

For our 27th Garden Tour, we will explore how our gardens are part of Homegrown National Park.

Homegrown National Park is a national challenge raised by University of Delaware professor and best-selling author Doug Tallamy. If we replaced half of what is now lawn nationwide, that could restore roughly 20 million acres — an area larger than any single National Park — to natural beauty we can enjoy at our homes.

We begin by restoring the native plants that our native bees, butterflies, moths, and birds coevolved with. The most important plants are the 14% of plant species that support 90% of the food chain: the *keystone native plants*. For example, if you have room to plant a new tree, an oak will support by far the widest variety of caterpillars. Caterpillars are what most birds feed their young, and most of those are moth caterpillars. Since moths need dark nights, you can help them by turning off lights at night or using motion detecting lights. Under trees, fallen leaves and “soft landing” plants — such as ferns and grasses -- help caterpillars find safe places to overwinter and become moths and butterflies.

If everyone did just one of these things, whether or not we have a garden, we can all contribute:

- Make our gardens safe for insects, birds, and all living beings by not using chemical pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides.
- Reduce lawn.
- Remove invasive plants.
- Plant keystone native plants.
- Leave the leaves.
- Add “soft landings” under trees.
- Reduce artificial lighting at night.
- Get on the Homegrown National Park map!

To learn more, please scan the QR code on the back, or visit watertowncitizens.org. You will find links to videos by Doug Tallamy, keystone native plants for our region, and more.

On September 8, 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!

To view an online map, read the full descriptions, and access further resources about Homegrown National Park, please scan the QR code below. Or email us at gardentour@watertowncitizens.org.



Co-hosted by Friends of Bees and Watertown Pollinator Pathways.

Welcome to Watertown’s 27th
Life-Friendly Garden Tour

Sunday, September 8, 2024
noon to 3:00 pm
Gardens in Watertown

Social Hour
3:30 to 4:30 pm
Watertown Free Public Library



Hosted Gardens

- 27 5TH AVENUE • Marsha Stewart

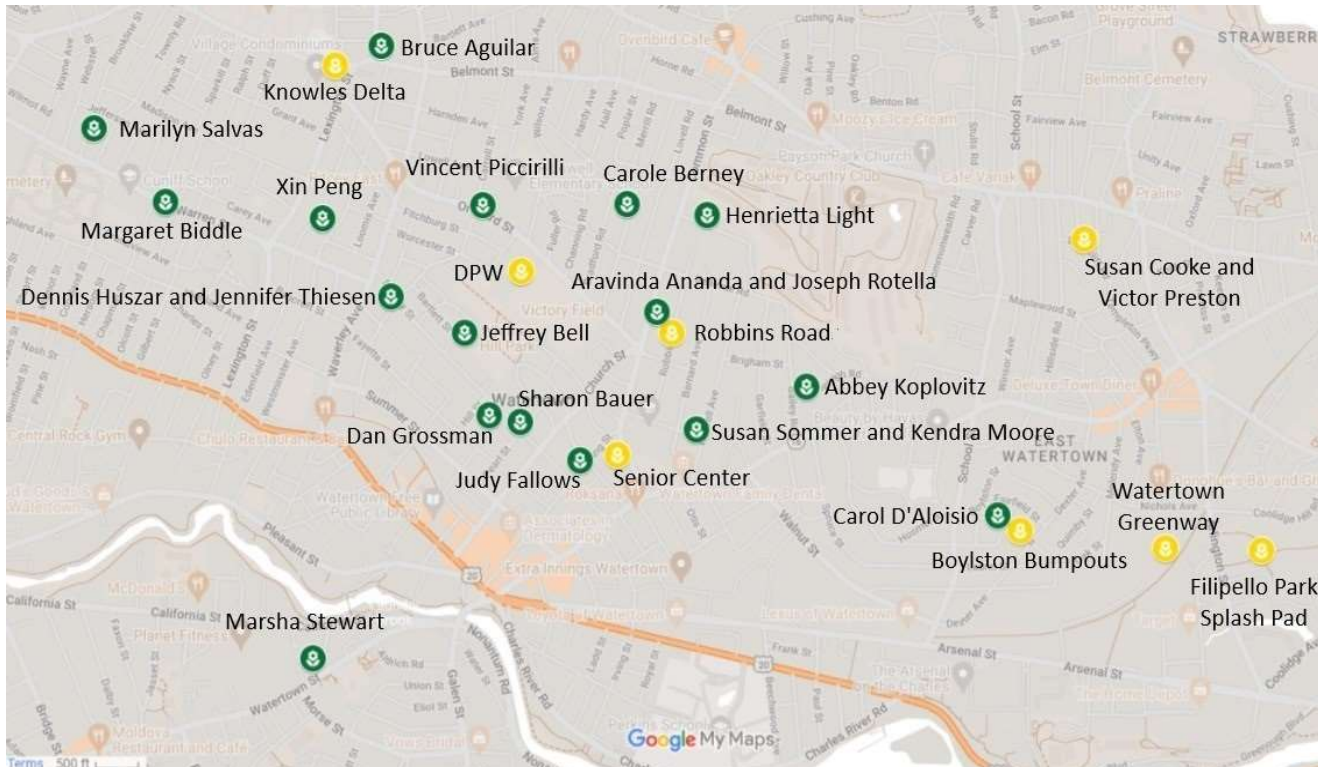
My garden delights with color and enchantment. It has a dancing flow to it and is full of many pollinator plants.

- 214 LEXINGTON STREET, BELMONT • Bruce Aguilar

Sun and shade microclimates.

- 112 BROOKLINE STREET • Marilyn Salvas

My planting strip welcomes many birds, bees and butterflies. I enjoy seeing the wildlife in my little garden.



- 209 WARREN STREET • Margaret Biddle

Pollinator garden with milkweeds, asters, sunflowers, Joe Pye weed, Bee balm, and berries.

- 179 EDENFIELD AVE • Xin Feng

Exchanges with friends and neighbors builds lovely connections, including hummingbirds, goldfinches, and singing insects enjoying this tiny garden with us!

- 203 ORCHARD STREET • Vincent Piccirilli

Designed to minimize lawn and increase tree canopy, using native plants and storm water retention onsite.

- 91 STANDISH ROAD • Carole Berney

A large variety of plantings, many of which attract pollinators. A flagstone path attracts visitors of all ages.

- 22 GRENVILLE ROAD • Henrietta Light

The garden has become a meadow amid trees offering their services to wildlife.

- 157 COMMON STREET • Aravinda Ananda and Joseph Rotella

We grow mostly vegetables. Come sample pickles and learn about seed saving!

- 114 FOREST STREET • Dennis Huszar and Jennifer Thiesen

Pollinator-friendly plants in a corner lot with flowerbeds and concrete planters along the driveway.

- 22 EVERETT AVENUE • Jeffrey Bell

A garden that once you've climbed the hill and caught your breath, you find the urge to stand there and smile.

- 25 HAWTHORNE STREET • Dan Grossman

Fruit trees in planters, including dwarf cherry, apple and peach; mango, kumquat, lime, pawpaw and kiwi.

- 62 PEARL STREET • Sharon Bauer

My Red Oak tree grew from an acorn and now supplies caterpillar baby food for multiple song birds nesting in my small garden.

- 52 MARSHALL STREET • Judy Fallows

10 fruit trees, grapes and berries, vegetables, bunnies, birds and a happy woodchuck/groundhog.

- 46 RUSSELL AVENUE • Susan Sommer and Kendra Moore

We replaced the lawn with native plants, installed six raised beds for vegetables and herbs, and planted wildflowers along the fence.

- 14 STONELEIGH ROAD • Abbey Koplovitz

My whole yard is a native/pollinator garden with a path to a secret garden. I love gardening.

- 61 HAZEL STREET • Carol D'Aloisio

Bee loving perennials with some annuals and tubers.

Planting Strips, Public Gardens and Bumpouts

- 30 WESTLAND ROAD AT EDGECLIFF • Susan Cooke and Victor Preston

The mix in our planting strip includes milkweed, columbines, fragrant roses, and lavender.

- BELMONT & KNOWLES STREETS • Knowles Delta

Public pollinator garden added in Fall 2022.

- 124 ORCHARD STREET • Department of Public Works

Our first public pollinator garden, started in 2020.

- ROBBINS ROAD • Front Yard Gardens

Many front yards here are gardened organically.

- 30 COMMON STREET • Senior Center

Public pollinator garden and Rose Garden.

- BOYLSTON & HAZEL STREETS • Boylston Bumpouts

These bumpouts created in 2018 by MassDOT are now part of our public pollinator gardens.

- WATERTOWN GREENWAY • Pollinator Garden

From the Nichols Ave entrance to behind Target, come see how Watertown Pollinator Pathways are removing invasives and adding native plants!

- 191 GROVE STREET • Filipello Park Splash Pad

Public butterfly garden planted in the fall of 2021.

Plants selected to be host plants for Monarchs and other butterflies, attract native bees, and feed birds.