fernwood

VISITOR GUIDE
Fernwood is open Tuesday through Sunday year-round for all to enjoy. Fernwood is closed Monday. Fernwood shares reciprocal admissions with many botanical gardens and nature and cultural centers throughout North America.

Garden trails are paved and handicap accessible. Preserve trail surfaces are wood-chipped or bare earth, with steps on inclines and boardwalks over wet areas. All of Fernwood’s trails are open to visitors during regular public hours.

Companion animals are not allowed at Fernwood, except for dogs guiding people with disabilities. Fernwood is a smoke-free environment, and no smoking is allowed on the grounds.
Fernwood began as the country home of Kay and Walter Boydston, who purchased the first 12.5 acres along the scenic St. Joseph River in 1941. During the years that followed, Fernwood became a popular gathering place for those who shared Kay’s love of nature, horticulture, and the craft arts.

In 1964 Fernwood became a public garden through the efforts of Niles philanthropists Lawrence and Mary Plym. Additional land purchases increased the size to 105 acres, providing space for an arboretum, reconstructed tallgrass prairie, and additional gardens.
ABOUT FERNWOOD

Fernwood is a special place where people, plants, and nature come together. Beautiful gardens are tucked into the landscape of natural and cultivated areas. Species of endangered and threatened Michigan plants and animals are protected in the nature preserve, that features several unique natural communities. Miles of trails await, and indoors, visitors may enjoy an Art Gallery, Fern Conservatory, Nature Center, Library, Café, and Gift Shop. Fernwood offers many possibilities for learning and enrichment, including classes, workshops, lectures, concerts, trips, exhibits, and special events.

Fernwood is a non-profit organization supported by admission fees, donations, purchases, and memberships, and does not receive any public funding. Visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for most current information and hours of operation.
CAFÉ AND GARDEN SHOPS

Enjoy lunch in the Fernwood Café while watching the birds or viewing the garden through its many windows. You also may choose to eat on the Café deck, or in the shade of the Bauer Terrace. The Café also offers catering for weddings and other special events.

Find a special gift or book in our Gift Shop, or select a plant or decorative item for your home garden in our Garden Shop.
Outdoor sculptures are showcased throughout the garden, including Patrick Dougherty’s stick sculpture, Take Five. Exhibits in our Art Gallery feature an upscale, eclectic selection of art that changes every two months.

The Herb Garden features more than 200 kinds of herbs in an adapted English design. The various beds feature plants used for seasonings, spices, teas, dyes, and more.

Fernwood has two Railway Gardens designed by noted botanical architect, Paul Busse. The outside garden has more than 500 feet of track at various levels, while indoor tracks can be found in the Fern Conservatory. All buildings and bridges are made of natural materials.
Weddings and wedding photographs at Fernwood are made especially beautiful by their setting in Fernwood's wonderful gardens. Facilities are available to rent for weddings, receptions, showers, retreats, reunions, and other special events. The Fernwood Café offers catering in addition to special brunches and lunch.

*The Nature Center* provides a veritable smorgasbord of natural history. Many birds visit the outdoor feeding stations and visitors can watch unobstructed through large windows and listen to the birds through a special audio system. Indoor exhibits showcase Fernwood's many ecosystem, animals of the region, and items of seasonal interest.
Help our Garden Grow

**Become a member of Fernwood Botanical Garden.** Membership dues provide 15% of Fernwood’s operating income, and membership has its benefits! Members receive free admission year-round, reciprocal privileges at botanical gardens, art, and nature centers across the country, discounts in the Gift Shop, on plant sales, classes, programs, trips, events, rentals, and more.

**Consider a charitable contribution.** Your gift supports our plant collections, educational programs, and more. Make a cash donation or memorial gift, attend our annual fundraiser, sponsor an event, exhibit, or program, or provide for Fernwood in your estate planning.