

The Garden District

Welcome to the **Garden District!** We are situated in the heart of the historic downtown peninsula. Our boundaries include Calhoun, Mary, East Bay and King Streets. Our neighborhood is a combination of two historic developments of the early 19th century--Wraggborough and Mazyckborough. Early on, the Wragg family dedicated **Wragg Mall and Wragg Square** to the public in a rare progressive move, and provided unique green space for city living.

Although we are surrounded by commercial corridors we thrive as a viable residential neighborhood and are distinctive with our wide tree-lined streets. Our neighborhood is rich in its history having two museum homes - the Joseph Manigault house and the Aiken-Rhett home. We are considered the "neighborhood of parks" including Marion Square, the home of the Farmer's Market. Perhaps our most famous park known by the locals is the **Chapel Street Fountain Park**. Its history is tied to the efforts of Vangie Rainsford, neighborhood president who in 2001 procured the fountain from the city of Charleston's Parks Department. With the help of Mayor Riley, we launched our identity as a neighborhood called the Garden District.



Our latest effort is the establishment of the **Susie Jackson Freedom Memorial Park** on Alexander Street. It begins construction this year to honor one of the Emanuel Nine. Susie was an active member of our neighborhood association and a passionate gardener as well. We look forward to this park becoming one of the integral stops on your walk from the new International African American Museum to the Mother Emanuel Church.

Tucked away behind the commercial corridors our neighborhood thrives. We love being able to walk to attend the symphony and then enjoy a wonderful bite to eat at an Upper King St. restaurant. Priding ourselves on good old-fashioned neighborhood involvement, knowing people on a first-name basis on the street and staying on top of neighborhood needs and concerns is a signature of the Garden District. Our annual Christmas party and oyster roast provide lots of fun and entertainment for our neighborhood association members. Due to COVID-19 many of the recent activities have been curtailed but we stay connected by email, phoning or just meeting on the street.

We have had many firsts with the city of Charleston--working with the city to get the first speed humps installed in the historic district, first dedicated bike lanes in downtown, first 2 hour 24hour residential parking North of Calhoun Street as well as helping to formalize the first "no truck" sign ordinance with a specified fine of \$1087 for violators.

Now developers are putting the final touches on the new Hilton Club Hotel called Liberty Place at the corner of East Bay and Calhoun Street. There will be a garden space designated for the site of the "Liberty Oak" where the "Sons of Liberty" met before the Revolution. Our neighborhood looks forward to getting together with our neighbors and locals at the cozy coffee shop in the hotel in the near future.

Come and join us!