



## The Dawes Arboretum Fact Sheet

*The Dawes Arboretum is dedicated to enriching lives through the conservation of trees, nature and history. Situated on nearly 2,000 acres in Newark Ohio (30 miles east of Columbus), The Dawes Arboretum is a living museum celebrating the history and beauty of trees and nature.*

### Plants & Research

- Nearly 16,000 living trees and shrubs on the arboretum's grounds
  - Of these plants, more than 5,000 are unique names.
- Proud to be one of only 30 arboreta worldwide accredited at Level IV (highest possible level) by [Arbnet](#).
- Part of the American Public Gardens Association Plant Collections Network (PCN)
- Home to four Nationally Accredited Plant Collections:
  - *Acer* (maple) – The Dawes Arboretum serves as a partner in this multi-institutional collection.
  - *Metasequoia* (dawn redwood) – This collection is a genetic and taxonomic collection.
  - *Aesculus* – (buckeye and horse-chestnut)
  - *Hamamelis* (witch-hazel)

### Conservation

- Focus on habitat restoration, specifically reforestation, wetlands and grasslands
- Plant Rescues— Promoting native plants and limiting invasive species for increased biodiversity
- Plant Conservation Science
  - Involved with organizations include Ecological Restoration Alliance, The Organization of Biological Field Stations, Center for Plant Conservation, Ecological Society of America, Society for Ecological Restoration and American Public Garden Association.
  - Shares seeds of wild-origin plants with gardens across the globe that participate in the *Index Seminum* program.
  - Currently shares plant collections data with the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC), BGCI PlantSearch, Index Herbariorum, and the 13-member PCN multi-institutional maple group.
- Natural Resource Management
  - Works closely with the [Ohio Division of Forestry](#) staff and Certified Consulting Foresters to ensure that woodland, riparian, wetlands and grasslands resources are managed as a sustaining renewable resource

### History

- Beman and Bertie Dawes founded The Dawes Arboretum in 1929.
- In 1917, Beman Dawes moved onto 140 acres of the old Brumback Farm (known as “Woodland”) in Licking Township.

- Beman felt that the farm was well situated; it was located practically in the center of the state with diversified soils and good climate for hardy trees.
- The family renamed the farm “Daweswood”.
- The first planned tree planting began in 1917 with 50 sugar maples. Beman Dawes aimed to inspire people to plant trees, and strived to obtain specimens from all over the world that would survive in central Ohio.
- By the time The Dawes Arboretum was founded in 1929:
  - More than 50,000 trees had been planted
  - The grounds had doubled in size to 293 acres
- Beman and Bertie Dawes created The Arboretum as a private foundation: “To encourage the planting of forest and ornamental trees...to give pleasure to the public and education to the youth.”
- To ensure the continuation of The Arboretum, Beman and Bertie Dawes established an endowment fund that continues to be one of the major sources of funds and has grown from 293 acres to nearly 2,000.

## **Wildlife**

- Monitors wildlife populations and maintains inventory of wildlife species.
- More than 40 years of extensive tree swallow and bluebird observation records throughout the grounds making the species the most recorded and monitored.
- Bluebird Trail
  - From several dozen bluebird nest boxes erected in the early 1980s to more than 100 nest structures today
  - Trail system is monitored by volunteers weekly during the nesting season (April-August)
  - Boxes are utilized by Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Carolina Chickadees
  - Average of 220 Bluebirds and 200 Tree Swallows fledge (develop wing feathers that are large enough for flight) each year from the trail system
- Recent bat surveys identified five species of bats that hunt the night sky at the arboretum
- With the aid of staff, participants in education programs have identified nine species of salamanders living in the woods and streams on grounds
- For more than 20 years, The Dawes Arboretum volunteers have taken a lead role in managing two butterfly transects trails as part of a long-term butterfly monitoring project.
  - Hosted by the Ohio Lepidopterists, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and the Ohio Biological Survey.