

BAYARD CUTTING
ARBORETUM

Welcome to Bayard Cutting Arboretum, a donation to New York State in memory of William Bayard Cutting by his wife and daughter.

Mrs. Cutting specified that the arboretum should “serve as an oasis of beauty and quiet... a source of pleasure, rest, and refreshment.” The diverse 690 acres of open spaces, woodlands, and gardens—exquisitely planted with the finest trees, shrubs, perennials, wildflowers, annuals, vegetables, and bulbs—are designed to delight the senses and inspire visitors in every season. As you visit each of our 13 distinct plant collections—which showcase the rich history and seasonal beauty of the property all year long—you may glimpse a broad range of wildlife, including osprey, fox, and turtles.

Old Pinetum View this comprehensive collection of mature pine, fir, spruce, and hemlock, originally planted in 1890, which includes a majestic Sargent’s Weeping Hemlock. These conifers were recommended by the founding director of the Arnold Arboretum, Charles Sprague Sargent. Compare the 18 species of fir, including the stately Blue Spanish Fir and one of the tallest trees on the property, an Algerian Fir. With needles ranging from chartreuse to pale blue, the evergreens offer wonderful color and texture in all seasons.



Holly Walk Stroll a winding path and explore the different textures and shapes of more than 100 varieties of holly. Included in this collection is a rare Hedgehog English Holly (*Ilex Aquifolium* “Ferox”), the oldest named cultivar. Walk the labyrinth of small leaf holly specimens, redesigned in 2014, and delight in the orange, red, and yellow berries that brighten the winter landscape.

Pinetum Extension Planted in 1970 on the site of the former vegetable garden, explore the unusual conifers and mature magnolias planted around a lazily looping pathway. Key among the specimens is a rare, 60 foot Blue China Fir, known for its blue-green, sword-like foliage.



CSA Farm The self-sustaining three acre Community Sponsored Agriculture Farm is a lush, edible landscape that started in 2012. Watch the honeybees at work and peruse the herb garden. Visit the chicken coop and be inspired to smile and laugh at our flock of egg-layers as they scurry about the yard, pecking for worms and insects.



New Pinetum Originally planted in 1946, discover unusual firs, spruces, and pines in this special collection of rare trees and shrubs. Its most striking feature is the Blue Atlas Cedars, which demand attention with their tiers of vivid blue-green branches.



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Royce Rhododendron Garden Colorful flowering azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, and groundcover await visitors to this part of the park each spring. The spectacle is designed to impress and enchant, particularly when the crimson red blooms of the Taurus Red Rhododendron are at their peak. Continue on from there to the grove of statuesque Dawn Redwoods—previously thought extinct—that form a border between this garden and neighboring Oak Park.

Breezy Island Created in the early 1900’s with soil dredged from the Connetquot River to accommodate the passage of William K. Vanderbilt’s ship to his Idle Hour estate further upstream, Breezy Island is a lovely, bucolic locale in the arboretum. A rustic structure was built on the island where Mrs. Cutting occasionally took her tea. The island has diverse native plants and a replacement structure, reminiscent of the original, was constructed in 2017.

Westbrook Walled Garden Stroll in this mixed border that was designed and planted in 2014 to highlight the handsome brick and wood wall sketched by Frederick Law Olmsted. Step through a Sweet Gum tunnel, relax on a bench next to a stately bronze statue, or gaze from the porch at the exquisite flowering perennials as you enjoy the serenity of this peaceful space.

Woodland Garden Meander through a natural wetland habitat as you pass streams and ponds and enjoy surprise views of the Connetquot River. Keep an eye out for ducks, turtles, and migrating birds as you make your way through this garden of native and unusual woodland and shade-tolerant plants.



Great Lawn Join us in welcoming each spring when the Great Lawn comes alive with thousands of daffodil blooms. Or simply stroll from the Manor House to the Connetquot River, perhaps imagining life a century ago as you go. Under the majestic canopy of a 125 year old European Weeping Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica* “Pendula”) feel free to explore or just sit and relax in the tree’s generous shade.



Paradise Island This wildlife sanctuary and native Long Island pine forest features Pitch Pine and Swamp White Oak. If you look carefully, you may see bald eagles. Always tread carefully to avoid disturbing the wildlife in this native habitat.

River Walk Take a leisurely walk on a scenic path that winds along the edge of the Connetquot River. See Bald Cypress and Alder trees interspersed with native plants and American Holly, and remember to look for osprey flying high along the water’s edge.



Four Season Garden This perpetually colorful garden was planted in 2012 with a wide array of unusual conifers, perennials, grasses, and bulbs. Each was selected for the interesting shape, texture, and color that it would bring to the garden throughout the year. Ever-changing, this garden displays striking seasonal beauty no matter when you stroll through it.



Conifer Garden To celebrate Mr. Cutting’s keen interest in conifers, this garden, planted in 2016, features conifers from across the world. The pathways through the garden provide an up-close view of this diverse collection, complemented by perennials and shrubs.



*To provide an oasis of beauty and
quiet for the pleasure, rest and
refreshment of those who delight
in outdoor beauty; and to bring
about a greater appreciation and
understanding of the value and
importance of informal planting.*



The Bayard Cutting Arboretum, originally the estate of William Bayard Cutting and Olivia Murray Cutting known as Westbrook, was donated to New York State by the Cuttings in 1936. It is an outstanding example of the scenic private properties developed along the south shore of Long Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is particularly noteworthy for the cultivation over many decades of several fine pinetums, an oak park, collections of flowering shrubs, and woodland flora.

Horticultural development of the estate was begun in 1886 under the design guidance of Frederick Law Olmsted and was nurtured by the Cuttings and their daughter Mrs. Bayard (Olivia) James for the first half of the 20th century with advice and guidance from such notable horticulturists as Charles Sprague Sargent and Beatrix Farrand. Mr. Cutting was a passionate collector of conifers and some of the trees he planted are still on the estate. The handsome Jacobean revival house, built in 1886 to the design of architect Charles Haight, now serves as a visitor center with a café and administrative offices.

Please Remember

- * Carry out all trash.
- * Stay on the marked trails.
- * Do not remove or destroy plants, wildlife or artifacts.
- * Hunting is not allowed.
- * Ticks, which can carry Lyme disease, are known to be in this area. Take precautions and check for ticks.
- * Walks, public buildings and rest rooms are accessible to handicapped persons.
- * No pets are allowed, and recreational activities such as bathing, picnicking, sports, games and bicycle riding are not permitted on the grounds. Heckscher State Park, a short drive from the Arboretum, provides accommodations for picnicking and other active recreational programs.

General Information

For Arboretum Visitor Information—including hours of operation, transportation options, and other tips—please call (631) 581-1002.

A parking fee is collected from April through November each year.

Visiting the first floor of the Manor House is free. Tours of the second floor are offered Thursday–Sunday at 1pm for an additional fee.

The Hidden Oak Café is located in the Manor House; it serves freshly made lunches and desserts from 11am—4pm each day the park is open. Advance reservations are necessary for events such as Victorian teas, wedding showers, and other special occasions. For additional information, please call the Hidden Oak Café at (631) 277-3895.

All posed photography requires a permit, which can be obtained from the arboretum office. Please call (631) 581-1002 with questions.

The Bayard Cutting Arboretum
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