

North End Garden Tour

About the Gardens...from the gardeners!

Julie Meikle

1007 N. 17th Street

The 1007 N. 17th Street house was originally built in 1951 and is part of the Boise historical district. My husband and I purchased the house in 2009. We replaced the landscaping and swimming pool in the back yard in 2014. At that time, the adjoining lot had another house that was occupied, also part of the historical district.

In 2017, the house adjacent to ours went up for sale after the owners passed away. We were interested in the house but it was sold to another party. The new buyer began renovations, but this proved challenging. Many animals began to live in the house and the property fell into disarray.

Eventually, the buyer gave up on the renovation and subsequently wiped the lot clean, trees and all. All that was left was a big hole and the sandstone foundation. The buyer then decided to sell the vacant lot and it was at that time that my husband and I were able to purchase the property.

It took some time, but eventually we achieved a plan that met the historical society and city requirements. Any addition on our existing house had to sit back from the existing facade and could not be of the same building material. Additionally, the freestanding structure you see (which looks like another little house) could not be more than 700 square feet. Our designing, building and landscaping project took over two years. The freestanding structure is not an ADU, but it is in fact a pottery studio with a loft. In the building project to the house proper we added a larger kitchen (this is the stucco portion), a back concrete porch and as well as a side seating area with an outdoor fireplace. There is a fountain, a koi pond and a garden. The edging material throughout is Table Rock sandstone from the preexisting house's foundation.

I would love for everyone to tour the yard, but we have small dogs who are very good at escaping as well as the pool, so there are safety concerns. Please feel absolutely free to walk down the alley and view the house and property from there as well as from the sidewalk.

David & Mary Gray

1021 N 6th Street

Over the last twenty-five plus years, we've transformed our landscape to accommodate various plants, shrubs, groundcovers and some lawn that can do well with the current soil conditions, seasonal sun/shade changes and shade trees. Due to the large trees and spreading of the roots, groundcover was planted in place of grass and requires much less water. The remaining landscape consists of boxwood hedging, evergreen shrubs, perennials and some seasonal vegetables.

Elaine and Todd Lynn
2023 N 9th Street

We want our yard to feel lush and inviting without the use of lawn. Water wise plants and a variety of shapes and colors were the inspiration.

Dennis & Elaine Keogh
2106 N 14th

Our garden is a work in progress, evolving along with our lives. It has no master plan but, in theory, it addresses the plants abilities to survive with a sprinkling of memories. Though we irrigate as needed, no plant requires an excessive amount of water. We feel our home has beautiful architectural features and that the garden surrounding it must complement it. The curved sidewalks provide a softening effect to the harder lines of our home.

The plants are a combination of ones we brought from other residences, ones given to us from our adult children, ones that are in memory of loved ones gone and simply those that can survive our climate. We can work in the garden with a reminder of a person, a place or a reminder of a time in the past. The front walk provides a soft approach to the front door which is slightly offset from the center of the house and the walk and plants on the north side are there simply because seven years of attempted lawn development was a failure and the large green pots were purchased from the proceeds of a small inheritance. The south side of the house has potatoes, rhubarb and tomatoes taking advantage of the sunlight and heat.

We feel the yard and gardens are inviting from the front and they do a good job in complementing our home. We enjoy working and living in it. We hope you get a pleasant feel from it, we do.

Billie and Bob Hawley
1915 16th

Our front yard was originally set as a zero scape landscape. We added some color including the roses along with a few flowers and a butterfly plant in pots. The day lilies and french lavender along with a dogwood tree, black-eyed susan and ruby star coneflowers require minimum upkeep.

Andy Daleiden
908 W Pueblo Street

Welcome to our 1907 bungalow. When we bought the house in 2008, the previous owner (who had owned the house since the 1960's) had a son who was a horticulturist and he created a wonderful masterpiece of a garden. With a great foundation, we have been able to care for it and add our own touch to the lovely garden through a few home renovations. We love spending time on the shady front porch and enjoying many of our favorites: Japanese maple trees (dwarf coral bark, crimson queen, etc.); rose-pink, purple, and bright pink peonies (shimadaijin tree, fawn, and sarah bernhardt); and several other flowering plants (roses, irises, tiger lilies, star gazer lilies, asiatic lilies, hostas). Most recently, we added an incrediball hydrangea shrub and hope to see some full white blooms for the summer.

Tony and Gayle Roark**1821 N 8th St**

Tired of mowing the grass in our front yard, in 2007 we hired a local landscape architect to design a new front yard landscape. We then did the labor ourselves. Much of what you see today is based off of his original design with some minor changes here and there over the years. Golden Bee Gardening has helped us with the maintenance the last couple of years. We both feel the yard looks its best in the spring with the blanket of purple of phlox (which sadly only lasts a couple of weeks), the blooming azalea, and just seeing the yard come to life. But there is beauty year-round as different perennials peak. I think our favorite part is seeing how the neighbors enjoy the yard, stopping to look, smell, admire, and take pictures. We hope that continues for many years to come.

1207 N 20th St.

WELCOME to our Rock(y) Garden!

Two years ago, when we moved in, the little Victorian house seemed out of place in such a gravel desert. There were a few plants scattered across this desert, including a pine tree, some yuccas, and one beautiful, old, red Japanese maple. Though we liked the idea of Xeriscaping, we felt another plan was in order to fully complement the house. We scraped some of the rock away to install beds and drip irrigation and added trees, shrubs, and flowers.

It's been a fun project to find varieties that will grow in such a hot, sunny environ. Our search has led us to Autumn Gold Gingko, Burgundy Jewel Vine Maple, Hearts of Gold Redbud, and the quirky White Fringe Tree that are focal points in the beds. Top priority was to select plants for lively color and contrast, concentrating on chartreuse, burgundy, and green.

We are still "in progress" and delight in the creativity of designing and the satisfaction of that design rooting and growing!

ENJOY! We did it in part for YOU our Neighbors, who we are sure were tired of looking at all that Gravel!

Linda Whitener**1923 9th**

Our landscaping was designed and lovingly built by my husband as a gift to me for my upcoming retirement from the medical field. He wanted it to be a place that we would both enjoy spending time together and entertaining in the beauty of the outdoors. We incorporated a cherry tree and some strawberries in the center circle. Lilac, butterfly bush, and a myriad of flowers attract bees and pollinators. My favorite plant is the hibiscus bush next to the front porch on the right which may not be in bloom yet during the tour. Drip irrigation and succulents conserve water and eliminate the need to mow grass, pick dandelions and kill grubs and lawn bugs.

- Lights under the walls accentuate the landscape and colors can be changed with the seasons.
- On the northside there are Kiwi vines growing on the trellis. This is the first year they are producing fruit.
- Organic vegetable gardening lines the sidewalk border on the north side. The backyard has peach, pluot and plum trees along with blueberries, grapes, and thornless blackberries. The alley is home for our raspberries and sunflowers



Sandy Mudge

521 Union

We have tried to make our garden very child friendly so that we can enjoy exploring it and playing in it together. We have lots of plants that are edible and also good for pollinators. We love having plants blooming throughout the different seasons so there is usually something beautiful to look at and smell. We hope you enjoy our space as much as we do!

Carolyn Morris

1610 N 14th

This home has been in the family for 60 years and my mother-in-law loved working in her yard. Even with her passing, it remains the family home. It is, however, my first full spring and summer enjoying the entire yard, building on her plantings while adding our own touches and personality.

From the carpet of happy grape hyacinths to the tulips, daffodils, iris, roses, and peonies - I had a good base to embellish. Many of the border stones are from the family mining days and scattered about the flower beds are pieces of mining equipment - including a 4 foot in diameter rock crusher gear (my favorite) which is planted and forms a bed beneath a 'work of art' planter constructed by my mother-in-law!

We've added many shrubs and perennials which would not do well in Alaska where we have lived for 43 years, so, that gives us more variety of choice. We're still learning.....

The front flower bed is a bow to my eclectic side. I consider myself more of a decorator than a gardener! I enjoy interspersing 'do dads' amongst the plants, flowers and containers. It makes me happy.

It is a small yard compared to our home in Alaska, but we intend to keep it tidy, healthy, fun and enjoyable!

I hope you feel the same.

1920 North 9th street

Ron & Marie Whaley

After several months of searching in a very tight North End housing market, our darling daughter-in-law, Karen, found this perfect house for us. Although our sights were on buying a larger house with a smaller yard, we were quick to consummate the deal. We asked ourselves: now what are we going to do with a vacant lot of dead soil under a blanket of goat heads?

Our initial thought was to cultivate strips throughout the lot and plant rows of corn, amaranth, and the normal array of garden vegetables. We tried this our first year (2013) and it was a total failure. Realizing we didn't have the talent to be productive vegetable farmers, we refocused our efforts to building mounds and planting trees, bushes and flowers.

In the meantime, our son, Bryan, developed us a patio larger than the footprint of our house, threw in a pond and built the fences. He also concluded that he needed a couple of goats, which he did not have room for at his place, so he built us a beautiful goat barn and stocked it with two new family members. They are great fun for the grandchildren and great grandchildren, and an amusing attraction for the passerby.

Our yard has become a rustic sanctuary for birds, bees, butterflies and even us humans. It is ever evolving, as we consider it our yoga, and like all good trainers, we have to keep in line with the program.

Stefani Hannah

1614 20th

When we purchased our house, the property had been a rental for many years. It needed love and attention inside and out. We are **excited** with the transformation of our yard! But cannot take the credit for the landscape design or implementation only the maintenance. Our goal was to have a low maintenance yard that had plants that bloomed at different times so that there would always be color in our yard. We enjoy the color and privacy of the evergreens all year. The hydrangeas bloom late summer and into fall, the grasses bloom in spring and last through fall. The other plants and shrubs bloom at various times throughout the year.

The yard is occasionally populated by one to three tiny chihuahuas that love to wander around the garden and greet passer byers with a bark!

Andy Peterson

1310 15th

We are **not** as knowledgeable about our garden as we would like to be. After two and a half years in our little slice of the neighborhood our main gardening goal remains the same - to maintain what we inherited from the previous home owners while adding our own special plants and hardscape along the way. The garden is filled with a variety of flowers that draw insects which help pollinate the various fruit trees and berry plants in both the front and back yards. It was planted as an edible garden and includes cherries, raspberries, apricots, pears,

blackberries, strawberries, grapes, serviceberry, rhubarb and likely more that we have yet to identify. We love to see it grow and change every year.

Kristi Johnson

2100 N. 14th street

I would say that my garden is full of plants and flowers that make my heart sing... It reminds me of a forest, and is a happy place for me. I planted everything in the sweet earth under the giant tree, in hopes of attracting pollinators, and fairies.

2103 N 9th St.

Amy Goodrich & Andy Carlson

This is our third summer of garden evolution, and our unofficial theme has become local recycling/rehoming. So many of the "inherited" plants mentioned last year are still thriving in their shuffled locations - like the irises we thinned from a small clump by the house last spring and spread out along the Lemp St. sidewalk. The pollinator habitat we'd just planted on the Lemp right-of-way strips at last year's tour has really gone wild this year!

Since last tour we've kept working to create habitat, adding native willows by the waterfall (we rooted salvaged trail maintenance cuttings from up near Corrals trail), and the start of what we hope will become a grove of quaking aspens at the corner (saplings shared by a generous neighbor). We've put in purshia, pearly everlasting, and sagebrush (started from seeds also collected in the foothills) to the dry center-yard area in hope they will eventually supplant the volunteer flax. We've also snagged lots of odds and ends from Hilda's wonderful plant library down the street (fall crocuses near the house, bleeding hearts under the bird feeder, and pygmy irises out at the street corner). Even the fish pond is home to a misfit school of goldfish rehomed from a few different outgrown tanks. The shadier north flower garden under the big locust features lots of early-spring tulips rescued from the abandoned former gardens of a nearby demolition. This is our kid-friendly corner - the new "fairy garden" is an ongoing project pieced together with our young daughter almost entirely from local garage sale treasures.

Monica Fiello

2105 N. 14th Street

My husband, Richard Thorne, was an avid and talented British gardener. He was truly an artist in the garden. Since his death in 2019, I have tried to maintain his plants. I'm not very good at it, but the work keeps his memory alive for me, and I can continue to enjoy the gifts of fruits and flowers that he gave to me.

Roxanne & Ryan Brown

1320 7th

We bought our home three years ago and have made some changes to our landscape. Because our front yard has so much shade, the grass did not grow well. We had all the grass removed and put in the stone steps and a variety of plants. We enjoy watching how the plants are blooming and getting bigger. Our favorite thing about the garden is that it is pretty low maintenance. We work with Urban Escapes Landscaping company for some of the bigger work.

Brad Kempton

802 Eastman Street

My favorite part of the yard is the density and diversity of plants anchored by the unique and characteristic home it highlights and surrounds.