

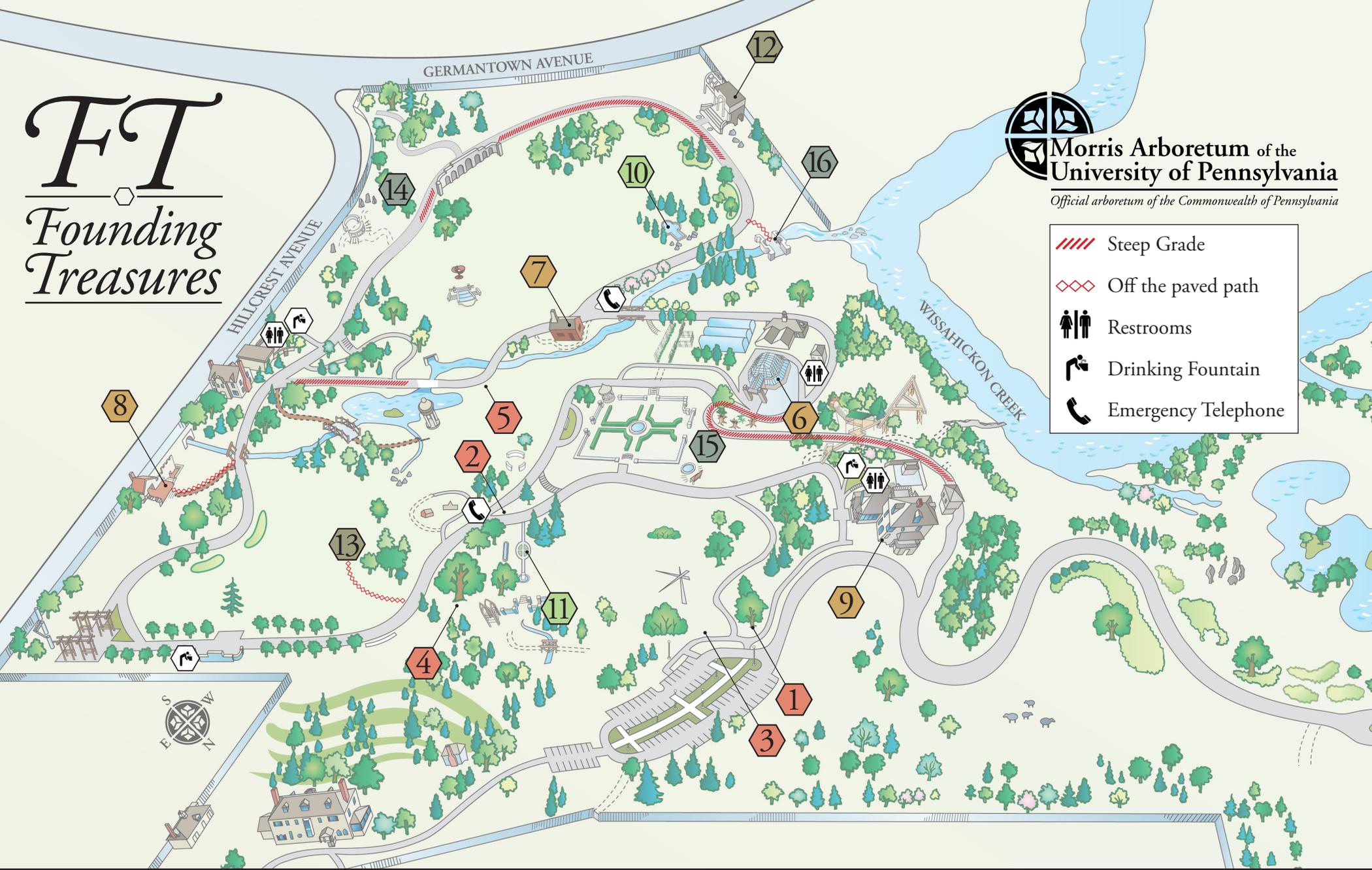
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Founding Treasures



Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

-  Steep Grade
-  Off the paved path
-  Restrooms
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Emergency Telephone



Trees

-  Bender oak
-  Blue Atlas cedar
-  Ginkgo, maidenhair-tree
-  Katsura-tree
-  Tabletop Scotch elm

Buildings

-  Fernery
-  Log Cabin
-  Springhouse
-  Widener Visitor Center

Fountains

-  Key Fountain
-  Long Fountain

Sculpture

-  Mercury Loggia & Grotto
-  John & Lydia statues

Features

-  Japanese Overlook Garden
-  Lydia's Seat (Rose Garden)
-  Stone Seat Bridge

① *Bender Oak*

Quercus × benderi

- Native to eastern North America; a naturally occurring hybrid between scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*) and red oak (*Q. rubra*).
- Possibly 250 years old, the tree provided a dramatic entrance to the Morris garden and hilltop home.

② *Blue Atlas Cedar*

Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'

- The straight species is native to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa.
- Layered branches with blue-green needles create a picturesque landscape tree.
- Small finger-shaped male cones on lower branches pollinate attractive large beehive-shaped female cones above.

③ *Ginkgo*

Ginkgo biloba

- One of the world's oldest tree species, growing on earth for more than 150 million years.
- With striking gold fall color, this female specimen, planted by the Morrises, has messy and very smelly fruit. Non-fruiting males make excellent city trees.

④ *Katsura-tree*

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

- Native to Japan and China, planted around 1902 by the Morrises.
- One of the largest of its kind in North America, this plant is the signature tree of the Arboretum.
- Bright yellow/apricot leaves in fall release a spicy cinnamon/brown sugar aroma.

⑤ *Tabletop Scotch elm*

Ulmus glabra 'Horizontalis'

- Inspired by the Victorian fascination with weeping and contorted trees, the Morrises planted this tree sometime before 1909.
- Weeping portion of the plant was grafted high onto its 7-foot understock, forming the umbrella-like shape.
- Unusual accent tree.

⑥ *Fernery*

Designed by John Morris and constructed by Hitchings and Company in 1899, this elegant structure features a stone foundation and curved glass panes. It is a fascinating display of architectural style and engineering expertise, shown through the successful use of roof braces that bear the weight of the glass and metal framing without interior support poles.

⑦ *Log Cabin*

In 1908, John Morris designed and ordered the construction of a log cabin as Lydia's private retreat. The Log Cabin was often used by the Morrises to entertain friends. Victorians viewed log cabins as a symbol of civilization's mastery over the wilderness and they were a popular feature of American estates from this era.

⑧ *Springhouse*

This area of the Arboretum pre-dates the Morrises, when part of the land was used as a dairy farm. Built into a hillside alongside a spring-fed creek, the Springhouse was used to keep dairy products and other perishables cool.

⑨ *Widener Visitor Center*

Originally part of the Morris estate, the Visitor Center was John & Lydia's three-level carriage house with horse stables.

⑩ *Key Fountain*

Built circa 1915, the Key Fountain combines design elements from the medieval palaces of Islamic Spain with the Victorian rock gardens of Adirondack America. This adaptive mix of architectural and garden features is typical of eclectic Victorian gardens.

⑪ *Long Fountain*

The creation of the Long Fountain was inspired by a trip the Morrises took to the Alhambra in Spain. After the visit, John & Lydia were motivated to install a "Moorish" fountain, which was constructed in 1905.

⑫ *Mercury Loggia & Grotto*

In 1913, the Mercury Loggia was constructed by John Morris to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the building of Compton. The Loggia is a small, temple-like structure with an arched roof and mosaic tile floor. Inside the Loggia is a bronze statue of Mercury, recognizable by his winged sandals. The grotto beneath the Loggia is an artificial cavern with a narrow, winding path that leads to the Ravine Garden.

⑬ *John & Lydia*

More than a hundred years ago, John and his sister Lydia Morris built a summer home and garden in Chestnut Hill. To ensure that future generations would enjoy its botanical treasures, they laid the groundwork to establish a public arboretum.

⑭ *Japanese Overlook*

The Overlook Garden was completed in 1912. Follow the winding path to a stone viewing platform. Home to Asian conifers and deciduous trees, the area also contains a number of Fudo (Japanese for "immovable") stones – thought to provide protection from evil spirits.

⑮ *Lydia's Seat*

In 1910, "Garden Steps, Wall & Seat" were built into the hillside at the north end of the Rose Garden. The seat and stairs were a favorite garden approach from the Compton mansion to the mixed flower, kitchen and herb gardens that preceded the Rose Garden.

⑯ *Stone Seat Bridge*

This medieval style bridge was designed by John Morris in the early 20th century. Made of Wissahickon schist, the stone bridge has seats to encourage people to linger and enjoy the sights and sounds of the stream. In fact, riffles, which are miniature waterfalls, were intentionally built to increase the interplay of sound and light in the stream.