



G R O U N D S F O R S C U L P T U R E

Grounds For Sculpture Upgraded to Level II Arboretum by the Arbnet Accreditation Program

The 42-acre Sculpture Park is One of Only 221 Arboreta Worldwide with this Accreditation

Hamilton, NJ – October 22, 2024 – Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) today announced that it has recently been accredited as a Level II Arboretum 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 Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. In addition to the recent upgrade, GFS is also recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world’s arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants. As of October 2024, GFS is one of only 221 arboreta worldwide that has the Level II Accreditation.

“We are honored to receive the Level II Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum,” remarked Janis Napoli, Director of Horticulture at GFS. “This accreditation reflects the tireless work of the GFS Horticulture department as well as the support and dedication of our volunteers. It underscores our commitment to planting and conserving trees, leading thoughtful educational programming, and carefully documenting our extensive living collection.”

Landscape construction for what would become Grounds For Sculpture began in 1989 on the former site of the New Jersey State Fairgrounds. Since then over 2,000 trees, representing more than 100 species and cultivars, have been planted, forming the sculpture park, museum, and arboretum’s living collection. The diverse and artful collection of plants comprising the living collection evoke feelings of surprise and delight, which was part of founder Seward Johnson’s original intention for the grounds and its carefully curated interplay of art and nature. This resulted in plants being chosen for unusual or rare qualities rather than what is typical for a botanic garden or arboretum. This philosophy is being carried forward as part of GFS’ Living Collection Policy along with more traditional taxonomic collections of woody plants, herbaceous plants, and non-hardy (conservatory) plants.

In 2022, Grounds For Sculpture received a Level I Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum. Requirements for this level include having an arboretum plan, an organizational or governance group, at least 25 labeled tree and woody plant taxa, public access, and at least one event per year. To upgrade to Level II, the requirements become more robust; criteria include having at least 100 labeled tree and woody plant taxa and enhanced public and educational programs. In just two years, GFS was upgraded to a Level II Accreditation as it has over 100 labeled species and cultivars and year-round educational programs, such as houseplant propagation and care and seasonal tours of the living collection, all led by experienced Horticultural department staff.

Horticultural Programs

To learn more about and to register for current horticultural programs, visit the events calendar:

https://www.groundsfor Sculpture.org/calendar/?fwp_event_type=horticulture

Garden Circle

To support the care and growth of GFS' living collection, consider joining the Garden Circle:

<https://www.groundsfor Sculpture.org/join-support/garden-circle/>

About ArbNet

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by [The Morton Arboretum](#) in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with [American Public Gardens Association](#) and [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#), is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. 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. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

About Grounds For Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is a 42-acre not-for-profit sculpture park, arboretum, and museum, founded by the late Seward Johnson. Featuring over 300 contemporary sculptures by renowned and emerging artists in a beckoning, ever-changing landscape, Grounds For Sculpture combines art and nature to surprise, inspire, and engage visitors from all backgrounds in the artist's act of invention. In addition to its permanent collection,

Grounds For Sculpture offers exhibitions in six indoor galleries, alongside experiential art, horticulture, and wellness programs for all ages. Located in Hamilton, New Jersey, Grounds For Sculpture is easily accessible from the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas by public transit and is open year-round. For more information, visit groundsforsculpture.org.

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