



Forest Hills Gardens

NEWS

Summer 2022

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Letter From Our President

Dear Forest Hills Gardens Neighbors,

This is the year we are celebrating Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. His devotion to landscape architecture put in place the signature lampposts, curved streets, parks and plantings that made us an urban retreat. In this issue, we invite you to be an active part of the legacy of his vision, as well as that of Olivia Sage, financier who dreamt of creating homes in the countryside for middle class people working in the cities, and Grosvenor Atterbury whose diverse architecture makes us one of the city's premier residential communities.

We are making exciting progress. Last year, we accomplished much in our work with professional arborists by optimizing our tree canopy, a Gardens staple. This was a new endeavor adopted by The Board. This year, we are addressing larger issues such as evaluating our parks and sewers. Additionally, we are consulting with Historical Landscape Architects (HLAs) specializing in Olmsted legacy designs.

As a lifelong resident, it really is something special to be part of this community and I want to encourage everyone to participate on one of FHG's Committees or its Board. It's through our sense of community that FHG thrives and this is another example of why this neighborhood is so special and different from others.

I am humbled to be serving as President during this historic time and working alongside a Board of such dedicated individuals. Do feel free to talk to Board members. They want to hear from you. They are, after all, your good neighbors who have volunteered to devote their time and expertise in service to our very special self-governing community.

Let's all remember the qualities that make this neighborhood stand out. In the spirit of celebration, let's also strive to reset our vision so it is one where we can meet challenges with fresh eyes. There are many attributes that existed in our neighborhood a hundred years ago which still endure today. In this special anniversary year, looking backward to our legacy will move us forward.

Anthony Oprisiu

President
Forest Hills Gardens Corporation

Meet Our 2022 FHGC Board of Directors



Forest Hills Gardens Board of Directors

Front row: Susan Gregg, Elizabeth Haberkorn, Felicia Bradshaw, Mitchell Cohen, Rob Webb, Fouad Beydoun, Claire Hassid

Back row: Art Masella, Li Min Ching, Sid Rose, Anthony Oprisiu, Tony Barsamian, Matt Mandell, Alex Chang

Not pictured: Stephanie Werther

Photo: Steve Silberberg

Approvals for Security Devices Are Now Expedited

Video doorbells are an excellent way to upgrade your home for improved security.

The Security Committee encourages homeowners to consider the installation of a hard-wired or battery-operated unit. Keep in mind an application to the Architecture Committee is required. Doorbells that blend in with your trim color, or the color of the surface on which they will be installed, are recommended. The goal is to “fast-track” approvals for all external security devices such as video door bells, cameras and lighting.

If residents are seeking recommendations for security camera systems, FHGC suggests contacting your current security provider, if you have one, and asking neighbors for their referrals. The New York City Police

Department offers a free service that suggests to homeowners where to place security cameras. The 112th Precinct advised the FHGC Security Committee as follows: “Crime Prevention could come to anyone’s home to do a survey and give ideas on how to secure their homes including the best locations to put cameras.” Please call (718) 520-9319 and ask for Officer Cumbo to arrange a visit.

The Security Committee reminds residents to report any suspicious activity to Epic Security. If you believe a crime or emergency is occurring call 911 immediately and then call Epic Security 1-800-548-3434. Please be sure to notify the FHGC office of any incidents you report to the police or Epic the next business day.

WHAT YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT *Might not* HAVE TOLD YOU

By Claire Hassid

Your real estate agent, no doubt, told you about the benefits of living in Forest Hills and The Gardens. However, they may not have emphasized that homeowners are also members of The Forest Hills Gardens Corporation.

All of us, Forest Hills Gardens property owners and shareholders alike, purchased much more than a place to live when we purchased homes here. At the moment we made the decision to put down roots, we bought into the visionary concept of a living garden community created by Olivia Sage, Grosvenor Atterbury and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. It is a concept that beckons the participation of its members because, without it, the tangible beauty and serene tranquility that surrounds us could not be sustained.

Sometimes that participation translates to the simple act of disposing of litter you find on a walk. Or, understanding that by submitting an application for work on your house, you are contributing to and preserving the architectural integrity of The Gardens. As for landscaping, although there are no formal guidelines today, Olmsted Jr.'s original plans are instructive. He would no doubt appreciate those homeowners who have graciously and rightly chosen landscaping that showcases their home rather than hides it.



Photo: Claire Hassid

Big and small efforts can make a difference. Something so easy as picking up a random piece of paper helps keep our landscapes beautiful.



Participation also includes contributing as a volunteer for The Gardens, as countless members have for over one hundred years. Without them, how would we have so successfully survived? We are, after all, a self-governing community run by the generosity of the time, talent and efforts of our neighbors.

We invite you to consider contributing to the legacy of Forest Hills Gardens and Sage, Atterbury and Olmsted. Those who have volunteered have discovered an unexpected outcome: living here becomes an even richer, more rewarding experience. And remember, what makes The Gardens, The Gardens, isn't only the tree canopy, the old-world lamp posts, the pebble walkways, the parks, the houses or Station Square.

**It is you... being an active
part of the legacy.**



Gardening *for* Pollinators in Forest Hills Gardens

By Liz Haberkorn

As you plan your garden this Summer consider adding native plants to support pollinators. Why not have gardens with beautiful plants that also actively support hardworking bees, birds and butterflies?

Pollinators are bees, bats, birds, beetles, flies, wasps, small mammals and butterflies that fertilize plants, enabling them to produce fruits and seeds. As they visit flowers to drink nectar or feed on pollen, they transport pollen grains. Most flowering plants need pollinators to help fertilize them.

Pollinators support our ecosystems because flowering plants, including wild flowers, clean air during photosynthesis, use carbon dioxide produced by animals, produce oxygen, stabilize soils preventing erosion, and return moisture to the atmosphere.

The important services these busy pollinators provide to our ecosystem are increasingly at risk. Pollinators, especially bees, are in decline and danger due to reduced pollinator feeding and nesting habitats, pesticides and climate change. Amazingly, **bees pollinate some 90% of flowering plants.** The loss of wild lands and meadows requires pollinators to travel further between feeding and nesting sites.

We can help pollinators in our yards, gardens and neighborhood green spaces. You can easily aid pollinators by providing a pollinator nesting habitat: eliminate pesticides, use less and organic mulch, allow some dead plants on site and permit leaf litter in your yard. Leaves, dead plants, logs, twigs or stumps support and provide winter

shelter for pollinators. Limit leaf clean-up to a late spring and limit fall tidying for yard and plant health. Native bees are ground nesters and even a small patch of well drained bare soil will provide lovely lodging for them! Our pollinator nesting habitats will provide the link between other nesting habitats, reducing travel between declining habitats. Limiting the mowing of grass, especially in early Spring, will provide better habitat for active bees. FHG and other communities now participate in “**no mow May**” a strategy that allows more flowers to grow, providing food for early season pollinators. It is helpful to keep grass longer.

Why not have gardens with beautiful plants that also actively support hardworking bees, birds and butterflies?

Likewise, don't pull dandelions, especially if there is no other food available! Bees depend on early blooming flowering plants and low growing weeds when they come out of winter refuge hungry and weak. Dandelions and other early blooming low growing weeds with easy to access flowers can provide food for bees. Dandelions will die off after the first few critical weeks for bee survival.

Native plants attract butterflies and bees to your garden because their nectar is the food local pollinators can use. Exotic plants don't provide food for native bees and butterflies who can not use the foreign

*Fun Fact: **Apis mellifera** (beloved honey bee) contains 24 distinct “geographic races” or subspecies which are similar to different “breeds” of dogs.*



nectar. Additionally, native plants have adapted to our climate, soil and rainfall requiring less water, maintenance and no fertilizer or pesticides. You can plant for beauty and ecological benefit. Planting in groups or clusters creates a target, helping pollinators to find your garden. You may select plants for specific pollinators, such as butterflies or for caterpillars to support moths and butterflies but also feed birds! As you consider your pollinator plant selections, here are a few ideas.

Native flowering plants include:

strawberry, sunflower (many varieties including a smaller bush-like and dwarf sunflower), lupine, geranium, ironweed, brown eyed susan, iris, impatiens, aster, bee balm (gorgeous and easy to grow), columbine, verbena, speedwell, clematis, morning glory, phlox, lobelia (widely available red or blue ornamental), cosmos, buttercup, hellebore and tickseed.



They grow well in pots as well as in ground. Most of these require full sun and are perennials except morning glory, cosmos, impatiens and aster.

Native trees include:

Oak, willow, cherry, plum, birch, elm, pine and hawthorn.

Plants for bees:

Hyssop (also hummingbirds and butterflies), purple cone-flower (also butterflies); goldenrod, aster and bee balm, rudbeckia and blazing star (also support hummingbirds and caterpillars). Ironweed, a tall showy plant, also attracts Monarchs. Salvia, available in many colors, also attracts hummingbirds and caterpillars.

Photo: Liz Haberkorn



Gardening for pollinators can be beautiful and fun!

Welcoming and watching pollinator visitors enjoy nature in your beautiful garden can be enjoyable, especially for children. Below please a list of pollinator resources including several that provide plant recommendations by pollinator and region as well as resources for children.

Pollinator Resources include:

pollinator.org Pollinator Partnership
North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

~ **NWF.org** National Wildlife Federation
plant info

~ **USFWS.org** US Fish and Wildlife Service



Fun For Kids:

~ **pollinator.Org** Pollinator Partnership
Planting guides, educational resources, activity books, and activities
Million Pollinator Garden Challenge:
register as **bee friendly family garden**

~ **xerces.org** Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, plant resources, resource books for pollinator specific plants

What is the difference?

Bees are not aggressive. When bees are gathering pollen and nectar you can walk among flowers with foraging bees without being stung. **Wasps will sting you.** It is easy to mistake yellow jackets (an aggressive type of wasp) for honey bees because they look alike. Both build their nests in cavities above or below ground such as eaves, vents, logs, bushes. Bee hives are man made. Beekeepers use them; bees like them.



Bumble Bee Most Friendly. They will even let you pet them. Very chubby & furry like flying teddies, brown or black with gold stripes & 2 wings



Honey Bee Excellent pollinator, very friendly, furry bodies even their legs, black or brown bodies with orange or yellow stripes, 2 wings.



Yellows Jacket /Wasp Also a pollinator, very nasty, shiny skin, narrow tiny waists, black bodies with distinct bright yellow stripes, 4 wings.

Soil or Sediment?

“Soil is an almost magical substance, a living system that transforms the materials it encounters.” — George Monbiot

By Christine O'Brien Beydoun

While all of Earth is covered with soil, not all soil is created equal, especially here in Forest Hills Gardens.

During the Ice Age, glaciers carved and shaped our neighborhood greatly while they ground, furrowed, and kneaded the surface of the Earth, distributing fertile soil over the temperate regions of the globe. Long before the Sage Foundation began construction in Forest Hills, our area was the southern end of an advancing glacier – in other words, our area, extending out

to the forks of Long Island, was the terminal moraine – the furthest advance of an ice sheet – which brought its sediment of sand, clay, silt, gravel and boulders to this part of New York. The terminal moraine deposits vary greatly from acre to acre with some dense areas, full of clay and boulders, and others primarily pebbles and sand.

So what do we have in our yards – sediment or soil? The basic difference between them is that soil is the product of the weathering of the earth's crust in situ, while sediment is the collec-

tions of particles that have been removed from the place where they were originally weathered from rock and redeposited elsewhere (Shackley, 1975). The terminal moraine left our area with more sediment and not enough time has yet passed for the creation of substantial topsoil, making gardening and planting a bit tricky.

Just like current residents need to prepare their soil prior to planting in order to have success, our sediment-based soil probably created headaches for our earliest residents. Our area of New York (established by British and Dutch settlers around 1653 and known as Whiteput/Whitepot,) had six farms operated by Ascan Backus (hence, our present day Ascan Avenue), Casper-Joost Springsteen, Horatio N. Squire, Abram V.S. Lott, Sarah V. Bolmer, and James Van Sicien. The area's population remained relatively small over the years, being cited by the New York Times as having 30 residents in 1900 who were mostly German celery and potato planters.

While celery and potatoes aren't grown locally anymore, one has to marvel at the trans-

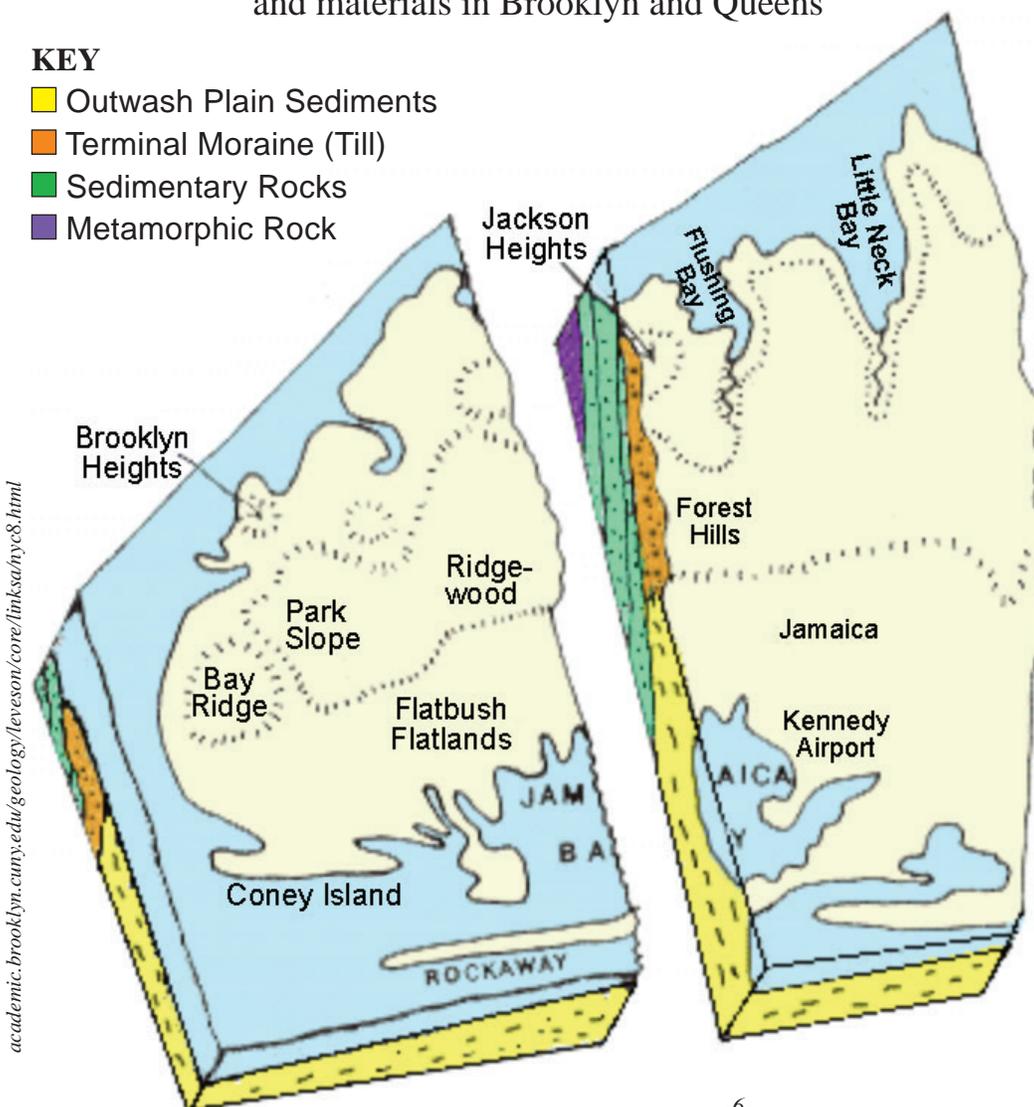
SOIL continued on pg7

Loose Sediment / Bedrock:

Relationship between topography, geologic structure and materials in Brooklyn and Queens

KEY

- Outwash Plain Sediments
- Terminal Moraine (Till)
- Sedimentary Rocks
- Metamorphic Rock



academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/geology/leveson/core/linksa/nyc8.html

formation of our neighborhood from uninspiring farmland to lush gardens. When the Sage Foundation purchased 600 acres of Whitepot in 1906, they hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to transform the flat, indistinguishable expanse of farmland they purchased into our present day green and lush Forest Hills Gardens, with the intent to integrate architecture, streets and public spaces into a garden-like setting.

For more historical insight please visit:
nycgovparks.org/about/history/geology
academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/geology/leveson/core/linksa/nyc8.html

Much like Olmsted, current residents need to contend with the varied soil composition of our neighborhood and should consider soil composition when making plant choices. In many cases, the soil is too dense and clay-like for roots to penetrate and thrive. To make it lighter and more plant-friendly, peat moss and sand may need to be added to the hole one has dug to give plants space to expand their roots. In other sandier spots, manure and top soil should be incorporated to give nutrients to plant materials. Residents may even find certain sections of their yards to be very rocky and occasionally even boulders are discovered just below the ground's surface.

Final point: while everyone is anxious to get out in their gardens and beautify their yards for the enjoyment of all after a long winter, take some time to examine your soil. Take a moment to consider your yard's particular soil composition and your selected plant's needs before you placing your lovely, healthy plant material, whether roses, clematis, honeysuckle or anything else in the ground. Pay particular attention to the hole that is dug, possibly adding compost, top soil or peat moss. But always, always dig a bigger hole than the potted plant container and take some time to consider drainage and room for the roots to grow easily.

As a local successful gardener consistently states,
"Don't place a \$5 plant in a 50 cent hole!"

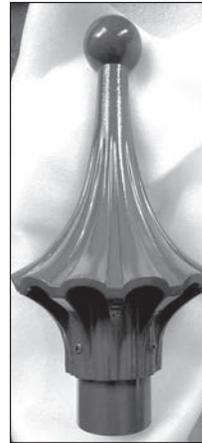
Go that extra mile and set your plant up for success!



Schlegelpictures

Committee Corner

Upkeep Committee Sidewalk replacement will begin on sections of Whitson Street and other locations in the corporation through the summer and fall.



Finalizing the Finials: Good news! Celia Kuperszmid Lehrman, tells us the finials project is moving at a good pace. Finials have been installed on the street sign poles of all the major streets in The Gardens, including The Terraces, The Greenways, Burns, Continental, Ascan and Puritan. 20 more have been ordered and the plan is to add them to the street signs in alphabetical order starting from both the beginning and the end of the alphabet, as we work our way toward the middle. Eventually, finials will also be added to the light poles as we convert them to LED lighting.

Membership Committee We are pleased to have a new member, historian Bob Stieglitz, join our committee. Bob, a professor emeritus at Rutgers University, is an archaeologist of Biblical and Mediterranean Studies. On Flag Day, we met many new FHG members, gave them new member bags and Bob gave an interesting talk about FHG history.

Gardener's Tips

1. Dig a hole much larger and much deeper than the plant in the container.
2. Loosen the soil at the bottom and sides of the hole to allow root growth.
3. Add good quality compost or planting mix to the hole. Place the plant in the hole and fill in with the soil removed from digging.
4. Water the plant well. Don't water in the heat and sun, wait until later in the day. Water droplets can act as magnifying glasses on the leaves in bright sun.
5. Continue to monitor and water well for the next several days/weeks until the plant has establish itself. Slow watering with a wider diameter is better than fast watering. Fast watering can lead to shallow roots.

– Liz Haberkorn

Corner Lamppost

Let's Communicate

Sign up for FHGC's email blasts to receive email announcements and other correspondence by sending an email to: info@fhgc.org from your email account with your name and address.

Please send announcements of births, marriages and other news you'd like to share with the community to info@fhgc.org with subject line "Corner Lamppost".

Michael Lombardo and Angela Newland of Seasongood Road welcomed twin boys, Luca and Casey on April 8, 2022

Our Parks Have Guidelines

Now is a good time
to be fully aware of them

With summer season upon us, we encourage Members to take advantage of the four community parks in Forest Hills Gardens: Flag Pole Green, Hawthorne Park, Olivia Park and Carnegie Park.

Please be reminded of park guidelines below:

- Parks are open daily from dawn until dusk.
- We love dogs but they are not allowed in the parks. Really. No.
- Private Events, such as birthday parties, are not permitted in the parks.
- Barbeques, grills and fires of any sort are not allowed in the parks.
- We value peace and quiet. Refrain from using speakers and/or radios in the parks.
- Let's all do our part to keep the parks clean. Take any refuse home or dispose of it in our trash cans.
- Your thoughtfulness in picking up any litter you might see is appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining our private green spaces so that we may all enjoy!

New Members

Cesar Escoto	Ascan Avenue
Ramon & Robert Vinluan	Beechknoll Road
Hiro & Miwako Abe	Burns Street
Eric Liu & Beverly Cho	Burns Street
Kevin & Freda Mak	Burns Street
Yoni Mizrahi & Alison Stapley	Burns Street
Ilya Zavolunov & Tamara Kharazishvili	Continental Ave
David Jiang & Juemin Chu	Cranford Street
Ku Lu & Lucy Hsieh	Greenway North
Peter & Sheifen Ting	Greenway North
Ebrahim Ahmed	Greenway South
Fadi & Amal Ajam	Groton Street
Cathcart Family Trust	Groton Street
Ryan & Vanessa Benedicto	Ingram Street
Vivek Tata & Melanie Smith	Ingram Street
William Grauer	Middlemay Circle
Shelly Salamensky	Middlemay Place
Paul Meltzer	Park End Place
Harsimran & Sinem Buber Singh	Shorthill Road
Leon Rafailov & Elissa Cabasso	Slocum Crescent
Graham Amodeo & Brittany Russell	Summer Street
Aparicio & Maria Castano	Tennis Place
Douglas & Soo Fallon	Tennis Place
Patrick & Jully Jao	Tennis Place
Josh Swade & Lauren Moffatt	Wendover Road

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