

GARDEN TOUR 2017

Garden A – Kyle & Jade Van Holland, 752 3rd St. Circle SE

Virtually all the work done on their yard has been done by the Van Hollands themselves in the two years that they've lived there. That includes hauling in and arranging all those huge rocks for the deck, the rock garden and the waterfall. In the front yard are roses, allium, yellow ribbon arborvitae, asters, grasses, and more, with solar lights along the sidewalk. Make sure to check out the unusual planters. One is made from an old tire, and three others are from old chicken feeders! Around the left, to the back yard, is the deck with herbs growing in pots, and then the waterfall and the attractive rock garden. At the foot of the back lawn are two raised gardens. The unique, practical design of the higher one makes it very easy for Jade to raise vegetables and flowers without bending. Planted in the lower bed are flowers for cutting.

While you are at the Van Hollands, you are invited to stroll into the Vander Zee backyard next door. By contrast with the sunny yard of the Van Hollands, the Vander Zees have a secluded seating area that is very shady. All their huge trees were planted less than 35 years ago! Their former fenced-in vegetable garden now contains mostly native prairie plants.

A bonus for you, if you are fortunate, is to enjoy the sight of elegant horses running in the adjoining pasture!

Garden B - Heritage Village, 1271 7th St. NE

Thanks to volunteers—Ron Oostra and his helpers—the buildings in Heritage Village are complemented by flower and vegetable gardens, shrubs, and trees.

Around the old house are flower beds with hardy perennials as well as annuals that are replaced as necessary throughout the summer. Behind and to the left of the house is the vegetable garden. Also back there is the little orchard with cherry and apple trees, flanked on the right by a stand of very tall-stemmed sumac. Workers give the handle of the big compost barrel a turn whenever they walk by it.

All of this is a labor of love—mostly Ron's! It's especially his love of trees that has transformed the bare grounds into a virtual forest, comprising about 70 different varieties of trees, all meticulously labeled. Consult the flyer for details, including the exact location of each tree. What you will also see on the tree labels are names of people or businesses. For a donation of \$100 or ten hours of labor, you can have the name of a loved one or of your business added to one of those labels. You may also be entitled to a little of the garden produce!

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Ron will give TREE TALKS at 5:15, 6:15 and 7:15 on Thursday, and at 10:15, 11:15, and 12:15 on Friday.

TREE "TALKS"

Thursday @ 5:15pm; 6:15pm; 7:15pm

Friday @ 10:15am; 11:15am; 12:15pm

Master Gardeners on site both days to answer your gardening questions.

Garden C - Brent & Mary Hulstein, 3868 Indian Ave.

(Take B40 to Indian Avenue—a mile past Sandy Hollow—then turn left and go a mile and a half until you see the huge Hulstein farm yard on the right with the big red barn dated “1930.”)

This is no city lot with well-defined borders and every last dandelion eliminated! It's a wonderful farmyard with a multitude of nooks and crannies with all kinds of hidden surprises, which the four Hulstein children delight in pointing out.

As you enter the yard, you'll see the huge, lush lawn with a small orchard of apple and pear trees on the right. And on the left is a lovely flower garden, which you can enter through a wisteria-covered trellis. Scattered among the perennials and annuals are a little pond with a fountain, solar lights, and dozens of whimsical touches—ceramic figurines, colorful dishes, bottles, and more. You'll want to take your time to find them all. The large home is surrounded by flower beds and many huge trees that provide shade and a windbreak on the north. The tire swing near the back door has been transformed into a planter. Behind the occupied chicken coop is a “furnished” playhouse. And way back of the big red barn is the vegetable garden. If you're interested in seeing the sheep or their paint horse, the kids will be happy to show you! Brent is the third generation Hulstein to live here, and the whole family enjoys the wide-open view of the countryside, as well as sunrises, sunsets, and the Sioux Center fireworks.

NISO players, John & Marian Casey, will present a LIVE MINI CONCERT on Thursday evening. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a cool beverage and beautiful music in the shade of the large trees in the grove.

LIVE MUSIC - Thursday, July 6, 4pm-8pm
John & Marian Casey

Garden D - Teres View Condos, 1073 Teres View Dr.

At the entrance to the Teres View neighborhood on the eastern edge of the golf course is a large structure that bears the name of the development and shelters the mailboxes. The plantings around it were a joint effort of the homeowners, who have cooperated to develop their yards with some common elements such as the tall pinnacle birches that tie them all together.

As you begin your tour around to the left, you will see a wonderful view of the large lawn that extends down to the cattail-surrounded pond, with farmland in the distance, from which you may find it hard to tear your eyes! The landscaping along the south side of the homes includes many perennials, including tall weeping white birches and skyrocket junipers; Asiatic and stargazer lilies; hydrangeas, coral bells, grasses, yucca, peonies, buckthorn, chokeberry (aronia), spirea, creeping juniper, and shaped evergreens. One plant that looks like a miniature jade plant is the elephant plant, so-called because it's eaten by elephants! Individual condos display a variety of potted plants and decorations that reveal personal preferences. The fire pit, surrounded by potted geraniums, is the “Wednesday wine” gathering spot for the neighbors. In the lawn just beyond the last condo is an attractive rock garden that camouflages electrical and telephone equipment! Take note of the interesting metal orbs. As you make your way back up the hill on the west side of the condos, you'll see an espaliered apple tree, trained to grow on wires flat against the wall.

TRUFFLES will be served at Ground Effects, 2075 S Main Ave.