

This is the perfect time of year to visit several public gardens maintained by Master Gardeners and members of the community.

Near the corner of Fairgrounds and Tracyton Beach Road, about one block north of Fairgrounds, is the entrance path to the Anna Smith Children's Garden. Parking is in a lot on the north side of Fairgrounds. This is the oldest MG demonstration garden in Kitsap County. It's a gardening space providing an abundance of helpful information. You can see how plants will grow in your own Northwest gardens. You'll take home at least one or two ideas (most probably many more).

In South Kitsap stop at the log cabin Visitor's Center off of Sedgwick. Master Gardener volunteers have planted heirloom plants in the planter boxes. They're also planting grasses in the surrounding area and have added colorful annuals to delight the eye. The heirloom plants would have traveled here with the pioneers and been planted at their new homes. Take the Sedgwick and Fautleroy Ferry exit and head towards Port Orchard. Look to the right and you'll see the Guesthouse Motel, a filling station, MacDonald's and Shari's Restaurant. The Visitor's Center is in the corner of the motel parking lot.

Be sure to continue East on Sedgwick turning left (north) onto Sidney. Drive several blocks to 1026 Sidney Avenue. Master Gardeners plant, weed and maintain a water-wise garden at the Givens' Community Center. You'll find over seventy-three varieties of plants or shrubs that will grow happily (once established) in our climate surviving on our natural rainfall. Step inside the building for a copy of the plant inventory list. You'll find plants from A to W.

CHRIS – THIS IS THE PARAGRAPH TO REPLACE THE RETSIL ONE:

**Not too far away, Master Gardeners have created a place of beauty and respite at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cemetery on Olney Road. Ornamental grasses, geraniums and annuals have been planted to beautify the area around the flagpole and the obelisk in memory of the veterans. The Soroptimists donated two stone benches so visitors can sit and ponder.**

In Poulsbo visit the Raab Park Youth Garden. (Adults are welcome too.) The last activity for this summer is Monday, August 27, at 11 a.m. Kathy Edgren will help visitors make pots festooned with shells collected from Liberty Bay. Deb Thomas from P.U.D. will explain how what we do in our gardens effects the creatures that live in our local waterways. The Youth Garden will soon become a Community Garden with the addition of leased garden beds. Master Composters have an awesome compost demonstration site at the garden. You'll want to attend a free compost class and demonstration on Thursday, September 20, from 6-8 p.m. Visit the garden any day during daylight hours. Informational sheets are provided in the flyer mailboxes. The ten thousand square foot garden is located in the far northwest corner of Raab Park. Kids planted everything you see growing in the garden. From Highway 305 drive east on Hostmark (between the Chevron Station and Poulsbo Market Thriftway). Turn right on Caldart and go to the top of the hill. Turn right into Raab Park.

Master Gardeners have created plantings inside a walled garden at the Northwest College of Art. The entry to the college is across from the huge George Fireworks Stand on Highway 305 between Poulsbo and the Agate Pass Bridge (close to milepost 9). The garden includes four quadrants: one has lavenders; one uses water-wise herbs and perennials; another is a garden full of plants donated by family and friends; and the fourth quadrant contains color borders (red, blue, yellow and white). You'll also find kiwi vines, fig trees, a compost demonstration area, a greenhouse with cold frames and an enabled gardening area. Every second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. you can purchase compost tea for two dollars. Bring empty gallon containers if you have them.

This last paragraph isn't about gardening, but as a six-year breast cancer survivor I'm so glad to be here on this earth still gardening. I've joined "Team Town and Country" to raise funds and participate in the [Susan B.]

Komen Seattle Race for the Cure on September 23 at Safeco Field. Town and Country owner and family member Ellen Nakata (one of our local treasures) is a nine-year breast cancer survivor. Ellen hopes to have more than 1000 members on the team this year (double from last year). You can still participate by signing up at Central Market in Poulsbo August 25 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Send comments or questions to Peg at [gardenmentor@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenmentor@yahoo.com) or in care of this newspaper.*