



Town of Greenwich
Department of Parks & Recreation - Facilities
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MONTGOMERY PINETUM PARK

Location: Bible St.

Directions from
central Greenwich: U.S. 1 heading for Stamford, in Cos Cob make left onto Orchard
St. then turn right onto Bible St. Ball fields on left, Entrance on left ½ mile after
ball fields.

Size:

Hr. of Operation:

Parking:

Facilities:

I. Entrance Area:

- A. 2 - Stone Pillars
- B. 2 -32' Belgian block planters
- C. 1 - 6' wooden sign "Montgomery Pinetum"
- D. Caretaker House w/ garage
- E. Gardens left of Entry road
- F. Pond Area on Right w/
 - 1. 16' x 24' Shelter "log cabin"
 - 2. 1 - 6' wood and metal bench
 - 3. 54' x 84' parking lot w/ 1 pole and light and 2 stone pillars w/ chain exit
 - 4. 40' flagstone stairway to shelter

II. Equipment Garage - Foreman Office Area (good)

- A. Building 70' x 70'
- B. Lower Garden (behind building) 126' x 140'
 - 1. 2 - 6' wood and cement benches
 - 2. 160' gravel & RR tie walkway to garden
- C. Parking Lot (80' x 60')

III. Horticultural Building W/ Greenhouse (95' x 26') (good)

- A. Parking Area
 - 1. Upper - 115' x 40'
 - 2. Lower - 57' x 90'

IV. Greenhouse Area (parks)-(good)

- A. Building (75' x 57')
- B. Temporary Plastic Greenhouse (30' x 22')
- C. Restroom w/ 1 toilet, 1 sink
- D. Foreman Office
- E. 1 water fountain

V. Garden Education Area - (excellent)

- A. 36' railing (entrance)

- B. 38' x 5' flagpole sidewalk (entrance)
- C. 4 - metal and plastic cylinder lights (entrance)
- D. 1 - metal flagstone w/ 1 ½ stone and Plaque "Greenwich"
- E. 4 - 6' wooden benches
- F. Terrace: (30' x 72')
 - 1. 1 - 8' wood & metal bench
 - 2. 1 - 4' wooden bench
 - 3. 2 - 2' wooden chairs
 - 4. 5 clay flower pots
 - 5. 70' of iron railings
- G. Upper lawn Area:
 - 1. 3 - 6' wood and metal benches
 - 2. 5' stone with plaque "Mr. & Mrs. Robert. Montgomery"
 - 3. 4 ½ metal and ceramic birdbath -well
- H. Lower Lawn Area:
 - 1. Lily pad Pond
 - 2. 15' x 11' flagstone deck w/ 12' iron rail
 - 3. Statue (naked Lady)
 - 4. 1- 6' wooden bench on brick base
 - 5. 1 -2' stone plaque "memory of Marilyn & Seymour Trow"
 - 6. 1 - 8' wood & metal Bench
 - 7. 1- 6' wood & metal Bench
 - 8. 1 - 3' dia. Bird bath w/ plaque "memory of Verity Blakey Day"
- I. Rest rooms:
 - Men - 1 urinal, 2 toilets, 1 sink
 - Women - 2 toilets, 1 sink

VI. Lower Wooded Area: (fair)

- A. Black top Road
 - 1. 17' entry w/ 2 metal poles - chain and lock
 - 2. Walking Trails
 - 3. Primrose Garden
 - 4. Lower Grass area (old Nursery)
 - a. Stone Foundation - stone (16' x 16')
 - b. Old Well - stone (7'dia.)

VII. Lower Picnic Area: (good)

- A. 5 - 6' fiberglass and metal picnic tables
- B. 9 - 6' wood and metal picnic tables
- C. 4 metal grills
- D. 1 metal refuse can
- E. 1 water fountain
- F. Rest room Facilities:
 - 1. men - 1 urinal, 2 toilets, 1 sink
 - 2. women - 2 toilets, 1 sink

VIII. Lower Skating Pond Area (poor)

- A. Stone Dam w/ 20' iron railing
- B. Parking lot 200' x 100' (poor)
- C. Montgomery Lane Entrance(15')
 - 1. 2 - RR tie posts
 - 2. 1 chain w/ lock
- D. Old Nursery Area (above parking lot)

Montgomery Park and Pinetum (91 acres)

To reach Montgomery Park and Pinetum, go north on Orchard Street from the Post Road in Cos Cob. Bear right onto Bible Street and continue .7 mile. The entrance is on the west side directly opposite Clover Place. Follow the driveway to the right to park for the Pinetum and Park.

On the east side of Bible St. is a short dirt road with a chain across the entrance. Proceeding on foot, you are now entering unmarked, 30 acre Montgomery Park. Informal footpaths skirt low wetland areas and ridges with large Oaks and Maples predominately in the better-drained portions of the property. Appropriate clothing is advised for coping with thicket and underbrush.

Returning to the parking area to visit the Pinetum, you will immediately notice a large stone walled greenhouse. This is operated by the Town for propagating thousands of seedlings and plants for local parks, traffic circles and public buildings. The adjacent white-framed building, being a portion of the original Montgomery home, is now the Greenwich Garden Center where horticultural classes and a library are available to the community. The small greenhouse is operated by the Greenwich Garden Center for educational purposes.

In the 1920's when the Montgomery's purchased their Cos Cob estate known as "Wild Acres", the colonel has already enjoyed a distinguished career as a certified public accountant, soldier of two wars, university professor and writer. As recounted in his biography, he next sought a hobby, which would be educational, would create beauty and would render social service. From this tall order came the idea of starting a "Pinetum", pronounced pie-NEE-tum), or collection of pines. From contacts through the world, Colonel Montgomery sought to obtain one or more specimens of every procurable variety of conifer, or cone-bearing plant, to add to the already existing hemlock forest on his Cos Cob estate. In 1945, the Colonel donated 200 of his most choice specimens to New York Botanical Garden; almost 80 specimens remain, however, on the property. On the occasion of the presentation of the conifer collection, a new dwarf spruce, *Picea Pungens Glauca* R.H. Montgomery, was christened. A fine example is now located near the garden center building in recognition of Colonel Montgomery's 1953 gift to the Town of his property "Wild Acres".

Armed with map and tree guide, available from Garden Center office, you may choose to begin exploring the Pinetum from the flagstone terrace where the vista to the south of the manicured lawns ending at the reflecting pond is particularly beautiful. In spring, the display of massed Tulips, Daffodils and early azaleas frames the view in glorious color. At the foot of the terrace to your left, note the tall Sargent's weeping hemlock. During sudden showers, walkers have been known to shelter under its wide reach. Further below on the lawn on the far side of the driveway is an exceptionally handsome green Japanese threadleaf Maple. When in leaf, the waves of branches seem to mirror the gentle hillocks of the spacious lawn. Arriving at the edge of the reflecting pond and perhaps pausing on a summer's day to admire the water lilies or count the juvenile frogs on the lily pads, you will see a trail sign for a short tree identification walk around the perimeter of the pond and meadow beyond.

For those with more time to spend discovering the rich variety of terrain and trees in the Pinetum, return to the paved driveway which leads in a northerly direction virtually bisecting the property until it exits at Montgomery Lane off Stanwich Road. The drive follows the contours of the woodland, which in this section of Greenwich rain from low wetlands to high rock outcrops. A favorite sight in May is the dazzling display of Primroses near the edge of the drive where the stream passes beneath the roadway. Trail signs to the west direct the more adventurous through hemlock forest and on to a climb up the Joseph Hartman Outlook, named in honor of a Greenwich resident with a life-long love for the New-England out-of-doors. Trails along the northeastern perimeter of the property tend to be gentler in grade. The drive passes next to a large picnic area in the hemlock grove, and the town nursery for fledgling shrubs and then ends in a large parking area. The adjacent pond was once used for public skating, but in recent years, because of substantial siltation, the ice has proved dangerously unstable. Following the path to the west of the pond will bring you to the Greenwich Audobon Society's Mildred Bedard Caldwell Wildlife Sanctuary, a distance of approximately one mile.

While for some, the delights of the Pinetum extend no further than the peony or primrose gardens in May, for others a summer's walk beneath the towering hemlocks brings equal pleasure. The Pinetum offers an extraordinary diversity of experience and interest to all visitors.

The Park is open daily throughout the year from 8:00 am to sunset except Sundays through November 15 to March 15.

Peter F. Alexander

