



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

John R. Kasich, Governor
James Zehringer, Director



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ODNR Receives Arboretum Status for State Fairgrounds Park

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has received accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program for the ODNR Natural Resources Park at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. ArbNet is the only international program of accreditation specific to arboreta.

“The care and conservation of trees that are growing in urban settings across Ohio are important to our quality of life and the health of the environment,” said Robert Boyles, ODNR deputy director and state forester. “With this recognition from ArbNet, we hope to further encourage people to properly care for the valuable trees around their homes and communities.”

Accreditation recognizes professional planning, standards and practices of tree care, species diversity and public education. The ODNR Natural Resources Park is a popular destination, hosting several hundred thousand visitors during the Ohio State Fair each summer, in addition to other annual events held at the fairgrounds. It is known for the abundance of trees, offering scenic beauty, cool shade and a unique setting for fairgoers visiting such attractions as Smokey Bear, the butterfly house, the kayak pond and Ohio’s numerous other natural resources represented there.

The ODNR Park features the Governors Grove, with trees planted by Ohio Governor John Kasich and many of his predecessors. Many other trees in the park are labeled, including an American sweetgum tree grown from seed that traveled more than 2 million miles on the first flight of the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1984.

ArbNet is based from the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Other Ohio arboreta with ArbNet recognition include: the City of Bexley Arboretum; Hidden Hill Arboretum, Springboro; Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, Cincinnati; The Dawes Arboretum, Newark; The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland; The Ohio State University-Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Garden, Columbus; and Woodlawn Cemetery and Arboretum, Toledo.

The ODNR Division of Forestry works to promote the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio’s public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio’s woodlands, forest health and tree care, visit forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

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