



# 16TH ANNUAL WHITTIER-MAPLETON GARDEN TOUR

HELD IN HISTORIC MAPLETON HILL • BOULDER, COLORADO  
BENEFITING WHITTIER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

JUNE 2, 2018 • 9 AM – 2 PM

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **16th Annual Whittier-Mapleton Garden Tour Set for Saturday June 2** **School's Biggest Fundraiser Still Flourishing; Showcasing Never-Been-Seen Gardens**

BOULDER, CO. (Feb. 12, 2018) — Downtown Boulder's Whittier International Elementary School is holding its 16th annual self-guided Garden Tour Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Garden Tour has established itself as Boulder's premier garden tour, opening up to eight exceptional gardens (many that are tucked away and new to this year's tour) in the historic Mapleton Hill neighborhood. Attracting more than 700 visitors annually, the Garden Tour is a must-do, interactive event in Boulder as well as Whittier Elementary school's most successful fundraiser. Last year's Garden Tour proceeds (a record \$42,000) accounted for more than one-third of the Whittier PTA's budget for the year, and enabled the school to provide essential and enriching programs for its more than 400 impressionable students.

"The Whittier-Mapleton Garden Tour is an amazing way to kick off summer and celebrate Colorful Colorado and our beautiful, local gardens," said Garden Tour Committee leader Julie Grayson. "This tour is a unique opportunity for the public to see some of Boulder's most inspiring private gardens, while also supporting downtown Boulder's historic Whittier Elementary School."

Privately owned and tucked away from view, these outstanding "secret sanctuaries" are not open to the public at any time of year other than during the Whittier-Mapleton Hill Garden Tour. The gardens are hand-selected to showcase a variety of types – mature, avant-garde, lavish and modest – and feature: exotic plants, rare and gorgeous flowers, extraordinary hardscaping, terraced landscapes, and gardens that cleverly exemplify ways to implement water-wise and small space solutions. Roses in the finest shades, stunning stonework, 140-year-old trees, and water features will inspire and wow. Colorado State University Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and provide helpful information.

Last year, the Garden Tour introduced the "Hive", the Garden Tour's central gathering area in the parking lot of Mapleton Early Childhood Center on the corner of Mapleton and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Hive was such a success that it will be expanded and celebrated in 2018 and will include a Gardener's Marketplace where guests can browse handcrafted goods from local artists. Attendees will also find garden-related goodies from event sponsors, swag bags (given to the first 500 ticket holders), live

music, water, restroom facilities, a place to sit and relax and activities for kids such as “make your own flower crowns”, bubbles, hula hoops and more.

Garden Tour guests can indulge in treats from Spruce Confections and Sweet Cow, and delicious food from The French Twist and BVSD’s Munchie Machine in the tented dining area at the “Hive”. Members of the Boulder Garden Club, People and Pollinators Action Network and Colorado Green Builders Guild will also be on-hand at the “Hive” to serve as resources for all garden-lovers.

Also, in conjunction with the Whittier-Mapleton Garden Tour is Mapleton Hill’s annual [Rummage Sale](#) where people come from near and far to find “new” old treasures and treats in more than 65 front yards in the Mapleton Hill area.

100 percent of the proceeds from the Garden Tour benefit Whittier International Elementary School, a public school that, at 135 years old, is the oldest school in Colorado that has been continuously operating in the same location. Whittier International Elementary serves a broad population in terms of international and socio-economic diversity. Whittier’s students come from more than 20 different countries, speak more than 10 different languages and 40 percent of its students qualify for free or reduced lunches. As an authorized International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program school, Whittier incorporates the BVSD curriculum, state standards and an internationally recognized academic framework.

For more information and advance online ticket sales, visit [www.whittiergardentour.com](http://www.whittiergardentour.com). Tickets are \$15 for advance purchase and \$20 on the day of the event; kids 12 and younger are free. The first 500 participants will receive a garden-related gift bag on the day of the Garden Tour.

For more information on Boulder’s Whittier International Elementary School, visit <http://schools.bvsd.org/p12/whittier/Pages/default.aspx>. For access to photos or to arrange interviews with Garden Tour organizers, Whittier Elementary PTA leaders or staff, contact Krista Torvik.

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