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BELLEFONTAINE
CEMETERY
AND ARBORETUM





REDEFINING THE ROLE OF A CEMETERY

There aren't many places like Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum. We proudly serve St. Louis and our greater community as an active cemetery, an arboretum, a key cultural institution, and a welcoming urban green space. *We belong to everyone at any time in their lives.*





Active Cemetery

Bellefontaine Cemetery is an active cemetery. Founded in 1849 with our first burials in 1850, we continue to provide full burial services to this day. We work to fulfill the final wishes of people from all walks of life. Our compassionate staff will guide you through the planning process and help you to find a meaningful expression of remembrance for yourself or your loved one. A wide range of burial and memorial options are available.

Arboretum

Bellefontaine Cemetery is an ArbNet accredited Level III Arboretum—the first in Missouri and one of only 55 in the world. Bellefontaine’s 314 acres are a public garden open year-round to visitors who want to enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons with the thousands of trees, shrubs, and plants growing throughout the grounds. Bellefontaine’s Arboretum collection features former state champion trees, along with rare native and exotic specimens. Tours are available.

Cultural Institution

Bellefontaine is more than a cemetery. We are host to many graduate and undergraduate conservation research programs focusing on our botanical collection. Visitors can learn about the history of our nation, and the St. Louis region, through the stories of those who chose Bellefontaine as their final resting place. Our volunteer guides share those stories during educational tours. A collection of monumental funerary architecture, designed by renowned architects, is located on our grounds. A collection that is unparalleled in the St. Louis region, comprised of artists.

Non-Profit Organization

The Friends of Bellefontaine Cemetery (Friends) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to ensuring our Cemetery and Arboretum remain a premier St. Louis cultural treasure. Through fundraising, Friends provides free or low-cost tours and educational events for the community. They also offer the Angels Rest Program for cemetery burial assistance and support the award-winning Arboretum through vital conservation and eco-friendly initiatives. With the help of donors and volunteers, Friends ensures this historic resource remains living and vibrant for generations.

Wildlife

Because of Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum’s vast collection of plants, the Cemetery grounds are a tranquil haven for local wildlife, attracting a wide range of important insect pollinators; mammals such as red fox, coyote, and raccoons; and red-tailed hawks, wild turkeys, wood ducks, and over 150 species of other birds, including migratory birds. We currently have 7.5 acres of reconstructed native wildlife habitat onsite and are working towards converting an additional 9.5 acres of lawn area to native habitat over the next several years. Bellefontaine Cemetery partners with the Audubon Society to conduct bird counts within its peaceful confines. It is our mission to provide critical habitat for the birds, insects, and animals that call Bellefontaine home.








1. NORTH OFFICE AND WILLOW GATEHOUSE 

The Cemetery's main entrance is flanked by the North Office on one side and the Willow Gatehouse on the other. In the office, visitors can find maps, information, and complimentary drinks. The Willow Gatehouse has restroom facilities for visitors, and is surrounded by a Victorian-inspired waiting garden.

2. JUDITH WATTERS 

She gifted an extensive collection of irises, which can viewed at marker #38.

3. ELIZA HAYCRAFT 

St. Louis' Civil War-era madam. Feeling she profited from the war, Eliza donated much of her wealth to widows, children, and orphans of the Civil War.

4. FITZ GUERIN 

Notable photographer and Medal of Honor Recipient.

5. MARY METCALFE REXFORD 

A WWII 'doughnut girl' and one of the first women to land on Utah Beach after the invasion.

6. WILDWOOD VALLEY  

This botanical memorial garden includes two lakes, a stream, and an outdoor columbarium for cremated remains.

7. SUSAN R. BUDER 

Civic Leader championing the cause of children and a St. Louis jewelry merchant.

8. ALBERT LAMBERT 

Developer of Lambert Airport and funder of Charles Lindbergh.

9. SHERMAN PARKER 

Missouri House of Representatives member.

10. IDA WOOLFOLK 

Community and educational leader with more than 40 years dedicated to the St. Louis Public School system.

11. HERMAN C. LUYTIES  

Owner of the first proprietary drug store in St. Louis. Luyties commissioned a version of the Monteverde Angel in Italy to mark his grave.

12. AMERICAN ELM TREE 

At 102 feet tall with a trunk circumference of 16 feet, this American elm was state champion from 2010 to 2017.

13. DAVID R. FRANCIS  


State and Federal politician; president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, i.e. the 1904 World's Fair.

14. WAINWRIGHT MAUSOLEUM  


Renowned architect Louis Sullivan designed this tomb for Charlotte Wainwright. The tomb was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

15. ELISABETH W. ROBERT 

Titanic Survivor whose story was the first firsthand account of the tragedy; published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

16. OSAGE-ORANGE TREE 



These native trees were historically used as fence lines. This line of trees marked the O'Fallon family's Athlone property prior to the Cemetery purchasing the land 1876.

17. SARAH TEASDALE 

In 1918, Sarah Teasdale won the first Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

18. LINDA SKRAINKA 

Contemporary artist based in St. Louis.

19. ANN C.T. FARRAR  

This small Greek temple is the resting place of William Clark's niece.

20. KATE BREWINGTON BENNETT  

Bennett was an esteemed beauty of her day due to daily draughts of arsenic she used to refine her complexion.

21. HOTCHKISS CHAPEL  

Constructed in 1909, the chapel is a tribute to Bellefontaine Cemetery's designer and first superintendent, Almerin Hotchkiss.

22. AZALEAS 

Azaleas are used to mark the Cemetery's historic walking paths.

23. GEORGE TAYLOR MAUSOLEUM  

President of Missouri Pacific Railroad from 1860-1868. Designed by St. Louis architect, George I. Barnett.

24. JOHN BERRY MEACHUM 

Founder of the first African American Baptist church in St. Louis, Meachum dedicated his life to educating the African American population in St. Louis.

25. EVERGREEN MEADOW/GLEN 

A dedicated green burial space featuring a restored native Missouri prairie.

26. WILLIAM CLARK   

Clark led the famous Corps of Discovery expedition. Across from the lot is a specimen garden featuring varieties discovered and documented during the expedition.

27. ANGELS REST 

This special memorial garden supports families who have lost a child under the age of two. This is a free service funded by donations made to the Friends of Bellefontaine.



Nature

















People



Structure



- 28. **ROBERSON BROTHERS** 
Pre-Civil War African American men who owned the premier barbershop at the Barnham Hotel and were Prince Hall Masons.
- 29. **ADOLPHUS BUSCH**   
Co-Founder of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery.
- 30. **JOHN O'FALLON**  
A successful railroad tycoon and banker, and nephew of William Clark, the pedestaled figure marking his grave in the middle of this round lot is called 'Hope' which faces the river and was designed by George I. Barnett.
- 31. **GEORGE ENGELMANN** 
Botanist who Henry Shaw consulted with on the creation of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Founder of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences
- 32. **WILLIAM TRELEASE** 
Early St. Louis botanist who aided Henry Shaw in the creation of the Missouri Botanical Garden.
- 33. **THOMAS HART BENTON** 
First U.S. Senator from the state of Missouri. Uncle and namesake of Missouri painter Thomas Hart Benton.
- 34. **DR. WILLIAM BEAUMONT** 
First medical researcher of the gastrointestinal system.
- 35. **VIRGINIA MINOR** 
National leader in the Women's Suffrage movement.
- 36. **SAMUEL HAWKEN** 
Manufacturer of the Hawken Rocky Mountain Rifle, the gun of choice for fur traders in the late 1800's.
- 37. **RED MULBERRY TREE** 
Former state champion red mulberry from 2015 to 2022. It has a spread of 57 feet and trunk circumference of 16 feet.
- 38. **GARDEN OF ANGELS/JUDITH WATTERS MEMORIAL IRIS COLLECTION** 
Friends of Bellefontaine's first memorial garden providing free graves and services for families who have lost an infant under the age of two. A selection of the Judith Watters Memorial Iris Collection lines the roadway.



Nature



People



Structure



BROWSE OUR INTERACTIVE MAP

bellefontainecemetery.org/visits-and-tours/interactive-map



FOR ALL, FOREVER

Bellefontaine Cemetery was created as part of a national movement to take burials out of the city and into beautiful public spaces where loved ones could *reflect, remember, and find peace*. Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum continues to uphold this vision today. We invite you to be a part of the history at Bellefontaine. Contact us today. We would love to hear from you!

Plan

Making arrangements for yourself and your loved ones isn't easy, but Bellefontaine's compassionate staff is here to guide you through the process. For more information, call 314-381-0750, email services@bcastl.org, or visit: bellefontainecemetery.org/cemetery-services

Volunteer

You can volunteer at Bellefontaine. Whether you want to be a tour guide, a greeter, a researcher, a gardener, or a special events organizer, we have a place for you. For more information and to fill out the volunteer application form, visit: bellefontainecemetery.org/giving/volunteer

Give

Join us in preserving Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum as a cultural treasure in the St. Louis region. Please visit our website: bellefontainecemetery.org to donate online. If you have any questions, you may email them to friends@bcastl.org or call the Friends of Bellefontaine office at 314-880-8579.



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Open Daily: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.