



2022 Alternative Gardens Tour

Windom Neighborhood Participating Gardens List

- To access the Interactive Google Map, Log on to: <https://tinyurl.com/49j3hcew>
 - Or scan our QR Code below



Google Map Key

- : New Rain Gardens & Boulevard Bioswales
- : Full-grown Alternative Gardens and/or Boulevard Bioswales

Street Address	Description of Garden	Year Started	Other information
106 East Diamond Lake Road	Mayflower Church. A large pollinator gardens. Master Gardener to be present at this location.	2017	Parking available in the church lot on the east side. The garden is on the west side of the church by an apartment building off Diamond Lake Road. A host will be present.
5736 Stevens Avenue	An organic "cottage garden" of flowers, vegetables, and prairie plants.	Started in 2019 and integrated an existing prairie section.	Host will be present
5440 1st Avenue South	A tiered front hill garden with a mix of natives including milkweed for monarchs, perennials, and annuals. The lawn at the top of the hill was replaced with a pumpkin patch and volunteer daisies after destroyed by grubs.	Started about 15 years ago.	The host will not be present. Only the front yard is part of the tour.
5601 1st Avenue South	A corner house with boulevards planted all around with a mix of different natives, grasses, bushes, perennials, and lots of fun boulevard art.	Garden has evolved over 14 years	The host will not be present.



5444 Blaisdell Avenue	An urban farm. Vegetables in raised beds out front, chicken and coops in the back, and lots of pollinating perennials front and back. Clematis are my favorite flowers and cover the south side of the house. I have started to add small evergreens and flowering shrub into perennial gardens for the structure, texture, and color they bring.	Been gardening on Blaisdell for 20 years.	Host will be present.
5513 Blaisdell Avenue	An eclectic perennial and evergreen garden.	2019	Host will be present
5740 Blaisdell Avenue	We started the front garden 5-6 years ago, with a strong focus on native perennials starting about 3 years ago. Most are started from seed or splits from other gardens, with some purchased. In 2020 installed a boulevard bioswale to help with water pooling on the sidewalk.	5-6 years ago,	Host may/may not be present
5404 Wentworth Avenue	Front yard turf has been fully replaced with native plants. It continues to be a work in progress. Master Gardener to be present at this location.	2019	Host will be present
5409 Wentworth Avenue	Rain garden installed in 2021 through a partnership between the homeowner, the Windom Community Council and Metro Blooms.	2021	Host will be present
5528 Wentworth Avenue	My front yard is a combination of things I've found or been gifted over the years, along with a lot of experimentation with what will work and what won't. I like to focus on 'pollinators and trying to keep the blooms going all year long as much as possible. The boulevard was first added to 'two years ago and it continues to be a work in progress to eliminate grass and let the perennials take over.	2017	Host will be present
5749 Pillsbury Avenue	Primarily natives with a cherry tree and roses. A boulevard bioswale was added last year as part of the Windom project.	2015 Started five years ago and growing.	Host will be present.
5413 Pleasant Avenue	Flowers: wildflowers, natives, bee and butterfly habitat, and pollinators.		Host will be present



5816 Pleasant Avenue	<p>We have been in our home for 30 years! Six years ago, our enormous elm tree in the back yard had to come down. We went from full shade to full sun!! We planted the back yard with plants native to Minnesota, and once that established, we were so pleasantly surprised by all the bees, birds, and butterflies! We fully redid our front yard and boulevard, and as a We fully redid our front yard and boulevard, and as a bonus we were able to add a lot of next doors to use. We just planted about 800 native plugs! To add to that, we will seed a meadow. We have also established a rain garden, and under our two linden trees we are trying to create a woodland garden. And a large vegetable garden.</p>	Six years ago,	<p>Host will be present. Since we just planted all of the new baby plants, please stay on the dedicated paths. No dogs please (they tend to really like them chickens).</p>
5813 Harriet Avenue	Rain garden sponsored by WCC.	2021	Host may/may not be present.



5532 Garfield Avenue	<p>Front garden: started fall of 2021 with most plantings being done spring of 2022. Species are about 95% native, all done from plugs, small pots, bulbs, and bare roots. Back garden: planted from a native seed mix in May of 2020. About 400 square feet Use of weed suppressing mats. Found at MNL Corp while looking into their native species options. They can be found at: https://mnlcorp.com/product/weed-suppressant-mat/ They are 1/4" thick wood pulp-based mats and they are water permeable. I installed them late in the summer Of 2021; this killed the existing grass lawn. Then in the fall and spring I cut holes in the mat using a hole saw and planted my plants in the holes. Now this year with the garden growing in the mats perform they weed suppression as well as erosion control which is important for my yard since I have small but steep hills. Versus other grass lawn killing methods I think this option is superior performance wise, but it is also a lot more expensive than other options. If my lawn were flat, I probably would have gone for the more common sheet mulching method, or maybe even sod cutting which is what I used to remove the lawn in my backyard garden. The mats are supposed to last for three years then biodegrade. In the spring of 2023, I will likely start removing them myself on the flat upper part of the yard and replacing them with leaf mulch (which should note be required beyond next year as the garden fills in completely). While they are unbeatable in weed suppression, they also present the flowers and grasses from expanding beyond the holes they are in. Depending on how that goes, I might also remove the mats the front slope next summer. I will likely leave the mats on the driveway slope until 2024 as that slope is 45 degrees and I want another year for the plants to build their roots for erosion control.</p>	2020	Host will be present.
5648 Garfield Avenue	Rain garden sponsored by WCC.	2021	Host will be present.



5701 Garfield Avenue	Boulevards and alley: flower gardens, mostly hardly pollinator-friendly perennials, or self-seeding annuals, with a few natives. I almost always have perennials and seeds to give away. Front yard: berries, veggies, and herbs. Backyard (not open to the tour): more flowers, fruits, and veggies; two compost piles held by wire fencing shaped in 4' diameter circles; and habitat for critters and insects (including brush and a water source). All grassy areas and gardens 100% organic since 1991. I hand pull all weeds and occasionally apply corn gluten meal to grassy areas. Flower gardens and hedge get a layer of composted manure every few years. Thinking about alternatives to turf!	Veggies since 1992. Flowers since 2004.	Host will be present. Backyard does not open to the tour.
509 West 54th Street	Annunciation Church. The rain gardens in the front of the church were installed in 2016 as an Eagle Scout project by the host's son to address water runoff around the church. It is part of a larger plan to address water issues around the building.	2016	Host will be present. He also has a lot of personal experiences with gardens and water issues that he can share with visitors.