

Blooming Saint Paul Showcase 2021

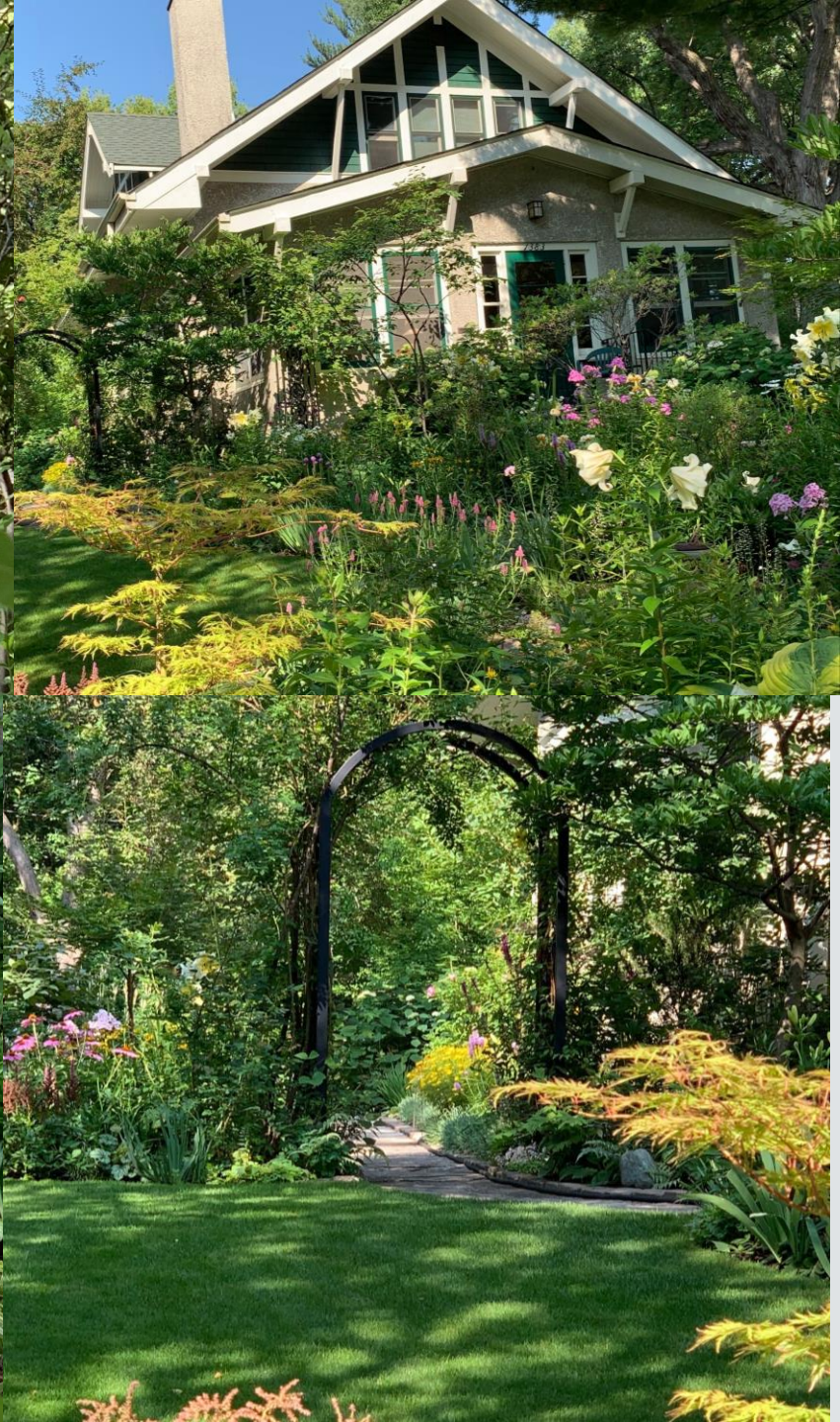
Celebrating
private efforts
to enhance
Saint Paul
through
gardening













“I had to giggle when I learned my garden was nominated for a Blooming Saint Paul award. In my quarter century of gardening, the past two seasons have been the most challenging!

COVID-19 raised the stakes on many aspects of life: Who will survive? What in the world is going on with schools? Who is in charge? What information can I trust? Will I perfect this sourdough recipe?

The virus raised the stakes for many gardeners as well, when world-weary plant lovers turned to their plots for comfort. It'll be great! I'll become a subsistence farmer! What could possibly go wrong? My aspirations for the 2020 gardening season weren't nearly as lofty; I had a nagging feeling about jumping worms in my garden beds and vowed to sort out the issue once and for all. When my favorite Friends School Plant Sale was cancelled due to the pandemic, I spiraled into a demoralized haze of garden apathy. I confirmed the presence of jumping worms in my gardens but lacked the energy to tackle the problem. The rest of the 2020 season is hazy.

[1/4]



"2021 promised to be a better year with over 50% of Minnesotans partially vaccinated by mid-May! A fully-outdoors smaller version of the Friends School Plant Sale took place Mother's Day weekend. Little did I know that a series of plagues was about to beset my family and gardens.

My mom had a severe stroke, dramatically shifting how I spend my time.

The jumping worm cocoons lurked, just waiting to erupt beneath my big-box woodchips (their favorite smorgasbord). I tried saponin treatments and, as the season progressed, experimented with mustard to see if I could flush out the disgusting vermin. Frankly, I hoped for the wriggling eruptions I had read about with saponin treatments on golf course turf. Death to the invaders!!! My results were anticlimactic and I found that hand digging was the best method to find the jumpers. I submitted several specimens to a scientist friend for microscopic examination. Lacking rubbing alcohol, I plunged the worms into rum. Hopefully they died happy or, at least, comfortably numb. I'm grateful for the ongoing jumping worm efforts at the U of MN and hope someone will discover a definitive treatment plan soon!

[2/4]



“Drought. Remember when it didn’t rain in *forever* this spring and summer? I’m generally a Darwinian gardener. If a particular plant isn’t tough enough to make it in my gardens with little intervention, the plant dies and I likely don’t even notice. I don’t label anything. I don’t remember where I put particular varieties. There’s one spot in my front gardens where I accidentally planted three things in the same place! But back to the drought. I watered with a sprinkler once before a saponin treatment. Besides that, the gardens received no hydration until our recent rainfall. You can imagine how peaked my plants looked. Except the weeds. The weeds have had an exemplary year!

Red Lily Leaf Beetles selected this season to totally decimate my Asiatic lilies. My neighbor warned me about the situation on his lilies or I would never have known to look. I took great glee in hand-stripping the beetles and squashing them between my fingers. Grandpa Martin, a true subsistence farmer in 1970s Fresno, taught me pragmatic pest destruction when we stomped tomato worms. Barefoot.

[3/4]



“As if the drought, jumping worms, and Lily Leaf Beetles weren’t a big enough gardening challenge, we painted our house. Every housepainter assures every gardener that they will carefully cover plants and dutifully pick up all paint chips. Every gardener watches, helpless, as their flowers are flattened and lead paint chips flutter like toxic summer snow. Anyone looking for me? I’m the one vacuuming my garden. Duh.

So, the 2021 gardening season will heretofore be referred to as Perseverance in the Face of Pestilence and Plague. My gardens will survive. Any plants that don’t make it, tough. Now, can someone please jump on a solution to these @\$%^& worms!”

[4/4]











“The gardens of 112 Leech Street have been developed as an extension of its neighbor at 169 Goodrich Avenue. Over 45 years, 169 merged its Victorian architectural restoration with an Asian-inspired approach to horticultural design. Twenty years ago, 112 began new ownership and its transformation. Its 90 X 110 lot combine residential renovation, neighborhood history, traditional Japanese design, and a microclimate that shelters marginally hardy plantings. The modern renovation permits aging in place. Neighborhood history incorporates fence panels salvaged from the local Schmidt Brewery and a bench formed of cradles that held vats of fermenting beers.

[1/2]



“The traditional gabled-roofed garden gate (munamon / 棟門) was installed in 2014, the moon viewing pavilion (kangetsudai/高台寺観月台) in 2015, and Oribe-dōrō (織部灯籠) Stone Lantern one of several Japanese lanterns and guideposts. The gardens deceive: beneath a thin layer of soil sits a quarry of limestone, but also provides infrastructure for terracing. Fieldstone boulders were gathered from construction projects. A broad range of plantings feature a collection of weeping ornamental trees, native plantings, hosta, succulents, et al. Gardens are featured on my Website at <http://www.josfland.com/gardens>; a plant inventory begun during COVID isolation can be found at <http://aginggardens.com>.”









"My happy place is my garden.

I enjoy the fruits of my labor when my beautiful flowers bloom. I love working in my garden and talking with neighbors and walkers as they stroll by and compliment my flowers.

Every year is a new adventure and I have recently started planting dinner plate dahlias. I love bulbs and perennials. I use annuals for splashes of color. Come sit with me and enjoy the birds and flowers."













“We inherited our lovely rain garden (and landscaped garden) 2 years ago when we purchased this amazing home. It has been a challenge to maintain its beauty, but we have enjoyed every second of it. Our rain garden clearly had a mind of its own, and the large Cup Plants that started to grow quickly became our favorite, since they obviously provided food and water for the bumblebees, butterflies, and birds!

Sadly, our first summer here, the city deemed the rain garden overgrown and not in compliance with the standards. We understood, the Cup Plants were spilling into the street, a definite traffic hazard. So we had to cut them down.

[1/2]



“But, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, they came back with a vengeance, and we helped to keep them semi-controlled with makeshift fencing to ensure they do not spill over into the sidewalk. We tried sprinkling seeds of other tough perennial flowers, but the Cup Plants had other ideas. Once again, they dominate our rain garden, and I am awed by their beauty and so happy they provide for our pollinators.



We live very busy lives as veterinarians with a small toddler, so a low-maintenance garden is really best for us. The Cup Plants provide that and so much more! Some people see a weed, we see a beautiful native flower that provides resources for so many critters!

Thank you for our nomination!”

[2/2]











[Watch the video!](#)



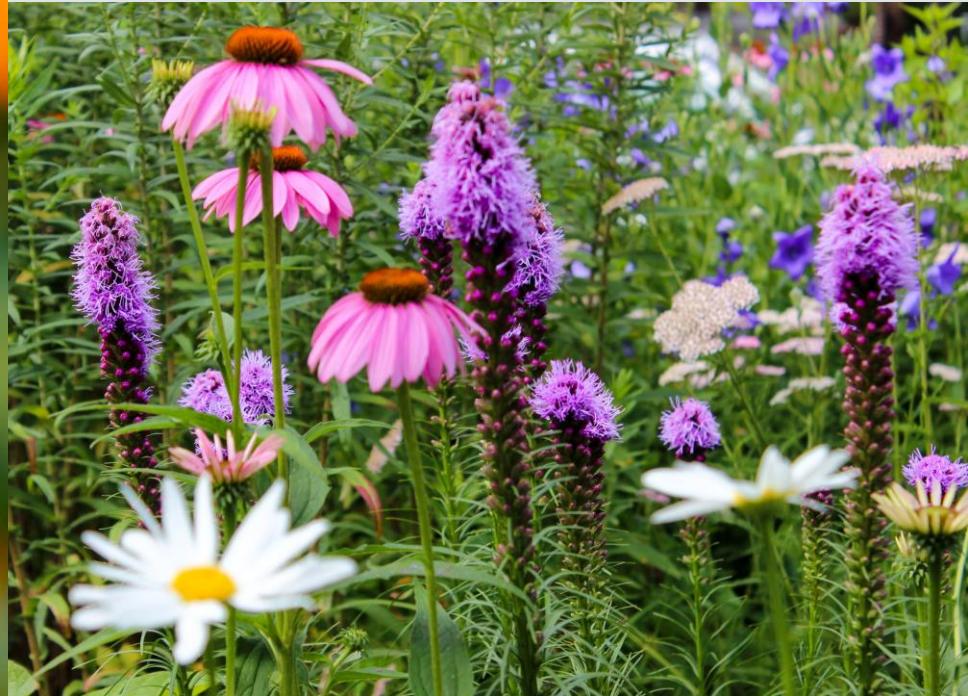








"Since moving into my home in St. Paul nearly 30 years ago I have gradually transformed my small plot of land into the glorious, everchanging and somewhat chaotic space it is today. Birds, butterflies, bees, and small animals are attracted to my mostly native plantings. Now I am able to spend time on my front porch immersed in the beauty, relaxing, reading, sipping tea, and chatting with neighbors. My camera is always handy to capture a special photo."











“My garden story is a simple one. I was set to have knee surgery and there was no way I would have been able to cut the grass on the hill in my front yard. Fortunately for me, my brother moved in and he took over that chore. Eventually though, his back injury became too much for him so neither of us was able to cut the hill.

After discussing these issues with my mom (her story comes later) she suggested we make "the hill" a terrace garden. So, during one of the hottest weeks in July (the year escapes me! roughly 2004-2005) my family gathered and we made the Terrace Garden come to life. We dug mostly by hand, only using a small garden tiller when we could. I had 3 tons of boulders delivered and then put them in place ourselves using no tools. Even without any plants or flowers it was a masterpiece!



“My mom. She is where my passion for gardening came from. I grew up on an acre in the suburbs and it seems every year she made another garden in the yard. She still lives on that acre in the suburbs and her whole yard is almost a garden. She has won awards for her gardens, worked for Bachman's for years and volunteers for the Ramsey/Washington County Watershed District. Her entire yard is a masterpiece! Over the years we went garden shopping and tried to visit different Native Plant Nurseries. To this day I still seek her advice and we still go shopping together. That will never change.

I love gardening! Whether it's native, vegetable, or butterfly & bees. Each and every spring I count the days until I can get outside and watch the beauty of nature come alive.”











“My gardens are 26 years in the making, with the boulevard gardens being added as part of the city's 2010 street reconstruction project. The plants the city initially supplied for the rain garden had a pollinator and prairie grass theme which I have added to and have carried on throughout the rest of the gardens. Many additions are the result of trading and splitting plants with other gardeners, and coddling can't-do-without annual seedlings and beloved ground covers which hold many fond memories.

The gardens have been a challenge over the years as I discover what works—and what does not work—in the sandy soil, but it sure is fun watching the butterflies and bees, and seeing the gardens at work when we get heavy rains.

[1/2]



"I added an arbor to divert the rain water away from the house into it's own rain garden. I'm enjoying the very vigorous climbing rose and am anticipating the beauty of the Wisteria I planted this year. The plantings in the rain garden, chosen with help from a vendor at St Paul's Lower Town Farmers market, were a perfect fit and have created a whimsical fairyland affect completed with the addition of a succulent garden last year.

The garden under my front windows is my my latest endeavor. I affectionately call it my 'Shack garden'. It looks kind of crazy, but I am attempting to recreate gardens I fell in love with while reading the book *The Shack*. I think I'm kind of getting close, but isn't that the fun we find in gardening!

Enjoy and thank you for the nomination!"









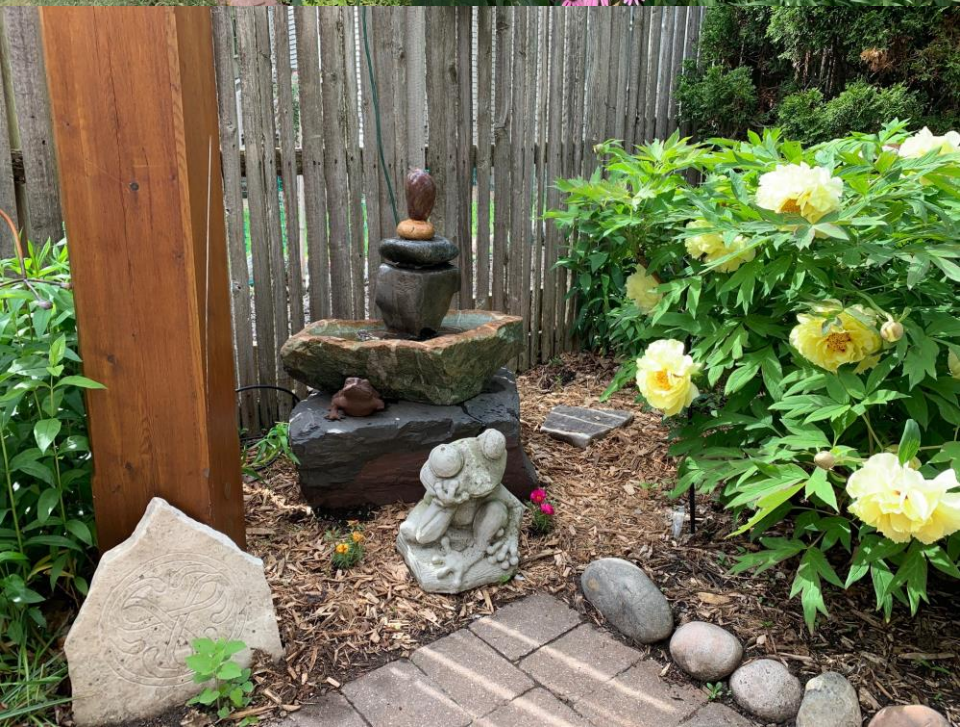


“Welcome to the story of our journey in gardening and what we’ve learned along the way!

We are the Barrett sisters, identical twins and we moved into our home 31 years ago and there was literally nothing here but some lily of the valley, grass and lots of landscape rock against the house. Our goal has always been to be a pollinator garden and to work toward having blooms throughout the season. As any gardener knows this is the ultimate goal and challenge.

We started small, as you should, and slowly added, changed and developed our ever expanding gardens. Our north garden was once a sea of creeping charlie that we slowly “killed” by placing cardboard and chips down for 4 seasons. This is our “go to” way of preparing the garden bed, as it gives the ground some time to really remove the weeds and the cardboard / newspaper helps with loosening and enriching the soil. We find grass to be a monoculture and a natural resource sucker, so our goal was to reduce our lawn as much as possible. I think we've succeeded!

[1/4]



“Our gardens are primarily perennial with shrubs (herbaceous and evergreen) as accents and of course annuals for non-stop color. Hardscaping and yard art is also used widely for interest. A Japanese Torii, Water feature, paths and Frogs (our mother’s favorite) are spread throughout the gardens. We have paths to encourage walking through to enjoy.

We each have our “favorites” plant families and many of our gardens are based on those loves. Lynn has her Heucheras and Hellebores and I have my hybrid lilies and hostas. It is exciting to find new varieties of our favorites and find just the right spot in the garden for them to shine. We love sharing our plants with friends and neighbors. As we are constantly splitting our plants it is fun to share the beauty of gardening to new gardeners.

[2/4]



“As a gardener change is ever present and you need to react both quickly and slowly to changes in both the garden and in your planning. Mother Nature often throws curveballs at you and you manage as best you can. One such event for us was the loss of our mature maple tree in the north garden; home to over 130 varieties of Hosta. We cut the tree, leaving 12 feet, and adjusted the layout and makeup of the garden. Looking for new homes for the hosta, in other gardens - both ours and friends! Turning a negative into a positive by taking the remaining 12 feet of the tree and having it carved, a new beautiful feature in the garden. And also taking the opportunity to add new shade options; 2 crab trees, a small Korean maple, and a variegated pagoda Dogwood. Shade will return to the garden and we'll adjust again.

[3/4]

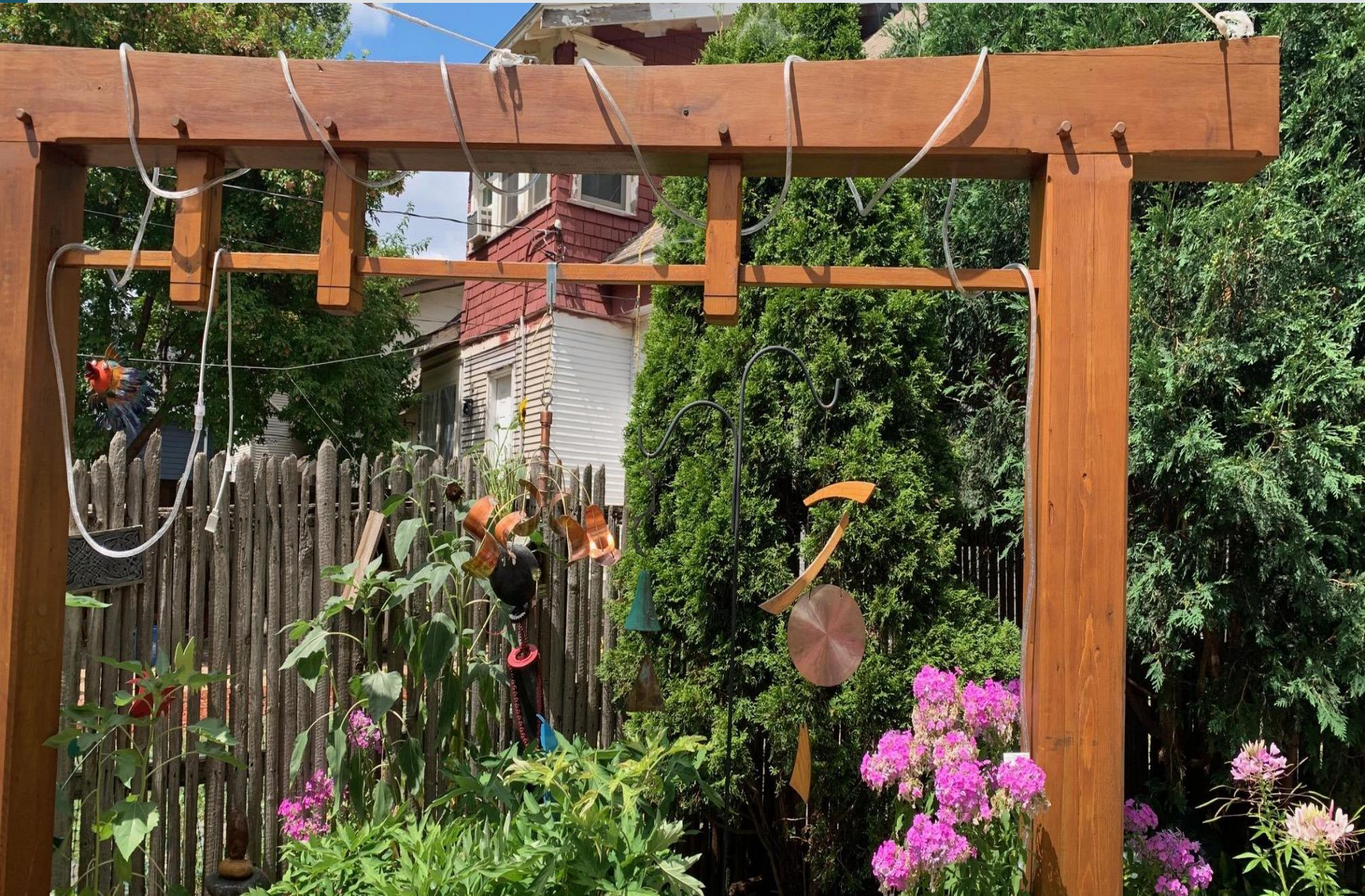


"The joy and work that go into all of our gardens is what keeps us going each year. One person once asked if it was a lot of work and the answer will always be 'yes' but also our passion and joy. As all gardeners know, the garden is NEVER finished and is never perfect but always gives more than it takes.. There is always something to be done and with drought, too much rain and pests it is a challenge we embrace and love."

[4/4]



[Watch the video!](#)











"I call our backyard my oasis, and it has been a labor of love. I look forward to when my plants emerge fresh and new each spring, and I can start getting my hands dirty. I first began gardening in the backyard with just a small plot by the garage, which evolved into the side yard, front rock wall, and most recently the entire boulevard.

[1/3]





"I have a healthy obsession with symmetry, and work deliberately to create whimsy in all my gardens. We have added a patio and paver path to be fully immersed in the view. With three small children we look to the seasons as our guides of time -- crocus and tulips are welcomed with excitement, and we have hummingbirds and bees all summer long.

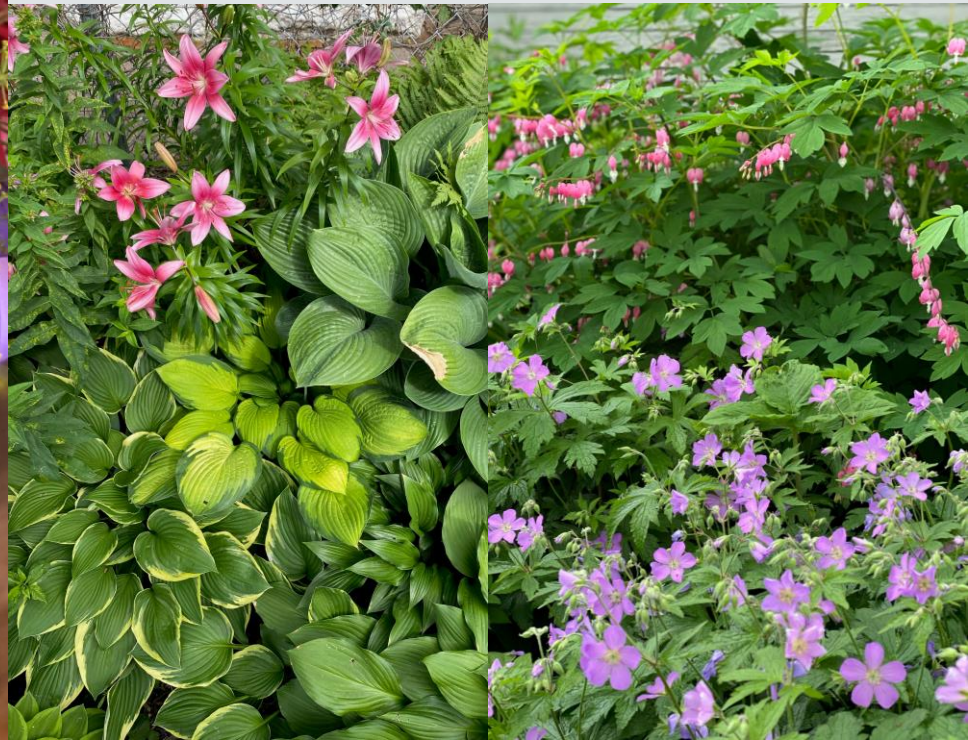
[2/3]





"I enjoy having lots of cutting flowers throughout the summer. I mix in annuals to create bursts of height and texture. Many neighbors and friends have shared their plants, and expertise with me. I love walking around knowing who gave me the now thriving bee balm, sedum, coreopsis, or gooseneck. Gardening makes me so happy, and I am so honored to be recognized by Blooming Saint Paul! Thank you!"

[3/3]











"Gardens make me smile. We lived in England for four years where my love of gardens multiplied. Our 1917 Arts and Crafts house is a perfect background for gardens. We have a large lot with three distinct gardens. In front, gardens of sun and shade loving plants frame the lawn on three sides. We have held several concerts there during Covid. In the back garden, a stone path leads to a raised terrace and patio area. Shade loving plants abound: no grass to mow! Stone planters and a fountain accent this new garden. A pergola leads down a brick path to the ravine with another patio, a fire pit and a naturalized garden of ferns and hostas and ground covers."





MOUNT OLIVE

Saint Paul, Minnesota









“We are self taught gardeners, and have been experimenting with and refining our garden spaces over the last 8 years. The best gardening advice I have received to date was from my mother in law, who said not to fear mistakes in gardening: worst case scenario you remove or relocate plantings as you see how the space develops. Which is exactly what we have done over the years: plant, watch, relocate, repeat :)

[1/2]



“Our overall goal will be to incorporate as many edible elements as possible, blending in with our pollinator garden and decorative plantings for continuous color and interest over the course of the growing season as well as adding in moments of whimsy using repurposed odds and ends. Our favorite element so far is the trellis over our front entry door, which adds dimension to the facade of our home as well as sufficient space for our hops to take over! The home brewer in our house would love to add more varieties someday. I'm also particularly pleased with our shared median at the driveway where we plant annual seeds along with edibles and is full of color and pollinators.”

[2/2]









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"We were quite surprised to find your little sign in one of our gardens at our church!

There are about ten of us who have been working on the front gardens and a courtyard on the east side of our building for many years.

The main garden bordering the semi circle driveway in the front of our building is divided into eight sections, and each of us takes ownership of a section, planting and caring for it throughout the season. (It used to be wider, but as most of us got older, we decided to make this garden half as wide!)

We have gardens around our church sign in the front, as well as around the trees. We also have large planters by the entrance of our main doors.

Our continuous goal is to make our church entrance look alive and cheerful, and a welcoming place — just as we are when you enter our doors! Come visit us!

Thank you so much for admiring and acknowledging our labor of love!"









“My gardening story is probably not unlike others that start gardens in pots for decorating and celebrating spring arrival. We'd use the typical annual varieties available at garden centers and plant in the ground easy perennials like daylily, hosta or daisy. Basically, we were planting for our own landscaping enjoyment. However, because of my Minnesota Water Steward training and other available workshops, I am much more aware of planting native perennials and maintaining my garden for the biodiversity. It was a dry summer, but I did have stormwater from the roof directed to either the garden directly or to my two rain barrels to assist with watering the plants. I have a pump in one of the barrels which makes watering pretty easy!

[1/3]



"I cannot begin to tell you how satisfying planting for pollinators has been! Utilizing native varieties has not just lured several different types of bumblebees, but also butterflies and other beneficial insects. I was delighted to discover the timing of the various blooming plants was not just for advancing color in the garden as the summer progressed, but just what nature had intended. The bumblebees and others just moved on to the next flowering plants. My Swamp Milkweed attracted monarch butterflies and the later blooming Meadow Blazing Star kept them coming back to our enjoyment.

[2/3]



“Being a backyard birder, the absolute “icing on the cake” came when I looked out onto the garden and saw yellow finches balancing on the tops of the purple coneflowers eating the seeds! Now I look forward to learning how to prepare my pollinator garden for the winter!”

[3/3]









"I am delighted to be nominated for the showcase. It is certainly a labor of love to be a gardener, but the reward is clearly worth it, watching beautiful flowers pop up every year from April to October . . . well . . . sometimes. This is Minnesota, after all!

[1/3]





“I have always had flowers in my yard, mostly annuals and a few perennials, but after I retired, I pursued my dream of expanding my garden to both front and backyards, and researching and investing in many more perennials. I have learned so much in the past several years and look forward to adding more flowers and experimenting with new varieties.

[2/3]



"I am extremely fortunate to be in a position to raise lovely flowers in my yard. I consider it a privilege and never take it for granted."

[3/3]













“Thank you for the nomination for Blooming Saint Paul Showcase 2021. I cannot believe that my gardens were nominated when there are so many gardens in the neighborhood that inspire me. My neighbors to the north and to the south have amazing gardens.

I grew up with gardeners. My Grandparents and Parents had large vegetable gardens where there was always opportunity to play in the dirt. While I liked the fresh vegetables, I loved the flowers. When I moved to Como Park, I had a blank canvas. The previous owner had a beautiful green lawn with landscaping around the house but surprisingly no flowers. I was determined to change that.



“Over the next few years, gardens along the house and driveway were added. Hollyhocks from seeds that my Nana saved, Iris from my Great-Aunt and Hostas from my Uncle were the starter plants. Annuals were my go-to until I realized that purchasing plants every year was pricey, so I added perennials because they return. Each Spring, I would search the nurseries for new varieties of plants to grow. There were always more plants than room in the garden so that was the excuse to build new gardens including raised flower and vegetable beds.

To make sure the gardens thrive, I learned about plants and the coexisting beneficial insects. Pollinators keep the gardens producing fruits, vegetables and flowers but there are so many other creatures that keep the “bad” pests away. My parents, coworkers and the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners answer my questions as do other gardeners working in their yards. I have made some amazing friends and gained new plants!



"I love to garden. It's my therapy. To garden is to accept that there are things beyond your control: A rabbit eating a flower or a squirrel digging up everything or winter killing a perennial. However, there is nothing like pulling weeds after a frustrating day or picking a bouquet or eating a fresh-from-the-garden tomato. A garden starts with a seed or a tuber or a plant and over the course of a few months it transforms. My gardens change with the season. Bulbs in the spring, annuals for color that lasts to frost, perennials that bloom profusely and then become the backbone of the bed, vegetables to harvest and natives that support the pollinators. There is always work to do or a sight to admire or a place to rest. This nomination means that others enjoy what I have planted, too. Thanks again."











"I am NOT a Master Gardener. Mine is the garden that ANYONE can have just by plodding ahead year after year after year, accepting the gifts that come along.



Thirty or so ago, I wanted a beautiful place to sit and read. So I cleared a heart-shaped space under an apple tree, on top of my cat's grave, and I sprinkled the seeds that I'd received at the wedding of a friend's daughter. Then I looked around and decided that I should hide the ugly foundation of my house. Then I thought it made sense to plant the banks that were so hard to mow and also any areas where grass pretty much disdained to grow. Then...

[1/5]



"It is fortunate that I like the wild hodge-podge look. I have bought almost nothing except for a yearly flat of moss roses to stick in any crannies that show up. Instead, I have taken in every perennial I've been offered—stuff that has overrun other yards, birthday presents of lily bulbs and rose bushes, flower children that home sellers feared wouldn't be doted upon by new owners. Everything gets shoved in somewhere. Of course, it doesn't all survive. But that's okay, because I plant much too thickly.

[2/5]



“There’s always something ready to march into any vacancies that appear. Daylilies and bee balm and woodland phlox expand their territories every summer. Heliopsis and mallow and swamp milkweed hop around at will, appearing here this year, there next. And I pretty much let it all happen, interfering only when some exuberant variety threatens a more retiring one. I have ripped out large swaths of violets and daisies and lily of the valley when astilbe or Asiatic lilies or iris couldn’t breathe. I guess I’m more of a referee than a gardener.

[3/5]



"I'm grateful that, as my gardens sprawled farther and farther, I was shown some tools and techniques to try to keep up with them. The year my spine was fused, and I couldn't bend over, friends arrived to help. I saw Kari use green twine to corral the leaners instead of forcing them into metal cages. Watching Pat, I learned that a string trimmer can make clean-up around the edges of beds much less tedious. Darlene made me realize that scooting from weed to weed on a garden stool is decidedly more pleasant than trudging and bending, trudging and bending.

[4/5]



"The apple tree is long gone, and I never have found time to read in my yard. But I am on a first-name basis with the residents (human and canine) of the dog-friendly apartments next door. I always have bouquets to greet new neighbors and to celebrate events in the lives of folks I've met while sitting on my stool. And sometimes, when a breeze touches my face, and I look up from my work to gaze into the swaying color before me, I am surprised by a moment of contentment."

[5/5]













"I've been gardening since we bought our house in Sept of 82. First thing I did in the spring was to dig a garden. My parents gardened and my grandmother too, so I knew I saw how they enjoyed it. It started small and got bigger and bigger each year. My favorite time of year is spring because I love Tulips. I plant 200 bulbs each year so I can see the array of color and it has become an enjoyment for my neighborhood as well.

I've gotten to know so many people in the neighborhood through my garden. So many people want advice, or I'm able to give them plants to add to their garden or we can make a trade. I have to say this is the best part of gardening for me is it's an opening to talk with people.

People of all types. I've always worked part time so when my kids were small they could be outside with me while I was outside working.

[1/2]



“Now that I’m retired, I find my garden is too large and there are other things I do as well, so I’m wanting to down-size the garden. I’m not sure how this will all work but I will probably just start digging and it will evolve. My husband will be helping me with this part of the project as well as other past heavy lifting/digging projects. I’m grateful for his help.



I also get advice and suggestions from our co owner Ann. We are both avid gardeners. Our lot was an empty slate when we moved in. It’s given me so much joy and purpose in my life.”

[2/2]









“A couple in my neighborhood walked by as I was thinking about my garden story and what I wanted to share with you. They stopped and said: "We want to thank you. When we are feeling stressed, we say let's go walk by the Zinnias. It is so peaceful to just walk by your garden." I was instantly filled with joy and reminded why this garden is so important to me. (Now ZENNias!)

My dream was to create a space that was welcoming and soothing to those who happened upon it and that respected our natural environment. I wanted to show my children the importance of having plants, flowers, bees and butterflies in our lives. I wanted to share with them the experience and knowledge of growing vegetables and the joy of being able to feed themselves and others as a result. The vegetables are works of art, too!

[1/2]



“As an aesthetician and massage therapist, I wanted my clients to have a place of refuge, a timeless place to relax, where they might be encouraged to linger for a while, wallow in the colors, and watch the insects and animals that gather in this peaceful sanctuary. This garden is a safe oasis that offers peace and love and tranquility.



People have been so kind to me when I have had nothing to give. This garden helps me 'pay it forward' and gives me hope that we can make the world a better place.”

[2/2]





Ministerios Internacionales Rios de Agua Viva

Pastores

Luis Rivera

Zaira Rivera

Phone 651-283-4869



Horarios Hours

Domingos 5:00 PM Sunday 5:00 PM

Martes 7:00 PM Tuesday 7:00 PM

Jueves 7:00 PM Thursday 7:00 PM









"Thank you for the honor but the credit for our wonderful garden goes to the previous owner. We purchased the house in June of this year and 75% of the garden was planted by the previous owner. We have added to it since moving in and intend to keep it up to the fine standard we inherited. We will continue to learn and add to what we have.

I have had gardens in the past so I am not new at this. But I am not an expert or even very good. My wife has never gardened before but loves to take care of it."













“When a tree in our front yard died, my wife Phyllis and I asked, “Plant another tree, or create a garden?” Phyllis said, “Garden. Something like the nice one down the street, with boulders, bushes, and a left-over tree branch.” The neighbor gave us the landscaper’s name and we hired him to *start* our garden. Start! The project budget took care of just the boulders and main bushes. I added the rest ... and am still adding the rest. At age 74, I had begun a new hobby.

Our landscaper – Masterpiece Landscaping, Glenn Ray - is an artist. It was fun watching him and the crew “gracefully” place the boulders on the lawn, building a little hill for the centerpiece stone, nudging the others this way and that, until it matched Glenn’s vision. The bushes were carefully positioned and the staff dug them in. The “landscape artists” had completed their job. Now it was my turn.

Problem was, I knew nothing.

[1/2]



“For five years now I’ve been experimenting and learning. Each season I visit plant sales and garden centers. The garden is full, but not finished. This fall I dug up and repositioned 25 perennial plants. And next spring I’ll find new foliage colors and textures to tweak the design further. My vision of the garden keeps evolving. Good news: I’m getting exercise. Plus, we’ve had the pleasure of watching the grandchildren grow up, jumping off boulders and learning not to land on anything green.”

[2/2]











“WELCOME to our backyard gardens, pond, and fish.

My husband and I love to work on our gardens and pond together. It's a balance of time, effort, energy, and outcomes.

Gardening for me (Deb) was handed down through my mother who gardened these same gardens.

This is my family home - the home I grew up in.

There is nothing better in the spring than digging in the dirt and getting our hands dirty... Ahhh the fresh smell of Mother Earth after a rain.

We find gardening meditative in a way. It tunes us into the grand energy of life that permeates this beautiful earth.

[1/3]



"Planting new things is always exciting to see what gift will bloom in each of the seasons.

We are always thankful for outcomes beyond what we can control.

What we have learned from gardening:

Growth takes time ...

Nature is therapeutic ...

Learn, then learn some more ...

You need the right environment to thrive

...

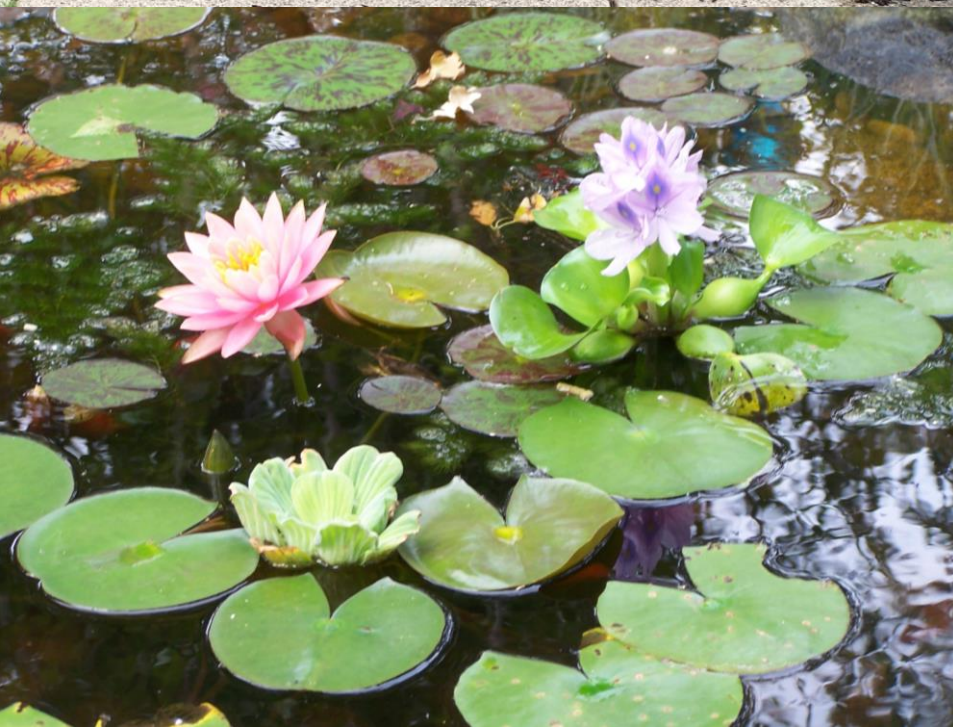
Nourishment should be continuous ...

Never ever give up ...

Plants move towards the sun and are happy being themselves ...

Victories don't come by accident.

[2/3]





"Our pond provides us with a peaceful setting to relax, listen to falling water, and enjoy a quiet dinner. We've had many visitors that come to take a drink (butterflies, bees, etc.), take a quick bath (Robins, Chickadees, Cardinals, etc.), and an occasional Hawk or two. Others such as Racoons and Herons come to feed on our fish - the cycle of life!

Our gardens and pond give us great joy, pleasure, and peace."

[3/3]









"Our garden got started with a single plant from our neighbor. We recently retired and spend every day in the yard. The children in the neighborhood stop to pick a bouquet for mom, play with the fairy garden, plant flowers, and learn about protecting endangered bees. The whole neighborhood enjoys the yard. This is our sanctuary. We wanted to share this with you and the rest of the city to showcase our love for our garden. We hope you enjoy!"













“Welcome to our 1800's Specialty Heirloom Vegetable Garden at 409 Otis Ave!

These vegetable plants are decoratively interwoven with Pollinator Plantings. It's designed to be flowing and beautiful and to achieve year-round balance and to feed everyone including deer, bees, insects, humans, etc., without anything chemical or unnatural.



“We’ve learned by experience that if we care for Mother Nature and her ALL of her babies, she will care for us and our crops. Spiders are our friends, there are no “Bad” insects, There are no “Bad” weeds, Mother Nature does not create mistakes.

As the fruits and vegetables are harvested in spring early summer, they give way to another set of crops that complement the space or beautiful late-season blooming plants which will feed our pollinators and sustain them while Wintering over until spring.

[2/4]





“Some of the more special varieties of vegetables included here are; “Black from Tula” deep purple tomatoes, which taste like a molasses covered beefsteak. There is a Cherokee Chocolate tomato, brown in color with a full smokey sweet flavor. There are Walking Onions which plant and replant themselves year after year. There are purple vegetables which contain anthocyanins and polyphenols that help the brain heal and rebuild. And of course a plethora of garlicks, noted for keeping vampires AND cardiologists away.... We have fruit like the ground cherry that tastes sweet and tropical which is native to minnesota, Mother Nature wrapped each berry herself so those of us with thumbs had something effortless to grow and wonderful to eat...

[3/4]



"There are plants that attract insects like the Black Flower Wasp which protects our fruit and vegetable crops from Japanese Beetles and the Spotted Wing Drosophila. We have a natural hidden worm compost space so NOTHING ever goes to waste.

If you have more interest in the purpose and placement of the plants, and how all parts of this yard work together sustainably and attractively or you want to know how we are drought free, or why we need slugs, how we get the birds to nest early and have two sets of babies, how we avoid having the drosophila hurt our berries or if you'd like some fresh vegetables to taste or seeds to grow, feel free to contact me by phone or text anytime. I am always happy to talk to neighbors and we have huge amounts of plants, seeds and knowledge to share!"

[4/4]











“Buddha’s Garden

As any real gardener knows there’s a lot more that happens in the garden than just flowers and veggies! My own garden drama begins to unfold whenever I take the time to really be present and tune in to the beauty of the natural world. It’s where I go for respite from the often circus-like drama of the real world. Before I begin working, I sometimes ground myself connecting through my feet pressing into the earth, take a couple deep breathes and close my eyes to immerse my senses in in the sounds and smells. My skin is nourished by the gentle breezes as I take in the warmth of the sun’s smile. Now am I ready to work and play in the garden!

[1/5]



"I look over and see that Buddha, my resident chipmunk, is perched atop the head of the Buddha statue that sits at the top of the 45-foot stream in the center of my yard. I created this stream several years ago when a natural spring popped up. I'd previously had a sump pump installed in my basement, which directed the water out through the front of the house. Somehow this activated the spring that flows twenty-four-seven all year round. I live in Desnoyer Park near the river where there are many such springs, but as far as I know nobody else made a garden out of it. I am told the area was once all swamp. When a huge fountain suddenly erupts in the middle of your yard what else are you going to do but create a garden? So, with the help of Mother nature, and a few other helpers I now have a peaceful space for people to rest, water their dogs and enjoy the activity of the birds, bees, and butterflies.

[2/5]



“Buddha, my resident chipmunk, sits quietly waiting until all the birds and squirrels are done at the feeder before she scampers over to grab a mouthful of fallen sunflower seeds. I sometimes call Buddha she but at other times he. It doesn't matter to Buddha because she answers to neither, just ignores me and scampers away, puffy cheeks full of seeds to plant in my favorite pots. She uproots the flowers, scatters the soil and hoards her cache for the winter while I quietly watch and try to decide whether to get out the pepper spray. Um, what would Buddha say?

[3/5]

“As I get caught up in the drama of Buddha’s antics, I suddenly remember I had just come outside for a breath of fresh air and would then get back to my writing. Just as I was going to do that, I noticed a Creeping Charlie making it way amongst the flowers. “I’ll just get this little bit and then I’ll stop procrastinating” I thought. One piece led to another and another until I finally made the decision to quit stalling and get back to my writing. I headed for the house. As I looked up, I noticed a squirrel about three feet away looking directly at me. It then stood up on its hind legs looked me in the eye and began clapping!

Often things that happen in my garden are like little miracles to me, but nothing compares with what happened seven years ago in June during the Summer Solstice. There was a huge storm here in the Twin Cities. It was brief but intense with high winds that uprooted the birch tree in my front yard which landed on the edge of my roof. The tree needed to be cut down and is now the stump on which the Buddha sits. During this period, I had been trying to arrange an interview with a friend named Roseann Giguere, a sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Some of us consociates, who are non-vowed members of that community had been interviewing and gathering stories of the sisters, but Roseann had unexpectedly died before I was able to do the interview. Rose was a spiritual director who love to listen to people’s stories. She loved the earth, stars, and all creation, and was known for her wonderful seasonal rituals. The night of the storm she probably would have been holding a Summer Solstice celebration. When the tree cutters came to remove the fallen tree, they were amazed to find in the center of the trunk a perfectly formed rose!

Even though I never got the chance to interview her I have gotten to know Rose through the stories of other community members. Roseann is now one of my spiritual guides, and around the equinoxes or Solstices she often visits!



“Even though I never got the chance to interview her I have gotten to know Rose through the stories of other community members. Roseann is now one of my spiritual guides, and around the equinoxes or Solstices she often visits!”

[5/5]











"We are thankful that our garden plot in the District 10 Community Garden was nominated for the Blooming Saint Paul Showcase. There are so many wonderful plots in the garden growing amazing flowers and vegetables.

[1/3]

“Sally Leighninger and I, Beckie Gienger, have been sharing a plot in the community garden for about five seasons. Our first season, we planted 13 tomato plants, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant, green onion, spinach, lettuce, peas, beets, and cabbage. Little did we realize, how big 13 tomato plants grow, how cucumbers grow everywhere, and how much weeding we needed to do. We shared duties of weeding and watering. Although we could barely walk in the garden, we were so excited to get so much produce and shared with our neighbors and extended families. The second year, Sally built a trellis for the cucumbers which saved a lot of space. At the end of our second season, a mulberry tree, which shaded half of our garden plot was removed and our plot is now in full sun.

Over these past 5 years, we have learned to plant a more manageable number of plants, we have tried different vegetables, and staggering our crops so we have new crops coming all year. We have learned what to mulch and what not to mulch. We have found the advantages of landscape fabric covered in hay. There are many tricks and lessons we have learned and will continue to learn to make our garden better. We had a great season this year and grew an amazing number of cucumbers and tomatoes and other vegetables. My neighbors are saying “No” to more cucumbers, although the tomatoes are always welcome.

Our fellow gardeners are wonderful. They are helpful and encouraging and curious about what everyone is growing. Everyone is friendly and works hard to follow the rules and be respectful of their neighbors. We are thankful to the gardeners who set up the manifolds and the hoses, measured and marked the plots, cleaned up the compost pile, and provided other services. We also have two great garden coordinators, Barb and Becky.



“We appreciate that the Department of Transportation, who owns the land is willing allow us to use their land for a community garden. We are also thankful for the District 10 Community Counsel, who are the sponsors of the garden. We hope this opportunity will continue for us and our neighbors for years to come.”









“My garden story begins in July 1983 at the birth of my daughter Johanna. At that time, I was living in a small home on the corners of Oxford & Osceola. My wife and I were of course excited and happy to greet Johanna and begin our family. But our daughter was a bit too colic-y for my taste (as my wife tells it) and every time she looked for me, I was tending my small garden. There may be a kernel of truth to this story. Two moves later brought us to our current home in September 1995 with a large front and back yard and after 21 years of planting/transplanting, creating beds and a front patio, I have achieved "near completion"(my wife claims I will never stop transplanting).

[1/3]

“Because I have so many trees blocking or shading my front street area, I have focused my plantings on shade and partial-shade selections. Although I have some sun-loving perennials and annuals on the south side I have focused on plants which have provided my favorite blending of various shades of greens, yellows and lavenders. My favorite bed is what I call the Rhododendron "wall" surrounded by techneys, river birch, and burning bush. My next favorite bed is what I call the Arrowhead boulder bed (I have to thank my lawn and garden man Todd for this boulder suggestion). This bed is planted with a large variety of plants which carryout my greens and yellows & lavenders including bleeding hearts, ligularia, turtlehead, coral bells, dianthus, ferns, small yew, false spirea, tiger eyes and sumac/birch spirea/wintercreeper and hostas. The original large bed facing the street includes in the background a large bank of forsythia which of course is our first major shrub bloom of the Spring which is always commented upon by the neighbors. The front of the bed has a variety of plants including miss kim lilac, peonies, barberry, and hydrangea.

[2/3]



"Gardening has become more and more a passion in the past 6 years of my retirement and has been a gateway to meeting more and more of my neighbors who stop to observe or converse and often to share their compliments."

[3/3]





HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

Sundin Music Hall

1531





**“When daisies pied and violets blue
And lady-smocks all silver-white
And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight.”
— Love’s Labours Lost**

[Watch the video!](#)



“Five years ago, there was a meadow of mud on a hill and lots of grading needed to abate the flooding in the basement of my new cottage home. Though I had put in extensive gardens at my previous home, this new space needed some serious reconfiguring and a fresh start. I called on Phillips Garden Center to design a cottage garden, with a variety of colors and plants that were attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

After the first year, I lost some plants and a sick magnolia tree that was replaced with a Japanese maple in front. I also felt that my garden needed more brightness, so I added in many of my favorite plants and colorful flowers. I have an eye for color and texture combinations, and I boosted the brilliance to a new level.

“When gardening, you have to be flexible when some plant doesn’t survive or when trees and branches in neighboring yards are trimmed, creating a different environment for plants that used to thrive in the shade, for instance. As a self-taught gardener, I am learning a lot through trial and error and patience!

One curiosity in my yard is a grafted apple and crab tree that produces both apples and crab apples! It is an example of how nature sometimes adjusts in unexpected ways. A lesson for life!

For me, gardening is a wonderful sensory experience that I started enjoying in childhood. Digging in the dirt as a child was not exactly what my mother had in mind when she told me to go play outside! Making mud pies and pulling weeds was far more fun to me than playing in the park like most kids.

To this day, gardening calms me and soothes my soul. It is a meditative process where I get lost in examining the multiple colors in a petal or watching a bee collect pollen to take back to his hive. It is an invitation to lose track of time and to just be in the moment for hours on end.

Knowing that I can provide a beautiful view for my neighbors and passersby gives me joy and inspires me to keep going, even when sometimes it can be a struggle to keep up with the work. My favorite part of the day is when the weeding is done and I can sit and admire my garden while sipping on a cool glass of lemonade. It is quite the feeling of accomplishment to work with nature to create something really extraordinary!”









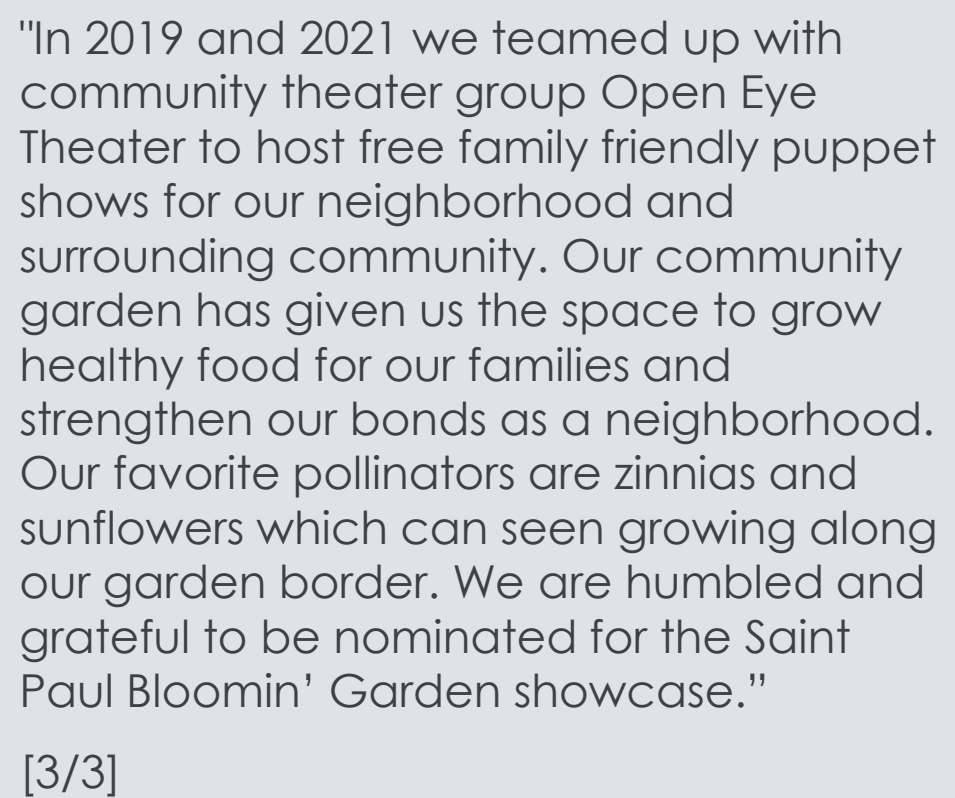


"The Dayton's Bluff Community Garden is located near Swede Hollow Park on the East Side of Saint Paul at 683 North Street. Our garden community is a microcosm of our shared diversity, our gardeners include elders, families and working professionals brought together through the utter joy of growing and sharing our organic harvest with one another. During the pandemic the garden provided a green oasis for many gardeners to work through the stress of complicated emotions during lock down. Through the connections made in our garden community we discovered another shared passion, art.



“In 2020, we were blessed with an artist who kindly donated her time and talents to paint a mural on an exposed brick foundation in the back of our garden space. The mural features a bright turquoise base, adorned with vibrant yellow sunflowers and the words Imniza Ska, which are Dakota for White Cliffs, another name for Dayton’s Bluff. This year we raised money to have the artist who painted our mural, Thomasina Topbear and her art crew City Mischief return to paint our garden boxes. Raising money to support BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists and proudly display their work in our garden is something we are proud of. Our garden is now an outdoor out gallery.

[2/3]









Native Wildflower Planting

This area has been planted
with native wildflowers
and grasses, providing
diverse habitat for pollinators,
birds and wildlife.







“My Garden Brings Me Joy

The gift of gardening, even in Minnesota, are four seasons of joy. There are multiple benefits of being a gardener. Opening the shades in the morning, I observe the beauty and power of nature. In the winter, even though the gardens are snow-covered, leftover twigs are visible. When the first snow succumbs to the warm sunshine in the spring, I search for the tiny ruby red tulip nubles and the intriguing sprouts of Hosta's pushing the out of the thawing ground. It's mesmerizing watching new growth as it comes to life. There is the full sweetness of summer blooms that, when it's time, give way to the falling leaves of autumn. In all seasons, my gardens are a pure delight. I am thrilled to see and experience the power of nature.

[1/2]



"All my grandchildren have explored the garden pathways. They have helped to plant, weed, dig, make bouquets and water. There is the feeling of utter delight as I watch the children of all ages explore, and take care not to cause damage. It is a pleasure to welcome visitors into this special place. When I sit on a low stool and dig in the soil, I see many of nature's mysteries living in harmony. If the plants, worms, ants, and rocks could sing, the cacophony would rival a splendid choir."

[2/2]









[Watch the video!](#)











"I would like to first thank my neighbors, the Ramsey County Master Gardeners, the Saint Paul Garden Club and the City of Saint Paul for the honor of a nomination to be a part of the first annual Blooming Garden Showcase.

My name is Rene' Gervais and this is my garden story. This is not a short story as it spans my lifetime, focusing mostly on the 30 years I have lived in my home.

I developed a love of gardening and caring for my yard at a young age. My mother was a gardener and both sides of my parents came from gardening families. When I first moved on my own, I asked my landlords if I could start a garden in a small unused space in the yard. They gladly let me till the soil and attempt to grow vegetables and some flowers.

[1/4]

“I was excited when I purchased my home and the yard was cared for by gardening people. I was young and busy raising children that I did all that I could to maintain what they had started. As my children grew up and my time became more flexible, I began changing the shape of the garden design. Every year my gardens expanded and the number of plants increased.

The first major addition was a garden in my front and side yard that I struggled growing grass in. Adding mulch and lots of perennials made my yard more appealing to me. Later that same summer I expanded that garden across the sidewalk to the front boulevard. Next the gardens multiplied, framing the house on all sides and around trees. I noticed these spaces were bringing more birds to the yard. That was a huge plus!

The next summer I added gardens to the backyard by landscaping the slope, bordering the fences, the house and the garage. This was an extreme project but very rewarding. I added brick patios and walkways to allow people to stroll through the plants. I also added a small pond with a fountain, bird baths, and feeders to keep the wildlife healthy, fed, and coming back.

I always wanted to add more vegetables, but did not have enough direct sun or space in the backyard to plant a full garden. I had been planting tomatoes and a few other vegetables intermittently throughout the yard wherever I could find space. The summer before COVID I added a couple raised beds on the boulevard and begged my neighbors to use their alley space to increase my gardens. They graciously agreed.



“Last year my raised boulevard vegetable gardens grew to take up half of my side boulevard. I have raised beds with strawberries and raspberries and this year added blueberries to the alley. Adding planters on my back patio filled with fresh herbs to be used use for cooking and baking, my other love was a smart decision. Harvests have been bountiful and I try to can and/or share to prevent waste.



“You will see me in my gardens most days beginning at dawn until dusk. Starting in early spring until late fall weeding, moving plants and this time of year preparing for winter. As I get older, I am slower moving and cannot get as much done in a day as I used to be able to. I may be grumbling about how much work it is. But don't be fooled I love it. I often say, “Gardening is my therapy, I only wish that I could say it is cheaper than actual therapy”.

Thank you again for the person/persons that nominated me. It truly made my day/week/month/year.”



BLACK LIVES
MATTER

Black Lives Matter
Garden









“The installation of my boulevard garden was honestly motivated by my dislike for mowing grass...At the start, I was nothing close to a ‘gardener’ and just wanted something that looked pretty and that I could keep alive. I relied on the expertise of a friend (who owns an edible landscape company) to listen to my vision, guide my plan and install a garden space that was actually manageable for me to maintain. Since the initial installation last spring, I have continued to learn about the art of growing things and am slowly but surely gaining an appreciation and love for my garden - it is pretty cool to see small, green plants become beautiful, blooming flowers for the bees and butterflies to dine and to pick veggies that were cultivated and grown by my own hands.....I guess that makes me a gardener after all!”











[Watch the video](#)











"The gardens at Terrace Horticultural Books have been a long time in developing. Since 2001 we have gardened and expanded in planned ways that exemplify good garden practice. No need for chemicals, emphasis on native plants and minimizing lawn. In 2019 we were enrolled in the Lawns to Legumes program. Our front boulevard on St. Clair Ave. is a result of this support. After losing two large trees to EAB, the area became full sun and new plant opportunity was upon us. I am expanding it by two times the size this fall.

We chose sun loving flowering pollinator preferred plants (no grasses) with native plants getting emphasis. Narrow leaf coneflowers and echinacea cultivars, along with three different Liatris, annual Black Eyed Susan, Goat's Beard, Asters etc."

[1/3]



"It is true, I have taken on more than I can handle this fall and help is needed. With the heat of the summer, some of my boulevard grass died leaving brown patches as the green up happened with the rains. Following the very successful front boulevard Pollinator Garden, photo above, I decided to take on the side boulevard along Duke, at least twice as long as the front along St. Clair to do the same for our friends the insects we love. I have attached a photo of what has been accomplished so far.

I need help and am proposing a trade, a barter, for those who are able and interested. If this is of interest to you, please get in touch with me.

We will be outside and can observe mask and space as needed. We are back and interested in your business even if my offer is a bit too much. Please stop by, an appointment is better, to see how the project is progressing.

[2/3]



"There is this idea of Keystone Plants best explained by Heather Holm at this link:

<https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/s oftlandings.html...>

My keystone plants are the Swamp Oak planted in the boulevard and the Bur Oak planted a few feet away in the back yard. Paired with this will be a diversity of native plantings in the boulevard that will create a new "soft landing" spot for the life cycles of insects we will shelter."

[3/3]



dy Market

Speedy market



2310









