

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

2019 Gardens Guide

The Minnesota State Fairgrounds is home to spectacular gardens. Use this guide to find the fair's most naturally colorful attractions, and enjoy the expertly crafted arrangements while gathering ideas for your own garden!

- Sponsored Garden
- State Fair Garden

1. Anoka Technical College

This garden features a patio at one end with a stone table and a pondless double waterfall at the other end, installed by the Anoka Tech Horticulture Landscape Program, with accents manufactured by the Welding and CNC Machining departments. The planting bed features Hydrangea Endless Summer Blushing Bride, Little Devil and Diablo Ninebark, monarda, coleus, aster, celosia and annual rudbeckia. Presented by Anoka Technical College, anokatech.edu.

2. Friends School of Minnesota

This garden is sure to dazzle with its variety of annual, perennial and tropical plants. It focuses on colorful foliage and textures. The plants are from the Friends School Plant Sale, which is Minnesota's favorite place for hard-to-find plants. It is held every Mother's Day weekend at the Minnesota State Fair Grandstand. Presented by Friends School of Minnesota, friendsschoolplantsale.com.

3. The Skyride Garden

Colorful fish play hide-and-seek amid the bubbles of the sparkling artesian spring. Patriotic hostas, multibloom lilies and little bluestem accent the creek and natural pond. Presented by The Skyride, 651-248-8499.

4. West End Gate Garden

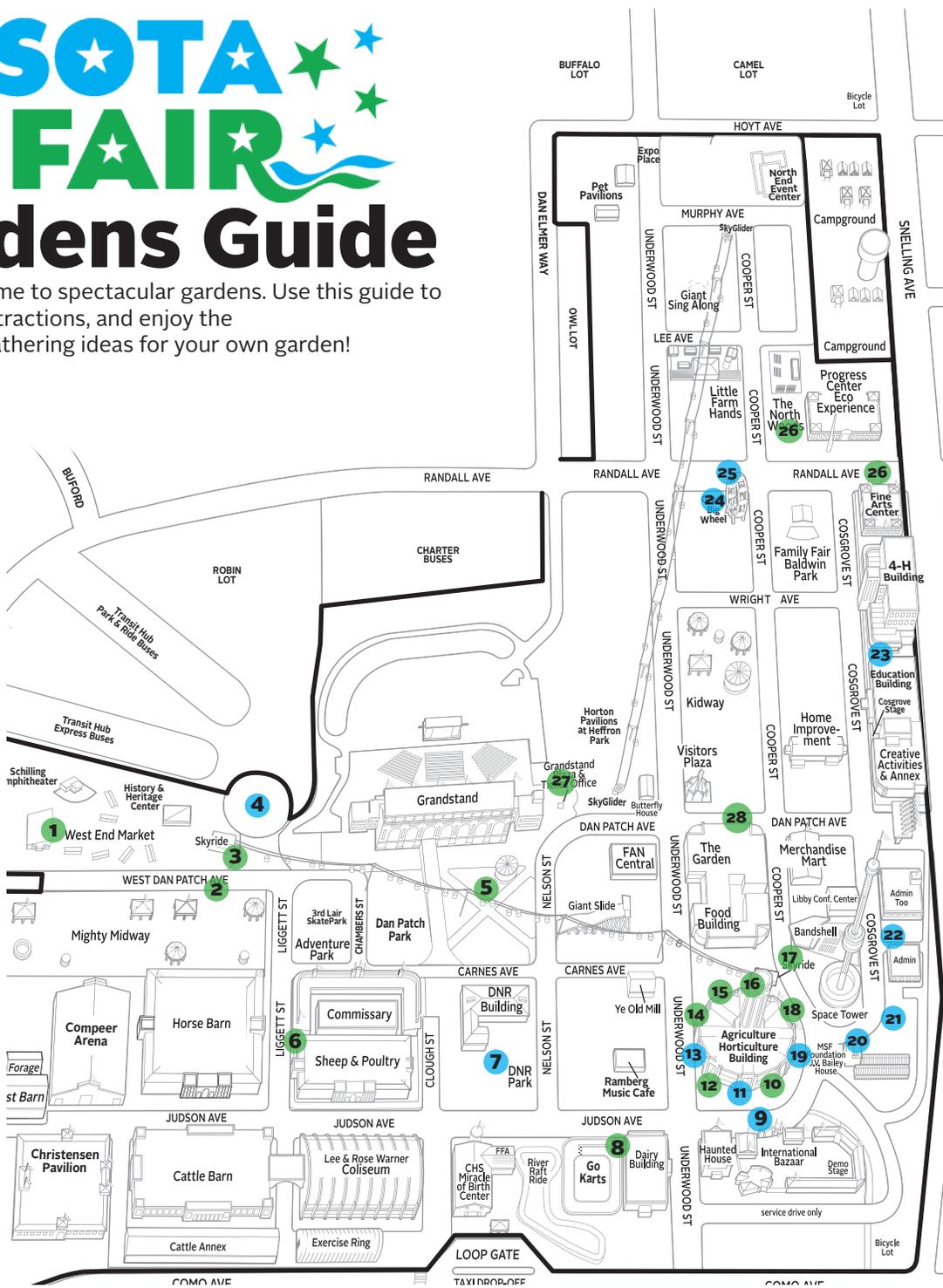
A 60-foot circular garden filled with giant nicotiana, zinnias, new red cannas, celosia, heliotrope and cosmos welcomes fair guests at the West End Gate. In the center stands a flagpole surrounded by a raised garden with new red cannas, blue horizon ageratum, scented geraniums and mixed superunias.

5. Hennepin Technical College

This garden features hardy pine, birch and oak trees, as well as tiger eye sumac. The naturalized area includes a combination of native and exotic hardy perennials such as black-eyed susans, culver's root, gallardia, silphium, fall garden mums and little bluestem that are drought and heat tolerant. Have a seat and beat the heat under the trees in the midst of the fair experience. The garden is planted and maintained by students of Hennepin Technical College taking the Professional Gardening class. Presented by Hennepin Technical College, hennepintech.edu.

6. Waterstone Landscaping

This designer landscape features an amazing display of outdoor living space.



It utilizes fire, water, permeable pavers, plants and architectural structure. See the ways in which Minnesotans put the most into their landscapes. Be sure to check out some of the local rock creations and the fall-themed plants and flowers. Presented by Waterstone, stonefiretables.com.

7. DNR Gardens

The wildflower garden located in front of the DNR Building is home to a beautiful array of colorful flowers, including snakeroot, leadplant, blue wild indigo and Virgin's Bower. The nearby teardrop bed might be small, but it delightfully comprises many flowers, including aromatic aster, butterfly weed and pale purple coneflower. On the north side of the DNR Building, raised beds hold a picturesque mix of black cohosh, showy trillium and Virginia bluebells.

8. Mickman Brothers Inc.

Weeping Norway Spruce, Como Park roses, evening primrose and monarda add to this beautiful multitiered plaza. It is also home to a bubbling fountain rock. This garden is a memorial to the Mickman brothers' father, John V. Mickman. Presented by Mickman Brothers Inc., mickman.com.

9. International Bazaar

This tropical garden is both eye-catching and inviting. Surrounding the globe, symbolizing the many countries represented in the International Bazaar, are President cannas, eucomis (pineapple lily), hibiscus, pentas and sweet potatoe vine. Moon vine climb up around the globe.

10. Accent Gardens and Shrubs 🌱

This flower garden outside the Agriculture Horticulture Building has a beautiful mix of color and texture, including Nepeta (catmint), Cup Plant (Silphium perfoliatum), Asclepias (butterfly flower), Asters, Purple Coneflowers, Sedum, Hosta, Daylilies, Lillium (spring bulbs), Ironweed (Vernonia fasciculata), Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium), Rudbeckia 'herbstonne,' Rudbeckia subtomentosa (Sweet Black-eyed Susan), Rudbeckia pinnata (Yellow Coneflower), Asclepias incarnata (Swamp Milkweed), Rattlesnake Master (Eryngium yuccifolium), Panicum "Shenandoah" (clumping forming grass) and Sporobolus heteroelsis "Prairie Dropseed" grass fill the garden with many beautiful blooms. Presented by Accent Gardens and Shrubs Inc., accentgardensandshrubs.com.

11. Veterans Memorial Garden

This garden is dedicated to all Minnesotans who have served their country. The garden features patriotic mixes of black and blue salvia, State Fair geraniums, white alyssum and blue lobelia. The flagpole is surrounded by red & white New Guinea, impatiens, blue evolvulus and diamond frost.

12. Minnesota State Horticultural Society 🌱

This late-summer garden peaks during the State Fair. It is home to a collection of hardy low-maintenance roses, hydrangeas and MN native plants encircling a central pond. A mix of native and pollinator plants draws in bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and provides color in the late-summer landscape. Edibles have been added to demonstrate how beautiful and functional they can be in the garden landscape. Presented by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, northerngardener.org.

13. Gates Ajar

Originally constructed in 1934, the majestic Gates Ajar topiary, a State Fair mainstay, requires a crew of 14 and approximately two weeks to complete. About 6,000 hens & chicks plants and alternanthera are planted in the topiary. Coleus, begonias, elephant ears and polka dot plant surround the garden below.

14. Hennepin Technical College 🌱

With a six foot rock wall and a meandering dry stream as a backdrop, this creative garden features a wide variety of colorful annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. Other landscape features include an aspen grove, an environmentally friendly irrigation system, and a superior granite staircase and walking path. The container's plants in the garden change yearly to showcase popular annuals that will intrigue the eye of humans and pollinators alike. Gardens are planted and maintained by Hennepin Technical College's Professional Gardening class. Presented by Hennepin Technical College, Hennepintech.edu.

15. Minnesota Water Garden Society 🌱

This mature and calming water garden is located across from the Food Building. Wander through and enjoy a variety of colorful blooms, shrubs, perennials, a pond and gazebo. A bridge crosses one of the two meandering streams that flow into the 1,500-gallon pond. Learn about the natural water bog filtering system while viewing a variety of fish and water plants, including cattails, water lilies, yellow flag irises and assorted floating plants, which give the garden a natural appearance.

Some plant highlights include turtlehead, hibiscus and angelica, attracting honey bees and butterflies. Presented by the Minnesota Water Garden Society, mwgs.org.

16. Meadow Green 🌱

Below the Skyride loading area rests a garden that both beautifies and controls erosion. It features hardy, low-maintenance shrubs, evergreens and junipers to keep the garden looking great even after a summer rain. Bush honeysuckle and roses bloom throughout the summer while winged euonymus and tiger eye sumac offer remarkable leaf color through the fall. Presented by Meadow Green, meadowgreenlandscape.com.

17. Botanical Blitz

This festive garden at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell greets guests with hardy perennials, including hostas 'Sum and Substance' and 'June'. Elephant Ears and other colorful annuals including "strawberries on a stick" add flair, ensuring this garden catches the eye. Presented by Botanical Blitz, botanicalblitz.com.

18. The Skyride Garden 🌱

This garden brings you back in touch with nature by using a unique plant community to create a naturalistic design. Take a break at the seating area made of Sioux pink quartzite. Presented by The Skyride, 651-248-8499.

19. Liberty Bell

Originally constructed in 1921, the State Fair Liberty Bell is a patriotic display. The bell comes to life as a dense topiary, including succulents, moss roses, and about 6,000 hens and chicks. Underneath, it is accompanied by a mix of celosia, dusty miller, feverfew ageratum and moss roses.

20. J.V. Bailey House

The J.V. Bailey House, headquarters for the State Fair Foundation, is accented this year with balsam, impatiens, black & blue salvia, diamond frost and creeping Jenny.

21. Officers Quarters

This garden features Persian shield, dusty miller, New Guinea impatiens and elephant ears.

22. Administration Gardens

Snoopy takes a dog nap atop his doghouse at the fair among a pleasant mix of perennials, including columbine, peonies, day lillies, ferns and hosta. Window boxes feature coleus chocolate covered cherry, licorice vine, white & purple New Guinea impatiens, fuschia, lysmachia and morning glory vine climb up the poles. The second garden lies in front of the Administration Building. This two-tiered garden features ornamental kale and cabbage, calendula, snapdragons and alyssum.

23. Minnesota State Fair Healing Garden

New in 2019, this State Fair garden brings peaceful and positive energy to its visitors. Sit and enjoy the sound of rushing water from the multiple water falls that provide a sense of relaxation. The garden is filled with healing and medicinal plants including calendula, aloe, chamomile, angelica, peppermint, elderberry, ashwagandha, passionflower and more. Learn more about these plants with educational signage throughout the garden.

24. Underwood & Randall

Lively rectangular raised beds around the restrooms are filled with angelonia mix, purple fountain grass, dusty miller, geranium maverick rose, mixed supertunias and sweet potatoe vine.

25. Randall Circular Planters

The circular planters dotting the central boulevard of Randall Avenue showcase president cannas, angelonia, torenia and celosia.

26. AAA All American Lawn & Landscaping 🌱

The Garden by the Art Building has late summer interest with Karl Forester Grasses, Sedum and Garlic Chives. The Garden by the Eco Building evokes the feeling of serenity and peace. A time to enjoy life. Presented by All American Lawn & Landscaping, allamericanlawnandlandscaping.com.

27. Minnesota Dahlia Society 🌱

Located just east of the Grandstand, this garden is packed full of various types of dahlias. These Mexican flowering bushes are popular for their diversity of color, size and form. There are 42 species of dahlias but innumerable hybrids commonly grown as garden plants. Related species include the sunflower, daisy, chrysanthemum, and zinnia. Most of these plants are from tubers that you can purchase at the Minnesota Dahlia Society Tubers Sale each spring. Stop by and see the dahlia show the last Sunday and Monday of the Fair in the Horticulture Building. Sponsored by the Minnesota Dahlia Society, minnesotadahliasociety.org.

28. Straw Bale Gardens 🌱

Build a six-week spring greenhouse for under \$100 and heat it during April and May for free with just six straw bales. The greenhouse structure becomes a trellis to support climbing vines above the straw bale garden underneath. Examples of the greenhouse and the fully grown Straw Bale Garden are on display. Come and take a #StateFairSquashSelfie.

🌱 Denotes a sponsored garden.

Thank you to our sponsors!
For inquiries on how to become a sponsor, please call 651-288-4400.

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