1) Discovery Center featuring Big League Fun
502 SE Broad Street

Big League Fun is 2,000 square-feet of hands-on discovery featuring fun baseball activities, simulated game experiences, and trivia challenges that encourage important educational concepts for children and engage fans of all ages. Exhibit activities emphasize the science and math behind baseball and reflect national academic standards for school-age children while encouraging play and an active healthy lifestyle.

While at Discovery Center, take time to enjoy the gardens which provide produce for the center’s animals and ingredients for the popular Snack Attack and SPARK! programs. Descend the outdoor stairs and step across the Lily Pad Pond and journey along the boardwalk into the wetlands. Bring a camera to capture many of the creatures thriving in the wetlands.

2) Renee & David Petree
1431 Wall Street

Dave and Renee Petree moved to 1431 Wall Street four years ago. The retired military couple immediately set about putting their love for gardening to work. “It is always going to be a work in progress,” laughs Renee. “No plant should be left behind!” A walk around the property gives credence to this statement.

The Petree’s daughter’s artistic talents, beginning with a colorful bottle tree, add beauty and whimsy. A miniature fairy garden sits by the gate leading to a pavilion covering a to-die-for outdoor kitchen where family gatherings convene.

Wisteria clings to a pergola shading a patio as the sound of a waterfall spilling into a fish pool soothes those who relax there. Lush grasses, ferns, palm trees, hydrangeas, roses, and mugo pines surround the water while a ceramic owl guards against marauding herons and hawks as fish swim among water lilies, dragon’s tongue, and arrowroot.

Beyond the pool the Petree’s have two areas for raising a variety of vegetables and berries. Large plastic half barrels hold tomatoes, beans, lettuce and squash. Herbs thrive nearby and strawberries and squash share space with day lilies and amaryllis. Several types of berries climb PVC pipe supports. The Petree’s ingenious ideas are a must see!

Elephant’s ears, cannas lilies, roses, hydrangeas, hollies, and dwarf magnolias are abundantly tucked between borders of monkey grass about the perimeter of the home. A visit to Dave and Renee Petree will garner the Secret Garden Tour visitor many gardening ideas.

3) Murfreesboro Community Garden
806 East State Street

Community gardens sprout up in many spots around the Murfreesboro area. One such garden is located behind the Key United Methodist Church on East State Street. The plot of land is plowed and divided into individual sections. This provides garden space for folks who wish to grow their own produce but may not have access to land. Gardeners are encouraged to share their expertise and promote healthy lifestyles from both the physical benefits of tending their plot to the freshness of eating homegrown vegetables such as corn, beans, tomatoes, and greens.

Children discover the magic of seeing plants emerge from seeds and eventually become food on their dinner plates. A sense of community and commonality blossoms as the gardeners share their knowledge and the fruits of their dedication with one another. Visit this community garden to appreciate growth in food and friendship!

4) Dr. Randall Rickard and Dr. Susan Andrews
910 Hazelwood St.

Walk down the shady, tree lined drive and enter a wonderland of vibrant color, whimsical art, and luscious foliage at the home of avid gardeners Randall Rickard and Susan Andrews. Susan’s creativity blossoms in the artistic placing of flowers in unconventional containers. She scours antique shops and flea markets searching for something unusual to use as a palette for spectacular arrangements. Geraniums, begonias, angelonia, calibrachoa, nemesia, and petunias are a few of Susan’s favorites. She may place ten or more varieties in a single large planter. The result produces living beauty. Her choice of a container reveals a sense of humor. “It’s so much fun”, she laughs. Look for milk cans, sinks, watering cans, wagons, and even a potty chair! These have all been used to hold her beautiful creations.

While Susan is having “fun,” Randall is busily turning the ingredients of his compost to produce rich soil that he uses to construct new planting areas. Day lilies, begonias, oak leaf hydrangeas, and Japanese maples thrive in this naturally rich environment. Randall works until darkness beckons him to give up his labor of love and enjoyment. Well-placed yard art adds an element of surprise and amusement to the gardens. A handmade bench invites one to sit and appreciate the lush surroundings. Flagstone walkways graced by knee high begonias and day lilies weave throughout and lead to a refreshing fountain. Tucked to the side of the home is a small enclosed bird sanctuary. Several patio sitting areas allow visitors to simply pause and enjoy this haven created by two gardeners working in harmony.

5) Mrs. Sydney and Dr. Jim Boerner
2239 Shannon Dr.

Painters brush canvasses, sculptors carve stone, and gardeners dig dirt! Discovery Center salutes many of these gardeners as it celebrates it’s 30 year anniversary and revisits several gardens showcased in past Secret Garden Tours.

Jim and Sydney Boerner were busily expanding their garden when they welcomed the Secret Garden visitors several years ago. Now stone walls and walkways secure the sloping landscape and invite leisurely strolls. The property is comprised of five acres of woods and open grassland which borders the Stones River. Visitors should wear their walking shoes and enjoy each aspect of this five acres of woods and grassland. A collection of Sydney’s favorite sedums, succulents, and ornamental grasses cascade over the winding stone steps descending to the wooded area behind the home. A walled patio invites resting to enjoy the coolness offered by the leafy canopy.

Emerging from the woods unto the grassy meadow which serves as a flood plain for the river, you will discover many native wild flowers as well as plantings of fruit trees and bamboo. A unique evergreen is protected from deer with a wooden fence. Ahead are wooden steps climbing to a spacious deck overlooking the river. You may see turtles and fish swimming in the gently flowing water. Follow the path along the edge of the river to discover perfect settings for campfires, cookouts, and hammocks. Stroll back through the lamp lit stone gateway and pause at the sitting area arranged beneath the grandchildren’s treehouse. Proceed up the steps flanked by stately urns of fern and plantings of lavender, nandina, and lambs ear to a formal English boxwood garden complete with espaliered apples and a koi pool. Stop onto the upper deck and gaze over the property which surrounds you with holly, boxwood and magnolia. Jim and Sydney relax in the evenings in front of the impressive outdoor fireplace. Relax for a minute, too, and admire the many flowers and herbs thriving in this beautiful, natural setting.

Please remember to park with the flow of traffic.

A special thank you to the garden owners, garden volunteers, and our sponsors who made this tour possible!

And to you, the visitors, for participating in this year’s tour!
1) Mrs. Sydney and Dr. Jim Boerner
2239 Shannon Drive
Shannon Drive is the Riverbend subdivision off of N Thompson Ln. From N Thompson Ln, turn onto Riverbend Dr (there will only be one way to turn). Turn left onto Shannon Dr. 2239 Shannon Dr will be on the left.

2) Dr. Susan Andrews and Dr. Randall Rickard
910 Hazelwood Street
Take Shannon Dr back to Riverbend Dr and turn right. Turn right onto N Thompson Ln. Turn left onto Haynes Dr. Turn right onto Sulphur Springs Dr. Turn left onto Northfield Blvd. Turn right onto Huntwood St. Turn right onto Leaf Ave. Turn left at the first cross street onto Hazelwood St. 910 Hazelwood St will be on the right.

3) Murfreesboro Community Garden
806 East State Street
Head west on Hazelwood St back towards Leaf Ave. Turn left on Leaf Ave. Turn right on Greenland Dr. Turn left on University St. Turn left on E Main St. Turn right onto Hancock St. Turn left onto State St. 806 East State Street will be on the left behind the Key United Methodist Church.

4) Discovery Center
502 SE Broad Street
Head west E State Street. Turn left onto Hancock St. Turn right onto Mercury Blvd. Turn right onto SE Broad St. Discovery Center will be on the left at the corner of Broad and Money Ave.

5) Mrs. Renee and Mr. David Petree
1431 Wall Street
From Discovery Center, turn right onto Broad St. Turn left onto Wall St. 1431 Wall Street will be on the left.

These directions start on the north side of town at Shannon Drive, but you may begin your tour at any location. Please remember to park with the flow of traffic. For questions, call (615) 890-2300.

2017 Secret Garden Tour
Saturday, June 3 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday, June 4 | 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets: $10 per person
Available at Discovery Center or any of the homeowner gardens the day of the tour.
Cash or Check Only.
Rain or Shine!

For questions, please call (615) 890-2300.