

For our 25th Life-Friendly Garden Tour we celebrate our founder Henrietta Light.

Henrietta has a vivid childhood memory of visiting the greenhouse at Woodlawn Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio, with her mother and being enchanted with the moist fragrant air, heavy with the scent of gardenias, as they opened the door.

As she grew up to be a professional gardener, the smell of malathion was commonplace in every greenhouse she worked in. Then her horticultural education led her to field work in the Lyman Estate in Waltham. The director of the greenhouses was using all organic methods as the result of having become ill from the pesticides used at a previous greenhouse job. This was a revelation to Henrietta, who had assumed that insecticides were necessary for growing healthy plants.

Meanwhile she had moved to Watertown and joined what was then Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety. She organized the Chemical Use Reduction Education, or CURE. CURE launched The first Chemical-Free Garden Tour in September 2007 to demonstrate that beautiful gardens could be grown without insecticides or herbicides. The Tour was such a success that in several years it was held twice.

In time, WCES became Watertown Citizens for Peace, justice, and the Environment; and the CURE Tour became the Life-Friendly Garden Tour. In 2021, Henrietta was turning 90 and ready to pass the leadership to someone else. Pam Phillips generously stepped up to carry on.

Thank you, Henrietta for being such an inspiration! We continue to garden without chemical pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides.

On September 10, the hosted gardens 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. Public gardens can be viewed any time!

NEW: Social Hour at the end of the tour!

Hours for visiting gardens will be from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. After that time, all garden hosts and guests are welcome to stop by 23 Stuart Street for light refreshments. It will be a great opportunity meet our fellow gardeners of all experience levels.

We are also holding a scavenger hunt and drawing. Tell us something new you have seen or learned and you will be eligible to enter. Prizes will be awarded during the social hour at 23 Stuart Street.

To view an online map, read the full descriptions, and learn more about gardens in Watertown, please scan the QR code below. Or email us at gardentour@watertowncitizens.org.



Welcome to Watertown's 25th
Life-Friendly Garden Tour

Sunday, September 10, 2023

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Gardens in Watertown

NEW: Social Hour

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

23 Stuart Street

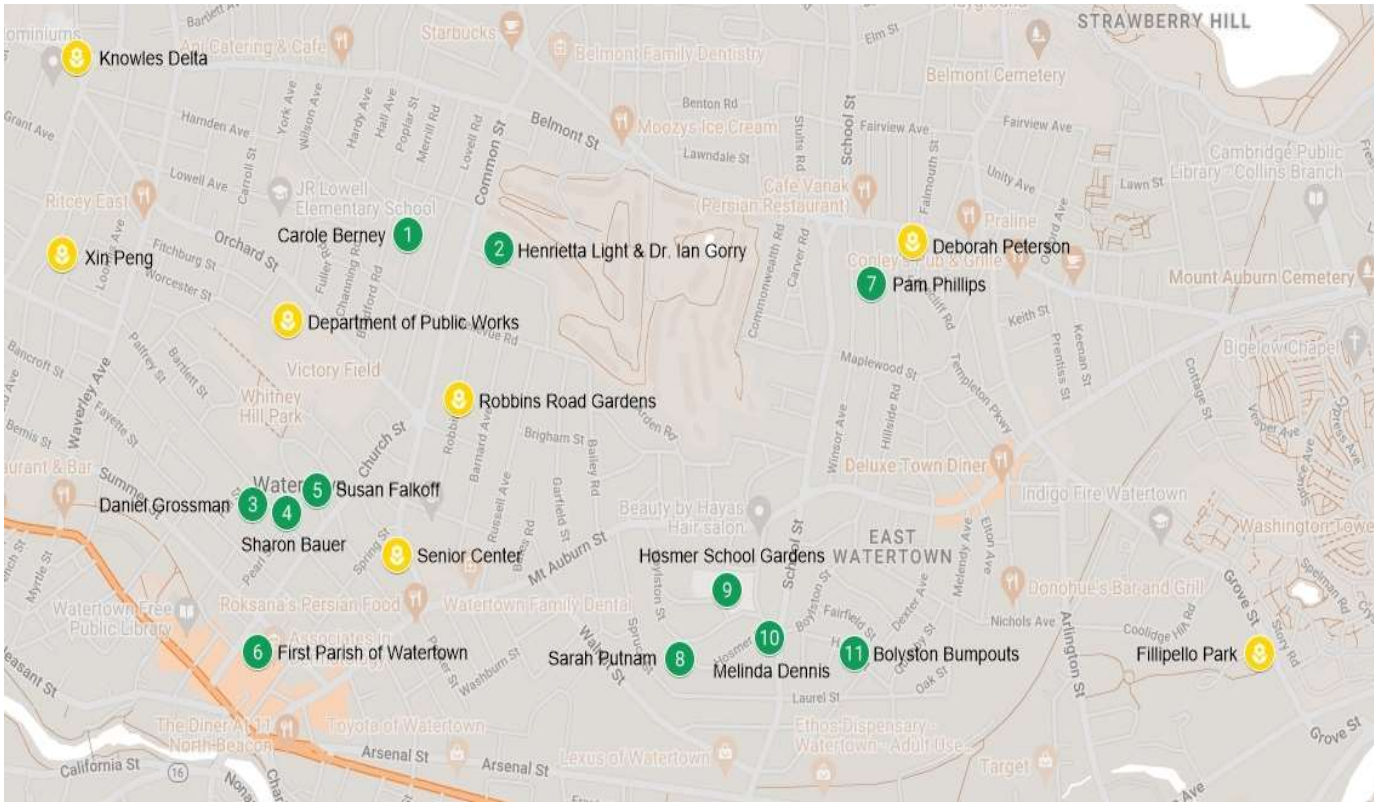


Hosted Gardens

- 1** 91 STANDISH ROAD * Carole Smith Berney
In addition to all the flowers are many figures which children of all ages love to visit.
- 2** 22 GRENVILLE RD * Henrietta Light & Dr. Ian Gorry
Our garden has become a meadow amid trees offering their services to wildlife.
- 3** 25 HAWTHORNE STREET * Daniel Grossman
Perennial flower garden and permaculture.
- 4** 62 PEARL STREET * Sharon Bauer
Part of Homegrown National Park, offering food and shelter to insects and birds.

- 5** 19 OLIVER STREET * Susan Falkoff
Perennials, shrubs and trees, along the driveway and in the backyard.
- 6** 35 CHURCH STREET * First Parish of Watertown
A mix of wildflower meadows, perennials, and trees on the right side of the church near the City parking lot. Please do not park in the church lot or driveway. Please park in the City parking lot.
- 7** 132 LANGDON AVENUE * Pam Phillips
Spring flowers for bumblebee queens have fed three species of bumblebees. Next year's queens are in the asters and goldenrods.

- 8** 130 PUTNAM STREET * Sarah Putnam
Raised bed vegetable garden with a greenhouse frame for a four season garden.
- 9** 5 CONCORD ROAD * Hosmer School Gardens
Three Sisters Garden, native perennial pollinator beds, and a rain garden.
- 10** 4 HOSMER STREET * Melinda Dennis
Bumpout converted in April 2022 to an inviting space for pollinators.
- 11** BOYLSTON & HAZEL STREETS * Boylston Bumpouts
These bumpouts created in 2018 by MassDOT are now part of our public pollinator gardens. We look forward to seeing you there!



Public Gardens, Planting Strips and Bumpouts

- BELMONT & KNOWLES STREETS * Knowles Delta**
Public pollinator garden added in Fall 2022.
- 179 EDENFIELD ROAD * Xin Peng**
Visitors are welcome to collect sunflowers, cosmos, or marigold seeds.
- 124 ORCHARD STREET * Department of Public Works**
Our first public pollinator garden, started in 2020.
- ROBBINS ROAD * Front Yard Gardens**
Many front yard gardens here are gardened organically.
- 30 COMMON STREET * Senior Center**
Public pollinator garden and Rose Garden.
- 9 WESTLAND ROAD * Deborah Peterson**
Zinnias and many other wildflowers thrive here.
- 191 GROVE STREET * Fillipello Park**
Public pollinator and butterfly garden planted in the fall of 2021 around the splash pad. Please note that the splash pad is being renovated.