

# List of public and private gardens near Grant County, WI

## **Katie's Garden**

275 Business Hwy 151 West  
Platteville, WI 53818  
(Located directly behind Chamber of Commerce)  
**Phone (608) 348-8888**

Public Gardens – Free [Click here to visit Katie's Garden](#)

Benches, tables, picnic areas and walking paths welcome you to Katie's Garden, a peaceful setting along a stream where weddings and garden parties have become increasingly popular. The centerpiece of the area is a gazebo surrounded by beautiful flowers. Katie's Garden serves as the anchor to a picturesque hiking and biking trail that winds its way through the city of Platteville. Katie's Garden is a memorial to Katie Vaassen, a University of Wisconsin-Platteville Alumna, who loved the great outdoors and spent countless hours working for the Chamber of Commerce until her untimely death at the young age of 23. Open year round.

## **Dickeyville Grotto**

305 W. Main St.  
Dickeyville, WI 53808  
**Phone (608) 568-3119**  
Park open year round [Click here to visit the Grotto](#)  
Gift Shop open April – Oct. daily 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Free – Donations Accepted

A beautiful floral garden area at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Dickeyville is the setting for one of the Midwest's most beautiful grottos. The Grotto was built from 1925 – 1930 by the local parish priest, Father Matthias Wernerus, and it consists of religious and patriotic shrines.

There are shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, the Stations of the Cross, Fatima, and the Sacred Heart among others, as well as patriot shrines. They are constructed of broken pieces of colored glass, porcelain and pottery, stalagmites and stalactites, starfish, sea shells, fossils, rock crystals, onyx, petrified wood, a variety of corals and other numerous materials, all encased in mortar.

The gift shop sells a variety of religious goods.

## **Critter Oaks**

6748 Dutch Hollow Road  
Potosi, WI 53820

**Phone (608) 763-2444**

Private Garden. Call ahead to arrange for tour [Click here for map to Critter Oaks](#)

Critter Oaks is named for the wildlife and farm animals as well as the massive oak trees that grow on the June and Don Grass four-acre estate nestled amongst the hills and valleys near the Mississippi and Grant Rivers. The private gardens are open to the public from June 1 until Labor Day and include a water garden with two waterfalls, a variety of trees and shrubs, perennials and annuals. Numerous cottage style and formal gardens attract butterflies and approximately 40 different species of birds throughout the year. A quiet park with a pavilion and large Hosta garden beckons visitors to sit awhile and enjoy a picnic lunch at the conclusion of their tour.

## **Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens at Marshall Park**

3800 Arboretum Drive  
Dubuque, IA 52001

**Phone (563) 556-2100**

Summer Hours: May 1 – Oct. 31, 7:00 AM – Dusk, seven days a week

Call for winter hours [Click here to visit the arboretum](#)

Free – Donations Accepted

The arboretum comprises 52 acres and is the only arboretum in the United States staffed entirely by volunteers. There is a formal rose garden, English knot garden, formal English garden, herb garden, the largest public hosta garden in the US, Japanese garden, children's flower and vegetable garden, Iowa State University and All American test gardens, annual and perennial gardens and dwarf conifers.

Plan 90 minutes to walk through the gardens, and if you visit on Sunday evening enjoy a free concert. A screened in porch and park benches are available if you bring a picnic. More information about programs at visitor's center and gift shop.

## **Reggie & Nancy Polfer Private Gardens**

911 S. Main St.

Cuba City, WI 53807

**Phone (608) 744-2347**

[Click here for map to Reggie & Nancy Polfer's garden](#)

Please call ahead to arrange for tour of this private garden

“Take a walk in our woods, and if you are quiet and astute, you may see or hear some of the birds that we see, i.e., a Cooper’s hawk that has nested here for two years and raised its young, or a rare Oven bird or the Verry that visits every spring. Among the many trees and flowers are some unique species, including a Wavecrest Siebald Viburnum developed by our friend, Dr. Coffman from Dubuque, IA. (It is both rabbit proof and deer proof!) Other unique species include a Pawpaw tree and the Seven Son’s tree, which was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in China in 1989. As you continue walking the trails you will discover a playhouse built in the 1950’s, which is being used these days by the third generation of little girls in our family.”