

The Arboretum

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and Arboretum encompass more than 65 acres of hilly, wooded land at the edge of Nebraska City, just a few miles west of the Missouri River. The land was part of the estate of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. These grounds and the Morton mansion were donated to the State of Nebraska in 1923 by Joy, (Morton's oldest son), to be preserved as a monument to his father. The land and mansion are operated as a state historical park by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The park was officially designated as an arboretum on Arbor Day, April 22, 1976, by the then-newly chartered Nebraska State Arboretum. Arbor Lodge has 10 trees that the Statewide Arboretum recognizes as state champions because of their size and age. The collection of trees and shrubs consists of more than 260 species, including many native plants and some that are uncommon in the region. Some of the oldest and finest specimens in the arboretum were planted by Morton and the Morton family in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Arboretum serves as a peaceful and aesthetic park and as a living museum of woody plants native to the area. A complete inventory of plant species has been collected and mapped. Many of the Arbor Lodge Arboretum's specimens are labeled with both their common and scientific names. Interpretive signs along the Tree Trail enhance visitors' experiences.

In 1894, Morton closed his Arbor Day address by saying, "So, every

man, woman and child shall be able to say, on coming as I have come, towards the evening of life, in all sincerity and truth, 'If you seek my monument, look around you.'"

Rules for Visitors

Arbor Lodge, the Arboretum and formal gardens are maintained for the enjoyment of the public. Please help us keep this a lovely place to visit by observing these simple rules.

- Removal of plants, flowers, seeds or cutting is strictly prohibited.
- Please do not walk on or step in flower beds or special planting areas.
- Please do not deface or remove plant labels.
- Special permission is required to visit greenhouses.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the park.
- To visit the mansion, children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.
- Smoking, food, beverages and pets are prohibited in the mansion.
- Please observe posted speed limits.
- Vehicles must remain on roadways or parking lots.
- Discharging firearms is strictly prohibited.
- Cookouts are permitted only in the picnic area.
- No overnight camping is permitted. However, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission operates a public camping area at Riverview Marina State Recreation Area in Nebraska City.
- Vehicles must display a current Park Entry Permit.
- Videotaping and filming in the mansion are prohibited without prior approval of the superintendent.

Park Hours

Tours of the mansion are self-guided. Groups may make reservations for tours of the mansion and grounds by calling 402-873-7222 at least one week in advance.

Arboretum

Park entry permit required for each vehicle.

Hours: 8 a.m. - Sunset, year-round

Mansion

Admission:

Adults, \$3

Children 3-12, \$1

2 & Under, Free

(Prices subject to change)

Hours:

Living history will feature a variety of old time skills including cider pressing, carriage rides, hand spinning, quilting and china painting. Each of the four Sundays of Living History, enjoy a wide variety of entertainment. Spend a Sunday afternoon in Nebraska City during apple harvest and visit the home of the Father of Arbor Day, J Sterling Morton

Under federal and/or state law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, disability or political affiliation. If you think you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or want more information, contact the Affirmative Action Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-0641; the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-2024, TTY / TDD 402-471-4693. USFWS, Division of Bird Habitat and Conservation, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MBSP 4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

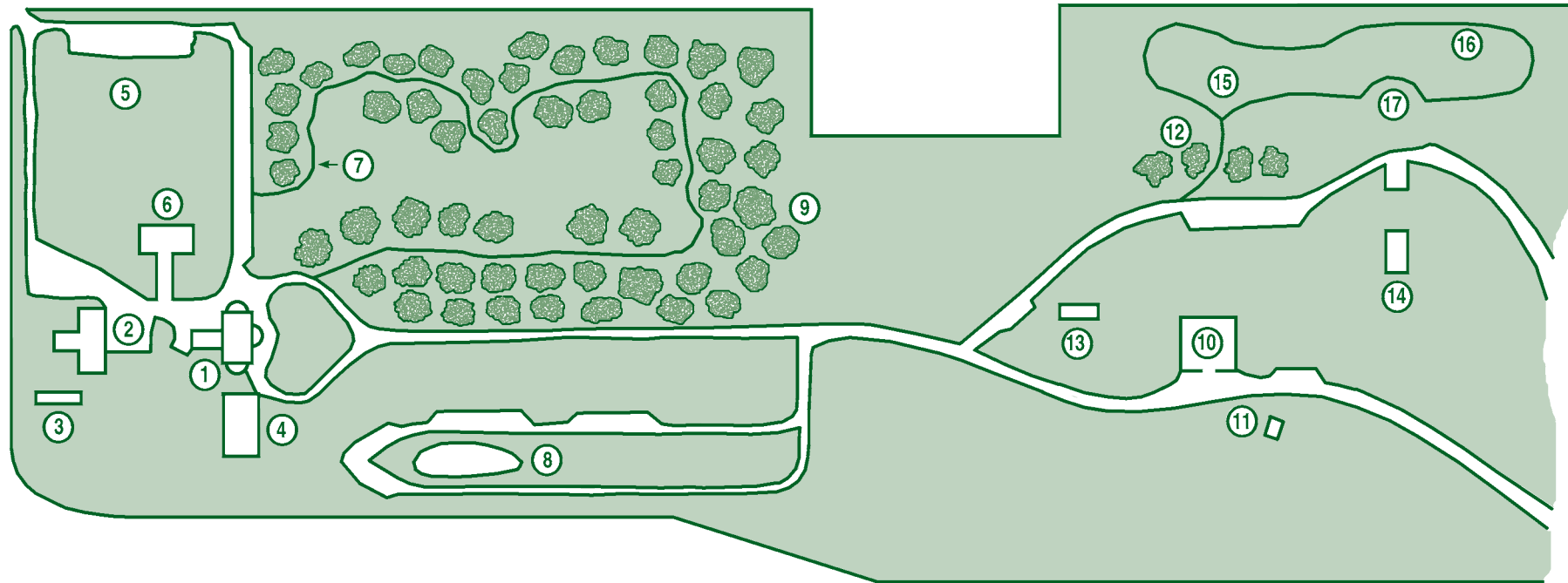
Printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper S03-08

Arbor Lodge Arboretum



Nebraska
Game and
Parks Commission

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and Arboretum



1. Arbor Lodge/Morton Mansion - 1855
2. Carriage House - 1901
3. Greenhouse
4. Italian Terraced Gardens - 1901
5. Pine Grove - Begun 1891 and replaced 1937 after most of original stand was killed or damaged by drought
6. Gazebo - Replica of original built in 1879
7. Morton Tree Trail
8. Fish Pond - 1900
9. American Chestnut Stand
10. Morton Monument - 1905
11. Log Cabin - 1890
12. Osage Orange - Oldest trees in the park, dating to approximately the 1850s
13. Restrooms

14. Picnic Shelter
15. Lilac Walk & Tree Trail - Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile
16. Benedict Memorial Gazebo & Meditation Area
17. Kimmel Bridge

Pine Grove

Planted by Morton in 1891 to prove to Governor Furnas that white pines would grow in Nebraska, this stand was replanted in 1937 after the great drought. Eastern white pine, western yellow pine and Austrian pine cover the approximately one-acre grove.

Tree Trails

The wood-chipped Morton Trail meanders for a half-mile through the original arboretum planted by J.

Sterling Morton. Interpretive signs along the way describe many of the specimens, including several species that are unusual in this area.

The Lilac Walk and Tree Trail is paved with limestone chips and winds for about three-quarters of a mile through this 7.1-acre tract, which features more than 200 varieties of lilacs from around the world.

Guests with vision problems should feel free to touch the specimens along the trails.

Fish Pond

The pond was restored in 1993 to the way it looked in 1900. Existing pieces of the original concrete ring were used in the restoration.

American Chestnut

This mature stand of American Chestnut trees is one of the few that escaped destruction by the Chestnut Blight, a fungus disease introduced into the United States around 1900 that virtually wiped out the “king of the hardwoods” in its native areas. These trees probably survived because of their isolation.

Osage Orange

These four large specimens of Osage Orange are thought to be the oldest living trees in the arboretum. They are remnants of a hedge row planted when the land was farmed.

