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THE MAUD GORDON HOLMES ARBORETUM

The definition of an arboretum is a place in which trees and shrubs are grown for scientific and educational purposes. The college takes pride in its urban landscape and wishes to welcome anyone who

appreciates not only the educational experience, but the sheer beauty that Mother Nature has to offer.

In 1960, a steering committee was formed along with the Arboretum of Metropolitan Buffalo with an objective to help beautify the State University College campus. It was comprised of the Western New York Nurserymen's Association, the 8th District, Federated Garden clubs of New York State Inc., McKinley Vocational High School, and the State University College at Buffalo.

The Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum was established on the campus with the first plantings installed in the fall of 1960. The arboretum was officially dedicated in 1962 with a commemorative bronze plaque set in a boulder of quartzite located in the front of Rockwell Hall near the northeast corner. Mrs. Holmes was founder and president of the Garden Center Institute of Buffalo. She was described as "an inspiring patron of the horticultural art and of civic beautification." Planting began with over 250 plants, representing more than 85 varieties of trees and shrubs. Some of the trees and plantings were dedicated to arboretum officers, college presidents, administrators, and organizations that supported this effort. Today, more than one third of the original plantings have survived the onslaught for expansion, while others were lost to natural causes. Although planting continued during the 70's and 80's, it wasn't until the 90's that the college took stride with an extensive planting master plan and capital improvements that made every effort to retain and create green spaces.



The college's current tree inventory is over 1700, which includes about 150 varieties and cultivars. A few of the many varieties include:

- American Elm
- Black Tupelo
- Sugar Maple
- English Oak
- Red Oak
- Pin Oak
- Dawn Redwood
- Eastern Redbud
- Eastern White Pine
- Shagbark Hickory
- Kwanzan Cherry
- Katsuratree
- American Sweetgum
- Ginkgo
- European Beech
- London Planetree
- Kentucky Coffeetree
- Japanese Zelkova
- Ficus (inside our library lobby)

There are also over one hundred shrub beds (with an inventory of about 2000) highlighted with flowers throughout the campus grounds. Another addition to the arboretum was the use of over 200 tropical trees and plants, some growing in special plantscapes, located in several of our building lobbies. The campus has several up and coming master plan planting projects that will continue to enhance areas for the campus community and visitors to enjoy. Funding for the arboretum is generated from dedicated memorial trees and contributions to the BSCenery Special Fund. It is encouraged that existing trees are dedicated because of space limitations and the great number of newly planted trees. Future plans include new tree identification plaques, a complete inventory and master plan, and a pamphlet promoting the arboretum with a self-walking tour map.