The Orchard Arboretum has a diverse collection of more than 75 common and unusual species of trees and shrubs to be enjoyed during all seasons by Applewood residents and the community.

— Orchard Arboretum Committee and the Town of Amherst Conservation Department

Some of the many species at the Arboretum:

Acer saccharum
Aesculus hippocastanum
Amelanchier x grandiflora
Betula platyphylla
Campsis radicans
Carpinus betulus
Cerasus canadensis
Chamaecyrus japonica
Chamaecyparis obtusa
Chionanthus virginicus
Cercidiphyllum japonicum
Clethera alnifolia
Cornus kousa
Cornus mas ‘Golden Glory’
Crataegus viridis
Ginkgo biloba
Gymnocladus dioicus
Hamamelis virginica
Heptacodium miconioides
Ilex verticillata
Juniperus formosana
Koelreuteria paniculata
Larix laricina
Liriodendron tulipifera
Liquidambar styraciflua
Malus spp.
Magnolia soulangeana
Metasequoia glyptostroboides
Morus rubra ‘pendula’
Nyssa sylvatica
Oxydendrum arboreum
Parrrotia persica
Phyladephus x virginalis
Prunus subhirtella
Prunus ‘Hally Jolivette’
Pyrus calleryana
Quercus palustris
Rhododendron ‘Olga’
Salix sachalinensis
Sassafras albidum
Sciadopitys verticillata
Sorbus alnifolia
Spiraea x vanhouttei
Stewartia pseudocamellia
Tilia cordata ‘Greenspire’
Vaccinium corymbosum
Sugar Maple
Horsechestnut
Serviceberry
Japanese White Birch
Trumpet Vine
European Hornbeam
Eastern Redbud
Japanese Quince
Hinoki False Cypress
White Fringetree
Katsurinatre
Summersweet Clethra
Kousa Dogwood
Cornelian Cherry
Green Hawthorn
Ginkgo
Kentucky Coffeetree
Yellow Witch Hazel
Carolina Silverbell
Seven-son Flower
Winterberry
Formosan Juniper
Golden Raintree
American Larch
Tulip Tree
Saucer Magnolia
Dawn Redwood
Red Weeping Mulberry
Black Tupelo
Sourwood
Persian Parrotia
Mock Orange
Weeping Cherry
Flowering Mist Cherry
Flowering Pear
Pin Oak
Rhododendron Olga
Faciated Willow
Sassafras
Japanese Umbrella Pine
Korean Mountain Ash
Vanhouette Spirea
Japanese Stewartia
Littleleaf Linden
Highbush Blueberry

Located on the south side of Applewood at Amherst
One Spencer Drive off West Bay Road
Amherst, Mass

The Orchard Arboretum at Applewood

A place to enjoy the trees, the view, the quiet.
The Orchard Arboretum is a town conservation area, open to the public from dawn to dusk.

It is ideal for birding, photography, reading, botanical study, contemplation, conversation.

The paved path is accessible for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers.

History of the Orchard Arboretum

Much of the hillside south of Bay Road in South Amherst had for many years been covered with apple orchards owned by the Atkins Family. However, as the orchard began to age and became unprofitable, it was gradually abandoned or sold off for development.

Attracted by the scenic location, in 1991, a small group dedicated to having a retirement community in Amherst bought 16 acres here and built the Applewood Retirement Community. Many residents cherished the overgrown apple orchard across from the main entrance, and having always considered it a part of Applewood, were stunned to learn in January 1994 that it was going to be sold for a condominium development.

Applewood residents and others in the community, including major support from a bequest given by Janet Dakin, raised the $175,000 needed to purchase the 6-acre orchard. The Kestrel Trust, a local land trust, assisted in acquiring the land and then transferred it to the Town of Amherst under the care and control of the Conservation Department with the proviso that it would be maintained as open land in perpetuity.

The Applewood Orchards Arboretum Committee works with the Conservation Department to help finance and maintain a 2-acre area as an arboretum. The aging apple trees have gradually been replaced with more than 150 trees and shrubs covering more than 75 species. Many of them were planted in memoriam by Applewood residents and their families. Additional contributions have allowed for the installation of benches and a paved walkway making it accessible for all users. The Town Conservation Department maintains the remaining 4 acres of the conservation area as old field habitat for birds and wildlife.