Welcome
to the Como Park Neighborhood

District 10 Como Community Council
Historic Streetcar Station
1224 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, MN 55103
www.district10comopark.org
(651) 644-3889
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**Inside Knowledge**

Como Lake formerly was known as Sandy Lake. Much of the existing golf course used to be under water; it was known as Cozy Lake. That’s where the clubhouse restaurant gets its name. A channel connected the two lakes until the 1920s, when Cozy dried up.
Welcome

Dear Neighbor:
We are the District 10 Como Community Council. Let us join others in welcoming you to our community – a uniquely great place to live, work, visit, and play.

Our neighborhood takes its name from our signature amenity, Como Regional Park. And the park is, in many ways, the centerpiece of our neighborhood. But our neighborhood is much more than a park. We are an ever-evolving and vibrant community because of you (and 16,000 other neighbors). We live in a mix of housing and households. We are a mix of folks who have been here for generations, or just moved in. We are neighbors who tell stories of “you should have been here when…” and neighbors who are creating our stories of the future. We are glad you are here.

About District 10

Who We Are, What We Are
The Como Community Council is one of Saint Paul’s 17 district councils. We represent the District 10 Como neighborhood – the part of Saint Paul bounded roughly by Snelling to the west, Larpenteur to the north, Dale to the east, and Pierce Butler to the south (see a neighborhood map in the centerspread of this booklet).

Although the city sets the boundaries of District 10, the Como Community Council is not part of city government. We are an independent, nonprofit organization accountable to the community. We are dedicated to supporting a vibrant neighborhood and providing a voice for residents, businesses, and nonprofits in shaping decisions made by elected officials, local government agencies, and large institutions.
Our volunteers organize neighborhood events, work to maintain a safe neighborhood, enhance the natural environment, improve neighborhood amenities, and welcome new neighbors. We keep residents informed, and provide a trusted public forum to address issues.

**Our Board**
The Como Community Council is governed by a board of directors who are elected directly by community members. The Board has 17 members: 4 officers, 2 representatives each from the community’s four geographical sub-districts, and 5 “at-large” members elected from across the neighborhood. Board members serve staggered, two-year terms.

The Board meets once a month – on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station in Como Park. Meetings are open to all community members: renters, homeowners, and representatives from local businesses or organizations. Every meeting makes time early in the discussion for community members to voice their concerns.

**Your Chance**
Renters, homeowners, and anyone else age 16 or older who lives in District 10 or represents a business, nonprofit, school, or other institution within District 10 can vote in District 10 elections, run for a Board seat, and participate in the work of District 10’s committees. Board elections are in April; committees meet every month and are open to everyone.

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**Inside Knowledge**
What’s that sound? Depends where you are. Could be lions and wolves from the Zoo. An announcement from an amusement ride at Como Town, or the calliope from the carousel. A concert on the Fairgrounds you didn’t have to pay for. Music wafting over the lake from the Pavilion. A train horn, or the squealing wheels of rail cars. Classic Detroit muscle headed to a car show. Church bells from Maternity of Mary or Holy Childhood. Children on a school playground. A game at McMurray Field or Como High School. Owls hooting at each other. Ducks flying overhead. Or, maybe, just the silence of a snowfall.
Stay Informed
District 10 publishes an email newsletter every Friday. It is your best source of news, events, and things to pay attention to. If you want to subscribe, send an email to: district10@district10comopark.org. Most of the neighborhood also is served by two monthly, free community newspapers: The Monitor and The Park Bugle. Look for them on your doorstep.

Join In
If you are one of those people who longs to make a difference, the Como Community Council exists to help you do that. Give us a call at 651-644-3889. Or send us an email at district10@district10comopark.org. We'll connect you with other neighbors looking to get things done.

The Council’s three standing committees – Environment, Land Use, and Neighborhood Relations – oversee initiatives that come out of brainstorming by committee members or arise directly from neighbors. Committees typically meet once a month; any renter, homeowner, or other community member is welcome to attend and participate. You can find the current calendar of committee meetings (and other community events) at www.district10comopark.org.

If you can’t make a long-term commitment, you could volunteer for topic-specific work groups, or for small, one-day projects. Give us a call at 651-644-3889; we'll talk through your ideas and interests.

Make a Donation
Como Community Council gets most of its funding from grants. However, grants often limit what we can or cannot do with the designated money. Your donation,
on the other hand, helps us work with more freedom and autonomy. By contributing financially, you are investing in your community, in your future, in yourself, and in your family. Get involved with a gift that feels comfortable for you in one of three ways: a check, online, or through an employer match. This will expand our ability to address more issues that are important to you, and help all of us improve our quality of life.

District 10 Activities

Block Clubs / Building Clubs
There is no formal block club network in District 10, but plenty of streets have block leaders or apartment building leaders who make sure neighbors stay in touch, share social activities, and more.

Many streets hold block parties on National Night Out (the second Tuesday in August); plenty of others have their parties at a different time of year. If you want to block off your street or alley, District 10 has barricades you can rent for $10 (which is less than the city charges.)

If you want tips on getting to know your neighbors better, or on how to actively look out for each other, get a copy of “Building a Better Como for All of Us.” We have copies in our office and on our website.

Citywide Dropoff
Once a year, District 10 organizes a “neighborhood cleanup” at the State Fairgrounds. It’s an affordable way for you to get rid of the junk in your garage, basement, attic, and backyard – especially big stuff you can’t throw in your weekly trash. The dropoff typically is in spring; watch for details in the mail and on District 10’s website. (If you volunteer to staff the event, you help others, help the event succeed, and can get rid of a load of your own junk for free.)

Neighborhood Garage Sale
This community-wide garage sale is held once a year (usually in May or June). Enjoy a
neighbor's sale or start your very own. This is a great way to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Community Garden
District 10 sponsors a community garden near Snelling and Como. Gardens do more than grow food; they also grow connections to each other and to the land. If you are interested in a plot (for a small fee), give us a call at 651-644-3889; we'll get you on the list.

ComoFest
Every July, District 10 and other organizations and businesses in Como hold a series of low-cost, small-scale, family friendly events in different parts of the neighborhood on different weekends. Stay tuned in: The lineup changes every year. Go to www.comofest.org.

Ice Cream Social
This is District 10's contribution to ComoFest – a low-key chance to hang out in the park, meet neighbors, listen to music, let youngsters burn off their sugar buzz, get your face painted, check out local organizations and, oh yeah, gulp down ice cream before it melts.

Sunday Series
In winter and early spring, District 10 organizes this series of free presentations on all kinds of topics – practical, fun, historical, inspiring, sometimes all of the above. We bring in experts on a Sunday afternoon; first you get to listen, then you get to ask questions until time runs out.

Inside Knowledge
Need a pet fix? The Animal Humane Society (on Beulah Lane north of Jessamine in Como Regional Park) is always looking for volunteers to care for animals, walk dogs, or provide foster care to pets awaiting adoption.
Neighborhood Attractions

Como Regional Park

The Lake
It’s small, but it’s an oasis in the city and the heart of our community. The walking and bicycling paths do more than host a lot of fund-raising walks and runs in the summer – they serve as a town square. Do a lap or two (each loop is about 1.5 miles) and you can meet neighbors, their kids and their dogs, count waterfowl, or check on the bees at the Pollinator Skyrise. Unfortunately, swimming is not recommended. But the health of the lake inspires much of our neighborhood’s environmental activism.

The Zoo
This beloved Saint Paul treasure is Minnesota’s second-largest attraction, behind the Mall of America. It is one of the last free zoos in the United States (though donations are encouraged). The Zoo is open year-round; in addition to ongoing animal exhibits, it features theme weekends, educational presentations, children’s camps, and special events.

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory
The gardens include a bonsai gallery, orchid house, seasonal flower shows in the picturesque sunken garden, and a permanent tropical plant exhibit (which can be a rejuvenating, inexpensive get-away in winter). The outdoor Japanese Garden was built in cooperation with Saint Paul’s sister city of Nagasaki, Japan. The Conservatory also organizes special events, including an indoor music series in the winter, an outdoor music series in
the summer, and an annual Obon lantern-lighting festival each August.

Cafesjian’s Carousel
Built in 1914 for the Minnesota State Fair, and saved from destruction in 1988, this exhilarating carousel features a full array of horses and carts, a restored band organ, and 18 scenic paintings. Open summers; there is a fee. (And, sorry, we don’t know how to pronounce the name, either.)

Como Town
The amusement park, adjacent to the Zoo, caters to youngsters ages 2 to 12. Open summers; there is a fee.

Golf Course
The 18-hole, par 70 public course plays at an accessible 5,800 yards. In the winter, the course converts to free cross-country ski trails and “Mount Como,” which provides skiing and snowboarding lessons for all ages.

Lakeside Pavilion
Summer concerts, dancing and theater (usually free), watercraft and surrey rentals, a seasonal restaurant and concession stand – all are part of the Pavilion experience. So are panoramic lake views. There’s been a pavilion on this exact site since 1893. The current version dates to 1992; it’s nearly a dead-ringer for the 1905 pavilion it replaced.

McMurray Field
These athletic fields – some with year-round turf – are home to baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, Ultimate, football and, in winter, broomball. Some of the fields are sunken because the site used to be a gravel pit. In early July, McMurray Field and nearby parts of the park host the annual Hmong Freedom Festival, a cultural fair and sports tournament.

Inside Knowledge
Ask old-timers about the time peacocks broke out of the Zoo and wandered the neighborhood.
Pool
The pool has something for nearly everyone: open swimming; a zip line, a climbing wall, and all kinds of gizmos for kids; lap swimming; diving; swim lessons; even a float river. The current pool opened in 2012; it replaced the original pool, which was built in 1962 on the site of the former county workhouse. Open summers; there is a fee.

Woodland Outdoor Classroom
This nature preserve within the park includes 8 distinct native plant communities, 27 interpretive sites, a propagation garden, the Kilmer Memorial Fireplace, and accessible paved and gravel paths.

Elsewhere in the Park
There’s plenty to explore and enjoy. Amenities include picnic pavilions, less formal picnic grounds, fire rings, a fishing pier, the Hamm Waterfall, miniature golf, a labyrinth, the newly restored Schifman Fountain, and hidden nooks and crannies with monuments, sculptures, other surprises, and plenty of photo opportunities.

There’s an elaborate, and sometimes confusing, network of walking and bicycle trails through the park. There’s a pedestrian bridge over Lexington that’s worth discovering; it gets you back and forth between the Zoo and Lake sides of the park without doing the Frogger thing with cars. The park connects on its east side (via Wheelock Parkway) and on its west side (via Como Ave.) to Saint Paul’s Grand Round, a 27-mile loop of parkways and emerging bike trails that connect Como, Phalen Park, and the riverfront.

Inside Knowledge
We’re in the city, but wildlife thrive here, too. Don’t be surprised if you see deer (including some trophy bucks), raccoons, fox, coyotes, owls, or flocks of turkeys. Especially in the spring, Como Lake can be a bird watcher’s paradise.
Other Attractions

**Minnesota State Fairgrounds**
Technically, the Fairgrounds are not in Como (or even in Saint Paul). But they are across the street, literally. As a result, they have a huge impact on our neighborhood. The Minnesota State Fair is the nation's most popular; some people embrace it, some people leave town. If you swear you could live a full life without seeing a purple ribbon, this event could change your mind.

During the 12 days of the Fair, the neighborhood is packed with cars, pedestrians, and shuttle buses. With dispensation from the city, many residents turn their lawns into parking lots. The rest of the year, the Fairgrounds host horse shows, car shows (including the massive Back to the 50s in June), bicycle and running races, swap meets, concerts, antique shows, plant sales, book sales, comic conventions, and more. When there's little (or nothing) going on, enjoy empty, tree-lined streets that usually are open to the public.

**Local Businesses**
In part because Como Park and the Fairgrounds claim so much prime real estate, there aren't a lot of business hubs in our neighborhood proper. Most of the strip malls along Larpenteur actually are in Roseville or Falcon Heights). But you can find neighborhood favorites here and there, including along Front near Lexington; near Como and Snelling; and near Como, Front, and Dale.

In fact, District 10 boasts the legendary Conny's Creamy Cone (which is open roughly St. Patrick's Day through Halloween); two of Saint Paul's classic "dive bars": Half-Time Rec (complete with underground bocce) and Ted's Liquors (act like you belong there – go in the back door). There also are long-time favorites such as Nelson's Cheese and Deli, Gabe's by the Park, Aesop's Table, and Mac's Fish and Chips. Elsewhere in the neighborhood, try "newcomers" such as Cafe 99 and Delicata.
District 10 map by Luka Belle
Photos by Dan Anderson, Capitol
Region Watershed District, Nile
Fellows, Gom Gulon, Michael
Kuchta, Debby Smith
- Schools
- Rec Centers
- Historic Streetcar Building
- Houses of Worship
- Carousel
- Conservatory
- Playground
- Bandama Square
- Swimming Pool
- Pavilion
Green Information

Trash
Saint Paul started consolidated trash collection in 2018. Designated haulers are responsible for different parts of the city. Most of the district has trash pickup on Friday, but residents west of Hamline have pickup on Monday. All single-family homes (and apartments with 4 units or less) must participate; property owners are billed quarterly. For details, go to www.stpaul.gov/garbage.

Recycling
Eureka Recycling collects items every Friday in District 10. (During a holiday week, pick-up is Saturday.) Saint Paul has single-sort recycling, which means everything goes into the same blue cart. Items you can recycle include newspapers, magazines, and other paper; cardboard boxes and tubes; steel and aluminum cans; glass bottles and jars; most plastic containers (except #3 and #6); and clothes and linens. For a complete list, go to www.eurekarecycling.org, or pick up a booklet at District 10’s office.

Organics Recycling
In coordination with Ramsey County, District 10 maintains a community organics recycling site on Beulah Lane in Como Park, just west of McMurray Field. The free site is open 24/7. It accepts not only food scraps, but additional items that are difficult or impossible to compost at home (including meat and bones, paper towels, pet fur, and pizza boxes). Contact the District 10 office if you want
a free starter kit so you can cut down on your trash and easily recycle your home organics.

**Yard Waste**
If you don’t compost grass clippings, leaves, and garden plants at home, you can take your yard waste to one of Ramsey County’s seven collection sites. The sites are open weekends year-round, plus three other days a week from April-November. The closest site is on Pierce Butler Route near Prior. For details, go to www.ramseyrecycles.com

**Protecting Como Lake and the Mississippi River**
Como residents are citywide leaders in efforts to protect water quality. One visible commitment we make: keeping grass clippings, leaves, and other organic materials out of the street and storm drains. This simple action keeps an astounding level of unwanted nutrients from seeping through storm sewers and fouling the lake or river. Believe us, an algae bloom on the lake is not something you want to see or smell.

You can join this effort officially in two ways:
- Adopt a Drain, in which you pledge to keep a storm drain near you clear of debris. To sign up, go to www.adopt-a-drain.org
- The Como Curb Cleanup, in which you set an example by sweeping leaves and grass clippings out of the gutter. Go to www.comoacn.org.

**Hazardous Waste**
Ramsey County has a permanent collection site for poisons, chemicals, and other items that say Caution, Warning, or Danger on the label. Disposal is free. Also accepted are batteries, cell phones, electrical cords and holiday lights, fluorescent bulbs, gasoline, mercury thermometers, needles and syringes, paint, propane tanks, used motor oil and filters, and more. For details, go to www.ramseyrecycles.com.

**Medicines**
Ramsey County has six locations where you can legally and safely dispose of unused medicines. For details, go to www.ramseyrecycles.com.
Neighborhood Resources

• See the Neighborhood section of District 10’s website. We’ve got up-to-date information about local schools, recreation activities, eating and drinking establishments, houses of worship, and more.
• Also, the City of Saint Paul publishes a Community Guide to City Services. Stop by the District 10 offices to pick up your copy.

Elected Officials
• The District 10 Como Community Council website maintains up-to-date contact information for city, county, and local state representatives: www.district10comopark.org
• To find out where you vote, go to https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us

Libraries
There are no public libraries in Como itself. However, there are several branch libraries nearby.
• Ramsey County Library / Roseville: 2180 N. Hamline Ave., 651.628.6803
• Saint Paul Public Library / Hamline Midway: 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., 651.642.0293
• Saint Paul Public Library / Rice Street: 1011 Rice St., 651.558.2223
• Saint Paul Public Library / Rondo: 461 N. Dale St., 651.266.7400
• Saint Paul Public Library / Saint Anthony Park: 2245 Como Ave., 651.642.0411

Inside Knowledge
Trying to avoid crowds at the Zoo? Get there as soon as it opens (especially in the off-season); that’s also when animals are most active. Sunday mornings can be surprisingly quiet. Whatever you do, avoid the field trips. Especially in spring, school buses arrive from more than 60 counties, and usually don’t leave until at least 2 p.m.
Library websites:
- Saint Paul: www.sppl.org
- Ramsey County: www.rclreads.org

Parks and Playgrounds
- Como Regional Park. The children's playground is south of Midway Parkway and east of Hamline Ave., near the miniature golf course and picnic tables. There's plenty of room to run. Nearby restrooms are open during the summer. In addition to McMurray Field, the park has a huge open field northwest of the intersection of Como Ave. and Lexington Parkway. (It's officially named Hodgson Field, though Parks and Recreation often calls it 40 Acres.)
- North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans. In addition to an indoor gym, there is an outdoor children's playground, sports fields, tennis courts, natural ice hockey and skating rinks in the winter, plus a refrigerated outdoor hockey rink.
- Northwest Como Recreation Center, 1550 Hamline Ave. In addition to an indoor gym, there is an outdoor children's playground, ball field, basketball court, and skating rink in the winter (when weather cooperates, of course).
- Orchard Recreation Center, 875 W. Orchard. In addition to an indoor gym, there is an outdoor children's playground, tennis courts, and fields. Much of the programming is scheduled by the Blackhawks Soccer Club.
- Stinson Park, near Chatsworth and Stinson. A children's playground and open areas. No restrooms.
- Tilden Park, near Albany and Arona. A children's playground and open areas. No restrooms.

Post Offices
There is no post office in Como itself. Here are the closest:
- 1430 Concordia Ave., 651.645.7301 (near Pascal)
- 2309 Como Ave., 651.645.0172 (near Doswell)
- 2000 W. County Road B2, Roseville, 651.631.0628 (near Cleveland)
- 40 E. Arlington Ave., 651.488.9183 (near Rice)
Senior Services
Two Block Nurse programs in our neighborhood help elders stay in the community they call home.
• Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program
  www.comobnp.org / 651.642.1127
• North End South Como Block Nurse Program
  www.nescbnp.org / 651.487.5135

Lyngblomsten
1415 Almond Ave.
651.646.2941
www.lyngblomsten.org

• An influential part of the neighborhood since 1906, this retirement community offers a range of activities called 2nd Half, for anyone age 50 or older, plus other programming open to anyone.

Snow

In Saint Paul, sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall. To report a sidewalk that is not cleared, call the city’s Department of Safety and Inspections: 651-266-8989.

Snow Emergencies
Saint Paul typically declares a snow emergency when it snows 3 inches or more. That means you have to get your vehicle off the street or risk getting ticketed and towed.

There are several ways you can receive an alert:
• Text “StPaul Snow” to 468311.
• Download the city’s Snow Emergency app from your Android or Apple store: type “Saint Paul Winter Snow Parking.”
• Call 651.266.7569 to find out if a snow emergency is in place or not. (Or just listen to local news.)

How a Snow Emergency Works
It's actually not as complicated as it sounds. Believe us, Minneapolis is much worse.

Night plowing: Snow emergencies begin at 9 p.m. Cars must be off all streets that are designated a “night plow route” (look for the posted signs). In most cases, this means parking is banned on both sides of arterial streets and on one side of most north-south residential streets. You can't park on a “night plow route” until the street is plowed to the curb.

Day plowing: If your street does not have snow emergency signs posted, that means your side of the street is a “day plow route.” Day plowing typically begins about 8 a.m., after night plowing is finished. In most cases, during day plowing, parking is banned on both sides of east-west residential streets and on the side of north-south residential streets that is not a night plow route. (During the day, you can park on the “night plow” side of the street.) Again, no parking is allowed on day plow routes until the street is plowed to the curb.

Towing: All cars in our neighborhood are towed to the impound lot at 1129 Cathlin St., on the State Fairgrounds.

Inside Knowledge
There are hills for just about any speed and comfort level of sledding, sliding, or tubing. Among the most wicked: the west side of McMurray Field, and near the 8th tee of the golf course (near Chelsea north of Arlington).
A Quick Look at Neighborhood History

Swamps and oak savannas dominated the land where we now live. The land and its resources were utilized primarily by Dakota villagers, who are part of the Sioux people. The Dakota had trails through the area that gave them access to seasonal settlements, hunting grounds, maple stands, and lakes with wild rice. One 19th-century account says the Dakota called Lake Como Medawaka (which translates roughly into Lake Mysterious). Eventually, the Ojibwe (also known as Chippewa, and part of the Anishinaabe people) also established a presence, though the Ojibwe have a much stronger history in northern Minnesota. Treaties with the U.S. government in 1851 forced the Dakota to give up lands in what are now the Twin Cities.

Charles Perry was one of the earliest European settlers locally; he farmed a 160-acre claim of land that later would become Como Regional Park. The lake is named after a famous resort near Perry’s birthplace in the Swiss-Italian Alps.

Real estate developer Henry McKenty bought much of the land around the lake in the mid-1850s and had grand visions of fine
resorts and villas along the shore. He built a road with his own money from central Saint Paul to the lake. (At that time, our neighborhood was far outside the city limits, in Rose Township.) Several hotels did operate near the lake in the late 19th century; several of them also burned down.

In 1873, Saint Paul purchased McKenty’s land. It wasn’t until the late 1880s, however, that economic conditions improved enough for the city to annex more land around Como Lake and to support development of what has become the landscape park envisioned by architect Horace W. S. Cleveland. In 1884, Cary I. Warren began developing Warrendale, southwest of the lake. Former lieutenant governor and real-estate developer Thomas Frankson bought farmland west of the park and, in the 1910s and 1920s, developed it into city lots. He lured potential customers with a bison park on Midway Parkway. It took until after World War II, however, for the residential areas of the neighborhood to fill in.

Industry and institutions began moving into the area much earlier. In the 1880s, St. Paul Foundry (later Maxon Steel) and John Martin Lumber opened east of Dale and south of Como. Crex Carpet Co. opened nearby in 1897. At what is now Bandana Square, the Northern Pacific Railroad had established its Como Shops in 1885. Koppers Coke operated south of the park between 1917 and 1979; it shut down instead of paying fines for violating federal air standards. The closing of Koppers (and the Como Shops a few years after that) allowed the development of Energy Park in the 1980s.
In 1885, the Minnesota State Fair moved to its current location. The Zoo started in 1897, then got a huge boost through WPA construction projects in the 1930s. Lyngblomsten opened in 1912. Bethel University opened a seminary and academy on Snelling Ave. in 1914, on the site now occupied by the Humphrey Job Corps Center. The Conservatory was completed in 1915.

The Como-Harriet streetcar line, which linked Saint Paul’s and Minneapolis’ most prominent lakes (and beyond), went into service in 1898, with trains as often as every three minutes. Interurban and local lines lasted until 1954. They ran along such neighborhood streets as Arlington, Chatsworth, Como, Dale, Front, Hamline,

Being a Good Neighbor

When we know our neighbors, everyone benefits. When neighbors are connected, we are more considerate about our property, about noise, and with each other. Connected neighborhoods help increase property values, reduce crime rates, and increase our satisfaction and well-being.

Tips for being a good neighbor

- Drive slowly.
- Lower the volume of music or arguments, especially late at night.
- Clean up after your dogs. Bring barking dogs inside. Keep cats inside.
- Invite neighbors inside, too. Even a short visit builds connections.
- Park your vehicle in front of your own home, and think carefully about what you park on your property.
- Give your neighbor a heads-up if you’re planning a major home renovation that will bring in work crews and disruption.
- Keep your property neat. Keep buildings painted and in good shape.
- If you have a party, let your neighbors know ahead of time. Better yet, invite them!
- If you have a backyard fire, keep the smoke down by burning only clean, dry wood.
Horton, Maryland, Pascal, Snelling, and Van Slyke. Their legacy is evident in the Historic Streetcar Station, several bridges in the park, old rights-of-way if you know where to look, and the occasional rail that surfaces during road construction.

- For a more-detailed history (including a self-guided walking tour of Como Regional Park), see District 10’s website: www.district10comopark.org
- For glimpses of the events, pioneers, and characters who shaped Como Park and surrounding communities, see the archives of the late Roger Bergerson’s columns for the Park Bugle newspaper: www.parkbugle.org/category/history

Easy ways to get to know your neighbors better
- Sit out on your front lawn or porch.
- Take time to chat.
- Walk your neighborhood (with or without a dog). Smile and say “hi.”
- Have a block party – or something simpler such as a game night, bonfire, or “Flamingo Friday.”
- Organize a cookie exchange, or potluck/progressive dinner.
- Share a cookout with a neighbor.
- Help a neighbor with a project.
- Share surplus from your garden.
- Put out chalk for children to use.
- Check on each other’s homes when you’re gone for the weekend (or longer). Pick up papers and mail. Shovel snow.

If you want to learn other ideas to know your neighbors better, and to actively look out for each other, get a copy of District 10’s “Building a Better Como for All of Us.” We’ve got copies in our office and on our website.