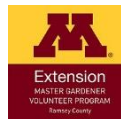


The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized green leaves and stems on a solid purple background. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with some showing internal vein details. The stems are thin and curved, connecting the leaves in a naturalistic but simplified manner.

2025

**Blooming Saint Paul
Showcase**

Celebrating private efforts
to make Saint Paul more
vibrant through gardening
and land stewardship.





“I'm delighted that someone is enjoying my front yard enough to bother nominating the gardens there for the Blooming Saint Paul Showcase! For me, it's a constant source of joy, surprises, mental relaxation, creativity and learning how to do it in a sustainable and low low-cost way. And yes, I find weeding, deadheading, soil conditioning and even occasional watering to be satisfying meditative tasks.

At the tender age of 10 or so, I broke the unwritten cardinal rule among paper carriers: stay off private property beyond a customer's front door. Glimpsing a colorful garden in the backyard of one modest home on my route from the sidewalk, though, curiosity got the best of me, so up the driveway I went. And the more I saw, the further I ventured into what was a literal field of flowers unlike anything I'd ever seen. I was completely entranced until I heard the voice of an elderly man from the back of this house, "you're enjoying the flowers?" I was terrified! Thankfully, this gentle soul quickly put me at ease and insisted that I return for a box of plant divisions once he learned that my grandmother (who could grow anything!) could help me establish my own garden at home. I especially remember johnny jump-ups, coral bells and larkspur which she and I dried and pressed in old books to make greeting cards. I've been hooked on gardening ever since and love that we see more and more front yard and boulevard gardens in our neighborhood and all around the city.

Thank you for the honor!”















In 1986, we moved in and needed a solution to avoid mowing the steep hill in the front yard. So, I removed the grass and planted prairie seeds. Later, I added a boulevard prairie garden and eventually, transformed the entire front yard into native prairie. I grew everything from seed — phlox, rudbeckia, monarda, penstemon, onosmodium, solidago, liatris, aster, asclepias — and now our gardens attract pollinators, bumble bees, goldfinches, hummingbirds and more.





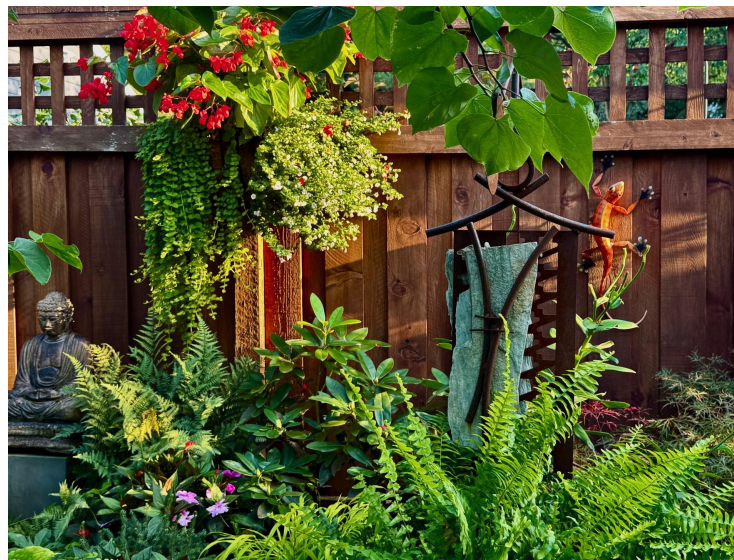
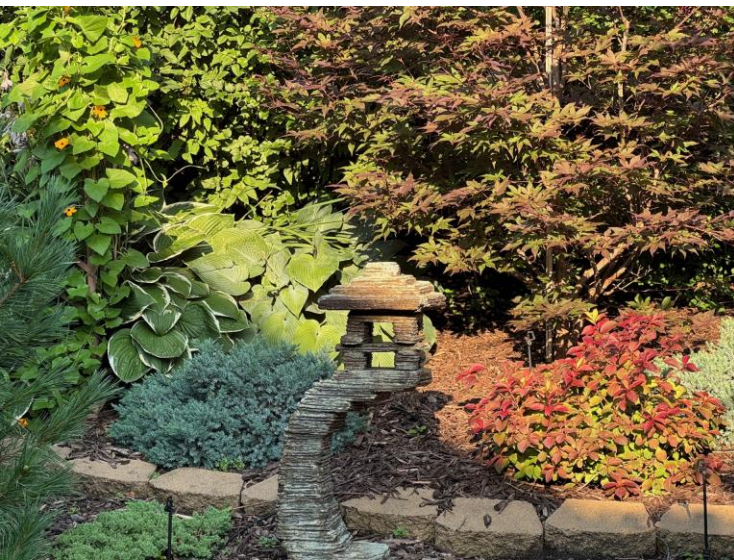




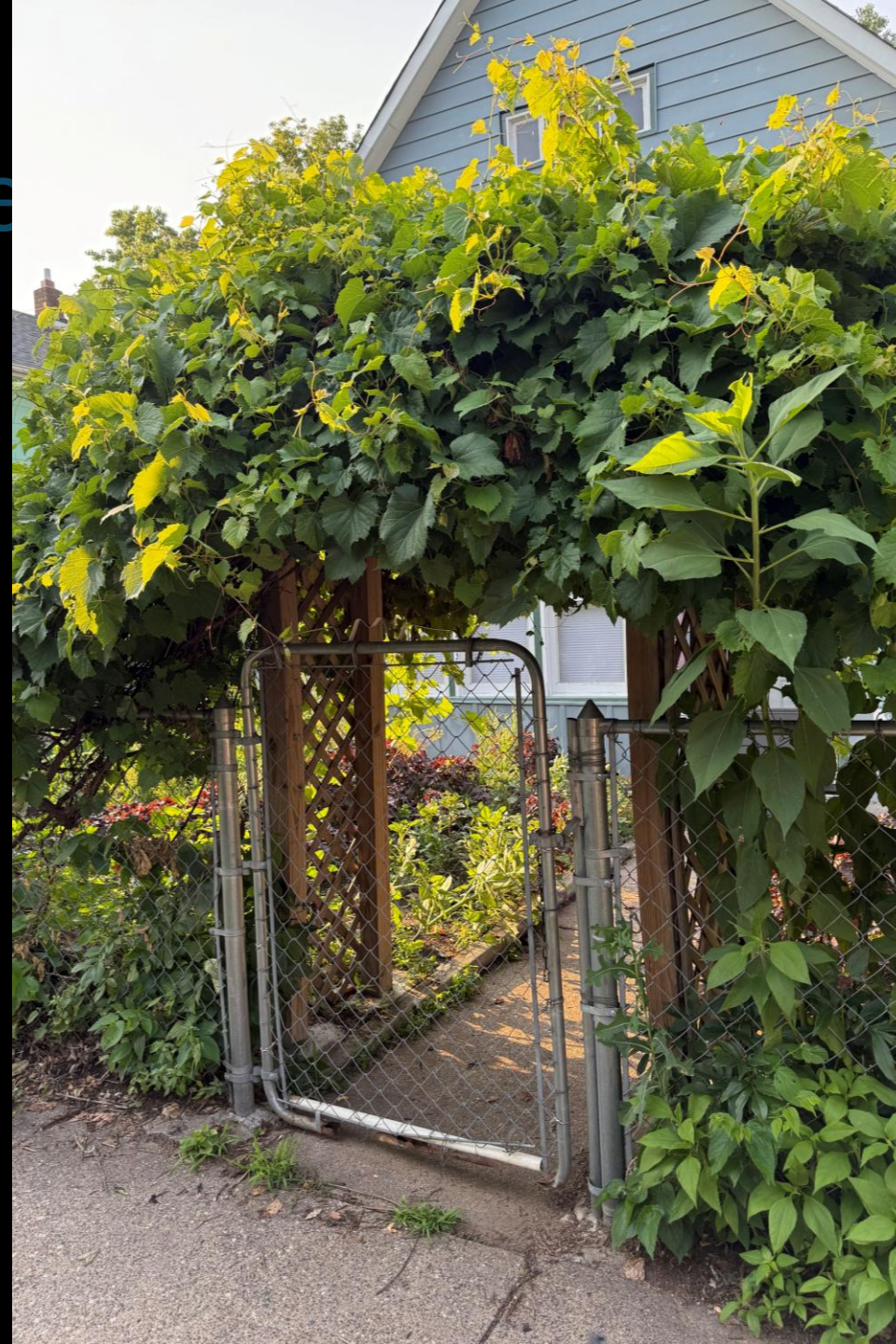
“I moved here five years ago from Madison, WI where I left a fully mature garden that I had been laboring over for 12 years in order to be able to be closer to our children and grandchildren. When we found our new home in St. Paul, the backyard was sloped, shady, and surrounded by a chain link fence with sparsely growing grass and few flowers. The front yard was mostly grasses with a few shrubs and a Virginia Creeper that had run amok. The soil was VERY sandy. The perfect challenge at a time of pandemic isolation!

I have been inspired by a visit to a Zen garden in St. John many years ago and continue to try to bring elements of an Asian influence to a very midwestern climate. Our house is a 1930's Tudor, and I also make efforts to honor this period and architectural style with a complement of plantings and hardscape to evoke a sense of peacefulness and beauty. My goal of gardening in both my front and back yards is to create an interesting, unusual combination of texture and color with a variety of conifers, plants and whimsical, curated objects. I want people who visit my gardens (especially in my back yard!) to wander, wonder and be curious about what comes next!

This garden has been a work of trial and error -- no professional gardeners here! LOL!”

















“Over the last 15 years I have tried to make a beautiful yard that I am proud of. It is a work in progress and always will be. I am very honored to have been nominated for my efforts and they haven’t gone unnoticed. I appreciate the opportunity to share this slideshow of my yard.”

[Click here to watch the slideshow!](#)











“Thank you very much for the nomination. My garden is my happy place. I love to plant in the spring and watch it grow. Every year it's a little different as new things pop up from the ground. My favorite time is peony season. I love to admire them in the garden, cut them for inside the house and bouquets to give away. I also love to photograph my flowers. The garden was beautiful when we moved in 13 years ago and over the years we have added and taken away. I certainly can not take the credit for the garden. My husband Brian waters the flowers faithfully every morning.

The crew from Home Sown Gardens come monthly during the summer for the hard part of weeding and keeping everything from over growing.”













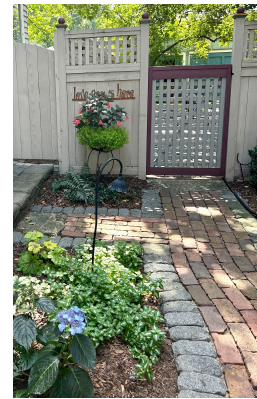
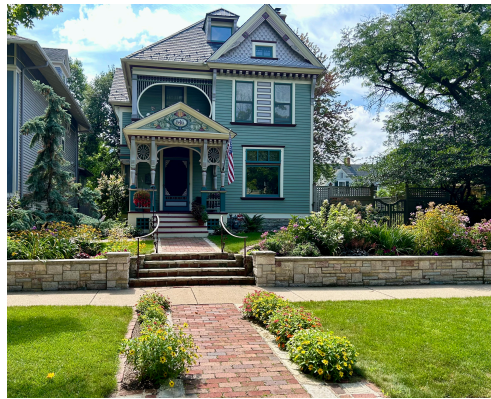


LIVING WITH COLOR

When we purchased our home forty years ago, it was painted two shades of butterscotch yellow. We felt that one did not notice the wonderful architectural detail it possessed. Nine colors later we knew we had brought our Queen Anne to life.

As we began to develop the landscaping around the home we had the same approach. Be bold in the use of seasonal color in the gardens. Over the years the plant materials used have had to adjust to the loss of mature trees from storms. Shade gardens suddenly were in full sun. Now they are mature and well established.

People enjoy walking by our home and I know it has to do with our use of color both on our house and in the landscape. There is a joyful quality to it that we love living with. We are proud to be stewards of our 135 year old residence and delighted to have been recognized by Blooming Saint Paul.













“MY GARDEN

Hodge-podge, whimsical, free-range,
messy, unorganized, chaos gardening
so many ways to call the yard that doesn't
appear 'well kept'

but how the pollinators L.O.V.E. it!

Buzzing with busy workers from early
morning till dusk, then, the lightning bugs
flicker throughout the night!

The neat, tidy yards and gardens appeal to
so many but I'll keep, and love my free-range
garden as much as my flying friends. ❤️ ”







WILDLIFE
HABITAT





1062

WELCOME TO YOUR FRONT
YARD





[Click here to watch the vide!](#)











“Thank you! What a lovely surprise to have our garden nominated in the **2025 Blooming St. Paul Showcase**.

We enjoy living in an area of St. Paul where so many neighbors love to garden for all to enjoy and are happy to share gardening knowledge and good tips. Neighborhood walks here are filled with eye-catching gardens to admire.

I have enjoyed gardening our front and backyard spaces for over 30 years. In our front flowerpots and window boxes I have experimented using colorful, annual combinations. Our perennial plants, shrubs, and trees alternate blooming in Spring, Summer and Fall, including evergreen and red twig dogwood shrubs offering some nice colors during all seasons. Many plantings have thrived and some, not so much. Our front garden attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and keeps pollinators busy, with a mix of native perennials. We also attract a variety of native songbirds year-round to our feeder and birdbath. Thanks again and happy gardening to all.”



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“I had heard about Blue Thumb and the grants given by Ramsey-Washington Watershed District. So in 2008, I did some planning and applied for a grant to help me get rid of 2/3 of the front lawn and include a rain garden using the north side of my roof.

In 2010, I converted the whole backyard into garden, including 2 rain gardens, one using rain from the south side of the house roof and the other using the garage roof.

I see gardening as an adventure, exploring nature’s world, wandering down paths.

Weeding and thinning is a time to plan and to enjoy, to meditate and appreciate God’s creation.

We are all connected. As Robin Walls Kimmerer writes in *Braiding Sweetgrass*, “The breath of plants gives life to animals and the breath of animals gives life to plants. My breath is your breath, your breath is mine. It’s the great poem of give and take, of reciprocity that animates the world. Isn’t that a story worth telling?” (p 344)”



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ACCOLADES
SALON & SPA
grooming at its finest

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SALON & SPA
grooming at its finest











“I started gardening when we moved into our home in Saint Paul four and a half years ago. I think I've always been a nurturer, but I hadn't found my niche until I picked up gardening, and flowers in particular. I love how brilliant they are, and how with seemingly such little effort, they can take over spaces and transform them into magical new beginnings for birds and bees, butterflies and communities. Perhaps my favorite thing about gardening though, is simply sharing it with my friends and family, and really anyone who asks, or doesn't! I invite people over to cut flowers and pick from my veggie garden often, just like they're shopping the produce section at the market. It's such a gift to be able to share with my community.”



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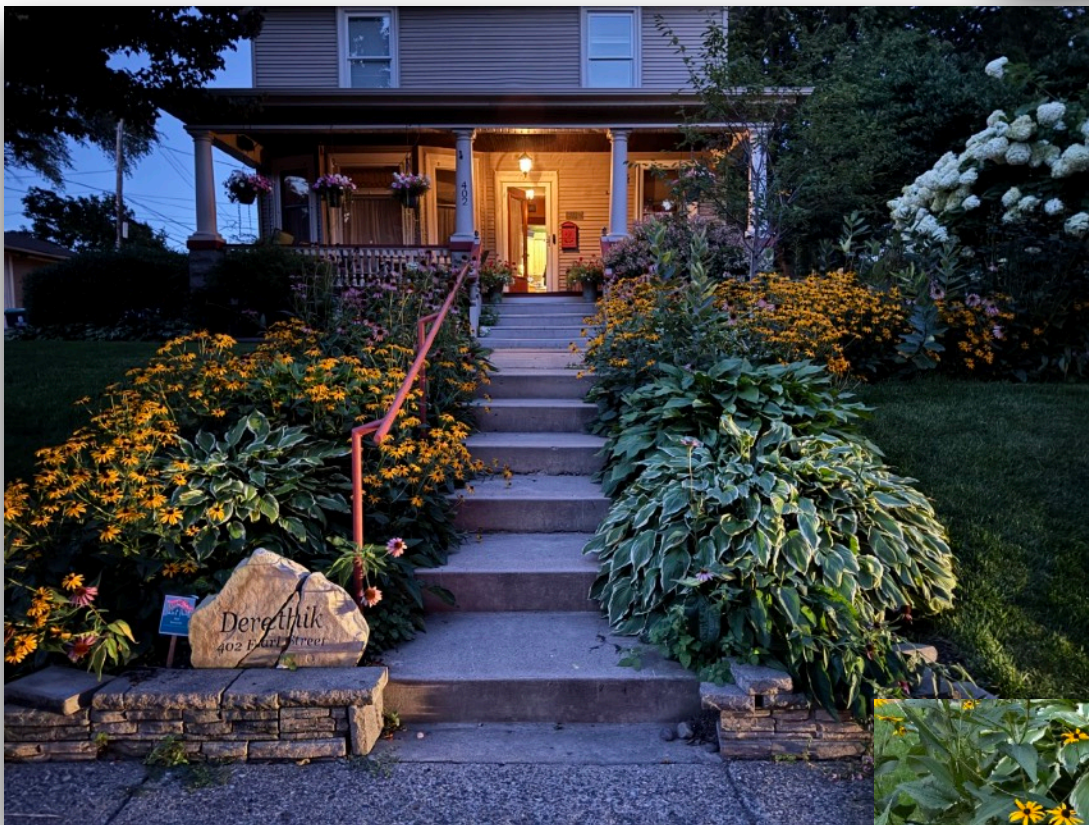
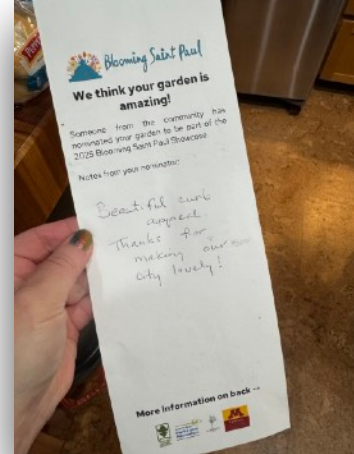


D&D 402 Earl St

Gardening has never been my thing, despite enjoying a nice yard. When we started to plant after we had begun to establish roots in St. Paul, my hope was to get to the place where all we had to do was “maintain” our yard and not have to work out there every waking hour. Well, I think it finally happened. Due to schedules this summer, maintain, mow and weed is about all we have done. Imagine my surprise when I found this note on our door one day!

We were lucky to start with a robust bed of coneflowers from the previous owner and go from there.

The Serviceberry tree was gifted to us and planted two years ago by family friends in honor of my late dad. It turned out to be a serendipitous choice as my dad was an architect and frequently specified serviceberry trees when working with site planners.



The large address stone was a gift from family in the spirit of my late father in law, who loved gardens and large scale decor.



D&D 402 Earl St

Our back yard emerged this spring with a good showing from the tulips, but the grass was looking a little sad. We took the opportunity to replace our fence as we had several rotten posts, then work hard to grow new grass. The back yard is quite shady, so not everything does well.

We installed a new fence this spring and due to travel and other engagements, we missed our window for the annuals. Next Season!



The grass finally grew!

We love living on the East Side and making our community a better place. Both of us grew up in old houses, and the architecture and neighborhoods in this area really appealed to us. Walking the dog this summer, I have noticed so many other homes that are deserving of a nomination! The neighborhood looks lovely this summer and we enjoy living here.











I Come to the Garden

I love gardening and I appreciate the garden nomination by the Blooming Saint Paul Showcase. I thank God for his creation of the beauty of nature. My garden is my happy place. 🌷 🌸 🌹

One of my favorite hymns is “I come to the garden” by author C.Austin Miles-(1912)

“ 🎵 🎵 - I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses. And the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me and He talks with me.

And He tells me I am His own

And the joy we share as we tarry there

None other has ever known”

My Springtime Blooms 🌷 🌷

Corpse plant

Corpse plant foliage

Spring Blooms

Bring on my Summer blooms 🌸

My Fall Blooms

My Patio brings me joy and solitude!



My Springtime Blooms 🌸 🌸



Bring on my Summer blooms 🌸



My Fall Blooms







CENTER FOR WELL-BEING

85













“This is my calming place where I can pinch away the faded flowers and encourage the growth of more beautiful blooms. When the tensions of life & the world get to be too much, this is where I head. The garden changes through the weeks, so I have included pictures of three seasons. I did a radical pruning of the bushes this year. My shady hosta garden is now sunny. I’m sure I’ll have to update that next year. Another calming event to make things right in my little garden world.”

[Click here to watch the story!](#)













“I love gardening and wanted to create a perennial garden that would make the front of my house vibrant. The colors vary over the summer. I also have window wells with two rows of hostas. I also have a herbal garden for my wife and for the bees!”









Before:

“Our yard has been a massive work in progress as we transform our small Saint Paul property into a productive and welcoming community space. With limited space and even more limited sunlight, we're maximizing every square foot to create something both beautiful and functional. The photos show significant progress toward our vision, though we're still far from where we want to be.

After:



“The front yard was designed as a keyhole-shaped embrace, welcoming the neighborhood while showcasing our cottage garden-inspired plantings. We're focused on productive kitchen gardens that also provide year-round food and shelter for local wildlife, including recently planted winter berries for seasonal interest.



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“Our multipurpose approach extends to the backyard, where we've incorporated art pieces inspired by Chihuly's Red Reeds.



“This year's boulevard project aims to eliminate mowing and weeding forever by establishing native prairie plants that manage themselves. While we're not quite there yet, even one year of work has added significant beauty with much less summer maintenance.



“The space behind our garage has been the most rewarding discovery. It's a spot underutilized for 100 years that gets perfect eastern light. This area now produces our most delicate vegetables and flowers, including leafy greens, cucumbers, and clematis, proving that anyone with good eastern exposure should take full advantage of that precious morning sun.”















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My husband is the the amateur landscape designer and I am the amateur “maintainer”. It’s been a joint effort over the years.”

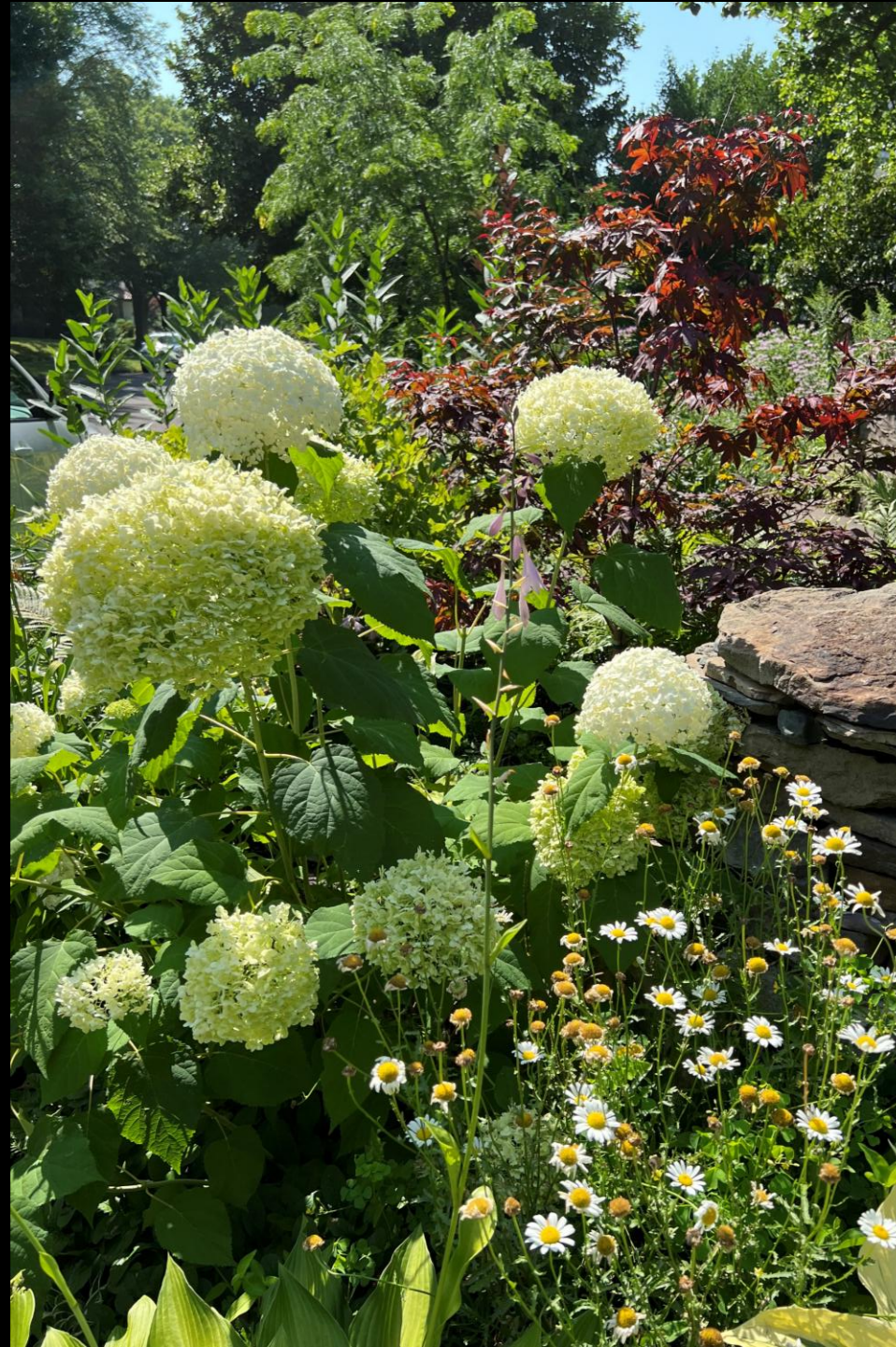


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The Garden

Origami Bird

You have great long wings to Fly
Why do you sit still

This inscription was imprinted in the cement sidewalk in front of our home long before we moved in, nearly eight years ago. It was unknowingly an impetus for a Zen Garden.

Hence, inspired by Asian philosophy and gardens, which included a trip to Japan to visit my daughter, I aimed to develop a Garden representing serenity and harmony; a balance of beauty that lasts thru the seasons.

The Garden is meant to offer all that pass a peaceful view. I sincerely appreciate when passers-by comment on the beauty and calm feeling of the Garden.

Finally, I intend to pursue training as a Master Gardener to share these principles that I have already mentioned.

My Haiku

Lessons of the Garden

Hopeful sun and rain nurture
The Garden bursts into divine bloom
Then it rests until next Spring

Don Starzinski
835 Fairmount
(The cute little bungalow
with the Japanese Garden)











“What a delightful surprise to be nominated as an honoree for the Blooming Saint Paul Showcase.

Gardening brings me so much joy, as does walking the neighborhoods and appreciating the community's efforts. Saint Paul has so much beauty to offer. Though we’ve lived in Saint Paul for 20 years, we moved to our new home just under a year ago. It was devastating to leave behind the gardens I had spent so much time cultivating and truly loved. When spring arrived at the new home, I could hardly wait to start digging in my new dirt.



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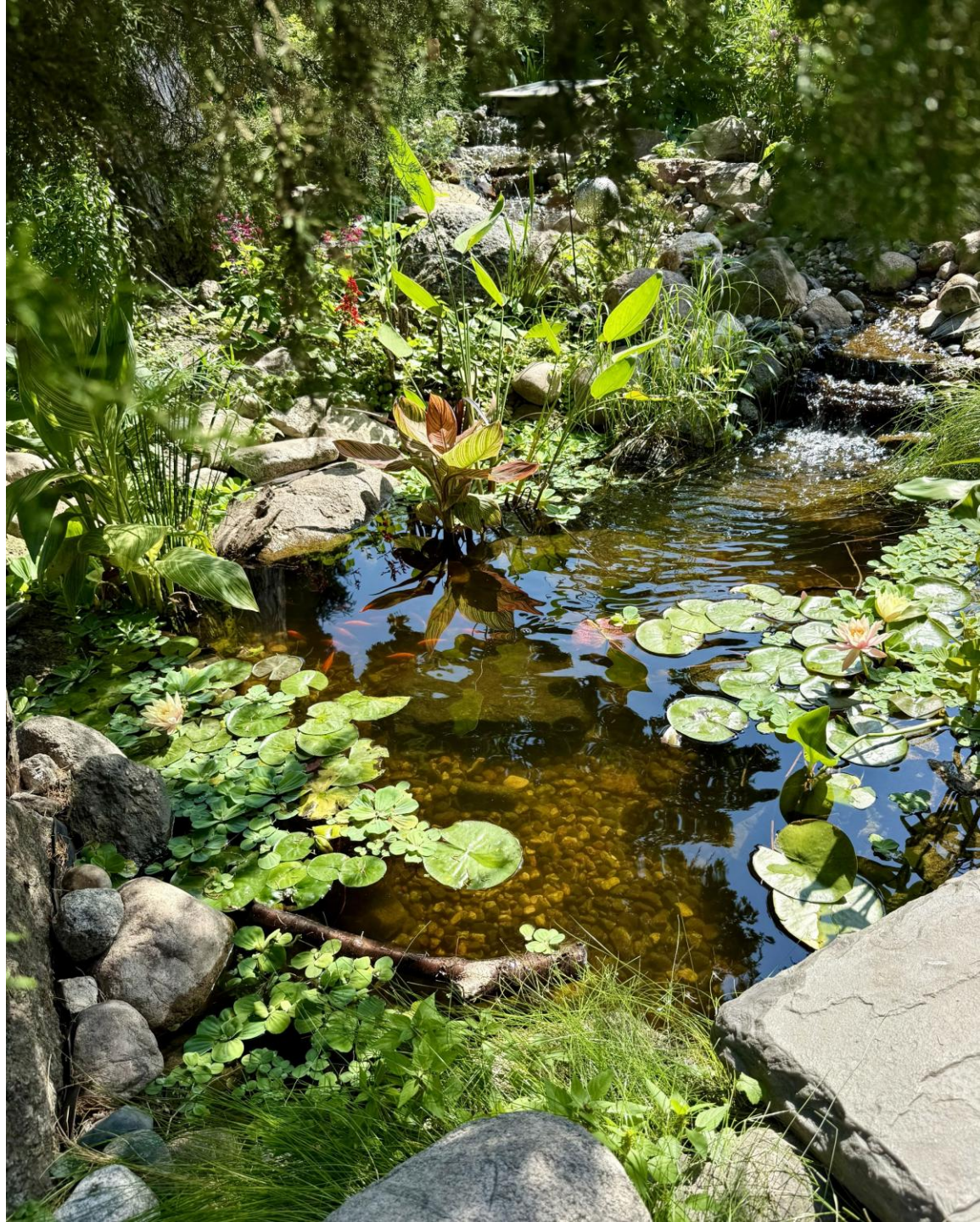


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“There was plenty of existing garden to work with, just waiting to see what grew, taming, and planting seeds I had saved from my previous home. I studied up on water features (a new adventure for me) and reinvigorated the backyard pond. It quickly became my favorite spot to read, sip coffee, and watch the birds flutter in the flowing stream.



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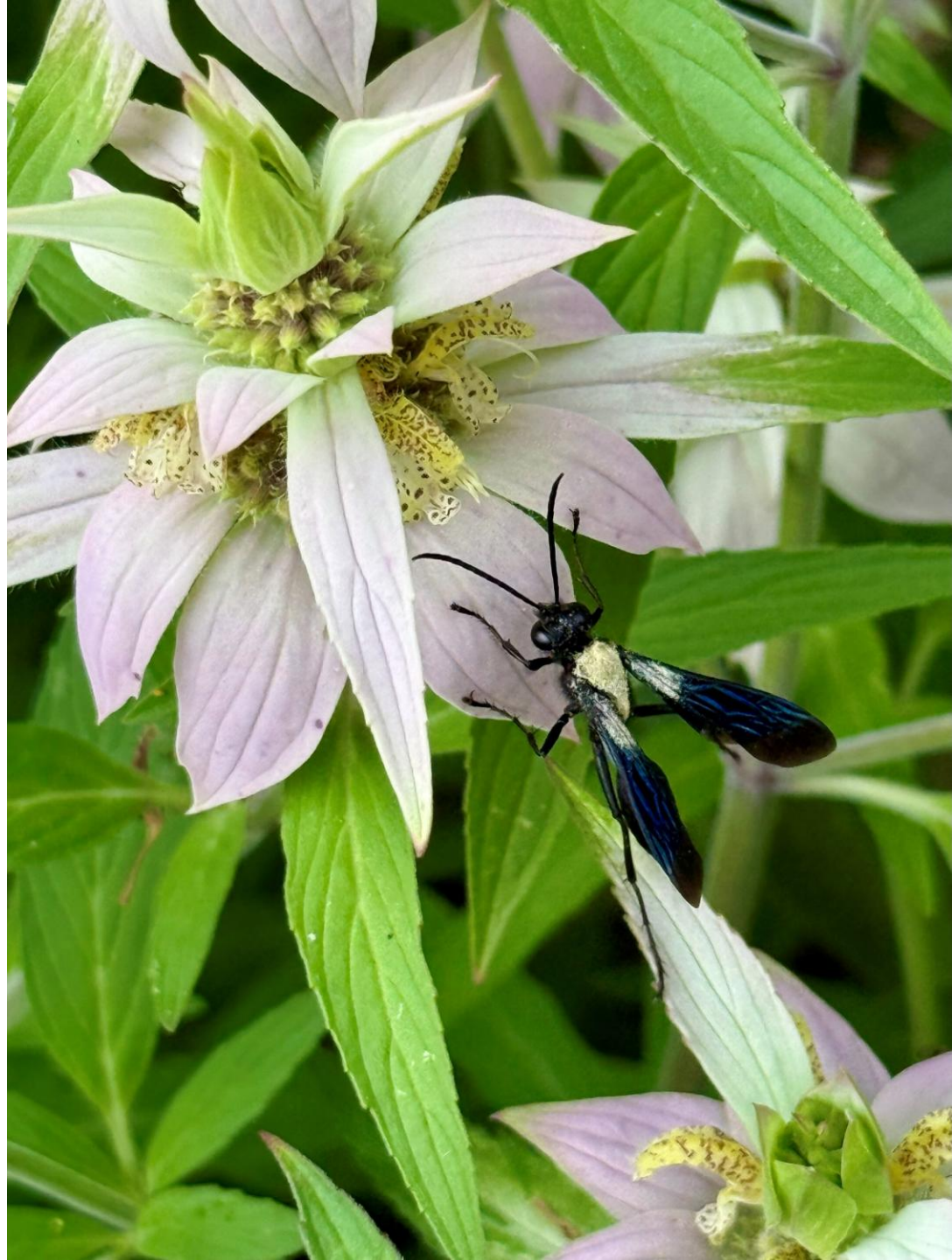
“I was able to add a native pollinator garden to the front yard with the grant program through Blue Thumb and Lawns to Legumes. I plotted the space, planted the babies, and watched them flourish through the season. Then the wildlife came. Yes! A nest of Red Tail Hawks (Thrasher and Birdie) and their 2 hatchlings (Charlie and Marigold), the bees, butterflies, song birds and hummingbirds. My daughters and I are now working on making stepping stones to add a pathway through and expand the pollinator garden next spring. I’m constantly learning as I go and can’t wait to see what grows.”



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PERRY
GARDEN



“These are the two front gardens. I imagine the person noticed the corner garden with the yellow flowers when they nominated our yard. The inspiration for this garden was the world’s worst patch of dandelions we ever saw when we moved in 30 years ago. The Jackamanii Clematis that grows on the lamp post with pink shrub roses at the base also has a story. It was once just a large overgrown Mugo pine and when my husband started to cut it down, we found the lamp post. The Jackmanii loves that spot and has thrived there for 25 years.”







CLEVELAND
GARDEN

Blossoms
Saint Paul
Blossoms










Galaxy S24+
July 22, 2025



Thanks to all the gardeners,
nominators, and other
community members making
this showcase possible. See
you next year!