



By Amelia S. Gewirtz

Bloomingdale is the perfect little neighborhood along Manhattan's Upper West Side that floats between Manhattan Valley and Morningside Heights next to Columbia University. There is an incredible amount of beautiful architecture, greenery in the park, water by the Hudson and GOOD FOOD. My sister and I grew up on the campus at Columbia University. I always said I was a "Riverside Park Girl" because as a child I loved to go down to the park and look at the Hudson River. Sometimes you forgot you were in Manhattan. It felt like you were on a vacation Upstate. These days I still live uptown on the border of what is sometimes referred to by the "insiders" as the **Bloomingdale District**. I genuinely feel it's an incredible investment to own a piece of this special "hidden secret" that continues to transform with incredible shopping and restaurants, bike lanes and the Hudson River a few steps away. I hope one day you will give this Secret Bloomingdale District a walk as well. I promise you will be glad you did.

Here are my top 10 best kept secrets of Bloomingdale:

1. **Straus Park** (107th Street and Broadway) is a beautiful area that was recently renovated with newly planted foliage and wonderful benches. This little hidden oasis is truly a beautiful place to take a moment and pause to absorb the beauty around you.
2. On Riverside Drive there is a stunning **Fireman's Memorial** stone sculpture built in the 1900's (100th Street). It is one of more than a dozen sculptures along Riverside Drive.
3. **Sal & Carmine's** (101st Street & Broadway) is fabulous if you LOVE a good slice of NY Pizza. Sal & Carmine's texture is a crispy thin slice; if you are more of a deep dish fan, try **V & T Pizzeria** (1024 Amsterdam Avenue)!

4. I used to play ping pong at **Marty Riesman's ping pong parlor** (on 96th Street between Broadway & West End Avenue) which has since closed. Thankfully, **Wang Chen's Table Tennis Club**, owned by a 2008 Olympic Champion opened nearby on 100th Street (between Broadway and West End Avenue). It makes a great weekend activity!
5. It is a neighborhood hidden secret, but locals in the know can go to **Columbia University sporting events** for under \$15 and cheer on the Lions courtside!
6. My heart belongs to **Lenny's Bagels** (212-222-0410). I eat there all the time! They sure know how to make a homemade NYC water bagel. It rocks (99th Street and Broadway)!
7. **Bareburger** (98th Street and Columbus Avenue) has a mean burger that you can order for pick-up or dine-in.
8. **West Side market** on 110th Street and Broadway is where I grew up grocery shopping with my dad. It is sure to be your favorite neighborhood food market!
9. If you love homemade, all-natural baked goods, **Silver Moon Bakery** is a must! Their baked breads, cakes and pies will bring tears to your eyes ...in a good way. (105th Street and Broadway)
10. **Riverside Park** – Be sure to check out all the incredible architecture. When you are on 110th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam (at 527 West 110th Street), be sure to look up! The building, built in 1909, has gargoyles on it and seems straight out of a movie.



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