

*Read this article and answer the following questions, with a short answer or a written paragraph.*

# The Knippenberg Legacy



John and Dorothy Knippenberg were pioneers in the world of horticulture, with a deep passion for rhododendrons and azaleas.

The Knippenbergs acquired 30 acres of woodland across from their Pines Lake Drive West home in the 1940s. Over the next five decades, they transformed the property into Laurelwood Gardens, a renowned nursery specializing in unique hybrid varieties.

The couple's work in hybridization earned them widespread recognition and respect in the horticultural community. The arboretum, a testament to their dedication, now houses hundreds of unusual azaleas and rhododendrons.

Dorothy, an accomplished artist and horticulturist, created unique special gardens throughout the arboretum, each reflecting her creativity and horticultural expertise.

In 1963, the Knippenbergs made a commitment to preserving their beloved gardens and entered into an agreement with the Township of Wayne to bequeath the property as a public horticultural park for future generations. In 2006, the property was officially deeded to the Township and opened to the public as Laurelwood Arboretum. A year later, the Township formalized a partnership with the nonprofit organization, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, to oversee the park's maintenance and management.

Through the collaboration between the Township and the nonprofit organization, Laurelwood Arboretum has flourished. A strong network of individual and corporate volunteers working both on-site and behind the scenes has been essential to its success. Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum has enhanced the arboretum's infrastructure, adding the Sensory Garden, the Knippenberg Center for Education, two greenhouses (upper and lower), the Native Habitat Garden, the Environmental Preserve, and several storage buildings.

Today, Laurelwood Arboretum is a 30-acre haven for botanical diversity, featuring serene woodland trails, vibrant gardens, diverse wildlife, two ponds, and streams. Meandering gravel paths invite visitors to explore its natural beauty, making it a perfect destination for nature lovers, hikers, runners, birdwatchers, artists, and photographers.

Ongoing memberships, donations, volunteer support, and public funding help sustain this extraordinary property. Laurelwood Arboretum will continue to serve as an oasis of inspiration, renewal, and tranquility for generations of visitors to come.

1. What does the word 'horticulture' refer to here, as a science discipline as well as a profession? Look it up in the dictionary/online and write down your answers. Try to re-describe it from any definitions.

2. How much is an *acre* (of area)? For example, look up the size of a basketball court, and calculate (write down process and result) how many acre(s) is a basketball court.

3. When were the Knippenbergs (the couple) born, or in which decade did they grow up, approximately?



4. What's the meaning of the word 'bequeath'? And here, explain in your own words what it means to "bequeath the property as a public park" by/from the Knippenberg family?

5. From the last paragraph, "Laurelwood Arboretum will continue to serve as an oasis of inspiration, renewal, .."  
Which of the following is a valid (or, the best option) equivalent to the underlined word above?

- A. reason
- B. incentive
- C. effort
- D. sanctuary
- E. good example
- F. beginning

6. If the Arboretum is 30-acre by size of area, based on the Passaic County in New Jersey and if assume it is a residential place (e.g. a house with yards), find the (estimate) monthly tax it is expected to owe the government.

7. Fill in the blanks below for vocabulary,

rhododendron \_\_\_\_\_

azalea \_\_\_\_\_

legacy \_\_\_\_\_

vibrant \_\_\_\_\_

hybrid \_\_\_\_\_

commitment \_\_\_\_\_

meander \_\_\_\_\_

acquire \_\_\_\_\_

habitat \_\_\_\_\_

sustain \_\_\_\_\_