

# Taylor Memorial Arboretum

## at Widener University



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### A Brief History of Taylor Memorial Arboretum

The site of the Arboretum was once part of a thousand-acre land grant sold to John Sharpless by William Penn in 1682. Sharpless descendants operated saw, grist, cotton and dyewood mills here for nearly two hundred years.

Taylor Memorial Arboretum was established in 1931 by a Chester lawyer, Joshua C. Taylor (1873-1946), in memory of his wife, Anne Rulon Gray. An early proponent of conservation, Taylor dedicated the Arboretum to promote the "health, enjoyment and education of the public in perpetuity."

To ensure that his conservation efforts would continue, Joshua Taylor created the Taylor Foundation and in 1951, under the management of The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, the arboretum was opened to the public. Located on 30 acres along Ridley Creek, the Arboretum is a sanctuary for plants and animals. It also provides environmental education opportunities, as well as a peaceful setting where visitors can leisurely explore and enjoy nature first-hand.

Most of the ornamental specimens you see here were planted between 1950 and 1960. Presently the grounds are being managed to maintain the health of the original plantings and to increase the number of plants native to the region. Progress is also being made in the reduction of invasive plants.

Several areas of the Arboretum are maintained as specific wildlife habitats. The engaging behaviors of the birds and animals associated with these distinct ecological communities may be witnessed by the quiet and observant visitor. Please enjoy these grounds of contemplation. Study and wonder in the manner of which they were put in trust. Please be aware that you are in a natural sanctuary and we kindly ask you to respect it as so.

Thank you for visiting The Taylor Memorial Arboretum. We hope you enjoyed your visit and welcome your comments on how to make the experience more enlightening. If you have any questions stop in at the Visitor's Center and talk with the guard or manager.

Project Manager Thomas Kirk  
Art Director Craig Burlew

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