



## Welcome to George Washington's River Farm

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 ferry often in his diaries. He purchased the property in 1760 and renamed it River Farm. River Farm was the northern most 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. Malcom Mattheson Sr. eventually bought Wellington in 1919 and turned it into the charming country residence it is today. He put River Farm up for sale in 1971, but was asked by the US 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, AHS relocated its headquarters to the property and named it River Farm in honor of George Washington, one of America's first gardeners and horticulturalists. 🌸

## The Gardens 2008

Open Monday – Friday, 9–5, year-round  
Saturdays, 9–1, April – September

### YEAR-ROUND INTEREST

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

### SPRING

Hellebores, Crocus, Iris, Cornelian Cherry, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips, Mahonia, Magnolia, Wisteria, Creeping Phlox, Pawpaw Tree, Azaleas, Japanese Pieris, Daphne, Fothergilla, Rhododendron, Redbud, Parrotia Tree, Dogwoods, Crabapples, Black Locust, Mountain Laurel, Fringe Tree, Tulip Tree, Columbine, Roses, Candytuft, Bugleweed

### SUMMER

Various Annuals, Knock-out Roses, Southern Magnolia, Iris, Viburnum, Lilies, Daylilies, Golden Rain Tree, Buckeye, Crepe Myrtle, Hydrangeas, Lavender, Coneflowers, African Lilly, Ornamental Grasses, Chaste Tree, Passion Flower, Spirea, Yarrow, Butterfly Bush, Canna Lillies, Fuschia, Hostas, Astilbe, Coral Bells, Garden Phlox, Geranium, Trumpet Vine, Lamb's Ear, Yucca, Japanese Anemone

### FALL

Various Annuals, Knock-out Roses, Japanese Anemone, Trumpet Vine, Garden Phlox, Butterfly Bush, False Sunflower, Toad Lilly, Autumn Crocus, Fall-blooming Iris, Viburnum (fruit), Asters, Sedums, Dogwood (fruit), Persimmon (fruit), Fall Foliage

### WINTER

Pansies, Holly (fruit), Heavenly Bamboo (fruit), Conifer foliage and cones, Persimmon (fruit), Ornamental Grasses (dried), Camellias, Witch Hazel, Snowdrops, 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.*