

Gramercy Park - Update

July 28, 2008

About two months ago, as part of the Gramercy Park Block Association's Annual Neighborhood Clean-up, we planted red, white and orange impatiens in the 41 tree gardens surrounding Gramercy Park.

Although we have had to replace many of the impatiens on two occasions since our original planting, very few remain at this time.

In most of the gardens the squirrels have dug up many or all of the plants. On the west side and south side of the Park the pigeons have eaten almost all of the flowers that remained. In the corners of the gardens on all four sides of the Park dog urine has destroyed the plantings.

The squirrels have also caused extensive damage to the plantings throughout the Park, the sprinkler system, and the benches. We have been told that the feeding of the squirrels and the pigeons by humans interrupts their natural habits and causes them to overpopulate. While people enjoy feeding the wildlife, the effects of this seemingly generous act can be harmful.

We have noticed that the begonias that are planted in the four flower beds inside the Park so far have not been destroyed by the squirrels or pigeons. Next year we may consider planting begonias in the 41 tree gardens outside the Park.

As part of our Neighborhood Clean-up Plan we have also painted the 41 tree garden fences.