
Sunday, June 15, 2003
Tour
Noon–4 PM
Information Center
Noon–5 pm
BETTER
LAWNS AND
GUTTERS TOUR
rain gardens, chemical-free
lawns and native plants
A Yahara Lakes Week Event

WELCOME!

Tour • Noon–4 PM

Welcome to the Better Lawns and Gutters Tour, held as part of the annual Yahara Weeks celebration sponsored by the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission. This year, we welcome three new partners — Greater Madison Healthy Lawn Teams Inc., the Audubon Society and the UW Arboretum — who have joined with us to expand the water-friendly sites on the tour to include chemical-free lawns and native plants.

What do lawns, rain gardens and native plants have to do with water quality? All three are beautiful, low-maintenance ways of reducing stormwater runoff and the amount of nutrients, chemicals and other pollutants that are carried from our lawns, gutters and streets into our lakes and streams.

We have also added an Information Center, located at the McKay Center in the UW Arboretum, staffed by experts who can answer questions and share ideas on how to beautify your landscape, save time and money on maintenance, attract wildlife and help our environment.

We thank the home and business owners who have welcomed us into their gardens as well as you, our "tourists," for taking time to learn more about these simple, effective and beautiful solutions. Together, we can all make a difference in the quality of life here in Dane County not just for us, but for generations to come.

Rain gardens are landscaped areas, usually positioned near downspouts or in low-lying areas of a yard that help keep rain where it falls. By allowing stormwater to infiltrate into the ground rather than becoming runoff, rain gardens cut down on the untreated stormwater that makes its way — along with the sediment, fertilizer, oil, pet waste and other pollutants it carries — to our lakes, rivers and wetlands.

Chemical-free lawns are lawns where organic methods are used to create beautiful, low maintenance yards that are healthy for children, pets and the environment including the soil itself. Synthetic pesticides or fertilizers are not applied as these compounds can eradicate soil microorganisms and make the soil dependent on chemical use.

Native plants can successfully replace all or part of a traditional lawn. Native plants are hardy, low-maintenance and a delight to the senses. They don't require frequent mowing and watering like most traditional lawns.

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Better Lawns and Gutters Tour
Information Center, McKay Center Lobby
1207 Seminole Highway in the UW Arboretum
Open Noon–5 pm

Learn about invasives, see alternatives to chemicals for your lawn, check out innovative tools, talk to experts, search a database to find that special plant and more.

Rain Gardens

1 Roger Bannerman 614 Piper Drive, Madison

Established in 1999, this 180-square-foot garden traps over 8,000 gallons of water each year due to its high infiltration rates and careful design. Roger offers a couple of tips in sizing your garden: make it 20–30 percent of the roof area, or if you have sandy soils, drop to 10 or 15 percent of the roof area. Roger did the planting, but recommends a professional designer for plant selection and placement.

2 Edgewood College, 1000 Edgewood College Dr., Madison

Edgewood's rain gardens capture large volumes of runoff, largely from campus parking lots. Students involved with Edgewood College's Wingra Watershed Project and community members associated with Friends of Lake Wingra helped plan and plant these gardens in 2000 and 2001. Much of the soil is compacted clay covered with construction fill from previous building projects. Even in these poor soils, the plants are growing well and capturing much of the sediment and runoff from rain events.

3 Willy Street Co-op, 1221 Williamson Street, Madison

There are two rain gardens at the Co-op, both created last year. The project served as an educational opportunity and involved the public in incorporating the rain gardens into the landscape design. The parking lot rain garden is about 550 square feet and is at the low point of the lot. The rooftop garden, about 900 square feet, is integrated into the Jenifer Street landscaping. Native Landscapes by Applied Ecological Services designed and installed these rain gardens and recommend using natives not only for their good looks but for ease of maintenance as well.

4 Ken and Lynn Schreibman, 4206 Redtail Pass, Middleton

Excavated in autumn 2001 and planted in spring 2002, this 200-square-foot garden is located near the back patio along the property line. Native Landscapes by Applied Ecological Services (AES) integrated the rain garden into the landscape where it fit best, even though there were heavy soils that would probably retain water. To accommodate the heavy soils, they chose plants that would thrive in a wetter garden and that were best suited to that part of the yard. AES recommends planting on 1-foot centers for a fuller look in a shorter time frame.

5 Jeff and Carolyn Hapeman, 4512 Oak Valley Road, Cross Plains

Planted just this spring, Native Landscapes by AES installed these gardens near the walkways in front and near the patio in back. AES chose bergamot, sedges, prairie blazing star, mountain mint, blue vervain and panicled aster for their textures and colors. Once their garden is established, it will have blooms April through October.

6 Linda Jordan, 2811 Ridge Road, Madison

This is a very new garden, planted in May of this year. The soil was tilled and graded by a contractor before planting day. Planted swales carry the water from two big downspouts to the garden. Volunteers from Wild Ones, who planned the garden, did the planting as well as the selection of plants for the garden. The plants were purchased from the Agrecol catalog, from the rain garden plant collection offered. Additional short shade plants were purchased from Taylor Creek nurseries.

7 Summit Avenue Cooperative, 1820 Summit Avenue, Madison

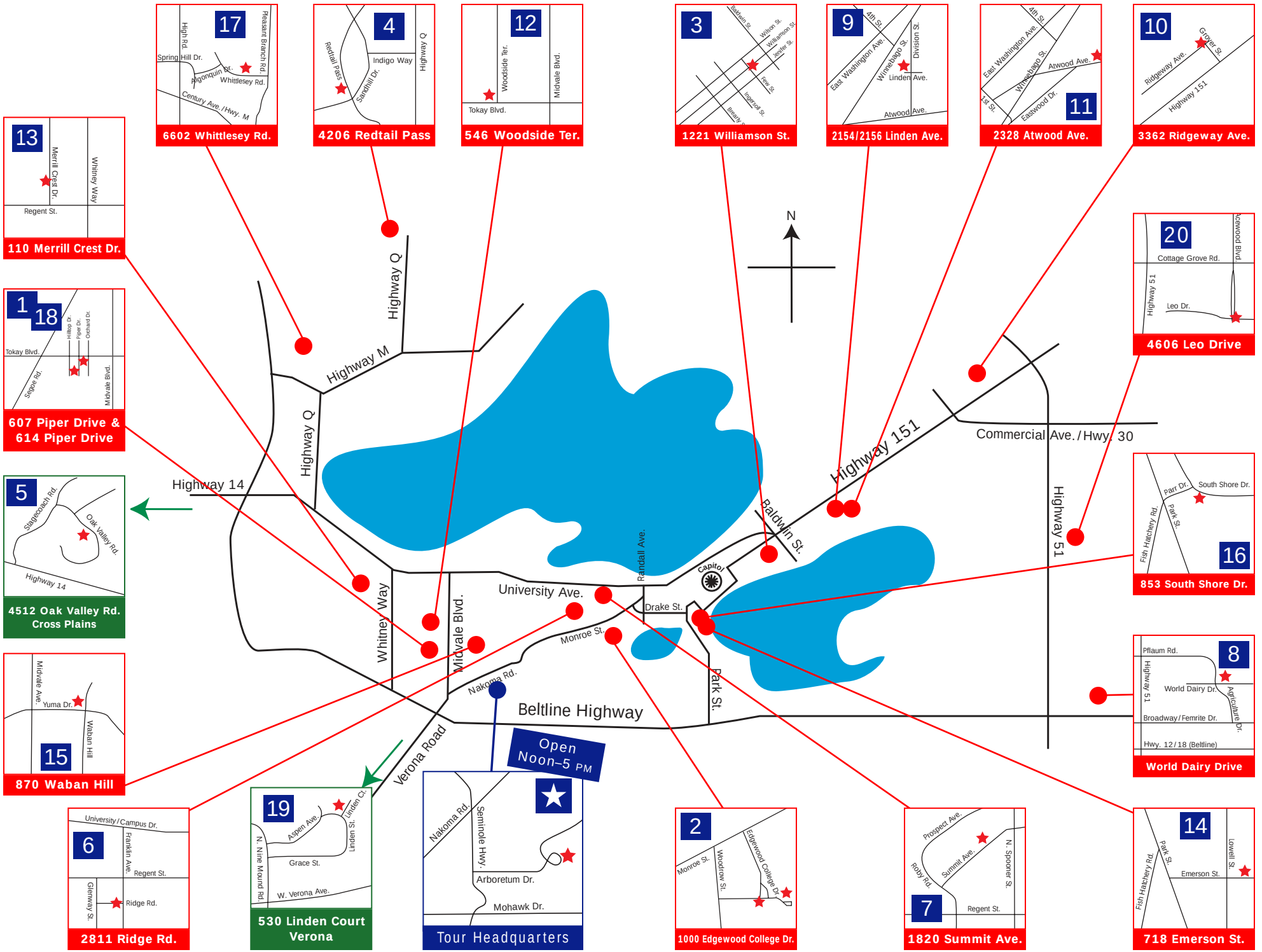
Designed and built by the members of the Summit Avenue Cooperative, this is another excellent example of a rain garden in the very early stages. Often, it is easier to see the "bones" of the garden and construction at this early stage. It was rough graded last year and planting still continues. The garden is about 500 square feet and is below a parking lot and adjacent to a sidewalk.

8 World Dairy Campus World Dairy Drive, Madison

These are great examples of low-maintenance native gardens. Steve Banovetz of Agrecol began building infiltration gardens at the World Dairy Campus for parking lot runoff in 1995. Eight mature gardens (some with runoff and others as stand-alone gardens) have survived with minimal maintenance (clipping once a year). The true rainwater garden is a deep swale that is fed by the parking lot. It is 6 feet wide by 200 feet long. Two other gardens, one quarter acre each, were installed in 1997.

9 2154 & 2156 Linden Avenue, Madison

Total rain garden area here is about one-third of the roof surface of the three-story rental building it services. Owner Steve Banovetz was supportive of the plan developed by Ellen Rulseh and Susan Priebe of Partnership for Rain Gardens. Sculpted gardens were designed to be walked around and to provide privacy for the corner lots. Two of the three rain gardens are downspout-fed with a short rock chase of pebbles leading to the planted area.


17
6602 Whittlesey Rd.
High Rd.
Pleasant Branch Rd.
Spring Hill Dr.
Algonquin Dr.
Whittlesey Rd.
Century Ave. / Hwy. M
4
4206 Redtail Pass
Redtail Pass
Indigo Way
Highway Q
Sandhill Dr.
12
546 Woodside Ter.
Woodside Ter.
Midvale Blvd.
Tokay Blvd.
3
1221 Williamson St.
Baldwin St.
Wilson St.
Williamson St.
Jenifer St.
Fern St.
Ingersoll St.
9
2154/2156 Linden Ave.
4th St.
East Washington Ave.
Winnebago St.
Division St.
Linden Ave.
Atwood Ave.
2328 Atwood Ave.
Atwood Ave.
Winnebago St.
Eastwood Dr.
11
10
3362 Ridgeway Ave.
Ridgeway Ave.
Grover St.
Highway 151
13
110 Merrill Crest Dr.
Merrill Crest Dr.
Whitney Way
Regent St.
1
18
607 Piper Drive &
614 Piper Drive
Tokay Blvd.
Hilltop Dr.
Piper Dr.
Orchard Dr.
Segoe Rd.
Midvale Blvd.
20
4606 Leo Drive
Cottage Grove Rd.
Acewood Blvd
Highway 51
Leo Dr.
5
4512 Oak Valley Rd.
Cross Plains
Stagecoach Rd.
Oak Valley Rd.
Highway 14
16
853 South Shore Dr.
Parr Dr.
South Shore Dr.
Park St.
Fish Hatchery Rd.
8
World Dairy Drive
Pflaum Rd.
Highway 51
World Dairy Dr.
Agriculture Dr.
Broadway / Femrite Dr.
Hwy. 12 / 18 (Beltline)
15
870 Waban Hill
Midvale Ave.
Yuma Dr.
Waban Hill
6
2811 Ridge Rd.
University / Campus Dr.
Franklin Ave.
Regent St.
Glenway St.
Ridge Rd.
19
530 Linden Court
Verona
Aspen Ave.
Linden Ct.
Linden St.
N. Nine Mound Rd.
Grace St.
W. Verona Ave.
Open
Noon–5 PM
Tour Headquarters
Nakoma Rd.
Seminole Hwy.
Arboretum Dr.
Mohawk Dr.
2
1000 Edgewood College Dr.
Monroe St.
Woodrow St.
Edgewood College Dr.
7
1820 Summit Ave.
Prospect Ave.
Summit Ave.
Roby Rd.
N. Spooner St.
Regent St.
14
718 Emerson St.
Fish Hatchery Rd.
Park St.
Emerson St.
Lowell St.
N
Highway 14
Highway Q
Highway M
Whitney Way
Midvale Blvd.
University Ave.
Randall Ave.
Capitol
Drake St.
Monroe St.
Nakoma Rd.
Verona Road
Beltline Highway
Park St.
Baldwin St.
Highway 151
Commercial Ave. / Hwy. 30
Highway 51

10 Steve Banovetz, 3362 Ridgeway Avenue, Madison

Steve had some water problems in his basement, so he directed his downspout to a channel and a dry exposed bank for infiltration. The grass was poor in both areas, because the areas were either too wet or too dry. The wet area is now dry and has dry native species on it (and the basement is dry as well). The dry area is now "irrigated" from the downspout and has dry, wet/mesic and shade species in areas appropriate for each plant's needs. Steve also has a "rainless" garden on the front slope. The grass burned out the last two summers so he replaced the large area with a wide variety of dry-loving natives. The rest of the acres are in different stages of small native nurseries, woodland restoration and organic vegetables. Also, the lawn is all organic.

11 Café Zoma, 2328 Atwood Avenue, Madison

Café Zoma, Agrecol and Partnership for Rain Gardens sponsored a hands-on rain garden workshop at the café to develop this rain garden. Field stones from co-owner Martha Brigham's Dane County family farm frame this circular rain garden. The neighbor's roof runoff feeds the garden, reducing erosion downhill to the bike path.

12 Bill and Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Terrace, Madison

Bill and Liz had Partnership for Rain Gardens plant these three gardens just this spring. One garden is situated south, between a four-season room and the rest of the house and was designed to be enjoyed from the home as well as from the yard. The second garden flows from this one as one continuous garden. The third garden is in front of the home, designed to look like a waterfall of flowers and grasses on the slope next to the front stairs.

13 Brett Hulsey and Mary Kay Aide 110 Merrill Crest Drive, Madison

Brett Hulsey and Mary Kay Aide wanted to restore their yard after building a passive solar addition. The soil was compacted from the heavy equipment and water was standing after rains. Last year, they tilled more than 2,000 square feet, built in two swales and planted more than 300 native plants. They also seeded parts of the area with prairie seed and mulched with bark.

LAWNS

14 718 Emerson Street, Madison

This small urban yard was purchased in 1990 by a soil scientist. It was weed infested and scruffy. The owner single-handedly converted it into healthy, vigorous turf that now requires minimal care and feeding. She uses white clover and grass clippings to provide nutrients. This low-input lawn uses no pesticides and looks so good it has been used as a demonstration yard. There is a small organic garden in the back yard that provides food throughout the growing season.

15 John Magnuson, 870 Waban Hill, Madison

For over a decade John Magnuson, former chair of the UW's limnology department, has done his part to spare our lakes from pesticides and fertilizers. The yard of native plants under Nakoma's oaks were researched by Professor Magnuson and purchased from Prairie Nursery and the Arboretum Native plant sale. The Magnuson home looks like a house in a deep woods instead of in urban Madison. Prairie plants were planted recently in a small sunny part of the yard.

16 Sindhu Raju, 853 South Shore Drive, Madison

The location of this yard on Monona Bay necessitates the use of a sump pump in the basement. However, the water that is pumped out feeds a delightful rain garden about 15 feet long and 8 feet wide. There is also a little pond with a streambed planted with marsh marigolds and forget-me-nots, among other flowers. The fish in the pond remain healthy with just the flow of water from the sump pump. The owner is in the greenhouse business and uses products that are not detrimental to the environment.

17 Debra Weitzel, 6602 Whittlesey Road, Middleton

Deb lives next to the Pheasant Branch Marsh and has a stunning native plant yard with black-eyed susans, purple cone flowers and more. Her back yard is planted in "No Mow" fescue mix from Prairie Nursery in Westfield, Wis. Fertilizer is not recommended for this grass, which grows in either full sun or partial shade. Little, if any, watering is needed and the grass competes well with weeds. It stops growing at about 9 inches, at which point it bends over. However, it could be mowed as often as once a month. The No Mow grass is adjacent to a native plant bed along the back property line that is about 8 feet deep. Jane Kuzma of Burr Oak Designs designed the yard three years ago and Dave Zing put in the grass.

NATIVES

18 Laura Brown and Mark Shahan, 607 Piper Drive, Madison

Laura and Mark began work on their yard in 1992. They designed and installed all the plantings themselves. They grew most of the plants from seeds; a few plants were purchased and a few were rescued. The lot is a little under one-quarter acre with a front yard completely planted with natives, containing woodland, savannah and prairie plants. The small area of lawn remaining in the front yard is a border along the sidewalk. The side of the house contains a short-grass prairie. Half of the backyard is prairie and woodland, and the other half is ornamental plants. The small area of lawn remaining in the backyard is a pathway for heavy traffic. The non-native portion of the backyard will be under revision at the time of the tour. The home also has a rain garden. The yard has approximately 170 native species of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and forbs.

19 Laurie and Tom Hartjes, 530 Linden Court, Verona

The owners began work on their yard in 1991 after having bought their home in the midst of a drought and faced a very unhealthy lawn on a hot and dry south slope. Over 2,000 square feet of turf grass were cut and removed in the front yard and replaced with a short-grass prairie. The owners planted 2,000 native plugs, supplemented by seed in the years to come. Laurie and Tom used turf grass borders to give the prairie a garden appearance and to ease the transition from the street. The backyard is a mix of native and some ornamental species. It contains trees and evergreens, and the land slopes downward to a lower, wetter area. They have over 60 native species. The original plan for the property was designed by Molly Fifield Murray.

20 Joy Stewart and Larry Hannemann, 4606 Leo Drive, Madison

Joy and Larry began work on their yard in 1994 and completed it two years later. Joy designed and installed all the plantings. The property lot is 80 feet wide and 140 feet deep. They eliminated most of the lawn in front and in back. The front yard is primarily ornamental plants, including a large number of shrubs and flowers. The backyard is primarily native plants, including both prairie and woodland, with a series of wood chip and grass paths, with more than 70 native species. Joy and Larry got their plants from local native plant nurseries, primarily from seed with some live and bare-root plants. Their yard is certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat site by the National Wildlife Federation. There is a small arbor and an owner-made pond for goldfish, surrounded by native wetland plants.

The Better Lawns & Gutters Tour
is sponsored by

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Find Out More

Go to *www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/raingarden.shtml*
for links to informational sites.