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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **West Lafayette's Go Greener Commission to award first Garden Award on July 5, 2016.**

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Representatives from the Go Greener Commission will award Ian and Talin Lindsay of 1100 Hillcrest Road in West Lafayette with the inaugural Go Greener Garden Award at the July 5<sup>th</sup>, West Lafayette City Council meeting, 6:30 PM, Morton Community Center (Multi-Purpose Room). The Lindsays have transformed their front lawn into a food-producing vegetable garden, while simultaneously maintaining a pleasing aesthetic. Time spent in the garden provides both an abundance of fresh produce as well as a healthy outdoor activity for the entire family.

"You don't have to sacrifice aesthetics for eco-friendly gardening," said Ian Lindsay.

As part of their yard transformation, the Lindsays installed drip irrigation and mulch to reduce water use, as well as rain barrels to conserve runoff. They utilize conscientious pest control and minimal fertilizer timed seasonally. The Lindsays also planted wildflowers, which promote ecosystem services, and rely on a compost bin to recycle yard, garden, and food waste.

Raffi Lindsay, age 9, also enjoys spending time in the garden. When asked about his favorite garden activity, Raffi stated that he "likes to hunt toads." While toads add a thrilling catch and release activity for both Raffi and his brother Oshin, the presence of amphibians is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

Go Greener Garden Award recipients create visually appealing outdoor spaces that do one or more of the following: improve or preserve water quality; use native species; decrease carbon footprints; exclude or minimize the use of fertilizers; conscientious pest control; convert turf grass to food production spaces; and provide habitat for native species. Residents will be honored in three-month increments, with the next recipient honored in September. The artistic sign placed at the awardees property was designed by local artist Susan Doster and represents three seasons, incorporating Indiana native plants and flowers.

I was honored to be asked to create the watercolor painting for the Go Greener Gardener Award. This project gave me the opportunity to use artistic expression for the purpose of supporting a cause dear to my heart—efforts towards nurturing sustainable living with respect for nature. It was a pleasure creating this piece and I hope it will help to inspire others to plant native species and appreciate the insects, the birds, and the beauty of our Indiana native trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, and plants," said Doster.

The City of West Lafayette Go Greener Commission promotes environmental health in the community for present and future generations.

(Pictures on second page)



Figure 1: Tasting fresh greens or observing an insect?

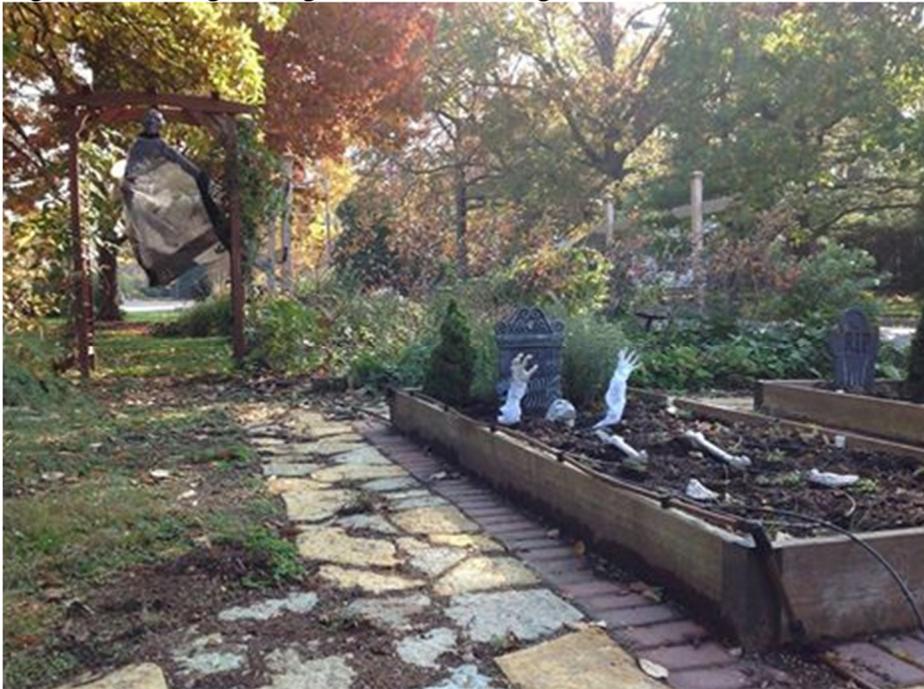


Figure 2: Raised beds and arbor creatively converted to Halloween décor toward the end of the growing season.

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