

Native Plant Tour Locations

835 Sherwood Drive, La Grange Park

Welcome to our front garden which has evolved through many years of trial and error. We try to create four season interest with a mix of bulbs, shrubs, some natives and edibles, while concentrating on natural soil amendments, drip irrigation and a rain garden in the backyard.

831 Sherwood Drive. La Grange Park

When I moved into my house 20 years ago, very little was garden and what was there was unkept. I have always loved gardening and it provides time to relax and unwind as a safe haven. I developed a plan with help of landscaper and reading gardening books and articles. Gradually, I have transformed the yard space into a relaxed and informal garden that has color and interest throughout the four seasons. I enjoy viewing my garden from the deck on back of my house as well as from the bench set back in the garden to give different perspective. It gives me joy and thoughts that keep garden evolving over time.

523 N Kensington Drive, La Grange Park

The focus of my garden is on attracting birds, bees, hummingbirds and hawk moths, all of which I love to see in the garden. Partly because these creatures (and others) are having a tough time of it, I don't use pesticides. I generally hand-weed and use a lot of compost to feed the soil whenever I can, and I love seeing all kinds of critters in the garden (we've seen foxes and hawks over the years, and some other rare birds now and then). I use all kinds of plants from all over, but I often love using native plants, because they're adapted to the soil around here and they're usually really tough (and bees love them). Hope you enjoy the garden, which brings us a lot of joy.

Beds Plus, 9601 E Ogden Avenue, La Grange (corner of East Avenue and Ogden Avenue)

Beds Plus is a private organization that is a leader in reducing and ending homelessness throughout Southwest Suburban Cook County. Its building in La Grange offers transitional housing for clients and includes a variety of gardens including butterfly, rain, and prairie gardens that all have a wide array of native plants. A green rooftop will also be open for tour participants to visit.

209 W Cossitt Avenue, La Grange

Avid gardeners, Mary and Tom's home is known for the exuberant cottage garden in front of their 1905 Victorian. They have made sure to incorporate select native plants in that plot as well as in the porch bed, in the long sidewalk bed and the driveway bed. This year's project has been revamping their small, narrow back garden and adding some natives there. When you visit, note that the natives are tagged with signs on poles

641 S Ashland Avenue, La Grange

The garden is forever evolving! When we purchased the house, the backyard was a blank slate and we started the garden with a housewarming gift of two small lilac bushes. We planted a rose garden by those lilac bushes, but never had much luck with them. Since then, the garden has taken up more space in the yard with a yearly planting of vegetables, but mostly low-maintenance native perennial flowering plants and berries which thrive and multiply through the seasons bringing food and habitat to support bees, birds, butterflies.

645 S Ashland Avenue, La Grange

I started my prairie garden in 1995. It is a mixture of native prairie and woodland plants plus some common cultivated species. Over the years, I have compiled a notebook with pictures and descriptions of the plants. If visitors would like a copy, they can bring a thumb drive and I will download it for them.

817 S Stone Avenue

We decided to transform the side of our driveway a few years ago because of my involvement with the LaGrange-LePortage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The state regent at the time chose saving Monarch Butterflies and pollinators as a state conservation project. We replaced the ornamental grass that was there with native perennials that attract butterflies and pollinators. They are relatively drought resistant and can survive the winter without much problem. I also have swamp milkweed on the side of the house, where I collect baby Monarch caterpillars and raise them to adult butterflies during the summer.