WINTERTHUR REOPENING PHASE 1: FAQs

When is Winterthur open?
Starting June 1, the garden and walking paths are open daily, 8:00 am–6:00 pm, until further notice.

Who can visit?
During our Phase 1 opening, Winterthur is open to Members from Delaware by reservation only. Only those who can visit while respecting the State of Delaware’s travel restriction are permitted. We look forward to welcoming visitors from out of state as soon as it is allowed.

How do I visit?
You must reserve a two-hour timed ticket to enjoy the Winterthur garden and grounds. Daily time slots are: 8:00–10:00 am, 10:00 am–12:00 pm, 12:00–2:00 pm, 2:00–4:00 pm, and 4:00–6:00 pm. The grounds will close at 6:00 pm.

Upon making a reservation, you will receive an e-mail with a link to a ticket to print at home and place on the dashboard of your car when you visit. A maximum of 100 cars will be allowed during each two-hour interval. Please note that the state mandates timed ticketing and reservations. Only Members who are Delaware residents are permitted during this phase of Winterthur’s reopening.

How can I make a reservation?
Reservations can be made online as well as by phone at 302.888.4600 (between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, Tuesday through Sunday) beginning May 26.

What if I have trouble making the reservation or printing my ticket?
Please call our Information and Tours Office at 302.888.4600 between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, Tuesday through Sunday for help making a reservation or if you have difficulty printing your ticket at home. Or e-mail the Membership Office at membershipinfo@winterthur.org.

Do I need my Member card?
Your printed Member reservation/ticket is all you need, though we do encourage you to always carry your Member card when visiting.

I just joined, so I don’t have a Member ID yet. How do I make a reservation?
Please e-mail membershipinfo@winterthur.org or call the Winterthur Information and Tours Office at 302.888.4600. We will be happy to help.

What parts of the property are available/accessible?
Almost all of the estate is available to walkers. Signs and maps across the property will facilitate safe exploration of outlying areas, and you can access an online map at winterthur.org/map. We are also beginning to mark Winterthur’s extensive system of trails. For the latest on this new initiative, keep up with your Member e-newsletter and our website.

Are rules enforced on the property?
Our Public Safety Officers are on-site to ensure that all visitors have a reservation and are following the rules and protocols as noted on our Covid-19 webpage and as indicated on signs posted around the estate. Our goal is to keep everyone safe and to do our part to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

**Where do I park?**
You may park in the Visitor Parking Lot. Please follow the signs and leave one empty space between cars.

**Are restrooms available?**
The restrooms in the Picnic House, located in the Visitor Parking Lot, are open. All other restrooms are closed, including those in the museum and galleries.

**Are restrooms cleaned and disinfected regularly?**
Yes, the open restrooms are cleaned and disinfected several times a day, using cleaning products that are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as effective against most bacteria and viruses, including the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

**Is hand sanitizer available?**
Hand sanitizer is available at the restrooms.

**Is water available?**
No. We recommend you bring your own water bottle.

**Is food available for sale? Can I picnic?**
Yes. When you make your reservation, either online or by phone, you have the opportunity to order from a menu of box lunches/picnic baskets. Picnics have always been allowed at Winterthur. Please carry in and carry out.

**What should I do with my trash?**
Please take your trash with you when you leave. If you must deposit your trash, there are waste receptacles in the Picnic House in the Visitor Parking Lot.

**Will you close if there are too many people?**
Yes. To ensure appropriate physical distancing, Winterthur may temporarily restrict access. We are permitted to operate at 30 percent of capacity during Phase 1 of the state’s reopening plan. Capacity is controlled through timed ticket/reservations. When we reach our reservation limit for a time period, we will temporarily restrict access to the estate.

**Will you remind visitors to maintain physical distancing?**
Yes. Across the property, signs will remind you to maintain an appropriate physical distance of at least 6 feet when you encounter other visitors and our staff. We will include reminders in our weekly Member e-newsletter and in other communications.

**Are there one-way walking paths?**
Yes, in areas where paths are narrow, we may direct visitors to follow one-way marks/arrows.
What if I have an emergency while I'm on the property?
Please call our emergency line at 302.888.4911 to ensure a swift response. Our property is vast; by calling our emergency dispatcher, you will be tended to in the most expedient way. If outside first responders are necessary, they will be guided to you by our Public Safety officers.

Can I walk my dog?
Pets are not permitted in the garden, nor are there provisions to house them during a visit. Do not leave dogs or cats in your car! There is no shade the Visitor Parking Lot. Properly identified service dogs that provide assistance for visitors with disabilities are permitted.

Can I pick wildflowers, collect mushrooms, collect rocks, etc.?
Please don’t. We ask everyone to take only photographs and leave only footprints. Help us maintain the natural habitat so that other visitors can continue to enjoy the beauty of our garden, woodlands, meadows, and wetlands. Please do not move or remove any natural or manmade materials from any part of the estate.

What other rules of garden etiquette should I be aware of?
Please don’t climb trees, stone walls, or other garden structures. Be aware that there are other guests in the garden, so please keep noise to a minimum (use headphones while listening to music or podcasts, etc.) Walking and running are allowed, but activities such as bicycling, rollerblading, kite flying, skateboarding, and any kind of ball play or Frisbees are not permitted. These are year-round restrictions. Sledding and ice skating are prohibited as well.

When will the museum reopen?
Winterthur will reopen the museum as soon as we can in accordance with the State of Delaware’s reopening plan.

Why can’t Members who live outside Delaware visit?
Governor John C. Carney’s state-of-emergency declaration of March 12, 2020, bans nonessential travel into Delaware until further notice. Residents of other states are required to self-quarantine for two weeks upon entering the state.

What if I live only a few minutes away?
We ask that you respect the travel ban. The governor’s order has the force of law. We support all state efforts to protect everyone against the spread of COVID-19.

When may Members who reside outside of Delaware visit?
As soon as travel restrictions to the State of Delaware are lifted. We look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as it is permitted.

Are you extending current memberships?
Yes. Current memberships were extended by three months in late April and Members were notified via e-mail about their extension on April 30. If we do not have an e-mail on file for you, please send us a message at membershipinfo@winterthur.org.

My card does not reflect this extension. Will I be allowed to visit?
We are not reprinting all cards, but be assured that the extension is reflected in our database. If you have joined or renewed since March, we are working to get new cards to you. Please be patient. If you have questions, please contact the Membership Office at membershipinfo@winterthur.org.

As with any facility outside of your home, use of the facilities at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library may expose you to the COVID-19 virus. Your decision to access this facility is made knowingly and voluntarily by you with full knowledge of this risk. If you do decide to visit Winterthur, your use of these facilities (including all indoor and outdoor spaces) shall mean that you are accepting the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus, have read and agree to all of our rules and protocols as they relate to COVID-19, and acknowledge that Winterthur is not responsible should you contract the virus. It is presumed that you will make your own assessment of the associated risks of coming to Winterthur and will act accordingly.