

4.Ely Peak Route



View from entrance to Munger Trail, photo spot#1

Highlights: The views from the Munger Trail and from the two main vistas are amazing. In fall there are few places with more commanding views of the fall color. The hike to Snively Forest is full of overlooks and rock ledges but the Snively Forest is full of towering hardwoods. This is a beautiful and quiet forest to hike in, very shady in summer.

Parking and Directions:

From 35W take **the Midway Road exit** and head south. Midway soon turns into Beck's Road and begin looking for the **Superior hiking Trail parking on 123 Ave. W.** From the parking lot head, up the dirt road to the **Munger Bike Trail**. Follow the Munger Trail **just past the railroad bridge and look for LSHT signs on your left.**

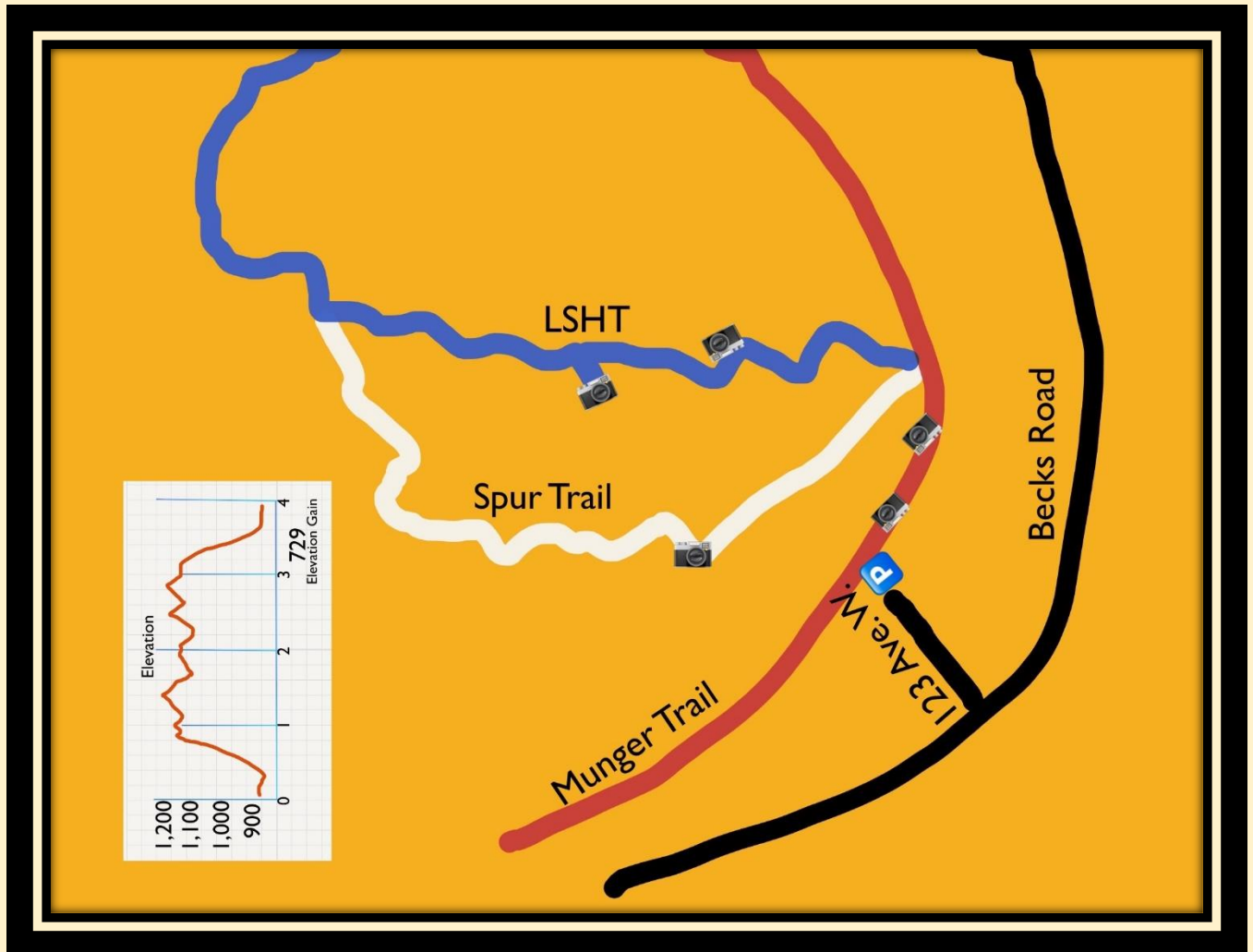


Superior Hiking Trail Parking Sign 123 Ave. W.

Distance: Up and back 4 to 4.4 miles

Difficulty: moderate

Recommended for: most hikers



The Route:

Mile 1: The first mile starts on the **Munger Bike Trail** on a nice wide asphalt surface. As you reach the Munger Bike Trail, there is a great view of Ely Peak. This is **photo spot #1**. Head east on the Munger Trail until just before the railroad bridge. This is **photo spot #2**. Continue across the railroad bridge and look for the **LSHT sign on your left**. When you see the sign for LSHT you will need to climb some low rocks to get up to a winding trail through mixed forest. (**look for the LSHT blue rectangles and signs to guide your way**) About two thirds of a mile up the hill, brings you up to a flat overlook that includes views of a huge valley and peaks with islands on the St. Louis River in the distance. **This is photo spot #3**. Head up the trail and find the spur trail that leads to **Ely Peak vista**. This is **photo spot #4**.

Mile:2 Coming down from Ely Peak you take the trail to your left that leads into the woods. The trail leads you to several rock overlooks and small canyons on your left. You will eventually

come to a trail intersection for the Ely Peak Loop Trail. Ignore that for now but your will be taking this trail down the hill. At about one and four tenths' miles you enter a beautiful hardwood forest with small hills and valleys. At about one and three fourths' miles you will cross a small beautiful stream. At the two mile mark the trail heads down a fairly steep hill. Instead of heading down this hill, turn around and head back.

Mile 3: When you get to around the 2.7 mile point you will come to the sign for the **Ely Peak Loop Trail**. (This is a LSHT spur trail so all the rectangles and signs will be white)

Mile 4: At about the 3.2-mile mark is a beautiful overlook of the St. Louis River Valley. There is also a huge tree covered rock that stands out. **Be care not to get distracted like I did and miss the white sign on a post that leads you down the hill**. When you get to about the 3.8-mile mark you come across the DWP Trail. Off to your left is the **old RR tunnel**, so take time to investigate. Off to your right look for **the LSHT signs** that lead down the hill. You are now on a bike trail and soon after a couple of switchbacks you look for the Ely Loop Trail sign on your left. You next come down the trail to a huge forested area. There are towering trees and huge rock cliffs on your left. This is a very cool area. You finally reach the Munger Trail where you turn right to get back to the parking lot.



Sign for Ely Peak Loop Trail



View just before the railroad bridge, photo spot #2



View from overlook towards the St. Louis River, photo spot #3



View looking down from Ely Peak, photo spot #4



Overlook from Ely Peak Loop Trail, Photo spot #5

Extended Route: You can continue on the **LSHT** east all the way to the **Spirit Mt. Chalet**.

Family Friendly Route: hike up to Ely Peak and back. I saw several families when I hiked this route.

After the hike:

This is a great hike on a nice day in spring, summer and fall. Look for the old abandoned railroad tunnel that is part of the **DWP Trail**. When done head up Beck's Road to either the **Buffalo House** [The Buffalo House | Duluth, MN \(buffalohouseduluth.com\)](http://TheBuffaloHouse.com) or **Dry Dock** [Dry Dock Waterfront Grill | Longboat Key Dining](#) restaurants for beverages appetizers or lunch.

For Trail maps or current conditions head to Lake Superior Hiking Trail website [Superior Hiking Trail | MN's Premier Hiking and Running Trail](#). Or the **Trailforks** app.

Stava Link

[JLMunger Trail to Ely Peak to Snively Forest Route | 4.3 mi Hiking Trail on Strava](#)