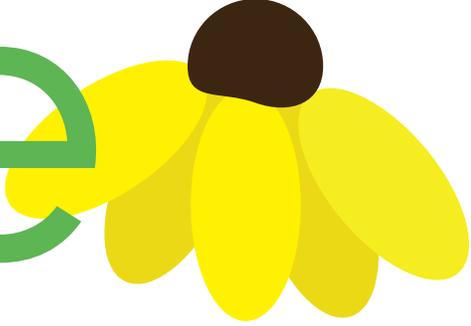


# Native garden

walk, drive or

# Bike Tour



Nine locations in La Grange Park  
and La Grange, packed with inspiration.

Visit anytime between 1 and 4 pm

Sunday, July 23rd, 2023



Scan the QR Code to download the map  
and addresses. Or go to the  
La Grange Park Sustainability Facebook Page  
@LGPSustainability



## **Native Plant Tour Locations - 2023**

This year a number of locations have been included on the Native Plant Tour. Featured will be 4 butterfly gardens in the Village of La Grange Park, that were funded through a grant by the ComEd Green Region Grant Program. In addition, several La Grange Park and La Grange residents have opened up their gardens to the tour participants, all featuring a wide variety of native plants.

The list of locations and a brief description are listed here:

### **Edgewood and Oak Ave(s), La Grange Park Butterfly Garden 1**

### **Meadowcrest Rd and Woodside Ave, La Grange Park Butterfly Garden 2**

### **937 ½ Barnsdale Ave, La Grange Park Water Works, La Grange Park Butterfly Garden 3**

### **Beach and Oak Ave, La Grange Park Butterfly Garden 4**

The Village of La Grange Park received a grant through the ComEd Green Region Program and Openlands in the summer of 2020. Four butterfly gardens were constructed in the spring of 2021, three of them have small water feature that have solar powered pumps. These butterfly gardens add beauty to open green spaces, but also give the community awareness about pollinators and the important role they play in our world. Each butterfly garden contains a variety of native plants, which help attract pollinators. New plants are planted as needed, to fill bare spots along with general maintenance. We were lucky enough to gain some assistance with the creation of butterfly gardens from the La Grange Park Sustainability Commission and the Forest Road Girl Scouts Troop #56054. These have been a great addition to the community and to the environment.

### **800 Sherwood Ave, La Grange Park**

Gardening connects me on a daily basis with the natural world around me. That being said, at the beginning I doubted that my thumb would ever truly be green. I did not understand or appreciate that we live in a post-wild world, a world in which human activities have altered the natural landscapes and climate patterns. I then discovered that all was not lost. Our native plants - vibrant wildflowers, grasses, and sedges - have developed mechanisms to withstand the region's climatic conditions, including periods of drought, of excessive rain, and of extreme and fluctuating temperatures. My intent, in designing, nurturing, and tweaking my garden beds dedicated primarily to native plants, such as those found in the Illinois prairie, while mixing in my non-native favorites, such as hydrangea and roses, is to showcase the beauty and resilience of local and exotic flora, attract, feed, and protect our pollinators and other beneficial insects, while restoring, on a small scale, the delicate balance of our local ecosystem in an ever-changing tapestry of beauty throughout the seasons.

### **735 Robinhood Ln, La Grange Park**

Monarch butterflies are majestic insects that migrate through our area from early May through late September (early October). After reading many articles about the plight of the monarch, I decided to begin raising these beauties in the spring of 2019. For that one needs milkweed and nectar plants. Out of that idea came my pollinator garden. I began this garden last summer in the middle of my front grass. Planting the garden next to my giant blue spruce helped protect the plants from insecticide sprays from nearby neighbors thereby providing my plants a better chance of survival and with that the monarchs. My pollinator garden has common milkweed and all the nectar plants accompanying the milkweed are plants native to Illinois; black eyed susan, blazing star, and goldenrod to name a few. Recently, a neighbor passed on who had a full yard of native Illinois plants. So to provide a habitat for these majestic creatures and various other insects and birds, several of the neighbors dug Earl's plants out and have spread them throughout our four cornered area.

### **209 West Cossitt Ave, La Grange**

La Grange Avid gardeners, Mary and Tom, welcome you to an exuberant cottage garden in front of and surrounding their 1905 Victorian that maximizes the limited space. They are especially pleased that after utility work in 2022 removed almost a third of the front garden, they were able to salvage many perennials as well as refurbish and add new varieties to the replanted section. They have incorporated native plants in the parkway plot as well as in the porch bed, the long sidewalk bed, the driveway bed and in the narrow back garden. And hopefully by the time of the walk, a new patio will be in place. Plants of interest, including natives, are tagged with signs.

### **232 8th Ave, La Grange**

Come see our garden! It is a carefully planned riot of plants, waterfall ponds, and pergolas. We have native plants aplenty. These include echinacea, columbine, and Black-eyed Susan's. There is a shade garden that includes wild ginger, Jacob's ladder, liverwort,

and trillium. And, of course, there are cardinal flowers, goldenrod, and astilbe. We eschew the neat and kemp in favor of diversity and curiosity. It is an uncommon sanctuary. See what you think!

### **50 North Ashland Avenue, La Grange**

Beginning in the spring of 2021, David and Sean began transforming the backyard from sod to a haven for native flora and fauna. We love the interesting foliage and flowers provided by purple coneflower, ninebark, columbine, heuchera, dicentra, and rattlesnake master, and you'll see that wild bergamot, switchgrass and hoary vervain have become keystone species in our beds. The belle of the ball, a Chinquapin Oak, is being overshadowed by the fast-growing, showy elderberry, but she'll take her place as the queen of the yard soon enough! Please note that we raise Italian honeybees and have a hive positioned in the back of the yard, but don't let this deter you from exploring our space. On a sunny afternoon, the bees are typically foraging further than a half-mile from the hive. We will help remind and guide visitors.

### **509 South Ashland Ave, La Grange**

In 2009, there was only lawn in both the front and back. Around 2018, we started consciously adding native plants. Fall of 2019, we had a good portion of the front lawn removed and the next spring planted it with natives. We are continuously adding more species of plants and paths to wander through. This spring, we added a large variety of new native plants, some that we winter sowed and some purchased at native plant sales. Our goal is to add more diversity to our yard and make it an inviting and whimsical place to visit, for humans, insects, and birds. We will continue to replace more of our non-native plants and reduce the lawn areas.

### **641 South Ashland Ave, La Grange**

The garden is forever evolving! When we purchased the house, the backyard was a blank slate and we started the garden with a housewarming gift of two small lilac bushes. We planted a rose garden by those lilac bushes, but never had much luck with them. Since then, the garden has taken up more space in the yard with a yearly planting of vegetables, but mostly low-maintenance native perennial flowering plants and berries which thrive and multiply through the seasons bringing food and habitat to support bees, birds, butterflies.

### **817 South Stone Ave, La Grange**

We decided to transform the side of our driveway a few of years ago because of my involvement with the LaGrangeLePortage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The state regent at the time chose saving Monarch butterflies and pollinators as a state conservation project. We replaced the ornamental grass with native perennials that attract butterflies and pollinators. They are relatively drought resistant and can survive the winter without much problem. I also have swamp milkweed on the side of the house, where I collect baby Monarch caterpillars and raise them to adult butterflies during the summer.





# 2023 Native Plant Tour La Grange locations

50 N Ashland  
209 W Cossitt

232 8th Ave  
509 S Ashland

641 S Ashland  
817 S Stone

