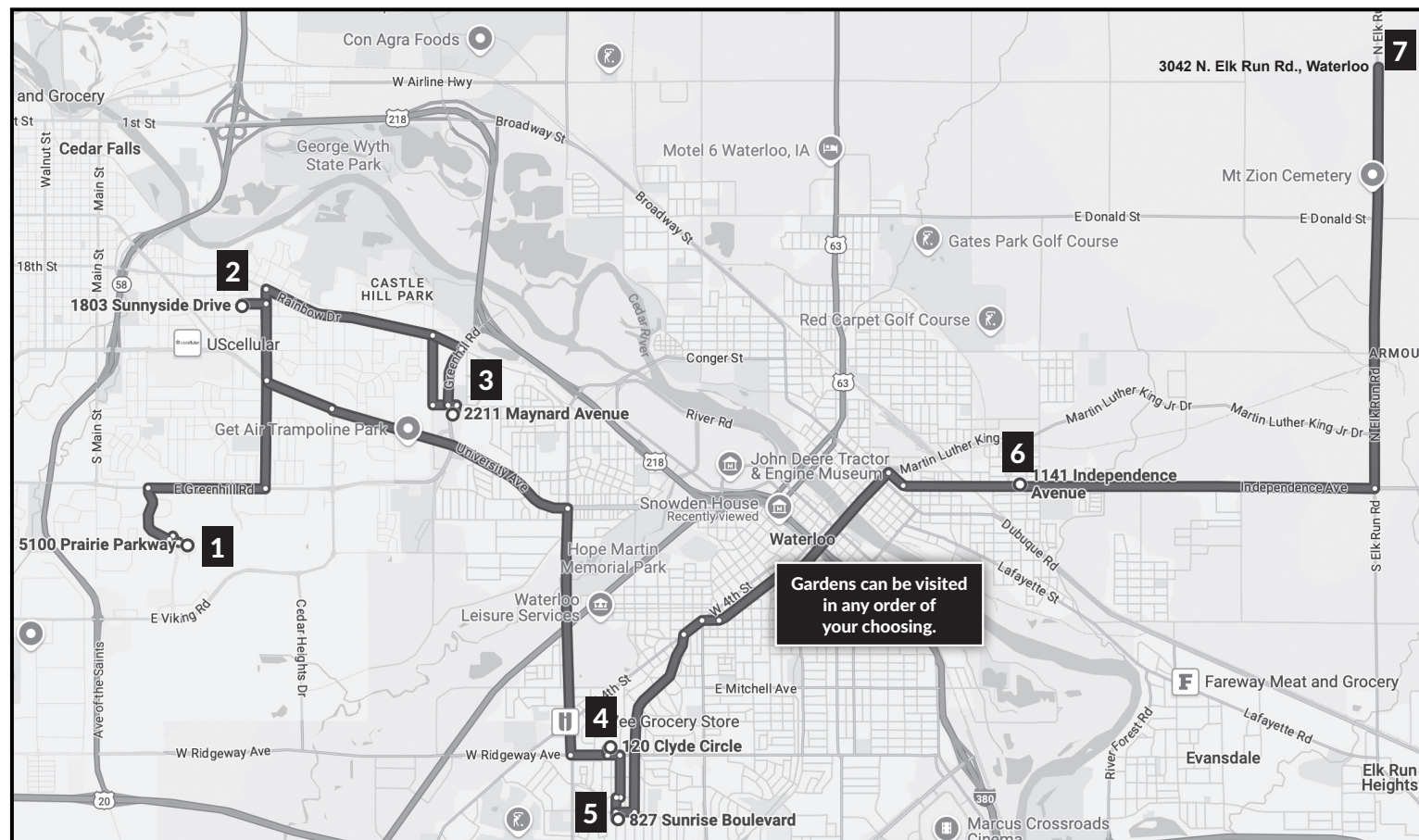


# 2025 Garden Tours Map

1. PRAIRIE PARKWAY GARDENS – 5100 PRAIRIE PARKWAY, CEDAR FALLS
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**1:00 - 5:00 PM**



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# Garden Tours

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025 | 1-5PM | COST: \$15 | WATERLOO**

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF THE GROUT HISTORIC HOUSES

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**PRAIRIE PARKWAY GARDENS – 5100 PRAIRIE PARKWAY, CEDAR FALLS – PARK IN LOT BY UNITY POINT PHARMACY**  
This unique teaching garden was created to provide a hands-on learning center for those who want to explore the benefits of healthy living. Master gardener Rich Congdon is the garden master and founder. He developed the concept for the garden twelve years ago and began moving dirt in 2016. Initially the purpose was to teach those with medical issues how to grow and prepare healthful foods. Now there are four distinct gardens. There is a vegetable garden with four areas, an in-ground garden, a vine garden, a root and herb garden, and a vertical garden. In addition, there is the Dr. Glascock Memorial Orchard with fifty fruit trees, the Layla and Kamila pollinator garden, and a garden under development, the Prairie Parkway Sensory Garden for people with mental health issues. Located on Unity Point land, it is strongly supported by the Cedar Falls Lions Club and a dedicated group of volunteers.

**GAYLORD STAUFFER – 1803 SUNNYSIDE BLVD., CEDAR FALLS – ON STREET PARKING**  
There is not one blade of grass on this heavily planted corner lot which had no significant plantings at all when Gaylord moved there in 2003. He worked on the front yard first removing rocks and planting irises and peonies given to him by a friend. Since then, he has developed several gardens in sections of the lot with walkways and benches throughout and an assortment of lawn ornaments and sculptures. The wide variety of perennials include hostas, daisies, irises, sunflowers, day lilies, black-eyed Susans, asters, turtle heads, and peonies. The blooming plants, which attract pollinators, change with the seasons. Through the carport on Sunnyside is a secluded back yard with a rainbow-colored fence that encompasses several sitting areas, two pergolas, and a circulating pond with goldfish and carp. The gardens are embellished with pots of colorful annuals.



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**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH – 2211 MAYNARD AVE., WATERLOO – DRIVE UP TO PARKING LOT**  
The Ascension Lutheran Church was founded over thirty-five years ago. It is still thriving and growing with nearly six hundred baptized members. A new pre-school facility is being built behind the church. Throughout the life of the church the impressive lawns and gardens have been tended by volunteers. A Property Management Committee helps with the mowing, trimming, and maintenance, but a loyal parishioner does most of the planting of both annuals and perennials bringing many from his own home garden. The wide range of annuals includes elephant ears, petunias, marigolds, calla lilies, vincas, sun flowers, geraniums. Hostas and tulips are among the perennials. The first garden created was the prayer garden which can be reached by going down stairs off the parking lot. In addition to a variety of plants the site includes a contemplative sitting area. There are several other densely planted areas on the property and many pots surrounding the doors.

**JOHN BRACKIN – 120 CLYDE CIRCLE, WATERLOO – PARKING IN DRIVE OR ON STREET – ENTER TO THE BACK BY THE GARAGE**  
What a surprise lies behind this house a four-foot black fence surrounds a full acre of gardens, a wide variety of perennials, and trees of all sizes including apple, cherry, red oak and pin oak. There were very few plantings of any kind when John and his wife Kathryn moved in thirty-five years ago but every year they have added to and rearranged the flourishing array. There are over eighty varieties of hostas, which began with a gift from one of Kathryn's friends. Many different colors of hydrangea and roses mingle with day lilies, surprise lilies, Asian lilies, and irises. Palmera cut from a large mother plant come out of the house each spring. Stone work throughout contains many gardens including four vegetable gardens in the middle with rhubarb in the center. Many birdhouses are prevalent including three in the colors of the three Iowa public universities with plantings to match and hummingbird and other bird feeders.

**BOB DURRWACHTER – 827 SUNRISE BLVD., WATERLOO – ON STREET PARKING BOTH SIDES**  
Bob and his wife Pam moved to Waterloo three years ago. One of the reasons they chose the house they are in is because the back yard had gardening possibilities. Bob, a master gardener, has gardened all his life. His primary focus is on salsa gardening for which he grows a variety of outstanding tomatoes, a number of exotic peppers, and onions. He also grows leafy greens, okra, and tomatillo. He regularly provides the Northeast Iowa Food Bank with peppers, which are in high demand, and leafy greens. He also helps in the garden there. Bob has a special interest in heirloom plants and saves the seeds from year to year by extracting the seeds and fermenting them. He starts his seeds indoors, transitions them to cold frames and then transplants them to the garden. He employs good gardening practices planting in rows running east to west to maximize sunlight and rotating his crops annually to keep the soil healthy. He tries to keep some kind of flowering plant blooming all summer long to help with pollination.

**MICALEA LORENZ & MIKE KNAPP – 1141 INDEPENDENCE AVE., WATERLOO – PARKING N. SIDE OF STREET ONLY**  
When Mica and Mike moved into the house in 1988, there were very limited plantings surrounding the house and it stayed that way until Mica retired in 2016 when gardening became a passion for her. She took the master gardener course with her neighbor and the results can be seen. Each year she adds more to the large variety of perennials including her favorite creeping phlox. She supplements the perennials with pots of annuals. She likes to always have something blooming. Plantings in the back yard are changing because of the loss of a big tree. Mica is a retired letter carrier so she was careful to leave a brick-lined path across the front for fellow letter carriers. Both Mica and Mike are strong supporters of Team Flamingo that rides annually on RAGBRAI; consequently, there are flamingos throughout the gardens. There are also little fairy gardens throughout which add to the uniqueness of the gardens.

**GINNY & RANDY PLATTE – 3042 N. ELK RUN RD., WATERLOO – PARK IN CIRCLE DRIVE**  
The Plattes live in the house where Randy was raised and have maintained one of the most outstanding gardens in the state, which is often on tours, for many years. Ginny ordered the seeds for the plants for the next summer in the fall. In January they planted the seedlings to grow under lights in their basement. In February they moved the plants in 4" pots to be fertilized and pruned in the new 16 x 28-foot greenhouse that Randy built after his retirement last year. They started moving the variety of annuals to outside pots in early May. These include tulips, tree lilies, petunias, impatiens, and begonias. Some are in concrete pots that Randy made himself pouring three hundred pounds of concrete into the forms. New this year is a transplanted vegetable garden with a cutting garden going into its former fenced-in place. Three goldfish ponds surrounded by hostas and other perennials enhance the gardens.

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## ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF THE GROUT HISTORIC HOUSES

The **FRIENDS OF THE GROUT HISTORIC HOUSES (FGHH)** is a group of volunteers who work to support the two historic houses that are part of the Grout Museum District. The Rensselaer Russell House Museum contains artifacts from the Russell family and acquired items compatible with the period 1850-1890. The Snowden House, which was originally a summer home for the Snowden Family, now serves as an event venue.

The FGHH holds annual fundraising events such as the *Garden Tours* and *Tour of Classic Homes*. The funds raised help to maintain the houses for future generations.

The gardens that surround both houses are maintained by members of the board with help from volunteers.

**FGHH MEMBERS:** Jim Aronson, Barbara Corson, Howard Craven, Wendy Harris, Tim Kuhlmann, Mary Potter, Joe Pryor, Marilyn Rasmussen, Jim Ralston, Alice Rohert, Matt Slinker, Jesse Swan and Julie Zell

Thank you to Linda Habertape and Melody Parker for serving on the Garden Tour committee.

If you are interested in having your garden or home included on the *Garden Tour* or *Tour of Homes*, please contact either:  
Matt Slinker, President, Friends of the Grout Historic Houses: 19slink72@gmail.com  
Grout Museum District: info@gmdistrict.org, 319.234.6357