

# SCOTT ARBORETUM NORTH

The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College is home to many beautiful gardens, extraordinary trees, and outstanding plant collections. This northern tour of 16 areas, 11 of which have interpretive signs and brochures, offers a wide variety of gardens, courtyards, and specimen trees. The companion tour, Scott Arboretum South, of 9 different areas can be joined to this tour or seen separately. There is something for everyone with plenty of places to sit and soak up the beautiful scenery!

**Theme:** Horticulture

**Amenities:** Campus Views, Gardens, Benches, Interpretive Panels, Kid Friendly, Emergency Phones

**Surface:** Paved, Grass

**Slope:** Mostly Flat

**Hazards:** Wet Grass

**Emergencies:** Use a campus emergency phone (E) or call Public Safety (610) 328-8333

**Difficulty Rating:** No Sweat - I exercise for fun, not to win contests. I like to explore at an easy pace, stopping to snap photos and smell the roses. Varied terrain doesn't scare me, but let's not do anything too extreme.

## Resources shown on the map:

**Benjamin West P & R:** Parking lot with many 3-hour visitor spaces. Public Safety & Visitor Information's restrooms are open 24-hours, 7 days, with a water fountain in the lobby.

**R & E:** Lang Performing Arts Center's restrooms are located in 1st floor entrance area. The Emergency Phone is outside on back of entrance pillar. **P:** The Whittier Lot has limited visitor spaces M-F before 3:30 PM, and in any lot at other times.

**F & R:** The Science Center Coffee Bar, accessed through an entrance door (SC-2) on the left wing, is open every day. A drinking fountain is in the entry hall, while the 1st floor restrooms are down a hallway.

**P:** The Whittier Lot has limited visitor spaces M-F before 3:30PM, and 248 spaces for visitors after 3:30 M-F and all weekend.

**Scott Arboretum P & R:** The parking lot has limited spaces. Scott's Wister Center on the left has restrooms open weekdays with a hallway water fountain. **P:** Street Parking on Elm Avenue.

**P:** Street Parking on Cedar Avenue.

**E:** Emergency Phone

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<https://swarthmoreseniors.com>  
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## Waypoints Shown On The Map:

**1. Scott Arboretum P & R:** The Entrance Garden in front of the Arboretum offices features a blue Atlas cedar, a sweetbay magnolia, and a mixed border. An interpretive panel with brochures is provided, while additional information is available inside during Scott Arboretum office hours. The parking lot has limited spaces. Scott's Wister Center on the left has restrooms open weekdays with a hallway water fountain.

**2. Cherry Border:** With a towering canopy of mature trees, Meetinghouse Woods has an understory of native flowering trees and shrubs. At ground level, there are masses of shade-loving wildflowers and bulbs including trilliums, as well as the yellow *Eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite) that is one of the earliest spring bloomers.

**3. Meetinghouse Woods:** With a towering canopy of mature trees, Meetinghouse Woods has an understory of native flowering trees and shrubs. At ground level, there are masses of shade-loving wildflowers and bulbs including trilliums, as well as the yellow *Eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite) that is one of the earliest spring bloomers.

**4. Lilac Collection:** Dating to 1931, the Lilac Collection was the first collection planted after the 1929 founding of the Scott Arboretum.

**5. Hydrangea Collection:** The collection includes a range of hydrangea cultivars as well as other species that perform well in the Delaware Valley and that bloom from June until fall.

**6. Wood Garden:** Named for the Swarthmore College's head gardener from 1927 to 1958, the Harry Wood Garden was originally designed by William H. Frederick Jr. class of '48. Following the construction of the Science Center, the courtyard garden was redesigned but still includes river birches and arrangements of rocks from the Pocono Mountains.

**7. Glade Garden:** This garden connects the more manicured college landscape to the adjacent Crum Woods. It features a "water stairway" for channeling rainwater, as well as native plantings such as redbuds and deciduous azaleas.

**8. Pollinator Garden:** Pollinator plants that are designed to attract birds, bees, and butterflies are described in an interpretive panel at the garden's entrance. June through August is the best time to experience the luscious blooms and fluttering and buzzing pollinators.

**9. Winter Garden:** Located either side of the stairs, the Winter Garden is of special interest from November until the end of March. Winter jasmine, Chinese fringe flower, and hellebores (Lenten rose) provide stem, leaf, and flower color throughout the winter. Printed

information is available in a small box to the left of the stairs.

**10. Metasequoia Allée:** The formal walkway, framed by dawn redwoods, was designed primarily for fall interest. It is underplanted with flowering shrubs and perennials and has an interpretive panel at Kohlberg Hall's entrance KO-12. At the south end of the allée is a nice shaded sitting area.

**11. Scott Amphitheater:** Design by Landscape Architect Thomas Sears in 1942, the Scott Outdoor Amphitheater hosts each year's college commencement. Tulip poplars provide a canopy for this unique architectural space.

**12. Rhododendron Garden:** John C. Wister, the Scott Arboretum's first director and noted rhododendron and azalea expert, established the hillside Rhododendron Display Garden, whose peak bloom time is mid-May. An interpretive sign with brochures is at the garden's entrance next to the mulched path.

**13. Crosby Courtyard:** This focal garden was built on the site of the old Parrish Annex; the former building's footprint is evident. With a number of sitting places and eclectic groups of trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs, the Isabelle Crosby Courtyard provides a relaxing meeting space or resting spot. An interpretive sign with brochures is at the northeast edge of the courtyard.

**14. Nason Garden:** The John W. Nason Garden was a gift from the class of 1948 to honor John W. Nason, the president of Swarthmore College from 1940 to 1953. It showcases a unique combination of textures, from delicate ornamental grasses to the bold foliage of the Paulownia (princess) and catalpa trees. An interpretive panel with brochures is at the west garden entrance.

**15. Rose Garden:** Originally designed by Gertrude Wister, former assistant director of the Arboretum, and dedicated in 1956, the Dean Bond Rose Garden displays well over 100 examples of roses. Extensively renovated in 2013–15 with many perennials, the garden is in bloom from April until frost. An interpretive panel with brochures is at the main entrance.

**16. Teaching Garden:** Located at the back of the Scott Arboretum offices, the Terry Shane Teaching Garden features an arbor, a pond, and an annual border that is redesigned each season. Named for a founding member of the Associates of the Scott Arboretum, it was dedicated in 1989 as part of the Arboretum's 60th anniversary celebration. An interpretive sign and brochure can be found at the intersection of the College Avenue sidewalk and walkway to the garden.