



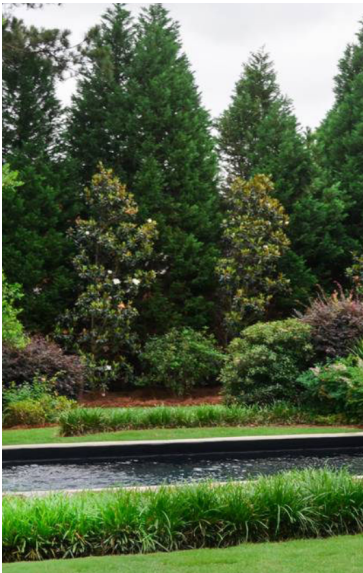
## Keep Columbus Beautiful Garden Tour *served by Muscogee County Extension and MGEVs*

[gamastergardener.org](http://gamastergardener.org)

Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

The Keep Columbus Beautiful Tour of Gardens is a biennial event spotlighting gardens in specific neighborhoods in Columbus. The event is held in the spring as gardens begin to come to life. Muscogee County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) are instrumental in coordinating the event.

These tours are open to the public and provide a unique opportunity to view beautiful public and private gardens, with expert Master Gardeners on hand at each site to answer plant and landscape design questions. In addition, these tours build pride in landscapes in the community. A new neighborhood is highlighted each year, providing inspiration and the education needed to continue to improve landscapes throughout the community.



**246**

volunteer service  
hours in 2017

**15**

MGEVs  
contributed to  
this project

The Tour of Gardens serves as a major fundraiser for Keep Columbus Beautiful, which promotes environmental awareness, beautification, and stewardship in Muscogee County. Since 2004, these garden tours have been coordinated by Muscogee County Extension and Muscogee County MGEVs. They locate the gardens for the tour, recruit event volunteers, and promote the event on local media.

The event typically highlights ten gardens, with a focus on private gardens as well as public spaces that the community may not be aware of. One of the few Bradley-Olmsted gardens in the Southeast, designed in the 1920s and located at the Columbus Museum, has been featured. The tour also offers unique glimpses at the private retreats of Columbus' more famous residents, including the gardens of artist Bo Bartlett's boyhood home. Each tour features a range of garden styles from classic English gardens to xeriscape and modern, illustrating the range and creativity of local landscapes. In fact, it was the presence of the many beautiful public and private gardens in Columbus itself that inspired MGEVs to begin the Keep Columbus Beautiful Tour of Gardens.

**300** tour attendees

The tour has created the opportunity to showcase local garden treasures, promote and inspire further community beautification, while also providing the horticulture expertise and education given by MGEVs during the event.



Master Gardeners greet the public, give tours at each garden location, and answer attendees' questions.

*The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.*

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