

Welcome to the  
*Healthy  
Landscapes*  
2014  
Community  
Garden Tour

**Gardens of any size  
can grow food,  
flowers and trees!**

Discover how you can adapt  
large- and small-scale garden  
concepts to fit any yard.

**Sunday, June 29**  
**11 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
Rain or shine

**New this year!** Enjoy the garden  
tour by bike with a route laid  
out by Bicycle-Friendly Guelph.



**healthy  
landscapes**

For more information  
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**FSC logo**

*Healthy  
Landscapes*  
2014  
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Garden Tour

A collaboration with  
Bicycle-Friendly Guelph



**Now  
with a  
biking  
route!**

## About the tour

The Community Garden Tour features gardens that demonstrate water efficiency, are low maintenance, and include native, pollinator and/or food plants and trees.

The tour is free and self-guided. Explore the location map and read about participating gardens in this brochure.

Visit as many or as few gardens as you like, in any order you choose, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on **Sunday, June 29**.

Transportation to the gardens is not provided. You can bike, walk or drive to each location.

This year, to celebrate the collaboration with Bicycle-Friendly Guelph, cyclists will get a free gift for participating in the tour by bike. Follow the suggested route on the map, or cycle your own way between the gardens. To get to and from your chosen starting point, visit [guelph.ca/bike](http://guelph.ca/bike) and check out the Guelph cycling map.



## Tour guidelines

- Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and your camera. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- Gardens open at 11 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Please respect the privacy of garden owners by adhering to these viewing times and the tour date. Note that home interiors are not part of the tour.
- Street parking is limited; refer to the parking details listed for each location. Carpool if you can and be prepared to walk a short distance to each garden.
- Gardens may not have chairs or benches; be prepared to stand and walk.
- Respect these private gardens; avoid clipping or injuring plants, and stay on marked paths while enjoying the gardens.
- Plan a lunch break and pit stops; restrooms are not provided at tour stops.
- Turn off your mobile phone or set it to vibrate so you won't disturb other visitors.
- Children must be supervised at all times.

## Garden sales and giveaways

Each garden will have a giveaway or items for sale. More details about what's on offer at each garden are available in the garden descriptions. All items, sale or giveaway, are available in limited quantities and available on a first-come, first-served basis until supplies run out.

### Enter to win prizes at each garden—visit all gardens for a chance at the grand prize

Look for the ballot box at each garden location you visit and enter to win a prize. Have your brochure stamped at all of the gardens to be entered in a draw for the grand prize of a solar rain barrel pump.

## Healthy landscapes, healthy community

Developing beautiful, healthy landscapes does not have to include hours of maintenance and water use.

In fact, through proper landscape planning, proactive maintenance, and proper plant selection, you will significantly reduce your requirements for weeding, watering and continued maintenance, while eliminating the need for pest controls.

To help residents achieve healthy, natural lawns and gardens the City of Guelph is happy to provide a variety of resources, and gardening workshops through its Healthy Landscapes program.

[guelph.ca/healthylandscapes](http://guelph.ca/healthylandscapes)

### Sign up for your free Healthy Landscape visit

During a Healthy Landscapes visit, available May through August, our advisors will visit your property to show you ways to save water, energy and money.

Once the visit is complete, you'll receive a free report outlining recommendations on how to create a beautiful, low-maintenance lawn and garden.

#### How-to tips include:

- Fun, easy ideas to help you incorporate the latest garden trends
- Learn about dazzling plant combinations that are easy to grow and maintain
- Watering your lawn and garden for best results
- Identifying pest problems and how to deal with them
- Conserving energy by planting a tree in the right location

To sign up for your free, 45-minute Healthy Landscape visit of your property, starting May 2014, call **519-822-1260 x 2107** or email [healthylandscapes@guelph.ca](mailto:healthylandscapes@guelph.ca).

# Garden locations

## 1. Hidden Oasis

207 Speedvale Avenue East

This garden is designed to meet the needs of the wildlife that inhabits it. Permeable paths connect main areas of the garden including a woodland garden, vegetable garden, pond, butterfly garden, kitchen garden, sitting area, work area, wetland, and streetscape garden. This garden was created to attract and support as many pollinators in as many life cycle stages as possible. A diversity of plant material, variety of plant heights and densities, running water, and seasonal blooming periods fulfil this aim. Many of the plants are labelled with descriptions including the pollinators they attract.

**Activity:** Native plants and bee boxes are for sale at this garden to help you attract native bees to your yard. Bees help pollinate your vegetable plants for bigger and better production.

**Parking:** Limited parking in the driveway; additional parking is available on side streets (Marlborough Street).

## 2. Foodies Delight

294 Metcalfe Street

Surrounding this house are low-maintenance flower beds, bird baths and feeders that attract birds year round. Most of the gardens surrounding the house are filled with perennials that are watered through a soaker hose attached to a tiered rain barrel system.

Upon entering the backyard you see a growing and evolving garden. Bordering the front is a wildflower bed filled with colour and fragrance. Then the expansive food garden beyond, with both annual and perennial vegetables. Amid mulch paths are raised beds filled with herbs, lettuce, garlic and onions, and a greenhouse where seeds are overwintered and started in the spring. To one side sits a chicken coop, home to 12 chickens, and a giant tepee, nested beside a row of apple and pear trees, will soon be filled with pole beans. Here, compost is valued like gold and the back of the garden is lined with composters.

The design of this vegetable garden changes on a yearly basis to help with nutrient balance, and disease and pest prevention.

**Activity:** Free recipe book available, showcasing the food grown in this garden.

**Parking:** On street.

## 3. Urban Retreat

15 Shirley Avenue

This smaller urban lot has been carefully designed to meet many needs. The owner takes great pride in the beauty and functionality of her garden. A small vegetable garden growing heirloom tomatoes, garlic, Egyptian walking onions, loveage, chives and oregano is bordered by hardy, drought-tolerant perennials. There are also edible fruit trees and shrubs including pear, cherry, serviceberry, elderberry and mulberry.

Five vermi-composters, where red worms quickly turn yard and kitchen waste into useable compost, help feed this garden, and rain barrels provide water to help new plants establish and to supplement water to vegetables as needed. A gold fish pond with aquatic plants creates a home for mating toads, and provides a cool drink for visiting wildlife. You may also catch a glimpse of four famous, sweater-wearing residents. These chickens are national fashion celebrities!

**Activity:** Plants and hypertufa (artificial stone) planters are for sale.

**Parking:** On street.

## 4. Urban Forest

39 Emslie Street

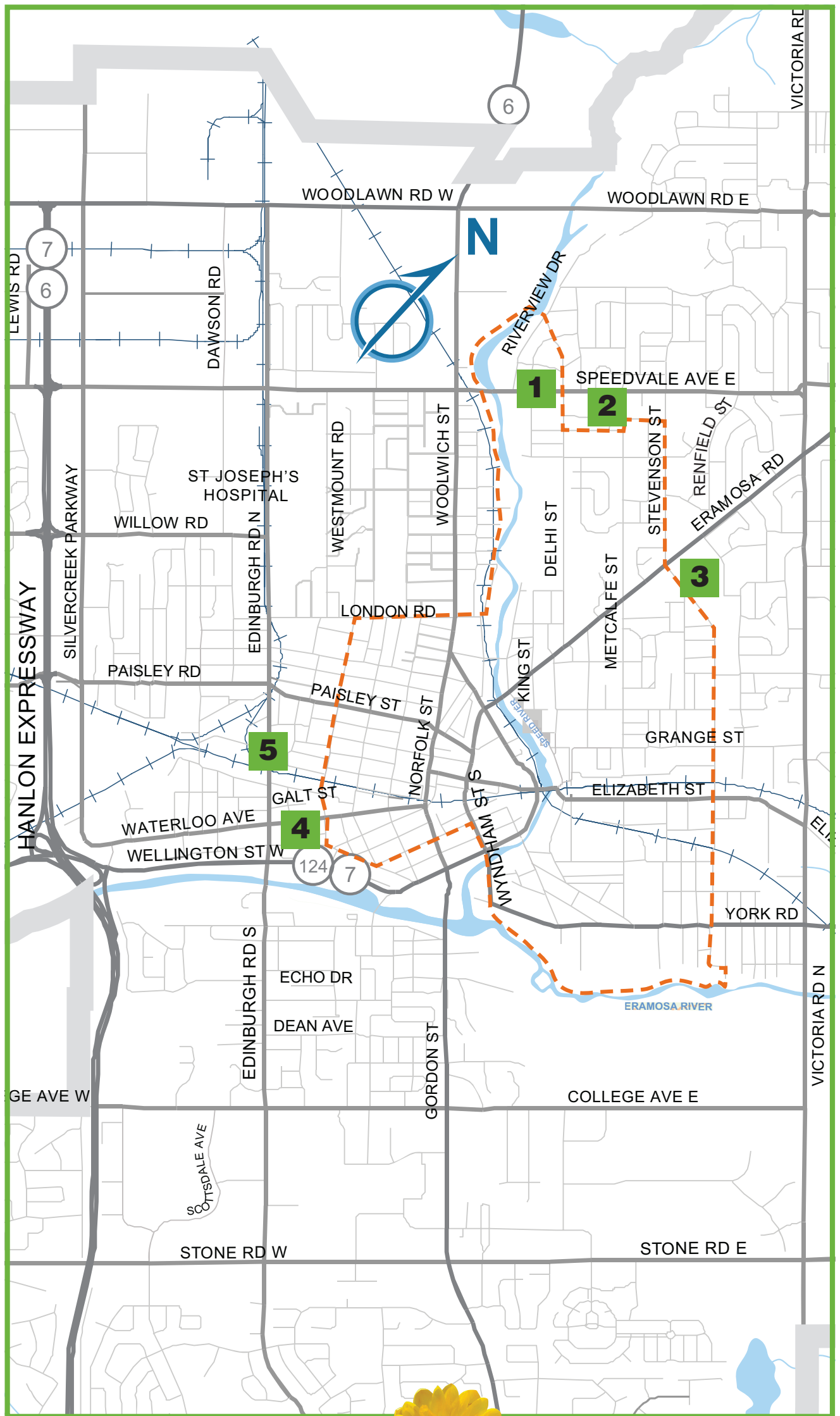
Come and explore this Wisteria-wrapped century home. On a quaint, quiet street you'll find a backyard oasis with large, old trees that provide habitat for wildlife, help lower utility bills with shade and wind block, and mute surrounding noise.

This yard speaks to the value of trees on urban lots; it gives a language and understanding to living with big plants. This forest oasis helps others see how these urban landscapes are possible, and that naturalization can also be beautiful. Those intimidated about planting big trees in small spaces need only glimpse this garden to shed their inhibitions.

While you're here, walk around the neighbourhood where you can see 33 different tree species within just 20 yards.

**Activity:** Free small tree giveaway

**Parking:** Limited parking on one side of Emslie Street; parking is also available on nearby side streets including McGee.



## 5. Charming Backyard Haven

91 Foster Avenue

Over the past four years, this backyard has been—and continues to be—converted from a non-native, weed haven into a multi-use landscape that provides nourishment for both the local wildlife and the homeowners. Here you'll see an A-frame playhouse that uses an old sail cover and was constructed over an existing concrete slab; a potting shed with a native species green roof designed to hide a neighbouring concrete wall; and raised planters built around the existing deck for easily accessible herbs and produce. Native plants and nectar-producing flowers that bloom from April through October encourage an array of pollinators. A bat house, a number of birdhouses, and bee houses all contribute to promoting biodiversity within this yard.

**Activity:** Free birdhouses.

**Parking:** On Harrison Street; no parking on Foster Street.



The suggested cycling route is approximately 10km.



The route travels largely on quiet streets, with a stretch on Stevenson Street bike lines, and portions along the Trans Canada Trail. This route is friendly for cyclists of any level. If travelled in a clockwise direction, the route avoids large hills.