

TOWN CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Swarthmore is a very special community that is reflected in the many features in the heart of the Borough. Learn about the community's history, civic spirit, educational values, volunteerism, and passion for plants. Since the 1893 incorporation of the Borough and the founding of the local Swarthmorean newspaper, many families have lived here for decades. Notice that there are no "Streets" in Swarthmore; with very few exceptions, the roads are "Avenues," most of which in the central area are named after colleges.

Theme: History, Architecture, Horticulture

Amenities: Gardens, Benches

Surface: Paved, 0.7 miles

Slope: Flat, 13 ft elevation gain

Hazards: Uneven Sidewalks

Emergencies: Call 911

Difficulty Rating: Easy Stroll - I walk infrequently, though I'd like to do more. I want to see new things, but not very far off the beaten (i.e. paved) path. A few rises here or there might be OK, but no steep paths or sidewalks, please.

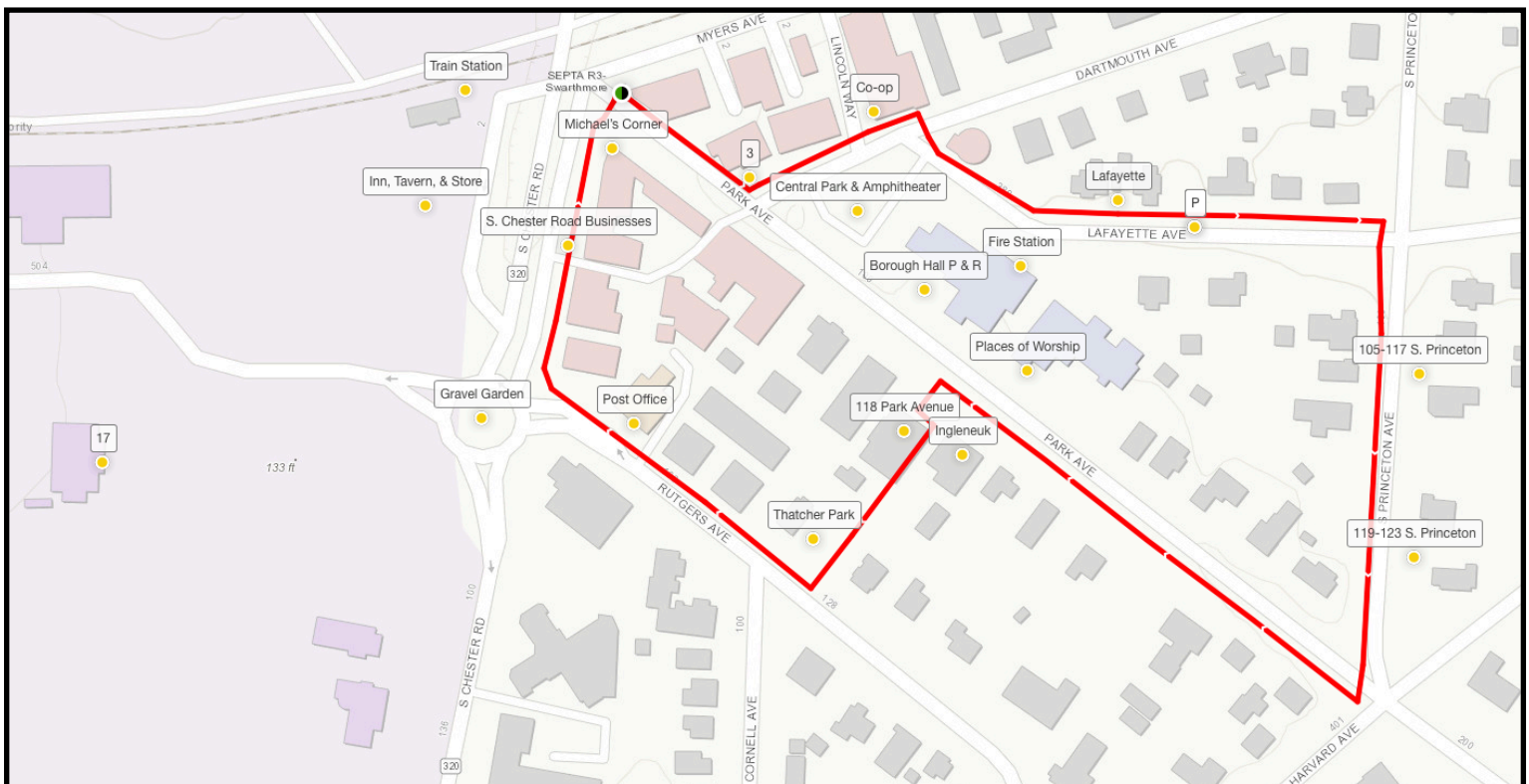
Resource(s) shown on the map:

P: Street parking on Lafayette Avenue, free with a 2-hour limit. Streets further from the Town Center have no daytime limit.

Swarthmore Senior Citizens Assn.

<https://swarthmoreseniors.com>

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Waypoints Shown On The Map:

1. Train Station: The area that includes present-day Swarthmore was originally known as Westdale, which was the name given to the railroad station in the mid-1850s on the Philadelphia to West Chester line. The name reflects the nearby birthplace of the artist Benjamin West, still extant on the Swarthmore College campus. After the founding of the College in 1864, the station took its name in 1870. The current station building was constructed in 1876 and expanded in 1903. The railroad helped accelerate the town's growth at the turn of the 19th century as a college, commuter, and summer resort community. Originally a part of Springfield Township, Pa., Swarthmore was incorporated as a borough in 1893.

2. Michael's Corner: The Tudor style mixed commercial and apartment building that wraps the corner of South Chester Road and Park Avenue was built in 1925-26. The name of the building refers to Michael's College Pharmacy that occupied the corner storefront from 1934 to 2004. With a luncheonette

and soda fountain, was a popular local hangout for many years. Look for the neon sign high on the corner near the eave.

3. Centennial Plaza & War Memorial: Centennial Plaza was the first of several projects funded by the Centennial Foundation in 1993 to mark the Borough's Centennial. Across the street is the War Memorial, erected in 1920. Every Memorial Day, the names of Swarthmoreans killed in action are read, followed by a parade to East Lawn Cemetery at the end of Park Avenue where many of the veterans are buried. The Silver Dollar Band, composed of Swarthmore volunteers, provides music.

4. Central Park and Amphitheater: The Borough's parking lot area is the place where folks of all ages and their pets gather for many special activities such as a charity fair, plant sales, food truck-a-thons, holiday carriage rides, and musical events. Everyone enjoys the Saturday seasonal Farmers Market with live entertainment and a children's activity, as

well as the concerts and performances held in the cozy amphitheater, built in 2016.

5. Co-op: Founded in 1937, the Swarthmore Co-op is the third oldest, community-based food market in the United States. It operated in a former garage from 1937 until 2003 when the building was demolished and the new building was constructed. The garden outside is one of 13 in the Borough planted and maintained by the Swarthmore Horticultural Society.

6. Borough Hall P & R: Swarthmore Borough Hall is the governmental home of Swarthmore with offices, the public library, and the fire station. The library has a full program schedule and has the highest circulation per capita in Delaware County. (Metered parking lot and street parking, free on Saturday and Sunday. Hallway water fountain and restrooms are open during Borough Hall or Library hours seven days. Benches outside.)

7. Fire Station: The Swarthmore Fire and Protective Association was organized in 1893. It once used a 1910 fire bell, now located above the Borough Hall's main entrance. Now the fire station uses a loud foghorn, located on the Swarthmore College campus, to summon volunteers to tell them the whereabouts of a fire or other emergency. On Fourth of July, the volunteers present a dramatic fire prevention demonstration and give rides in a vintage fire truck. Riders are treated to a popsicle at the end of their "tour!"

8. Lafayette: Tea rooms were popular in the early 1900s. Swarthmore's Way Side at 319 Lafayette and the Ingelneuk at 315 Lafayette operated briefly between 1916 and 1918. Farther along the street, the charming Shingle Style houses on three lots were built in 1898-99. One of them has been the home of one family for several generations, starting in 1919 when the current resident's grandparents purchased it. The grandparents were 1909 and 1912 graduates of Swarthmore College; the grandfather served as the Borough manager from 1934 to 1961.

9. 105 - 117 South Princeton Avenue: The Queen Anne houses at 105 and 109 South Princeton were constructed in 1891-92 by the Swarthmore Improvement Company. A turn-of-the-century carriage house can be seen at the end of the driveway between the two houses. In 2015, a lot was subdivided from 109 and a new house, at 117 South Princeton containing many aging-in-place features was constructed for the homeowners who have lived in the neighborhood since 1990. Because almost 90 percent of Swarthmore's buildings were erected by 1930, building lots are rare.

10. South Princeton: At the turn of the last century, Swarthmore's developers and Swarthmore College presidents chose to make their homes in Swarthmore. With a dramatic porte cochere, 119 South Princeton was built about 1890 as the home of Edward Hicks Magill, second president of Swarthmore College, who served from 1870-1889. Number 123 was built in 1885 by J. Simmons Kent, president of both the Swarthmore Improvement Company and the Swarthmore Construction Company. The large Romanesque-styled house has a bold, stone corner turret that originally was capped by a domed roof.

11. Places of Worship: Religious denominations were established over the years: Swarthmore Friends Meeting in 1879; Trinity Episcopal Church in 1894; Swarthmore Presbyterian Church in 1895; First Church of Christ, Scientist in 1918; and Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1922. The oldest part of the Swarthmore United Methodist Church building on Park Avenue dates from 1893. Finding that the Gothic Revival sanctuary was too small for their flourishing congregation, a larger sanctuary wing was added in 1925.

12. Ingelneuk: 120 Park Avenue, now a private residence, was the site of the Ingelneuk Tea Room from 1918 to 2000. The

restaurant was first established by the Kurtzthalz family in 1916 at 315 Lafayette Avenue, now also a private residence. Famous for its butterscotch rolls, the Ingelneuk employed many locals and students, most notable being author James A. Michener, Swarthmore College class of 1929. After suffering a major fire in 2000, the building was restored to its original 1905 Queen Anne Shingle Style. *Ingelneuk* is the Scottish spelling of *Inglenook*.

13. 118 Park Avenue. Designed by William Cyril Stanton in the Mission Style in 1908, this building was the former home of the Swarthmore Woman's Club. The Woman's Club was organized in 1898 and was important in the establishment of many current Borough organizations. Today's Swarthmore Garden Club grew out of the its popular annual fall flower shows, while the Players Club of Swarthmore formed in 1911 after a performance on the Woman's Club stage. Sold in 1990, the building now houses the Swarthmore Ballet Theatre. To walk from here to Thatcher Park, take the sidewalk toward the ballet school, and follow it around the left side of the building.

14. Thatcher Park: Swarthmore attracts families who wish to raise children in a supportive community with an excellent public school system and recreational opportunities. Established in 1940, the Swarthmore Recreation Association provides a variety of programs for all ages and a summer day camp in the town. Parks include Little Crum Creek Park, which has a Storybook Walk, and this preschool park that was acquired in 1970 and developed as a tot lot in 1987.

15. Post Office: Frequented by residents, the Post Office lobby features a 1937 wood relief carving, "The Spirit of the Post," by Milton Horn and commissioned by the U.S. Treasury's Section of the Fine Arts during the Depression. Outside is "Alex's Garden," created by the Swarthmore Horticultural Society and named for a well-loved postal window clerk.

16. Gravel Garden: Installed in 2017, the roundabout features a colorful mix of tough plant species planted in an unusual gravel mix. The low-maintenance plants are placed in a naturalistic design and maintained by the College's Scott Arboretum.

17 Swarthmore College Barn: A reminder of Swarthmore's farming beginnings, the barn was built in 1879 as part of the College's fully operational farm so that the students might have "the advantages of healthful country living." Produce from the farm fed the early student body, and there is an original tenant house still in use on Field House Lane.

18. South Chester Road Businesses: The Beaux Arts Shiner building with swag ornamentation at the cornice was built in two sections: one in 1902, the other about 1922. At the ends of block are two 1926 buildings: at the south end, a grand Italian Renaissance bank building; at the north end, a Tudor Style structure with storefronts and apartments. A hardware store has continuously occupied one of the stores. Now known simply as Charlie's, the proprietor has owned or worked at the store since 1970. Here, locals can find help with items for house and yard, repairs, and advice.

19. Inn, Tavern and Store: It took more than 20 years in planning, but finally the Town Center West building opened in 2016. The multiuse building symbolizes the growing physical and social links between the Borough and the College. It is also reflected in the bookstore's name, the Campus and Community Store. The Inn at Swarthmore features alumni art in the public spaces and student art in all the hotel rooms. The bar at the Broad Table Tavern required a special ballot referendum because Swarthmore was a dry town until it passed in 2017.

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