

Lawrence Rotary Arboretum becomes accredited by Arbnet

The Lawrence Arboretum has been awarded a Level I Accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum, for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. The ArbNet accreditation program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity and professionalism. The Lawrence Rotary Arboretum is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience and other resources to help arboreta meet their instructional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program is sponsored and coordinated by the Morton Arboretum, in cooperation with the American Public Gardens Association, and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access,

programming and tree science, planting and conservation.



The accreditation application was enhanced by the recent addition of a GIS-based self-guided tour that can be accessed on the computer and mobile devices. It was built using inventoried trees from the TreeWorks mapping software and a GIS database to develop the interactive storyboard.

Individuals can learn about the trees as they walk through the arboretum. The ESRI storyboard has photos of the trees in the arboretum along with the common and scientific names of each species of tree. The project was completed by Heartsong Turnbull, horticulture intern and Micah Seybold, GIS coordinator. Please visit: <http://lawks.us/2xCmOih> to view the storyboard.

Further education within the arboretum has been created through tree markers, funded by the Rotary Clubs of Lawrence. The tree markers detail the common and scientific names of trees within the arboretum. More than 100 tree markers have been placed within the arboretum to-date.

