

Gardens, Arboretums, & Nature Trails of Montana

Anaconda

Benny Goodman Park

East Park St.

(406) 563-2400

This park has been set up as a skateboard park for the young people in your world. It has lovely mature trees and a picnic area.

Friendship Park

East Commercial St, Anaconda

(406) 563-2400

This lovely perennial garden was constructed and then donated by the Anaconda Garden Club to the Art Museum which is right next door. A picnic area is available.

Kennedy Commons

Main St. & 3rd St, Anaconda

(406) 563-2400

Kennedy Commons is a memorial park to Jack Kennedy. Many local events are held in this park. In the wintertime, it is turned into a skating park with a shelter from the cold.

Washoe Park

West Pennsylvania Street, Anaconda

(406) 563-2400

The Anaconda Garden Club (member of MT Federation of Garden Clubs) raised money to restore the Begonia house at Washoe Park – a must see project! This setting is filled with lovely mature trees and areas for family outings. There is a wonderful historic cabin, playground, duck pond, swimming pool, tennis courts, workout area and much more.

Belgrade

Katz-Thompson Orchids

5560 Thorpe Road, Belgrade 59714

(406) 388-9563

This commercial nursery specializing in orchids offers two display greenhouses filled with orchids.

Bozeman

Living History Farm - Museum of the Rockies

600 W. Kagy Blvd., Bozeman

Phone 994-2251

There are garden tours at 10:30 am each day from July 1 to Labor Day–included in the admission to the Museum (\$8).

The gardens include a wildflower garden, a homestead garden with all heritage seeds (before 1900) a Mandan Native American garden, a Northeastern Native American garden as well as a kitchen garden for the house (18900's) which includes perennials, herbs and vegetables. Several members of the Gallatin Empire Garden Club work as gardeners and give tours at the Living History Farm in the summer.

This summer there will also be a garden of native plants identified by Lewis and Clark as part of an exhibit in the front of the museum.

Montana State University Arboretum
Southwest corner of 11th and College, Bozeman

Kirk Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Hike & Nature Trail

On South 19th several miles past the MSU campus on the left just as you go around a huge curve. Great hike to see early wildflowers until about the middle of June. It is a steep trail in places.

Billings

Dan/Walt Gardens

4066 Washington, Billings
(406) 248-4003

A beautiful private garden that is filled with incredible color. Call ahead for hours.

Moss Mansion Museum

914 Division Street, Billings 59101
(406) 256-5100

This 1903 red sandstone mansion showcases Victorian life and a garden.

Zoo Montana

2100 South Shiloh Road, Billings 59108-0905
(406) 265 – 8100

The animals (including Siberian Tigers, river otters, Sika deer, and Grey wolves) live in natural habitats in a “Biopark” setting, emphasizing the quality of exhibits of both plants and animals. A one acre sensory garden features a large variety of native and exotic plants. The web site devotes a page to horticulture at the zoo. www.zoomontana.org

Butte

Old Lexington Gardens

Granite and Arizona Streets in the uptown historic district of Butte.

A public garden with a 40 foot foliage butterfly and historic artifacts and interpretive signage. Best viewing July through September.

Columbia Gardens Butterfly at the Old Lexington Gardens

The restoration of the Columbia Gardens Butterfly is an important project for the Butte Garden Study Group (members of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.). With the \$2,000 grant from the Principal Financial Group and a match of \$3,000 together from the Butte-Silver Bow Government and BP-ARCO, the 30 by 40 foot Butterfly has been reproduced for the city in the historic district in a Park with historic artifacts and interpretive signage that is surrounded by landscape gardening.

Originally the Butterfly garden was planted with 7,000 to 9,000 pansies every year. However, because it is cost prohibitive to again use pansies for the Butterfly, foliage plants are used instead to create butterfly-wing detail that was almost impossible to achieve with pansies alone. Heritage lettuces in yellow, red and maroon along with metallic maroon leafed beets form the butterfly. Over the growing season, the Butterfly will change color during the summer. The generic shape of the Columbia Gardens Butterfly will be changed to our State butterfly, the Mourning Cloak, in the summer of 2005.

Great Falls

Gibson Park

Park Drive, 1 St. North & 8th Ave North, Old Milwaukee Depot, Great Falls
Dain Rauscher Offices by Central West Bridge in back of waterfall.

River's Edge Trail

Along the Missouri River Great Falls 59401
Contact: Doug Wickes (406) 761-4966
11 miles of paved paths along the Missouri River.

Hamilton

Daly Mansion

251 Eastside Highway, Hamilton 59840
(406) 363-6004

This 24,000 square foot mansion, home of the Copper King Marcus Daly, features a garden and the remnants of thousands of imported trees. The historic arbor was restored with funds from the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and the manpower of the Hamilton Garden Club.

Helena

Pioneer Cabin Helena

208 S Park Ave., Helena 59601
(406) 443-9434

Spring Meadow Lake State Park

12 miles W. from Helena, then N. on Joselyn to Country Club Ave.
930 Custer Ave. West, Helena 59601

Hungry Horse

Coram Experimental Farm

2 mi. E of Hungry Horse Ranger Station
8975 Hwy 2E, Hungry Horse 59919
(406) 387-5243

International Larix Arboretum

2 blocks E of Hungry Horse Ranger Station
8975 Hwy. 2E, Hungry Horse 59919
(406) 387-3800

Jefferson City 18 miles South of Helena on I 15

Tizer Lake Gardens www.tizergardens.com

38 Tizer Lake Road, Jefferson City 59638
(406) 933-8789

Situated in the heart of the Elkhorn Mountains, this garden displays three acres of perennials, annuals, roses wildflowers, herbs, vegetables and more than 12,000 bulbs. Theme gardens, shade gardens, a children's area, restored cabins, a creek with islands and wildlife and bird sightings enhance this special garden. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic and sit by Prickly Pear Creek or visit the onsite garden/gift shop.

Kalispell

Conrad Mansion National Historic Site

4th Street East, Kalispell 59901

(406) 755-2166

The 13,000 square foot, Norman-style mansion is embellished by 3 acres of landscaped gardens including concrete walkways, gazebo and original dry stone fence.

Dahlia Dandies (a private garden)

Mike and Trish Valler, 1717 S. Woodland Dr., Kalispell 59901

(406) 755-2735

This garden was established in 1997. They specialize in easy-to-grow show dahlias (many are from the "Fabulous 50" list and "Cream of the Crop"). They also have some older varieties and their plants are for sale. A free catalog is available (send a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Their gardens are open for visitors from June through September, but they ask that you please call ahead.

Gatiss Gardens

4790 Montana 35, Kalispell 59901

(406) 755-2418 ggsibs@in-tch.com

Donations appreciated

A private garden that is open to the public. Gatiss Gardens are over 100 years old and have been passed down through the family. The gardens sit on a meandering creek and boast hundreds of gorgeous perennials. They are well worth finding; you will be glad you did.

Homestead Gardens (a private garden)

Ray and Iris Jones, 125 Homestead Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901

(406) 756-6631

This is one of the oldest dahlia gardens in the Flathead Valley. Ray and Iris have also grown commercially for years, but have cut back their business to selling mostly cut flowers. They have a beautiful annual garden and wonderful display of begonias. They welcome groups or anyone who just wants a relaxing trip to the gardens. Drop by anytime!

McClaren Gardens (a private garden)

Bill and Lois McClaren, 173 Lawrence Lane, Kalispell 59901

(406) 257-2540

Bill and Lois McClaren have been commercial growers of dahlias since 1979. Although no longer selling their plants, Bill is still hybridizing and has over 110 varieties growing in his garden. They also have a native garden, brimming with plants from Glacier Park and the Flathead Forest. Bill has recently published the internationally acclaimed "Encyclopedia of Dahlias", and can answer any question you might have about this wonderful flower. As this is a private garden, please call ahead.

Pleasant View Gardens (a private garden)

John & Sharon Kestell, 50 Pleasant View Drive, Kalispell 59901

(406) 756-6464

John and Sharon have grown dahlias commercially for some time but have downsized the business over recent years. However, they still grow between 160 - 180 varieties which amounts to several thousand plants. They have a perennial garden to care for as well. Folks are encouraged to visit the garden but are asked to call ahead. The gardens peak in August with the dahlias in full bloom.

Kila Between Kalispell and Libby

Full Circle Herb Farm

1230 Truman Creek Road, Kila 59920

(406) 257-8133

This organic herb nursery offers 300 acres of herb gardens, greenhouses, meadows, expansive lawns and woods.

Lewistown

Lewistown Community Labyrinth Garden

114 Chokecherry Lane, Lewistown

(406) 538-4961

This Seven-Circuit Path lined with flowers is a symbol of unity and often used as a walking meditation. Created and maintained by volunteers, this garden is intended to lift the spirits of all who visit and to build the community. This garden was originally funded by a grant through the Lewistown Garden Club.

Lolo

Dahlia Llama

Benita Jacobsen/Amy Zanzia, 13630 Sapphire, Lolo

A relatively new hillside dahlia garden with lots of perennials and annuals, too. Dahlia Llama is a new supplier of dahlia tubers in the state. Call for a catalog or drop in to see their gardens.

Malta

Phillips County Museum

Robinson House Garden

Highway 2 East, Malta 59538

(406) 654-1037

Tours are offered of the gardens and home on this lovely historic property. The Malta Dirt-Daubers Garden Club has performed most of the restoration of the gardens, receiving a Principal Financial Group grant to help with some of the expense.

Missoula

Gracenote Garden

1558 S. 6th West, Missoula 59801

(406) 543-3480

This bed and breakfast garden features a garden with alpines, irises, perennials and a lily pond

Maclay Flats Nature Trail

West edge of Missoula

Missoula Ranger District Bldg 24, Ft. Missoula, Missoula 59804

(406) 329-3814

Memorial Rose Garden

700 Brooks Street, Missoula 59807

(406) 543-6623

Missoula, the Garden City, is home to this lovely rose garden with 2500 rose bushes dedicated as a memorial to the casualties of World War II and Montana's Vietnam veterans. The Garden City Garden Club has recently refurbished the Blue Star Marker in the Park and added landscaping and benches.

Missoula Societies Iris Garden

Located at the Historical Museum at Ft. Missoula, Missoula 59807

From the Interstate take Reserve to South Avenue, turn right on South to Big Sky High School where you will see the sign for the Museum. Drive 1/4 mile to the museum; the garden is behind the museum.

(For more info, contact Jim Sadler (406) 728-4723)

This garden includes all of the Dykes Medal award-winning Iris. Multiple beds of tall bearded, species and Siberian iris are featured. It is at it's best in June.

Sadler Residence (a private garden)

Jim Sadler, 1220 Clements Road, Missoula

(406) 728-4743

This private, one-acre garden is brimming with iris, roses, lilies, topiaries and so much more. On Mother's Day weekend the Sadlers host a Tulip Tour for friends and garden enthusiasts. Please call ahead or knock on the door before entering the garden.

University of Montana – Missoula

Campus Grounds, Missoula 59812-0002

(406) 243-4636

Water Wise Garden

Located behind the Missoulian Building at S. Higgins and 4th Street, Missoula

(For more info, contact Jim Sadler (406) 728-4743)

This garden is located along the Clark Fork River and can be easily accessed either from the nature trail along the river or from 4th Street. The gardens feature native plants that can thrive without irrigation. It is most beautiful in the spring as it hosts most of the mountain wild flowers of Western Montana. Grasses and textures of water-wise plants can be enjoyed at other times.

Superior

Savenac Tree Nursery

I-90 Exit #16 Lolo National Forest

Superior Ranger District, Superior 59872

(406) 822-4233

Whitefish

Miller Creek Demonstration Forest

21 mi NW of Tally Lake Ranger District Office, Whitefish 59937

(406) 387-5400

Victor

Victor Park

Meridian & Tudor Street, Victor 59875

Contact: Tressa Baker (406) 642-6204

This 2.5 acre public park completely maintained by the Victor Garden Club has gorgeous butterfly gardens and is a wonderful spot to spend a Sunday afternoon with a picnic. The kids will enjoy the play ground and you will enjoy the quiet.