

## Leroy Duda Garden in Downtown Staunton

Contributed by Rande Johnson  
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Since its dedication on June 2, 2007, Duda Garden has seen much activity. This beautiful memorial garden has been host to weddings, concerts, a garden tour, bicycle riders and many visitors, in search of a quiet spot to eat lunch or simply stroll around the grounds and enjoy the beauty. Duda Garden is a true community project, established and supported by many generous volunteers and contributors who spent countless hours planning, constructing and tending this wonderful addition to downtown Staunton. Located just one block from Main St at 205 N. Union, the Garden serves as both the ending point for the newly completed Worden to Staunton segment of Madison County Transit District's (MCT) Quercus Grove Trail from Worden and the Trail Head for the proposed Illinois Traction System (ITS) Trail to Benld. Duda Garden is the gateway into Macoupin County and serves as a stopping point on a trail system which will ultimately connect St Louis, MO with Springfield, IL. While many users of the newly completed MCT Quercus Grove Trail from Worden consider the end of the asphalt trail at Sixth St to be the end of the trail, it really isn't. Just follow the "Bike Route" signs for six more blocks and you'll find Duda Garden with its beautiful gazebo and comfortable benches. A peaceful setting, where one can rest, relax and refresh. While Duda Garden is ideal, the initial long range plan of the Duda Garden Committee was to provide rest room facilities, a relaxation area and a visitors center for those who use the trail, as well as all citizens and visitors to Staunton. A group of dedicated volunteers is currently in the developmental stage of that plan. So if you're coming, going, or just passing through Staunton, stop and enjoy Duda Garden.