

# PENN TRACKS

## FAIRMOUNT PARK

### Overview:

Come see Philadelphia's largest park, which hosts historical monuments, sculptures, several museums, walking trails, and city-line views. Lots of Penn students come here to host socials, hangout, or go to one of the many attractions.

### Transportation:

To get to Fairmount: Go to the bus pickup at Spruce and 34th street, take bus 40 and get off at 41st and Parkside Avenue.

### 1 Smith Memorial Arch *Avenue of the Republic*

Smith Memorial Arch, at South Concourse and Lansdowne Drive in Philadelphia, is a Civil War monument and gateway to West Fairmount Park. Built on the 1876 Centennial Exposition grounds, it was funded by Richard Smith to honor Pennsylvania's Civil War heroes. The memorial features nine busts, three figures, and two equestrians by various artists.

### 2 Please Touch Museum *4231 Avenue of the Republic*

The Please Touch Museum is a children's museum that focuses on teaching through interactive exhibits with three interconnected zones: a shopping market, a home and industrial kitchen, and a neighborhood festival area.

### 3 Shofuso Japanese House and Garden *Lansdowne Dr &, Horticultural Dr*

Shofuso is a 1.2-acre Japanese garden that was announced as the third-best Japanese garden in North America by Sukiya Living. This historic site and museum includes a hill and pond garden with a tiered waterfall, island, and koi fish, a tea garden, traditional tea house, and bathhouse

### 4 Pavilion in the Trees *Lansdowne Dr*

Martin Puryear's Pavilion in the Trees is located near the Horticulture Center in West Fairmount Park. The original model included a steep set of stairs, but the artist decided to substitute a sloping ramp for aesthetic and safety reasons. This tree-house like structure offered park-goers a quiet place to reflect and relax ever since it was installed in 1993

### 5 Fairmount Park Horticulture Center *100 N Horticultural Dr*

The Horticulture Center, built in 1979 in West Fairmount Park, features a modern exhibition hall and greenhouse on the site of the 1876 Centennial Exposition. Open daily, it includes a historic arboretum, display gardens, a reflecting pool, and indoor and outdoor spaces.

### 6 Centennial Arboretum *Montgomery Dr*

Centennial Arboretum is located at the Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park, at the southeast corner of Belmont and Montgomery Drives. The arboretum contains specimen trees and shrubs from Asia, Europe, and North America. The arboretum also hosts Philly's annual Cherry Blossom Festival in April.

### 7 Belmont Plateau *1800 Belmont Mansion Dr*

Belmont Plateau offers one of the best views of the Philly skyline. It's perfect for picnics with friends, featuring picnic tables, baseball fields, and proximity to West Fairmount Park attractions like Shofuso Japanese House and Please Touch Museum. Trails: 12+ miles, natural surface.

### 8 Ohio House *4700 States Dr*

The Ohio House, built from Ohio sandstones for the 1876 Centennial Exposition, is a Victorian Gothic structure and one of only two surviving buildings from the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.

### 9 Stone Gazebo *Avenue of the Republic*

The Stone Gazebo is the best place to relax and is located at the apex of a path of Cherry Blossoms. The gazebo has been around since the Centennial World's Fair May 10, 1876 it is still in standing condition.

### Of Additional Interest

#### A Philadelphia Zoo *3400 W Girard Ave*

The Philadelphia Zoo, the US's first zoo and a leading conservation organization, is home to nearly 1,300 animals and historic architecture. Chartered in 1859 but delayed by the Civil War, it spans 42 acres of Victorian gardens with tree-lined walks, formal shrubbery, and animal sculptures.

#### B Boathouse Row *1 Boathouse Row*

Between Kelly Drive and the Schuylkill River, Boathouse Row features Lloyd Hall and historic rowing clubs, all part of the Schuylkill Navy, America's oldest amateur athletic governing body. It hosts the Stotesbury Regatta, Schuylkill Navy Regatta, Philadelphia Youth Regatta, and Dad Vail.

#### C Azalea Garden behind the PMA *Kelly Drive (at Waterworks Drive)*

Located on the grounds of Philadelphia's Museum of Art, the Azalea Garden has over four acres of beautiful plants and flowers, and is just a short stroll away from the Water Works.

#### D Eastern State Penitentiary *2027 Fairmount Ave*

Once the world's most famous and expensive prison, Eastern State Penitentiary now attracts paranormal enthusiasts. Its vaulted, sky-lit cells housed notorious criminals like "Slick Willie" Sutton and "Scarface" Al Capone.

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# FUN FACTS

## NSOAI Events Planning Track '24

Fairmount Park, Philadelphia's oldest park, stretches across 2,052 acres bordering the Schuylkill River.

Fairmount Park boasts a significant array of public art, largely curated by the Association for Public Art, formerly known as the Fairmount Park Art Association. Established in 1872, this nonprofit was dedicated to enhancing the park's landscape with outdoor sculptures.

The park was the location of the 1876 Centennial Exposition and the United States' first zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo. In recognition of its historical significance, the park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



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