

# Center for Tree Science

## Securing a Healthy Future for Trees



**GROWING  
BRILLIANTLY**

The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum





# Center for Tree Science

## Securing a Healthy Future for Trees

Some 100,000 tree species grow around the world—in cities and in the wild, in places near and far. They reduce heating and cooling costs, clean the air, and inspire us with their beauty.

The Morton Arboretum is dedicated to trees: We celebrate their beauty and usefulness, and we study trees, seeking new ways to understand them and improved methods for keeping them healthy. We realize that challenges for trees have become prevalent, especially in urban areas—low species diversity, difficult site conditions, pests and disease, and an aging canopy.

Taking on these challenges, and finding solutions for the region and world, is what The Morton Arboretum does best. As a thought leader among the world's arboreta, The Morton Arboretum is now taking the next step in securing a healthy future for trees. We are establishing the Center for Tree Science to bring together and catalyze a diverse group of scientists and other tree experts.

Our collective charge is clear. We will come together as a nucleus of experts—from arboreta, gardens, universities, and industry—to further collaborative research that leads to practical solutions for protecting trees. We will bring together people from academia and industry for conferences, workshops, and courses, as well as provide internships and training opportunities for a new generation of tree scientists.

The timing is critical. Despite the importance of trees in our lives and their benefits to society, minimal investments have been made in tree science and in training for the next generation of tree scientists and practitioners.

Through this campaign, we will launch the Center for Tree Science, firmly establishing the Arboretum as the voice for trees in the 21st century, and advancing efforts to understand trees both in the Chicago region and around the world.

“Trees are my passion—I understand from the head and the heart what needs to be done to protect them. The Arboretum is fulfilling a responsibility to our region and the world by conducting tree research that is absolutely essential.”

Anna Caroline Ball  
CEO, Ball Horticultural Company  
Arboretum Trustee



## The Impact of Your Philanthropy

Your support of the Center  
for Tree Science ensures that  
The Morton Arboretum will:

Facilitate collaborative, cross-  
disciplinary research on critical  
aspects of tree science.

Offer internships, mini-courses,  
workshops, and conferences to  
inform best practices.

Fill training gaps in tree  
science, conservation,  
and collections.

Create an outdoor  
demonstration area to  
showcase and interpret  
Arboretum research.





## Center for Tree Science by the Numbers

25

Arboretum PhD scientists and  
researchers advancing the study  
of trees

35

Partnering institutions collaborating  
on initial Center research projects

21

Percent decrease in federal funding for  
environmental research since 2009

19

Number of interns who trained  
at The Morton Arboretum in 2014

28

Number of articles published  
in peer-reviewed publications by  
Arboretum staff in 2014



Vice President of Science  
and Conservation  
Nicole Cavender, PhD

## Rallying Call for Trees

*Why is the Center for Tree  
Science important?*

A lot of efforts are hampered by a lack of scientific understanding of the complex challenges faced by trees and forests. The Center will generate new knowledge that will energize tree science and lead to best practices on the ground.

*What can the Arboretum do to train  
the next generation of tree scientists?*

There is clearly a decline in opportunities for students and young professionals to engage in a professional trajectory of training. We aim to provide those opportunities: undergraduate-level internships, as well as conferences, workshops, and courses for a range of audiences. We will bring people together from universities, science, and industry to help fill that gap.

*Why is collaboration important to  
tree science?*

When researchers work alone in their labs, it's hard to make rapid progress. When you bring experts together from diverse fields to address questions in tree science, you move the needle. Innovative tree science requires leadership, strategies, smart partnerships, and a shared vision.

# 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.

**Nicole Cavender, PhD,** vice president of science and conservation, was inspired to take up botany by her father, an ecologist who studies plants and fungi. She loves diverse forests with large trees.

*Growing Brilliantly  
The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum*

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





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