



## Heritage Center Arboretum Master Plan

Adopted June 16, 2022

### Vision Statement:

To celebrate and experience the wonders of nature in the spirit of our ecologically significant environment that enlightens, educates, and enhances our quality of life.

### Site Context:

- The site is located at the intersection of Eight Mile Road and Forest Road. The address is 890 Eight Mile Rd, Anderson Township, OH 45255. The site is a residential setting. Adjacent properties include residential homes, neighborhoods, and Ayer Elementary School. A short woodland trail through Township Greenspace connects the arboretum to the elementary school.
- The site is a historic farm home built in about 1820 with room additions in the 1860s. The home and site are owned by Anderson Township ("Township") and rented for special events including weddings.
- The site is 4.8 total acres. The Heritage Center Arboretum site proper is lawn area totaling 1.8 acres. The rest of the site totaling 3.0 acres are wooded protected under Anderson Township Greenspace restrictions and maintained in a natural state.
- Much of the site is relatively lowland. Many of the adjacent properties drain onto the site. The woodland area is frequently saturated and has a small creek. A detention basin directs water runoff from the lawn area down to a swale along 8 Mile Road. The upper lawn has good drainage. The lower lawn stays saturated much longer.
- The soil is typical of the Cincinnati region – some acidity, loamy, clay.

### Existing Conditions:

- The site has established beds with mature trees and shrubs. The planting bed along Forest Road has many large evergreen trees and few smaller trees and shrubs. The bed provides relief from the roadway and privacy. Planting beds around the home are somewhat traditional with boxwoods, Japanese maple, lilac, etc.
- The existing tree inventory list includes many native and a few nonnative species. The complete list currently includes 50 species.
- Existing trees are in healthy, average, and poor conditions. The single ash tree has not succumbed to emerald ash borer at the time. It's health does appear to be declining so borers are probably active but D holes are not yet visible.

- The United States Department of Agriculture recognizes a few species on the site as Invasive including Pear and Euonymus.

**Site Design Parameters:**

- There will be no tree planting within 20’ from the large patio to provide room for large event tents.
- Maintain clear visibility of the porch and front of house from Eight Mile Road for photos.
- Maintain Township Greenspace as outlined in the Greenspace Use and Maintenance Policy Statement. Only activity on that portion of the property shall be invasive plant removal on an as needed basis as determined by and supervised by Township staff.
- Stand-alone trees planted in the lawn area will be at least 2” caliper to enhance their chances of success and to be able to remove deer guards soon so they add to the beauty quickly.
- Choose site appropriate plants to enhance their survival and to limit maintenance.

**Site Recommendations:**

The recommendations herein reflect a strategic approach to maximize the site potential to meet the goals of both the Tree Committee and Anderson Township, the site recommendations and proposed projects outlined in this plan shall not prohibit the regular maintenance of the site per Anderson Township Maintenance Contract.

- The arboretum is relatively small and has limited space to plant additional stand-alone trees. The Tree Committee and Township’s strategy to increase biodiversity of trees is threefold:
  - a. Infill existing beds when existing trees and shrubs die- Layer plant material (trees and shrubs) of differing heights to maximize biodiversity and interest. Flowering bushes that have color throughout the year should be prioritized.
  - b. Build new tree and shrub beds along the woodland edges with a naturalized appearance to create a buffer zone between the mature woodland trees and open lawn. The beds should be densely planted to mimic the nature landscape. Step the planting down in height as plants transition from the large woodland trees to lawn.
  - c. Strategically, carefully, and reservedly select additional specimen trees for the open lawn.
- Foster Partnerships for Education and Support:
  - a. Create opportunities to partner with schools & Tree Committee programming.
  - b. Approach other arboreta in the area for suggestions and perhaps plant donations.
  - c. Promote locally encouraging citizen involvement.

- d. Work with state forester to show arboretum to people in other communities.

## **Projects**

### Short-Term Projects:

- Create educational trail concept showcasing canopy trees, understory trees and shrubs on the southern portion of the property along the existing woodsedge.
- Coordinate with Wendi Van Buren (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) and tree care experts to teach a structure pruning class at the Heritage Center Arboretum.
  - Can be beneficial to both the Tree Committee and students.
- Plant four shrubs along educational trail with preferences shown below.
- Plant two small flowering trees behind sign at corner of 8 Mile and Forest Roads. Preference to be given to Eastern Redbud Ruby Falls and Eastern Redbud lavender Twist.
- Update Sign at the corner of 8 Mile Road and Forest Road to include “Arboretum”.
- Display case of the site map of trees on the outside of the Heritage Center building in a location to be determined by the Facilities Manager and Events Coordinator.

### Long- Term Projects:

- Plant four additional specimen trees in the open lawn area south and west of the large patio as outlined on the plan drawing.
- Plant one additional shrub in the east garden bed as outlined on the plan drawing.
- Plant two additional shrubs in the west garden bed as outlined on the plan drawing.

### Ongoing:

- Monitor existing plants of all types in an effort to keep ones that work and replace ones that are problems.
  - Potential to involve students
- Identify and record all species and their health on an ongoing basis.
- Replace dead and declining plants with carefully selected replacements.
- Monitor the plants that come up in existing beds around the building with an eye for keeping what works well and suggesting improvements.
- Monitor signs and replace as needed.
- Update map of the Heritage Center Arboretum on an as needed basis and display at the Heritage Center.
- Update Township Website and StoryMap on an as needed basis.
- Ensure that the ArbNet Certification requirements have been met for the year.

- Provide summary of events and tree conditions to Arbnet by September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

**Governance Structure**

Anderson Township Tree Committee, as appointed by the Board of Anderson Township Trustees, shall annually establish an “Arboretum Subcommittee” at the first meeting of the year. This subcommittee shall work with Anderson Township Staff to carry out the goals and objectives of this plan. Any update or edit to the plan shall require Board of Township Trustee approval. The Arboretum Subcommittee shall review the plan and update the plan every 3 to 5 years to ensure that the goals are being met.

New plantings shall only take place as identified in the plan and after written approval from both the Facilities Manager and Events Coordinator. Donation requests outside of the approved planting list shall be sent via email to the Tree Committee staff liaison who will coordinate with the Events Coordinator and Facilities Manager. The Facilities Manager and Events Coordinator shall provide written approval or denial of the proposed donation to the Arboretum Subcommittee within one (1) week. Anderson Township reserves the right to deny or approve any proposed donation and to modify the Arboretum budget as necessary.

**Plant Selection:**

Anderson Township reserves the right to revise the proposed planting list based on current trends and availability.

Preferred Shrubs:

English Name	Latin Name	size in feet
<b>Strong support for the first four</b>		
Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aescelus parviflora</i>	8-12 h x 12-15 w
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	12-15 t x 12-15 w
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	18-24 h x 10-12 w
Beauty Berry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	4-6 h x 4-6 w
<b>Some support for these if one of the first four are not available</b>		
Flowering Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>	4-5 h x 4-5 w
Mt. Airy Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla 'Mount Airy'</i>	5-6 h x 5-6 w
<b>Shrubs to Consider Adding in the future</b>		
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	3-5 x 3-5
Carolina Allspice	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	6-12 h x 6-12 w

Button Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6-12 h x 6-12 w
Mock Orange Spirea	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	4-5 h x 5-10 w
Fragrant Sumac (low grow)	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	3-8 h x <=15 w
Brandywine Viburnum	<i>Viburnum nudum 'Brandywine'</i>	5-12 h x 5-12 w

Preferred Trees:

**Small Trees**

Eastern Redbud Ruby Falls

Eastern Redbud Lavender Twist

**Medium Trees**

American Hornbeam - Ironwood (*Carpinus carolina*)

Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*),

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)

**Large Tree**

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)

White Basswood (*Tilia heterophylla*)

American Sentry Basswood/Linden *Tilia americana*)

Northern Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)

Shellbark Hickory (*Carya laciniosa*)

Mockernut (*Carya tomentosa*)

Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)

Yellow Buckeye (*Aesculus flava*)

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Ecologically Significant Cultivars:

'Magnifica' Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis* X *C. laevigata*)

'White Shield' Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera* 'White Shield')

'Legacy' Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

'Wright Brothers' Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* 'Moraine')

'Espresso' Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

'Perkin's Pink' Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea* 'Perkins Pink')

'Wildfire' Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* 'Wildfire')

'Tupelo Tower' Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* 'NSUHH' and 'WFH1')

'October Glory' Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory')

'American Dream' Swamp White Oak (*QUERCUS BICOLOR* 'JFS-KW12')

'Shawnee Brave' Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Shawnee Brave')

'Peve Minaret' (*Taxodium distichum* 'Peve Minaret')

'Appalachian Red' Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Appalachian Red')

'Little Woody' Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Little Woody')

'The Rising Sun' Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis* 'JN2')

'Emerald City' Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera* 'JFS-Oz')