



JULY 30th 9am - 2pm

Edible Garden Tour 2016

1. Sugar Beet Food Co-op - 812 W Madison

Start the tour here! Get a map, coffee and snacks for the day!

2. Christiane Broihier and Peter Hugh's Garden - 943 N East Ave, Oak Park

This edible garden feeds both people and pollinators by mixing vegetables, fruit, herbs and native plants. Christiane and her family removed a concrete basketball pad to make more room for plants, growing all around in repurposed containers, raised and typical garden beds. Composting is done here, a rain barrel harvests water from the sky and butterflies have a habitat to feed and reproduce. The yard is also home to "The Farm"--a kid's experimental area--and an apple tree that their son Jonny grew from seed.

3. George Koller's Garden - 920 N Kenilworth Ave, Oak Park

This garden is a one year old urban homestead with diverse plantings of vegetables, fruits, and herbs for use in brewing, freezing, canning, and other preservation methods. There are chickens to turn the compost and bees to pollinate as well as 16 fruit trees grown with espalier and backyard orchard culture methods. It's a beautiful example of a young garden that includes a little bit of everything!

4. All Ages/ All Abilities Garden at Cheney Mansion - 220 N Euclid, Oak Park

Sugar Beet Schoolhouse has brought together community partners to create an All Ages All Abilities Garden on the grounds of Cheney Mansion. Eight garden beds were planted with greens, tomatoes, eggplant and much more by participants from Oak Leyden and WSSRA. The garden feels like a secret oasis complete with a Little Free Library stocked with books, a native garden, grape vines, espaliered apple tree, raspberry and currant bushes as well as the beautiful perennials planted by Oak Park Conservatory. The garden is harvested each week by an intergenerational volunteer group and all produce is donated to Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. With support from the Park District of Oak Park, Concordia University's Center for Gerontology and many volunteers, this collaboration has been very...fruitful! After 11am enjoy live music and the Book Bike in the garden!

5. GlenArt Goat Farm - 500 N. Waller, Chicago

Back by Popular Demand! Carolyn, David and Arthur Ioder have created the perfect homestead in the Austin neighborhood by converting their two car garage into a barn for a small herd milking goats and clutch of laying hens. The goats spend their days in a pasture between the fire house and community garden called Harambee started by Root Riot which will also be open to visitors. This is the most popular stop on the tour every year.

6. Estelle Carol's Garden - 323 S East Ave, Oak Park

This experimental front-yard mini farm makes an encore on the tour. Since 2015, gardener Estelle Carol installed an AquaJet irrigation system in a long raised bed that saves water and improves plant growth. Powerful pumps draw rainwater to the bed from two 275-gallon barrels on the side of the house. A timer makes automatic watering easy. More than 25 kinds of vegetables and herbs fill the garden, made more visually interesting by combining planters and in-ground plants.

7. Daniel Price's Garden - 537 S Ridgeland, Oak Park

Occupying a pocket along a home's south wall, this first-year "laboratory" garden demonstrates how much food can be grown in a compact space. The focus is on interplanting, the practice of putting in a second crop that matures before the main crop to increase yield. You'll also see hugelkultur, a German gardening technique that grows crops in mounded beds that allow composting underneath. Expect to see several tomato varieties growing in pots and the beds, along with tomatillo, greens, herbs, squash, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant—and a trio of chickens escaping the heat—and humans—amid the Russian kale in the leafy backyard bed.

8. Ascension Community Garden - 808 S East Ave, Oak Park

The Community Garden at Ascension Catholic Church began in a parishioner's back yard in 2010. Through the weekly harvests of their 11 raised beds (built by Eagle Scouts) and generous donations of parishioners and friends close to 10,000 pounds of produce has been donated to the food pantry of our sharing parish in Austin, St. Martin de Porres. Ascension families participate with their donations and with watering, weeding and harvesting on Tuesday evenings. School science projects have provided seedlings and troops of Brownie Scouts have scoured our plants to earn their bug badges. This is truly a community garden! Be sure to visit the Schoolhouse's new Blender Bike Smoothie Station!

9. Doug Walder and Elissa Speizman's Garden - 821 Gunderson, Oak Park

Inspired by Nigel Slater's book, Tender, this raised bed garden combines herbs, 3 varieties of pole beans and several kinds of tomatoes, along with two kinds of broccoli, and other edibles like aparagus, rhubarb and a sour cherry. Learn about planting succession to get the most from your garden, building and maintaining raised beds, and an unusual way to really protect from the depredations of the local wildlife.

10. Catherine Murphy's Garden - 846 S. Elmwood, Oak Park

Catie's garden will delight you in its diversity and how she has worked with the challenges of dappled sun. Her soft fruit trees include pear, cherry, plum, paw paw as well as 2 apple trees, hazel nut trees and a Silver Maple. Currants, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, elderberries and gooseberries are also found dispersed throughout the garden. In addition, she has many unique veggies. Delight in her 2 female angora rabbits and observe the bees as they come and go from their hive. Catie makes use of the fruits of her labor making willows into baskets, maple syrup, honey wine and angora sweaters.

11. Jennifer Mannebach's Garden - 1026 S Grove, Oak Park

This urban oasis is home to a productive clutch of laying hens and several bee hives that provide this Oak Park family with honey and eggs all year round. Their shady garden is beautiful with a sour apple tree, many bee friendly flowering plants and a kitchen garden with a variety of tomatoes, herbs, strawberries, cucumbers and Japanese eggplant. Also! Learn about WAX - the Western Suburbs Apiary Experience.

12. Laura Young's Garden - 1156 S East Ave, Oak Park

This small but intensely productive garden, surrounded with a unique wattle fence, focuses on preserving, storing and teaching their children where food comes from. Laura Young and her family enjoy having something fresh with dinner nearly every night and canning surplus harvests to add fresh foods to their diets in the wintertime. All of their diverse plantings were direct sown after the last frost (with the exception of the lettuces and onions which were direct sown before but kept in a cold frame). Growing from seed is easy and inexpensive!

13. Kathryn Humphrey's Garden - 1153 S. Elmwood, Oak Park

This small backyard garden makes the most of an urban lot with raised beds, an herb garden, expansive pollinator flower borders, and several laying hens, while maintaining enough yard space for dining and relaxing. Come learn how you too can fit everything you want (well, almost everything) into our smaller Oak Park lots. Also, meet Jen Murtoff from Home to Roost! She is our local chicken consultant and can help you start your own flock.

Special thanks to our gardeners, community partners, and sponsor of the 2016 Edible Garden Tour:
Sugar Beet Food Co-op

Learn more about our cooking classes, afterschool programs, camps and other community events at:
sugarbeetschoolhouse.org