

Parkways for Pollinators History (Garden Stops 4 & 24)



The idea came about because of the Edgewater Environmental Coalition's work. They help get these going across the city.

The Parkway for Pollinators initiative in Andersonville was launched in 2021 through a partnership between the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, Special Service Area #22 (SSA #22), the Andersonville Sustainable Community Alliance (ASCA), and the Edgewater Environmental Coalition (EEC). The program was created to transform underutilized parkway spaces into vibrant native plant gardens that:

- Support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators
- Improve soil health
- Capture carbon
- Beautify commercial corridors
- Create greener, more welcoming public spaces

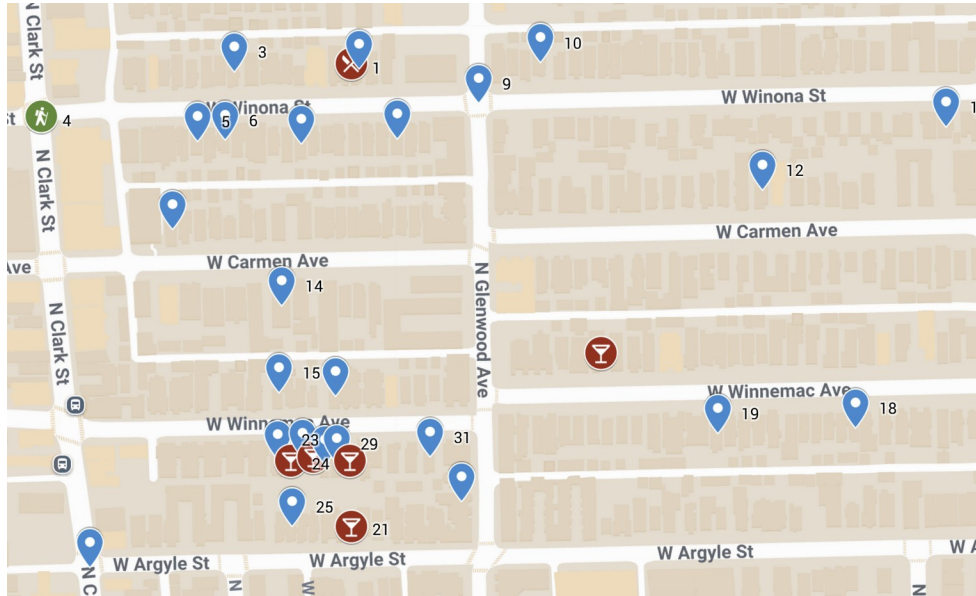
From the beginning, the initiative emphasized community collaboration. Native seeds were sourced through community collections and the Field Museum, growing resources were provided by Loyola University's Urban Agriculture Program, and seedlings and educational resources were coordinated by the Edgewater Environmental Coalition, with additional support from the Chicago Conservation Corps.

In 2022, SSA #22 issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to expand native pollinator gardens throughout the district.

The expansion focused on replacing traditional turf parkways with native habitat gardens that would require less maintenance while increasing biodiversity and neighborhood beautification. The long-term maintenance plan included annual mulching, soil amendments, and stewardship by community partners and then maintenance was eventually taken over by the neighbors and community members.

The poster has a light blue background with white cloud illustrations. At the top left is a dark blue square with a yellow crosshair. Inside the square is a white box containing the text "WINONA FOSTER CARMEN WINNEMAC BLOCK CLUB SINCE 1962". To the right of this is the text "Garden Walk" in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below this is the text "Saturday, August 1st, 11am - 4pm" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Further down is a paragraph: "Proudly the oldest block club in Chicago, WFCW Block Club is a non-profit organization run on membership and fundraising." Below that is another paragraph: "Block Club Membership is \$20 for adults 18+. To become an active member, sign up for events or pay dues, search Facebook for 'WFCWBlockClub', or scan the QR code below for our website, or email wfcwblockclub@gmail.com." Below this is the text "Scan the QR code to obtain an online version of the Garden Walk Guide". To the left of the next paragraph is a QR code. To the right of the QR code is the text "THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:" followed by a bulleted list: "• Garden locations and descriptions", "• Homes hosting a Happy Beverage Hour", and "• A self-guided route to enjoy at your own pace". At the bottom of the poster is a decorative border featuring various colorful flowers and a bee.

31 Garden Walk Locations!



All gardens will be open from 11am to 4pm.

However, please join us at

- 11a-1pm at 1422 W. Winona for lunch and plenty of kids activities (red food icon).
- 1pm at Clark and Winona for a 30 minute talk with Horticulturist Elloit Foley (green icon)
- 2:30-4pm for adult and non-adult drinks at the Winnemac garden grouping (red cocktail icons).

For 2026, we've tried to provide a walking guide, numbering each of the gardens in a logical order. The numbers in this guide will also appear on the signage inviting you into each garden.

#1 - 1422 W. Winona

Taylor and Rachel

Food and Beverage Station

Join us in the Back Yard. We will have:

Hot Dogs (ketchup, mustard and pickle spears),

Individual bags of chips,

5 gallon jugs of water and lemonade

Cookies

Ice pops

A handle of vodka if people want to add that to their lemonade.

A bottle of malort and shot glasses (in case people want to ruin their day, lol)

We would be happy to host a kids play time from 11am to 1pm. We will have a bunch of stuff for kids:

Coloring pages

Water table

Toys

Bubble machine

Bags aka cornhole

Small play gym

And we also ordered this life-size cut out (it's like 5 feet tall) that people can take pictures with! I'm thinking we will have it on the parkway outside our house, but not sure yet. May put it in the backyard.

#2 - 1418 W. Winona

Derek

The front and back of the property is open to anyone. I was inspired to plant as many native plants as possible by some of the local gardens and by learning about insect habitat loss, but I also have a few beneficial annuals scattered about. There's even some peppers and herbs around as well. The goal of the garden is to get as many bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects in the garden as possible and because of that it's a bit more messy than some gardens but hopefully you'll all enjoy all the wild life using it as a home.

#3 - 1450 W. Winona

Lee (Garden #2)

Splitting and repotting these plants into smaller containers, which we "sink" into the larger pots makes it easier in the fall, for the plants return indoors, reunited with their family in a cozy setting.

#4 - W. Winona & N. Clark

Norbert, Holly & Elliot

1pm Horticulture Talk

Join local Horticulturist Elloit Foley will be giving a talk about the Pollinator Gardens on the NE and SE corners of Clark and Winona. These plots are maintained by Norbert, Holly, Elliot and a team of dedicated plant lovers.

Please see the 'Planters for Pollinators' description at the end of this guide.

#5 – 1459 W. Winona

Lee (Garden #1)

Splitting and repotting these plants into smaller containers, which we "sink" into the larger pots makes it easier in the fall, for the plants return indoors, reunited with their family in a cozy setting.

#6 – 1453 W. Winona

Carol

The front garden, 40 years later, is finally three gardens (no more mowing!), featuring a variety of hostas, astilbes and other shade perennials, all watched over by a beatific Buddha. As the gardens (and I) have matured, I have added more trees and shrubs to the back garden, and have worked to run deeper shades of dark red and mahogany through it. The back garden contains three perennial borders - east and west for sun and a small shady retreat with holly bushes, hellebores, Solomon's Seal, and my mother-in-law's very old crab apple tree. The west border, now growing rampant from the rain, contains numerous perennials, including astilbes, beebalm, cimifuga racemosa, geraniums, honeysuckle, Japanese sedge grass, Joe Pye Weed, pink meadow rue, sedum, yarrow and a climbing hydrangea taking over the garage. The east side includes cherry, hemlock and Stewartia Pseudocamellia trees, viburnum, Carolina Allspice, hydrangeas and lots of variegated Japanese sedge grass. Annuals add color to all the borders.

#7 – 1435 W. Winona

Micah

The front porch is a tropical cocoon of monsteras, hoyas, and hibiscuses. The giant ferns provide some privacy and soften the urban environment. The sidewalk flower bed is mostly hostas and flowering annuals. The hostas did really well the past couple years, so planning to thin them out mid October and will put the rhizomes out if anyone wants some.

#8 – 1415 W. Winona

Sabrina & Jacob

Front Yard Only Please.

My husband and I love to plant for the pollinators. We do some native plants, but others are not native and we have planted them, just because we love them. Many plants also get added to our garden by the birds or the wind. When choosing what stays or goes, I prefer to make discoveries as opposed to decisions. I watch for quite a long time to see what the plant is and how it interplays with it's surroundings. We also like to allow plants to go through their entire, natural life cycle. We do some clearing of plants as the season goes, but for the most part, we let the plants go to seed and do all major clearing in the Spring.

The prairie sunflowers come from seeds that originated at my husband's childhood home. They are a favorite of many passers by, as they attract a large variety of bees and other pollinators. One little boy named our front yard/ easement area "the buzz-buzz tunnel". The prairie sunflowers are also a primary food source for goldfinches. The blue black salvias (salvia guaranitica) are a favorite of mine. They are a tender perennial in our zone. I have had them occasionally come back the next season, but usually end up replanting them annually. I love the electric blue of the blooms and the anise scent of the leaves. These are also a favorite of hummingbirds and sphinx moths (aka hawk moths or hummingbird moths), as well as a variety of other pollinators. We added the Joe-Pye-weed last year and it has come back strong and tall. We haven't grown this plant before, but are very much enjoying it as the newest addition to our pollinator sanctuary.

Thanks so much for visiting our front yard garden! Have a beautiful day, neighbors!

#9 – W. Winona & N. Glenwood

Norbert, Holly & Elliot

Public pollinator plots maintained by Norbert, Holly, Elliot and a team of dedicated plant lovers.

#10 – 1346 W. Winona

Dan

This year, the dahlia garden simply refuses to bloom! I can only speculate as to why. There are also a lot of Japanese Maple trees here.

#11 – 1223 W. Winona

Victor and Jin-Soo

Front Yard Flower Garden

#12 – 1302 W. Carmen

Jennifer, Jay & Nate

Our front yard is filled with shade-loving perennials while the back yard is a (pretty untamed) mix of ferns, flowers, veggies/fruits (greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, raspberries, currants, grapes), and herbs. The elderly and stately evergreens are looking a little less stately these days, but they are a defining part of our garden vibe.

#13 – 1464 W. Carmen

Tarek & Diana

Bird sanctuary. For all the beautiful birds and bees that need nourishment.

#14 – 1441 W. Carmen

Bob & the 1441 W. Carmen Condo Assoc.

Front yard only. Hydrangeas, Hostas, & Boxwoods! About 4 years ago we hired a landscaper to reconfigure our front yard. He moved existing boxwoods to the sides of the lower windows, planted some hydrangeas in front of the widows, and added hydrangea "trees" and hostas to both sides of the stairway. They all seem to thrive where they were planted. We are working on finding something to fill in the gaps on either side of the front sidewalk.

#15 – 1442 W. Winnemac

Guy and Mike

Front Yard

In 2016 we worked with Marguerite Gardens, a storefront business on Clark St, to create a small landscape for our front yard. Highlights include boxwood, an heirloom sedum, a Daphne shrub and spotted dead nettle ground cover. The front tree is a Siberian weeping pea shrub. Marguerite left a beautiful legacy across Chicago. Be sure to return next Spring when the heartleaf Brunnera and ornamental lilac tree are in bloom.

#16 – 1430 W. Winnemac

Rick and Mary Ann

Front Yard

Please enjoy our 45-50 year-old red trumpet vines. The space also includes Black-Eyed Susan, Balloon Flower, Phlox, Rattlesnake Master, Common Milkweed, Rosemary, and Russian Sage.

#17 – 1338 W. Winnemac

Sarah

Beverage Station

Please enjoy the petunias and sprawling ivy in the front yard. There's a small rose bush that was just planted this summer but it's starting to grow leaves. Follow the path through the gate along the left side of the house to enjoy more plants in the backyard featuring some coleus and pothos. We also have some new seating additions, including a yellow table, Bohemian bench cushions, and a macramé swing. Please enjoy the swing gently and if you hang out long enough, you may spot some bunnies scurrying under the fence.

#18 – 1247 W. Winnemac

Becca

From Turf to Whimsy: A Native Fairy Garden Journey

Last year, I decided to trade the high-maintenance lawn for a low-impact, high-enchantment wonderland. I rolled up my sleeves and manually removed all the grass to create a whimsical, chemical-free fairy garden. My primary goal was to establish a safe sanctuary that invites local wildlife back into our suburban ecosystem. Because we use absolutely no pesticides or synthetic chemicals, our garden is a thriving, healthy habitat for local caterpillars, bees, and birds.

As you walk through, you'll notice a carefully curated palette of Midwest native plants chosen for their magical aesthetics and high ecological value.

An added bonus of our yard's transformation? The excavation process yielded an abundance of rich, healthy topsoil, which we shared with our community as a great source of "magic dirt" to enrich several neighboring garden beds!

#19 – 1311 W. Winnemac

Rebecca

Front, side, & back available for viewing. Parkway is mostly natives & pollinator-friendly. Front & side yards mostly shade-loving by necessity. Back yard features vegetable garden & mixed flowers & vines along the fences.

#20 – 5010 N. Glenwood

Josh & Julia

Garden location: Raised beds along sidewalk on the NW corner of Argyle & Glenwood.

Welcome to our all-inclusive garden where you will find vegetables, perennials, pollinators, and a bounty of native wildflowers. In the last year we've also added support for our bird friends with baths and feeders.

We would like to call special attention to the Argyle wildflower spread closest to the street corner, specifically the lilies. These were transplanted from Julia's family home where we fondly referred to their spot there as Bella's Garden, named for the late family dog. In honor of her memory we now refer to this area on Argyle as Bella's Garden. We are very excited by how well the lilies have taken to their new home with their old friend. With love to Bella and MB.

With this garden we hope to not only do our part to help the plant and wildlife population that are inherently vital to life on this planet, we also love providing joy and inspiration to others in our wonderful little neighborhood. Thanks to everyone giving us kind words when we're out here working. It really does mean a lot to know others find as much joy in these creations as we do.

#21 – 1426 W. Argyle

Dafina & Robiere

Beverage Station

Our backyard will be available (enter via the gate on the left side of the house. We fell more in love with our backyard during Covid, when neighbors convened in their respective yards, all of which face one another. We're excited to recreate that community during the garden and thereafter.

#22 – W. Argyle and N. Clark

Norbert, Holly & Elliot

Public pollinator plots (Next to Dispensary 33). maintained by Norbert, Holly, Elliot and a team of dedicated plant lovers.

Lupine, Blue Indigo, Bee Balm, Echinacea, Sunflower, NE Aster, Coreopsis, Giant Hyssop, Verbena, Black Eyed Susan, Yarrow.

Please see the 'Planters for Pollinators' description at the end of this guide.

#23 – 1443 W. Winnemac

Richard and Pia

Enter this amazing 4 yard space at 1441 W. Winnemac.

#24 – 1441 W. Winnemac

Randy and Mat

Beverage Station

Out front you'll be greeted by some of our houseplants that we divide and repot each spring and place into large pots showcasing 10 unique houseplants enjoying their annual summer camp adventure. These pots not only serve as focal points but also create a nurturing environment for our plants to thrive outside. Splitting and repotting these plants into smaller containers, which we "sink" into the larger pots makes it easier in the fall, for the plants return indoors, reunited with their family in a cozy setting. Using the gangway on the left, step into a hidden urban oasis at 1441 W. Winnemac.

This is community gardening at its finest — four neighboring yards joined together to create a lush, thriving sanctuary that's officially certified by the National Wildlife Federation. It's more than a garden; it's a living habitat, offering food, shelter, water, and safe spaces for wildlife to raise their young.

Over the years, a beautiful mix of native birch, pine, juniper, wax myrtle, and chokecherry has been woven throughout the backyards, tying the whole space together with a consistent, natural theme and adding even more layers of shelter and beauty.

Follow the gentle sound of the stream to a peaceful pond that draws birds and wildlife all year long. Watch butterflies drift and bees hum as they move through native blooms — coneflower, daisy, rudbeckia, prairie dock, spotted bee balm, cup

plant, Culver's root, nodding onion, liatris, butterfly weed, native beach plum shrubs, and blueberry plants — each one bursting with color and life.

Near the shed, a gate allows access to 1440 W. Argyle's garden. Wander a little further to the right of the shed, you'll find the raised beds, now in their 10th flourishing year, brimming with tomatoes, herbs, squash, beans, and peas, alongside sweet blackberries, raspberries ready for the picking.

Pull up a seat, breathe in the fresh air, and let this garden remind you just how magical a little community — and a lot of care — can be.

#25 – 1440 W. Argyle

Debbie

Enter this amazing 4 yard space at 1441 W. Winnemac.

#26 – 1437 W. Winnemac

Rosalina

Enter this amazing 4 yard space at 1441 W. Winnemac.

#27 – 1435 W. Winnemac

Ruby

Beverage Station (after 2:30pm)

Come meet Ruby, a tiny Havanese, who after three years since adoption, finally has an outdoor space to romp around in. This garden welcomes visitors to the parkway, front yard and backyard. The parkway features refreshed native plantings, including purple coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, coreopsis, Northwind switchgrass and prairie dropseed, complemented by Karl Foerster, Russian sage and catmint. The front yard showcases hydrangeas, hostas, ferns and a Japanese maple. Pass through the gate to discover a lush oasis of towering trees, along with new perennials, a vegetable box and a fire pit. Grab a drink, and connect with some new friends!

#28 – 1433 W. Winnemac

Linda

Since we just moved in April, the garden is a work in progress. The centerpiece is the chicken coop that my son in law built and houses 8 hens. They are 1.5 years old and I average 4-5 eggs a day.

The plantings have all come from my previous home with many holding special meaning from friends yards. There are 4 walking pavers that my children made many years ago. I look forward to adding one from my new granddaughter soon. Out front in the parkway and front side areas also contain plants with special meaning. My three gargoyles enjoy their new home and look forward to their holiday outfits which they don starting in October.

I greatly enjoy the neighborhood and look forward to meeting more neighbors.

#28 – 1431 W. Winnemac

Alison, Brian, Caitlin & Jojo

#29 – 1429 W. WinnemacWGFW Darden Walk

Curtis, Drew & Jeremiah

Beverage Station (after 2pm)

For our 7th year on the garden walk, our spiral brick herb garden and wildflowers are still going strong, despite some damage when new fences were installed in June.

The South side (rear) of the back yard is mainly native pollinators, from bee balm to milkweed, with a selection of herbs in front.

The West side of the yard continues to be dominated by Hostas and Solomon's Seals, but we're slowly trying some new things, such as eastern fleabane and bergamot.

On the East side, our thriving with milkweed, Joe Pye Weed and some raspberries hiding in the back corner. Sadly, it is another poor year for monarch butterflies, but do check out our aquarium bursting with Swallowtail caterpillars and chrysalises.

If the weather does not cooperate, drinks will still be served on the back balconies.

#30 – 1409 W. Winnemac

Mark and Mark

This Garden Oasis has been a labor of love for us for over 20 years. It is mainly made up of native plants & perennials, with some annuals, vegetables & herbs that we like to use for both cooking & cocktails. On any gorgeous summer day, you can usually find back here entertaining family & friends. Please take a moment today & enjoy our own little peaceful patch of urban heaven.



GRILLIN' & CHILLIN' SUMMER PARTY

Saturday, Aug. 29, 2-10pm



Since 1962 we have served as a forum to meet and engage our neighbors. We welcome all residents, renters, and homeowners.

