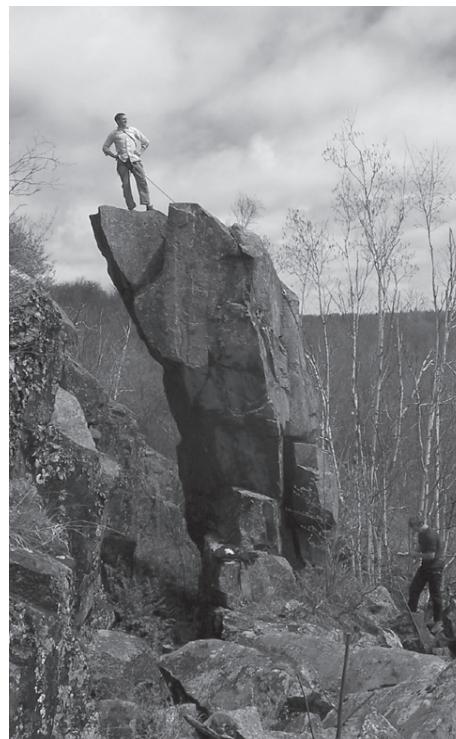
This area is best approached from the Superior Hiking Trail. Follow the trail over Ely's Peak and along the ridge. As the trail nears the edge of a small slot canyon on your left look for a prominent prow rising up over some talus. There are lots of lines here, but many of the cliffs steep for a few days after rain. The blocky features give the Saddle Stones a pretty unique feel. Most of the climbing is tall bouldering with jagged rocky landings.

GROW UP!

## 7 WIESE'S SPIRE

The rumors are true, it's hard to get here, but not impossible. From the Saddle Stones, take the Superior Hiking Trial maybe 30 yards to a stream flowing downhill to the right. Follow the stream through the woods until you see some rock on the left and you're there.

The area is mostly bouldering lines along the cliff and in the talus. There are also a few lines on Wiese's Spire, the easiest of which is a 5.6 on the downhill side.



AN ELUSIVE BUT PROMINENT FEATURE THAT'S BEEN THE DRIVE FOR MANY ADVENTURES OVER THE YEARS. THIS IGNEOUS MONOLITH HAS NEVER BEEN CLIMBED BY A FEMALE ASCENT.



UKA'S RANGER CLIMBING AT THE BRAE SIDE BOULDERS