



Friends of Kenilworth

AQUATIC GARDENS

A Park That Inspires

Annual Report

2019

Welcome!

Dear Friends,

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens offers a wild and other-worldly experience in the midst of Washington, D.C. This national park site features more than 30 small ponds teeming with wildlife and water-loving plants, tidal marshlands and the historic Anacostia River.

We are grateful for all that was made possible with your support in 2019. Thank you for increasing our volunteer hours by 20% so that we continue to have well-maintained ponds, trails, and grounds that allow us to enjoy the beauty of the park year-round. Thank you to the children and families who joined us for three weeks of camp, building community while exploring the superhydrophobic properties of the lotus and fishing in the Anacostia River. Thank you to our visitors who love our concerts and festivals, and also to our visitors who relish the solitude.

We are grateful for our partners at the National Park Service and for you, our community of supporters, who understand the need to connect people - from across the street, across town and across the world - to the outdoors and specifically to the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

Together, we continue to uplift the park for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Sincerely,



Tina O'Connell

Executive Director
Friends of Kenilworth
Aquatic Gardens



Zandra Chestnut

Board Chair
Friends of Kenilworth
Aquatic Gardens

Get Involved! www.KenAqGardens.org @KenAqGardens



We are
proud to be the official
non-profit partner of the
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

Stewardship



“Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is frequently cited by our students as their most eye-opening and impactful community service experience in D.C. We are so grateful to be included in this gem of a place - thank you! I’m excited to introduce the opportunity to other schools.”

- Ohio State Washington Program
Coordinator, Katy Hogan



Stewardship Accomplishments

Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (FoKAG) was founded in 2001 by a small group of volunteers enthralled by the park's unique beauty and place in D.C. history. Keenly aware of the enormous task of maintaining the park, FoKAG has been recruiting, coordinating and training volunteers to help support the NPS since our inception.

In 2019, we celebrated a 20% increase in volunteer hours. These hours of mud, sweat and labor result in beautiful gardens, restored ponds banks and a park with less invasive plants and trash!

This year we are especially thankful to our volunteers who have risen to the challenge and completed training to become "team leaders". Team leaders are volunteers who lead others during our large volunteer events so that together we get the work done while having a blast! !

19.....volunteer events

970+.....total volunteers engaged

3,350+ hours.....total volunteer hours

4,500+ lbs.....invasive plants cleared

4,100+ ft.....trails and paths maintained

2,000+ ft.....pond bank restored

3,000+ lbs.....trash removed

A photograph of two women standing in a pond filled with lily pads. They are both wearing waders and gloves, and holding long-handled tools. The woman on the left is wearing tan waders and green gloves, while the woman on the right is wearing dark green waders and red gloves. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a dense forest with trees having autumn-colored leaves.

We are
stewards
of both the
**Kenilworth
Aquatic Gardens**
and the next generation.

Public Engagement



"I pride myself on being able to find the most unique and amazing events in DC - and these concerts are some of the best!"

-Jim Sauer, concert attendee



Engagement Accomplishments

There are so many ways to enjoy Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Our public engagement goals are to promote the park and to build community. In 2019, visitors in the park enjoyed free summer and fall concerts, participated in our annual photography contest and art classes, and enjoyed the annual *Lotus and Water Lily Festival*.

We kicked off a new project this year collecting oral histories from key Kenilworth-Parkside community leaders in collaboration with the DC Oral History Collaborative, which we will continue in 2020. In 2019, we also created a more welcoming entrance with two large banners and feather flags inviting neighbors and visitors inside along with special signage during park events.

We are grateful for the many partnerships that allow us to activate the park as a space for people to come together and enjoy the outdoors.

900+.....concert attendees

13,000+.....annual Lotus and Water Lily Festival attendees

50+.....annual Photography Contest participants

20% increase.....social media engagement

18% increase.....e-newsletter engagement

12.....concert and event partners

And finally, **a new website and welcome entrance banners!**

We partner with **local artists** to provide **free and exciting** concerts.



Education



**"My kids look forward to going to
camp at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
all year long!"**

- Parent of NatureFest campers



Education Accomplishments

In 2019, more than 100 youth from the nearby community participated in our Spring and Summer *NatureFest* camps. With 40 volunteers and staff, as well as 24 different partners, campers enjoyed more than 500 hours of unforgettable programming both at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and throughout the Chesapeake Bay.

Adventures included fishing, biking, multiple live animal exhibits, a boat trip on the Anacostia River, a visit to the Frederick Douglass historic house, geocaching and much more. Thank you to everyone who helped make 2019 *NatureFest* such a positive experience for our camp community!

On the last day of summer camp, we found that nearly all campers (91%) enjoyed being outdoors, (92%) felt free when they were outside, and (90%) were excited to try new activities at camp. Finally, every single camper in summer reported feeling more connected to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

100+.....total NatureFest campers

40+.....total NatureFest volunteers and staff

24.....unique NatureFest partners

94%.....NatureFest camper attendance rate

500+ hours.....NatureFest program hours

83%.....NatureFest camper return rate



**The Kenilworth
Aquatic Gardens** provides
an extraordinary environment for
outdoor exploration and learning.

2019 Financials

Total Income: \$306,084.16

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Foundation Grants..... | \$265,456.70 (86.7%) |
| Community Organization Grants..... | \$16,350.00 (5.3%) |
| Individual Giving..... | \$14,917.03 (4.9%) |
| Program Income..... | \$2,360.43 (.8%) |
| Corporate Contributions..... | \$7,000.00 (2.3%) |

Total Expenses: \$249,682.25

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Park Enhancement..... | \$7,447.16 (3%) |
| Volunteer Programs..... | \$8,047.02 (3.2%) |
| Public Engagement Programs..... | \$57,259.20 (22.9%) |
| Education Programs..... | \$124,467.41 (49.9%) |
| Fundraising..... | \$11,240.51 (4.5%) |
| Governance and Admin..... | \$41,220.95 (16.5%) |



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AQUATIC GARDENS

Thank you Tim Ervin, Erna Marcus, and Debora McCallum
for the beautiful photos throughout this report.

kenaqqgardens.org

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