

Grin and Grow Learning Garden History Time Line

- 2001 Under the direction of Pete and Jackie Peters, NNMGA co-presidents, early planning began for a city demonstration garden. In October the site was selected at Riverview Farm Park, as recommended by VCE Coordinator Scott Ewer and NN Parks and Recreation leadership.
- 2002 In May, working with Carolyn Fournier of Parks and Recreation, the type of garden to be built was determined. In August, Ansel Butterfield and Yvonne Tung designed the garden in the form of a happy face. Yvonne's son, a landscape architect, completed the design.
- On September 11, 2002, a group of NNMGA's, after saying a few words about the 9/11 event a year ago, put their shovels in the ground to begin the "happy face" garden, which they dedicated on that day to future generations of children.
- 2005 Under the direction of President Sharron Kitchen-Miller, first children's programming was held at the garden. Sailors from USS George Washington created the garden paths in 2005.
- 2006 A bridge was built to connect the Learning Garden to the playground area under the direction of Eagle Scout Brian Perry.
- 2007 The Garden was dedicated to Yvonne Tung. Susan Turner took over leadership upon Yvonne's passing, followed by Kathy Duncan and Brownley Foster. Kathy was sole chair for about four years until 2014. Charlotte Boudreau led children's programming in the garden for many years.
- 2012 NNMGA decided to focus on self-directed, interdisciplinary educational programming at the G&G Garden, under the direction of Janet Hirshman Rash.
- 2013-15 A three year plan was created and implemented to revitalize the garden.
- Janet Rash and Rhonda Keirn led the committee from 2014-15.
- Janet Rash, Louise Woodard and Ann Moir chaired the committee from 2016 - 2017.
- 2016 On July 12, 2016 we held a Rededication of the garden. We honored all those who contributed to the garden throughout the years, and rededicated our work to the children of the community.
- July 17, 2016 a Community Day celebration was held with MG led children's activities.

October 10, 2018 Installation of the Native Tree Demonstration Garden, made possible through a Department of Forestry Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant written by Janet Rash.

2019 A new Butterfly Garden was installed, under the direction and design of team co-chair, Sue Campbell.

2020 The Pollinator Garden was redesigned and replanted to include more native plants.

A new Shade Garden was planted under the Weeping Yaupon Holly.

Members of the Learning Garden maintenance team, independently and as caring citizens, continued to care for the garden in order to keep it ready for the public when community Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.