

Fisher Park Neighborhood Garden Tour

Sunday April 26, 2009 – 2:00 to 6:00 PM

Visit some or all of these five gardens maintained by our Fisher Park neighbors. At each location you will see an owner or a Neighborhood Association volunteer who can answer questions and direct you to the other gardens. There is no charge for this tour. If you want to make a contribution to the work of the Neighborhood Association, please mail a check to the address shown at the bottom of this page.

Garden Tour Locations on East Side of the Neighborhood:

Cottage Garden of Chip Callaway – 122 East Fisher Avenue

Chip and his company, Callaway & Associates, specialize in residential and historic garden design. Over the past 25 years Chip and his staff have designed many gardens ranging in size from large estates to small patios. An example of his work is located here, where Chip maintains gardens on the grounds of his two adjoining early 1900's bungalows. He uses one house as his residence and the other for his office. As a happy circumstance, after he bought the houses Chip learned that one of them was a childhood home of a mentor, legendary botanist William Lanier Hunt, after whom the botanical garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is named.

Chip designed this garden as a collection of plants and elements that he remembered from the gardens of his youth. The garden is overflowing with old-fashioned favorites like roses, hydrangeas, camellias, gardenias and viburnums. Perennials and favored annuals complete the scheme. In addition to providing an oasis of calm in a busy city, the garden also serves as a test garden for new plants. Chip is a partner in Piedmont Carolina Nursery and many new plant introductions prove their merit in this ever-changing urban landscape.

English Garden of Lynne and Billy Lee – 707 Magnolia Street

When the Lees first moved in there was a garage original to the house and the garden had three trees, a huge iron swing set, much chain link fence, and a brick patio. They took down the swing, disease took down one of the huge old oak trees, and the hurricane of 1997 took down the neighbor's oak which in turn demolished the garage and everything else standing, so apart from the patio the Lees started growing a garden from just a pile of dirt. Lynne desired a fairly formal layout, but one where you could not see the entire garden in one glance.

This garden now has a series of "rooms" with hedges and fences concealing portions from view, creating a sense of mystery and tempting the visitor to go through an opening, around a corner, down a step. There are focal points -- urns, a fountain, seats at the end of paths, and sculptures by Billy -- as points of interest. Instead of replacing the old garage, the Lees put a pergola in its place, which along with all of the other structures Billy built himself. Lynne did the design layout and planting. The garden has been created on a very limited budget, and all trees, shrubs, and other plants have been grown from young plants. The back portion of the garden is under renovation at this time.

(Turn page for locations on west side of the neighborhood.)

Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. • PO Box 2004 • Greensboro, NC 27402 • www.fisherparknc.org

Mission Statement: To preserve the historic and residential character of the Fisher Park neighborhood, and to work with the City of Greensboro to help maintain the scenic park for the benefit of the general public.

Garden Tour Locations on West Side of the Neighborhood:

Roomed Garden of David Brossoit and George Weldon – 201 W Bessemer Ave

The six rooms of this garden are a careful play on foliage texture and a study of shades of green and white blooming plants. This is known as a moon garden, where in the light of the full moon all the white flowers stand out as if illuminated. Within the rooms are coves of pachysandra and sarcococa, Delaware Valley Azaleas (the only fragrant azalea), both Klein's and Radicans Gardenias, four varieties of hydrangea, camellias, and several varieties of climbing roses.

For texture there are both American and English Boxwoods, delicate lime green lace cut Japanese Maples, three types of yew, Emily Brunner Hollies, Skip Laurels and palm trees. Windmill Palms are located in the sunken garden flanking a classic brick fountain. On the opposite end of the fountain is a classic folly (garden structure). Brick walls around the sunken garden incorporate stones that were found during the renovation of the garden.

Entrance to the rose covered arches from the sunken garden is through a single arch covered by a Cedras Diadora. The arch is flanked on either side by a row of English Black Oaks. The roses begin to bloom in May and continue throughout the summer into early fall. Under the rose arches, English Boxwoods, Gardenias and Satsuki Peonies surround apple and pear trees. The topiary garden is filled with a variety of hostas, and clipped and trained English and American Boxwoods.

Intimate Garden of Misty McCall – 204 Fisher Park Circle

This "room" garden is a medley of lawn, ground cover, perennials, evergreen shrubs and roses in a compact and accessible environment. It serves as an outdoor hideaway.

Urban Food Garden of Dawn and Justin Leonard – 603 Simpson Street

This modern "victory" garden is a small but intensively planted food garden currently including all the springtime favorites such as spinach, lettuce, beets, carrots, radishes, broccoli, garlic, onions and more. The garden was started as an experiment to see how much food could be grown in the front yard apartment space, the only place where abundant sun was available.

The Leonards hope that this garden will serve as a model for sustainability, creativity and self-sufficiency in the middle of a city. The garden is part of the larger mission of Urban Harvest, a nonprofit organization started by the Leonards and dedicated to sustainable food production, distribution and education within the urban and suburban limits of Greensboro.

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