

Planting
Fields
Foundation



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

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**PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION AND NYS OFFICE OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PREPARE TO
REPLANT THE ICONIC BEECH COPSE AT PLANTING FIELDS
ARBORETUM STATE HISTORIC PARK**

Oyster Bay, New York – Planting Fields Foundation (“the Foundation”) and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“NYS Parks”) announced today that the restoration of the Beech Copse, an important early action step from the 2019 Planting Fields Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) originally planned for March 2020, will take place this spring.

Completed with the help of Heritage Landscapes, LLC, the CLR recommends nine (9) early action steps, the first of which addresses the Beech Copse, a central Olmsted Brothers design element located on the East Lawn at Planting Fields. The Foundation’s landscape team and NYS Parks will supervise the removal of 12 diseased and declining beech trees, an imperative and unavoidable preventive measure to protect surrounding, healthy plant life and revitalize an iconic, yet deteriorating landscape feature. 22 new beech trees, currently stored and cared for in the Production Greenhouse at Planting Fields, will be replanted by Wonderland Tree Care in the same area before the end of April.

“While building Planting Fields, W.R. Coe traveled to his native England where he observed a distinctive grove of beech trees that he decided to replicate in the landscape of his American country estate,” says Gina Wouters, Planting Fields Foundation Executive Director. “Thanks to a generous donation from a Planting Fields Foundation Trustee, the new trees will be replanted in the same configuration as the original grove, allowing us to preserve the historic intention and composition as it matures over the next decade.”

Adds Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park Director, Vincent Simeone, “What makes the grove so unique is its distinctive, intertwined pattern of both green and copper European Beech trees, giving it

a patchwork appearance with varying leaf colors at different times of the year. Unfortunately, over the past 15 years, the grove has declined significantly due to hurricanes, ice storms, heat, drought, and disease. Of the 22 original trees, only 12 remain. Most are in poor condition, infested with disease, or in the final stages of their lifespan. Because of its deteriorating condition, it is time to replace this important landscape feature for future generations to enjoy.”

The Foundation’s landscape team and NYS Parks are working together on other early action steps of the CLR including the restoration and rehabilitation of the Main Entrance Drive, the Heather Garden, and the Carshalton Gates and Carshalton Drive landscape. Already underway since last fall, work at the Carshalton Gates includes clearing the vista towards the gates by selective pruning and removal of invasive plants, and new hardscaping of the entrance drive. Additional improvements recommended by the CLR including installation of sitewide wayfinding and interpretive signage will begin in 2022.

About Planting Fields Foundation

Planting Fields Foundation strives to preserve and make relevant to all audiences the heritage of Planting Fields, an early 20th century 409-acre estate, designed as an integrated composition of the built and natural world. Founded in 1952 by William R. Coe, the Foundation is a not-for-profit public educational foundation chartered by the New York State Board of Regents and tax exempt under the status for a 501C3 organization. Located in Oyster Bay, New York and originally landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the Arboretum grounds feature 409 acres of greenhouses, rolling lawns, formal gardens, woodland paths, and outstanding plant collections. The original historic estate buildings remain intact including Coe Hall, a 65-room Tudor Revival mansion designed by Walker & Gillette. The interior of the house is a showcase of artistry and craftsmanship and features a distinctly American aesthetic through original ironwork commissions by Samuel Yellin and murals painted by artists Robert Winthrop Chanler and Everett Shinn. Planting Fields is included in the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the Nation’s historic sites worthy of preservation.

About New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more, which are visited by 78 million people annually. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit www.parks.ny.gov, connect with us on Facebook, or follow on Instagram and Twitter.

About Wonderland Tree Care, Inc.

Wonderland Tree Care is a professional tree care company that has been serving residential and commercial properties on the North Shore of Long Island, NY for nearly 40 years. Since 1979, Wonderland has built a positive reputation for combining quality and environmentally responsible tree care practices with superior customer service. We are dedicated to increasing the appreciation of trees and educating the public about proper tree care and management based on “Best Practices” standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).