

## VEGETABLE GARDEN TOUR

1. The DeCheck Garden - Carrying on a family tradition of gardening is part of the inspiration for vegetable gardening in the DeCheck household. The DeCheck's prolific garden reveals they plant produce that they like to use and eat in their own kitchen: tomatoes, beans, squash, gourds, pumpkins, lettuce, cucumbers, melons, peppers, greens, cut flowers, raspberries, grapes, strawberries and asparagus. Much time and care is devoted to the hoeing, watering, fertilizing, and pollinating. The fruits grown here are sometimes turned into jam for year-round pleasure.
2. Warner Garden - Brian Warner is sharing his large in-ground kitchen garden for your pleasure. Inspired by his experiences gardening with his grandfather, he is motivated to raise whole foods for his children to eat year round. Even more, he encourages their active participation in the garden management and is proud that his children are connected so closely to the source of the food that they love to eat. Brian, and his wife Kimberly, have incorporated some herbs in planters as well as some edible landscaping in the rear of their home. They can and freeze parts of their yield to preserve it, and also pickle beans. Kimberly is as committed to serving family dinners around the table each night made up of fresh and unprocessed foods as her husband.
3. The Gauthier Garden features an abundance of fruits grown in beds and on trees. Raspberries, gooseberries, and currants grow in a large 25 X 15 foot bed with a grove of 6 small fruit trees nearby. Vegetables and herbs are found in an in-ground garden measuring 45 X 55 feet. The Gauthier's do devote some thought and planning to succession planting to produce more bounty in the same space as the season progresses. These gardeners, homesteading for about 6 years, prefer not to use any chemicals in the garden and rely on natural alternatives when dealing with pests. Much of the produce is preserved through canning, pickling, or freezing methods in the Gauthier household, they can jams and preserves, too.
4. Ray Family Farmstead- The produce garden at the Ray Family Farmstead is approximately 1/3 of an acre and is comprised of 14 6 foot by 18 foot raised beds. The Rays grow over 25 varieties of vegetables and have several berry beds as well. 4 years ago, the Rays moved to their farmstead from Wisconsin Avenue and committed themselves to an intentional and busy life growing, cooking, preserving, and pickling the food that they produce. Their yield feeds their family of four and provides farm bags to about 15 other families almost once a week. Their children help in all aspects of the gardening and care of the animals on the farm which include about six egg-laying chickens.
5. Behrs/Kloska Urban Garden - Matt & Melody share all the work of planning and maintaining their Kitchen Garden which is offered largely in unique, homemade raised beds. These avid gardeners, inspired by a commitment to healthy living and slow food, work hard to incorporate fresh and whole foods - vegetables - into each and every meal that they make for themselves at home or prepare for on-the-go. This garden offers a fine example of modern homesteading on a humble urban lot. There is nothing humble about the yield from this garden, however. Matt & Melody are the owners of the new Racine County Indoor/Outdoor Year Round Farmers Market in Racine.
6. Infusino - 4314 - A lifelong gardener, Emilio Infusino offers his home garden to the public for their viewing. Emilio is careful to incorporate the values he learned during his childhood; passed down by his own father, an Italian farmer. One of the most basic values is that the gardener and his family eat everything that is grown and that care is taken to use all of the bounty from the garden. Emilio studied agriculture in school and learned that preparing the soil and determining the location of the garden is key to a healthy, bountiful yield.
7. Infusino - 4320 - Pat (Pasquale), Emilio's nephew, comes from the same Italian farming family and is part of the Infusino family that brings our community several great restaurants. Pat's carefully maintained garden includes tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, culinary herbs and more. Tomatoes from these gardens are used in the restaurants during the growing season.
8. De Santis Garden - Chris De Santis, a local chef, instructor and food writer, offers his Organic Kitchen Garden for public tour. There are 14 varieties of vegetables, 10 different herbs and several dwarf fruit trees and bushes. All that is grown here in raised beds are grown for household consumption. Mr. De Santis spends an hour a day in his garden and as much time in the kitchen. When he is unable to keep up with the yield fresh from the garden, he turns to freezing right from the garden. Mr. De Santis cooks traditional Italian food and offers Italian cooking classes.

## GARDENS OF INTEREST

9. Racine Urban Garden Network's Marquette Street Garden is an example of innovation, creativity and public urban gardening. While the Marquette Street Garden is a public garden and available for viewing at any time, RUGN is making a docent available between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to share the history and vision for the garden. The space includes a rain garden, plans for a dog walk, composting on site, fruit groves, and both butterfly and sensory gardens for children. Raised beds are available for rental each growing season. Come and learn about cold frames, hoop houses, and incorporating artwork into public gardens.
10. The Eco-Justice Center - In this intentional community, 6 Dominican sisters model sustainable, simple living while reverencing the land they live upon and the animals who share it. Come to visit another communal garden where garden plots, in raised beds, can be rented for \$25 per season including seed plantings of your choice. Produce grown in the gardens here feed the residents of the Eco-Justice Center, the Siena Center, with excess being shared with local food pantries. Just west of the gardens you may find a sunflower house which is a delight to see! Additional features include alpacas, farm geese, 12 different breeds of chickens, and an hermitage private retreat center.