

Garden City Yards beautified for

Walk in July

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Bill Sandzik believes he got the gardening bug from both of his grandmothers who had dozens of flowers in their yards. Sandzik carried that gardening gene into his own yard by building a homemade fence around the front of the house and installing a pond with two separate waterfalls with a waterwheel and a bridge.

And his wife Debra? Why does she enjoy gardening? "She got it from my kidney," Bill jokes, repeating an off-the-cuff comment she made while Bill was on the telephone during an interview for this story.

One year ago, Bill donated his kidney to Debra.

'It's the people, too'

That kind of thoughtfulness, unselfishness and love of these two garden walk hosts make this year's garden walk special, said Zydys Bateson, organizer of the Garden City Garden Walk. "It's not so much the beauty of the gardens, but it's the people, too," Bateson said.

Bateson said said this year's walk includes eight homes instead of six, and was extended another hour.

"We've got a good variety, from small gardens to large ones," Bateson said.

Walking Paths

■ **Carton** - "Patals and Patha," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 14. Tickets \$6 in advance, \$7 day of walk, available at Keller and Stein, 42158 Michigan Ave.; Greys' Greenhouse, 882 Lilley; Vanessa's Flowers, 545 W. Ann Arbor Road; Mary's Farm Market, 47453 Ford Road. For information, call Judy Bloomquist at (734) 455-8283. No strollers, please.

■ **Garden City** - Walk hosted by the Garden City Garden Club, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 21. Tickets at Garden City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt; Rocky's Flower & Gift Shop, 32917 Ford Road; and Barton's Greenhouse, 6414 Merriman, Westland.

■ **Northville** - Seven gardens of Northville homes will be featured ranging from pristine and expansive to quaint countryside. The Gardens of Northville - Eighth Annual Garden Walk is scheduled 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 11. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 from Gaelewiner, 202 W. Main, and Morrison's Antiques, 105 E. Main. Patrons also can purchase tickets at the Mill Race Village, 100 Glastford, the day of the event. Tickets will not be sold at the homes the day of the event.



Sit and enjoy: William and Debra Sandzik sit and relax in front of their pond in the yard of their home in Garden City. Their yard, featured in the upcoming Garden City Garden Walk, includes a wide variety of plants and flowers, while the pond has two waterfalls.



Red and ripe: Molly and Austin Carroll, 3-year-old twins from Taylor and grandchildren of Zydys Bateson of Garden City, visit Jackson a few times a week and enjoy his garden. Here, they sample a few of Jackson's strawberries.

a waterwheel and bridge. "The pond is the biggest thing," Sandzik said. "We've got a lot work back here." Water lilies, tiger lilies and cattails grow in the 16-foot round pond. Koi swim in it, too. They've also grown rhododendrons in the front. A small gazebo "shelters" cement geese. Day lilies, asters, lilacs and daffodils decorate the yard, while a crabapple and two cherry trees bloom in spring.

Veggies galore

This year's walk doesn't feature only flowers, either. "Ray Jackson probably has the largest vegetable garden in Garden City," Bateson said. Jackson estimates that his garden covers about a half-acre. He grows three different species of onions, including Walla Walla, his favorites, along with peppers, beans, corn and potatoes and other produce.

"The garden did badly earlier, but the rain and the heat helped it shape up real well," Jackson said. He has already enjoyed spring crops of lettuce and mustard spinach. The garden contains a dark, loamy soil mixed with sand. "It's beautiful soil," Jackson said. "You can work it well." Donald Rousseau's yard features a 7-foot mag-



Let it flow: A waterfall flows into the Sandzik's pond.



Dig it: Ray Jackson, who maintains a large vegetable garden, digs up and shows off a few potatoes.

nolia tree with decorative blocks around the tree decorated with flowers. A windmill sits in the middle of a rose garden, while an arbor and trellis are covered with roses. Rousseau has scores of different species of flowers in his yard, including lilacs, hostas, gladiolus, irises, daffodils, hydrangeas and dragonflowers.

Brinn Shockley presented arborvitae, red sunset maples and yuccas. Hardy mums, coneflowers and hostas draw the eyes to various colors.

Bob and Marina Murdock added a Japanese garden to their yard. The Murdock's yard features backyard pond, a butterfly and hummingbird garden and a fenced-in vegetable garden. Visitors will see dwarf Alberta spruces, variegated hostas, ferns and Rose of Sharon color the yard.

Barbara Bridges garden is highlighted by a curved border with unusual trees, bushes and shrubs, landscape rocks, ferns, astilbes and canna along the die and two small garden beds.

The gardens at the homes of Mark Walker and Cheryl Cuck also will be featured. Bateson expects this year's show will be one of the best. For many gardening buffs, it is a release, she said.

"Gardening is hard work, but it has a way of helping you unwind," Bateson said. "It's a way to vent your frustrations. When you're done with a day's work of gardening, it makes you feel better."



Going for a swim: Koi swim under a few lily pads in the Sandzik pond.

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