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Contributed by Lin Moeller

THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN—THE PLACE OF IMAGINATION



Each time the Children's Garden Committee meets to do some 'spiffing-up' of it – weeding, clipping, raking, sweeping and watering as needed, the remains of young children's imagination at work can be seen. Stones will be moved to little niches and set up like a camp circle with little twigs, leaves and flower remains in the center; other greenery will be found floating in the fountain water of the alcove; or as pictured, flowers in the hands of the children's sculpture. In the annual garden areas, we will find plants missing or rather crushed by their feet as they play, oblivious of the effect.

The Frances Plate Memorial Children's Garden was created from a legacy she gave to the TCGC with no

stipulation. A committee of members (many of whom are still active in our club) decided on a 'play garden for younger children.' It was twenty years ago this month (July 25, 2001), that the ground-breaking ceremony for this Children's Garden took place with construction beginning a few weeks later. The mother of the young children pictured told us that she had played there as a child just after it opened.

Over the years as the trees, vines, and shrubbery have grown, we as caretakers have changed our plant choices to



ones that do well with partial shade and children's imagination. We

have planted more perennials and colorful coleus and potato vines rather than delicate, flowering annuals, but even with these some seem to disappear between our work visits. Vandalism (unsupervised play of older children!) has also been a problem since its opening.

Changes to the garden have included a new entrance and additional play sculptures. Perhaps twenty years from now the children shown will bring their children to this special place to imagine, learn and play...



(with permission)