

14th Annual West End Garden Tour



June 15, 2024

Welcome to the 14th Annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour

Guidelines for the enjoyment and safety on our tour:

- All gardens are to be viewed from the sidewalk and not entered unless by invitation.
- Interiors of homes are not on the tour; restrooms and refreshments are not provided.
- Pets and insect repellents are not permitted.
- Tours are today only, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

 WEST SEVENTH / FORT ROAD FEDERATION



★ Tour maps & plant sale

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|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. 265 Oneida Street | 5. 161 Erie Street - Superior Senior Living | 9. 256 Goodrich Avenue |
| 2. St. Clair Park | 6. 503 St. Clair Avenue - Terrace Horticultural Books | 10. 248 Goodrich Avenue |
| 3. 581 St. Clair Avenue | 7. 223 S Colborne Street | 11. 469 Smith Avenue N |
| 4. 577 St. Clair Avenue | 8. 190 S Colborne Street | 12. 218 Goodrich Avenue |



1 265 Oneida Street

Keystone Community Services is establishing a community garden at our West 7th Community Center. The garden will feature a combination of native perennials for pollinators, vegetables, and cutting flowers. We will distribute the produce grown in the garden at the community center for our neighbors, and in the garden we will have signage explaining the importance of native plants for pollinators and wildlife habitat. Our goal is to create a beautiful and welcoming space to bring neighbors together. In the coming years we hope to host community events in the garden! We hope you will come see us (and so does Hilbert, pictured below in the "before" garden).

2 St. Clair Park

8 of us tend the 24 square beds between the playground and the ball fields near the West 7th Library. We grow veggies (typical and unique, mostly organic and heirloom) plus a few herbs and flowers — all done with a touch of whimsy and make-do. A late start in 2022 thwarted success, but the garden thrived last summer with over 45 tomato plants, countless squash, an abundance of peas, beans, and cucumbers, along with a diverse collection of greens and a few experiments that yielded mixed results. We gladly shared our bumper crop of tomatoes with Keystone and Schmidt residents. Unlike most garden co-ops, we plan and work the beds together. One of our members is now a master gardener in training. Challenges include dragging about 200 feet of hose to reach the nearest water spigot, meshing our schedules to work together, and the occasional softball, frisbee, or hungry squirrel.



3 581 St. Clair Avenue

Our garden has a mix of non-native and native perennials. We have a little patio area next to our vegetable garden. Through the lawns to legumes program, we were able to expand our native plant garden to both the front and back yards.



4 577 St. Clair Avenue



When we moved into our house in 2012, our yard had been badly neglected and needed some love. We wanted to create both a gathering space and a cozy escape. We've spent twelve years transforming our yard bit by bit into an eclectic space where our family plays and relaxes year-round.

Inspired by the vibrant New Orleans cityscape with a Minnesota twist, our garden features pops of colorful art. Some artistic landscape elements are also functional, like a multicolored trellis that serves as both a seating area and privacy screen and a French drain/rock river that diverts water away from our flood-prone basement.

Other highlights include a drought-resistant perennial rock garden, outdoor seating, a trellised entry, handmade arched wooden bridges, raised square-foot garden beds, and a vertical herb garden. The creative design minimizes lawn maintenance and maximizes pollinator-friendly habitats. Our garden has truly become our perfect comfy, urban retreat.

5 161 Erie Street

Superior Senior Living

The gardens behind Superior Senior Living Cottages have been a labor of love for many cottage residents over the years. The current cohort of volunteer gardeners have been working diligently for the last 6 years to reclaim the gardens from quack grass and burdock invasions, while restoring and enhancing the perennial beds with new plantings and annual bedding plants. These gardens provide a splash of color and cheerful green space throughout the growing season and are a treasured community asset, both for the Superior Senior Living community and for neighbors and trail users.

In recent years, volunteers from the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association and the Fort Road Federation have teamed up with the Superior Senior Living gardeners to expand the landscaping along the bike trail with native shrubs, raspberries, and fruit trees. This garden has served as an anchor point for these expanded efforts along the trail, both as a gathering place and water source and as the inspiration to expand the neighborhood beautification efforts.

6 503 St. Clair Avenue

Terrace Horticultural Books

The gardens at Terrace Horticultural Books began in 2000. Our early 1900's brick house has a restored spindle front porch. New sidewalks and replica antique fence that matched others in the city define the property. More recently we have added gardening the public boulevards on this corner lot with pollinator gardens dominated by flowering plants such as liatris, asters, daylilies, rudbeckia and butterfly weed. If weather cooperates the site will be buzzing with insects. Trees and shrubs you will see are Swamp Oak, Bur Oak, White Cedar, Serviceberry, dwarf apple trees, Hydrangea, Roses, Juniper, Pines and more. Most plants are hardy perennials with an emphasis on native plants and their cultivars. Window boxes on the house allow for the accent of colorful annuals. The bookstore will not be open, but I will be available for questions.



7 223 S Colborne Street

Our garden is a raucous and crowded mix of native perennials, trees, and vegetable beds all installed since 2020. The main rule in our backyard is that a plant has to provide food--either for us or for pollinators. The central feature is a large raingarden which we installed in 2020, both to eliminate water in our basement (it worked!) and



provide habitat for butterflies, birds, bees, and other insects. We have maximized all other spaces in the yard for fruit and vegetables by using raised beds, planting dwarf fruit trees, and training grapes, various berry varieties, and beans to grow vertically on our fence and garage walls. The density of plants and perennial grasses means we don't have to mow and we get wonderful firefly shows in our backyard. In 2021 and 2022, we removed our boulevard grass to install additional pollinator and native plant habitat.

8 190 S Colborne Street

Our garden started in 2014 upon move in. The front is a mixture of sun and shade perennials with a Japanese Wisteria on its own trellis erected in 2016. The boulevard was dug up and planted in 2019 with concrete poured pavers lining the street. There are multiple varieties of hostas, hydrangeas, cone flowers, lilies, ajuga, iris, and spiderwort. We have annual half barrel planters on each end of the boulevard with our favorite coleus colors.



The backyard is more focused on edible gardens with a perennial box of honey berries, rhubarb, strawberry, asparagus and horseradish. There are raised south facing gardens for tomatoes and peppers. Hydrangeas and snow bells edge the fire pit area and provide a wall of flowers later in the season.

9 256 Goodrich Avenue



Over 50 years, our garden has experienced extreme shade, then sun, shade again, and now sun due to growth and loss of trees. We've maintained the terraced garden of the original family owner and have been planting perennials to reduce work!

Celebrate National Nature Photography Day!



Help us capture the beauty of our 14th Annual West End Garden Tour *and* celebrate National Nature Photography Day!

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

The winner will be announced Monday, June 17th!



10 248 Goodrich Avenue

While I have multiple garden areas here at 248 Goodrich, my ongoing effort is transitioning a section of my yard to a pollinator garden with natives & bee/butterfly friendly plants, and prairie grasses. A timber framed shed, built in 2022 by local artisan, Jim Powell, provides a wonderful place that supports my gardening and makes me happy. A deck off the south side of the house, creates a step up to annuals and a spot to bird watch. The front is bordered by boxwoods, and the

boulevard filled with a variety of Hosta. On the east side, I'm creating a soft edge to a strip that lies between a high stone wall and the stone foundation of my house.

11 469 Smith Avenue N

My husband and I have lived in our home for 6 years, and just started gardening a few years ago. We have a modern fence with a perimeter of arborvitaes that surround our lush summer oasis. The garden features a flourish of spring daffodil, tulip and alliums, followed by a wide array of hydrangeas, elephant ears, and lots of petunias and canna lilies and a patio filled with hibiscus.

Our favorite part of the space is how private it is, tucked away just a few feet from busy Smith Avenue, and steps to Waldmann Brewery. It is a great place for gathering with our friends and neighbors. Passer by's can peer through the arborvitaes to see an array of colorful pots, planters full of flowers, multi-colored string lights, and possibly a fire from the fire feature. We have even had fashion photo shoots on our patio!



12 218 Goodrich Avenue

Grab your wings and visit the private Apple Tree Faerie Garden. Tucked away under the mature Snow Mound ornamental crabapple tree there is a magical world inhabited by the Heron's Roost faeries.

Smaller size visitors will be able to enter the garden and sit upon the little bench. (Small size grownups who believe in faeries may also enter the space.) Visitors are encouraged to look about carefully as some of the village faeries are very shy.

Visitors will receive a little gift from the faeries.

You may previously have visited the gardens at Heron's Roost, if so, you will find that the gardens are always changing. Look for the great blue heron weathervane.)



Thank you!

To our 2024 planning committee, garden hosts, and volunteers. Without dedicated members of our West 7th community, celebrations such as these would not be possible!



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