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Totally Terrific Treehouses Fact Sheet

- The **Totally Terrific Treehouses** exhibit was created in 2008 when a call to local artisans and builders went out to create unique tree houses for temporary display.
- These one-of-a-kind exhibits were designed and built by architects and artisans from around the Philadelphia region, and inspire wonder and appreciation for our arboreal heritage. They range from elegantly simple to fantastically elaborate.
- Most of the 2008 entries were built so well, that they are still in use today.
- To date, nine tree houses occupy the core 100 acres within the deer enclosure fence at Tyler Arboretum.
- **Storybook Houses:** The first tree house is just down the path from the Visitor Center and features three small cottages built on an eight foot tall raised deck nestled among the giant hemlock trunks. The cottages have scenes from well-known storybooks painted on the interior walls. This was originally built in 2008 by the students from the Williamson School of Free Trades.
- **Imagination Station:** This tree house features a walk-through tunnel that opens to a view of the Native Woodland Walk. Adults can take a break in the amphitheater style benches while kids done costumes from the costume box and put on a show. This was built in 2008 by Allan A. Myers, Inc. and Pocopson Industries.
- **Tree Hugger:** With a conservation ethic in mind, Tree Hugger is made of materials salvaged on-site from fallen trees and reclaimed lumber. It was created in 2009 by Janiczek, LLC and students from Philadelphia University under the direction of Re:Vision Architecture.
- **Cape May Bird House:** This human-scaled birdhouse is inspired by Tyler's Bluebird Trail. The architectural details and paint scheme recall the Victorian beach houses of Cape May, NJ. This was designed and built by Sam Burk and Paul Farnschlader.
- **Bell House:** Kids can create arboreal music by pulling the cords to ring the bells in this structure. When no one is there, the wind takes on the role of bell ringer with the wind chimes set high in the branches. Created by a team of Mt. Airy neighbors, Steve Kelly, John Darling-Wolf, Russell Pierson, this tree house gives visitors a playful way to interact with the tree.
- **Backyard Memories:** Inspired by the amazing tree houses that were exhibited in 2008, volunteers within the Tyler Horticulture Department created their own tree house in 2009. This structure was assembled from recycled lumber and found objects and features a green roof.
- **Strummin' and Drummin':** This tree house features a giant guitar created from the trunk of a huge fallen scarlet oak. The stump of that tree enjoys a second life as the base of an oversize drum. This was built in 2009 by the local performance and music education group Makin' Music Rockin' Rhythms.
- **Outlook:** Inspired by an angled, towering white oak, the designers of Outlook created a cantilevered platform that relies on the strength of the leaning tree and steel cables. The oval platform recalls the shape and structure of a leaf. Designed by PDK Architects and built by Hessert Construction.
- **Fort Tyler:** A unique collaboration among Linn Architects in Media, students from the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades and Toll Brothers, ADA-accessible Fort Tyler opened in 2013 and is situated among a grove of trees with a catwalk bridge leading to a fort-like structure 13-foot high. This tree house recalls childhood memories of building traditional backyard tree houses and forts.