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Evanston GARDEN WALK

Sunday, June 24, 2018 • Noon – 5pm

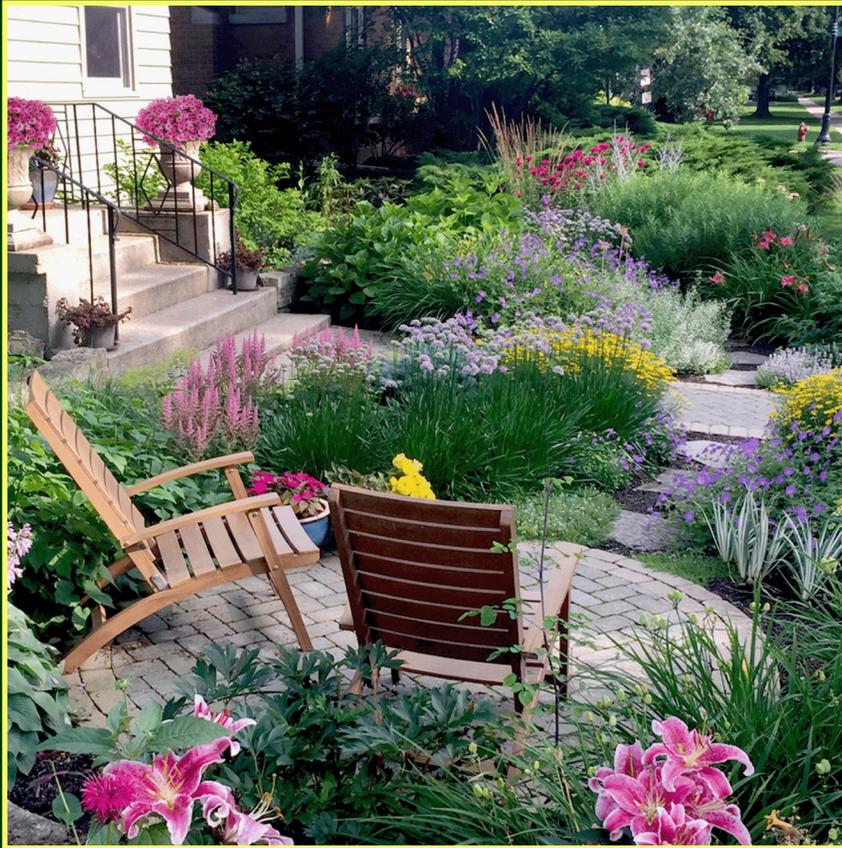


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WELCOME to the 29th annual Evanston Garden Walk. Feel free to start the Walk at any of the gardens, there is no required order. This year we have three adjacent gardens, plus two just one block apart, a bonus for those driving, and a beautiful garden on Sheridan that will require creative parking, though not a worry for those who bike the walk!

As for the past five years, funds from the Garden Walk will benefit the Evanston Environmental Association, headquartered at the Evanston Ecology Center. Funds are being used for educational programs, and to continue the projects of Keep Evanston Beautiful (KEB). With the funds that the EEA has raised through the Garden Walk – over \$70,000, including funds that came from KEB, the EEA was able to help pay for the recent expansion to the Ecology Center. You can visit a tangible result of your support for the Garden Walk. *Thank you!*

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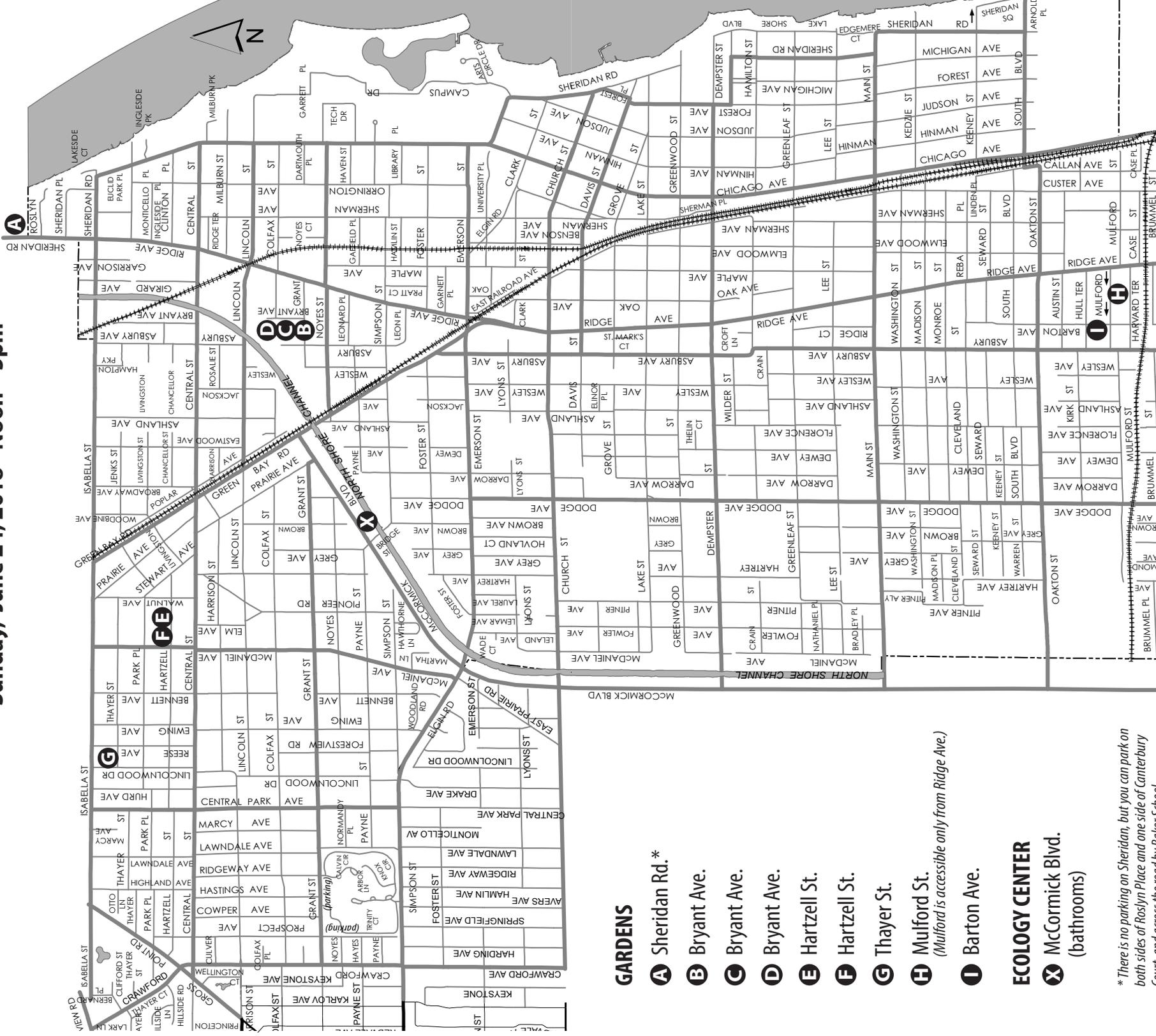
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EVANSTON GARDEN WALK 2018

Sunday, June 24, 2018 • Noon - 5pm



GARDENS

- A** Sheridan Rd.*
- B** Bryant Ave.
- C** Bryant Ave.
- D** Bryant Ave.
- E** Hartzell St.
- F** Hartzell St.
- G** Thayer St.
- H** Mulford St.
(Mulford is accessible only from Ridge Ave.)
- I** Barton Ave.

ECOLOGY CENTER

- X** McCormick Blvd.
(bathrooms)

* There is no parking on Sheridan, but you can park on both sides of Roslyn Place and one side of Canterbury Court, and across the road by Baker School.

Please begin viewing at any garden. You may obtain the Garden Walk booklet at your first stop. Please - no strollers, bicycles, or smoking in the gardens.

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David A. & Bill A. Sheridan Rd.

"I love having black dirt"

After 20 years in the Miami area, David and Bill are happy to return to their Midwestern roots. Bill, from Indiana and David growing up in Iowa, find roses, peonies, iris and rhubarb far more familiar than Florida's birds of paradise and mango trees. ("Though we ate the mangos," Bill said.)

David, the primary gardener, says "I love having black dirt again." When they first moved to Evanston, they lived near Dyche Stadium, and strolled the neighborhood looking for garden ideas. They happened upon one they particularly liked, and asked the owner who designed it. She said, "I did." They'd found Michelle Cohen, a landscape designer whose garden was featured on the 2016 walk.

Once they moved to Sheridan Road, they enlisted Michelle's aid in the design of their wonderful garden. Be sure to look at the "before" pictures Dave will have on the back deck – quite a transformation in only three years. Michelle will be in attendance as well, to answer questions about plant identification and design.

Start on the south lawn, admiring the lush corner bed, which David describes as "purple in the spring, transitioning to yellow and gold in August." Coneflowers, catmint, veronica, coreopsis Moonbeam, phlox, boxwood and hydrangeas make this a show-stopper for passing runners and walkers, of which there are many.

Walk to the back gate, past a tranquil garden room, with a faux wood cement bench and birdbath from Chalet, surrounded by lilies, shrub roses, ornamental grasses, sumac, boxwood and an old lilac tree.

Prepare to feel the Zen as you enter the back, a Japanese strolling garden, purposely simple and peaceful. Japanese ornaments came from Gethsemane and a neighbor. Several Japanese maples border the path, but sadly the huge one that inspired the garden died over the winter and had to be replaced. David designed the fence, to allow critters to escape Jessie, a jolly golden retriever with his own custom-built doggie vestibule on the deck.

Exit the back garden at the north end, walking around to the front. A vibrant planter by the entrance is filled with plants Bill and Dave bought at the Farmer's Market, and then gave to Michelle to work her magic. "Michelle makes them look amazing," Dave exclaims.

Another border between the house and Sheridan Road hosts lady's mantle, variegated grasses, perennial geraniums, astilbe and hosta. There is much to admire, and it's gratifying to hear that for the past three years, Dave has gone on the Garden Walk to take photos and get ideas.

There is no parking on Sheridan, but you can park on both sides of Roslyn Place and one side of Canterbury Court, and across the road by Baker School.

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**Jeff & Susie R.
Bryant Avenue**

"They all have names..."

Compared to their gardening neighbors, Jeff and Susie are newcomers, acquiring their home in 1999. Not lived in for seven years before they bought it, Jeff said "the only things here were mice." The house was gutted, a 6-month project, and they actually took residence in 2000.

A graphic designer, Jeff has had a major hand in the garden plan, working with Mark Watson of Nature's Perspective for plant suggestions and installation. Jeff and Susie designed the unique two-tone curved front walk, leading up to the beautiful new front porch, expanded last year from just a front stoop. It looks like it's always been there, and provides a great place to have a glass of wine and conversation with neighbors.

Walk from the porch along the curved front bed, where you'll find lady's mantle, allium Summer Beauty, Carl sedum, cranberry cotoneaster, a river birch and magnolia tree, pink roses, Little Devil ninebark, and annuals for constant color.

Enter the back yard from the alley, and be prepared to meet some awesome critters. "They all have names," Jeff explains. First you'll meet Charlie, a spider fashioned from farm machinery, which inhabits a spot vacated by a dead tree (is Charlie a suspect...?)

The fence and huge multi-level deck were designed and built by Jeff and a contractor friend. The hot tub is a magnet for visiting nieces and nephews. Peeking out from the shrubbery beside the garage/art studio is Harry, the Sasquatch – all 200 lbs. of him – ordered as a surprise gift from Susie to Jeff out of the now defunct Sky Mall catalog

In the north bed is Nessie, swimming along among Rozanne geraniums, Shasta daisies, ninebarks and ornamental grasses. There are multiple stone bunnies, from Jeff's mother's garden, dotted around among the flowers, as well as multiple dragonfly sculptures. My favorite is Mr. Bob.

For the real critters that inhabit our neighborhoods, Jeff got tired of repairing the chewed skirting around his deck, so he created a door which they seem to use. If you look closely, you can see a thank you paw print. (His neighbors and Susie are dubious).

As you exit the garden, be sure to visit the herb and vegetable garden on the southeast end of the deck. Sunflowers, beets, onions, tomatoes and climbing cucumbers all thrive in their homemade compost.

Jeff has learned from his fellow Bryant gardeners, and they from him. "We've evolved together. I like to build things and work with my hands, and working from my home gives me more opportunities to have projects."

One of Jeff's projects is creating the Garden Walk book for us, for which we are incredibly grateful.

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John & Maria A.
Bryant Avenue
"Stream of consciousness gardening"

When they moved to their Bryant home in 1968, John said "the maple in the parkway was new, and there was grass everywhere." He planted ground cover instead of the grass, as there was too much shade.

John installed the small patio with benches in front, and eliminated all of the grass there as well. Pachysandra doesn't need to be mowed. Walk around the south side of the house to the back garden, a medley of vegetable and ornamental beds. John describes it as "a work of love and enjoyment in my seasoned senior years."

As with many gardens east of Ridge, this one was prone to flooding during heavy rains. A majestic elm tree shaded most of the yard, but was lost to Dutch Elm disease several years ago. Suddenly, there was sun.

John decided to install raised vegetable beds, nine of them, about a foot above the original flood level. He grows tomatoes, zucchini, sweet peppers, pole beans, cucumbers, chives and onions. "This used to be a swamp, now I can grow all this."

John's quixotic gardening method – he credits Jeff (Rashid) for describing it as "stream of consciousness gardening" – gives him enormous pleasure, which is what a garden should do.

A large mound completely covered in Lysimachia Gold Coin was the contribution of one of his granddaughters, her version of a Zen garden that provides a tranquil view from the house. Blue columbine from his mother's garden pop up everywhere, reminding him of his youth, growing up in Kewanee, Illinois. "We had an orchard, and I helped my mother garden from the age of four."

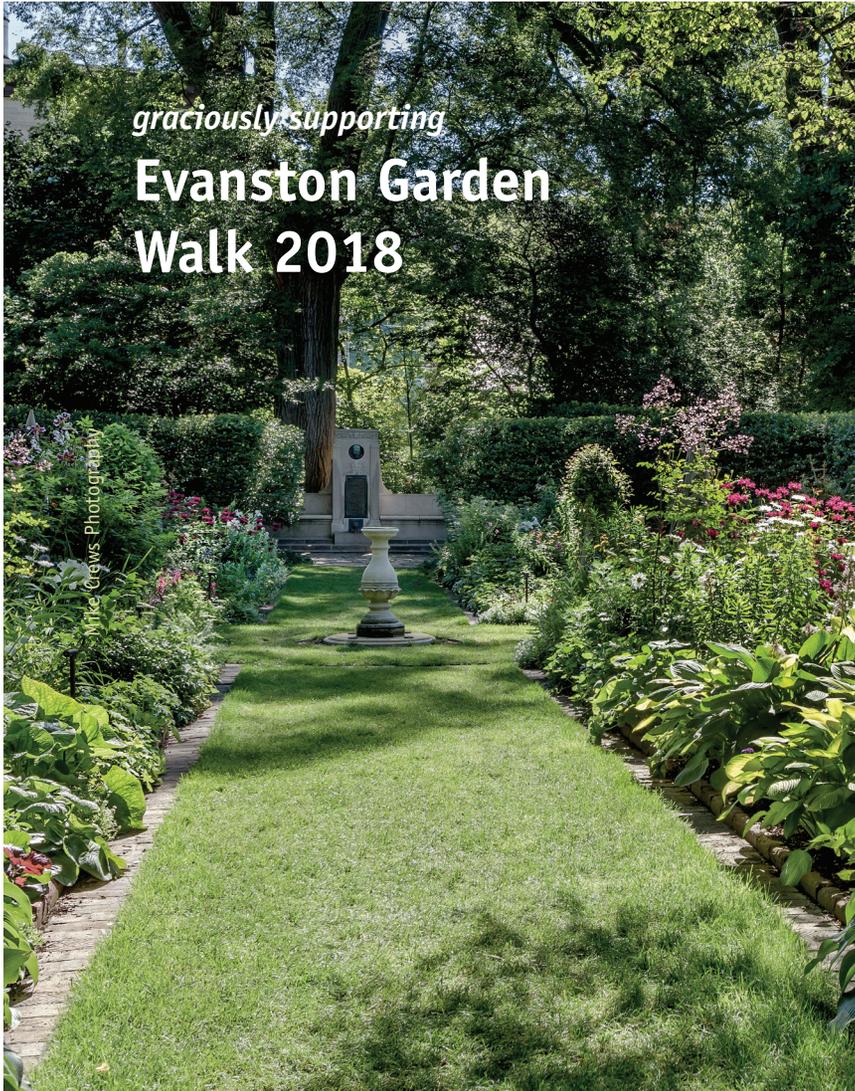
Back by the garage, there's a happy grape vine, and on the south facing side there's a Mother's Day rose and several blue-hued clematis covering the wall. A small memorial remembers the lost tree as well as those who have served in the military. Milkweed attracts butterflies.

Dotted around the vegetable beds you'll see phlox, sego lilies, bee balm, honeysuckle, Wine & Roses weigela, hosta, boxes of red geraniums and lots of Russian sage.

John says he spends up to 2 or 3 hours a day out here, planting, weeding and just "sitting and looking. I enjoy the peace of the garden, and I can visualize how to move things around."

Because of their proximity to the canal and the golf course, the gardens on Bryant attract a lot of wildlife. John has seen a coyote walking down the sidewalk, and a hawk come in and remove a chipmunk from the gene pool. Birds and butterflies, they're all welcome here.

With the occasional help of his grandkids and neighbor Jeff, John does the rest, even the hardscape, a true labor of love.



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Linda & Jan P. Bryant Avenue

"We lost our front lawn to skunks."

Starting with their gorgeous front parkway, the Perneys have been working on their garden since they moved here in 1979. In the shady area they have vinca, north of their sidewalk they have a profusion of veronica, coneflowers, penstemon Husker Red, coreopsis Moonbeam, ornamental grasses, phlox and perennial geraniums.

There is no grass here Linda explains, because "we lost our front lawn to skunks. They kept digging up the grubs." So they replaced it with a beautiful selection of perennials and woody plants, including azaleas, yews, geraniums, a weeping cherry and ornamental grasses.

Over 20 years ago, Linda sought the help of Nature's Perspective, after admiring their parkway corner plantings in south Evanston. They installed the paths and the large shrubs. Originally working with owner Barbra Schwartz, Linda's now working with Mark Watson, the same designer who helps the Rashids.

Walk around back past blue star, milkweed (for the butterflies), catmint, rudbeckia, Shasta daisies, asters and old-fashioned pink roses. A viburnum hedge provides a backdrop and softens the front of the house.

Along the shady side, actually part of John's Ast's property, but with his permission, Linda has planted monkshood, brunnera and astilbe, all from Windy City Gardens on Green Bay Road.

A sunny border along the south side of the house produces profusions of peonies in spring; in summer, you'll find daylilies, phlox, campanula, yarrow rudbeckia and one amazing jack-in-the-pulpit. The charming antique edging is from Ginger Blossom Farm in Wisconsin.

Linda and Jan's back garden shows what you can accomplish in the shade – lush Japanese painted ferns, heuchera, wild and perennial geraniums, oakleaf hydrangea, a happy climbing hydrangea on the garage, ligularia, ginger, astilbe, Japanese maple, Miss Kim lilac and bright variegated hakonechloa grass. Colors and textures are found in the lush vegetation rather than through flowers.

Causing all this shade is a giant elm tree, thoroughly embraced by a twining vine that flowers in the spring. Nels Johnson mended the tree when it split, and treats it for Dutch elm disease. A river birch thrives by the fence, and a hemlock and ferns fill in the blanks.

Dotted around the garden are pots brimming with colorful annuals, and charming finds, like the wire dress form from the Lake County Flea Market.

Maintaining the garden is a joint project. Linda is the creative force, while Jan does "all the pruning and heavy lifting. He's a statistician, I'm a music teacher, so we figured out what we each do best. You raise your kids, you raise your garden. Lots of nurturing. It's very therapeutic."

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**Dana F.
Hartzell Street**

"Isn't that what gardening is all about?"

When Dana moved into this beautiful 1876 home three years ago, the guardian lions were already in place. So was the majestic elm spreading above the west side. A clue to its age is that the tree appears in a 1923 photo of the house next door. Sunrise Tree Care maintains the tree, including the network of cables high in the branches.

Working with Nature's Perspective Landscaping, Dana decided to keep the existing lines of the landscape in front and simply refresh the plantings. Here is where you'll first see one of this busy gardener's design preferences and how she manages her time: simplicity. Incrediball smooth hydrangeas line the brick retaining wall along the front walk from one side of the property to the other. They are topped by a row of Walker's Low catmint on the wall above. As you proceed up the front walk, note the rosebushes on your right. "An expert probably wouldn't use them in this much shade," Dana says, "It may not work, but I don't mind experimenting for a plant I love." The white-variegated foliage of Ivory Halo dogwood adds light to the shade as you move closer to the house and go to your right on the path to the backyard. Before you go, don't miss the intense cherry-colored hydrangeas in the tall containers on either side of the front steps. Dana found the plants at Anton's Nursery in Evanston and couldn't resist the splash of intense color they add to the design.

The backyard has seen the greatest transformation. Beginning in 2016, Dana worked with Nature's Perspective to create a Zen-like living space. The pavement for the dining area was already there, but Nature's Perspective added the large gravel-filled seating area that dominates the remaining space. They also installed the fountain to Dana's specifications. The soothing sound of falling water helps create a sense of seclusion. Tall lattice panels screen an unsightly shed and provide privacy.

Climbing hydrangea planted at the base will eventually cover the entire structure in green. The remaining planting beds are filled with a restrained selection of Japanese-inspired plants that primarily depend on foliage for their impact: the evergreen dwarf Hinoki false cypress, Japanese maples (the one closest to the house is a Yama Kagi Full Moon maple), non-running bamboo (*Fargesia rufa*), variegated Japanese iris, astilbe, golden Japanese forest grass and hosta. Although the garden contains many plants, simplicity has been achieved by limiting them to a few varieties—in the case of the hosta, using contrasting blue and gold leaf colorations.

"I always look forward to coming home to my garden," Dana says. "Isn't that what gardening is all about?"



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Amy Dale is Owner of Green Edens, started in Evanston in 2011. She is a Master Gardener through the University of Illinois at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Green Edens specializes in native plants, sustainable landscaping and garden design.



**Laura J.
Hartzell Street**

“Don’t be afraid of what nature throws your way”

Thirteen years ago, when Laura moved in, the beds in the front yard were the same configuration as they are now, and the trees were there too. Over the years, she has added shrubs and perennials, always keeping the rabbits in mind. According to Laura, the rabbits seem to have picked her garden as the place to be in northwest Evanston. Laura is still learning about their preferred plant diet, but, unfortunately, it seems to change from year to year. She has adopted a more drastic rabbit-proofing strategy in her backyard, digging a trench in the soil and installing chicken wire around the entire perimeter.

Immediately inside the gate to the backyard is a paperbark maple with its distinctive cinnamon color. The landscaping in Laura’s backyard was completely reconceived five years ago by Guillermo “Mito” Castellanos, using screening devices to create discrete spaces within what is essentially a large rectangle. Follow the flagstone path around the side of the house to a gate and arbor that conceal the backyard beyond. On the other side, the path continues halfway down the yard until it jogs left onto a patio and around a large, raised bed installed by Hirsch Brick & Stone. The path resumes, leading to a fire pit and chairs at the back of the property. The two halves of the path are visually separated by a raised deck with lattice screening. Seating is carefully positioned to give views of the different garden areas.

The backyard plantings are just as carefully designed to create interest, moving from shade into sun. As you enter the backyard, a mature maple and understory trees are planted with cool, shade perennials such as large, blue hosta, golden Japanese forest grass, sedges, lady’s mantle and epimedium. Standing in this area, one can see where the shade transitions to sun at a small plot of grass and sunny border against the garage. Sunny beds continue to the back gate, supporting a variety of clematis on the designer’s signature trellis and other sun-loving perennials. The owner has done most of these plantings herself with the help of Green Edens Horticultural Services, which also helps with maintenance.

The far southeast corner of the backyard is undergoing renovation after a violent storm last summer felled a large maple in the corner. Laura used this as a chance to replace a tree that was threatening the power lines with more manageable arborvitae. She is also reassessing which perennials can survive their new, sunny conditions. “Don’t be afraid of what nature throws your way,” Laura advises.

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Tony R. Thayer Street

"It's been a family labor of love since 1966"

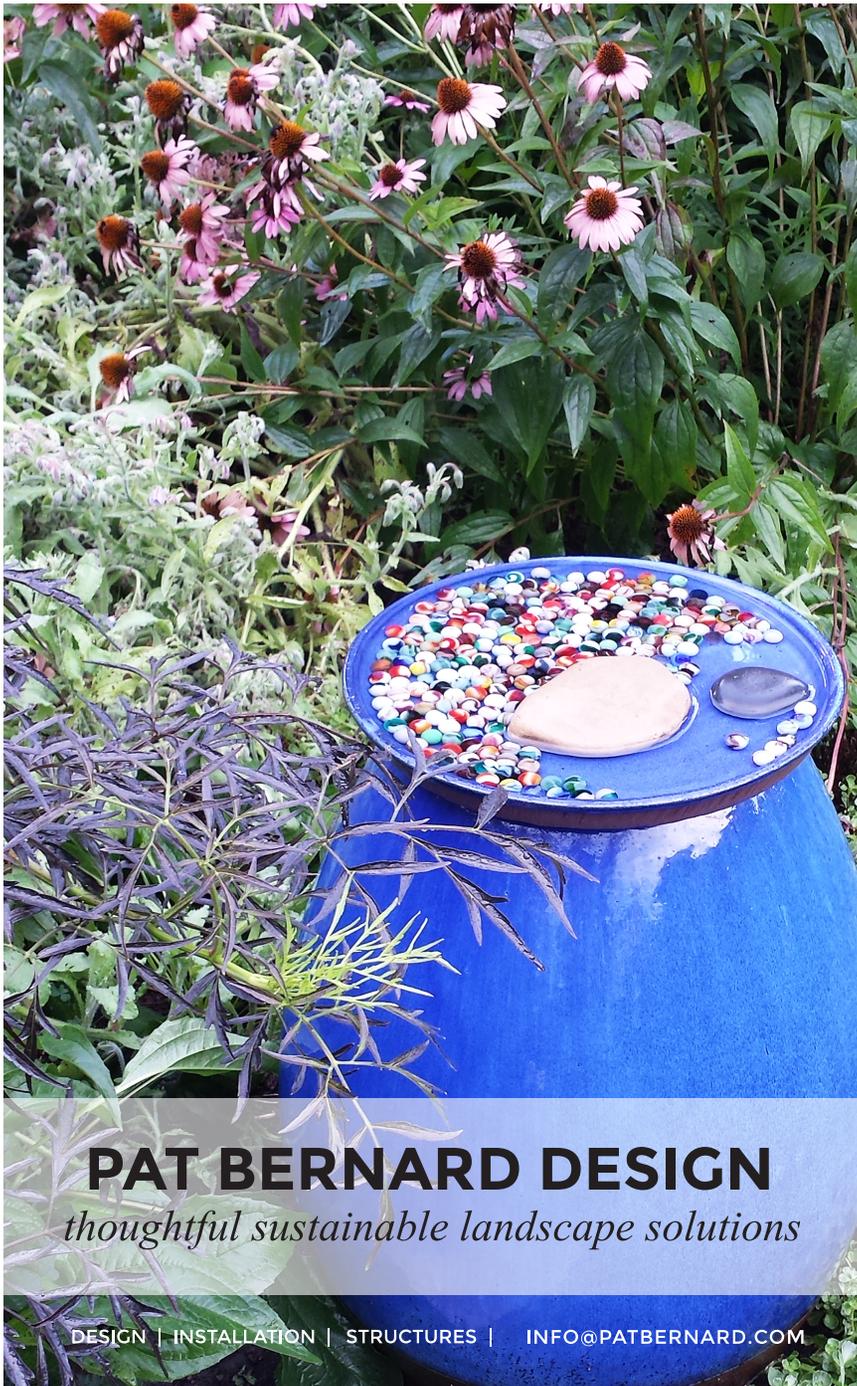
Commenting on his house and garden, Tony Root quips: "It's been a family labor of love since 1966, when my parents Loren and Mary Root moved into our 1950s' ranch house." Loren, a banker, and Mary, a graphic designer with training at the Art Institute, combined talents to transform a corner lot into a mini-arboretum. Both avid photographers and members of the Chicago Area Camera Club, they were blessed with keen eyes. Working alone, Loren built the split-rail fence and installed the garden bed edging, which Mary had designed. With the "bones" in place, their attention turned to trees – now the hallmark of the property.

The pair of ginkgoes in the parkway provides a before-and-after example of Mary's creative pruning. To the west is a nascent specimen of the genus; adjacent is the unique, multi-stemmed wonder that attracted a generation of young climbers. Looking east reveals more diversity – a pine, a horse chestnut **and** the crowning glory of the property the metasequoia or dawn redwood. Planted as recently as 1976, this magnificent behemoth conjures up thoughts of prehistory and lives up to its reputation as a fast-growing tree. Within the fenced area are other trees that deserve attention: an ancient pink crab, pink and white dogwoods and a Virginia magnolia – alas, their blooming season will have passed at the time of the walk.

As you enter the garden, you are struck by the branches that frame the house and the attendant climbing euonymus on the walls. On either side of the walk are fernleaf peonies that lead the eye – east and west – to a wide variety of native ferns, English ivy, trillium, epimedium, wild geranium, Solomon's seal and false Solomon's seal, goldenrod, spiderwort, astilbe, hosta, Dutch iris and Asiatic lilies – all planted among low-growing rhododendron.

Tony grew up in these engaging surroundings and continues the family's horticultural interests as he maintains the garden and trees and plies his skills as a professional landscaper. He is also well known as a string bass player in popular musical ensembles.

Only the front garden featuring the trees is included on the Garden Walk this year.



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Chris & Dennis B. Mulford Street

"Using every inch of space"

What do you do with an old foundation planting of bridal wreath spirea? Give it a hard pruning after it blooms to keep its graceful fountain shape within manageable bounds. Careful pruning also keeps the other established shrubs in front of Chris and Dennis' older home looking good. A brick walk that once led to the garage now leads around the east side of the house to the garden. The owners sacrificed garage access to reclaim space for their garden. The flowering dogwood to the left of the brick walk is a riot of delicate pink and white flowers in late May.

Designed by landscaper Guillermo "Mito" Castellanos, the small back yard uses every inch of space to great effect. Challenged by a wide, shallow plot, Mito's solution was to break the rectangle into two squares with a six-foot-high trellis fence between. The side where you enter the yard is sunny with a raised bed; the other side is shady for dining.

In back, underneath the distinctive cinnamon-hued paperbark maple is the bench from which the owners water the butterfly plants in the raised bed. Early in the season, the owners grow plants like milkweed, rue, parsley and dill that butterflies such as monarchs and swallowtails need to lay their eggs. After the caterpillars have hatched and fed, the owners carefully collect the pupa and keep them in a special indoor habitat until the butterflies are ready to emerge. Then the owners return the butterflies to the wild to feast on nectar plants like zinnia, coneflower, butterfly weed and aster. The sunny borders surrounding the raised bed contain a variety of daylilies the owners acquired from a specialty nursery in Indiana while taking their son back and forth to school. Clematis and other vines cover the trellises found throughout the garden.

Chris is a big fan of see-through plants: taller plants that can be sited at the front of the border without blocking the lower plants behind. In this category are Brazilian verbena for sun (another butterfly favorite) and giant meadow rue for shade.

The dining area is a shady nook with the sound of a nearby fountain completing the cool effect. Note the curtains covering the garage windows that help create the illusion of a garden room. If you look hard enough in shady areas you may spot the shiny, heart-shaped leaves of European ginger, a ground cover that the owners brought from a former residence on Cape Cod. Not perhaps as vigorous as its Midwest cousin, Canadian ginger, but it gives the owners a sense of continuity with gardens past.

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Tom W. & Michael W. Barton Avenue *"Take care of the trees"*

From the moment you approach the front door of this modern duplex, the magnificent white birch rising two stories in the glass-enclosed atrium tells you that trees are the stars here, other plants play a supporting role. "The birch was there when we bought our house 11 years ago," the owners say. They admit that – adventuresome gardeners though they are – they're not sure they would have thought of planting it there.

On the left side of the front steps is the dwarf Tiger Eyes golden-leafed sumac, surrounded by ground cover and a restrained planting of blue and blue-green/cream variegated hosta (the latter is the cultivar Frances Williams). The planting bed in front of the duplex is extremely narrow, but that didn't stop Tom and Michael from fitting in a purple-leafed beech and a river birch. The conifer at the corner by the alley is a weeping spruce. Again, the underplanting is limited to a few perennials to keep attention on the trees. Most notable are Shenandoah prairie switchgrass, black-eyed Susan and Caramel coral bells. The dry river bed running down the front slope is a solution to water management during heavy rain storms; the stones allow the water to run-off without erosion. Palms that are over-wintered indoors line the narrow balcony under the windows across the front of the duplex.

The backyard is a collector's delight of unusual trees. Starting at the driveway, see if you can spot the Japanese stewartia; it has oval, dark green foliage, reddish-brown bark, and white, camellia-like flowers in early summer. The diminutive multi-stemmed fringe tree may still show evidence of the long, fleecy white flower panicles it bore in late May. A snakebark maple is unmistakable with its striped green bark, as is the Japanese maple with its burgundy foliage. The owners' latest addition, located by the back fence, is a 5-foot Hillside Upright Norwegian spruce. A spot of sun lights up the area in front of the spruce, allowing the owners to establish an herb garden there each year. Small though this backyard is, there was also room to fit in a dining table and chairs.

The owners have had remarkable success gardening a small site. But it hasn't been all successes. "Find a good nursery is our first tip. Then take care of the trees." The owners like Gethsemane Garden Center for its selection of unusual trees and use The Davey Tree Expert Company to maintain them. A drip hose irrigation system and periodic applications of leaf mulch also help.

This garden is clearly about trees and the people who love them.

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Ph: 773-973-0068 Member ASLA

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The 29th Evanston Garden Walk *Benefiting the EEA & the Ecology Center*

The Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) is the oldest environmental organization in Evanston. This non-profit organization has fostered and promoted environmental education programming and action since 1976, with a primary mission of supporting the Evanston Ecology Center. The EEA undertakes a wide variety of initiatives, including the Evanston Green Living Festival, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Nature's Night Out (new this year), and beginning six years ago, took over the Evanston Garden Walk from Keep Evanston Beautiful.

The EEA also supports sustainability programs and events presented by other green organizations and by the City of Evanston (COE). This year marks the 14th annual Evanston Green Living Festival which is co-sponsored by the EEA and the COE, a one-day event attracting nearly 1500 visitors, featuring close to 100 exhibitors including alternative transportation, alternative energy and energy reduction, green gardening and lawn care, green home design and remodeling.

The EEA's direct support of the Ecology Center includes developing new educational offerings and programs, fund raising in support of the Center's operations, recruiting volunteers for various Center events, and generally providing leadership and vision. The EEA also supports the Ladd Arboretum, a wonderful Evanston resource.

Since its creation in 1974, the Evanston Ecology Center has provided educational programs for the local community that foster a greater appreciation and knowledge of the environment. The offerings of the Ecology Center range from introductory natural history classes, covering areas such as plant identification and animal study, to popular summer camps that engage kids in environmentally focused activities.

These Ecology Center activities include:

- Overseeing and managing the Community Garden Program
- Presenting 100+ Spring & Summer Camps, for about 1,000 children
- Presenting Evanston's Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebrations
- Caring for the Center's resident "critters"
- Parent/child Classes "Small Fry Science" and "Green & Growing"
- Adult Classes such as "Using a Rain Barrel" and "Green Home Construction"
- SAGE (Schools Are Gardening in Evanston), the school garden program formerly sponsored by Keep Evanston Beautiful.
- The extension of the classroom facility, replacing a dilapidated greenhouse, funded by a state grant and funds provided by the EEA.

All of these programs and activities will benefit from funds generated by the Walk.

Thank you for your support!

We are Proud to Support the Evanston Garden Walk.

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10 Tips for Environmentally Friendly Gardening

1. Educate yourself on the light, soil and moisture conditions of each area of your garden. They may vary considerably from area to area. Soil testing kits are available on line or at various garden centers.
2. Investigate the light, soil and water requirements of your current plants and any plants you plan to acquire. It may be that some of your plants would do better in another part of your garden.
3. Place your plants accordingly. Happy plants require less chemical intervention.
4. Diagnose disease or insect problems before treating – this will help match the solution to the problem. The Botanic Garden has a help line and a help desk. If you take an insect or diseased plant to show them, put it in a sealed plastic bag. Look it up on Google – it's amazing what you can find out.
5. Treat only the identified problem – don't treat what isn't sick or infested. Use fungicides ONLY if you've had a problem in the past, and if you know your plants are affected.
6. Try mechanical solutions (e.g. knocking Japanese beetles into a plastic cup of soapy water, trapping slugs with beer). Next try organic ones, such as insecticidal soap, milky spore, and corn gluten for weeds. Keep an eye out for problems so that you catch them early, while still manageable.
7. Learn to accept the odd chewed leaf or a little mildew. These things are natural, and cosmetic perfection is both impossible and unnatural.
8. Share your plants with friends, local schools or community groups when it's time to divide your perennials, or when a plant no longer fits your space. Consider joining a garden club – lots of local expertise to glean.
9. Keep a compost pile to recycle garden waste. Fill with cuttings, leaves, vegetable kitchen waste, coffee grounds – avoid anything that will germinate into another weed or attract pests.
10. Reuse plastic plant pots and trays for plants you divide and give away; buy plants in reusable pots or plantable pots; return rinsed pots to West End Florist & Garden Center, 3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston (across from Centennial Park in Wilmette.)

Remember the wildlife in your garden – birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators can end up suffering or dying from chemical applications. A healthy environment is important for them as well.

