

# Tree Conservation Programs

## Local Roots, Global Reach



**GROWING  
BRILLIANTLY**  
The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum





# Tree Conservation Programs

## Local Roots, Global Reach

Tree science is The Morton Arboretum's breeding ground for discoveries, and conservation is the practical application of those discoveries as we preserve and protect trees worldwide.

Individual tree species play myriad economic, ecological, and cultural roles in today's society. We depend on trees in our everyday life for food, timber, medicine, and beauty—not to mention as a food source and habitat for wildlife. We stand to lose so much if we don't find the means to save them.

Our focus begins at home. The Arboretum is leading the Chicago Region Trees Initiative, a coalition of agency, industry, and community representatives in the seven-county Chicago metropolitan region, to expand the understanding of the value of the region's trees and to make meaningful urban forest improvements.

While our roots are local, our reach is global. The Arboretum's conservation efforts extend from preserves, parks, and private yards in the region to forests around the world.

The Arboretum partners with Botanic Gardens Conservation International to assess the health of tree species, including those in the oak family, which are iconic and valuable trees for the Chicago region. Through formal and informal partnerships with other arboreta and gardens, we are developing and refining best practices for growing and protecting endangered trees on our grounds and at other public gardens. The Arboretum's role as a leader of ArbNet, a professional community, online resource, and accreditation program, helps ensure a professional network of arboreta will be in place to address the challenges to trees.

Through this campaign, we will be better positioned to meet the growing demand for our expertise. What's at stake? More than 8,000 tree species worldwide are threatened with extinction. It's up to us to do our part to conserve these trees.

“Innovation and conservation—these two words come to mind when I think of The Morton Arboretum. The organization is finding solutions for our natural world by harnessing the great minds of tree scientists and the power of the broader arboretum community to support such critically important efforts.”

K'Lynne Johnson  
President and CEO, Elevance Renewable Sciences  
Arboretum Trustee



## The Impact of Your Philanthropy

Your support of Tree Conservation Programs ensures that The Morton Arboretum will:

Translate research findings into practical solutions to safeguard trees.

Improve the vigor and resiliency of the Chicago region's urban forest.

Enhance the conservation value of collections at arboreta worldwide.

Build stronger links between gardens and wild areas that are homes to rare trees.

Develop tools to help arboreta strengthen the impact of their collections and our collective mission to protect trees.





157  
million

Trees in the Chicago region's  
urban forest, supporting  
10 million people

270

Communities in the Chicago  
area currently benefiting from  
the Arboretum's expertise

18,080

Tons of pollution removed  
from the air by trees each year  
in the Chicago region

\$47

million

Amount by which trees  
reduce energy costs in the  
seven-county Chicago region

8,000

Globally threatened tree  
species (roughly 1 in 10)

100

Endangered plant species in  
the Arboretum's living collection

Tree Conservation  
Programs by the  
Numbers





Tree Conservation Specialist  
Murphy Westwood, PhD

## Sharing One Canopy of Trees

*What's the Arboretum doing to protect the Chicago region's urban forests?*

We're bringing together leaders from the region to help focus priorities, develop goals, and create a strategy to build a healthier urban forest. We need to examine which tree species and how many to plant, and to train people to be tree stewards to promote diversity of tree species and a balance of young versus older trees. It's a big vision. We want to ensure that trees are long-lived and healthy, and bring benefits to people.

*It often takes generations for conservation efforts to yield results. How do you stay hopeful?*

Just look at our Chicago Region Trees Initiative. We're implementing a strategy with regional partners to build a healthier urban forest by 2040. Attaching a target date to this undertaking says everything about our confidence and capabilities.

*What is the Arboretum doing on a global level?*

Many things. We are working to complete assessments for threatened tree species and collaborating with gardens and organizations in China, the United Kingdom, and France on areas of mutual interest. And we created a professional community, online resource, and accreditation program called ArbNet to connect arboreta around the world so we can all tackle these challenges together.

*Arboreta and other botanical gardens are increasingly at the center of conservation efforts. What is their most important contribution?*

We have the knowledge and expertise to prevent extinction by strategically building and using collections to support threatened species conservation. High-quality, genetically diverse collections provide seeds and plants that are an insurance policy should plants in the wild go extinct.

# Please Join Us

*Growing Brilliantly: The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum* will advance key initiatives as the Arboretum continues to grow in size, influence, and impact.

We invite your generous leadership gift, even as you continue your loyal support of Annual Giving over the course of the campaign. Both commitments are critical to the Arboretum's ongoing vitality.



Tree Conservation Specialist **Murphy Westwood, PhD**, did her postgraduate research on palm trees and South African daisies (“not woody, but still wonderful”). Her favorite tree is the **Wollemi pine**.

*Growing Brilliantly*  
*The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum*

A New South Farm	\$20.2 million
Center for Tree Science	\$ 6.8 million
<b>Tree Conservation Programs</b>	<b>\$ 3 million</b>
New Plant Development	\$ 2 million
Children's Garden Enhancements	\$ 1.3 million
Annual Support (five-year period)	\$30 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63 million</b>



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