



Welcome to George Washington's River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society

The 1,800 acres surrounding River Farm were first called Piscataway Neck in the 1690s, after the Native American tribe of the land's first owner, the Piscataway princess bride of Giles Brent. In 1739 the property went to a cousin named William Clifton, and became known as Clifton's Neck. Six years later, in 1745, the Virginia General Assembly authorized a public ferry from Broad Creek in Maryland to Clifton's Neck, to connect to the King's Highway.

George Washington mentions Clifton's Neck often in his diaries. He purchased the property in 1760 and renamed it River Farm. River Farm was the northernmost of Washington's five farms. He never lived or farmed here. Three generations of Washington's relatives lived at River Farm until it was sold in 1859, at which point it was renamed Wellington.

Mr. Malcolm Matheson Sr. eventually bought Wellington in 1919 and turned it into the charming country residence it is today. He put the property up for sale in 1971, but was asked by the U.S. Congress to withdraw it from the market when the Soviet Embassy expressed interest in using it for a retreat.

The AHS was able to buy the 25 acres comprising the Wellington Estate through a generous gift of \$1,000,000 from the Enid A. Haupt Charitable Trust. In 1973, the AHS relocated its headquarters to the property and named it River Farm in honor of George Washington, one of America's first gardeners and horticulturists. 🌸

The Gardens

Open Monday through Friday, All Year
9:00am - 5:00pm (Except Federal Holidays)
Saturdays, April through October
9:00am - 1:00pm

YEAR-ROUND INTEREST

Children's Garden, Historic Boxwood and Boxwood Garden, Historic Trees (Black Walnut, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Osage Orange), Wildlife

SPRING

Hellebore, Crocus, Iris, Cornelian Cherry, Daffodil, Hyacinth, Tulip, Mahonia, Magnolia, Wisteria, Creeping Phlox, Pawpaw Tree, Azalea, Japanese Pieris, Daphne, Fothergilla, Rhododendron, Redbud, Parrotia Tree, Dogwood, Crabapple, Black Locust, Mountain Laurel, Fringe Tree, Tulip Tree, Columbine, Rose, Candytuft, Bugleweed

SUMMER

Various Annuals, Knock-out Rose, Southern Magnolia, Iris, Viburnum, Lily, Daylily, Golden Rain Tree, Buckeye, Crepe Myrtle, Hydrangea, Lavender, Coneflower, African Lily, Ornamental Grass, Chaste Tree, Passion Flower, Spirea, Yarrow, Butterfly Bush, Canna Lily, Fuchsia, Hosta, Astilbe, Coral Bells, Garden Phlox, Geranium, Trumpet Vine, Lamb's Ear, Yucca, Japanese Anemone

FALL

Various Annuals, Knock-out Rose, Japanese Anemone, Trumpet Vine, Garden Phlox, Butterfly Bush, False Sunflower, Toad Lily, Autumn Crocus, Fall-blooming Iris, Viburnum (fruit), Aster, Sedum, Dogwood (fruit), Persimmon (fruit), Fall Foliage

WINTER

Pansy, Holly (fruit), Heavenly Bamboo (fruit), Conifer foliage and cones, Persimmon (fruit), Ornamental Grass (dried), Camellia, Witch Hazel, Snowdrop, Crocus, Heath, Dwarf Iris

❖ Colors in the gardens vary from year to year, season to season. The Fragrance Garden mostly features pink, white, and lavender flowers, while America's Front Yard mostly features red, orange, yellow, and deep purple flowers.