

Please contact our
Community Trees Advocate:
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The Morton Arboretum Reaches Out to Your Community!

Trees make our world better!

To extend our mission beyond our borders the Arboretum makes available a Community Trees Advocate who can enhance your community's quality of life. Our Advocate connects Chicago area residents with the benefits of trees, and promotes landscape protection and management to ensure the long-term presence and health of trees.

For general Arboretum information,
please call 630/968-0074 or visit us
on-line at www.mortonarb.org.


The
Morton
Arboretum

4100 Illinois Rte. 53
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The mission of The Morton Arboretum is to collect and study trees, shrubs, and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes for people to study and enjoy, and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment. Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world.

The Arboretum is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Why Are Trees Important?

Trees support your community's quality of life. While most people know this intuitively, data from national research confirms that...

For the environment, trees:

- Offset the urban "heat island" effect that causes developed areas to generate and retain more heat than natural areas. Trees reduce the demand for air conditioning thereby avoiding pollutants resulting from energy production;
- Improve air quality by filtering out pollutants and generating fresh oxygen;
- Reduce runoff and erosion that damage water quality.

For homeowners, trees:

- Reduce summer cooling needs up to 30 percent;
- Block winter wind to decrease home heating costs up to 20 percent;
- Increase residential property value up to 10 percent.

For commercial centers, trees:

- Promote longer, more frequent shopping trips;
- Create a higher perceived value for goods in well-landscaped shopping districts;
- Improve drivers' concentration, calm traffic, and lower driving fatigue, contributing to safer roadways.

For individuals, trees:

- Inspire feelings of well being;
- Help lower crime rates;
- Help concentration levels of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder;
- Positively affect teenage self-esteem;
- Reduce overall aggression levels, when residents enjoy a green environment.

Acknowledge Your Investment!

A "green" infrastructure is an important component of vibrant, thriving cities and towns. Not only are trees beautiful to look at, but also they're economic assets. Benefit-cost analyses reveal that the long-term worth of urban forests is **more than twice** their initial costs. Trees are among the only community capital investments that **appreciate over time**.

The average street tree is worth between \$1,000 and \$4,000. One Chicago suburb projected that its healthy trees on municipal land are worth more than **\$45 million dollars**. In fact, a single tree can save a homeowner up to \$275 annually on air conditioning and provide other valuable benefits.

How Can the Arboretum's Community Trees Advocate Help?

Our Community Trees Advocate is here to help your community:

- Assess its "green" resources and **develop a tree management plan**.
- Review or develop ordinances and guidelines to protect trees and **ensure optimal care**.
- Achieve the progressive "**Tree City**" status and seek **grant funding** for greener streets.
- **Preserve neighborhood character** by balancing growth with respect for existing trees.
- Encourage **community education** and **participation** in tree care strategies.
- Plan and manage trees for **long-term health** and sustainability.
- Guide public education programs emphasizing the roles and values of trees, and provide ideas for community tree celebrations.

The Morton Arboretum is Your Resource!

The Morton Arboretum's outstanding resources support the work of our Community Trees Advocate. Strengths include:

- **Extensive knowledge of trees and shrubs.** The Morton Arboretum displays 3,300 different kinds of trees, shrubs, and other plants from 50 countries throughout 1,700 acres of gardens, themed plant collections, and natural landscapes.
- **Better urban trees.** We've developed and introduced 20 new trees to the market, all well adapted to harsh, urban, northern Illinois environments.
- **Internationally recognized research.** The Arboretum's world-class research team is one of the largest of any arboretum. Seven full-time research scientists and 18 research associates study many different aspects of urban horticulture, tree breeding, and conservation.
- **Model projects in urban ecosystem restoration.** Our significant model projects include notable prairie and waterway restoration efforts.
- **Comprehensive education programs and resources.** Annually, about 7,500 adult students participate in 350 Arboretum courses in horticulture, botany, natural history, and other topics that stimulate understanding and stewardship of the natural world. Youth programs reach another 22,000 young students every year.
- **Family Events.** The Arboretum offers enjoyable, imaginative, natural adventures to learn about trees, horticulture, and natural landscapes, such as our annual Arbor Day Celebration, Fall Color Festival, and Prairie Heritage Days.