

We are planting for bees in Watertown! New pollinator plots in public gardens are joining home gardens and community gardens.

Gardening without chemical fertilizers and pesticides is a vital first step toward making our yards welcoming to pollinators. We are also learning that our native bees and butterflies need native plants. By leaving the soil undisturbed, allowing leaves to lie on the ground, and cutting standing stems to one-to-two feet lengths in the spring, we provide more places for bees and other beneficial insects to nest and raise their young.

Front Yard Gardens  
Robbins Road

As you go from garden to garden, try to pass along Robbins Road at some point. There are many front yard gardens there, all gardened organically. The neighbors have also organized and collectively planted 34 trees in two different time periods.

1 \* Department of Public Works  
124 Orchard Street

Last May, Watertown DPW installed a new pollinator garden with help from Friends of Bees. The plants are Joe-Pye weed, Black-eye Susans, lupines, columbines, Wild geraniums, and Asters. Crabapple and oak trees grow nearby. This is a spot that will have flowers for pollinators from spring to fall.

2 \* Sharon Bauer  
62 Pearl Street

My current garden inspiration is Doug Tallamy's vision of a Homegrown National Park. Starting with plants to support bees and now intentionally adding more natives, I have accumulated a long list of his recommended plants in addition to the tulips, roses and lilies that are more purely ornamental. Be sure to check out the mini-meadow between Palfrey Street and the sidewalk.

On September 12, the gardeners featured in this tour will welcome visitors during the hours of the Garden Tour. After that, please be respectful, and view their gardens from the street.

To view an online map, scan the QR code.



To learn more about gardens in Watertown, please visit [watertowncitizens.org](http://watertowncitizens.org) and [watertowngardens.org](http://watertowngardens.org). Or email us at [gardentour@watertowncitizens.org](mailto:gardentour@watertowncitizens.org).

Welcome to Watertown's 23rd  
Life-Friendly  
Garden Tour

Sunday, September 12, 2021  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



3 \* Henrietta Light and Ian Gorry  
22 Grenville Road

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. A welcome addition to our maintenance activities (and our safety) is a handrail along the winding sloping path in the front garden.

4 \* Senior Center  
opposite 152 Spring Street

In June, members of Friends of Bees, in cooperation with Grow Native, planted 39 native herbaceous plants/flowers. The native bees, butterflies, and other wildlife will find and love this space, and the seniors at the center will enjoy watching them!

5 \* John Buchanan  
43 Royal Street

For the last two years I have been adding organic soil and manure to my planting areas. I have a small 10 ft square garden in front in which I'm growing a mixture of organic vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, kale, onions, and herbs) along with a variety of flowers, a Japanese Maple tree and a lilac bush. In back of my home, I have some raised beds with organic carrots that I've been growing from seeds, and I also have four 35 week old chickens, (organically fed) who are all laying eggs.

6 \* Elise Hoblitzelle  
64 Lincoln Street

I've never used any pesticide apart from cayenne pepper or coyote urine (critters eating my serviceberry bark) in the 20 years we've lived at our home. While my garden is now primarily a shade garden, thanks to the big birch tree and other deciduous trees to keep the

house cooler, I try to keep some pollinators around to the degree possible. My backyard is slowly coming together after years of being dominated by a trampoline. In the backyard, we also have to contend with our neighbors black walnut, which produces juglones, a chemical that is toxic to many plants. I've planted native species that are tolerant of this, including a sassafras tree, silky dogwood, mayapple and more. There are also two large sycamore maples that create a lot of shade. While my garden is far from being entirely native, I've endeavored to focus on native plants, plants that support bugs and birds (blueberry bushes, winterberry, inkberry), and having barely any lawn to speak of. I try to choose plants that don't require a lot of water or maintenance, and I do my best to keep out invasives. I've been a keen gardener for 20 years, though my garden gets a lot of benign neglect.

7 \* Hosmer School  
1 Concord Road

At the intersection of Chauncey St. and Hancock St, the Hosmer Elementary School garden is in its 7th year. This year we have planted corn, beans and squash as well as tomatoes, husk cherries and potatoes and more. Perennials include a raspberry hedge, a grape vine and some herbs and flowers. As the school is rebuilt, this garden will remain as a new outdoor learning area. In addition, a new raised bed garden is being installed at the front of the new building. When finished, this will more than double the area of learning gardens at Hosmer! Outdoor learning at Watertown Public Schools was designed in to all this construction to keep up with the new curriculum topics: where food comes from, local ecosystems, human impacts on our environment and environmental stewardship.

8 \* Melinda Dennis  
4 Hosmer Street

Echinacea, Allium, Astilbe, Geranium, and tall grasses are now finding a home where only Black Swallowwort, Poison Ivy, and Tree of Heaven used to rule on a partly shaded 10' x 50' slope. I'm a novice experimenting in every patch of soil I can find with perennial pollinator

plants (natives when I can), organic mulch, compost, and shredded leaves. Coreopsis, Russian sage, Anise Hyssop, Plumbago, and Scabiosa meander across the front of the house. Veggies grow in smart pots with a bee house and bird fountain waiting patiently nearby for visitors. I look forward to meeting you and sharing ideas!

9 \* Pam Phillips  
132 Langdon Ave

Native plants I have added since the Tour in Fall 2019 include a serviceberry, Butterfly weed, Spiderwort, False Sunflower, Obedient plant, Mountain mint, Blue vervain, Mitella, Tiarella, and Hydrophyllum. This last spring I cut all standing stems to 1-2 foot lengths. I also refrained from picking up any old stems or leaves, where overwintering insects might be sheltering. I think I have more bees than ever.

10 \* Grove Street Community Garden  
165 Grove Street

This is the last year for the Grove Street Community Garden. We have a Pollinator Plot, a Herb plot, and a Berry plot that all benefit pollinators and beneficial insects. All plots are grown organically.

11 \* David Fillingham  
79 Marlboro Street, Belmont

My milkweed is thriving. We have lots of flowering plants and raspberries which the birds love.

12 \* Louise Forrest  
41 Hall Ave

I am finding out what supports the caterpillars of butterflies. I have several of plants for those caterpillars. I have seen so many monarchs flying in our backyard.

13 \* Margaret Biddle  
209 Warren Street

A chemical free garden in west Watertown. Stop by and check it out!