

MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY



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MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY UPGRADED TO LEVEL 2 BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

New York, NY (May 3, 2021) – Madison Square Park in New York City has been upgraded to a Level 2 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 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, Madison Square Park Conservancy 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.

Madison Square Park's arboretum celebrates seven acres of urban trees. Established in February 2018 as the sole arboretum in Manhattan, the arboretum is intended to be a free public resource, serving a community that does not have access to many forested areas. The arboretum has over 300 specimens of trees: of note are two historic English elms, pre-dating the park's construction in 1850, endangered species such as American elm, white ash, and extensive witch hazel and redbud collections.

Madison Square Park Conservancy has a robust tree succession plan focusing on species diversity, increasing fall color, and preparing the canopy for climate change. A tree fund campaign to support the trees of Madison Square Park kicked off on Arbor Day 2021.

About Madison Square Park Conservancy

Madison Square Park Conservancy cultivates and enlivens Madison Square Park, a dynamic seven-acre public park in New York City's Flatiron District and one of the city's most treasured greenspaces. Through its public art commissions, horticultural stewardship, and engaging programming, the nonprofit creates an urban oasis that welcomes a diverse community of over 60,000 visitors each day. Keats Myer is the Conservancy's Executive Director.

The Conservancy's Horticulture program is led by Deputy Director of Horticulture and Park Operations Stephanie Lucas, a 10-year veteran of Madison Square Park and certified arborist. Stephanie acts as lead curator and head of the Collections Committee. Since 2015, the Conservancy has become a leader in horticulture through its programming and elevated gardens.

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.

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