

2023 Garden Tour Information

The 2023 Garden Tour, sponsored by the Riley County Extension Master Gardeners, will take place on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 8:00 am until noon. The theme this year is Evolving Landscapes. The 2023 Garden Tour features five private gardens of homeowners in the Manhattan area and the Kansas State University Gardens.

While there is no required admission charge, a one-time donation of \$10 is suggested for those who wish to participate in the Garden Tour. The proceeds help support the various educational activities of the Riley County Extension Master Gardeners and benefit the Kansas State University Gardens.

To begin the Garden Tour, simply go to one of the featured gardens. There is no specific order that you need to follow. At each site, there will be a registration table, where visitors can make their donations, sign the corresponding guest book, and obtain a garden tour map (if needed). Several master gardener volunteers will be available to collect donations, guide visitors, and answer questions at each site.

Brief descriptions of the featured gardens on the 2023 Garden Tour are provided below and are followed by a picture of the 2023 Garden Tour poster and the 2023 Garden Tour map.

Garden Descriptions for the 2023 Garden Tour

Linda and Winston Letterman, 2105 Essex Square, Manhattan

This is the second time that Linda and Winston's lovely garden will be on the garden tour and their garden continues to evolve with recent added features. Both Linda and Winston have been Riley County Extension Master Gardeners for many years now. Linda describes her garden as "a cottage garden", and it was designed to mirror the colors of Monet's gardens and paintings. A cottage garden is full of pink, lavender, blue, and white flowers using all-time favorites such as rose bushes, lilies, coneflowers, daisies, and hydrangeas. Linda and Winston invite you to experience their garden through the senses of touch, smell, sight, and hearing. This year there are several new water features to complement the birdbaths, benches, pathways, pergola and other sitting areas that Linda and Winston have created to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature.

Robert and Pamela Russell, 1515 Barrington Drive, Manhattan

The Russell's share their 45+ years love of gardening by getting their hands in the soil and experimenting, through trial and error, with different plants. Initially, they had to move a lot of large limestone rocks, and with all that rock they have created a rock garden, a water garden with fish year around, and retaining walls. Robert and Pamela have designed their own landscape to create a sanctuary that invites wildlife and birds to inhabit the space. They enjoy their wisteria arbor, Pinyon pines, Northstar cherry tree, and maple trees that display great fall color. In addition, they have many annuals and perennials that provide various colors throughout the growing season.

Susan and Lynn Tolley, 200 North 16th Street, Manhattan

Susan and Lynn have been gardening for more than four decades also. Their current garden all started after they installed a patio next to their house. They wanted a pleasant surrounding while they relaxed on their patio. One big challenge were the many trees. Not only did the trees provide a lot of shade, which makes it difficult to grow many common garden plants due to the lack of full sun, but the trees also have extensive roots that made growing shade-loving plants difficult also. Susan has many plants in unique containers to get around the tree root problem. Container gardening it also allows the Tolleys to grow more tropical plants outdoors in the summer, which are then brought inside during the winter. Come and enjoy their shady retreat!

Kate and Brian Solamon, 3839 Fox Ridge Drive, Manhattan

Kate and Brian lack the decades of gardening experience that most of the other garden hosts have acquired, but they have the energy and gardening enthusiasm to create the many beds and other features out of the “blank slate” that was their yard when they moved into their home over 10 years ago. In addition, they wanted their two young children to experience the joy of gardening and nature. So, after establishing a wonderful lawn, their attention turned to creating flower beds for butterfly habitats, installing several water features in both the front and back yards, planting many irises, and designing a vegetable garden with a wide variety of veggies. Come see their koi fish, which delight people of all ages! When asked about any helpful tips for creating such a variety of garden areas, they suggest that beginners start small and expand from there!

Erin and Trent Dunlap, 4050 Eagle Valley Drive, Manhattan

Erin and Trent have the newest garden on the tour – roughly 10 years old at this point. Trent works in the landscaping industry and enjoys coming home to create a relaxing space in their yard. They describe their yard as comfortable, and they have several areas, like their fire pit, hot tub, and patio, where they can sit and relax after a long day. Even though the yard has abundant sunshine, they enjoy growing hostas in the shadier areas. Another favorite plant is their magnolia tree. Finally, they have a lovely front entry using colorful plants in containers. Trent’s suggestion is to be daring and add plants that are different from the typical ones seen in most yards, and to have fun with the annual planting side of landscaping too!

K-State Gardens, 1500 Denison Avenue, Manhattan

The Gardens is an invaluable learning laboratory for K-State students and a welcoming place for visitors of all ages. In addition to plant material, the Gardens also have water features, native limestone, sculptures, with arbors and benches dispersed throughout. Visitors can view plants through a kaleidoscope’s two mirrored rubes that turn and create different patterns and colors. It was purchased with proceeds from previous RCEMG Garden Tours. The K-State Gardens are open to the public year-round with free admission and parking.

2023 Garden Tour Poster

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Riley County

34th Annual GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, June 10, 2023

8 a.m. to noon



photograph of K-State Gardens courtesy of Joan Wasse

GARDENS ON TOUR

Trent and Erin Dunlap
Linda and Winston Letterman
Robert and Pamela Russell
Brian and Kate Solamon
Susan and Lynn Tolley
Kansas State University Gardens

4050 Eagle Valley Drive
2105 Essex Square
1515 Barrington Drive
3839 Fox Ridge Drive
200 N. 16th Street
1500 Denison Avenue

Tickets not required. Suggested \$10 donation.
Proceeds benefit Kansas State University Gardens.
For information, call 785-537-6350.

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2023 Garden Tour Map

