

Newport Secret Garden Virtual Tour

“On the Point” Part III

Ed’s Garden

Shortly after the owners moved into their home in 1992, the elderly couple in next door offered to sell their house. Members of the family took their offer. Don Leighton of Gates and Leighton designed the original combined gardens. A brick path leads to the porch of the second house, with gardens on each side of the path featuring Hosta and shrubs like Hydrangea and Rhododendron. Ivy covered the chain link fence and Arborvitae provided some privacy. The gardens of this home featured a new deck with a tree surrounded by Hosta and Shrubs. The gardens bordering the fences featured Roses and Hydrangea, Newport favorites. Both gardens were designed to be easy to care for and featured plants that grow easily in Newport. The current resident in the house has expanded both gardens in creative and exciting ways. A new arch and gate welcomes visitors. A square garden was added to the center of the backyard. This garden features a statue of “Spring” and Spring is surrounded by lilies and other plants. The border gardens have been expanded and filled with many interesting plants. Large urns filled with ferns add a lush feel to the both gardens. Come to Goldie the springer spaniel’s domain and discover why the neighborhood cat likes to survey the gardens from the chairs on the porch.



Mark & Maureen's Garden

On a quiet corner of The Point neighborhood in Newport sits a home within a home.

Both have a formal entrance, narrow hallways, sitting rooms, patios, preferred sun spots and quiet areas. The interior of one is formed of beams and siding. The exterior one is made of roots and stalks, and is accredited by ArbNet as the Walnut Point Arboretum. It also happens to be the city's — and New England's — smallest accredited arboretum.

All of the trees have names and in summertime, different music plays in each "room." Among others, the arboretum is home to a Breda Giant Medlar, Monumental Sugar Maple, Twombly Red Sentinel, Franklinia and Menhir Ginkgo. There are many curated dwarf species, as well as woody species of various sizes. Some of the plantings have been relocated per their moods and preference, and the overall feeling of Walnut Point is a bit wild and whimsical, with fountains tucked into corners and a blanket of moss where wildflowers reign in warmer months. There is also a workshop space in the backyard studio which has been used by students doing work study with the Newport Tree Conservancy. The Walnut Point Arboretum has over 80 unique species and the catalog of all of them can be found on the Newport Tree Conservancy website on the Arboretum page at this link: <https://www.newporttreeconservancy.org/walnut-point>

