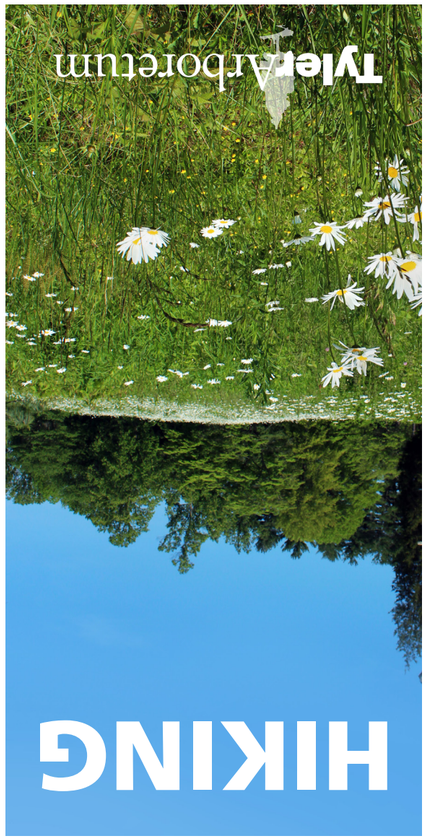


Tyler Arboretum

515 Painter Road, Media PA, 19063
610-566-9134 | tylerarboretum.org

General information is available at the Visitor Center.

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

Our hours change per season. Please visit our website to see current hours www.tylerarboretum.org

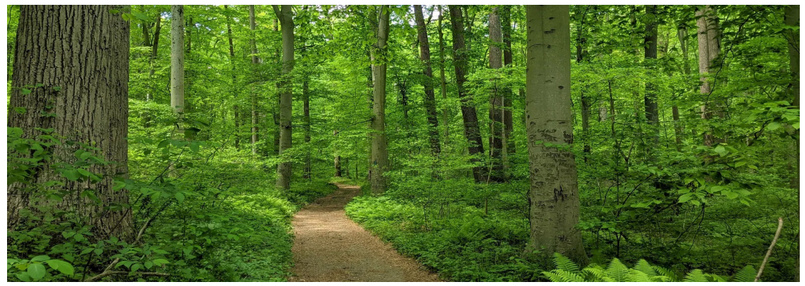
Facebook: /tylerarboretum
Instagram: /tylerarboretum
YouTube: /tylerarboretumPA
Email: info@tylerarboretum.org

Closed on: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Tyler's History & Trail Blazes

Tyler Arboretum is one of the oldest and largest arboreta in the northeastern United States. Built on property purchased in 1681 from William Penn by Thomas Minshall, an English Quaker, the property was owned by eight generations of the Minshall, 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. Throughout the mid-19th century, Jacob and Minshall Painter (Thomas Minshall'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 Minshall) 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 trail system and built upon the Painter legacy by creating impressive collections of conifers, magnolias, lilacs, hollies, and rhododendrons.



Today, the trails are managed by our Natural Areas Committee, a volunteer corps dedicated to the stewardship of the wildlands inside and outside the deer exclusion fences. Tyler's trails wander through stunning landscapes and diverse environments, including a pond and streams, meadows, woodlands, and rare ecosystems, such as the serpentine grasslands of the Pink Hill Barrens. 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.

How to read trail blazes at Tyler

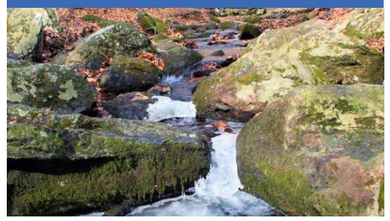
Safety on the trails

Our trails can be uneven, as well as slippery in wet conditions. Please watch your footing, particularly when crossing streams, dress for the weather, and wear appropriate footwear. In warmer weather, bug repellent 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.

Follow the map

If you're at the Visitor Center or the Barn, you're in grid reference 2B. If you're at Gate 6, you're in 4C. When you make a turn on a trail, look at your map to orient yourself. Use the symbols on the map to better understand the landscape. As you walk, you may want to turn the map in the direction you're walking. A good quality compass (there may be one on your smartphone) will help you check your direction.

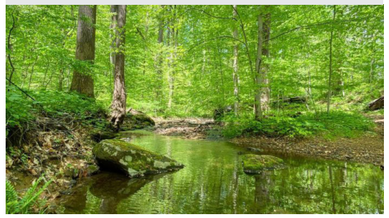
Rocky Run Trail (blue blazes)



Gate 1. *1.9 miles, approximately 1 hour. A gentle, family-friendly trail ideal for a gentle meander and a chance to watch butterflies and birds.*

A mid-length trail, this hike offers charming views through woodland and meadows. Mostly woodland, with a short section of meadow, this path is an easy nature walk for families with young children and all-terrain strollers.

Minshall Trail (white blazes)



Gate 2. *7.4 miles, approximately 4 hours. Running through most of our 650 acres, the Minshall trail is our longest and most secluded hike, featuring diverse ecosystems and historic ruins.*

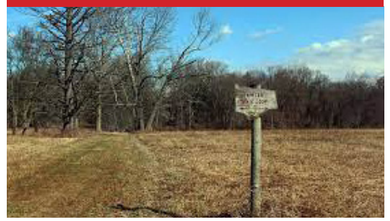
Named for the Minshalls, who bought this land from William Penn in 1681, this trail crosses Painter and Barren Roads and passes the ruins of the South Farm barn. The purple-blazed connector trail saves two miles and an hour's hike.

Middle Farm Trail (yellow blazes)

Gate 3. *1.4 miles, approximately 45 minutes. Our shortest hike offers family-friendly walking and expansive 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.

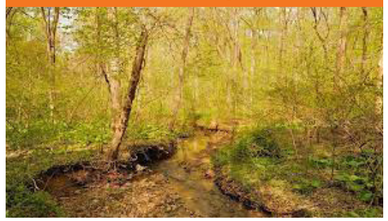
Painter Trail (red blazes)



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.

Dismal Run Trail (orange blazes)



Gate 6. *2 miles, approximately 1 hour, 10 minutes. This trail offers steep hills, historic ruins, and a range of wildlife. Despite its name, Dismal Run is a pristine stream that runs through secluded woodlands.*

The hills on this trail provide a workout that offers great views across the valley. The trail also passes the intriguing ruins of a small 18th century stone cottage.

Pink Hill Trail (pink blazes)

Gate 7. *1.6 miles, approximately 1 hour. Crossing Painter Road, this trail features hilltop views, a stream, a quiet meadow, a rare ecosystem, and the Chestnut Nursery.*

Named for the moss phlox that blooms each April, the Pink Hill Barrens are serpentine grasslands: an ecosystem attuned to a rare type of bedrock where the soil has an imbalance of magnesium and calcium and high levels of nickel, toxic to most plants but ideal habitat for several endangered and threatened species.

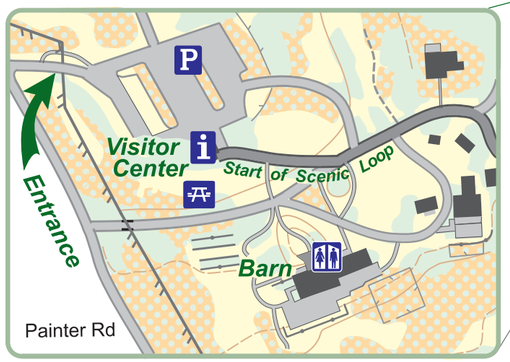
Please note: All hiking times and distances are from the trail heads located at the gate in the deer exclusion fence.

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 to the trails close and latch behind you.
- Please dipose 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.

Tyler Arboretum

Entrance Detail



Map Legend

- Trails (non-blazed)
- Paved Trails
- Fence
- 5 Deer Fence with Gate
- Building
- Ruins, Footbridge
- Contours indicate change in elevation and shape of land (slope tags point downhill)
- Woods
- Lawn and Meadows
- Meadows with scattered trees
- Stream
- Seasonal Stream
- Seasonal Marsh
- Pond
- Holding Pond
- Dry Ditch
- Earth Wall
- Stone Wall
- Boulder Fields
- Boulders, Pit
- Property Boundary
- Private Property

Please Respect Our Neighbors' Privacy

Forge Rd
Painter Rd
Barren Rd
Magnetic North
Elevation 400 ft
North Woods
Visitor Center
Barn
Pond
Middle Farm
Elevation 380 ft
Rocky Run
Round Top Farm
Elevation 355 ft
Dogwood Circle
Indian Rock
Dismal Run
Wister Rhododendron Garden
Maze
Giant Sequoia
Pinetum
Valley Cottage
Chestnut Nursery
Elevation 380 ft
Elevation 360 ft
South Farm
Pink Hill
Elevation 290 ft
Barrens
East Woods
Elevation 375 ft
250 meters
820 feet

Scale 1:7000

Contour Interval
5 meters / 16 feet

Trail Legend

Rocky Run Trail	Gate 1	2.0 miles	1 hour	Family friendly, stream cascades, butterflies and birds
Minshall Trail	Gate 2	7.9 miles	4 hours	Longest trail, most secluded, historic ruins, restored Barrens
Middle Farm Trail	Gate 3	1.5 miles	45 minutes	Family friendly, expansive meadows, seasonal flowers
Painter Trail	Gate 4	2.3 miles	1 hour 20 minutes	Most challenging climbs, stream crossings, great views
Dismal Run Trail	Gate 6	1.9 miles	1 hour 10 minutes	Challenging hills, shady stream valley, historic ruins
Pink Hill Trail	Gate 7	1.7 miles	1 hour	Moderate hills, rare restored Barrens, stream crossings
Scenic Loop (Paved)		1.3 Miles	35 minutes	Starts at Visitor Center and connects to all Trailheads
Connector Trails		Various	Various	Wide trails that provide connections between blazed trails

DVOA

This map has been created in partnership with Delaware Valley Orienteering Association by converting their detailed topographical map of Tyler Arboretum. Please visit www.dvoa.org

DVOA member Bob Burg converted and produced this map. bburg@comcast.net.