

## WHERE TO SEE TREES IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

### SOME PLACES TO VISIT

#### **CHANTICLEER GARDEN, 786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19087**

Chanticleer is large garden with impeccable design, but it feels personal from the start. It describes itself as a “pleasure garden” and its 35 acres, divided into 14 “garden rooms,” which fit around the impressive trees and lawns, are dotted with various types of seating, most of which is crafted on site. The classic Adirondack chairs come in all colours and patterns (including leopard skin). It is a place for picnics and contemplation, wandering and discoveries. For gardeners, it is a total inspiration.

These are the grounds of what was the summer estate of the Rosengarten family, who were big in pharmaceuticals in the early 1900s. They built the house, which is a mash-up between French and English styles, in 1913, naming it after the Chanticleer estate in Thackeray’s 1855 novel *The Newcomes*. Homes for their children were built nearby. It was their son Adolph Rosengarten Jr who stipulated that it become a public garden, opening in 1993. There is a strong educational thread and, throughout, there are highly imaginative and artistic touches.

The garden has evolved greatly since the death of the owner in 1990. As the home of the Rosengartens, Chanticleer was beautiful and green with impressive trees and lawns. Most of the floral and garden development you see today has occurred since 1990, designed by Chanticleer staff and consultants.

We strive to improve our environmental impact. We reuse, recycle, and compost. Solar panels produce 20% of our electricity. Cisterns capture approximately 50,000 gallons of rain water for irrigation and recharge. Integrated pest management keeps pesticide usage low. Healthy soil makes for healthy plants; we have fertilized our lawns organically for over a decade. Meadows and sedges replace some lawn areas and we are eliminating invasive exotics. Since 1990, we’ve planted hundreds of trees here and along local streets. Furniture is now made from wood cut on the property or with reused wood.

#### **FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM, 353 E. Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960**

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum features diverse tree collections, showcased in themed gardens and throughout the property, to provide shade, beauty, and interest year-round.

The Pinetum houses a variety of conifers, such as Dawn Redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), Plum Yews (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*), and various Pines and Spruces. A dedicated lawn features a diverse collection of Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*), highlighting their varied sizes, leaf shapes, and growth habits.

The Arboretum has a worldwide collection of oaks, offering diverse specimens to admire. You can find collections of Magnolias and Cherries throughout the arboretum, providing spectacular floral displays in spring. Both native (*Cornus florida*) and ornamental Kousa Dogwoods (*Cornus kousa*) are on display, offering beautiful white or pink flowers.

The Arboretum is home to several notable Champion Trees, such as a Blue Atlas Cedar and a Yoshino Cherry, recognized for their exceptional size and significance.

### **LONGWOOD GARDENS, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348**

Trees are firmly rooted in the history of Longwood Gardens, anchoring past to present and connecting nature with people across generations. Many of the trees on Longwood's property date back more than 200 years, including some notable specimens brought to the property in the late 1700s by early plant explorers Joshua and Samuel Peirce. In 1906, Pierre S. du Pont purchased the property to save the old growth native forests and the collection of historic trees the Pierce family had carefully curated from being turned into lumber. Fast forward to today and the care and conservation of trees continues to remain a priority at the display garden

Longwood's Level IV Accreditation, the highest level awarded by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum, has been renewed, affirming the importance Longwood Gardens places on supporting tree conservation. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. Level IV accreditation requires employment of well-qualified tree scientists engaged in publishing sophisticated research, management of living tree collections for the purpose of conservation, and that the arboretum takes an active role in supporting tree conservation. There are 39 arboreta worldwide that have achieved this recognition. Longwood first received Level IV accreditation in 2015.

"Conservation is at the forefront of our minds when caring for our trees," says Kate Santos, Director of Science. "We've initiated a multi-pronged approach to safeguard these magnificent trees and our tactics evolve as the needs of the trees do. Our current research is focused on identifying the best strategies to manage invasive species, increase biodiversity, and strengthen the climate resiliency in our historic woodlands." Caring for the more than 1,100 types of trees that call Longwood home depends on efforts from staff across departments. Detailed management plans ensure the long-term perpetuity of tree collections, while regular assessments and maintenance by arborists keep trees in top shape.

In 2008, Longwood developed a tree management plan to guide the care of historical trees and then added climate change modeling to the plan in 2013 to help make informed decisions when selecting trees for new plantings or replacements. Through the Specimen Tree Replacement Plan, Longwood preserves the germplasm, or genetics, of certain trees — original trees dating back to the 1800s, state champion trees, and those valuable to the aesthetic landscape of the Gardens. By propagating and cloning those trees, Longwood creates genetically identical specimens that ensure the best traits endure for centuries to come. Examples of these trees are Longwood's historic yellow cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata* var. *subcordata* 'Peirce's Park') and Ginkgo biloba.

Recently, the Arborists team began assessing the health of the trees across Longwood Gardens using sonic tomography which provides them with two-and three-dimensional images to determine whether there are any cavities in the tree. "Our trees are vital to our ecosystem, our history, and our plant research," Santos added. "We go to great lengths to ensure our trees remain central to the beauty of Longwood for generations to come."

Plus, Longwood has the most reported champion trees in the state of Pennsylvania—a towering 63 Pennsylvania champion trees, those specimens of a particular species or variety that are the largest recorded.

**NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458**

Wherever you stand in The New York Botanical Garden, you are within sight of a magnificent tree. Founding director Nathaniel Lord Britton selected the Garden's site largely because of the 50-acre old-growth forest at its heart, and the ancient oaks, tulip trees, sweetgums, maples, and other native trees that shaded the fields and pastures that surrounded the forest. When developing NYBG's plant collections, pathways, and buildings, he insisted that none of these grand old trees be cut down and that every effort be made to protect them from construction damage.

Joining these pre-existing native trees are thousands of trees from around the world that form NYBG's curated tree collections. The planting of rare and unusual trees to serve the Garden's education and research programs began in the late 1890s and continues to this day. Pines from China, oaks from Europe, and maples from Japan come along with native trees to create what is truly a dendrophile's delight.

We plant hundreds of new trees every year in the Thain Family Forest, in our historic woody plant collections, and in our gardens and displays. These trees do more than just serve the Garden's mission as a museum of plants. They fix carbon, filter storm water, produce oxygen, and remove pollutants from the air and soil. Planting new trees ensures that future generations will always have the opportunity to mark the arrival of spring with their favorite magnolia, rest in the shade on a summer's day, or marvel at the polychromatic riot of the Forest in fall.

**WAVE HILL, 4900 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471 (West 249<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue)**

Wave Hill is a 28-acre estate in the Hudson Hill section of Riverdale in the Bronx, New York City. Wave Hill currently consists of public horticultural gardens and a cultural center, all situated on the slopes overlooking the Hudson River, with expansive views across the river to the New Jersey Palisades. Wave Hill's gardens include some of the largest and most unusual trees in all of New York City. A few even predate the establishment of Wave Hill as an estate in the 1840s.

There are many European beech trees throughout Wave Hill. Some of them were planted in the late 1800s or early 1900s when Wave Hill was still a private family-owned estate. Today, these giant trees receive resiliency care to bolster their immunity against a portfolio of diseases and pests. The largest of the European beeches is a copper form in front of Glyndor Galley.

Seemingly tucked behind the Glyndor Gallery, on a steep woodland hill, lies a massive red oak tree. This red oak may be the oldest tree at Wave Hill. The main branches stretch out

quite gracefully despite their huge size. They spread horizontally, a sign that this tree has seldom had to stretch up and over other trees for sunlight.

A dawn redwood welcomes visitors as they first arrive at Wave Hill's Glyndor Gallery. Although it is a conifer, the dawn redwood is deciduous, meaning that its soft green needles change to a coppery brown color in autumn and eventually fall to the ground. This tree's reddish bark and angular branches make it striking in winter.

Sugar maples have slender upright branches and a sturdy trunk with bark that peels outward as if the whole tree is at the mercy of tension. You won't find the plated bark on young trees, as it develops with age. The limbs of our sugar maple, an old and venerable one, punctuate the view and offer support for our annual Junior Arborist event during Arbor Weekend, when children are hoisted up into the tree.

This lacebark pine is planted along a shady gravel path that allows visitors to inspect its intriguing characteristics up close. As the lacebark name implies, this conifer features interesting bark texture. As the tree grows, jigsaw puzzle-shaped pieces peel away, exposing a paint scene composed of green, yellow, purple and grey. This marvelous specimen is quite large for such a slow-growing species. Its multiple trunks divide into twisting branches that spread wide over the landscape.

Wave Hill's elm is one of the oldest American elms in New York City, and it is precious to the gardens. We actively manage Dutch elm disease annually, sometimes having to surgically remove branches infected with the disease's tell-tale wilt symptoms. With careful attention, the tree should be able to survive and hopefully thrive for many years to come.

The Shade Border at Wave Hill is one of the newest garden areas at Wave Hill, created a couple of decades ago when there were towering beech and oak trees to shade out the area. A black tupelo was included as a bookend to the Shade Border. Its prostrate, low-growing habit marries the Shade Border with the hillside. Tupelos have deep-green, glossy leaves in the summer, which turn in autumn to colors of blazing oranges, scarlet reds, and even deep purples.

Wave Hill's Conifer Slope rests on the north side of Wave Hill House, along the property line. Placement of this sloping garden is an addition to the already present line of Norway spruce trees (*Picea abies*) planted by the Perkins family estate as a way to block the view of neighboring properties. (The Perkins family, the last private owners of the property, donated it to New York City in 1960.) Today, this Conifer Slope collection includes many unique specimens that showcase the diversity and beauty of this plant group. Our giant sequoia has blue-gray needles and is slightly more adaptable to our local climate.

Researched and compiled from the Gardens websites by Jan Godek