

# The Gardens

## 1 - 506 Holmes

This 1920s bungalow was purchased by the current owners in 2019 who added a modern boho flare while respecting its history. Renovations included full kitchen remodel, master bathroom remodel, and bringing the forgotten backyard back to life. The design is family friendly making use of different zones for different activities. An old porch was leveraged and expanded creating a multi-level deck. The upper-level deck was built as a sitting area incorporating one of the mature pecan trees favoring nature over symmetry. The wide modern stairs lead you down to the lower deck featuring a built-in outdoor kitchen and dining area. On the ground level a fire pit and movie area were created to enjoy evenings outside. Since the owners are a busy family of five, the plants are low maintenance. On the side of the home, there is a shade garden filled with evergreens and caladiums and a modern container herb garden that is used frequently to flavor family meals. The original 1920 chicken coop stands and is used as a storage shed today. The lawn has been nurtured so the kids have a soft play space. A playhouse sits at the back of the property and has been painted to match the home.

## 2 - 107 Steele

An in-ground pool provides an inviting and relaxing center point for this garden. Just beyond the decking is a lush border garden anchored by the large wooden fence. Beyond the pool area is a rich perennial garden that features a multi-tier fountain. The smokehouse, which now serves as a storage building, once stood on Lincoln Street. Also of historical note is the beautiful dogwood that originated as a seedling from the famous 100-year-old dogwood at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. This garden hosts multiple water features and an impressive collection of plants that would turn most gardeners green with envy.

## 3 - 105 Steele

This garden has undergone many major changes from its first design in the early 1980s. What was once a deep shade garden has become mostly a sun garden. Many of the changes were brought on by the loss of mature trees due to tornados and other natural causes. Additional design changes were mandated following the construction of an addition to this townhouse in 2010. The majority of the garden is divided into garden rooms, and there is a perennial border along the north fence. While the overall structure of the garden follows a formal design, the selection and placement of plants and whimsical garden ornaments create a fun, relaxed, and inviting environment. Just see if you can spot the flying pig.

## 4 - 423 Clinton

After completing interior renovations in 2019, the exterior of this 1890s home became the new focus for an upgrade. The goal in planning this low maintenance space was to create multiple diverse areas for activities to enjoy with friends and family. The small yard was transformed from a cramped, empty bed of weeds and old pavers into a large outdoor living room and gym that extends directly off the interior family room. This multilevel outdoor area has become the family's favorite hangout spot to enjoy dinners, music nights around the firepit, football Saturdays, and workouts with neighbors and friends. The design makes big use of small spaces and doesn't require a green thumb!

## 5 - 502 Clinton

Benvenuto!! As you walk into this Italian themed outdoor living room, you can see that the owner has been inspired by the European charm over his years of travel. The idea was to create an intimate and relaxing space to share happiness amongst friends and family. While renovating the garden over the past four years, the owner incorporated design elements from Sicilian garden dinners, Tuscan lined roads, the English countryside, and verandas in European vineyards. As you stroll into to the quaint garden, you can see a brick lined pathway to a lion fountain backed with a charming brick wall brimming with ivy. The centerpiece of a tiny Victorian shed adds to the coziness, surrounded by flowers, window boxes, trees, and sitting areas. As an art lover, the owner has incorporated several abstract and impressionistic pieces throughout the space. To keep a constant memory of family, many of the flowers, ivy, and ferns in the garden have been passed down over generations. As the story goes, his Great Grandmother tended to sneak plants from her travels and grow them in her garden. Several flowers that are in this backyard started in Huntsville several generations ago, traveled around the US, and are now back in Huntsville again. In addition, during recent renovations, a cannonball from the war of 1812 was found from General Andrew Jackson and his soldiers camped here.

## 6 - 504 Clinton

The mystery concealed by the beautiful walls that surround this garden is revealed as you enter through Figures Alley. The garden within is actually part of two of Huntsville's historic districts, Old Town on the North and Twickenham on the South. Although, once inside you might think you have been transported to some wonderful European manor house. While the garden's structure is formal, making use of many classical design elements, the garden feels very comfortable and inviting. The beautiful shrubs and tress found throughout the garden are accented with touches of seasonal color.

## 7 - 103 Calhoun

This 1909 craftsman bungalow had much of the backyard garden originally designed by Huntsville landscape architect Bill Nance, and restoration continues in preserving his legacy. With new touches, the wish of the present owners is to create and maintain a spacious, colorful garden that serves as a beautiful oasis of serenity. Along with the garden, a deck overlooking the property adds an atmosphere of relaxation as family and friends unwind with the sounds of downtown Huntsville. The garden is also a prime spot for watching the many firework festivities throughout the year, and two water fountains add to the relaxing atmosphere that engulfs the entire yard.

## 8 - 111 Calhoun

Welcome to the Historic Lloyd House Garden. The formal green and white English inspired garden was the vision of the late Bill Nance whose work can be found throughout the Southeast. The stand alone garden occupies a full lot and contributes toe to toe to the Southern charm of the Lloyd house. A dramatic entrance gate leads to a pergola and ends with a garden urn adorned with annuals. Glancing about from the pergola one is captured by the symmetric beauty of the garden below. The cathedral view leads to the central water feature of the formal garden. In the center of the feature lies a 150 year old cast iron urn from which water flows creating a soothing water song. The feature is surrounded by a sea of oak leaf and Annabelle hydrangea as well as pachysandra green and white ground cover across the garden. Garden statues are integrated throughout providing further beauty. A canopy of white crape myrtles protects the gardens from the sun.

## 9 - 704 Clinton

The many trips made to Japan by the owners inspired the design and feeling of this backyard garden. Notice the Japanese cedar fencing and gate which define this peaceful and tranquil space. The garden boasts the essential elements of Japanese gardens including water, stones, lanterns and ornamental plants. You can hear the water feature trickle and the Bamboo rustle in the wind. Enjoy the distinct shape of rock garden contours and greenery planters anchored by the Ginko tree, Japanese maple, Chinese privet and Serpentine cypresses. The Tree of Life iron artwork and the beauty of the Creation inspired glass art gives one pause to relax in this peaceful space.

## 10 - 232 Walker

A cobblestone path leads the way to The Lost Garden behind this 1897 Folk Victorian cottage, which heretofore has been a mystical playground for grandchildren and their friends. From the brick driveway behind the home, a small iron gate beckons visitors to enter the shaded paradise. The trail to the gate is lined with hostas and azaleas, framed by a redbud and a green Japanese maple. A stone tablet announces that "One Who Plants a Garden Plants Happiness." A few steps along the cobblestones, and the Lost Garden is visible through the wrought iron. A red Japanese maple stands as a centerpiece draping over an Oriental fountain and a blanket of impatiens. A circular path skirts a dogwood, a rustic bench and a colorful playhouse with bamboo curtains. Another trail branches off to circle a gigantic pecan tree, hundreds of years old, that serves as an umbrella covering the entire yard. As you enjoy the solitude of The Lost Garden, you will also be treated to music by local entertainer Cheryl Llewellyn

## 11 - 227 Walker

Much like the house it surrounds, this garden has been in a constant state of renovation since the current owners were transferred from St. Louis in 1997. This garden maximizes the use of outdoor space with an eclectic use of hardscape materials and specimen plantings. The lack of a lawn or formal plantings in the front garden reflects the owners' casual lifestyle and their affinity for bird and people watching from the wrap-around front porch. Perennials and annuals ensure a changing seasonal display and welcome the passerby to the garden in front of the house. A cedar fence encloses the rear garden, where collections of hollies, conifers, and Japanese maples complement the water features and other architectural elements. The placement of the garage and garden shed, along with the strong vertical elements of the shrubs and small trees, help define the separate garden rooms, each complete with its own seating area.

## 12 - 225 Walker

Since purchasing the home in 2020, the new owners have been working to make this charming garden their own. A brick walkway leads from the front porch to the side garden and is terminated by a white gate and arch that welcomes you to the main garden. Along the path you will ferns and hostas that thrive under the shade of the neighbor's tress. Shade is not all these neighbors and friends share – there is even a gate that joins the two gardens. The two trees in front of the new 10-foot privacy fence were planted by the new homeowners' father, a retired forester. The trees, a red oak and red maple, are from the Auburn Tree Commission in Auburn, Alabama. The multi-level deck offers ample space for seating vignettes and entertaining. Brick pavers outline the small grass area in the middle of the garden. Two, large limelight hydrangeas become the focal point of the garden when in full bloom. A nice collection of other hydrangea varieties can be found throughout the garden areas.