In 1948, Mary Behrend donated her 400-acre Glenhill Farm to Penn State Behrend in memory of her husband, Ernst, co-founder of the Hammermill Paper Company.

Arthur Westcott Cowell, a nationally-noted designer who established the Department of Landscape Architecture at Penn State in 1913, had developed the original plan for landscaping at Glenhill shortly after the Behrends acquired the property in the early 1930s.

While living at Glenhill, the Behrends added to its beauty by acquiring many exotic trees. The couple traveled extensively and must have been impressed by trees from the Orient, as they acquired many.

Notable examples continue to thrive on campus today, including the Japanese Umbrella Pine near the Glenhill Farmhouse pool.

Today, Mary Behrend’s estate has grown into an 854-acre college campus bustling with thousands of students, yet it still maintains the natural beauty and peaceful serenity of a country retreat.

To learn more about the arboretum, contact Ann Quinn, lecturer in biology, at abq1@psu.edu or 814-898-6993.

To support the Landscape Fund, contact Kathryn Buesink, assistant director of stewardship, at klb44@psu.edu or 814-898-6345.
Welcome to the Arboretum at Penn State Behrend, which contains many of the area’s most notable and unusual trees. More than 200 species are identified, including some trees located inside the John M. Lilley Library, the Reed Union Building, and the Hammermill Building within the Science Complex.

In 2003, the college gained membership in the American Public Gardens Association. This formalized the college’s status as an arboretum, opening the way to development of public education, outreach, and research programs, as well as continued conservation of the area.

You can start your self-guided walking tour from any location, but before you do, please stop by Police Services in Erie Hall for directions to visitor parking and a free parking pass.

Over the past fifty years, garden clubs, businesses, and alumni and friends of Penn State Behrend have added to the arboretum.

The first major gift was from the Carrie T. Watson Garden Club, which donated flowering crabapples in 1952. When some of the trees had to be removed in the early 2000s, the Class of 2006 funded the replanting of new varieties. Since then, several classes have chosen to leave a lasting legacy of beauty by purchasing trees or funding landscaping projects.

Other notable donations include:
• A grove of hybrid chestnut trees donated by the American Chestnut Foundation.
• A gift from Maxine McDougal, a campus administrator, in 1999 to purchase lifetime identification signs for fifty trees.
• The 2007 commissioning by Jeffrey Kochel of the Ethel Kochel Garden on the west side of the Irvin Kochel Center.
• More than 100 trees that were added to campus with funds from a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant through TreeVitalize and Environment Erie.

If you’d like to purchase a tree in memory or in recognition of someone who has made your world a more beautiful place, please contact Kathryn Buesink, assistant director of stewardship, at klb44@psu.edu or 814-898-6345.