



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

2026 South Dakota Master Gardener Conference

Garden Tour Synopsis

Friday, October 2 | 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Teaching Gardens and Food Forest (located at Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum)

(45-minute Guided Tours at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

Explore the Teaching Gardens and Food Forest, where science meets soil and learning grows alongside the plants. Established in 2023 and maintained by Minnehaha Master Gardeners, the Teaching Gardens feature eight demonstration beds showcasing research-based gardening practices that help South Dakotans grow food successfully in our climate. Visitors leave with practical gardening tips, fresh inspiration, and a deeper appreciation for the beauty and purpose of this unique horticultural destination.

Terrace Park Japanese Gardens (Self-Guided but an MMG member will be on-site to give directions, Not ADA Accessible)

Find tranquility in this hidden gem featuring traditional Japanese-inspired landscaping, graceful bridges, waterfalls, and koi ponds—take the upper and lower loop to fully experience its beauty. Designed as a place for reflection and relaxation, the garden provides a serene escape in the heart of Sioux Falls.

Old Courthouse Museum (Self-Guided but an MMG member will be on-site to give directions)

Explore the beautifully landscaped grounds just outside the back door of the Old Courthouse Museum, nestled within its charming courtyard. Framed by the iconic quartzite building and thoughtfully tended by the Minnehaha Master Gardeners, the space offers a peaceful setting to stroll and relax. Ideal for a brief stop or quiet moment, the gardens blend local history with natural beauty.

Falls Park (On your own, no MMG members will be at this site)

Experience the natural landmark that gave Sioux Falls its name, where the Big Sioux River cascades over ancient pink Sioux quartzite formations. Stroll scenic walking paths, enjoy panoramic views from the observation tower, and discover the rich history that shaped the city's beginnings.

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