**An Enduring Tradition of Stewardship**

Tyler Arboretum is one of the oldest and largest arboreta in the northeastern United States. Built on property purchased in 1861 from William Penn by Thomas Minshull, an English Quaker, the property was owned by eight generations of the Minshull, Painter, and Tyler families through 1944. As a prosperous working farm, the 650-acre property once counted four homesteads, three of which can be found as ruins on the trails. The Home Farm forms the historic core of the Arboretum today. In the 1820s, Jacob and Minshull Painter (Thomas Minshull’s great, great, great grandsons), planted thousands of trees, some of which survive today and are marked with blue tags. Their collection became known locally as the Painter Arboretum. John J. Tyler (a direct descendant of Thomas Minshull), and his wife, Laura, bequeathed the property to a Board of Trustees established to direct and oversee the land as a public garden. Dr. John Casper Wister, Tyler Arboretum’s first director, laid out the extensive trails system and built upon the Painter legacy by creating extensive collections of conifers, magnolias, lilacs, hollies, and rhododendrons.

Today, the trails are managed by our Natural Lands Committee, a volunteer corps dedicated to the stewardship of the 550 acres outside the deer enclosure fence. Tyler’s trails wander through stunning landscapes and diverse environments, including a pond and streams, meadows, woodlands, and rare ecosystems, such as the Pink Hill Serpentine Barren. Each trail connects to the Scenic Loop, a 1.2 mile loop through the Pinetum and meadows, and is clearly blazed for easy wayfinding. Several trails interconnect. Feel free to explore. Seventeen miles of trails await your discovery.

**Trail blazes**

Each trail is blazed in a color that matches the color of the trail on the map. Trail blazes appear on the trunks of trees as painted vertical rectangles. All trail blazes indicate the direction of travel.

**Safety on the trails**

Our trails can be uneven, as well as slippery in wet conditions. Please wear your map, particularly when crossing streams, dress for the weather, and wear appropriate footwear. In warmer weather, bug spray may be useful. Parents, guardians, and teachers are urged to keep a close eye on small children while near the ponds and streams. The terrain away from the trails can be steep, rocky, and uneven; for your safety, and to help protect our fragile plants, flowers, and ecosystems, please remain on the trail.

**How to read trail blazes at Tyler**

- **Trail gone straight**
- **Trail goes left**
- **Trail turns right**

**Trail etiquette**

- Please do not climb the trees. Many of our trees are old or have lightning conductors.
- Please leave sticks, nuts, leaves, seeds, mushrooms, insects, bones, birds, bird eggs, skins, reptiles, and feathers, flowers and all plants where you find them.
- Stay on the designated paths and trails.
- Help protect our plants and trees from hungry deer by making sure all gates on the trails are closed and latch behind you.
- Please dispose of trash in the containers at the Visitor Center, or take your trash home. Trash on the trails is ugly and can be dangerous or lethal to wildlife.
- Thank you for not bringing alcohol into Tyler Arboretum’s grounds.
- Pets, other than service animals, are not permitted. Please leave dogs at home.
- Please leave bicycles, motorcycles, horses, and all-terrain vehicles at home.
- Thank you for not smoking while visiting.

**General information**

For emergency assistance please call 610-566-9134, ext. 212.

**Hours**

- March - October: Monday - Friday 9 am – 5 pm
- November - February: Monday - Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Please call the Tyler Arboretum at 610-566-9134 for hours of operation during the holidays.

**Directions**

- 610-566-9134   |   tylerarboretum.org
- 515 Painter Road, Media PA, 19063
- For more information, visit www.dvoa.org.
- The Delaware Valley Orienteering Association.
- Tyler Arboretum is located on Route 372 just north of Route 70 in Media, Pennsylvania.

**Cover image courtesy of David Charlton.**

**Rocky Run Trail (blue blazes)**

**Minshall Trail (white blazes)**

**Dismal Run Trail (orange blazes)**

**Pink Hill Trail (pink blazes)**

**Middle Farm Trail (yellow blazes)**

**Gate 1.** 2.9 miles, approximately 1 hour. A gentle, family-friendly trail ideal for a gentle meander and a chance to watch butterflies and birds.

**Gate 2.** 7.4 miles, approximately 4 hours. Our longest and most secluded trail, featuring historic ruins.

Running through most of our 650 acres, the Minshall trail is a secluded hike featuring diverse ecosystems and historic ruins. Named for the Minshulls who bought this land from William Penn in 1681, this trail crosses Painter and Barren Roads and passes the ruins of the South Farm barn. The purple-blazed connector trail saves 2 miles and an hour’s hike.

**Gate 3.** 1.4 miles, approximately 45 minutes. Our shortest and most family-friendly trail, offering expansive meadow views.

Our shortest hike offers family-friendly walking and views of our seasonally flowering meadows. With a gentle hill and a short, simple loop, this trail is ideal for families with young children, while offering several places along the route at which to pause and enjoy a quiet moment of peace and personal serenity.

**Gate 4.** 2.2 miles, approximately 1 hour, 50 minutes. Our most challenging trail, featuring stream crossings and great views.

Named for the brothers who owned this land in the mid-1800s and who planted over one thousand species of trees and shrubs, the Painter Trail is a challenging hike that offers memorable views of the Arboretum and Rocky Run. This trail abounds with seasonal color; passes through woodlands and meadows, and includes two easy stream crossings.

Please note: All hiking times and distances are from the trail heads located at the gate in the deer exclusion fence.
Blaze | Trail or path name | Gate # | Distance | Walking time | Trail description
---|-------------------|--------|----------|--------------|---------------------------------|
Rocky Run Trail | 1 | 2 miles | 1 hour | Family friendly, stream cascades, butterflies and birds |
Minshall Trail | 2 | 7.9 miles | 4 hours |
Middle Farm Trail | 3 | 1.5 miles | 45 minutes |
Painter Trail | 4 | 2.3 miles | 1 hour, 20 minutes |
Dismal Run Trail | 6 | 1.9 miles | 1 hour, 10 minutes |
Pink Hill Trail | 7 | 1.7 miles | 1 hour |
Scenic Loop (paved) | NA | 1.3 miles | 35 minutes |
Connector trails | NA | Various | Various |

Magnetic North
SCALE 1: 7,000
Contour interval
5 meters/16 feet

Please respect our neighbors' privacy.

Entrance detail