



West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation is again pleased to be a supporter of the West End Neighbors' Garden Tour in the fifth year of this event. This annual event showcases the talent and creativity to be found in our community and this year's tour will continue that fine tradition.

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation is a 40-year old organization whose purpose is to improve the social, physical and economic life of the community it serves. Over the years we have touched many areas of concern and of opportunity in the community.

The West 7th area has a population of approximately 10,000 residents. It has a wide variety of housing styles, ranging from historic Irvine Park homes, to post war construction and many residential developments begun in the 1980s. This presents us with a housing stock which provides for the needs of populations with differing lifestyles, incomes and ages.

The West 7th neighborhood is also enriched by a wide variety of thriving businesses along West 7th/Fort Road and by our location along the Mississippi River.

The garden tour provides you with an opportunity to visit parts of the West 7th community that you may never have seen before. Congratulations to the West End Gardeners for making the West End Neighbors' Garden Tour possible.

Welcome to our neighborhood.

974 West 7th Street □ Saint Paul, MN 55102
Ph (651) 298-5599 □ Fax (651) 298-5671
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WEST END NEIGHBORS' GARDEN TOUR

WEST 7TH ST., ST. PAUL

A FREE EVENT
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2012 MAP
AND GUIDE
BOOK

SAT.
JUNE 16TH
10:00 AM
to
4:00 PM



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The West End Gardeners welcome you to our fifth annual garden tour. Please invite your friends to visit our many gardens and enjoy our neighborhood. The owners will be in their gardens to tell you about their garden experiences. We will have three greeter tents along W. 7th Street on the day of the tour at #531, Mancini's; #974, Ft. Road Federation and #1500, Mississippi Market. Stop at those locations for assistance with a map or directions to any neighborhood location. The Ft. Road Federation will host a Plant Sale, in their parking lot, of divisions and seedlings from our gardens at very reasonable prices. A Master Gardener will be on hand part of the day to answer questions.

The West End has been referred to as a cradle of commerce, with West 7th Street, or the old Fort Road, extending to Ft. Snelling. It is the oldest commercial street in Minnesota. The neighborhood is filled with historic areas and buildings including the Alexander Ramsey House, Irvine Park, Upper Town, Little Bohemia and the Schmidt Brewery.

The most enduring feature of all is the Mississippi River that forms the southern border of the neighborhood. You will be at river's edge when you visit #16, the Upper Landing Bird Sculpture Garden.

A new initiative in the neighborhood, Healthy West 7th, features their first vegetable garden demonstration site, Garden #8, located at the West 7th Community Center. Gardeners and neighbors, young and old, are learning together how to grow fresh and healthy vegetables from seed to table.

We have cottage gardens, landscaped gardens and several vegetable gardens. Garden #5 offers a peek into a fairy garden. Gardens at a parsonage, a church, a new pocket garden at Pleasant Park, and the fabulous "can't miss" bonsai collection at site #13 will also add to your enjoyment.

Please support our advertisers and please come again. Enjoy the day, and thanks from the West End Gardeners.

How to use this Guide

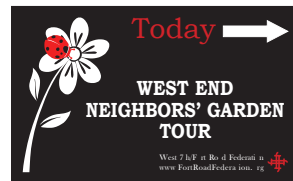
There are sixteen gardens along the tour route. Most are home gardens, but some are hosted by public parks and even churches.

The suggested tour route is listed below and on the map in the center of this booklet. Feel free to visit the gardens in any order you choose, but please respect the privacy of the gardeners homes and neighborhoods by following the tour signs and any instructions for accessing the garden in the description.

The pages of this booklet contain descriptions and pictures of each garden, which appear below ads from tour sponsors.

1. 843 Watson Ave.
2. 849 Armstrong Ave.
3. 783 Armstrong Ave.
4. 771 Randolph Ave.
5. 934 James Ave.
6. 320 Toronto St.
7. 306 Toronto St.
8. 265 Oneida St.
9. 342 St. Clair Ave.
10. 338 St Clair Ave.
11. 323 Michigan St.
12. 550 7th St.
13. 244 Banfil St.
14. *Pleasant Park*
Garfield St. at Harrison Ave.
15. 208 McBoal St.
16. *Mississippi Guardian Birds*
Upper Landing Park
Shepard Rd. at Cedar St.

Look for these signs along the tour route to help find your way.



The West End Neighbors Garden Tour is a free event sponsored by the West 7th/Fort Road Federation and organized by the West End Gardeners.

For more information about the tour or this guide book please call 651-222-5536 or visit www.fortroadfederation.org/garden.



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GARDEN #1

843 Watson Ave.



My vision for my gardens was that they should be visually appealing and, whenever possible, contain edible plants as well. Sunlight varies throughout the gardens so care had to be taken to accommodate the sun and shade requirements of the various plants.

The south garden supports ornamentals with a few edible flowers. A few specimen plants such as Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana*), which has an edible filbert nut, and a weeping larch grow here. The west garden is very narrow and shady. It is planted with edible tulips and Johnny-jump-up (*Viola tricolor*). The backyard is where you will find all manner of berries, kiwi, hibiscus, cherry, apple, asparagus, and tomatoes, planted in beautiful harmony with shrubs and perennials. The east garden is a deep-shade garden. There are no edibles here. However, it is here where you will find lamium, hemlock, pulmonaria, ligularia, hosta, Jacob's ladder, hakone grass, Persian shield, caladium, coleus, and hydrangea.

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GARDEN #2

The Parsonage at St. Peter's
849 Armstrong Ave.



Thirty years ago we wanted a small tomato garden. That one small garden, which now includes a variety of vegetables, led to our love of gardening. We now tend to many and varied garden spaces, ranging from pots and hanging arrangements of annuals, to perennial beds and collections of hosta and hens and chicks. Within the gardens you will enjoy clematis, elephant ears, dahlias, gladiolus, impatiens, gerbera daisies, cannas, begonias, ferns, moss rose, and iris.

We also grow a filler with palm-like foliage you may not have seen before. This is the summer phase of the *Amorphophallus* sp. also known as the 'stink plant'. This example is one of more than 170 identified species in the 'stink plant' family. Don't worry! It doesn't stink in this phase. It just looks tropical.

In addition to the gardens gracing the surrounds of the church parsonage, we tend the triangular "Memorial Garden" on the corner of the church yard.

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GARDEN #16 *Guardian Bird Gardens* Upper Landing Park



The *Mississippi Guardian Birds* are four large, bronze sculptures of birds created by Douglas Freeman in 2005 and placed in Upper Landing Park on the Mississippi River in downtown St. Paul. They are located in four fountain gardens representing the eddy pools found along the river bank of the Mississippi.

The first *Guardian Bird Garden* is presented by Friends of Upper Landing, the neighborhood garden club that won a 2011 Blooming Saint Paul Golden Bloom award for their work in the park. In addition to the fountain and eddy pool, this garden features grasses, shrubs, ground cover and trees indigenous to the park land along the river.

To get there: Take Chestnut St. from West 7th to Shepard Road. Upper Landing Park is directly across Shepard Road. Note: Parking is Limited.

GARDEN #3 783 Armstrong Ave.



I started my garden in 2011, so it is very new. The edible front-yard garden is still in the experimental stage as I determine what works best in a small (approximately .0025 acre) urban garden space. Further challenging my effort, while the yard does face South, it is shaded half of the day by surrounding houses and trees. In addition, the neighborhood munchkins (squirrels, birds and rabbits) don't like to share, so fending them off has been particularly demanding.

Despite the limited space available, my garden contains a mix of perennial and annual edibles such as: asparagus, strawberries, blackberries, currants, raspberries, garlic, onions, herbs, root vegetables, leafy greens and even an urban-sized apple tree. Based on an occasional whim some non-edibles mingle in the garden, as well. Sometimes, even I am surprised at the variety of plants that I have been able to include in my very small garden.

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GARDEN #4

771 Randolph Ave.



Hi, y'all and welcome! My gardens reflect that I am from the South. My inspiration for zone 4 gardening came from reading gardening books to get through the long northern winters. I have even been inspired to grow perennials difficult to grow from seed, such as Monk's hood and Helleborus, seeds winter-sown in milk jugs. I used the no-till organic gardening method of layering, called Lasagna gardening, to create loose, fluffy soil on the boulevard to establish a flower garden. The boulevard

is also home to a plot devised to host WaterWise plants, natives which not only need little water, but also, to my delight, attract hummingbirds.

In the back garden, there are raised beds for growing fruits and vegetables, and a former patch of mud has been transformed into an area of flowers, also grown from seed, which attract beneficial insects. On the east are my collections of herbs and perennials.

GARDEN #15

208 McBoal St.



This garden is our oasis, our "country place" away from Smith Avenue and its hectic pace and distractions. It's a place where greenery abounds. It wasn't always so. This garden is part of the reclamation of an abandoned vacant tri-plex, which we renovated as a family project in 2010-2011.

The lot is large – 170' deep. The entire yard had to be graded and new soil brought in. Ten trees, both shade and ornamental, and dozens of shrubs and perennials were planted in the newly created beds.

Our garden has the nice characteristic of offering many different experiences: whether sitting by the fire pit, enjoying the scent of lilacs, strolling along the crushed stone path, harvesting herbs growing in one of the raised beds, or relaxing on the deck with friends or neighbors. Most of all we want our garden to show you that we love it here and that this neighborhood is special and worth preserving.



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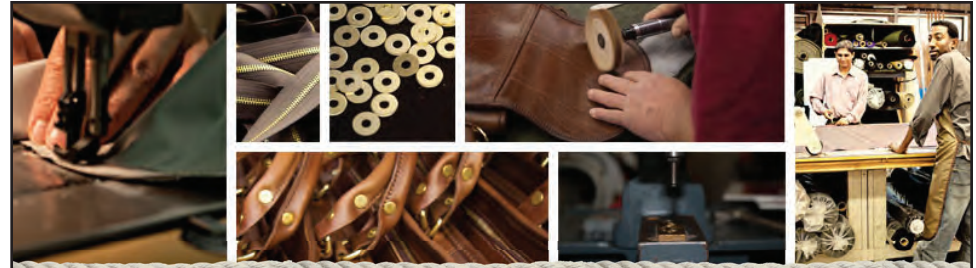
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GARDEN #14

Pleasant Park
Garfield St. at Harrison Ave.



Pleasant Park is a new urban green space located at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Garfield Street, situated along the 35E Bike Path in the Little Bohemia neighborhood of Saint Paul. The park was dedicated in October 2010 with the installation of four new public art pieces that serve as fitness stations. The art was funded through the City of Saint Paul's RSVP street maintenance program and the pieces were created by a team including two West End residents, John Yust and

Marty Hicks. In 2011, the park adopted two large planters, and sponsored a trash container as a part of the City's Come Clean program. In 2012, the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association (LBNA) added additional garden and landscaping enhancements to Pleasant Park. The LBNA wishes to recognize Councilmember Dave Thune, the Fort Road Federation, and the Community Neighborhood Housing Services for their support of LBNA projects.

GARDEN #5

934 James Ave.



A rose-covered arbor invites you to step into my cozy cottage garden. I designed the gardens to compliment the renovation of my entire home which began 11 years ago. Grounding the front garden, plantings respecting the home's 1916 date of construction include traditional shrubs such as weigela, boxwood, dogwood and tamarisk. Fragrant lilies, iris, Sweet William and buttercups are offered in smaller gardens and containers providing color and whimsy, welcoming butterflies to visit. The stone steps, planters and pavers set the stage for your visit to the back garden.

The backyard is a peaceful retreat. The shade garden and patio are a favorite for entertaining. Ferns, Astilbe, lilies, roses and honeysuckle abound here. You must take a peek at the fairy garden near the tree. It is a great amusement for all.

In the sunny part of the yard, the vegetable garden thrives: tomatoes, peppers, pole beans, spinach, lettuce, and herbs provide me with wonderful fresh meals.



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GARDEN #6

320 Toronto St.



I have often referred to my garden as a collection of “stuff.” My gardening friends, however, take exception to this description of my park-like green space. They will point to the abundance of orange poppies naturalized beneath the large black walnut tree. They chuckle with mirth at my stacked collection of topsy-turvy teapots or at my collection of slightly eccentrically designed bird houses.

And speaking of the birds, they have lots of choices of where to take their daily dip in the many birdbaths I maintain for them. Dragonflies are a particular favorite of mine and I invite you to discover the many that are in easy sight (and those that are almost hidden from view.) I have a shady spot for putting up your feet and regarding the world at your leisure. And I have a spot for putting in a small vegetable plot for a delicious summer meal or for nursing a weak plant to health.

GARDEN #13

244 Banfil St.



My garden is oriented around container plantings: Vegetables grow in raised beds, while fruits and other crop-producing plants thrive in pots and homemade containers that I have designed to be reusable and attractive. Although there are blooming plants – mostly intended for the use of butterflies and bees – I have diverted most of my efforts into the bonsai collection that has been accumulating in my yard since 1990. At that time I began to combine my affection for trees with a tendency to involve myself in sculptural projects. I discovered bonsai to be an absorbing practice that brought together my differing interests with the challenge of understanding the needs of trees from diverse locations. In creating the conditions for these plants to live, I found myself imagining the places where the trees grew; this became a way of connecting with natural environments that I would otherwise rarely visit.

Editor's Note This bonsai collection contains more than 100 examples.



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GARDEN #12

550 West 7th St.
(at Ann)



We, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, often say that we are *in the city and here to stay*. We have deep roots in the West 7th neighborhood both figuratively and literally. As you will see today in our gardens, we celebrate the beauty God has provided us so abundantly in nature. St. Mark is blessed to have a wonderful group of volunteers that strives yearly to maintain a beautiful space for all in

our neighborhood to enjoy. The many flower beds at the church show a variety of color and texture, with statues and benches thoughtfully placed for all to enjoy. There is a Pentecost Garden near the drive that explodes in a show of reds that lasts all season and a Rose Garden that borders the parking lot. By keeping our neighborhood spaces clean and beautiful, we are a welcoming beacon for visitors to our neighborhood and city.

GARDEN #7

306 Toronto St.



When I moved into my house a little more than a decade ago, it had nothing that could have been construed as a garden. That is, unless you counted as a garden the little space by the front door defined by railroad ties and filled with two-foot-high grass. This, however, left me with a blank canvas, free to do whatever I wanted.

Savage winds a couple of years before blew down many trees in the area and the DNR sent postcards to everyone affected, offering new trees for very good prices. I bought a river birch clump and a service berry. They have grown well and are integral to my outdoor space. In addition, I coerced and jabbed everyone I knew for plants being tossed or divided and slowly my garden has become a cornucopia of color and texture. Gradually it is taking form as a landscape design. Visitors have told me that mine is a Cottage Garden. This suits me just fine.



Healthy West 7th

The research-based Healthy West 7th Initiative began in 2010, spearheaded by United Family Medicine Residents in the United Family Practice Program. The Initiative's first community garden is the first of many projects planned in response to neighborhood residents' requests in a community needs assessment. The Initiative is made possible with support from Mississippi Market Co-op, United Family Medicine, Allina Hospitals & Clinics, West 7th Community Center and Ramsey County Master Gardeners. An additional garden will be located at Chapman Sholom Home East.

Garden #8

265 Oneida St.



This new introductory demonstration garden at the West 7th Community Center illustrates the value of intergenerational gardening, drawing from the populations served by the Center. The garden also serves as a model for community gardens in small spaces. The garden, planted in raised beds, features a wide range of

vegetables. The produce from the garden will be used for Meals on Wheels recipients and programs at the Community Center.

Visit this garden to learn more about the Healthy West 7th Initiative, gardening in raised beds, intergenerational gardening, and gardening in small spaces.

To find out more, email healthywest7th@unitedfamilymedicine.org or visit our website at www.healthywest7th.wordpress.com

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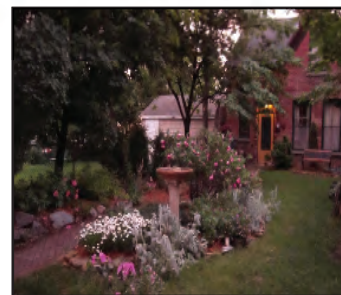
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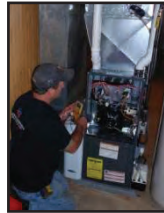
338 St. Clair Ave.



Welcome to my garden. Please come in under the wrought iron arch and stroll through the English Cottage style garden toward my old brick house. Two new lilac bushes planted to complement those that have graced the yard for 50 years or so give me the gift of the sweet aroma of lilac blossoms in the spring. I have been able to preserve the decades-old peonies which

spring to life with majestic red pop for two weeks or so in late May. My tendency is to choose cottage style flowers, but over the past few years have also included grasses and low maintenance perennials, which come to life each spring on the east and west sides of my garden. I especially like dark jewel tones offset by splashes of white, but for the life of me can't seem to remember the names of plants and flowers from year to year. For this reason, I don't claim to be a gardener. I am however, a person who likes a bucolic, somewhat pastoral yard, pleasing to the eye.

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Best wishes to travelers on the 2012 West End Neighbors' Garden Tour!

In addition to boasting many of the very best gardens in St. Paul, West 7th is also home to the city's friendliest community center. Come visit us.

The West 7th Community Center's offerings include:

- Comprehensive senior programs, including senior events and activities, Meals on Wheels, visiting block nurse, and senior homemaking program
- Community Kids K-8th after school & summer camp programs
- Lots of community activities & events, including our women's and senior's health fairs, National Night Out festival, October spaghetti dinner and holiday dinner and gift programs

Learn more at www.west7th.org or by calling 651-298-5493.



GARDEN #10

342 St. Clair Ave.



Come in by way of the drive flanked by pots of tropical Cannas and turn to the right, where you will find a quaint and private little getaway hidden behind and beside the house. We like to grow vegetables, especially tomatoes. In fact, we laughingly refer to our 35+ containers of tomatoes as our 'Godfather Garden' in reference to the garden in the famous movie.

There is a great deal more to discover as you explore our deep and narrow lot. We find it to be a most pleasant and peaceful retreat. Because, like most homes on the bluff, gardeners are challenged by subsurface limestone, gardening must be done in raised beds. We have filled our raised beds with interplanted vegetables, groundcovers, perennials, roses and shrubs.

NOTE: AT GARDENS #10 & 11 THERE IS NO PARKING ON CLIFF ST. OR ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF ST. CLAIR AVE.

GARDEN #9

323 Michigan St.



With solid bedrock about 3" below the surface of my lot, I accepted the challenge by using salvaged paving stones to build a raised border and this I filled in with truckloads of soil to create growing space. Though having no training in gardening, I set a goal of creating a low maintenance perennial garden. Every year I steal more scrubby, dusty lawn from my husband and add another area of flowers.

In early spring, rainbows of crocus appear in the snow and when they have gone back to sleep, the daffodils and tulips rise to follow the track of the sun. In summer, red and gold and orange lilies rise to shoulder height, with purple, white and burgundy iris competing to steal the show.

The shadows are filled with hosta and ferns and lily of the valley. Last year I strung wild grapes over an arbor I built for them. The ornamental pieces in the garden are eclectic and were chosen because I like the way the light plays over their surfaces.

WEST END NEIGHBORS' GARDEN TOUR

WEST 7TH ST., ST. PAUL

JUNE 16TH, 2012
10:00 to 4:00

PH. (651) 222-5536 • WWW.FORTROADFEDERATION.ORG



Look for these signs along the tour route to help find your way.



THE WEST END NEIGHBORS' GARDEN TOUR IS A FREE EVENT SPONSORED BY THE FORT ROAD FEDERATION AND ORGANIZED BY THE WEST END GARDENERS

Gardens:

1. 843 Watson Ave.
2. 849 Armstrong Ave.
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14. *Pleasant Park*
Garfield St. at Harrison Ave.
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Upper Landing Park
Chestnut St. at Shepard Rd

NOTE:
AT NO.s
10 & 11 DO NOT PARK ON CLIFF ST. OR THE SOUTH SIDE OF ST. CLAIR AVE.



Plant Sale & Maps

Fort Road Federation - 974 W. 7th Street

Pick up maps on the day of the tour at the Fort Road Federation, Mississippi Market and Mancini's.

Support the Garden Tour by purchasing seedlings, perennials, daylilies and houseplants donated by the gardeners. Master gardeners will be answering questions during the plant sale.