



Media Contact: Patti MacMillan, The Morton Arboretum  
630-719-5768, [pmacmillan@mortonarb.org](mailto:pmacmillan@mortonarb.org)

**ELMWOOD CEMETERY AWARDED LEVEL I ACCREDITATION  
BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

LISLE, Illinois (October XX, 2015) – The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce that Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit, Mich. has been awarded a Level I Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, Elmwood Cemetery is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboretum.

Established in 1846, the cemetery encompasses 86 acres of green space in downtown Detroit. Rich in history as well as memorial art and architecture, the cemetery’s collection of trees boasts 91 different species among its 1,450 trees.

“The cemetery’s trustees have provided our grounds maintenance team with the resources necessary to properly maintain our collection of trees,” said Michael Shukwit, director of operations for Elmwood Cemetery. “With this certification, that commitment will continue and we plan on planting no less than 400 trees to the collection over the next 10 years.”

Visitors to the cemetery, which remains active and serves the larger Detroit community, can learn more about the trees that dot its grounds through interpretive signs. Designated an important Underground Railroad site, the cemetery recognizes its historical significance through a self-guided African American Heritage tour, among other offerings.

“The cemetery’s certification as an arboretum is an important step in our education and outreach programs,” said Francis McMillan, President of the Trustees of Elmwood Cemetery.

**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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