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WELCOME to the 33rd annual Evanston Garden Walk. This year, we are happy to feature eight private gardens and a public bird sanctuary. The gardens vary in size and character, but all are informed by growing sensitivity to sustainability. They reflect a desire to create something that is beautiful for humans and harmonious with nature. They also illustrate the power of a garden to create social spaces and a sense of community.

Feel free to start at any of the gardens; there is no set order. Parking is generally available on the street. If you're driving, a GPS can help you navigate one-way streets. Of course, parking is never a problem for those who bike the Walk!

All proceeds from the Garden Walk benefit the programs of the Evanston Environmental Association (EEA). They help provide scholarships for children from low-income and historically marginalized groups to attend the Evanston Ecology Center's summer camps and provide free lunches.

The EEA, the oldest environmental organization in Evanston, has fostered and promoted environmental education, programming and action and undertakes a wide variety of initiatives, including the annual Bird Buzz Native Plant Sale and the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. The EEA's annual financial support of the Ecology Center supports the purchase of much-needed program materials and supplies such as tents, fishing poles for free access to fishing and art supplies, including a poster storage rack. The EEA also supports the Ladd Arboretum, 17 acres of park land with a bird sanctuary and bicycle path that serves as a focal point for environmental education and volunteerism in the community. *Thank you!*

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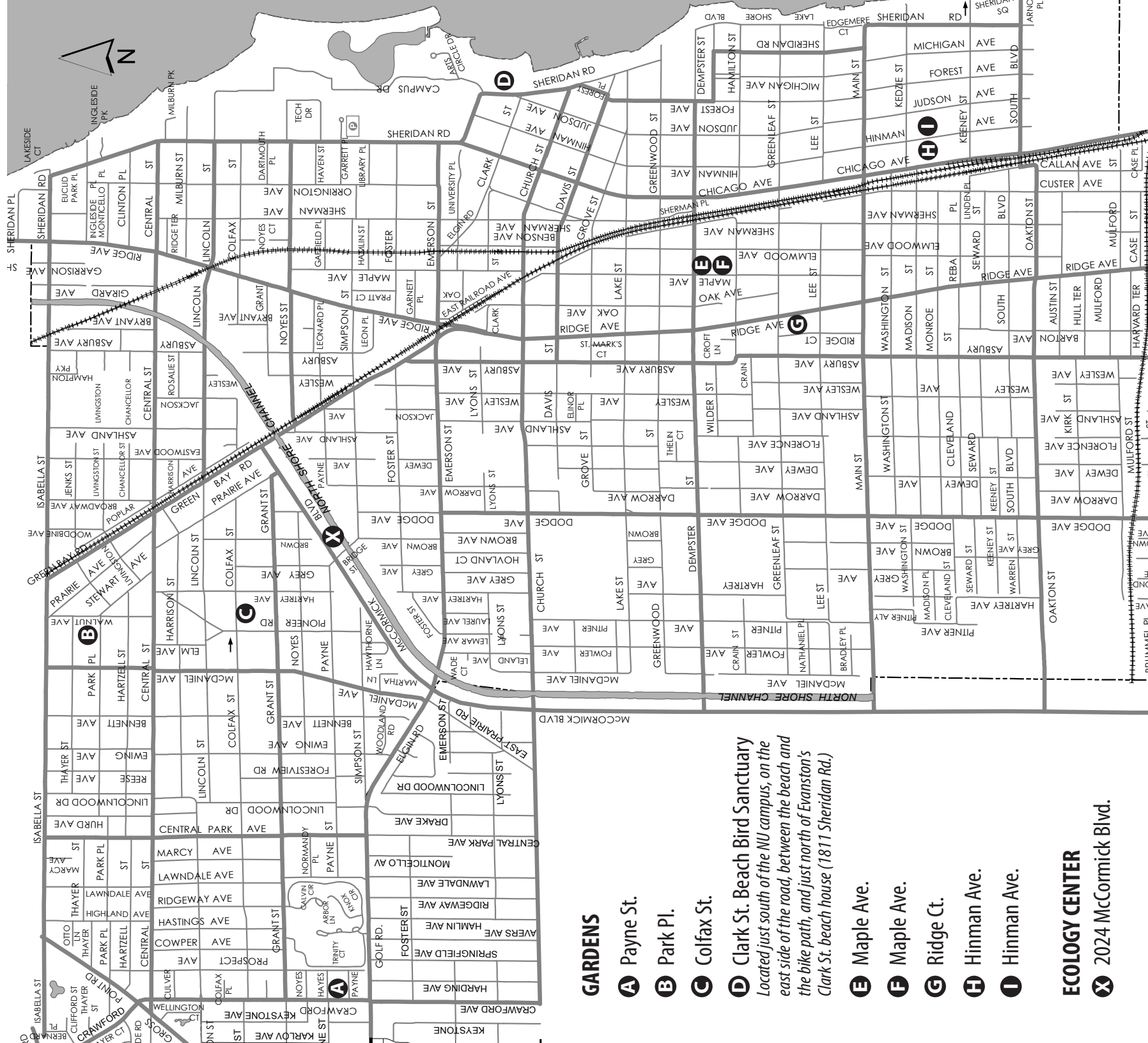
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Writers: Kathleen Todd, Jaylene McCandlish
Graphic Designer: Jeff Rashid
Publicity: Chris Baer
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Group Ticket Sales: Kelly Burke

Volunteer Coordination: Annette Rehmke, Elizabeth O'Connor-Bolich
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EVANSTON GARDEN WALK 2023

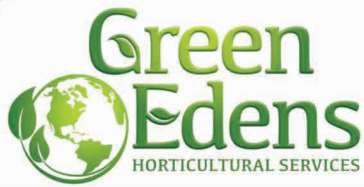
Sunday, June 25, 2023 • Noon – 5 p.m.



GARDENS

- A** Payne St.
 - B** Park Pl.
 - C** Colfax St.
 - D** Clark St. Beach Bird Sanctuary
Located just south of the NU campus, on the east side of the road, between the beach and the bike path, and just north of Evanston's Clark St. beach house (1811 Sheridan Rd.)
 - E** Maple Ave.
 - F** Maple Ave.
 - G** Ridge Ct.
 - H** Hinman Ave.
 - I** Hinman Ave.
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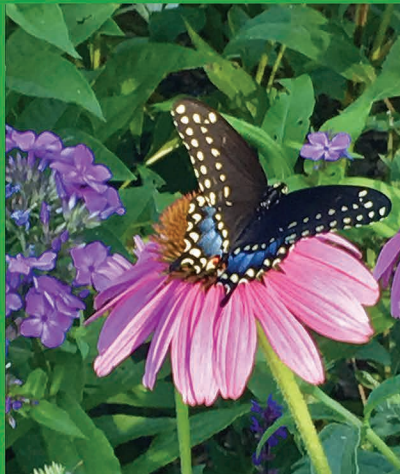
Please begin viewing at any garden. You may obtain the Garden Walk booklet at your first stop. Please - no strollers, bicycles, pets, or smoking in the gardens.



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Amy Dale-Wilke founded Green Edens in 2011. She has long been interested in holistic healing and wholeheartedly believes that healing can be derived from engaging with nature. Amy feels strongly that the health of humans and the health of the earth are inseparable, and restoring the natural balance of the environment using native plants is at the core of her design philosophy.

Amy D. and Dan W.
Payne Street
"This is my test garden"

Amy is the proprietor of Green Edens Horticultural Services, an Evanston-based, sustainable landscaping company whose goal is to re-establish the health and natural balance of the environment while creating beautiful outdoor spaces. Amy began the business in 2011 with a borrowed van and a few tools in back. Today, she still operates solo but uses the services of a landscaping firm run by Mario Ortiz.

Enter the garden and turn to the left. The first thing to note is the rich green "eco-lawn." Amy uses a seed mix called Dog Park from a Portland, Oregon supplier. This mix of tall fescue varieties and Microclover, with a pinch of ryegrass, is wear and drought resistant. The Microclover's salt tolerance reduces the effects of pet urine – perfect for a lawn bordering a public walkway. The eco-lawn is self-fertilizing, chemical-free and requires less mowing.

As you walk into the garden, it's hard to believe that a busy thoroughfare lies just beyond. The berm that Amy and Dan constructed on the Crawford Street side of their property creates a clear boundary between public and private spaces and reduces traffic noise.

An interesting mix of evergreen and deciduous woodies is staggered in a naturalistic planting atop the berm. At the south end is the petite 'Ruby Falls' cascading redbud. In front is the lovely 'Royal Raindrops' crabapple.

The planting beds can best be described as artful laboratories for plants that Amy may recommend to clients if they prove their garden worthiness. Recent candidates are the golden 'Jandar' arborvitae and a 'Regal Prince' columnar white oak at the northwest corner of the house. A favorite source of plants and supplies is Red's Garden Center in Northbrook.

Drip hoses are laid throughout the well-mulched beds, edged with sedum 'Quick Cover Mix' from Midwest Groundcovers. The beds contain mostly native plants that bloom in succession, including Siberian iris, wild petunia, hardy Geranium, prairie smoke, bluestar and yarrow. Natives are able to repopulate local insects, birds and wildlife, restoring natural balance. Plants cover as much soil as possible. This not only looks good, it moderates soil temperature and water loss and reduces the loss of carbon into the air.

Return to the front of the house and cross under the arbor to find the living and productions areas and raised vegetable beds. Dan is the carpenter; he also built the swing that is Amy's favorite resting place. Vegetable seedlings come from The Talking Farm in Skokie. Exit into the alley and you'll see that not one inch of planting space has been neglected. This is a gardener who loves plants and knows how to use them.

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Laura T. & Dan M. Park Place *"California Dreamin' "*

What happens when an owner and a designer share a vision for a landscape? That's the case with Laura and landscape designer Katy Sheppard of Calafia Design. Perhaps the fact that they're both California natives is the common thread. When Laura first sat down with Katy to make plans, she wanted the garden to be as evocative of California as is possible in the Midwest.

They achieved this beginning with the front yard. A striking kousa dogwood dominates the center. The underplanting is restrained. Repetition of blue-foliaged plants, like blue fescue, yarrow and lamb's ear, is key to a "California feel." Flowering plants like purple salvia and cone flowers keep the bed interesting. Along the foundation is a row of variegated red twig dogwoods whose foliage brightens the planting. Their red stems are a standout come autumn. On the side are chokeberries famed for their red fall leaves and berries. In the corner is a tall Alaskan cedar – one of the first things Laura planted when she moved in.

Planting along a heavily used public walkway is a challenge but one the designer met by installing a gravel strip that tolerates both human and dog traffic. The sod that remains on the parkway and in the backyard is maintained by Greenwise Organic Lawn Care using all organic methods.

As you move through the garden look for sculptures created by Dan as a hobby. See if you can spot what looks like a narwhale's tooth in the backyard. Dan rescued the wood from the bottom of a lake in Wisconsin.

Two pencil-thin sweetgum trees mark the beginning of the path to the backyard. The aptly named 'Mighty Oak' stands at the end. Step into a backyard that has evolved from all sod to children's playground to Zen-like serenity, beginning with the sound of a trickling fountain. The backyard evokes a California style based on Japanese aesthetics. Attention has been paid to the transition from house to garden to maximize inside-out living. Krugle Cobbles laid the path and patio at the back of the property. The path leads through green spaces dominated by elegant, small trees and shrubs, such as serviceberry, dogwood, Japanese maple and fothergilla underplanted with shade-lovers like hosta, ferns and sedges. Simplicity is key.

Yet one more pleasure awaits you. On the west side of the house are six raised beds built for vegetables and cut flowers. They are enough to keep Laura and Dan in produce for the entire season. Laura relies on Windy City Garden Center for vegetable seedlings. The cutting garden is planted with help from Evanston Lands, a member of the Community Support Agriculture movement. Laura strongly supports the concept of "buy local."



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Steve and Debbie D.

Colfax Street

“We always saw the potential”

When Steve and Debbie purchased this property from the daughter of its first owner, the front yard was so overgrown that it was impossible to see the first story. And it wasn't until the first good rainfall that Steve and Debbie realized they had also acquired a backyard pond – complete with ducks. Yet they always saw the potential.

The screened front porch is bounded by exuberant bridal wreath spirea – one of the few plants that was here when Steve and Debbie moved in. Roses and hardy geraniums cluster at their feet. The property line on both sides is marked by ‘Coppertina’ ninebarks, whose foliage emerges an attractive copper in spring and changes to rich red by midsummer. The hardy geranium border crosses the brick walk to give structure to a collection of perennials and grasses behind.

On the side of the house, you enter a tall corridor of arborvitae that have been limbed up to fit the space. Steve ordered the willow hurdles from a source in Oregon – the only one he could find in the US for this traditional English garden feature.

As you enter the backyard, you find yourself in an intimate seating area, shaded by a redbud tree. This area gives full scope to planting that is typical of the forest floor, including spring bulbs, bleeding hearts, variegated Solomon's seal, hosta and sweet woodruff. Note that wherever hosta are used in the garden, they are planted in multiples of the same cultivar to heighten their impact. One of Debbie's frogs stands tall in the birdbath. See if you can find all the places she uses this motif throughout the garden. As the backyard opens out, you will see benches that provide multiple vantage points from which to lose oneself in contemplation. All remain high and dry thanks to an extensive drainage system that was one of Steve and Debbie's first projects. One of the seating areas is bounded by a low hedge of compact Japanese holly they are training as a replacement for diseased boxwood.

Arborvitae are used on all sides of the yard to create green serenity and year-round privacy. The beds are filled with perennials that Debbie and Steve love best, including lilies, phlox, clematis, roses, peonies and hibiscus. The borders are ever changing. One of Debbie's recent additions is statuesque Joe Pye weed that towers to more than six feet tall.

Finally, you arrive at Steve and Debbie's most recent addition. On the east side of the house is a stylized wildflower meadow they planted this spring with prairie dropseed, little bluestem, monarda, anise hyssop and other native plants. The last uncared-for space has been reclaimed.



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Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary Sheridan Road at Clark Street

"Welcome to Evanston's bird oasis"

The Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary provides a welcome respite for migrating birds and a home to year-long avian residents. During the year, the sanctuary is visited by birds common to Evanston backyards, like robins, cardinals and house sparrows. During spring and fall migration, visitors look for orioles, warblers, thrushes and other migrants. This May alone, bird spotters identified over a hundred different migrating species. Visit <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3615041> to follow the count.

The sanctuary exists on City of Evanston land adjacent to Northwestern University's lakefill. Over the years, a wild, untended area had developed between the lakefill and Evanston's Clark Street Beach. Cottonwoods, hackberry and box elder trees grew, along with shrubby sandbar willows, providing a sanctuary for migrating birds. In 2012, the University announced new construction that threatened the future of this area.

Concerned members of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club organized to save what they could. Over the next few years, they worked with the City of Evanston to extend the remnant that would be left after construction. Northwestern owed money for each tree removed from Evanston land, and that money went to finance designing, planting and fencing the new sanctuary, which included a small part of Clark Street Beach. The Evanston landscape firm of Kettelkamp and Kettelkamp was retained to design a bird oasis to resemble as far as possible an undisturbed lakeshore environment. Two public hearings were held to review the proposal.

Today, open and ungrouted sand along the shore transitions to low beach plants (such as Marram grass, which holds the sand in place) to a mix of herbaceous plants, shrubs and ultimately to the trees in the adjacent public park.

Initial planting took place in 2015 with material native to the Great Lakes region. Research has shown that native plants are more efficient in supporting wildlife than plants that have been introduced from elsewhere. Flowering plants produce seeds that birds eat. They provide nectar for insects that, in turn, provide nourishment for birds. A diversity of shrubs, flowering plants and grasses helps to stabilize the sand and provide food and shelter.

If this small area can support so many birds, what could be done elsewhere in Evanston? Visitors may be inspired to look at their own yards and unused public spaces with an eye to improving plant and animal diversity throughout the community.

During the Garden Walk, volunteer tour guides will be available to point out features and answer questions. Free parking for Evanston residents is available on the street and for all visitors in Northwestern University parking lots during the day of the walk. For more information, visit www.clarkstreetbeachbirdsantuary.org.

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Will and Jenni S. Maple Avenue

"It's a great space for entertaining"

Everyone dealt with the pandemic in their own way. Some people brought pandemic puppies home; others started new hobbies or resumed old ones. The homeowners at 1241 Maple decided to redesign their home's landscaping to better fit their lifestyle. They worked with Nature's Perspective Landscaping to design and build an outdoor space that provides Jenni enough garden in which to flex her green thumb while providing plenty of seating and open space for entertaining family and friends.

The result is a linear design that complements the lines of the craftsman-inspired house they built in 2006. Designed with straight lines and right angles, the front garden is bordered by a bluestone walk that takes a 90 degree turn toward the south side of the house and the path to the backyard. The garden contains a mixture of shade tolerant perennials, grasses and shrubs that bloom throughout the growing season and provide multiple textures, colors and dimension.

Highlights are the 'Twist and Shout' hydrangeas, pink and white peonies, yellow Hakone grass and a serviceberry tree that helps shade the garden from the afternoon sun. The allium, columbine, bleeding hearts, astilbe, asters, turtlehead and geraniums ensure colorful blooms all season long. The smaller growing area at the north corner of the house includes several native plants such as goatsbeard, globe thistle, gay feather and purple coneflowers. The perennials are anchored by several azaleas, 'Little Henry' sweetspire, and natural boxwoods.

A path of loosely laid bluestone leading to the backyard is lined with a variety of large-leafed hosta in many shades of blue, green and yellow. The backyard is open and inviting with a large deck that spans the back of the house with plenty of space for dining. The birch tree, a Mother's Day gift from her children 17 years ago, shades the azaleas, astilbe, coralbells and 'Blue Angel' hosta on the north side and creates scale for the garage just to its east. The garage, a smaller version of the house, has a small alcove to its south where there is a large rectangular built-in table and fire pit surrounded by hosta and long-blooming Carolina allspice. It is a perfect place to watch outdoor movies on the retractable screen.

Original to the garden are two large climbing hydrangeas growing on a fence that spans the length of the backyard, creating a sense of privacy. A strategically placed Bradford pear, a holdover from before the house was built, hides a utility pole. The landscape design also incorporates neighboring tall trees to shield the yard from the buildings across the alley.



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Photo by: Michael Kaskel

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Annette R. and Jeff H. Maple Avenue

"Gardening is never ending trial and error"

In this neighborhood of lovely "painted ladies," one stands out for the glorious garden it offers to all who pass by. Little of the original planting remains from when Annette and Jeff moved in in 2004. Refurbishing the house and garden proceeded together, the beauty of one providing inspiration for the other.

Initially, overgrown foundation yews were pulled out, sod was lifted, and a driveway that ran along the south side of the house from the street to the garage in back was removed to create a clean slate for the new design.

"It was all lawn in front. I keep adding and growing the size of the beds. We do a little every year. I don't always know whether a plan will work. If not, I move the plant around until it's happy or dead. My style is very eclectic," says Annette.

A wide walkway invites visitors to enter the yard. Standing like a sentinel on one side is a huge weeping pine. A grass path bisects the yard, providing visual relief from the busy flower beds. The statuesque fountain in the center is softened by a weeping cherry. The beds in front are planted with bulbs in the spring whose foliage is later covered by herbaceous plants. One spring day a passing artist was so smitten by the tulips that he asked permission to set up his easel and draw them. Another vision is the stand of peachy-purple bearded iris.

The walk breaks off to curve around the house on the south side, passing under a wooden arch built by Jeff. The backyard is small, but a lot has been done with it. You will be struck by the newly planted horse chestnut tree immediately ahead of you as you enter. The loss of a large tree in the corner allowed Annette and Jeff to add a water feature and opened the beds to more sun. That makes the cherry and peach trees happy. The Sacred Lily of India planted near the fountain can tolerate more shade, as can the lady's mantle that grows in soft mounds along the path front and back.

One of the best things Annette and Jeff inherited with their house was good soil, and they've work to keep it that way, spreading compost they make themselves. A small oval of grass serves the same functions here as it does in front and is beautifully maintained by Greenwise Organic Lawn Care using all organic methods. Exit on the same path where you entered and take time to admire the bright baskets hanging above the wrap-around porch. What a spot to sit and watch the garden grow!



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Cynthia J. Ridge Court

“My garden has many microclimates”

Cynthia’s garden sits on a double lot that was once part of a much larger property located on Ridge Ave. It all started in 1973 when Cynthia and her husband purchased the lot adjoining theirs on an installment plan. The first flower garden was a little strip of soil around the two properties so the homeowners could grow vegetables in the center. When the amount of produce became too overwhelming, they switched to annuals and lawn. However, Cynthia soon began collecting plants, slowly expanding the little slivers of garden into expansive beds that now ring the property. After many years, Cynthia had created garden islands within the sea of grass. Each island is named, some for the color of the blooms, others for a favorite plant.

This self-taught, octogenarian gardener designs and maintains the garden herself. She has learned through trial and error, very much aware of the many microclimates within her yard. The perennials in the garden beds seem to have learned to walk, migrating to the sites in which they are happiest. Everything in this garden thrives.

The overall design shows great attention to detail, with structural components and statuary that are complementary and functional. There are even little surprises, like the bridge that leads to a secret hiding place under the canopy of a burning bush – complete with its own special resident. Dogwood trees, Japanese maples, large rose bushes and arbors that support multiple varieties of clematis and climbing roses provide structural height and highlight pathways through the gardens.

The shady garden beds contain drifts of ginger, hosta, brunnera, lamium, hellebore, ferns, Japanese anemone and coralbells, to name a few. Cynthia mixes multiple varieties of each plant to introduce different textures, leaf-size and color. The sunny areas contain masses of white, pink, red and salmon-colored peonies, many varieties of Asiatic lily, daylilies, Siberian iris, yarrow, bell flowers and so much more. Dwarf weigela, blue mist shrub and other small shrubs anchor the sun-drenched islands. Scattered throughout are red, orange and salmon oriental poppies. ‘Flamenco Dancer,’ with its deep red color and frilly petals, is one of Cynthia’s favorites.

True to her scientific training, Cynthia labels each plant with its scientific name, common name and the year it was planted. She uses this information to research when plants struggle in a specific location. The labels also ensure that she doesn’t accidentally dig up a prized flower when planting her newest find. Like most gardeners, Cynthia is a collector at heart. This is a garden that invites a slow stroll to take in everything it has to offer. It is a delight and shouldn’t be missed.

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Mike and Fatima C. Hinman Avenue

"In the morning people step outside to smell the roses"

The husband and wife gardeners in this apartment building have taken a different approach from their neighbors across the street. They designed, built and planted a lush perennial garden filled with a variety of plants that bloom and create interest throughout the seasons. For thirty years, these two long-time residents have transformed the grounds from strips of grass and concrete into a multi-level oasis that is never finished.

Marking the entrance to the center courtyard building is an arbor covered in climbing hydrangea. On either side of the arbor are two-tiered beds that are filled with many varieties and colors of roses as well as hardy geraniums that act as a mounding ground cover. Stands of yellow and pink peonies, blue hosta, yellow waxbells and other perennials are planted above the retaining wall, creating layers of color and texture. Flowering trees and shrubs help anchor the plants to the building.

Passing through the arbor, the roses (numbering close to 100) and geraniums continue to line the length of the center sidewalk. Burning bushes soften the corners of the building and are repeated near the center entrance door. Varying heights of evergreens create a green canvas that showcases the many blooms. The evergreens are interspersed with Eastern hemlock, juniper 'Blue Star,' Hall crabapple and a cherry plum tree on both sides of the courtyard to provide height and to minimize the expanse of the building. Tucked behind the evergreens are rose of Sharon on the sunnier side of the courtyard and a large grouping of purple and white azaleas on the shadier side to provide early spring and late summer color.

Different types and colors of hydrangeas are used to define the perennial beds and the side entrances to the building. They include 'Vanilla Strawberry' panicle hydrangea and bigleaf varieties. Between the hydrangeas, plants are layered to provide dimension and texture. They include the statuesque cup plant, herbaceous and tree peonies, celandine poppy, meadow rue, jumpseed and Japanese anemone. Large flower pots sit on either side of every entrance and are filled with colorful pink and red geraniums with a calla lily in the center. These are the only annuals in the garden.

Mike and Fatima were born in Montenegro where they still own land that Mike tended as a boy. This instilled in him a lifelong passion for creating beautiful, lush landscapes that is shared by Fatima. As the building and property manager, Mike has designed several gardens in the area. The residents of this building are truly lucky to be surrounded by this miniature botanical garden in which they can literally stop to smell the roses.

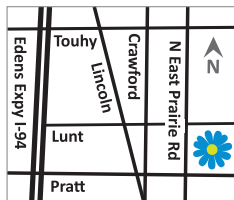
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Midland Condominium Association Hinman Avenue

“Pedestrians come into the garden to take pictures of their kids and pets”

A serene and beautiful space can help foster a sense of community. This is true for members of the Midland Condominium Association and their president, Melissa Thome. Working with Nature’s Perspective Landscaping, the condominium association designed a landscape inspired by one resident’s vacations to Mackinac Island with his husband. He snapped pictures of favorite gardens and shared them with his neighbors with the idea of replacing the old, tired landscape with curving beds of shade tolerant shrubs and colorful annuals. The result is a lovely, layered garden of foundation plants that thrive in the partial shade of the courtyard offset by pops of summer-long color.

The front of the building provides a hint of what is to come with redbuds and big blue hosta at the building’s corners and viburnum, a row of evergreens and annuals converging on the center walkway. Approaching the courtyard garden, the first thing you notice are the Japanese maples on either side of the walkway near the front of the building. These are the only holdovers from the original garden.

As you enter the courtyard, your eye is drawn to the groups of brightly colored annuals that include pink and white New Guinea impatiens, African marigolds, coleus, purple spiderwort and scarlet sage. The annuals are offset by repeated groupings of Japanese barberry that mirror the color of the maples. Evergreens and hydrangeas continue along the length of the courtyard. Golden currants nestled beneath the maples act as a backdrop to butterfly weed and coneflowers. They also visually divide the long corridor and border the side entrances. At the shadier end of the courtyard is a sitting circle with benches on either side of the walkway where residents can gather and enjoy each other’s company or a quiet cup of coffee. Beyond the seating area, serviceberries draw your eye to the center entrance of the building and the surrounding purple azaleas, viburnum and large silvery blue hosta that line the walk.

Each spring, the condo association chooses the color palate for the current year’s flowers and orders a truckload from Anton’s Greenhouse, which still delivers to long-time customers from its WI location. On planting day, the association provides a box of trowels, and many neighbors come together to plant. But planting day is not the only time residents get together to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Throughout the warm weather season, they enjoy their garden and each other’s friendship by holding occasional barbecues as well as movie nights in the courtyard. They are a community formed by the simple act of creating a welcoming garden.

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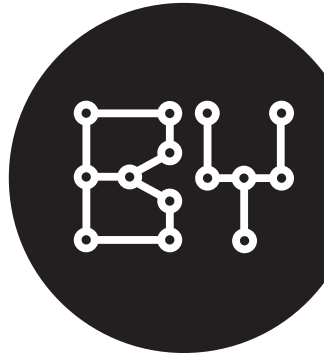
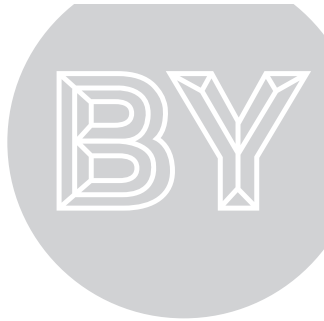
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