

Featured Gardens Guide - 2024

KEY:

Blue = Minnesota State Fair Gardens

Green = Sponsored Gardens

1. AAA All American Lawn & Landscaping – *located on the east side of the West End Market restrooms*

This garden is an inspiration for outdoor gardening. It gives a feel of tranquility and serenity. Presented by AAA All American Lawn & Landscaping, allamericanlandscaping.com

2. Skyride Garden West – *located at the western terminus of the Skyride*

Balloon flowers and moneywort are among the many flowers in front of the sparkling artesian spring waterfall. Weeping evergreens, multibloom lilies, raspberry echinacea and dianthus accent the creek and natural pond. Presented by the Skyride.

3. Waterstone Garden – *located near the entrance on the west side of the Sheep and Poultry Barn*

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.

4. East Grandstand Garden – *located south of the Grandstand, east of the ramp, near the sidewalk crossing in the park*

This garden features hardy pine, birch and oak trees, as well as Tiger Eyes sumac. The naturalized area includes a combination of native and exotic 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.

5. Minnesota Horticultural Society – *located just east of the Grandstand, in the plaza area*

This raised garden is packed full of dahlias. With 42 different botanical varieties and countless hybrids, these flowers, which were originally Mexican flowering bushes, come in a sea of vibrant colors, sizes and forms. A relative of sunflowers, daisies, chrysanthemums and zinnias, dahlias grow from tubers that need to be overwintered in this climate zone. Don't miss the dahlia show the last Sunday and Monday of the fair in the Agriculture Horticulture Building. The dahlia garden is sponsored by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, northerngardener.org

6. Mickman Brothers Inc. – *located on the northwest corner of the Dairy Building*

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, who ran a burro ride attraction at the fair in the 1960s. Presented by Mickman Brothers Inc., mickman.com

7. Liberty Bell – *located on the southeast side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

Originally constructed in 1921, the State Fair Liberty Bell is a patriotic display. The bell comes to life as a dense topiary, including moss roses, little bluestem, alternanthera and about 6,000 assorted succulents. The garden underneath has pentas, vinca, datura and moss roses.

8. ReWild Habitat Garden – *located outside the south side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

Ready to ReWild? This garden and its regionally native plants support a myriad of important pollinators, beneficial insects and bird species. Gardens that utilize native plants and wildlife-friendly maintenance practices not only feed butterflies and bees but also act as host plants and habitat — giving them support for their entire life cycle. Imagine a pollinator garden like this in your yard! We create resilient landscapes that offer more than just beauty. Presented by ReWild Native Gardens, LLC, rewildgardens.com

9. Veterans Memorial Garden – *located on the south side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

This garden is dedicated to all Minnesotans who have served in our armed forces. The garden features red salvia, cherry brandy rudbeckia, spider plants, State Fair geraniums and diamond frost.

10. University of Minnesota Extension Gardeners – *located outside the southwest corner of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

Designed to peak during the State Fair and delight fairgoers, this garden is home to a collection of annuals and hardy, low-maintenance perennial plants encircling a water feature. A mix of Minnesota's native and pollinator-friendly plants draws in bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and fills the late-summer landscape with colorful blooms. Edibles have been added to demonstrate how beautiful and functional they can be in the garden landscape. Presented by the Hennepin and Ramsey County Master Gardeners, extension.umn.edu/master-gardener/about-master-gardener

11. Gates Ajar – *located on the west side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

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 assorted succulents and alternanthera (Joseph's Coat) are planted in the topiary. Moses in the Cradle, elephant ears and birds nest fern surround the garden below.

12. Minnesota Horticultural Society – *located on Underwood Street on the west side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

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. As is true for most gardens from time-to-time, the garden is undergoing a multi-year renovation to replace overgrown and tired plantings with new ones in 2024, we are removing overgrowth that impacted the diversity and health of other plants in the garden and planting in replacement areas for butterflies and other pollinators using donated plants from our MN Green signature program, which pairs excess nursery-grown plants with community gardens, and other government and private donations. Watch with us over the next few years as the garden rejuvenates and see possible ideas for your own garden (whether refreshing an existing garden or creating a new one). Presented by the Minnesota Horticultural Society, northerngardener.org

13. Minnesota Water Garden Society – *located outside the northwest corner of the Agriculture Horticulture Building across from the Food Building*

Wander through this mature and calming water garden and enjoy a variety of colorful blooms, shrubs, perennials, and a pond. Two bridges cross over 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, Water 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.

14. Meadow Green Landscape – *located on the north side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building*

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 Eyes sumac offer remarkable leaf color through the fall. Presented by Meadow Green, meadowgreenlandscape.com

15. Skyride Garden East – *located at the eastern end of the Skyride*

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.

16. Botanical Blitz – *located behind the Leinie Lodge Bandshell*

This festive garden at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell greets guests with hardy perennials, including Sum & Substance and June hostas and Prairie Dropseed ornamental grass. Elephant Ears and other colorful annuals, including “grapes on a stick,” add flair, ensuring this garden catches the eye. The garden also features two evergreen favorites from the Spruce family, Weeping White and Dwarf Globe Blue. Presented by Botanical Blitz, botanicalblitz.com

17. Minnesota State Fair Healing Garden – *located on the south side of the 4-H Building*

Established 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 waterfalls 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.

18. Straw Bale Gardens – *located on the southwest corner of Randall Avenue and Cosgrove Street, outside the Progress Center*

A fully grown example of a vegetable garden grown in bales of straw is displayed at the Straw Bale Garden Club’s Adopt-A-Garden, located just below the giant wind turbine. Stop by and take a #statefairsquashselfie in the garden. Learn more by downloading the free Straw Bale Gardens app on your mobile device. Presented by Straw Bale Gardens. strawbalegardens.com.

19. AAA All American Lawn & Landscaping – *located on the north side of Fine Arts Center and west of Progress Center*

The garden near the Fine Arts Center has late-summer interest with Karl Forester grasses, sedum and garlic chives. The garden outside the Progress Center evokes the feeling of serenity and peace. A time to enjoy life. Presented by AAA All American Lawn & Landscaping, allamericanlandscaping.com