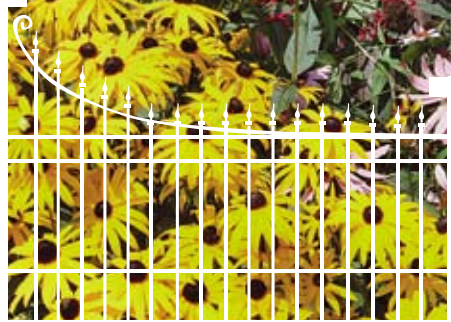




Buffalo's

“Privacy is the most essential attribute of any garden...”

—Ellen Biddle Shipman



Secret Gardens

BY REINE HAUSER

A city garden is a miraculous and private thing. Meant for the clandestine enjoyment of its owners, these hidden gems are unearthed just once a year in Buffalo, New York, to highlight the meticulously structured or tousled and insouciant landscapes—all celebrating the individual tastes, interests, and whims of their owners.

This year, more than 260 urban gardens will be on display the last weekend of July for the city's annual Garden Walk, which has become one of the largest events of its kind in the country. Tucked behind fences and hidden behind homes, visitors on this free self-guided tour will get a glimpse into the private gardens of city dwellers featuring rich plantings amid ponds, fountains, and other water features; pergolas and arbors; playhouses and even the occasional putting green.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE

- Surrounding an Arts and Crafts period wood frame home on Buffalo's West Side you might find coleus, miniature Russian sage, and impatiens—some in pots, some in beds. A welcoming brick pathway leads to a brick patio with a raised planter of fresh herbs—nasturtiums, purple basil, and mint, ready for the kitchen.
- In a yard further north, you may discover a koi pond, surrounded by Asian lilies, yellow canna, Australian ferns, hot pink hibiscus, and unusual mauve geraniums.
- Behind a Queen Anne Style home you could witness a profusion of deep purple clematis swelling over an arbor while cheery daisies, phlox, purple coneflowers, and yellow helenium intertwine in thickly-planted beds. Elephant ear, with large heart-shaped leaves, anchors the landscape for the colorful array.
- A West Side garden may focus on texture, where your senses are awakened by ornamental grasses like fescue and Corsican mint (a low groundcover that, when brushed against releases a fresh minty breath into the vicinity).

Find it!



Find products,
services and much more
in the *Lake Erie Living*
online directory.

lake erie living
.com

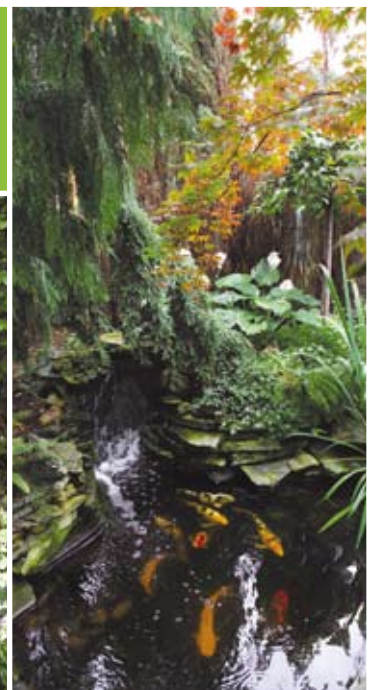


Garden Walk Buffalo

July 26 - 27, 2008
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.gardenwalkbuffalo.com



“One of the most outstanding
horticultural weekends
in all of North America”



- And in the historic Allentown area, contemporary sculpture could be juxtaposed among the classics: hydrangeas, day lilies, Asiatic lilies, and hosta. These are just some of the exquisite landscapes that may be blooming during one of Buffalo's most anticipated public events.

THE TOUR

Now in its thirteenth year, Garden Walk Buffalo is considered one of the most outstanding horticultural weekends in all of North America. The event held the last weekend in July each year, focuses on clusters of gardens within a five-mile radius. This year tourists will get a peek into hundreds of gardens in the areas of Elmwood Village, Allentown, Symphony Circle & Kleinhans, the Cottage District, and West Village.

Tree-lined streets provide dappled shade in several of these historic districts where internationally recognized 19th century architecture surrounds an even wider variety of urban landscapes including water gardens, cottage gardens, Japanese, English, herb, rose, butterfly, and organic gardens.

There is no designated start or end point for Garden Walk and generally ample parking along the streets is available. Garden tours are identified by a yellow sign. Maps for the walk will be available in early July and during the event at the following locations (all of which have restrooms): Richmond-Summer Senior Center (corner of Richmond Avenue and Summer Street); Buffalo Seminary School (205 Bidwell Parkway) and The Allentown Association (14 Allen Street). Visit the Web site for more information. ≡

While
you're
there...



Make time for
The Buffalo and
Erie County
Botanical Gardens
and the gardens
at Graycliff Estate. Both
are just south of the city
and must-sees for any
garden enthusiast.

www.buffalogardens.com
<http://graycliff.bfn.org>



SPACE TO BE



See our new Lago™ finishes direct from Italy

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®

complimentary consultation | 419.473.2500 | californiaclosets.com

1100 Resource Drive, Brooklyn Heights

© 2008 California Closet Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Each franchise independently owned and operated.