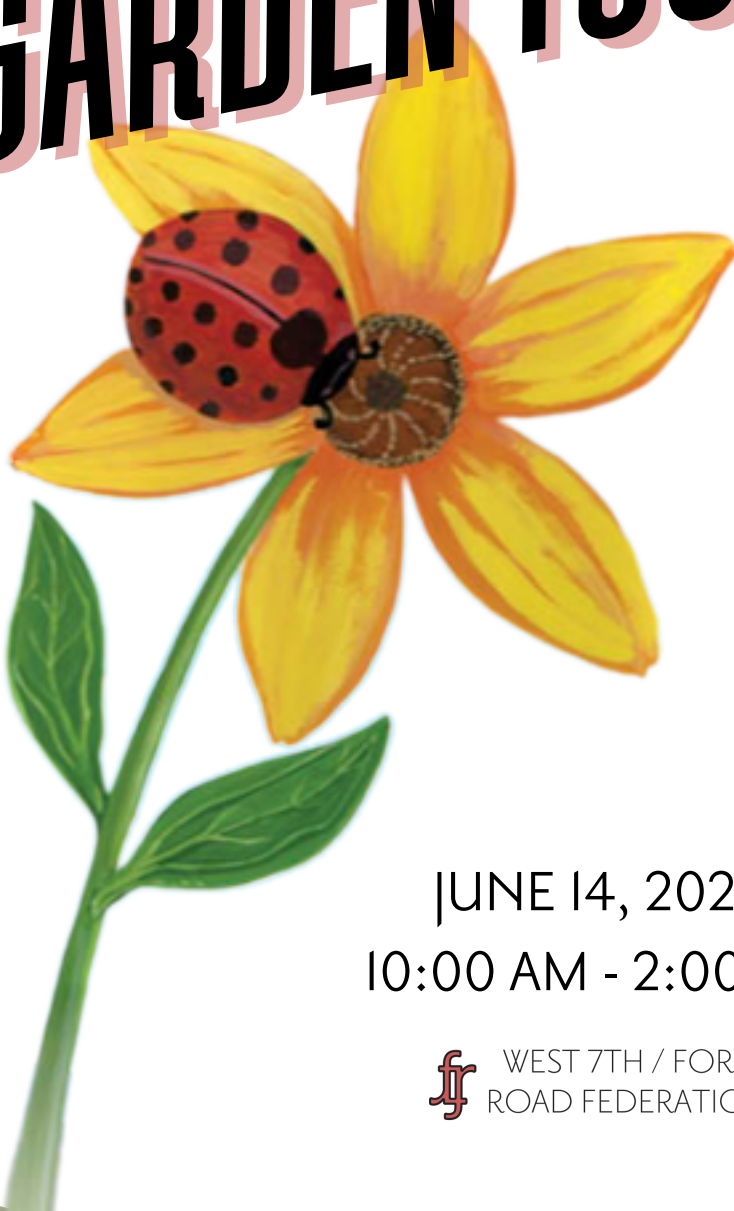


15th Annual  
West End Neighbors'  
**GARDEN TOUR**



JUNE 14, 2025  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



WEST 7TH / FORT  
ROAD FEDERATION

## Welcome to the 15th Annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour

The West End Neighbors' Garden Tour began in 2008 as a simple idea: to celebrate the beauty, talent, and creativity of the West 7th neighborhood and to connect neighbors through shared space, color, and care. It was—and remains—a day to slow down, to explore new areas, and to find wonder in the everyday.



The world around us can feel chaotic and uncertain. And yet, every garden in bloom, every patch of soil tended, is an act of hope. A garden is a declaration that we believe in tomorrow.

This year, as we walk together through the gardens of West 7th, let's ground ourselves in what truly matters: community.

“...we are each other's harvest: we are each other's business: we are each other's magnitude and bond.” – Gwendolyn Brooks ”

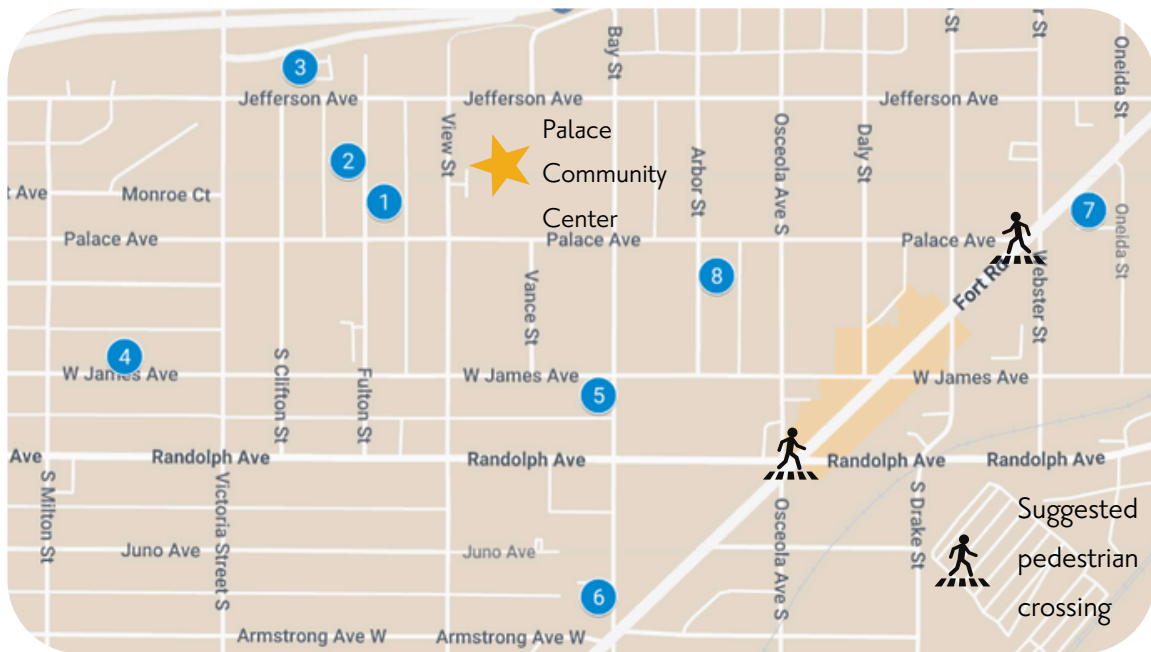
West 7th is, above all, a neighborhood of people. Resilient, creative, diverse, and beautiful. Again and again, when we ask neighbors what they love most about living here, the answer is the same: the people. From artists and elders to gardeners, new arrivals, and lifelong neighbors—we are a community. We are West Seventh.

So today, we invite you to celebrate this moment in time. To walk these blocks not only in admiration of flowers and foliage, but in recognition of the histories, struggles, and dreams rooted beneath them. Celebrate where we've been, where we are, and where we're going.

Because to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

The flower on the cover has become an iconic Garden Tour image. Originally painted by local artist Nance Derby Davidson.

# ***GARDEN TOUR MAP***



★ Garden tour maps,  
plant sale, live music,  
art, food trucks & more

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 392 Fulton St              | 5 730 W James Ave |
| 2 377 Fulton St              | 6 529 Bay St      |
| 3 Fort Road Community Garden | 7 882 7th St W    |
| 4 895 W James Ave            | 8 416 Arbor St    |

Enjoy the Tour! A Few Friendly Guidelines:

- Please admire all gardens from the sidewalk unless you're warmly invited in.
- To help keep plants happy and guests comfortable, please leave pets at home and avoid using insect repellent near the gardens.
- Today's the day! Tours run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. only.

Thanks for helping make the tour enjoyable for everyone!





## #1: 392 Fulton Street

Gardening on a small city lot forces one to utilize all available space, which is why I decided to convert my weed- and crabgrass-filled boulevard into a perennial garden in 2021. A neighbor loaned me a sod kicker and I pulled up all the grass and weeds and then laid down stepping stones. Last summer I started installing brick edging using old bricks given to me by another neighbor (still a work in progress). Most of the plants in my boulevard garden (and the rest of the yard) come from Leitner's, the Friends School Plant Sale and other smaller plant sale fundraisers. You'll find an eclectic mix of hydrangeas, creeping thyme, hostas, beardtongue, bee balm, phlox, bergamot, yarrow, coneflowers, balloon flowers, coral bells, lamb's ear and so much more. The garden changes from season to season as I fill in bare spots left by plants that weren't thriving or need many seasons to grow to full size. Bare spot or not, there's always room for one more plant!

## #2: 377 Fulton Street

Our front yard garden started with a small, raised garden bed and slowly expanded into half of the yard. In 2021, we removed the grass from half of our yard and created a dedicated vegetable and flower garden.

Our garden style could be described as chaotic to some, but manageable for me! The weeds don't always get picked, and the plants don't always get trimmed, but there is beauty in the chaos. Dahlias are my main flower of choice, and I'm learning to care for the tubers over the winter. I plan to continue adding perennials and some early blooming plants along with more quirky and eccentric features to continue to make our garden our own. I love that this garden can be a little piece of wild within the city while being a peaceful place to get my hands dirty, a safe place for the bees, and an introduction to gardening and all of its lessons to my children.



## #3: Fort Road Community Garden

The Fort Road Community Garden was established in 2010 and features twenty-six 12-by-12 plots, plus one raised bed, available to rent each growing season. Some of our gardeners have been with us since the very beginning.

The garden was created to transform a vacant MnDOT right of way into a vibrant community space—one that connects neighbors and helps beautify West 7th. Today, it continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of the community members who care for it.

Stop by, say hello, and consider renting a plot next season—if one is available!



#### #4: 895 James Avenue

Still charming! After 25 years of creating and tending gardens out of grass areas, I still have a wonderful mix of hostas, astillbes, Solomon Seal, goatsbeard, hydrangeas and evergreens.

A dozen clematis are a favorite of mine. But instead of having pristine gardens covered with mulch I am leaving the leaves and old plant material for the bees and insects. So things are looking a bit messy and unkept. I am replacing some old shrubs and perennials with natives such as serviceberry, viburnum, zizia, Joe pye, goldenrod and aster. The challenge is to provide a diverse array of plants to support a diverse array of bees and insects and to provide blooming flowers from April through October. And to keep the bunnies at bay!



#### #5: 730 James Avenue West

It looks like Pinterest Exploded one lady said as she peered over the fence. My garden is a bit Whimsical and a bit Eclectic, not Orderly at all. Some of the flowers are passed on from my Mother who died many years ago. Some flowers are from Neighbors and some are from Facebook Market Place. Once in a while I even go to a Garden Center to purchase perennials. My garden is ever changing as I find new plants to add and some just fade away. My son created a beautiful marble fire pit for me and my garden is around the fire pit. I have lots of trinkets in my garden including a fairy house and Lots of Rocks. Come see it, you will be in my Happy Place.



#### #6: 529 Bay Street

My garden is mainly a vegetable garden, with some added flowers to attract pollinators and deter pests. One of my biggest challenges is trying to get as much yield and variety as possible in a relatively small growing space. To do this, I use a lot of interplanting techniques like growing radishes, carrots and peas together and growing lettuce in empty space while I wait for tomato and pepper seedlings to get growing. I added a low tunnel cover and a cold frame to grow during shoulder seasons this year and it has given me a few extra months of growing season. I enjoy experimenting with new growing methods, and new seed varieties every year.





### #7: 882 Seventh Street West

My flower garden is on the corner of Oneida and West Seventh Street at Phil's Well House. I would consider my garden style to be cottage style with a unique Brewery Wall Sculpture known as the "Keg-O-Verse" made from vintage brewery parts. I have had this garden onsite since 2020. It is mainly annuals for the brilliant colors with a few perennials and hop vines on the south Well House wall. The Customers of the Well House and neighbors have called the garden the "Oasis of West Seventh Street".

### Snap some photos on your tour

Help us capture the beauty of the Garden Tour!

Snap some photos along your tour and use the QR Code to submit your favorite photo for a chance to win a raffle prize.

These photos may be used in our newsletter and social media, or in future publications.



The winner will be announced the following week!



### #8: 416 Arbor Street

This urban permaculture garden is a lush sanctuary for bees, bugs, insects, birds and humans. The garden fosters biodiversity with an abundance of native plants, fruits, vegetables, shrubs and flowers, without using pesticides. The green darner dragonfly is my favorite visitors as well as the chimney swifts that soar above looking for mosquitos. The Minnesota State Bee, the endangered rusty patched bumble bee, also visits. You will find educational literature and art projects to engage and inspire in this 'as is' in progress West 7th garden. We invite you to explore, learn and connect to nature in my backyard.

### Celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> Year!

As we celebrate the 15th annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour, we're proud to highlight how community gardens contribute to a healthier, more sustainable neighborhood. Gardens help fight climate change—by reducing food miles, absorbing carbon, supporting pollinators, and managing stormwater naturally.

With support from Ramsey County Public Health, we've added a focus on climate action for everyone. Be sure to stop by Palace Community Center (781 Palace Avenue) for live music, kids crafts, great food, and a chance to connect with local organizations working on sustainability and climate resilience.

Learn More About Climate Action in Ramsey County

Climate change affects all of us—but so does the power to make a difference. From composting and native planting to active transportation and home energy tips, small actions at the local level can build a stronger, healthier West 7th.

Scan this QR code to explore climate action resources from Ramsey County and learn what you can do at home, at school, or in your garden!



**RAMSEY COUNTY**  
Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health



“ Issues lie at the heart of the West 7th/Fort Rod Federation. Issues interwoven into the fabric of a community. Issues that revolve around housing, transportation, education, environment, culture, historic preservation, and city services. Issues that capture residents’ attention, call them to action, and pull community members together.

But it’s people who form the backbone of the Federation and give it its strength. People who are willing to get involved, back a position, and take a stand. People who will do the research, man a picket line night after night, take time off work, and give up their free time to work on an issue until its resolved – even if years pass by in the meantime.

And it’s those community members responding to problems and attaining shared goals who have changed the face of West Seventh Street in the past twenty-five years. With the continued dedication of our countless residents, West Seventh has become a strong, diverse socioeconomic community where citizens’ voices and commitment carry the authority necessary to mold their own future.

–Richard Miller, Twenty Five Years of Facing Change

”



## Community Green Space

West 7th has a long and proud history of resistance. Again and again, when others failed to see the value in our neighborhood, we stood our ground. Irvine Park, the homes of Kipp's Glen and Little Bohemia, the Justus Ramsey House, Hope Engine Company No. 3—these were places once seen as expendable, outdated, or fit for demolition. But we knew better.

These spaces, and so many more, reflect the creativity, resilience, and adaptability of the people who live here. Revitalizing a neighborhood isn't easy. It takes dedication, vision, and collective action. In West 7th, we know that people shape place.

In this booklet, we highlight a few of the green spaces and community spaces that have been nurtured by neighbors over time. These gathering spots are more than beautiful—they are expressions of care, commitment, and belief in a better tomorrow. In an urban neighborhood, green spaces are vital: they offer refuge, restore health, and foster connection. It is the people of West 7th, and the care they invest in this place, who will keep our neighborhood vibrant for generations to come.

### North High Bridge Park Sculpture Garden

North High Bridge Park is the result of an imaginative community development effort by residents of the Bohemian Hill neighborhoods—Upper Town and Uppertown Triangle. Dedicated to peaceful coexistence, the park celebrates the cultural diversity and rich history of the West End through art, gardens, and shared green space.

In 1987, when a new bridge was constructed, a half-acre of land at its north end was transformed into a park. Landscaped with crabapple trees, conifers, and dwarf honeysuckle, it featured a simple central mound surrounded by seven linden trees. But early efforts to garden the space proved difficult due to challenging soil conditions.

In 1988, neighbor Joe Landsberger was appointed by the local neighborhood committee to lead the North High Bridge Task Force. Seeing the site as an important gateway into Uppertown and a perfect place for river views and community gathering, the group began work to establish a central garden.

Unfortunately, their first plantings didn't survive.

A turning point came in 1993, when 12 truckloads of Platteville limestone salvaged from a major sewer-separation project at the nearby C.S.P.S. Hall were delivered to the park. With help from the Saint Paul Parks Department, neighborhood volunteers, and students from the St. Paul Open School, the stones were used to build retaining walls, and the first 21 varieties of daylilies were planted.

Leftover stone inspired a bold idea: sculpture. The concept of the park as a sculpture garden was born with *The Watcher*, crafted from the remaining stone. The name *The Watcher* was chosen through a competition via *The Community Reporter*.

The park and its first sculptures were officially dedicated on Halloween 1995—during a snowstorm—complete with carved pumpkins and treats for trick-or-treaters.

Since then, the park has continued to grow through community efforts. A butterfly garden was added in 2005, followed by a shaded garden, all maintained by volunteers. To this day, volunteers are the heartbeat of this park.

Other installations not featured in this booklet include:

- **Big Green Chair:** Originally exhibited at the Walker Art Center, this iconic sculpture was relocated to the park in 2017.
- **Peace Pole (1997):** Installed by Girl Scout Cadette Troop 464 with messages of peace in English, Czech, Hmong, and Spanish—languages reflecting the neighborhood's past and present. The Peace Pole was lost to base rot March 2020.



*The Watcher* (1995): A stone sculpture by Zoran Mojsilov that marked the park's transformation into a sculpture garden.



*The Community Gate Project* (2004): A tribute to the contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants, this sculpture by Craig David features salvaged materials including a historic baptismal gate from St. Stanislaus Church and granite pavers from Saint Paul streets. Its marble finials are inspired by Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka*.



## Little Bohemia Trail & Pleasant Place

The Little Bohemia Trail, officially named by the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association (LBNA), runs along the 35E bike path between Grand and St. Clair Avenues. More than just a commuter path, it connects neighbors to transit, the Mississippi River, the West 7th Community Center, local shops—and to one another.

What was once a neglected corridor has become a hub of beauty, ecology, and activity.

This MnDOT right-of-way was transformed by the members of LBNA. Thanks to strong partnerships with MnDOT, the City of Saint Paul, MN Nature, and others, major improvements to the trail began in 2015. The major improvements spanned three years. What began as tree removal and pruning—some due to Emerald Ash Borer and others to preserve the integrity of the 35E noise wall—evolved into a once-in-a-generation revitalization of the landscape. Invasive vegetation was cleared, scrub trees removed, and native species planted.

Over the years, community volunteers, led by LBNA, have sustained this momentum.

In 2023, neighbors planted about 35 native, berry-producing shrubs along the corridor (elderberry, serviceberry, and chokeberry). Many of them are still doing well, two years later.

More recently, the Federation has taken a lead role. In 2025, nine new fruit trees were planted thanks to a grant from Ramsey County. Board President Meg Duhr has led this initiative with vision and labor. Today, the trail is becoming an established urban food forest, with berry bushes, fruit trees, and native plants taking root. We're always looking for more neighbors to get involved—come help out, hang out, and forage the benefits!

Adjacent to the Little Bohemia Trail sits Pleasant Place. This pocket park is a shining example of what community collaboration can achieve. Once an overgrown and forgotten patch of land, it was reclaimed by neighbors who, together, envisioned and created a welcoming green space—a place to exercise, play, connect with nature, and simply relax.

Officially dedicated in October 2010, Pleasant Place features public art that doubles as fitness stations. Over the years, LBNA added large planters, a welcome sign and garden, benches, and new perennial beds. In partnership with MnDOT and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, more fruit trees and native species were planted as part of the larger Little Bohemia Trail enhancement project.

Pleasant Place is open to all. It stands as a testament to the power of grassroots vision and the joy of shared green space in the heart of the city.



Chokeberry buds along the trail, 2025



Newly planted fruit trees, 2025

Sources: Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association, "Little Bohemia Trail," <http://www.littlebohemiastpaul.org/little-bohemia-trail.html>; Annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour History (2017), p. 17, compiled by Joe Landsberger.



Meg Duhr plants a fruit tree along the LBNA trail (April 2025)



Pleasant Place, 2017



## Cliff Street Gardens

Approximately 15–20 years ago, the City planned to change Cliff Street—overlooking the Mississippi River at the High Bridge—into concrete. Neighbors objected and advocated for the inclusion of trees, bushes, and plantings. After much discussion, the City agreed: they would handle planting and mowing the grass, but neighbor volunteers would be responsible for maintaining the gardens—removing leaves, trimming plants, and adding additional perennials. No water source was made available.

Thanks to those volunteers, this area of Cliff Street has remained beautiful, welcoming, and clean for decades. However, many original volunteers have moved away or aged out, and your help is needed to sustain this cherished community space.

This account was shared by Laurel Severson (personal communication, May 2025).

Interested in getting involved? Send us a note, and we will connect you with Laurel Severson.



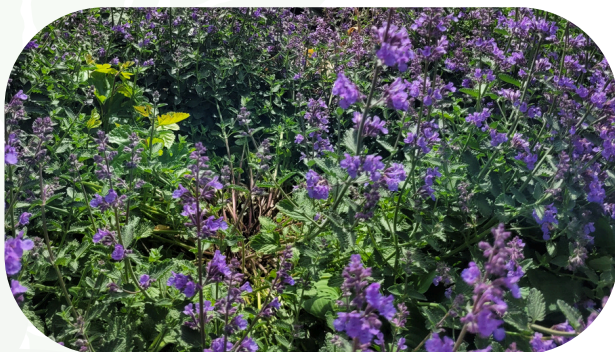
Juniper berries along Cliff Street



Cliff Street, 2025



Cliff Street, 2025



Jefferson Roundabout, 2025

## Jefferson Roundabout

Jefferson Avenue at Duke Street

The traffic circle was installed in 2014 at the request of the neighborhood to slow traffic. It has worked well and benefitted the Jefferson Bikeway.

Neighbors donated plantings for an “English Garden” mix of mostly perennials. Watering was done bucket by bucket, or hoses were stretched from neighbors’ yards. Weeding was a shared task.

When Xcel Energy rebuilt the circle for a gas pipeline, plants were lost and replaced with a “gift card.” The site became overgrown, but in 2018 an industrious neighbor redesigned and reworked the roundabout. He planted about 300 tulips and hyacinths, some new perennials—and added mulch.

Today, it remains a shared task among neighbors, who continue to care for the plantings and green space.

Source: Annual West End Neighbors’ Garden Tour History (2019), compiled by Joe Landsberger.



## Chatsworth Triangle

In 2024, the West 7th/Fort Road Federation made an intentional investment in our neighborhood—we purchased a small green triangle at the corner of Chatsworth and Rogers with the goal of creating a vibrant community green space.

While the vision is still “under construction,” our goal is simple: to create a place where neighbors can connect, relax, and enjoy. What should this space become? A garden? A gathering spot? Something entirely new?

We want to hear from you.

Your ideas will help shape this future public space.



Chatsworth Triangle

*Thank  
you!*

To our 2025 planning committee, garden hosts, and volunteers. Without dedicated members of our West 7th community, celebrations such as these would not be possible!



WEST 7TH / FORT  
ROAD FEDERATION

The Fort Road Federation coordinates participation in advocacy and planning and builds community connections for the residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations of the West 7th neighborhood so that it is a place where people want to live, work, and play.

Keep in touch and learn more about the West 7th/Fort Road Federation at [www.fortroadfed.org](http://www.fortroadfed.org)



Do you appreciate the work the Fort Road Federation does in the community?  
Consider supporting our mission by making a tax-deductible contribution.

### 2025 West 7<sup>th</sup> Fort Road Federation Board of Directors

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