



Group Visit Information Sheet

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504 ● 845-752-LEAF (5323)
arboretum@bard.edu ● <https://www.bard.edu/arboretum/>

Arboretum Hours

The Arboretum makes up Bard's entire 930 acre campus. It is open year round, sunrise to sunset. The Arboretum office is open Monday through Friday, 7 am to 3:30 pm and is located at Buildings and Grounds (Physical Plant) building on Campus Road. For more information, call the Arboretum office at 845-752-LEAF (5323).

Group Visits and Guided Tour Reservations

The Arboretum offers staff led group tours and welcomes group visits with advance reservations. Please contact Amy Parrella, Arboretum Director at 845-758-7179 or email arboretum@bard.edu at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. Please submit the **Group Tour Request Form** to reserve your spot.

Admission

Admission fee depends on the duration of the tour, see **Group Tour Request Form** for details. Arboretum memberships are additionally encouraged. Become a member of the Friends of the Landscape and Arboretum Program at Bard. Visit online at <https://www.bard.edu/arboretum/membership/>.

Group Size

We can generally accommodate 15-20 people per guide. Due to the size of the walkways, it may be difficult for larger groups to see and hear properly. We can, however, divide up larger groups.. If your group is larger than 20, please consider splitting the group and sending half to another activity/location and then switching. We can make special accommodations upon request.

Arboretum Rules and Safety

The Arboretum is a living museum. Please make sure your group is aware of the Arboretum rules in advance for the safety and pleasure of all visitors.

- Carry in, carry out.
- Dress for the weather. Wear shoes with good traction.
- Climbing on trees is prohibited

- Watch your step for rocks, roots, hoses or other materials in walkways.
- Be aware of deer ticks that may carry lyme and other tick-borne diseases.
- Be aware of poison ivy that may exist throughout the Arboretum.
- Drone operators must have prior approval from the Bard Security Office.
- All professional photographers must have a signed release from Bard College.
- Share the campus with students, staff, faculty and other visitors.
- The following are prohibited: pets, glass containers, picking flowers, climbing trees, wall or garden structures, swimming or bathing, alcohol and illegal drugs, grills and barbeques, vandalism, firearms and other weapons, and driving on the lawn.

Preparing for Your Visit

We offer several free downloadable resources/publications on our website <https://www.bard.edu/arboretum/>. We also offer *Blithewood – A History of Place* (2009), written by Bessina Harrar. It is a historical look at the people, plants and events that created the current day Blithewood garden. It is available at the Arboretum office for \$25. Please request a copy in advance. There is also information about Montgomery Place gardens at <https://www.bard.edu/montgomeryplace/>.

Transportation

- **Air:** The airports closest in proximity to our campus are Stewart International Airport in Newburgh (about 45-50 min.) and Albany International Airport (about 1hr). Car rental is available at either airport. Bard College is accessible from Kennedy and LaGuardia airports in New York City and Newark Airport in New Jersey.
- **Train:** There are two train stations close to Bard College, one in Poughkeepsie, NY (Metro North) and the other in Rhinecliff, NY (Amtrak). Taxi service is available from either station to bring you to our Annandale-on-Hudson campus.
- **Taxi:** There are three local taxi services available: Red Hook Taxi Service, 845-758-1478; Rhinebeck Taxi, 845-876-5466; and Horseless Carriage, 845-757-2900

Directions to Blithewood Garden

- **From the Taconic State Parkway** take the Red Hook/Route 199 exit, drive west on Route 199 through the village of Red Hook to Route 9G, turn right onto Route 9G, drive north 1.6 miles. Turn left at the traffic light and then right at the fork in the road (sign points to Bard College). Continue north on Annandale Road, turn left onto Blithewood Avenue and follow to end of road at Levy Economics Institute, located at 75 Blithewood Avenue, Red Hook, NY 12583.
- **From the New York State Thruway (I-87)** take Exit 19 (Kingston), take Route 209/199 over the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge to Route 9G, turn left onto Route 9G,

drive north 3.5 miles, turn left at the traffic light and then right at the fork in the road (sign points to Bard College). Continue north on Annandale Road, turn left onto Blithewood Avenue and follow to end of road at Levy Economics Institute, located at 75 Blithewood Avenue, Red Hook, NY 12583.

Directions to Montgomery Place Gardens

- **From the Taconic State Parkway** take the Red Hook/Route 199 exit, drive west on Route 199 through the village of Red Hook to Route 9G, turn right onto Route 9G, drive north 1.6 miles. Turn left at the traffic light and then left at the fork in the road (sign points to Montgomery Place) and left onto Annandale Road (County Route 103). Continue south on Annandale Road, continue over a small bridge, and turn right at entrance gates to Montgomery Place. Follow the main drive and turn left at the Visitor Center, located at 55 Gardener Way, Barrytown, NY 12507.
- **From the New York State Thruway (I-87)** take Exit 19 (Kingston), take Route 209/199 over the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge to Route 9G, turn left onto Route 9G, drive north 3.5 miles, turn left at the traffic light and then right at the fork in the road (sign points to Bard College). Continue south on Annandale Road, turn left onto Annandale Road (County Route 103). Continue south on Annandale Road, continue over a small bridge, and turn right at entrance gates to Montgomery Place. Follow the main drive and turn left at the Visitor Center. Located at 55 Gardener Way, Barrytown, NY 12507.

Parking for Blithewood Garden

For individual cars, there is a 25-car lot at Blithewood Garden/Levy Economics Institute that is located just past the mansion. For coach buses, the driver should be instructed to drop the group off on Blithewood Road near the sign that reads “Levy Economics Institute” and park in the nearby parking lot on Garden Road.

Parking for Montgomery Place Gardens

Both individual cars and coach buses can park in the 80-car/bus parking lot located at the Montgomery Place Visitor Center parking lot.

Accessibility/Restrooms

The Blithewood Garden does not have a specifically designated restroom, however, there are several located in nearby campus buildings, including Bito Conservatory and Hessel Museum. Public and wheelchair accessible restrooms are located in the Bertlesmann Campus Center. For other special needs please call in advance. There are handicapped spaces in each parking lot. The garden view is wheelchair accessible; however the garden paths inside the garden unfortunately are not. Special accommodations can be arranged upon request.

The Montgomery Place gardens have restrooms at the Visitor Center. The main paths/roads to

the gardens are wheelchair accessible, however the garden paths unfortunately are not.

Campus Refreshments

- ***Down the Road Café*** is located in the Bertlesmann Campus Center. It is a retail-dining destination that features a wide selection of sandwich, grilled foods, and grab and go items.
- ***Manor House Café*** is a retail dining facility in north campus, near the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts building, offering a selection of upscale unique salads as well as stacker sandwiches and hot entree selections. Manor Café has ala carte offerings off of their Fresh Grill featuring grilled fish, local beef and other regional selections. Enjoy dining in Manor's elegant dining room or sit on the terrace overlooking a serene landscape of mountains and meadows.
- In good weather, the campus lawns and picnic tables are available for brown bag lunches. Please be sure to collect all your trash and take it with you. Thank you!