

Garden Contest Information

Flower City Flourishing, previously known as Flower City Looking Good Feeling Good Garden Contest, is the garden contest for the City of Rochester for 2023. The deadline to submit an application to participate in the contest is Thursday, July 13th. The contest is open to private or public properties, but the focus is most definitely on community gardening. (See notes below on the big change.) Any garden can apply; the only garden we won't accept is one done by a gardening or landscape professional. We'll start the judging on July 17th, weather allowing, and go until we're finished.

A big change for this year: This year's garden contest is going to make a slight shift in its focus. We want to align more with the Mayor's focus on the greening of the City, the updating of the City's zoning code, and the on-going Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative/RMAPI. Starting this year, residential gardens on privately owned land will be in the category of 'Home Garden' regardless of the style or focus of the design. Community gardens can apply for any category but 'Home Garden'. A community garden is one that has a garden permit for a government owned lot; vacant lots, parkland, right-of-ways, street medians, etc. We are also including in this description private lots being gardened for the benefit of the community, i.e. church, food pantry, school, etc. If you are unsure about where you fit in, just reach out to me, contact info is below.

Here's a list of some of the garden categories you can enter under:

- Best Home Garden – *all residential gardens are now in this category regardless of style*
- Best Wildlife/Pollinator Habitat Garden
- Best Urban Farm/Garden
- Best Container Garden
- Best Community Enhancement Garden
- Most Interesting Use of Art in the Garden
- Best First-Year Community Garden

If, as a community garden, none of the above are a good fit, create your own category, i.e. Children's, Whimsy, Water Feature, etc.

The qualities we'll be judging each garden by will include:

- Visual Impact – the 'wow' factor
- Design – is it smart, is it sustainable, does it flow well
- Maintenance – self-explanatory!
- Accessibility – can the public see it, does it give value to the community
- Abundance – does it provide a riot of color, attract a large # of species, have a bounty of food

We hope you consider participating and even more, that you pass on the info and get others to join. The sooner an application is submitted, the better. Call or write me if you have questions.

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