

# NORTH CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Bring your friends and visitors to see these focal buildings and gardens! Learn a bit of Swarthmore College history, stop to see an art gallery, and have something to eat along this easy, short route. If you are lucky, you may pass the Swarthmore Friends Nursery School preschool children playing outside the Meetinghouse.

**Themes:** History, Horticulture

**Amenities:** Campus Views, Gardens, Benches, Emergency Phones

**Surface:** Paved, Grass; 1.1 miles long

**Elevation:** Mostly Flat, Inclines; 30 ft elevation gain.

**Hazards:** Wet Grass, Uneven sidewalks

**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.

**Resource(s) shown on the map:**

**F & R:** Kolhberg Coffee Bar is open weekdays with 1st floor restrooms and drinking fountain down the hallway.

**P:** Street parking on Elm Avenue.

**P:** Street Parking on east side of Cedar Lane.

**E:** Emergency phones (3 are shown)

Swarthmore Senior Citizens Assn.

<https://swarthmoreseniors.com>

7/23/2020



Swarthmore Senior Citizens Assn.; <https://swarthmoreseniors.com>; 7/22/20

Feedback/corrections to [SwarthmoreTrails@gmail.com](mailto:SwarthmoreTrails@gmail.com)

## Waypoints shown on the map:

- 1. President's House:** This grand three-story stone mansion designed in the Second Empire style in 1879 served as a sample house for the West Hill Land Development Company that built many of the houses in this area of Swarthmore. It has been the home of the president of Swarthmore College since 1909. Its official name is the Courtney Smith House after the ninth president of the College (1953–1969).
- 2. Cherry Border:** Beginning in 1931 with the first flowering cherry tree, this stunning Scott Arboretum collection includes sweeps of bulbs, hostas, daylilies, and groundcovers that offer interest throughout spring and summer. There is an interpretive panel near the Cedar Avenue end of the walkway to the Meetinghouse.
- 3. Friends Meetinghouse:** The Swarthmore Friends Meetinghouse was built in 1879 with funds provided by Philadelphia financier Joseph Wharton, who also funded a large north addition designed by renowned Rose Valley architect William Lightfoot Price. In the first decades of the College, students were required to attend daily worship. Now, it is the community home of an active Quaker Meeting and the Swarthmore Friends Nursery School.
- 4. Lilacs:** Lilac Collection. Dating to 1931, the Lilac Collection was the first collection planted after the 1929 founding of the Scott Arboretum that encompasses the entire campus. The Arboretum was named after Arthur Hoyt Scott, class of 1891. He was the second president of Scott Paper Company.
- 5. Nason Garden:** Named for the president of Swarthmore College from 1940 to 1953, the John W. Nason Garden 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.
- 6. Metasequoia Allée:** This formal walkway is between Kohlberg Hall and the Lang Performing Arts Center. Framed by dawn redwoods, it 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.
- 7. List Gallery R & E:** Open Tuesday through Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm when the College is in session, the List Gallery in the Lang Performing Arts Center presents several changing exhibits a year. (Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located in first floor entrance area of Lang; an emergency phone is outside on the back of Lang's entrance pillar.)
- 8. Crosby Courtyard:** Isabelle Cosby 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, this courtyard provides a relaxing meeting space or resting spot. An interpretive sign with brochures is at the northeast edge of the courtyard.
- 9. Amphitheater Overlook:** Designed by noted Landscape Architect Thomas Sears, the 1942 Scott Amphitheater can be seen below. Under a mature tulip poplar and white oak canopy, this memorable space plays host to approximately 350 graduating seniors as well as their guests for the annual College Commencement. There is an interpretive panel at the overlook.
- 10. Fragrance Garden & Bell Tower:** Designed in 1929 in the Gothic Revival style, Clothier Hall was named for the merchant of Strawbridge & Clothier fame. Look up into the charming bell tower, then enter the Medieval Cloister courtyard with its fragrant flowers, shrubs, perennials, and welcoming benches.
- 11. Parish Hall R:** Swarthmore College was established by Quakers in 1864 and is now non-sectarian. The first campus building, dating from 1868, Parrish Hall suffered major fire damage in 1881, and was subsequently rebuilt. Parrish's front porch is a wonderful sheltered place to sit and enjoy the campus views. (Restrooms are on the first floor main hallway with ramp access on east end.)
- 12. Magill Walk:** Named for the second president of the College, this imposing axial walk connects the train station to Parrish Hall. Several of the Swamp White Oaks planted in 1881 to line the 1869 original boardwalk still survive. Younger trees continue the tradition of the allée, but with the added spring interest of thousands of daffodils. There are interpretive panels at both ends of the walk.
- 13. Rose Garden:** The Dean Bond Rose Garden displays well over 100 examples of roses as well as many perennials. Each year, graduating seniors choose a rose from the garden to pin on their commencement gown. The garden's ornamental gates were designed by artists Greg and Lydia Leavitt. Josephine's Gate, at the main entrance near the interpretive panel, features roses, lilies, and inscribed message on a large leaf "Enjoy Playing in the Dirt".
- 14. 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. There is a shaded sitting area with a cat and urn sculpture that provides the magical sound of trickling water. An interpretive sign and brochure can be found at the intersection of the College Avenue sidewalk and walkway to the garden.
- 15. 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. The offices are in the former 1889 home of Susan Cunningham, a professor of astronomy from 1869 to 1921. The observatory telescope domes, added in 1892 and used as the College's observatory for many years, can be seen today. (The parking lot has limited spaces. Scott's Wister Center has restrooms open weekdays with a hallway water fountain.)