

High Plains Research Station and Arboretum

State Historic Site



HIGH PLAINS
ARBORETUM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Making Wyoming a more beautiful place

Providing Trees Across Wyoming

Horticultural research from 1930-1974 sought trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits, and vegetables that could thrive in Wyoming's tough climate. This research changed the landscape of the state, helped residents establish homesteads, and continues to make Wyoming a more beautiful place. Many trees that were given to landowners and government properties (WY state capitol, VA hospital, highway department, UW and more) are still alive today. Research was coordinated with experimental stations in Laramie, Torrington, and Lander. Trees were sent to arboretum collections in Gillette and Sheridan. Shelterbelt trees were given to private farms and ranches all over the state and region.



Future Statewide Contributions

With a restored greenhouse, Wyoming trees will once again be grown for use across the state. Seeds from state forests will be started to replace those trees lost from forest fires. The collection of tough trees in the arboretum will be propagated and shared with homeowners and communities. There is a great need to grow Wyoming trees adapted to our climate that can survive to benefit future generations.

Honoring Our Veterans

The station now hosts the only National Veterans Cemetery in the state of Wyoming. Future improvements to the site will also benefit visitors to the cemetery who are honoring their lost loved ones. The station also hosted a veterans CCC camp (see next page), who constructed the lath house, root cellar, and interior improvements to the greenhouse.



Agricultural Research

Ongoing grasslands research has helped ranchers around the state implement sustainable grazing practices since 1975. New research is exploring the use of targeted grazing by sheep and cattle for control of invasive weeds.

A Living Collection

A collection of around 600 historical trees remain in the arboretum, including rare specimens of plants collected by USDA plant explorers in the early 1900s from similarly harsh climates around the world. There are over 5,000 historic shelterbelt trees around the buildings and station grounds, many of which are native to Wyoming.

Notable Architecture

Station buildings were designed by renowned Wyoming architect William Dubois, who also designed the Wyoming State Capitol house and senate wings, the Agricultural Hall at the University of Wyoming, dormitories at the Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston as well as public buildings and private residences in Douglas, Green River, Basin, Rock Springs, Casper, and Cheyenne. Dubois also served in both houses of the WY legislature.



Depression-era CCC Structures

The station hosted two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps between 1935 and 1942. One was specifically for veterans. This depression-era federal program gave work experience and education to unemployed men while improving public lands. Many structures constructed by the camps remain on the station including stone terraces, bridges, and campsites. The root cellar, lath house, and greenhouse benches were constructed by the veterans camp.

For more information:

- Project updates at cheyennecity.org/arboretum
- To schedule a tour or talk contact:
Jessica Friis jfriis@cheyennecity.org
- To talk to state parks staff contact:
Christina Bird christina.bird@wyo.gov
- Contact your legislator at wyoleg.gov/legislators

