

*“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the Universe.”*

– John Muir



A garden can be a place of refuge. A garden's bounty can feed both body and spirit. A garden can be a source of healing, inspiration, and renewal. One of the finest things a garden can be is a safe place to talk about the things that trouble us.

In these anxious times, we find connections with each other and the world in the Life-Friendly Garden Tour. All the gardens in this tour have been growing in Watertown without using artificial pesticides or fertilizers, for at least a year. By growing without using these chemicals, we choose to garden in a way that removes toxins, from the earth, from the plants, from our lives. The choices we make in our gardens, however small, affect the flowers that bloom, the fruit that follows, the pollinators and birds that visit, even the carbon that is drawn by deep roots into the soil.



Please join us in exploring and discussing what chemical-free gardening can do.



Note: On September 8, the gardeners highlighted in this brochure will welcome visitors into their gardens. After that, please be respectful and view from the roadside only.

For more information about the activities of the Life-Friendly Garden Tour and Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment, visit us at [watertowncitizens.org](http://watertowncitizens.org), email us at [gardentour@watertowncitizens.org](mailto:gardentour@watertowncitizens.org) or call 617-926-2545.

## Welcome to Watertown's 22nd **Life-Friendly GARDEN TOUR** September 8 2019 1–5 pm



*A self-guided tour  
of **CHEMICAL-FREE**  
yards and gardens*



Sponsored by the Life-Friendly Garden Tour, a working group of Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment

### 1 249 WALTHAM STREET | The Farm at Gore Place

Explore the farm and gardens on this historic 45-acre estate. You will see raised organic vegetable beds. While there, visit the sheep, goats, and free-range chickens. Honor system farm stand. Website offers lamb and honey for sale in the spring. To spot the entrance, just look for the "OPEN" banner. Enter from Grove Street (Waltham Street in Watertown).

### 2 175 ORCHARD ST | Lowell School Learning Garden

Best access is to drive up George Street, park and walk up the hill across the playground to the imposing historic front entrance of the Lowell Elementary School.

Comprised of five raised beds and some open areas, the garden includes a Three-Sisters area (corn, beans and squash), many herbs and flowers, two apple trees, two grape vines and a small berry patch. The raised beds are planted with annuals, featuring eight varieties of cherry tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, husk cherries, sweet potatoes, bush and pole beans. Many plantings are related to curriculum activities and objectives for specific grades. For example, two active compost piles are a part of the 5th grade studies of ecosystems, the Earth, and the effects of human activity.

### 4 185 BELLEVUE ROAD | Ann & David Asnes

Our shady yard is planted over a large rock ledge and an underground stream. We prefer native perennials and carbon-sequestering mulches, compost tea and worm castings. It's a nice place to sit, read and rest. The gardeners from Home Harvest and Boston Tree Preservation have helped with carbon sequestration, advice and maintenance. Seth Berman Gardeners rebuilt our rock wall, garden steps and made our unique patio. After 45+ years here, our garden is now quite mature.

### 5 22 GRENVILLE RD | Henrietta Light + Ian Gorry

We are nurturing the growth of many volunteer seedling forest trees – oak, hickory, walnut, elm, ash, mulberry – which have germinated on our land, probably sown by squirrels or the wind. Increasingly we let volunteer flowering plants tell us what our gardens look like, from self-sown violets and ox-eye daisies in spring and early summer, to white snake-root and asters in autumn. In contrast, exotics from the sun-porch enjoy summer camp outdoors at the back of the house.

### 6 132 LANGDON AVE | Pam Phillips

Come to a bee safari amid the flowers! The fall garden overflows with wild asters, goldenrod, and Joe-Pye Weed – to the delight of the honeybee, the bumblebee, the beautiful little metallic green bees, and more. Spent coneflowers are ripening; perhaps we will catch a goldfinch snacking on the seed heads.

### 7 30 WESTLAND RD | Susan Cooke + Victor Preston

From our large garden windows, we look on many lovely shades of green and are getting close to our goal of something blooming spring through fall. We have a new solar-powered birdbath-fountain that's popular with robins, cardinals, blue jays, starlings, mockingbirds, grackles and of course sparrows. Butterflies and bees have increased since we stopped buying plants grown with neo-nicotinoids. We've seen three different types of butterfly this year. We're experimenting with planting our new grassy street strips with flowers, and hoping those plants make it through winter. Our veggie beds are in disarray now since we're repairing and moving some of them.

### 3 157 COMMON ST | Aravinda Ananda & Joseph Rotella

Edible gardens surround our house and four chickens live in the back yard. Permaculture techniques include an herb spiral, sheet mulching, and an orchard with fruit trees and berry bushes. Domesticated crops mix with wild edibles. Every year we save more seeds and will do a seed-saving demonstration. We are also passionate about transforming human culture and dismantling white supremacy. We invite you to stop by and talk.

### 8 65 GROVE ST | Grove Street Community Garden

Watertown Community Gardens operates two community gardens, one on Grove Street and one at the Arsenal Park. The Grove Street Community Garden is located on land generously leased to us by Mount Auburn Cemetery (across from the side entrance). The Grove Street Community Garden will sunset no later than 2021.

We are always looking for space for more community gardens and ways to engage the community in the benefit of organic gardening. Check out our page at [watertowngardens.org](http://watertowngardens.org) if you have ideas and want to get involved.

