



THE  
CHAMPION  
of TREES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Morton Arboretum cancels classes, events through April 30**

*—Remains open, with limitations—*

LISLE, Ill. (March 25) – The Morton Arboretum is remaining open to provide people with access to essential outdoor activity, in alignment with Governor Pritzker’s March 20 executive order related to the coronavirus (COVID-19), but with new procedures and operational limitations.

All buildings and indoor restrooms are closed. All classes and events, including its annual Arbor Day Plant Sale, have been canceled through April 30, with some educational programs transitioning to online learning formats.

“The Arboretum is committed to staying open as long as it is safe and prudent to do so, to provide visitors with the physical and psychological benefits of being among trees and outdoors during a stressful time,” said Arboretum President and CEO Gerard T. Donnelly, PhD. The Arboretum is urging members and others to review the temporary operational changes on its website at [mortonarb.org/coronavirus](http://mortonarb.org/coronavirus) and plan their visits accordingly.

The new policies and procedures are designed to moderate attendance and ensure that visitors follow required social distancing practices of remaining at least six feet apart as coronavirus preventive measures. “If it becomes evident that visitors do not maintain six feet of distance, the Arboretum will have no choice but to close,” Donnelly said.

With 1,700 acres, nine miles of roads, and 16 miles of hiking trails, the Arboretum provides space to walk, hike, run, and bike. The new procedures include:

- Temporarily shortened operating hours, from 7 a.m. through 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. last entry.
- Only credit card payments or membership cards, not cash, will be accepted at the gate. Any Day Tickets may be purchased online in advance at [mortonarb.org](http://mortonarb.org), but do not guarantee same-day entry.
- All indoor restrooms are closed. Portable restrooms are provided for urgent needs only.

- The number of visitors will be moderated to control attendance. Visitors should be prepared to wait or not be able to enter if attendance limits have been reached.

Visitors are also being reminded that dogs and other pets are not allowed apart from seasonal Dog Admission Days. Visitors who bring pets will be asked to leave, with no refunds provided.

“The Arboretum continues to monitor the coronavirus situation daily,” Donnelly said. “Visitor and staff health and wellbeing are the top priorities.”

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#### **About The Morton Arboretum**

The Morton Arboretum is an internationally recognized outdoor tree museum and tree research center located in Lisle, Illinois. As The Champion of Trees, the Arboretum is committed to scientifically informed action, both locally and globally, and encouraging the planting and conservation of trees for a greener, healthier, more beautiful world. On 1,700 acres are 222,000 plant specimens representing 4,500 different kinds of plants, along with specialty gardens, educational exhibits, the award-winning Children’s Garden, 16 miles of hiking trails and the Visitor Center, featuring The Arboretum Store and the Ginkgo Restaurant and Café. The Morton Arboretum is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, welcoming more than 1.2 million visitors annually. Learn more at [mortonarb.org](https://mortonarb.org).