




Forest Park Museum and Arboretum

In 1966 with the support and encouragement of the Dallas County Historical Society and local citizens, the five acre Forest Park Museum and Arboretum was purchased by the Dallas County Conservation Board from Eugene Hastie, a local farmer and historian. Mr. Hastie had spent 20 years planting and maintaining over 130 different species of trees on the property. He also collected artifacts of local historical significance and hosted tours and group events. Mr. Hastie wrote in his "Story of Forest Park, 1969, "My original interest was with trees, relics and history, but I have discovered that an interest in people surpasses all else. "


Over the course of 50+ years, the area has expanded in size and collections. The complex, now over 17 acres in size, includes the arboretum, exhibit and administrative buildings, and a spur of the Raccoon River Valley Trail that passes through a small woodland, recreated prairie and over an intermittent stream.

 The arboretum (a museum of living trees and shrubs used for scientific study and educational purposes) is around the museum buildings. A guide to the arboretum is available online or in the office.


 Visitor Center – home to the live animal exhibits, First Nations artifacts and rifle collection.

 Hastie Hall – Dallas County's History from the 1800's to the 20th century including early transportation, occupations, and common household and farm items.


 Baldwin Hall –Lives and occupations of Dallas County's early pioneers and residents.


 Wagner Gallery – Library and collections of preservationist and late Dallas County resident, Architect William J. Wagner


 Administration – working offices of the administrative, naturalist and north operations staff.

 Log Cabin – built in 1863, originally located 5.5 miles northwest of Ogden.

 Scale House – used to weigh grain at the Dallas Center elevator, later became W. Wagner's studio.

 Alton School House - The last one room school house in the county- in operation from 1867-1961.

 Interurban Rail monument – vestige of the one car electric train/trolley line that ran between Perry and Des Moines from 1906 to 1953.

 Raccoon River Valley Trail – an 89 mile paved recreation trail with an embedded 71 mile loop. Parking, registration tube, modern facilities.

Hours:

* **Forest Park Museum** is open Monday – Friday 8:00 – 4:30 year round. From May 1 to October 31, it is also open Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Free.**

* The **administrative office** is open 8:00 – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday year round. It is closed on most holidays.

* The **arboretum** is open from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. year round.

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