

**Homeless Connection
2018 Garden Walk**

**Garden 1
Gina Burgert
9115 N. Oakwood Ave
Neenah, WI**

It was always my dream to have a koi pond. The focal point of my front yard is my 8000 gallon koi pond. Next, came my infatuation with hostas. My collection consists of over 600 named varieties, a few special seedlings I received from friends, and some of my own. I love the durability and easy care that go along with hosta gardens. I also discovered Solaris Farms and my obsession with daylilies kicked in. Since I have quite a bit of sun, having daylily gardens makes perfect sense. You cannot beat the beauty and variety of daylilies. My yard also has many native plants and a large area of pompas grass. I enjoy decorating with eye catching garden art that I have collected from across the country. My favorite piece is a 5-foot long metal iguana I hauled all the way home from Arizona!

**Garden 2
Renee and Jim Broehm
9125 N. Oakwood Ave.
Neenah, WI**

You will not find fancy structures or a lot of garden art here. What you will see is our love of growing edibles; a raised bed vegetable garden, fruit trees, and currant bushes, asparagus, raspberries, grapes, and shiitake mushrooms. You will see and hear a koi pond with a waterfall and stream. The stream is a backyard bird lover's dream! From the pond, a path leads into a perennial garden (lily garden), which leads to another flowerbed that connects to compost bins, a greenhouse, and garden shed. Many natives are planted throughout to attract birds, bees, and butterflies. There are four rain barrels on the property, which keep all the potted plants looking beautiful. We enjoy sitting around and cooking over the fire pit. Our goal is to bring nature to us by creating an irresistible habitat.

**Garden 3
John and Cynthia Lecker
N1475 Keimar Court
Greenville, WI**

We have spent the last 28 years transforming our former farm field yard into a tranquil backyard landscape oasis. As you enter the yard, view from the distance the flowering curved beds, the variety of unique trees and shrubs, and generous entertainment and play areas. Then stroll through the gardens to view the many smaller details, such as the "Mouse Ears" hosta collection, stone walking paths, circle garden, transformed vegetable garden, and many more! Every turn reveals another section of our vast plant collection, which includes over 700 hosta varieties, 100's of companion plants, and many seasonal color display gardens. This garden is enjoyed best, one step at a time!

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**Garden 4
Todd and Dawn Schulz
1107 E Nawada St
Appleton, WI**

Our endeavor began 16 years ago with a home and yard that provided a blank canvas; one that was, and still is, always changing in composition, texture, and color. Having a vegetable garden, along with a habitat for birds and bees, was essential for us. Design was influenced by how the gardens appear primarily in the winter. Beautiful galvanized steel beds framed with cedar house many of the heirloom vegetables. An herb garden is built into the front patio wall. This patio is a private sitting area surrounded by trees, shrubs, and perennials. Our backyard is an oasis overlooking the ravine. Here we have designed an upper patio with a pergola, a campfire sitting area, and lower patio – all surrounded by a mixture of vegetables, perennials, and annuals. Look for rain barrels, a compost bin, a potting shed, and Holzhausen wood stacks. We welcome all to enjoy the experience of this quiet space nestled right in the middle of the city.

**Garden 5
Linda Novitske
702 N. Morrison Street,
Appleton, WI**

My garden, which I created, is always a work in progress. I love color and try to focus on bringing in a big variety of different hues. Sometimes it can be very challenging. I am very proud of my unique cedar post fence, all parts were hand peeled by me. The unique part of my garden has always been the antiques that I have found in my travels to upstate New York, Atlanta, and special places in Wisconsin and Michigan. Welcome and enjoy my garden.

**Garden 6
Loris & Arno Damerow
507 W. Prospect Ave,
Appleton, WI**

On a bluff over the Fox River, this garden in the Old Third Ward features two giant basswood trees and highlights an attempt to bring restoration to this urban property. After a civic road project brought the removal of all vegetation along its western ravine in 2015, this garden now features sun-loving prairie plants on its steep clay slopes. In three short seasons, cup plant, big bluestem, asters, rudbeckia, sumac, wahoo, and much more are now sending their roots deep into the soil. Shade-loving hostas, along with native spring ephemerals, live under the canopy of the two big trees that remain. Paths, walkways, and stone stairs twine around the southern hillside, delivering dramatic views of the river. The plank deck tucked into the crest of the hill provides a feeling of being “in” the prairie and a spot for watching eagles, pelicans, and herons cruise the river. While the steep pitch of this unique site is certainly a gardening challenge, native plants prevail and this once buckthorn-covered urban lot is now a habitat supporting diversity and interest.

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**Garden 7
John & Cindy Rueth
2309 Gmeiner Rd
Appleton, WI**

Our yard's various gardens feature a variety of perennials, shrubs, and hardscape items to add interest. Composting and water collection are practiced here. Redwood from our parent's old deck has been repurposed into a fence and unique screen in one corner of the yard. The kid's old fort is now the garden shed. An array of seating areas coupled with a pair of fountains provide tranquil retreats from which to view the seasonal blooms as well as visits from many birds, bees, and butterflies.

**Garden 8
Brian and Deanna Krieglsteir
1841 Northridge Ct.
Menasha, WI**

Our garden is a vision, and is still in the process of growing. From small picket fences to a secret pathway leading to hidden gardens, places abound to inspire your creative imagination. These hidden spaces are contrasted by a huge, north woods - inspired waterfall, and a patio area centered on a fountain. Intimate annual and perennial flowerbeds are nestled into the landscape. Sit a spell, relax and enjoy the views from above and below.