



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

Media Alert
For Immediate Release

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Como Activities June – August

*New for 2011 ~ Roots, Shoots & Fruits– The Incredible Edible Garden
& Seal Island Demonstrations!*

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Polar Bear Program

Daily at 10:30am & 4:00pm

Get up close to the Polar Bears and observe special enrichment, training or zoo keeper talks.

Sparky the Sea Lion Show

Daily thru September 5

11:30am Monday – Friday

11:30am & 3:00pm Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

Sparky presents "Sparky's Zoo Hop". Sparky is excited to visit some of his friends in other zoos. An imaginary tour where she will learn how to hop like a kangaroo, wrestle like a crocodile and meet other zoo buddies. Each show is a little different – you never know what you might see!

Creature Feature in the Sparky Amphitheater

Daily thru September 5

12:30 & 3:00pm Monday – Friday

12:30pm Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

A garden has been ransacked and the critters of the Creature Feature are on the case. Audiences will be up to their ears in "whodunit" fun as the Creature Feature animals solve the mystery of the Great Garden Caper.* This year's Creature Feature will highlight a variety of small animals whose stories will delight audiences of all ages.

*show subject to change due to weather.

Garden Talk

11:00am Daily

Every day a different topic will be featured and guests will learn about the day-to-day operations of running the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Learn about plants and how they are cared for, plus guests can ask questions.

Seal Training on Seal Island – NEW FOR 2011!

1:30pm Daily

Seal Island currently houses one California Sea Lion and one Harbor Seal. These training demonstrations are narrated by an education staff member who will also be available to answer your questions.

Zookeeper Talk

2:00pm Daily

Did you know that you can meet a zookeeper every day? Each day a different topic will be featured and guests will learn about the day to day operations of running Como Zoo. Learn about the animals and how they are cared for, plus guests can ask questions!

Roots, Shoots & Fruits – The Incredible Edible Garden – NEW FOR 2011!

June 17 – September 5

Featuring an array of vegetables, small fruits, and tasty herbs cultivated in an imaginative garden display located south of the Visitor Center. Learn effective growing techniques, fun ways to harvest & prepare the fresh food from your garden, pollinator friendly tips, natural pest control and creative edible landscape design. It's not just about a row of tomatoes and bush beans!

Cafesjian's Carousel

Now thru September 4

Tuesday-Friday 11am-4pm

Saturday-Sunday 11am-6pm

Ride the 68 horse carousel that graced the Minnesota State Fair for 75 years, beginning in 1914, now fully restored, next to the Visitor Center at Como.

www.ourfaircarousel.org

Como Shuttle

Daily service begins June 4 - August 7 & weekend thru September 25.

Follow the signs to our off-site parking lot across the Warner Coliseum at the State Fair and take the quick trip aboard our wildly designed leopard, zebra, giraffe or sunflower shuttle. These air-conditioned, stroller friendly and ADA compliant shuttles drop guests off at the front of the Visitor Center. This free Shuttle runs continuously from 9:30am – 6:30pm

Como Town Amusement park

Daily thru September 5. Weekends through October 2

Como Town features more than 18 interactive rides and attractions that encourage kids to actively shape or control their experience including Tilt-A-Whirl—an original Made-in-Minnesota ride—and the Splash Zone—an interactive water play area. Other visitors' favorites include the Tornado! Screamin' Dragon the double spiral roller coaster, Drop Zone, Traffic Jam! bumper cars, and Como Town Driving School.

Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden

Daily thru September 30.

The Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden is a living symbol of the peace and friendship that exists between Saint Paul and its sister city Nagasaki, Japan. A renowned landscape designer in Nagasaki, Masami Matsuda, created the garden according to time honored Japanese design principles using plants and trees that are hardy in Minnesota. Infused with true Japanese design, the garden is meant to delight your senses.

Summer Flower Show

Daily thru October 2

The Summer Flower Show displays the greatest plant diversity of any of the Sunken Garden Flower Shows, as well as the longest season. Roses, Statice, Geraniums, Asiatic Lilies, Heliotrope, New Guinea Impatiens, Petunias and Caladiums are some of the floral features, representing a rainbow of colors, bloom sequence, form and fragrance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Artist & Photographer Days inside the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory & Japanese Garden

June 22 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm

July 17 - 8:00am - 10:00am

An opportunity for aspiring artists to bring in easels and tripods before or after public hours. \$5 per person

Sunset Affair Gala

July 21

The highlight of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's social calendar. It is Como's largest fundraiser featuring dinner, entertainment and auction. For ticket information call 651-487-8229.

**Como will close at 3:00pm to prepare for this event.*

Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival

August 21 – 3:30pm – 9:00pm

Learn & experience Japanese Culture through food, entertainment, gardens, vendors & a traditional lantern lighting ceremony at dusk.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Background: For over 100 years, Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and Como Zoo in Saint Paul, Minnesota has charmed, educated and entertained millions of children and adults while fostering an appreciation of the natural world, helping to make Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America. The Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is open 365 days; 10am-6pm from April 1-September 30 and 10am-4pm from October 1-March 31. Admission to both the Como Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is always free and a voluntary donation is appreciated. For more information, visit

www.comozooconservatory.org

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