

The Davey Tree SEED (Science, Employee Education and Development) Campus is the new home to the Davey Institute, which is the science and research arm of The Davey Tree Expert Company, and where specialized training and research facilities for company will take place. The approximately 200-acre property formerly housed the Oak Knolls Golf Course on State Route 43 in Kent, Ohio. The science and learning campus was designed to ensure that Davey continues to attract and retain the most qualified, well-trained and engaged employees possible. The property opened to employees in the summer of 2025.



## Research Facilities:

The research facilities at the SEED Campus are designed to solidify Davey as an industry-leader in tree care and landscape research. Listed below are the locations and opportunities on the SEED Campus that will continue to guide Davey towards sustainable, proven solutions.

-  A state-of-the art laboratory for conducting tree health and arboriculture research
-  A plant pest diagnostic laboratory, which has an operating permit from the United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
-  Four, 600-square-foot greenhouses and a container nursery
-  Approximately 26 acres dedicated to tree, shrub and turf research plots with state-of-the-art irrigation systems
-  A three green, six-tee golf course for research and training in support of the Davey golf division and turf management programs
-  Compacted soil research site for studying management of trees growing in disturbed urban soils
-  Pollinator habitat research site
-  A 50-foot-tall canopy walk used for research on tree physiology high in the trees
-  Vegetation management research at the two-acre solar panel array to support Davey's utility services

## Training Facilities

Housed inside the main training center building is a **10,700-square-foot indoor, at-height climbing training center**. With this state-of-the-art structure, Davey will conduct diverse and advanced climbing training programs for field employees. The campus' **four training center classrooms** are more than double the size of the previous classrooms located in the former Davey Institute building, located across the street at Davey's corporate headquarters. The classrooms serve to teach many of Davey's educational and training programs, including the Davey Institute of Tree Sciences (D.I.T.S.), which is Davey's month-long flagship training program in biological sciences, safety, tree and plant care and management techniques.

Training takes place throughout the rest of the property as well. On-site training facilities include **15 spans of non-energized utility lines** that play a role in utility training scenarios, such as "Lines Under Tension" training. A **50-foot-tall canopy walk** will enhance training and safety at Davey, allowing trainers and climbers to be at equal height in a tree at the same time.



# Sustainability

The SEED Campus training center building is constructed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, and the Sustainable SITES initiative certification is being pursued for the landscape. To achieve this, all SEED Campus buildings are constructed with energy-efficient construction materials. The SEED Campus also features a 650-kilowatt photovoltaic solar array, making the property a net-zero carbon emission campus using all solar powered electricity.



Centrally located on the SEED Campus lies a **three-acre stormwater retention pond**. The pond pairs with two water wells that maintain water levels during the summer while avoiding any impact on City of Kent stormwater levels.

**The renovated event space is constructed from a barn that was on the original property.** Davey dismantled and stored the original barn's timbers, which were cut in 1890, and used them for the reconstruction of the new event space.

**A nine-acre bog** lies at the north side of property, which has been preserved by Davey employees in its natural state. A boardwalk allows access for wetland studies and training.

The campus also includes **EV charging stations, low-flow plumbing fixtures, bottle refill stations and LED lighting fixtures with occupancy and dim-control sensors** for a more sustainable, environmentally friendly property, as well as wood features throughout the building made from repurposed trees formerly on the property.



# Employee Engagement

The SEED Campus is designed to showcase Davey's dedication to employee retention and recruitment. In addition to world-class training amenities, the campus includes additional spaces exclusively for Davey employees to enjoy. The SEED Campus' main building is home to Davey's new archival space, which houses a multitude of Davey archives that have been collected over the years, some of which are on display for employees and visitors to experience. The main building also includes a Davey brand store that sells various Davey gear and merchandise. Davey employees who don't climb trees can simulate the experience via access to the outdoor canopy walk. The golf holes are open to all Davey employees for recreational use. The repurposed barn event space can hold approximately 225 people and includes a catering kitchen for food preparation and catering services to host Davey events.

# Community Engagement

The SEED Campus will also have public areas for community members to enjoy, specifically the SEED Campus arboretum and gardens, which will include public walking trails and be equipped with public parking and restrooms on the property. With over 500 different tree and plant species totaling over 30,000 plants, the arboretum will consist of five garden rooms including a Native Ohio Garden, Four Seasons Garden, Pollinator Garden, Conifer Garden and Water Garden, as well as an Ornamental Tree Collection and a Shade Tree Collection. The arboretum and gardens will open in 2026-2027 and are aiming for a Level IV ArbNet accreditation. The SEED Campus will also give Davey the opportunity to host members from the green industry community for research, training and industry leadership.

# History of Training & Research at Davey



D.I.T.S. Tree Climbing Training, 1930s



D.I.T.S. Classroom, 1927

Professional training classes at Davey began in 1908 and have grown into today's D.I.T.S. training program. The Davey Institute, which was formally established in 1954, conducts research on tree physiology, soil science, pest management and other topics to generate science-based solutions and services that support Davey experts as they care for their clients' trees and properties. The Davey Institute houses a USDA-APHIS compliant diagnostic laboratory allowing the lab to receive tree, shrub, turf and soil samples from throughout the United States, which it analyzes for pests and other disorders and prescribes solutions.



## Climbing to New Heights

The 10,700-square-foot, at-height climbing training center is a standout feature of the campus' main building. The nine metal structures that comprise the climbing structure can be rearranged based on training needs, allowing for diverse and flexible training sessions. The curriculum used for training on the structure has achieved the ISO 9001 certification, which is rarely achieved by training centers in arboriculture. This means the curriculum meets the same rigorous global standards for quality, consistency, and accountability as top manufacturers. The climbing structure is part of the Education Now Safety Assured (ENSA) partnership that provides training to numerous work-at-height sectors. This partnership allows other members in the work-at-height sector to access Davey's indoor climbing center, and likewise, Davey employees have access to ENSA's other facilities across the U.S.



