

The Bardian
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Arboretum Begins to Bloom at Bard

Located on land that once belonged to several historic estates, replete with majestic trees in a park-like atmosphere, Bard College is in an ideal position to realize a long-held dream of an arboretum. Amy Foster '99, horticulture supervisor, has begun the process by presiding over planning meetings and establishing an online map of the campus's significant arboreal and ornamental sites (<http://inside.bard.edu/horticulture/>).

Among the goals of the Bard College Landscape and Arboretum Committee are stewardship of natural and landscaped resources, promoting knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and conservation, and providing a botanically diverse and beautiful campus environment that can be readily enjoyed by the College and surrounding community. Elizabeth Ely '65, secretary of the Board of Trustees of Bard College and a member of the arboretum committee, says the initial priorities are to gain support through membership and other means and cultivate the existing campus landscape.

Once a master plan is in place, plants will be inventoried and landscape restoration will begin. Tree-identification signs, brochures for self-guided landscape tours, and refinement of public garden areas are among the planned projects. Foster and other committee members hope to attract more visitors to the College's outstanding scenery. Visitors already enjoy allées near the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, as well as the gardens at Blithewood (see Summer 2005 *Bardian*) and alongside the Chapel of the Holy Innocents and Bertelsmann Campus Center. The arboretum could also serve as a classroom for curricula as diverse as the Biology Program, Bard Center for Environmental Policy, Master of Arts in Teaching Program, and Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture. "The arboretum would become part of the College's legacy," Foster says.

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