

FRIENDS OF KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2017



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Wow, 2017 has been an exciting year for the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. I am so proud of our accomplishments this year and I look forward to a bright future at the Gardens.

What started out as 10 volunteers in 2001 has grown to 950 volunteers in 2017.

What started as 116 NatureFest campers in 2015 has grown to 215 campers and junior counselors in 2017.

Our city is blessed with monumental national memorials and museums. The Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens aspires to become a place of special beauty and exploration for the District and we bring resources and partners to help achieve that goal.

For more than a decade we have worked in partnership with the National Park Service, local groups, and individuals to preserve and enhance the Gardens now and for future generations.

This year we've undergone some exciting organizational development. We clarified our mission, vision and goals. By acknowledging our challenges and re-affirming our mission, we are able to focus on our strengths and opportunities for growth from this point forward.

As we broker new opportunities for community partnerships and engagements, I hope you will continue to join us at the Gardens to experience the wild beauty we have to offer.

Sincerely,

Tina O'Connell

Tina O'Connell





Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is dedicated to ensuring the Gardens are a well-maintained, well-enjoyed, and welcoming park for neighbors and visitors. We are a nonprofit organization that connects people to the Gardens through stewardship, public engagement, and educational programs in cooperation with the National Park Service.



Stewardship

We are stewards of both the Gardens and the next generation.

In 2017, we hosted seven Saturday volunteer events plus two corporate volunteer events. **950 stewardship volunteers** contributed **5,714 volunteer hours** during 2017. An **additional 6,336 volunteer hours** were contributed by our board and staff for a **total of 12,050 volunteer hours** in 2017.

Our volunteer trail crew:

- Resurfaces & repaired 4,000 ft of trails
- Completed the pedestrian bridge
- Removed invasive species
- Pruned & planted

Stewardship through Park

Enhancement also included

installing:

- A water bottle refill station
- Bike racks
- Wayfinding signs



Public Engagement



Throughout 2017, we provided culturally-enriching events including:

- Jazz & Lily Pads Nights
- Lotus & Water Lilly Festival
- Annual Photography Competition
- NatureFest Family Days

Jazz & Lily Pads Concert Series:

- Partnership with East River Jazz and the National Park Service
- More than 200 concert attendees

Lotus & Water Lily Festival:

- Partnership with the National Park Service
- More than 7,000 visitors

Photography Competition:

- 27% increase in contest entries

Thriving aquatic gardens that inspire.

Educational Programs

NatureFest - our seasonal camp and family days for Ward 7 neighbors - has h surrounding community.

In 2017, **NatureFest** Summer, Fall & Spring Break Camps attracted:

- **200 children**
- **30 community leaders**
- **15 junior camp counselors**

NatureFest Highlights:

- 20+ local community partners
- 80% camper/counselor return rate
- Increased camper comfort with outdoors and positive attitudes about nature.
- 228 NatureFest programming hours
- 1,936 NatureFest volunteer hours

“Camp is my favorite thing. I love seeing the turtles” - 7 year old camper



helped make the Garden more accessible and relevant to our



from Ward 7

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUPPORT & REVENUE	
INDIVIDUALS	\$7,993
CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$12,500
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	\$12,000
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$48,500
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$5,000
PROGRAM SERVICE FEES	\$168,013
OTHER	\$836
TOTAL INCOME	\$254,842

EXPENSES	
PROGRAMS	\$230,563
FUNDRAISING	\$720
GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION	\$17,520
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$248,803
NET INCOME	\$6,039

