

# The Garden Dirt – Fall 2019 Newsletter

*Glover Park Community Garden Association*

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*Chair's Corner*

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

**September 27 – October 14**

Fall trash collection

**October 12**

Fall cleanup and picnic

**November 17**

Last week of inspections

**December 8**

Annual meeting

## 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 Fall 2019 Fellow Gardeners!

It's been a warm and wet summer, and it seems like it flew by. The gardens couldn't look any more beautiful at this time of the year. I thank all of you for persevering the hot and humid days to keep your gardens in tip-top shape. We welcome several new gardeners and co-gardeners to the community, and we offer our years of expertise to help them along.



I recently registered our garden as a [Climate Victory Garden](#) through Green America. It is a national organization with a mandate to promote healthy gardening throughout America and the world. We may receive a couple of signs designating our garden as a Climate Victory Garden. I will also share the garden history, stories and images with Green America in the near future.

As we prepare for our Fall Clean Up and Picnic on **October 12**, please make sure that you collect all of the junk that you have accumulated and be ready to take it to the designated trash areas once we open them up. Please refer to the fall clean up schedule in this newsletter. If you don't use it, toss it. The gardens always look and function so much better without all of the clutter.

We will start replacing the perimeter fence beginning this Fall. We purchased our first roll of fencing and will need volunteers to help straighten up the fence posts (mainly along the west side) and to remove old fencing and install the new fence. There is a lot of fencing, so we will install it 150 feet at a time.

While we are looking at the near future of prepping our gardens for the winter, there is still much time remaining for planting fall and winter crops which means maintaining our plots as required. Our inspection teams will continue their inspections through November, so please don't forget to keep your plots and paths clean and weed free.

**Compost Bins:** We recently freed up another bin for dumping weeds. These bins fill up fast at this time of the year. Please keep the areas in front of the bins clear, use the pitch fork to throw your weeds to the rear of the bin and when you see weeds laying outside of the bins, please pitch in and clean up the area. Remember to not put woody stems, thorny plants and sticks in the compost bins. Instead put them in the stick pile to the far left of the compost bins.

**Structures in the garden:** I have noticed some gardeners have constructed significant wooden structures in their gardens. These structures are forbidden by the National Park Services and the GPCGA. I urge all of us to refrain from constructing structures and to leave your plot free to grow vegetables.

**Herbicides and Pesticides:** Any non-organic form of insecticides are strictly forbidden in the garden. The only effective and acceptable form of herbicide is by pulling the weeds. If you have any questions about what you can use in the garden to control bugs, please ask the Association at [gloverparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:gloverparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com).

**Organic:** This is an organic garden. I think we all know what that means. So please abide by the rules of the garden and keep it organic.

## 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:

From the Farmer's Almanac: Our weather forecast from November 2019 – October 2020 for the Atlantic Corridor:

"Winter temperatures will be much above normal, on average, with the coldest periods in mid- and late January and early and late February.

Precipitation will be above normal, with below-normal snowfall. The snowiest periods will occur in mid- and late January and early February.

April and May will be warmer than normal, with precipitation near normal in the north and above normal in the south.

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."

Our Vice Chair Julie Andringa continues to lead the Maintenance Committee. A huge thank you to all the gardeners who assisted with maintenance projects this year, including those who attended our first Pizza in the Garden volunteer day back in June. In the cooler weeks ahead, another Pizza in the Garden will be scheduled for the fence replacement effort.

Our Communications Committee leaders Hannah Miller and Erica Oakley have done a great job in informing us through the Google Groups mail service and our website.

Our Executive Committee, Julie Andringa, Susan Boyd, Gerry Frost, Pat Kraniotis, Hannah Miller-Kim, Erica Oakley and myself all wish you a very Happy Fall and we look forward to seeing you in the garden.

## Trash Collection – September 27-October 14

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 September 27 – October 14.

Unauthorized dumping on National Park Service land is a federal crime and is also grounds for revocation of your gardening privileges.

## Fall Cleanup and Picnic – October 12

### 10 AM – CLEANUP

Meet at the picnic tables at 10 am or look for us around the garden. Join fellow gardeners to help keep the gardens clean and safe.

### 1 PM – PICNIC

Meet other gardeners and relax and enjoy a tasty potluck picnic. Bring your favorite dish - enough for six people. The Executive Committee will provide plates, utensils and beverages.

**One half hour of your time can make a big difference. Help us keep the gardens safe and appealing for all.**

## Final Inspection – November 17

The final inspection for the 2019 season will take place the week of November 17. Remember, GPCGA Rules specify that each gardener is responsible for making sure that his or her plot is ready for winter by the end of the gardening season. In addition to weeding, the Rules require that each plot must be cleared of spent crops, excess growth and debris no later than two weeks after the first killing frost or by November 15. Gardeners are encouraged to spade in leaves, compost or manure or plant a winter cover crop such as hairy vetch, black-eyed peas or winter rye. Tools not stored should be removed.

## Annual Meeting — December 8

The annual meeting will take place in The Colonnade (Tunlaw and 42nd St) on Sunday, December 8.

### 9-10 AM: Refreshments and plot renewals

### 10-11 AM: Meeting

This is your opportunity to elect officers for the upcoming year and discuss issues and ideas concerning the gardens. Gardeners can also renew their plots.

**GPCGA EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Chair**

Mike Minton  
[mintonmr@gmail.com](mailto:mintonmr@gmail.com)  
202-746-2339

**Vice Chair**

Julie Andringa  
[julieandringa@gmail.com](mailto:julieandringa@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Gerry Frost  
4000 Tunlaw #212, 20007  
202-338-2681

**Secretary**

Susan Boyd  
[sfboyd@earthlink.net](mailto:sfboyd@earthlink.net)

**Appointees**

Pat Kraniotis, Hannah Miller-  
Kim and Erica Oakley

## Composting – What Goes Around Comes Around

The compost pile is both a resource and a convenience for gardeners that requires a great deal of work to maintain. Please consider giving a few hours of your time. **It's a great way to work out—while you help out!**

If you can't give some time, give some thought to what you add to the compost pile:

**SORT OUT:** plastic & clay pots • bricks • discarded gloves • glass • chips, plastic bags, paper cups/plates, gloves, tools (broken or otherwise), boards, sticks, plant tabs • plastic bags, wire, nylon or string ties attached to plants.

This stuff will not break down into soil and must be removed by the maintenance committee. Take advantage of the trash pick-up dates (Sept 27 – Oct 14) to get rid of this material.

**SEPARATE:** rocks & clay lumps • ivy & bulbs (they will grow) • thorny or woody stems (from rose raspberry, sunflower or basil) and put them in the stick pile to the left of the compost bins.

***\*\*Please be thoughtful and thorough. These simple steps save valuable time and effort for volunteers.\*\****

**ADD ORGANIC GARDEN LEFTOVERS ONLY:** weeds, trimmings and spent plant material in the pile marked "Dump Weeds Here". Do not add kitchen food scraps to either the community compost or to the compost in your plot. This will attract rats.

**CLOSE THE LOOP:** Take soil from the bin that is marked "ready to use topsoil". The system breaks down if the soil is not removed. To avoid "inheriting" weed seeds that did not cook out place soil in a heavy black plastic bag tied tightly and stored in a sunny corner of your garden for a few weeks during the summer. This requires some pre-planning but will help control residual weeds.

As a compost volunteer you're sure to gain a better understanding of the composting process. Interested gardeners can contact Mike Minton ([mintonmr@gmail.com](mailto:mintonmr@gmail.com)) or Julia Andringa ([julieandringa@gmail.com](mailto:julieandringa@gmail.com)).

