

Cylburn Arboretum

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

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Preface

Cylburn Arboretum is an extraordinary treasure for Baltimore. For too long, it has been a hidden jewel and a well-kept secret. This plan aims to expand its visibility and the public’s access to Cylburn’s riches: its stately collection of specimen trees, its thriving woodlands, its noteworthy Victorian mansion, its romantic gardens, its public events and educational programs.

Cylburn is a resource for all Baltimoreans. In addition to serving its immediate neighbors, Cylburn serves as an oasis and retreat for the entire city. The arboretum provides immersive encounters with nature in the heart of a densely developed city, with over two hundred acres of public green space and miles of trails for walking, hiking and exploration. Its cool microclimates provide relief from scorching summer heatwaves. Significantly, it also serves as an important hub for educating Baltimore’s students and workforce about the natural environment with direct, interactive experiences and vocational training opportunities.

Cylburn has rich resources to offer visitors from outside the region as well. As Baltimore’s premier public garden, it is one of a number of noteworthy destinations that make Baltimore attractive to visitors and tourists. Some public gardens of the Mid-Atlantic offer immersive

experiences of historic landscapes. Others specialize in native plantings and ecological performance. Cylburn is the rare hybrid that offers both with authentically Victorian elements and expansive biodiverse habitats. Through this plan, Cylburn’s Victorian garden heritage and its ecological significance will be strengthened further, combined and distilled into a truly distinctive garden experience.

Cylburn is at a crossroads, so this master plan comes at a crucial time. Its assets are many, but it is aging and faces an array of significant threats. Indeed, without meaningful investment, much of what makes Cylburn so valuable is at risk of disappearing. The mansion is over 150 years old and the greenhouses more than 50. Both the mansion and the greenhouses need significant restoration and updates. The arboretum’s tree collection and woodlands are threatened by human and natural forces including deer, fire, plant pathogens and climate extremes. The threats are great, but with sustained stewardship and smart investments, Cylburn is poised to serve a growing number of Baltimoreans and outside visitors for the next generation. Its passionate staff, supporters and volunteers are ready to innovate horticulturally in ways that will reestablish Cylburn—in Baltimore and beyond—as a treasured public garden.



MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to improve the health and wellness of Baltimore through quality recreational programs, preserving our parks and natural resources, and promoting fun, active lifestyles for all ages. Our vision is to build a stronger Baltimore one community at a time through Conservation, Health, Wellness, and Social Equity.



MISSION & VISION

Our commitment to the Baltimore community is to support the Cylburn Arboretum through stewardship and educational programming. Our vision is to inspire a love of the natural world.