HISTORY OF TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN

TIMELINE

1840  September 18, Worcester County Horticultural Society (WCHS) organized.
1842  March 3, WCHS incorporated.
1846  Society receives its first bequest, $3,000 from Daniel Waldo—one of its founders.
1851  1st Horticultural Hall built at 16-20 Front Street, Worcester, MA.
1861  All exhibitions canceled due to poor growing season (first and only time in Society history).
1872  Second Horticultural Hall opened at 30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA.
1883  Trustees vote to establish a Botanic Garden.
1886  Tower Hill Botanic Garden officially opens.
1887  Tower Hill designated a Special Environmental Site by Executive Office of Environmental Affairs of MA.
1888  September 25, Master Plan for Tower Hill unveiled.
1890  September 16, Lawn Garden and Harrington Orchard dedicated at Tower Hill.
1891  Tower Hill voted the Gold Medal for 1992 for excellence in service to its constituents and for the vision of developing a Botanic Garden, by the MHS.
1892  March 3, WCHS celebrates its 150th Anniversary.
1892  April 1, New half-mile entrance road–Fuller Drive, opens.
1894  January, Stoddard Education and Visitors Center opens, with a library, classrooms, gift shop, theater, and management and administrative offices.
1896  Fall, Parking Lot completed, Entry Garden hardscaping completed.
1897  Spring, Entry Garden to be planted, entry pavilion will be constructed.
1897  Fall, Groundbreaking for 4,000 sq. foot Orangerie (glass house) planned to house temperate plants for year-round winter enjoyment.
1899  February 28, Public Opening of Orangerie.
2001  Construction of the Folly completed in the Inner Park.
2002  Construction of the Hope H. Spear Wildlife Refuge Pond completed.
2002  Construction and installation of the Moss Steps completed on the Loop Trail.
2006  Capital Campaign Phase IV fundraising begins and progresses.
2015  The Court: Garden Within Reach opens.