

2017 Garden Walk Descriptions

1. Austin Garden

1111 Tulip Lane, Rockford, IL 61107



The stately white oak trees looming over the “Certified Wildlife Habitat” greet you as you approach our residence. Dancing ornamental grasses and a lordly nine bark bush beckon you to discover the lush beauty awaiting you. Casually strolling through the front and back yards, you feast your eyes on a plethora of perennials, bushes, container plants, and edible foods (most vertically grown in and around the veggie garden). A unique wheel of hostas lies beneath the pine’s umbrella canopy. The natural prairie garden hosts a maze of phlox, monarda, lilies, gigantic sunflowers, etc. Numerous birds, bees, butterflies, chipmunks, squirrels, and turkeys dwell in this habitat. You will surely be delighted at every turn! Each season provides a vast array of beauty that we enjoy all year. As a final point, cultivating and maintaining these gardens continually gives us the primal satisfaction of nature: fresh food, a tapestry of color, the amusement of wildlife, a sanctuary of rest, relaxation, and inspiration. We wish for you to experience some of these riches as well! We welcome and hope to see you.

2. Best Garden

2610 Bordeaux Dr., Rockford, IL 61114

Our shady backyard is home to a variety of trees and shrubs, hosta, daylilies, ferns, hydrangea and other shade loving perennials. We have certainly made this our escape to tranquility. We especially enjoy relaxing on the patio while looking out over the back yard which hosts a small garden pond which enhances a sense of peace. Over the years, with the help of our landscaper and our own ideas and work, we have created this backyard oasis.

3. Walsh Garden

1012 Arden Ave., Rockford, IL 61107



Starting from a virtual blank slate nine years ago, we have designed and planted our garden to have a peaceful, cohesive feel and to be relatively low in maintenance. Flowering shrubs have been favored over perennials; texture and foliage are more prevalent than blooms. Hosta varieties have

been selected for thick leaves and upright forms. Gold, burgundy, and a wide palette of green foliage provide color in our garden. Climbers soften the fence lines, including a very robust ‘Sweet Autumn’ clematis that spans more than twenty feet. A broad sweep of Japanese forest grass defines the lower bed and provides interest in all seasons. Other grasses throughout the garden add movement and texture. Conifers play cheerfully with azaleas while boxwoods define a walking path. Surrounded by a bed of Irish moss, a Horstmann’s Silberlocke Korean fir is featured by the patio, where several potted citrus and a Brown Turkey fig also reside. Feathered friends are welcomed, watered, and admired here. We’ve had our share of adventures building this garden and agree with horticulturist Jimmy Turner who quipped, “The success of my garden is built on the compost of my failures.”

4. Ecklund Garden

502 N. Calvin Park Blvd., Rockford, IL 61107



This spring, as every year, it seems miraculously that the flowers poke through the recently thawed ground and provide beautiful flowers in just a few weeks. Although my garden is small, I enjoy all aspects of it. Gardening is my golf without the frustration. I have grown numerous variations of hostas for many years. I particularly collect the minis which are difficult to find locally. Recently my last bulldog died. He controlled the backyard and trampled flowers. I now have beds for several somewhat unusual perennials which provide continuing color from different plants at different times each summer. I look forward to meeting gardeners and learning from you.

5. Remington Garden

2516 Starkweather, Rockford, IL 61107

My garden is a place of solitude wedged between two busy streets across from Anderson Gardens on Spring Creek Road. Over the past 43 years, I have transformed more than an acre of wilderness surrounding my home into my private nature retreat. A pathway of washed aggregate concrete stepping stones and mulch carve through the many evergreens, Japanese maples, hostas, and other perennials. Several tons of black Mexican sand stones have also been added, giving my yard an Oriental feel when paired with the metal sculptures, pottery, statues and large rocks. The driveway and California-style

courtyard made of pavers are the entrance to my garden retreat. They blend well with the style and nature of my home and yard. Wildflowers, such as trillium, wild ginger, jack-in-the-pulpit, columbine, Virginia bluebells, and bleeding heart are intermingled with ground cover of ajuga, vinca, and pachysandra. With an artist’s eye, I look at the plants from all angles for size, shape and color consideration, aiming for burgundy, yellow-green and blue-green plants. I try to always have something blooming, such as day lilies, sedum, rhododendron, azaleas, clematis, or peonies.

6. Villafuerte Garden

1035 Williamsport, Rockford, IL 61102



We have been working on our yard for over 23 years now and began from scratch. There was not even a tree in the yard when we began, and we have done all the work ourselves. Our garden is a mix of sun and shade gardens, with vegetables planted among the flowers. There are ponds in both the front and back yards. The gardens feature many annuals, perennials, planters made out of unusual items, and multiple pots and hanging baskets. There is also a rose garden area in the front of the house and many tropical plants in the front pond area. Our favorite area is the back yard pond area which includes a waterfall and sitting area which is surrounded by flowers.

7. Edson Garden

7378 Montague Rd., Rockford, IL 61102



This country garden is planted in a peaceful, serene setting spread out over several acres with over fifty old oak trees. You may even catch a horse watching you as you delight in the gardens. The gardens are in full sun, full shade, and semi-shade which allows a wide variety of perennials dotted with annuals. Special areas are devoted to hostas, lilies, grasses and succulents and a very long garden with a mixture of plants providing constant color. Around the pool are several varieties of ground cover.

Suggested Driving Directions:

1. Austin Garden 1111 Tulip Lane

Beginning at the intersection of Perryville and Guilford Roads:

- Head east on Guilford Road and take the 2nd right on Sunflower Dr.
- Take the 1st right on Tulip Lane
- 1111 Tulip Lane is on the left

2. Best Garden 2610 Bordeaux Dr.

From the Austin Garden, go north on Tulip Lane:

- Take the 2nd left onto Sunflower Dr.
- Turn left onto Guilford Rd.
- Take the 2nd right onto N. Perryville Rd. and drive 1.02 miles
- Turn left onto Spring Creek Rd. and drive 1.54 miles
- Turn right onto Bordeaux Dr.
- 2610 Bordeaux Dr. is on the left

3. Walsh Garden 1012 Arden Ave.

From the Best Garden, go south on Bordeaux Dr.:

- Turn right onto Spring Creek Rd. and drive approximately 1 mile
- Turn left onto N. Alpine Rd. and drive .72 miles
- Turn right onto Highcrest Rd. and drive .53 miles
- Turn left onto Arden Ave. and drive .43 miles
- 1012 Arden Ave. is on the right

4. Ecklund Garden 502 N. Calvin Park Blvd.

From the Walsh Garden, go south on Arden Ave.:

- Follow Arden Ave. to Chelsea Ave.
- Turn left onto Chelsea Ave. (Chelsea Ave. becomes Fairview Blvd.) and drive .3 miles
- Turn right onto Rural Street and drive .5 miles
- Turn left onto N. Calvin Park Blvd.
- 502 N. Calvin Park Blvd. is on the right

5. Remington Garden 2516 Starkweather

From the Ecklund Garden, return to Rural St.:

- Turn left onto Rural St. and drive .2 miles to Parkview Ave.
- Turn right onto Parkview Ave. and drive .9 miles
- Turn right onto Spring Creek Rd. and drive .11 miles
- Take the 2nd right onto Starkweather Rd.
- 2516 Starkweather Rd. is on the left

6. Villafuerte Garden 1035 Williamsport

(Due to construction on Spring Creek Rd.) From the Remington Garden, go west on Starkweather to Whitehall Rd.:

- Turn left on Whitehall Rd. and drive to Highcrest Rd.
- Turn right on Highcrest Rd. and drive to Spring Creek Rd.
- Turn left onto Spring Creek Rd., and drive 4.5 miles to Springfield Ave.
- Turn left onto Springfield Ave. and drive .71 miles
- Turn right onto West State (US 20 W) and drive 2.45 miles
- Turn left onto Weldon Rd. and drive .70 miles
- Take the 3rd left onto Towermont Dr. and drive .30 miles
- Turn right onto Williamsport Dr.
- 1035 Williamsport is on the right

7. Edson Garden 7378 Montague Rd.

(Due to Weldon Rd. being closed south of Towermont Dr.) From the Villafuerte Garden, go north on Williamsport Dr.:

- Take the 1st left onto Towermont Dr.
- Turn right onto Weldon Rd. and return to State St.
- Turn right on State St. and drive 1 mile to stoplight at Meridian Rd.
- Turn right on Meridian Rd. and drive 3.4 miles to Montague Rd.
- Turn right onto Montague Rd. and drive .47 miles
- 7378 Montague Rd. is on the left



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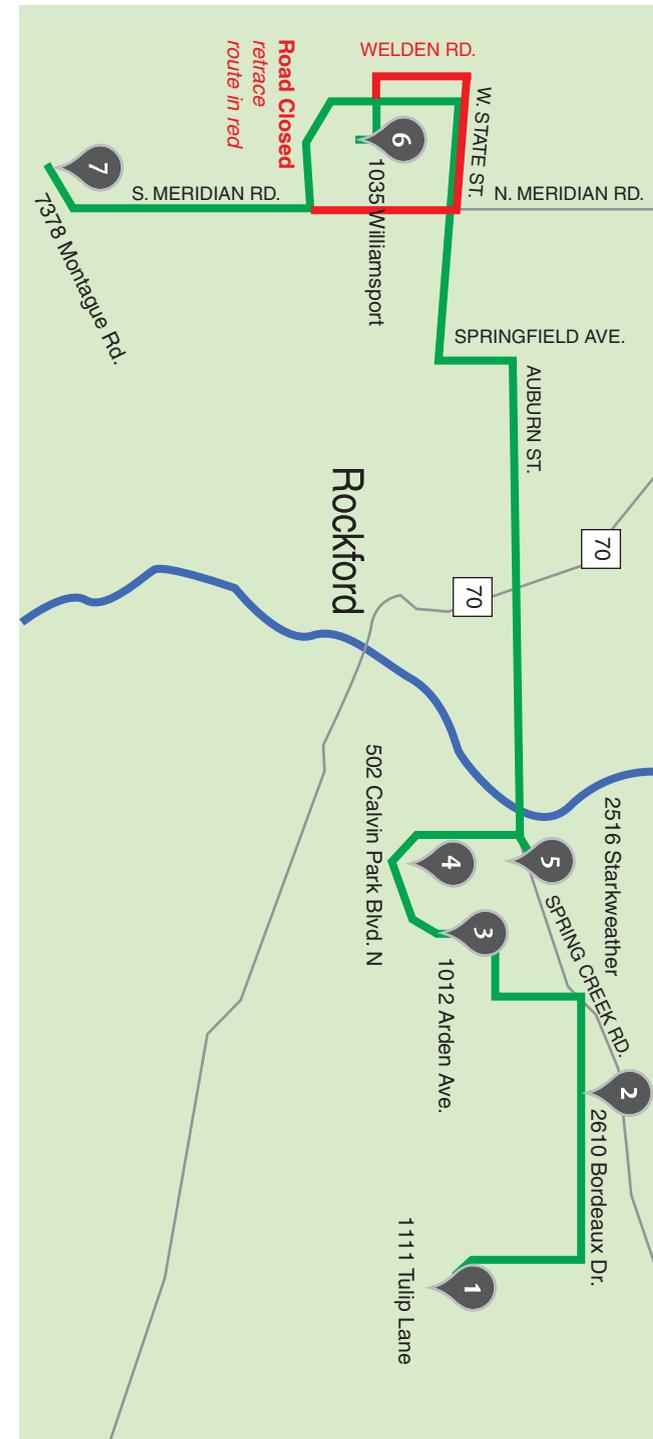
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Specializing in Fine Garden Plants

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Council of Rockford Gardeners

www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org

FREE Garden Walk

WEDNESDAY
June 21, 2017
Noon – 8 pm