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**THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED PARK AND ARBORETUM AWARDED LEVEL I ACCREDITATION  
BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

LISLE, Illinois (February 3, 2016) – The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce that the Frederick Law Olmsted Park and Arboretum in Newport, Rhode Island has been awarded a Level I Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, the Frederick Law Olmsted Park and Arboretum is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboretum.

The mission of the Frederick Law Olmsted Park and Arboretum, located at the National Museum of American Illustration, is to promote an understanding and appreciation of trees on the property by preserving and enhancing two historically important, diverse gardens representative of the area's Gilded Age in the mid-nineteenth century. While different in concept and executions, each holds a unique and historic landscaped garden. The Arboretum also seeks to honor the pioneering work of Frederick Law Olmsted, America's first landscape architect.

Half of the arboretum consists of Vernon Court— an adaptation of an early 18th century French Chateau designed and built in 1898 and landscaped in a manner similar to Hampton Court Palace's Pond Garden in England. The other half was previously the location of a mansion designed in 1884 and landscaped by Olmsted.

In 1998 the property was purchased by Laurence and Judy Cutler, an architect and art dealer respectively, as the site to house their art collection. Under their direction, a long-term process to bring these historic landscapes back to their original condition began.

Efforts to revitalize the historic trees throughout the public space are ongoing and select new specimens have been added, sensitive to the original concepts. Four State Champion trees make up the Arboretums' Signature Collection, including a Cutleaf European Beech, a native magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), a rare Spruce selected by Olmsted for the site, and a Zelkova also selected by Olmsted and believed to be largest in the United States.

"This prestigious accreditation from ArbNet is welcome public recognition and endorsement of the efforts that have been made over the past two decades to preserve and showcase historically important, diverse Gilded Age landscapes," said Laurence S. Cutler, co-founder of the arboretum and museum. "In addition, the resources offered by ArbNet will assist us in our efforts to continue to develop the Arboretum for public enjoyment."

**About the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program**

The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This international initiative offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Accreditation is based on self-assessment and documentation of an arboretum's level of achievement of accreditation standards. Standards include planning, governance, labeling of species, staff or volunteer support, public access and programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at [www.arbnet.org](http://www.arbnet.org).

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