



LAKEWOOD'S CEMETERY STROLLS

The outdoors can be a peaceful respite from the stress of these difficult times. With over 250 acres and over 11 miles of roads, Lakewood is happy to provide a safe place to walk—with plenty of room for social distancing.

We are excited to offer our new Public Service Memorials Cemetery Stroll, which shares the history behind some of Lakewood's shared sites of remembrance.

As you stroll, please kindly keep a few things in mind:

- ❖ **Lakewood is an active place of remembrance** where families mourn loved ones—some recently lost. For this reason, we ask that you limit your activities while here to visiting, walking, quiet reflection and exploring the beautiful scenery and art. Please be mindful and respectful of other families' graves and private graveside services.
- ❖ **Please leave pets and food at home**, and avoid recreational activities.
- ❖ **Please observe at least 6 feet of distance** between yourself and others. Remember that you can respectfully walk over the lawn.
- ❖ **You may park anywhere** on the cemetery roads. Just be sure your vehicle won't interfere with traffic.
- ❖ **Please do not visit the grounds if you feel unwell.** Everyone, regardless of symptoms, should wear a mask in public, in accordance with CDC recommendations.

Stay safe, and enjoy your stroll!

CEMETERY STROLL – PUBLIC SERVICE MEMORIALS



Where the walk goes

Roughly half a mile one way (1 mile round-trip)

This Cemetery Stroll will take you around the northwest and central sections of the cemetery. In honor of Memorial Day, we've designed this walk to bring you past a series of wartime memorials and collective remembrance sites for those who gave their lives to public service, including soldiers and firefighters. The stroll's focal point will be the Soldiers Memorial, where we usually hold our annual Memorial Day ceremony. (This year's ceremony will be presented as a pre-recorded video. You can find a link to the recording on our website beginning on Saturday, May 23rd at noon.)

This Public Service Memorials stroll will show you beautiful memorials, give you time to reflect on the gratitude we have for those who devoted their lives to public service and prosperity, and take you past many blooming trees and garden beds.

How to get to the start

To get to the start of this walking route, take a hard right after entering Lakewood at 36th Street. You'll pass the grand Fridley memorial on your left. Follow this road up the hill, and park near the top of the hill (overlooking Bde Maka Ska) before the road veers left.

If you'd like your GPS to guide you to the start, download Lakewood's mobile app at www.lakewoodcemetery.org/mobile-app, and type Joseph Francis into the search function.

Please note: If a memorial service happens to be taking place near the start of this stroll, please be sure to park a respectful distance away. If a service is taking place anywhere near your walking route, please keep a respectful distance and consider coming back to that stop at a later time.

What to see along the way

Stop 1: The Washburn "A" Mill Explosion Memorial

Though not a military or public service memorial, this shared memorial marker honors laborers who lost their lives while working in an industry that helped the young city Minneapolis prosper.

In 1878, grief wracked the city of Minneapolis when the Washburn "A" Mill exploded after a spark ignited the highly flammable flour dust, which was thick in the air of the mill. It was the world's largest mill at the time of the explosion. 18 flour mill workers died in the terrible accident. The Washburn "A" Mill Explosion Memorial honors these workers, who died

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tragically as Minneapolis was developing a reputation as the country's largest producer of flour.

After the explosion, Lakewood donated this plot of land, overlooking Bde Maka Ska, for the purpose of remembering these laborers. Leading millers and colleagues started the Head Miller's Association, which was formed with the purpose of designing a suitable memorial for those who lost their lives.



Seven years after the explosion, this grand, granite obelisk was constructed in Vermont and shipped to Minnesota. At the time of its dedication, this monument was the tallest in all of Lakewood. You can find the names of those who died in the explosion inscribed on the side of the monument. You will also see depictions of wheat and a broken gear, representing lives cut short.

While you're here, take in the views of beautiful Bde Maka Ska. And be sure to look around at the memorials just behind the monument: they include Paul Wellstone and Sir Joseph Francis (inventor of the lifeboat).

Now, you'll take a bit of a walk to the Soldiers Memorial. Keep heading up the road on which you came in. Follow the road as it bends toward the south (left). Continue straight when you reach a small roundabout. The road will descend; make a slight left at the next intersection. Follow this road, with Section 5 on your right, until you once again go up a small incline and approach another roundabout. The next stop is right across the roundabout.

Along the way, be sure to take in the beauty of Lakewood's lake, which will be on your right. Also notice the flowerbeds in the roundabouts, and the blossoming trees that surround you.

Stop 2: Soldiers Memorial

The Soldiers Memorial is the site at which we host our annual Memorial Day service. This year the service has been moved online, but this beautiful memorial monument remains an important stop for visitors on Memorial Day and year round.

This white granite memorial monument was erected by the Soldiers Monument Association of Minneapolis, and dedicated on Memorial Day of 1923. Built in a triptych style, this memorial honors soldiers in three wars: the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Bronze plaques and sculptures of military garb such as helmets and ammunitions adorn the solemn monument. The memorial is surrounded by the graves of many servicepeople.



Now, look behind you at the Elks Rest. This shared community memorial plot was dedicated by the Elks Lodge fraternal organization. The impressive statue, made entirely of bronze, was erected in 1906.

Now, talk a short walk. Standing in front of the Soldiers Memorial while looking north (in the direction of the cemetery gates) take the second (further) road on your right. Section 7 will be on your left, and Section 35 will be

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on your right as you walk. Head down this road until you see a tall monument and a cannon.

Stop 3: Grand Army of the Republic Memorial

This memorial to those who served in the Civil War is one of the largest, most unique memorial sections at Lakewood. In 1889, Lakewood donated the land for this memorial to honor the Civil War's Union soldiers. The monument, featuring a statue of a Union soldier, was erected by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization made up of people who fought for the Union during the Civil War. Surrounding the tall monument and the cannon are the graves of soldiers.



Starting in the late 1800s, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the G.A.R. collected old military munitions for memorials. One of the pieces they collected was this cannon—a real cannon, originally built for the Union army. This cannon was one of the first designs to use grooved cannonballs, which improved accuracy. However, the design had not been perfected before it went into production during the Civil War, and a buildup of gunpowder made these cannons susceptible to explosion. Of course, these cannons were discontinued. It is said that this may be the last remaining cannon of this model in the U.S.

Now, walk to the far corner of Section 8, where the cannon is located. Head south down this road. Section 8

will be on your left, and Section 9 will be on your right. A very short distance down the road, on your right, you'll see the next memorial.

Along the way, look to your right (in Section 9) to see the grave of Minneapolis inventor and businessman Edwin Beeman. His memorial has a beautiful design. On it, a ship passes through a set of open gates, combining two pieces of memorial symbolism used to represent passage into the afterlife.

Stop 4: The Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association Memorial

This large memorial was built in 1892 to honor the lives of Minneapolis firemen who died in the line of duty. You can get a glimpse of the standard firefighter uniform of the day by looking at the statue atop the tall monument: here, a firefighter is dressed in a long coat and square-billed cap.



Firefighting was, and continues to be, a dangerous job. Surrounding the monument are the graves of firefighters who died in service between 1881 and 1979. We are grateful today and every day for those who risk their lives to protect us and our neighbors.

Thank you for taking the Memorial Day Public Service Memorials stroll at Lakewood!

About this Cemetery Strolls

These walks let you see the beauty of the cemetery grounds, show you artistic memorial monuments, and introduce you to some of the local leaders who are memorialized here. Stay tuned to Lakewood's blog, email list, and Facebook page for new strolls. You can download and print the PDFs from home, or follow along right on your cell phone.

A note about trees

As you walk, you may notice many recently-cut tree stumps. The Minneapolis Park Board marked hundreds of Lakewood's ash trees for removal due to emerald ash borer this past winter. We are working on a plan for planting new trees, and as part of that, we're now offering three options for families and community members to support us in developing and caring for our trees, including new opportunities to memorialize loved ones here at Lakewood. For more information, call us at (612) 822-2171 or email to info@lakewoodcemetery.org.

You can also learn more about why the trees were removed, and how emerald ash borer is affecting our tree canopy on our blog.

Having trouble finding a grave?

Use our GPS-guided mobile app! Go to www.lakewoodcemetery.org/mobile-app to download the app, and simply use the "Search" function on the home screen.

Please note: we launched a new app in January 2020. If you downloaded the Lakewood app before this, please delete the old app from your phone and download the new app at the link above.

