

# Children's Garden Enhancements

## Investing in the Next Generation



  
**GROWING  
BRILLIANTLY**

The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum





# Children's Garden Enhancements

## Investing in the Next Generation

Imagination lives, curiosity grows, and kids find new pleasures in the Children's Garden as they splash through streams, climb colossal acorns, and slide down giant tree roots.

The Morton Arboretum is alive with programs and activities for children—making a difference in the lives of boys and girls who find their way to new discoveries, new memories, and new stories to tell about trees.

The debut of the enormously successful four-acre Children's Garden in 2005, made possible by generous gifts to the Arboretum's last campaign, was truly a transformative moment in our history.

Through the Children's Garden, we are opening young minds to nature—and opening up the world of The Morton Arboretum to new audiences.

More than 325,000 people visit the Children's Garden each year. It has become a cherished multigenerational destination where the young—and young at heart—delight in the wonder of trees.

Plans call for expanding Wonder Pond (for an even bigger splash!) and outfitting a picnic pavilion where families participate in educational programming or simply recharge and relax. We will redevelop the Garden's entrance to be even more visible and welcoming—engaging visitors as they begin their journeys and building anticipation for a memorable experience ahead.

Through this campaign, we will provide children with new ways of learning in this outdoor classroom, teaching lessons about the fragile complexities and powerful beauty of the natural world.

“What a tremendous service—the teaching of science! The Arboretum is stepping up to help fill a gap in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education with inspired programming that exposes children to the science-side of nature. By also providing extensive teacher development and curriculum support, the Arboretum is bringing the many lessons of nature directly into the classroom.”

Jim Parsons, President, The Brinson Foundation  
Arboretum Board of Advisors



“The Children’s Garden provides roots for children to grow—a solid grounding for helping them understand their place in the world. I bring my grandchildren here. It’s wonderful to see how nature captures their attention by inspiring creativity and exploration.”

Tom Gleitsman  
Principal, Exron Capital  
Arboretum Board of Advisors



## The Impact of Your Philanthropy

Your support of the Children’s Garden ensures that The Morton Arboretum will:

Reinvest in the great success of the Children’s Garden.

Continue to nurture the next generation of tree lovers and stewards of the earth.

Expand year-round programming and learning opportunities.

Attract young families who will then make lifelong connections to the Arboretum.

Further our education mission by expanding docent-led learning experiences.





325,000

Annual visitors to the Children's Garden

5,682

Trees and plants in the  
Children's Garden

90

Participants in the Garden's  
youth volunteer program

4,075

Hours of service contributed  
by adult volunteers to the  
Children's Garden each year

95 years

Age of the oldest tree in the  
Children's Garden, a tiger-tail spruce

The Children's  
Garden by  
the Numbers





Manager of Youth and Family  
Programs Lesley Kolaya

## Lessons from Nature

*Why is the Children's Garden  
important?*

A recent survey by The Nature Conservancy reports that 65 percent of U.S. parents worry that a lack of time in nature is a serious problem for today's kids. Children are spending too much time looking at screens and not enough time digging in the dirt.

*That explains the mud pie classes at  
The Morton Arboretum.*

Absolutely! At the Children's Garden, kids can make mud pies, splash in Wonder Pond, plant vegetable gardens, and play in tree houses. Laughter and learning go hand in hand. Mother Nature doesn't lecture. Her lessons are delightful.

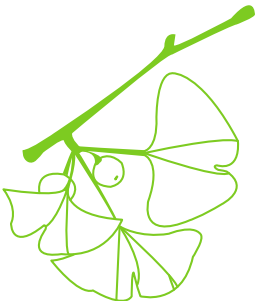
*Do trees need children as much as  
children need trees?*

Yes! At The Morton Arboretum, we want to help children become the kind of grown-ups that trees can count on. We need to plant the seeds now about how important it is to take care of the natural world. The Children's Garden is a living classroom where fun is the first lesson of the day.

# Please Join Us

*Growing Brilliantly: The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum* will advance key initiatives as the Arboretum continues to grow in size, influence, and impact.

We invite your generous leadership gift, even as you continue your loyal support of Annual Giving over the course of the campaign. Both commitments are critical to the Arboretum's ongoing vitality.



**Lesley Kolaya** fell in love with trees at her grandmother's farm in Indiana. She is the manager of youth and family programs. Her favorite tree is the **weeping ginkgo** in the Children's Garden.

*Growing Brilliantly  
The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum*

A New South Farm	\$20.2 million
Center for Tree Science	\$ 6.8 million
Tree Conservation Programs	\$ 3 million
New Plant Development	\$ 2 million
<b>Children's Garden Enhancements</b>	<b>\$ 1.3 million</b>
Annual Support (five-year period)	\$30 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63 million</b>



# **GROWING BRILLIANTLY**

**The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum**