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**Check out the GPCGA
Website for:**

Gardening tips
Gardening tasks by month
Gardening how to videos
Garden Rules
Garden By-laws
Rock Creek Garden
Regulations
And more!

<https://www.gloverparkcommunitygarden.org/>

Chair's Corner

Happy Spring Fellow Gardeners!

I must say that we are certainly living in interesting times. I hope that you all are safe and healthy in this very challenging time. I am pleased to see you all getting back into the garden after our relatively mild winter. Please continue to practice safe gardening practices and follow the rules of social distancing and clean gardening habits. Unfortunately because of Covid-19 we cannot have a Spring Clean-up and Picnic this year.



A lot of gardeners have asked about when the water will be turned on, when will more chips be delivered, when will inspections begin and when will the trash pick-up begin. The water is turned on. The National Park Service has suspended wood chip deliveries for the foreseeable future due to their need to shift their focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. The schedule of 2020 activities is posted in this newsletter.

You may have noticed that we have been replacing our perimeter fence. This is a long awaited effort and it is moving along quite nicely thanks to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. I want to especially thank Julie Andringa for purchasing the very heavy rolls of wire mesh fencing and Sterling Speim for his efforts as he single-handedly removed all of the existing fencing along the west perimeter and has leveled and steadied the fence posts. There may be a period of time before we can actually install the fencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I can assure you that once that is behind us, we will quickly install the remainder of the fencing.

I want to point out a couple of things for all gardeners to be aware of and to follow. Structures of any kind are forbidden. Pergolas, gazebos, and anything that creates shade over neighboring garden plots shall be avoided. That doesn't mean that you can't create simple bean vine supporting structures. You just cannot build large wooden constructions.

Gardeners must respect the compost bins and dump your weeds into the compost bins and **NOT IN THE PATH**. Every gardener who goes to the compost bin has a responsibility to keep it clean. Our committee teams have dedicated an extraordinary amount of effort over the winter in support of the garden and for our benefit including collecting membership dues and straw orders, maintenance, communications and our finances.

As we are in the 2020 growing season, we must make sure that our gardens are

Please be considerate and do not smoke in the garden.

Refresher on Garden Rules:

Please be mindful that we are responsible for following the National Park Service rules as well as our Community Garden rules. We lease this property from the NPS and as tenants, we must both individually and collectively comply with the established gardening rules to ensure the longevity of our garden community. You are urged to visit our website to access and read the rules and by-laws.

From the Farmer's Almanac:

Our weather forecast this upcoming season stated for the Atlantic Corridor, in *The Old Farmer's Almanac*; 2020 Edition; Robert B. Thomas (The Original Farmer's Almanac - Published every year since 1792), says that:

"April and May will be warmer than normal, with precipitation near normal north and above normal in the south. [Northern end is Boston, MA and Southern end is Richmond, Va.]

Summer will be hotter and rainier than normal with the hottest periods in mid-July and early to mid-August.

September and October will be warmer and rainier than normal with a tropical storm threat in early to mid-October."

GPCGA Executive

free of invasive vines and plants including morning glory, English ivy, porcelain berry and wild grape. Please take all necessary steps to remove these unwanted and prohibited plants from your gardens. And as always, please remove anything in your garden where rats and mice can build nests. The most common places where rats will nest are under storage bins and between concrete blocks or raised wooden platforms.

Enjoy gardening this year. Be safe and healthy.

Please note: Next year the garden membership fee will be \$40/year.

Trash Collection: April 24 - May 11

There will be two collections in the designated roped-off sections at the north area of the garden next to the lilac bushes and the south area next to the chips pile. Do not put any trash in these areas except during April 24 - May 11. Unauthorized dumping on National Park Service land is a federal crime.

Straw Bale Delivery: Saturday, May 2

There will be no Spring Cleanup and Picnic this year, but we are currently on schedule for a straw bale delivery. A list of pre-ordered straw orders will be posted on the two NPS bulletin boards to remind gardeners of the number of straw bales they have already purchased. Straw will be delivered on Saturday, May 2.

Please be mindful and stay six feet away from others while picking up your straw bales. We will not be able to work as a group to move and stack the bales away from the road, like we've done in previous years. This will need to be done one person at a time over the course of the weekend. If you did not pre-order straw, there will be a limited number of bales available for purchase for \$10/bale. Please email straw inquiries to Julie Andringa: julieandringa@gmail.com

Maintenance Committee

Julie Andringa

Thank you to all the gardeners who came to the winter volunteer day on January 11th. Approximately twenty-five dedicated maintenance volunteers showed up to install the new south side fence, cut up the stick pile, empty out a compost bin and collect trash from inside and outside the perimeter fence. The Maintenance Committee cannot thank these individuals enough for their assistance with maintenance of the garden. We won't be able to hold any organized volunteer days in the weeks ahead, but there is always plenty that needs to be done. If you are interested in volunteering with individual maintenance projects, please contact Mike Minton or Julie Andringa.

2020 NPS Rules

https://www.gloverparkcommunitygarden.org/uploads/1/1/9/3/119362364/rock_creek_park_community_garden_guidelines_2020.pdf

Committee Members

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Appointees:

Pat Kraniotis

Hannah Miller-Kim

Inspection Committee

Rossana Grimm

This committee of four volunteers is responsible for enforcing garden rules through regular monitoring of gardens. It will complete inspections every three weeks, maintain inspection records, and inform the Executive Committee of garden discrepancies and general maintenance status of gardens.

INSPECTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED AS FOLLOWS:

Inspections will be conducted the week following the first full weekend of the month and three weeks thereafter.

- **Discrepancy Notices** will be sent to gardeners with discrepancies (weeds, shoring, paths etc.)
- Discrepancies must be fully corrected within three weeks or a further notice will be issued. If a discrepancy has not been corrected, the gardener will be sent a second discrepancy notice.
- Three discrepancy notices during a garden season results in the automatic loss of garden privileges.

THE FIRST INSPECTION IS May 3, with inspections every three weeks after.

Under the regulations you are responsible for maintaining your garden and the perimeter shoring, as well as keeping paths to the south and west of your plot chipped and weeded.

Communications Committee

Hannah Miller-Kim & Erica Oakley

Happy Spring! We are always looking for recipe and photo submissions for the website (<https://www.gloverparkcommunitygarden.org>) and any ideas of gardening tips to post. If you know of someone who is looking to join the waitlist, please refer them to the website, where they can download the application form. Please feel free to send any suggestions for the website or other communication channels to Hannah.

Thank you to everyone that has joined GPCGA's Google Group! It has been a great place for asking questions, sharing news and events, and connecting with other gardeners. Please visit the group at:

<https://groups.google.com/group/gpcga>.

If you have problems with the Google group, please email gloverparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com for assistance.

See you in the Garden!