



## A CEMETERY STROLL

This Cemetery Stroll offers a way to get outdoors and learn some local history in a beautiful environment. With over 250 acres and over 11 miles of roads, Lakewood is happy to provide a safe and pristine place to explore—with plenty of room for social distancing.

We are excited to offer our new Community Burial Areas Cemetery Stroll, which shares the history behind some of Lakewood's shared sites of remembrance. Grab your coat, and stroll with us through Lakewood's wintry gardens of remembrance.

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

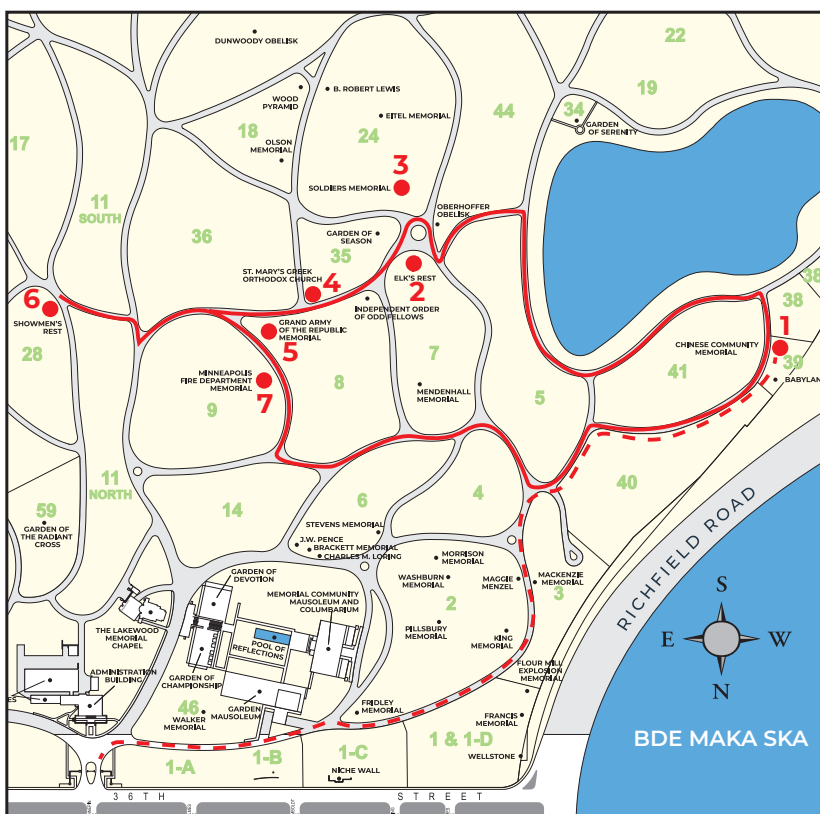
- ❖ **Lakewood is an active place of remembrance** where families mourn loved ones—some recently lost. For this reason, we ask that you limit your activities while here to visiting, walking, quiet reflection and exploring the beautiful scenery and art. Please be mindful and respectful of other families' graves and private graveside services.
- ❖ **Please wear appropriate footwear**, and be prepared for possibly icy conditions. Lakewood plows and grits our roads, but please be cautious and come prepared for the weather.
- ❖ **Some of the featured memorials are set back from the road.** For your safety, and in order to prevent tripping over low markers or other

# CEMETERY STROLL COMMUNITY BURIAL AREAS

items that may be hidden under the snow, we recommend that you please view all monuments from the road if there is snow on the ground.

- ❖ **Please leave pets** and food at home, and avoid recreational activities.
- ❖ **You may park anywhere on the cemetery roads.** Just be sure your vehicle won't interfere with traffic.
- ❖ **Please follow all local guidance and mandates** regarding gathering sizes. Always observe at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others who happen to be visiting the cemetery.
- ❖ **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!*



## Where the walk goes

### 1.5 mile loop

This Cemetery Stroll will take you from the western edge of the cemetery, around a portion of Lakewood's lake, into the center of the grounds, and back to your original location. The walk is just shy of 1.5 miles. If you're looking for a slightly longer walk, you can park near the entrance and follow driving instructions to the start, and follow the map back to your car when you're done (>1.75 miles). If you'd prefer a shorter walk, you can stay in your car through the first stop (the Chinese Community Memorial), and park at the second stop (Elks Rest) and visit the remaining stops on foot (<.75 miles).

### What you'll see

We've designed this walk to bring you past a series of community burial areas, where people from particular fraternal, labor, ethnic, and religious groups have chosen to be buried together. Common across the world, such memorial areas have a long history of showing that community ties are not severed by death. This stroll through some of our notable community burial areas will show you beautiful memorials and allow you to reflect on the unending strength of the bonds we build in life.

## 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 Garden Mausoleum and the grand Fridley memorial on your left. Continue to follow the outermost road around the west side of the cemetery. You will go up a hill, around a bend (overlooking Bde Maka Ska), and down another hill. Continue to follow the outermost (righthand) road, but do not turn right toward the cul de sac at the bottom of the hill (Lakewood's former streetcar entrance). Continue on this outermost road until you reach

Section 39. The Chinese Community Memorial will be on your right. Park and begin your walk here.

**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.*



### **Stop 1: The Chinese Community Memorial**

Near the shores of Lakewood's lake, you'll find a beautiful community burial area nestled peacefully amidst the foliage—or snow—of the cemetery. The Chinese Community Memorial, located in Section 39, was erected around the mid-1900s. Today it serves as the final resting place for many members of the Chinese American community.

Since the early days of statehood, Minnesota has been home to a thriving community of Chinese immigrants. Like many other ethnic and immigrant communities, leaders of the Chinese community formed associations to provide mutual support in good times and bad. One way that the Chinese community associations provided this support was by assisting with the burial and memorialization process. Many other early benevolent organizations (including the

Elks, which you'll learn more about at the next stop) similarly ensured their members received proper burials.

The need to provide appropriate burial for Chinese Americans was especially important after the WWII-era Japanese invasion of China. After this invasion, it became very difficult for Chinese Americans to send the remains of their loved ones back to China to be buried alongside ancestors, as had been common practice.

Take a look at the symbolism on this beautiful shared memorial. The Chinese Community Memorial is adorned with a large granite pagoda-style monument. The metal interior design represents yin and yang, the balance of shade and sun. The characters that are carved into the monument roughly translate, in part, to "Remember the past and enjoy the future." As you look at the memorial, let this artistic monument remind you that there is hope in hard times.

**Now**, you'll take a bit of a walk to the next stop, Elks Rest. Keep heading down the road toward the bend in front of you. This road will bring you down to the shores of Lakewood's lake. When you reach the lake, turn left. Follow the shoreline, past one incoming road. Continue around the lake (about one-third of the way around) until a second road joins the shoreline road. Take a left on this road up the hill. When you arrive at the top of the hill, you will see the Elks Rest ahead and slightly to your right.

**Along the way**, be sure to take in the beauty of Lakewood's lake, which will be on your right. While the shore looks quiet in the fall and winter, you can find the lake teeming with plant and animal life in the spring and summer.



## Stop 2: Elks Rest

Elks Rest is one Lakewood's most beautiful—and photographed—memorial monuments monuments.

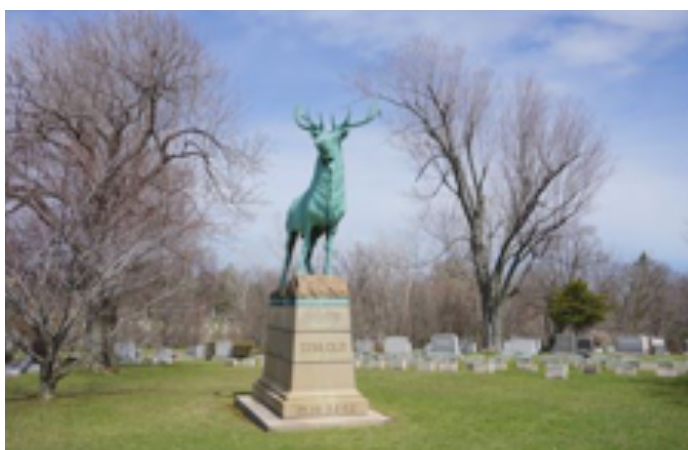
Like many other benevolent societies and fraternal organizations before the Great Depression-era implementation of social security, affordable life insurance, and other safety nets, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was formed to provide mutual support to struggling community members.

In late 1867, a group of actors and entertainers in New York City started meeting weekly to socialize. But when a member of their group died suddenly and left his family penniless, the group of friends knew they needed to step in to help provide a proper burial and financial assistance to the actor's widow and children. Naming their group after the majestic animal known for living in herds and relying on one another for survival, these friends formed the Elks to extend this support to other families in need of help at the time of a death or financial emergency.

Elks chapters sprung up across the country, including in Minneapolis. The group got together for music and socializing. And, like chapters in other parts of the country, they also secured an area at the local cemetery for their members. In the late 1800s, Minneapolis Lodge #44 reserved a small plot at Lakewood. That plot expanded until it was large enough to serve as the final resting place for nearly 100 members of the Elks.

In 1906, members of Minneapolis Lodge #44 had the idea to add a statue to the shared burial area. They collected contributions from members, and the larger-than-life bronze elk was unveiled just a few months later. Lakewood is not alone in having such a beautiful Elks

Rest: there are more than 75 Elks Rests across the country, and a number of these boast elk sculptures similar to the one at Lakewood. You can find such sculptures at cemeteries in New York and another in New Orleans.



Elks Rests in New Orleans (via [Cardcow.com](#)) and in Buffalo, NY (via [Tom The Backroads Traveller](#)).

**Now**, take a short walk around the roundabout to the large Soldiers Memorial. It is the large, triptych-style monument across the road.

**Along the way**, look on the west side of the roundabout to see the tall, dark grey Emil Oberhoffer obelisk. Oberhoffer was a German-born composer and violinist. He founded the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, which became the Minnesota Orchestra.

### **Stop 3: Soldiers Memorial**

Lakewood has two memorials that serve as the final, shared resting places for military personnel: the Soldiers Memorial and the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial. (We will visit



the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial in two stops). The Soldiers Memorial is the site of Lakewood's annual Memorial Day celebration, and a common place for veterans and civilians alike to pay their respect to soldiers.

The Soldiers Memorial's white granite monument was built in a three-segment "triptych" style, honoring the soldiers of three specific wars: the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Each of the three segments of the memorial have a bronze plaque honoring those who served in one of these three wars. Atop the monument you can also find sculptures of each era's military garb, such as ammunition and headgear. The memorial is surrounded by the graves of many servicepeople, many of whom have flat markers.

This beautiful memorial was publicly dedicated on Memorial Day of 1923. It was first unveiled at a small ceremony a few days prior, in front of veterans of all three of the represented wars. The memorial was erected by the Soldiers Monument Association of Minneapolis, which was an offshoot of Civil War Union veterans' group the Grand Army of the Republic. In dedicating the monument, the president of the G.A.R.-affiliated Women's Relief Corps of Minnesota Nancy R. Payne declared, "...May this



monument stand as an everlasting testimony to the fact that Minnesota does not forget."

**Now**, you'll take a short walk to the next stop.

*Follow the road slightly behind you and to the left (when looking at the monument). Section 35 will be on your right, and Section 7 will be on your left, followed by Section 8. Stop when you arrive at the end of Section 35.*



#### **Stop 4: St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church Memorial**

The last two nearby stops were created by fraternal organizations, honoring association members or members of the military. Other community burial areas, including the St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church memorial, serve as shared, eternal resting places for people of a common faith or ethnicity.

When Lakewood first opened for burial in 1872, the cemetery was much smaller than it is today. As time went on and Lakewood became a part of the Twin Cities' landscape, the cemetery grew and prepared more of its land for remembrance. Located near what is now the center of the cemetery grounds, Section 35 was developed in the late 1930s. By 1951, Lakewood and the nearby St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church (located at 35th & Irving) had designated a portion of the section to serve as a community burial site for

parishioners who wished to be buried here.

Grouped around a beautiful, shared, altar-like memorial monument, this community burial area serves as the eternal resting area for many leaders of Minnesota's Greek community. Many have flat memorial markers, while others chose personalized memorial monuments, many of which profess the faith of the parishioner by bearing a cross.

**Now**, look across the road that you took to get to this stop, and you'll see a large monument and a cannon. Walk to the corner where the cannon is located.



## **Stop 5: Grand Army of the Republic Memorial**

This memorial to those who served in the Civil War is one of the largest, most unique shared memorials at Lakewood. In 1889, Lakewood donated the land for this community burial site, which honors soldiers of the Civil War's Union Army. Surrounding the tall monument are the graves of soldiers. The monument, which features a statue of a Union soldier, was erected by the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization made up of people who fought for the Union during the Civil War. Specifically, it

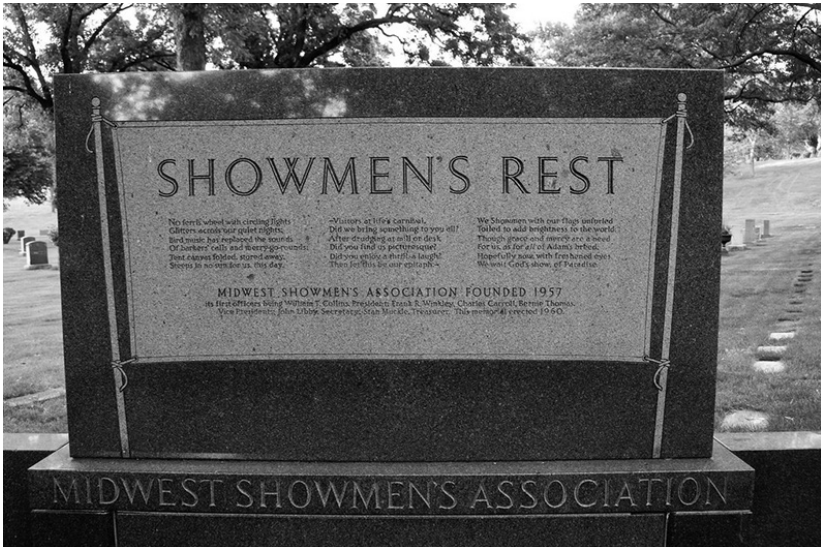
was created by an all-women subcommittee called the Ladies Auxiliary.

But what makes this memorial area even more unique is the cannon that adorns it. 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. This is one of the last remaining cannons of this model in the U.S.

**Now,** continue to walk down the road on which you walked from the Soldiers Memorial. Follow this road due east. Section 36 will be on your right, Section 9 will be on your left. The road will jog you slightly to the left at an intersection; take the road back briefly to the right in order to continue straight. After you pass through this intersection, Section 11 will be on both your right and your left (Section 11 has two parts, north and south). Stop when you reach the next intersection; you will be looking at a large, granite monument reading "Showmen's Rest."

**Along the way,** look to your right into Section 11. Do you see a dark grey monument with a white, oval-shaped relief featuring two busts? This is the grave of the Fjelde family. Born in Sweden, the Fjeldes were some of Minneapolis's earliest public artists. Jakob Fjelde was a sculptor who carved many public monuments in Minneapolis, including Minnerva (located at Central Library), Ole Bull (located in Loring Park), and Minnehaha & Hiawatha (located at Minnehaha Falls). Sisters Pauline and Thomane Fjelde were dressmakers

who embroidered the first Minnesota State Flag. They won a gold medal for their work at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.



## Stop 6: Showmen's Rest

Showmen's Rest is one of Lakewood's most poignant community burial areas. Showmen's Rest is a shared memorial plot that honors those who worked in the outdoor amusement industry, including circus performers, concession stand managers, and ride operators. The shared memorial area provides a final resting place for those whose life's work often kept them moving from place to place, including people who worked the midwest fairs in the summers, and spent their winters in warmer climates.

Lakewood's memorial is one of several Showmen's Rests across the country. The largest Showmen's Rest is located in Chicago, and its size is unfortunately the result of a tragedy. In 1918, the renowned Hagenback-Wallace Circus was headed to Indiana for a grand performance. But a train accident fueled a large fire on the tracks, and many of the staff were unable to escape. An estimated 86 circus performers and workers perished in the fire. The Showmen's League of America stepped in to ensure burial would be provided promptly



and respectfully. Five days later, many of the deceased were buried in the Showmen's Rest plot in Chicago's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Thankfully, Lakewood's Showmen's Rest has no such tragic story. It was dedicated in 1960 by the Midwest Showmen's Association, and remains active today. The Association has an annual ceremony at the site each Memorial Day. Beyond this annual celebration of life, the Midwest Showmen's Association provides social connections for members and offers academic scholarships to youth.

At the center of Lakewood's Showmen's Rest is a large, granite memorial, inscribed with a beautiful description of the life and death of those who bring joy to so many. Please take the time to read this moving poem.

**Now**, retrace your steps back toward the Grand Army of the Republic monument. When you reach the road just before the cannon, take a right (north). You'll see a very tall monument on your right, about halfway into the next section.

**Along the way**, immediately after you turn right at the cannon, 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 7: The Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association Memorial**

Like Showmen's Rest, the Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association is another community burial area devoted to individuals who shared a professional bond in life. This large, shared memorial was built in 1892 to honor the lives of Minneapolis firemen who died in the line of duty. Firefighting was, and





continues to be, a dangerous job. Surrounding the monument are many flat graves of firefighters who died in service between 1881 and 1979.

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.

We are grateful today and every day for those who risk their lives to protect us and our neighbors.

**Thank you for taking the Community Burial Areas stroll at Lakewood!** *You may follow the map or retrace your steps back to your original parking place.*

## About these Cemetery Strolls

These walks give you an opportunity to see the beauty of the cemetery grounds, show you the artistry and history of our memorial monuments, and introduce you to some of the local leaders who are memorialized here. You can download and print the PDFs from home, or follow along right on your cell phone. Stay tuned to Lakewood's [blog](#), [email list](#), and [Facebook](#) page for more art and history content.

## A note about trees

As you walk, you may notice some recently-cut tree stumps. The Minneapolis Park Board

marked hundreds of Lakewood's ash trees for removal due to emerald ash borer this past year. 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](mailto: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 of a particular individual?

Use our GPS-guided mobile app! Go to [www.lakewoodcemetery.org/mobile-app](http://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.



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