Landscape for Learning
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The UMass Amherst Physical Plant

This map and guide is designed to help visitors, students, faculty and staff discover some of the botanical and landscape design treasures that the campus has to offer.

The campus of the University of Massachusetts Amherst contains many unusual and outstanding specimen trees and gardens. This rich legacy is due to the vision and achievements of our predecessors. William S. Clark, the University’s third president. Clark traveled to Hokkaido, Japan to establish an agricultural university. Clark and his successor, Professor William Penn Brooks, brought back a number of outstanding Japanese plants towards the end of the 19th century, some of which remain today.

In the early 20th century, the campus arboretum flourished under the inspired direction of Frank A. Waugh, the first head of the Landscape Architecture Department. In 1944, President Hugh Potter Baker officially recognized the campus arboretum as a memorial to Waugh and his contribution to the campus landscape.

Since Waugh’s time, the campus has grown profoundly. While the earlier rural fabric of the campus has been changed, the older trees remain as living testimonial of the University’s history. In recent years, a number of significant plantings, gardens, and art sites have been added to the campus continuing the tradition of Clark, Brooks and Waugh. There is much to discover in this “landscape for learning.”

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”
Warren Buffett

“Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent the restriction if they choose not. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet: one need only own a good shovel.”
Aldo Leopold

“Where woods these are I think I know: His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow.”

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”
Warren Buffett

“When I walk alone I see the trees Of the woods that are beyond my door. And in my mind I see the sights Of the woods that are beyond my shore. Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”
John Muir

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Aldo Leopold

“A MURMUR in the trees to note, Not loud enough for sound; A star not far enough to seek, Not audible, as ours to us, But dappier, more sweet: A hurrying home of little men To houses unperceived,..."