

Sustainability Tour

Sunday, September 20th, 2015

from 11 am – 4pm

The Milwaukie Sustainability Tour will involve neighbors sharing their sustainable home practices with others to build a better community. Things such as food & yard composting, composting tea, mason bees, worm bins, rain gardens, solar panels, rain barrels, backyard chickens, veggie gardening, recycling, canning, freezing, dehydrating, and loads more. Sharing ideas among neighbors, exploring the great neighborhoods of Milwaukie, and building community are the goals of this fun, free event.

★ 1 El Rancho D Organico Corner JCB & 42nd

El Rancho Deluxe is the cooperative effort of Russ Stoll, Jon Stoll, Francisco Nunez and Kammy Barrett. Much of our crop is grown from seed in our greenhouse, or bought as one-buck plants and nurtured for six weeks before planting. We are also currently experimenting with ground covers.

The main garden is divided between traditional home gardening and an intensive, drip-irrigated salsa plantation. There is a 100-plant corn garden, also on drip. This year we expanded our squash garden into a new field. We also planted a 16-tree cider apple orchard in conjunction with local hard cider makers Orwa, located in the Lake Road neighborhood. Twelve of the trees will be espaliered.

As always, we feature the largest chicken herd in Milwaukie, at this writing we have 33 girls. They are prolific compost producers. This winter Frank and Russ will be building a stable for JohnsonCreekGoats.com. We expect to be getting four goats in spring of 2016 and once we get them trained to work [eat] in an organized fashion, they will be available for day labor.

★ 2 Paul & Renee 4149 SE Johnson Creek Blvd

Renee Moog and Paul Sylvester like to say they have a 2-bedroom house and a 6-room yard. Their yard is a sanctuary to create art, grow food, celebrate nature and foster community. The mixed perennial, native and edible beds provide a backdrop for large-scale artistic elements including a pond with stacked stone sphere fountain, a dome trellis sheltering a fire bowl and supporting hardy kiwi vines, a hammock sanctuary nestled behind a 10' high log archway, wine bottle borders and fence created from recycled bottles, and other various sculptures scattered throughout the garden. Diverse plantings provide habitat for native mason bees as well as honeybees, extensive bird population and occasional deer that wander up through the Johnson Creek wildlife corridor.



Permaculture/sustainable gardening practices include:

Making and using natural soil amendments including compost, leaf mold, and apple pomace (a by-product of apple cider production);

Planting for diversity including more than 20 different small fruits, raised vegetable beds, decorative perennial beds, woodland beds, an herb garden and container plantings.

Using available resources including re-purposing hollow stumps as planters, using bamboo supports from our own bamboo grove, allowing plants to reseed, and mulching with leaves delivered cost-free by the city or woodchips dropped off from local arborists.

Planting the right plant for the right place including incorporating natives, drought tolerant plants and volunteers throughout the beds.

★ 3 Albert-Davis Garden 3630 SE VanWaters Ct

Albert-Davis garden a 1/4 organic acre with limited lawn (not watered) and greenhouse. Herb garden, mostly raised vegetable garden beds and many edible fruits (blueberries, figs, pears, apples (for cider), raspberries, plums, persimmon, strawberries, kiwi, ground cherries, grapes, currants, aronia, rhubarb). Four chickens aka "The Little Women" (we lost our Meg). Sixteen leased solar panels from SolarCity. 19 cf freezer and food dehydrator ---other foods canned. Worm bin for recycling of food waste and creation of vermicompost. Three bin hot composting system. Mason bees. Water saving---two barrels (one homemade) as well as two 250 gallon tanks . Compost tea brewed weekly in summer months using worm compost. Dense, varied plantings and habitat friendly for frogs, pollinators and birds---many bird feeders, houses and birdbaths, and plants grown exclusively for birds (beautyberry, pyracantha, cotoneaster, sunflower)

★ 4 Lashbrook Home 4342 SE Rockwood St.

For the past 15 years, Lisa and Stephan have worked together to incorporate more sustainable practices inside and out of their dwelling place.

A work in progress as more turf is removed each year to add paths, gardens, food. Lisa's big organic garden provides lots of food to eat fresh, can, dry, freeze, and share with neighbors. Come see Stephan's worm bin!

The deck cover is made largely of recycled lumber, as is the shed in "the back 40". And just off the deck is a Bing cherry tree that died and was left as a habitat tree. The birds love it! There's more, come see!



★ 5 The Trotter/Eile Family 4997 SE Winworth Ct.

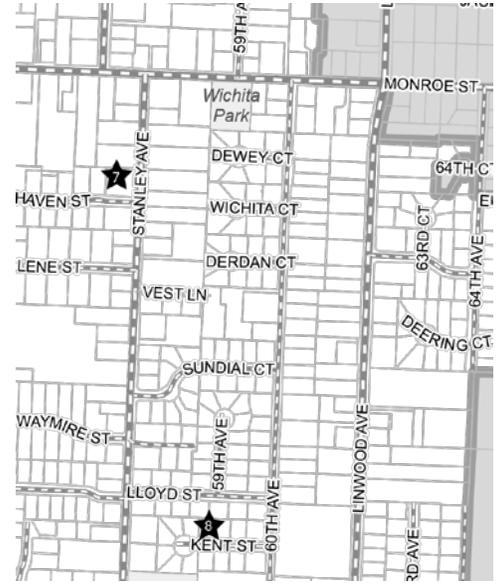
This family of four lives in a 1960's daylight ranch on half an acre in Lewelling. A 4500 watt PV array from SolarWorld (Oregon made!) sits on the south facing roof slope and provides roughly 80% of the electrical needs. Replacing gas powered lawn equipment with rechargeable battery powered tools has nearly eliminated gasoline emissions. Attention to waste reduction and recycling has reduced household garbage to twice a month 30 gallon can service. The backyard chicken coop, vegetable and fruit gardens, medicinal and pollinator plants, and composting helps the family internalize the cycle of food production and brings valuable outdoor lessons to the children.

6 The Oakes Family
9315 SE Stanley Ave.

(Look for the big red barn.) Our family is mid-construction on a DIY net-zero passive house. Passive house principles are designed to reduce heating energy by 90% and have a significant impact on carbon emissions by using a combination of super-insulation, air-tightness and house orientation. Other features include: triple-pane windows, locally recycled insulation, dual plumbing for greywater reuse, drainwater heat-recovery, rainwater system, heat-recovery ventilator, structured plumbing system to reduce water waste and a super-efficient co2-based split heat-pump to provide both heat and hot water. Located at Lovena Farm, an intentional community of 4 homes located on a long-standing farm along Johnson Creek

7 The Perry Family
11011 SE Stanley Avenue

This garden features a substantial amount of edible landscaping, integrated with a collection of native and exotic drought tolerant plants. This garden sits on nearly half of an acre occupied by native Oregonians upon a drought tolerant ecolawn. At this site, you can learn the basics of no-till organic vegetable gardening and discuss the processes of gathering and starting vegetables from seed. Harvest from this property brings plentiful production of jam, canned sauce, dried tomatoes and herbs, as well as fermented beverages. All scraps are composted and turned into mulch for the next year's garden. Coffee grounds are spread to acid-loving plants (hydrangeas and blueberries) and mushrooms have been inoculated in various spots around the property. Water conservation is practiced through various drip irrigation and soaker hose installations around designed plant communities, and we will be discussing the benefits of sheet mulching to save on labor in an organic system.



8 The Rinner Family
5825 SE Kent St.

We would like to share our attempts at having a more sustainable lifestyle while entertaining two elementary age children! Our children love to make mud pies and play with worms, so we incorporated rain barrels and using worms to compost our food scraps (vermicomposting) into our household. The rain barrels also supplement the water level of our koi pond. We have yard compost for most of our yard waste which we use to mulch our veggie garden. We have also worked with Solar City to install solar panels on our house. Although we don't make money off the solar panels, we are getting our energy from a greener source and our electric bill will never go up!

9 Campbell Community Garden
Intersection of SE 47th and Adams Street

The Campbell Community Garden is a bright, vibrant, and friendly garden, overflowing with an abundance of produce grown using natural/organic gardening techniques. Inside the 10,000 square foot area, many styles of edible gardens are found. The garden showcases space saving techniques, sustainable gardening practices, and methods for reducing maintenance needs. The garden is tended with VERY limited chemicals, and insectary plantings are spread throughout the garden to support introduced and native beneficial insects. Benches built out of a giant Deodar Cedar from a neighboring yard are spread throughout the garden, and a shed built of reclaimed materials holds tools and a small reference library. 28 garden plots are rented by neighbors, and 6 plots are designated for growing food to give to local food pantries.

Garden highlights:

- 28 different gardening families = 28 different ways to set up a garden plot!
- Space saving growing techniques like intensive planting in raised beds and trellising
- Yield maximization by succession planting
- Sustainable features like reusing materials like shipping pallets and arborists wood chips
- A community coming together to make the most of the vacant school grounds

The Campbell Community Garden is located at the intersection of SE 47th and Adams Street. Look for the gravel walking path next to 4706 SE Adams St. Please park on the street.

10 The Gardensmith's Front Yard Garden
4546 SE Washington St.

The Gardensmith's Front Yard Garden
The majority of the front yard plantings were installed in June of 2000. The plants were selected to be low maintenance and have year round interest. What were tiny little plants 15 years ago are now holding steady at a reasonable size, needing to only be tended to once or twice a year. In spring 2013, our passion for edible gardens got the best of us, and we decided to tear out a big chunk of our front lawn and replace it with mostly fruiting trees and shrubs. The new edible plantings are designed to stick with the plan of year round interest; while we can't call our front yard low maintenance anymore, we can harvest a meal while we maintain it!

Garden highlights

- The use of annual vegetables to help fill space while young trees and shrubs to mature
- The blending of edible trees, shrubs, and herbs with ornamental plantings
- Veggies standing in for colorful annual flowers: check out the Japanese eggplant along the sidewalk!
- Growing veggies and fruits arranged in anything but traditional garden rows.

