Klehm owes its unique collection of mature trees and shrubs to our site's nearly 100-year history, beginning as a tree nursery.

- 1923 to 1968: William Lincoln Taylor, a landscape architect, ran Rockford Nurseries on this site with his brothers Everett and George. The Taylor brothers planted seeds and cuttings from around the world.
- 1968 to 1985: When the Taylor brothers retired, they sold their nursery and its tree-filled land to Carl Klehm who continued the business with his sons. In 1985, the Klehm brothers donated the land to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve to be used as an arboretum named after their parents, Carl G. and Lois Klehm.
- 1989: The Winnebago County Forest Preserve offered use of the site to the Northern Illinois Botanical Society—and Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden grew from the legacies left by two families of nurserymen.

As you walk Klehm’s grounds, see if you can spot the old nursery tree configurations!

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is truly a one-of-a-kind destination. Thanks to our special history, the beautiful landscapes, rare trees, themed gardens and gently winding paths and trails throughout our 155-acre site, there is something for everyone to explore.

A visit to the Nancy Olson Children's Garden and its Kid's Creek natural play water feature and splash pad is sure to delight young and old alike. Be sure to take in the view from the observation tower!

And don’t forget to stop by our Visitors Center to browse the great variety of hand-selected items available in our Gift Shop!
How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.

How to Read a Tree Label

Don’t be afraid to get up close and personal with our four-season dwarf conifer garden—the miniature stature of these cone-bearing trees invites closer exploration of their unique shapes, colors, and textures!

DWARF CONIFER GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

VI BATES WOODLAND WILDFLOWER GARDEN

This gorgeous garden is home to early springtime blooms, as well as other native woodland species.

PREHISTORIC GARDEN

This garden showcases some of the trees and plants which grew in prehistoric times, including the highly recognizable ginkgo. You’ll also find Klehm’s Dinosaur mascots, Flora-Fauna and Tree-Rex.

NANCY OLSON CHILDRENS’

Explore the Kid’s Creek for interactive stream play and frolic through our splash pad. This fun play area is perfect for cooling off on a hot summer day, no matter your age.