
CELEBRATE THE DENNISON GARDEN

**TAKE HOME A POT OF POLLINATORS! TOUR THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN!
CONSULT A GARDEN EXPERT! FUN, FOOD & LEARNING FOR ALL AGES!**

Celebrate the Lee Wick Dennison Sustainable Garden, located at the corner of Lynn Drive and Maple Avenue in Zimmerman Park, on **Saturday, May 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.**

- Explore Dennison Garden with its designer, Backyard Bounty; learn about its benefactor and understand the benefits of gardening with local native plants.
- Bring birds, butterflies, and bumble bees into your own garden by planting a potful of pollinator-friendly plants to bring home for Mother's Day! This activity will be led by Nature Forward.
- Learn from expert gardeners and the demonstration garden about how to make the best of your sunny, shady, hilly, or soggy home landscape with sustainable gardening practices.

Gather with neighbors, friends, and family and nosh on some spring delights! **Please RSVP by May 5** to <https://bit.ly/TOCCGarden>. *The rain date is Saturday, May 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.*

Lee Wick Dennison

Lee was a Town resident whose life reflected a belief that wellness in all of its dimensions and the arts enriched one's body and mind. Her work helped to create healthy communities.

- As a director at the National Endowment of the Arts, she helped bring arts programming to communities across the United States.
- As a graduate, then trustee of Interlochen Center for the Arts, a vibrant arts education institution in Michigan, her significant gift to Interlochen created a year-round recreation and wellness center.
- As a generous supporter of the Capital Crescent Trail, Lee is honored on the Neal Potter Plaza at the trail crossing at River Road in Bethesda.
- As a member of various Town committees, she championed both walking and pedestrian safety initiatives within the Town while understanding the need for sustainable growth.
- For the Town's early garden tours, Lee gladly opened the joyful gardens of her Victorian cottage on Leland Street.
- As an avid walker, Lee often could be seen on our streets and in our parks with her dog, Quantum.

Her extraordinarily generous \$100,000 bequest to our Town to "support the beautification and/or maintenance of public space within the Town" has given our community a new garden at Zimmerman Park. The garden celebrates the diversity and beauty of plants of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Residents will be able to enjoy and learn from the garden for years to come.

The Dennison Garden at Zimmerman Park

Designed to mirror the array of planting conditions encountered by many residents on their own properties, the Dennison Garden features a series of outdoor spaces offering more than 70 different native plantings for a variety of growing conditions – from full sun to full shade, from dry areas to damp depression, from hillside erosion to flat open lawns.

With solutions for storm-water management and erosion control, an accessible path, and a large oval area with benches allowing for community gatherings and individual enjoyment and reflection, this sustainable demonstration garden will eventually extend and link to an improved Zimmerman Park.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING PRACTICES

A sustainable garden thrives in harmony with the natural ecosystem of a local area. It requires fewer interventions to maintain and avoids the negative environmental impacts of conventional landscaping practices. Sustainable gardening practices include:

- Choosing native plants and trees that provide food for local wildlife and grow well in local climate conditions without supplementary watering,
- Reducing lawn areas, which require mowing with power tools, by planting native groundcovers,
- Re-channeling rainwater from downspouts to benefit garden beds,
- Managing stormwater through rain gardens where feasible, and
- Avoiding pesticides and herbicides by using natural means of insect control and hand-pulling weeds.

While growing plants and maintaining a garden are inherently “green” activities, sustainable gardens are about **growing a greener future**.

Benefits of Planting Native Trees, Shrubs and Plants

The top reasons to choose native plants for your garden or yard are to:

- Preserve Maryland's wild plant, seed, and berry biodiversity, which in turn increase soil health,
- Support pollinators like native bees and butterflies as well as beneficial insects,
- Support songbirds as native plants are indirectly responsible for providing the insect food that baby songbirds require,
- Save on maintenance costs as native plants do not require fertilizers, pesticides, and supplemental water, and
- Create a landscape that is either naturalistic or more formal in style.

Ideas for Your Home Landscape

More than 70 native species of trees, shrubs and plants are found in the Dennison Garden and can be identified by placing a smartphone camera's feature over the QR codes or by visiting <https://www.dennisongarden.org/plant-list> to learn what plantings thrive in a shady garden, a sunny pollinator habitat, a formal patio garden or a difficult wet or sloped spot.

The Dennison Garden not only creates a new green space in Town, but also provides an opportunity for residents to learn how to create a healthy home landscape in harmony with our local ecosystem. The www.dennisongarden.org website offers additional inspiration, information, and advice.

Invasive Plants

You can learn more about identifying, controlling, and disposing of invasive plants that are found in our area by visiting <https://www.dennisongarden.org/invasive-plants> and reading tips such as:

- **English Ivy:** If you don't want to pull it up, at least keep it from climbing trees and bearing fruit (which birds spread to our forests). Clip the vine at the base of the tree and let it die. Do not try to pull it off which can harm the bark.
- **Garlic Mustard:** Blooms with clusters of tiny white blossoms; has the unique ability to inject toxins into the soil to keep other plants from growing and is all over our local forests. Control it before it gets the chance to spread seeds. It's edible!