



New Garden on 15th & Talmage

The traffic diverter on 15th & Talmage has been converted to a rain garden! This project was planned and brought to life by our local community members and partners.

How will this garden improve the Mississippi? Approximately 90% of the storm water that used to flow into the storm drain (and then to the river) will now stay in the rain garden and filter down into the soil. This could amount to an astonishing 2206 cu. ft. of water in a single 24 hour, 1" rain event. Polluting solids are also filtered by the soil and kept from the river.

When fully operational, this garden will divert most polluted storm water away from the Mississippi River and into the garden, where it will sustain the native plants and be cleaned as it filters into the soil. This adds up to about 523,600 gallons of polluted water annually diverted.

The garden is filled with native flowering plants that highlight Minnesota's natural biodiversity. These plants and shrubs will attract and nourish pollinating insects. All of the plants generally have deep roots which will help to draw water down into the site and ensure the garden's longevity.

The City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board modified the infrastructure to accommodate the new design. A new basin and pipes allow water to drain into the diverter from the street. Metro Blooms installed and planted the rain garden.

Take a walk to check out the garden! The plants are growing more everyday.

This project has been made possible through the support of our community partners:

- The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization for the grant to install the garden.
- Minneapolis Public Works for the infrastructure work
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for the swamp white oak and for clearing the old weedy vegetation and trees
- Metro Blooms staff for the meticulous landscaping and installation work

The steering committee meets at 9 a.m. every other Monday to take care of garden maintenance (Sept. 14, Sept. 28). We welcome visits from neighbors interested in the gardens. The committee members are Como neighbors Peggy Booth, Katie Fournier, Kathy Knudson, and Lila Smith.

Gardening Days

Green thumb or garden novice, all are welcome to help with our community gardens!

Como Corner

Tues. Sept. 15th | 6:30pm - dusk

Talmage Crossing

Prairie Garden

Sat. Sept. 26th | 10am - noon

Wed. Oct. 14th | 2pm-4pm

Marshall Field Pollinator Patch

Sat. Oct. 3rd | 10am

Accord Native Plant Garden

Sat. Oct. 3rd | 11:30am

We're taking care to stay safe while gardening. Masks and distancing are required.

SECIA Welcomes New Executive Director, Jessica Focht-Perlberg



We are excited to introduce our new Executive Director. Jessica officially started on August 24th. Here is a warm introduction from Jessica herself:

“I am humbled and energized to serve as SECIA’s Executive Director. My family and I have lived in SE Como since 2009. I strive to teach our kids by example how to be part of the change towards creating a community that is ever more just and equitable for all. Driven to action by this aspiration, I made a career shift last year to community organizing work, after more than fifteen years of social justice work as a social worker, and a legal services attorney. I look forward to building on these experiences in service of my home community in SE Como.

What a complicated moment

of tragedy, outrage, hope and opportunity to reimagine the capacity of our neighborhood. Utilizing a racial justice framework and a relational organizing approach, I look forward to meeting this complicated moment by listening deeply, building new connections, and working to help cultivate collaboration as we navigate our shared future.

Whether you have been involved with SECIA for a long time or SECIA is brand new to you, I would love to hear from you. Contact me at jessica@secomo.org if you would be interested in finding a time to talk about what matters,” most to you in our neighborhood.

A big thank-you to our previous Executive Director, Alex Farrell. He worked with SECIA for two years and is moving on to do more great things!



Mushroom Inoculation Workshop September 24th from 3pm - 6pm

SE Como’s FairShare Farm is hosting a free community workshop led by Northwood Mushroom’s Jeremy McAdams.

This workshop is an introduction to mycelium and mushroom cultivation, with a focus on log cultivation. Participants will also get a peek at how mushrooms are grown at Northwood Mushrooms, and will get a chance to inoculate shiitake mushroom logs. The event is free, with the opportunity to purchase mushrooms and log kits from Jeremy after the workshop.

Due to our social distancing measures, registration for the workshop will be required and available spaces will be limited. Go to secomo.org/projects/community-

gardens/fairshare to locate the online signup form and additional information.

Masks and physical distancing will be required of all participants. For those at home, a portion of the event will be streamed on Facebook Live, with more details to come on our Facebook page, FairShare Farm Community Garden.





Welcome to Southeast Como!

Learn more and get involved with SECIA!

We'd like to welcome all the new neighbors who have moved to SE Como this summer. The Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) advocates for the neighborhood, hosts engaging events, and plans projects to help our community thrive. From our community gardens, to monthly board meetings, all the way to our large events; there is something for everyone!

Here is a snapshot of our work and upcoming events:

Annual Meeting & Elections

November (exact day & time TBA)
Each year we come together to celebrate all that SECIA has been able to accomplish, make plans for the future, and choose new community leaders to serve on our Board of Directors. Interested in learning more about running for the board? Contact karl@secomo.org

Community Gardens

Each garden is tended by community members, all are welcome to help with the gardens! Sign up to learn more at: secomo.org/proj-

[ects/community-gardens/](#)

Community Project Night

September 16th | 6:30pm - 8pm
Each month, SECIA invites folks from across the neighborhood to share ideas and collaborate on initiatives in SE Como. Contact jessica@secomo.org for Zoom meeting info.

E-Comotion & Social Media

We regularly update our social media and send out a bi-weekly email newsletter. Don't miss out, sign up at: www.secomo.org/news/e-comotion

VOTE VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE VOTE

Are You Ready to Vote in November?

The general election is coming up on November 3rd. This election will include ballots for U.S. President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Senator, State Representative, Judicial seats, and other offices depending on your area.

Get Registered, Vote Absentee and Learn More: www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting

Register to Vote

The easiest ways to register in advance are online or by mail. The deadline to register early is October 13th. You can also register in-person on election day.

Request an Absentee Ballot

You don't need to leave your home to submit an absentee ballot! Absentee voting begins September 18th. Be sure to submit the ballot before election day.

Vote on Election Day

As always, you can vote at your polling

location on November 3rd, from 7:00am - 8:00am. The poll location for most of SE Como is Van Cleve Park.

Stay Safe

Consider voting early with an absentee ballot to avoid the potential crowds on election day. If voting in person, be sure to bring a mask and sanitizer.

Time is running out! Fill Out the 2020 Census!

So far only about HALF of SE Como residents have been counted! If you're a student or have been displaced due to COVID-19, you should still get counted in SE Como. All census data is secure, so you can complete it with no worries. An accurate Census count helps ensure we get our fair share of representation and resources!

Fill out the 2020 Census online:
www.my2020census.gov



PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE PAID
EDDM RETAIL

PO Box 18460
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Tel: 612-685-0371
E-mail: secomo@secomo.org

Local Postal Customer
Minneapolis, Minnesota



**Southeast
Como
Improvement
Association
(SECIA)**

*Neighborhood-based advocacy benefiting Southeast Como,
the University District, and the entire Twin Cities.*

What is SECIA?

Our Mission

The Southeast Como Improvement Association’s mission is to work to maintain and enhance the physical, social and economic environment of our neighborhood. We aim to do this through programs that serve our community’s present and future needs and through communication, stewardship, and citizen involvement. We strive to foster a sense of community and to promote the neighborhood as a vibrant place to live and work.

Who are we?

SECIA is supported by volunteers and a Board of Directors who work with Jessica Focht-Perlberg, the Executive Director, as well as the

student interns. This summer, Julia, Laura, and Luis joined the organization as new interns.

History

SECIA has actively advocated for neighborhood issues for more than 25 years. We are open to anyone who lives in the neighborhood or who represents a business, church, civic organization, or other entity located within its borders. Over the years, membership and board representation have come primarily from homeowners and businesses.

Stay Connected

Facebook: @SoutheastComo
Instagram: @SeComoMpls
Website: secomo.org
Email: secomo@secomo.org

First time getting the Comotion?

The Comotion is SECIA’s quarterly newsletter, full of events and other happenings in SE Como. Everyone in the neighborhood is sent a copy!

Racial & Community Justice

SECIA works to support all our neighbors in SE Como. Check out this list of Anti-Racism Resources on our website at: secomo.org/news/anti-racism-resources/



Marshall Field Pollinator Patch