

Memorial Grove Project in the Village Arboretum

Sponsored by: The Gates Mills Garden Club

Gates Mills, Ohio is a member of Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

The Gates Mills Garden Club wished to honor the memory of members who had recently died and decided to plant a mature dogwood tree, *Cornus florida*, for each of them as a living memorial. A site in the Village Arboretum, which was created and is still maintained by the Gates Mills Garden Club, was chosen and the first tree was planted in 2009. As of 2011, the Memorial Grove has nine trees with engraved tags bearing each member's name.

In addition to honoring the deceased members, the trees will help to anchor the banks of the Chagrin River on which the Village Arboretum is located. Each spring thaw brings the possibility of flooding and the subsequent erosion that results at this location at the bend in the river's natural course. It is expected that the plantings will help to prevent or retard this erosion of the banks. The trees will also provide food and shelter to the abundant wildlife that inhabit this area in the Village of Gates Mills.

To enhance the Memorial Grove's beauty and to remember those who had died, a local boy scout troop under the leadership of an Eagle Scout candidate helped to plant 1,100 daffodil bulbs in the grove and throughout the Village Arboretum.



Spring thaws bring local flooding to the Village Arboretum.



Sample of the tags bearing the deceased member's name.



*A portion of the Memorial Grove - 9 *Cornus florida* trees added.*



Some of the 1,100 daffodil bulbs planted by a local boy scout troop.



The Arboretum, on the banks of the Chagrin River, provides a serene and beautiful retreat for local residents and visitors.