Hadwen Arboretum Historical Notes

- Arboretum was willed to Clark University by Obadiah Hadwen upon his death in 1907 at age 83.
- Hadwen had been a horticulturalist and Commissioner of Public Parks in Worcester with whom Jonas Clark had worked on city park and tree planting projects. He was also a proud farmer who successfully ran a 60 acre farm.
- From Hadwen's will: ...Said estate to be forever kept for the purpose of educating students in Agricultural, Historical, and Arboreal knowledge scientific and practical. I adopt this course with the purpose in view of preserving the trees and plants growing thereon, being a portion of my life work, shall be preserved as an Arboretum, and an object lesson to assist students in the education of the science and art of Arboriculture and improving the landscape.
- Hadwen also willed \$1000 to Clark University to be invested, with the annual income used "to embellish the University grounds with ornamental trees and plants."
- Arboretum survived years of neglect, and at several times there was interest in selling it.
 The Biology Dept., University Trustees, and students had several times (including 1921,
 1925, 1952, and 1971) submitted reports and recommendations to clean up the arboretum.
 The 1971 student report found that many of the Arboretum's original trees were still alive
 and had produced healthy offspring.
- A 1978 report by two Clark students cataloged 40 different types of trees at the arboretum (see chart) and concluded that "the area …be returned to full and operational Arboretum status. The area shows immense potential and an intrinsic value to the University with regard to the study of Biology, Geography, Geology, and their various subdivisions."
- Trustees in 1985 made a firm decision not to sell the land, and began restoration efforts. In particular, the clearing underbrush had an immediate visual effect and improved tree health.

