

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory Launches Public Space Recycling

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory and Eureka Recycling partner to pilot public space recycling in Saint Paul

What: Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, along with Eureka Recycling, Mayor Chris Coleman and Sparky the Sea Lion will unveil a new pilot project for public recycling. Visitors to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory will now be able to recycle their aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, and milk cartons and juice boxes! Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is partnering with Eureka Recycling to launch a pilot public space recycling project for the city of Saint Paul. Lessons learned at Como and at the second pilot location, Mears Park in Lowertown, will inform the expansion of public space recycling throughout the city.

When: Wednesday, June 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Where: “Sparky Amphitheater” in the center of Como Zoo, 1225 Estabrook Drive, Saint Paul, MN

Who: Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman; Susan Hubbard, CEO of Eureka Recycling; Michael Hahm, Director/Campus Manager of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory; and Sparky the Sea Lion

Key Visuals: Mayor Chris Coleman will reiterate the City’s commitment to the environment and the implementation of public space recycling throughout the city, representatives of Como Zoo will unveil their new public space recycling containers and education, children attending the zoo will share their thoughts about why recycling is important, and Eureka Recycling, with the help of Sparky the Sea Lion, will highlight the environmental benefits of recycling.

Why: Although Saint Paul residents are committed recyclers at home (the city has one of the highest residential recycling rates in the country), they do not have any opportunities to recycle when they are away from home. More and more single serving water and soda bottles are on the market, and because they are made to be “on the go”, where it is often difficult to find recycling bins, most of them end up in the trash. Currently nationwide at least 8 out of every 10 plastic bottles are wasted – either littered or burned in an incinerator or buried in a landfill, both of which contribute to global warming and release toxic substances into our air and water.

In 2005, residents of Saint Paul indicated their strong desire to see the city establish recycling in public spaces via a community driven process call the Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable. In response, the City of Saint Paul established a goal to be a waste-free city by 2020. The commitment to increasing public space recycling—and the launch of recycling at Como Zoo—brings the city another step closer to its goal.