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ARBORETUM & GARDENS

Morris Arboretum of the University...

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MORRIS ARBORETUM & GARDENS

100 E NORTHWESTERN AVENUE

Overview:

Morris Arboretum & Gardens is Penn's own Arboretum located in Chestnut Hill. It hosts over 92 acres of gardens and hosts tours throughout the day. The arboretum offers events throughout the year that students can attend.

Transportation:

For the tour, a bus will come to pick up students and then they will walk around the arboretum. For normal visits, there is a shuttle that runs every Sunday from Penn's campus to Morris Arboretum & Gardens.

Visitor Center and Gift Shop

Right at the entrance of the arboretum is the visitor center and gift shop. Go in to learn more about the garden, grab a map. You can also visit the cafe which has a wide selection of food.

2 Pennock Flower Walk

Entering the arbotreum, you get onto a flower walk. These flower borders have been designed to evoke the flavor of the formal borders that the Morrises had on this hillside. The original double borders provided an entrance from the Mansion and led down the hill from the Orange Balustrade into the garden. The current design includes a diversity of textures and colors and uses a variety of perennials, annuals, and woody plants to achieve its bold display

3 Garden Railway

With a changing theme each year, the Garden Railway is a miniature world set in the splendor of a summer garden, featuring historic buildings created entirely of natural materials, each meticulously detailed with leaves, bark, vines and twigs. Logs and branches are also used to create unique tunnels and overhead trestles. Among this railway, look for miniatures of famous buildings and maybe even some from campus!

4 Japanese Hill and Water Garden

Built in 1905 by Mr. Muto, this Hill Garden or Tsukiyamaniwa was made from soil excavated in the creation of the Swan Pond. Each element has a symbolic meaning and their arrangement suggests a more expansive, natural landscape. Many of these original specimens have matured and provide a tranquil space within the Arboretum. Japanese Gardens, and Asian features in general, were placed throughout the garden between 1889 and 1912.

5 Swan Pond

Right after, the Japanese Hill and Water Garden, you come upon a gazebo and a small pond. Look for the beautiful swans and ducks that live in the pond.

6 English Park

Work began on English Park around 1912. John Morris filled it mainly with plants collected in China. In keeping with English tradition, this park provides light, open views of the entire area. After years of decline culminating in an overgrown landscape in the 1960s and 1970s, these views and open spaces have been restored. The English Park contains significant collections of maples, witchhazels, dogwoods, cherries, and stewartias.

7 Sculpture Garden

Around the garden, there are many famous sculptures and sights to see. Specifically see an old exhibit here called "the waltz in the woods". It is a beautiful, branched sculpture that you can walk inside and interact with.

8 Rose Garden

The Rose Garden, created in 1888, is one of the oldest features of the estate and was originally a flower garden with a marble fountain as a central feature, with four quadrants containing boxed-edged walks in between. The summer house and Italianate balustrades were added 20 years later.

For more information and places to see visit https://morrisarboretum.org/index.shtml

