

How do I volunteer and become a Friend of the Lucille McClarey Wicked Friendship Garden?

One of the most-asked questions is, "Why isn't the garden open more often?" and the answer is "We need volunteers to keep it open!" We are delighted that you've inquired about volunteering! Wicked Friendship Garden is part of the New York Restoration Project (NYRP). Their policy and ours is that if you wish to enjoy the benefits of being a garden friend, you must be willing to volunteer some of your time staffing the garden's open hours on a weekly basis. We make this a condition for a couple of reasons:

- First, this garden is a *community* garden so without a community of volunteers, we wouldn't be able to keep the garden open at all.
- Second, we realize that having regular access to the garden is a great incentive to encourage volunteers and the more volunteers we have, the more hours we are able to keep the garden open for everyone to enjoy.

If you're interested in helping staff the garden and receiving the code to access the key, please let us know. If you want to help, but not regularly, you can always be a "floater", you will receive the code but will not receive the extra benefits of being a gardener!

The code to the lock box will be changed at the start of each new season (April). If special circumstances arise that make it necessary to change the code during the season, a notification will be given to all active gardeners with the new code.

Benefits of being a Friend of the Garden:

Free access to open and enter the garden when you like

After 20 hours in the garden you receive your own set of tools!

\$30 deposit fee is waived for events in the garden

How to become a garden member:

- 1) You must commit to 2 hours a week throughout the April-Oct open season. We ask you to consider our peak hours first (3p-7p on Weekdays and 9a-4p on Weekends). Families or garden partners may work together to keep their hours open on a weekly basis.
- 2) Agree to the "Friend of the Garden Pledge" at the beginning of each season you will be volunteering.

Lucille McClarey Wicked Friendship Garden Rules

- 1) No bikes, skates, scooters or any toys of that kind.
- 2) No BBQ or cooking facility with Propane
- 3) No flamed candles (only Citronella candles accepted)

Reminders:

If you break it, fix it

If you can't fix it, you bought it (please tell someone)

If you borrow it, return it

If you make a mess, clean it up

If you move it, put it back where you found it

If you do not know how to work it, leave it alone

If you use it, take good care of it

Do not step on the flowers or in the flower or plant beds

Do not let your children step on flowers or in beds

Do not place ANYTHING on the flowers or in the flowers and plant beds

Do not leave charcoal on the ground or anywhere in the garden

Put the flame out and dispose of the charcoal properly

Do not throw cigarette butts anywhere in the garden.

Clean tables and grounds of debris and have the garbage bagged and place out near the curb on sidewalk.

No DRUGS or ALCOHOL. Using drugs or alcohol is **PROHIBITED**

Events in the garden:

- 1) Must be open to the public at all times.
- 2) Event should end by dusk or 8pm, whichever comes first.
- 3) Please lock the garden securely when finished by 9pm.
- 4) Security deposit is required for the use of the garden. It is not a profit, it is refundable upon inspection or you may donate to the garden fund.

Contacts: Cheryl 646-271-9453
Signe 206-919-5899

History of the Garden

The Lucille McClarey Wicked Friendship Garden began over 30 years ago when block activist, Mrs. Lucille McClarey, got neighbors together to clear out an abandoned lot and rented it from the city for \$1 a year. She loved and tended to the Garden until she passed in the late 1990s. In the late 90s and early 2000 the city began to talk of taking the land back. New York Restoration Project purchased the land with the intention to keep the garden intact and give it back to the community to enjoy.

In 2007, as part of their Green for Good campaign, the smash Broadway production of *Wicked* provided funding to renovate the Friendship Garden with a wildly imaginative and fantastical design provided by the show's Associate Scenic Designer, Edward Pierce. In anticipation of the opening of this community treasure, *Wicked* organized a benefit performance – providing free tickets to neighborhood residents who attended the garden's planning sessions. All other proceeds from the performance continue to help support the garden's ongoing maintenance.

Echoing themes of the Land of Oz – and as portrayed in the Broadway production – the Friendship Garden features unique Oz-inspired lampposts and fencing, a poppy-painted mural, a "yellow brick" path, an "emerald" granite patio, a spiral-twisted stone barbeque and two new street trees in front of the space. The revitalized garden is also lush with plant life – including a variety of roses, lilies, hostas and hydrangeas. Finally, a wishing well – located in the middle of the garden – symbolizes that a community working together, as one, can truly make any wish come true.

Wicked cast members and NYRP Founder Bette Midler hosted a special garden opening on *Wicked* Day, October 28, 2007, culminating a month-long celebration of Green for Good events in New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and London. As part of the day's festivities, thousands of visitors and community members gathered along 150th Street to enjoy performances, food and refreshments, and costume contests and also learned how to live green through a series of interactive, eco-friendly exhibits.

Located in Harlem, the Friendship Garden is situated within five blocks of several schools in a neighborhood whose residents are primarily of Hispanic and African-American descent.