

A New South Farm Caring for the Arboretum You Love




**GROWING
BRILLIANTLY**
The Campaign for The Morton Arboretum



A New South Farm Caring for the Arboretum You Love

What do you love most about The Morton Arboretum?

Maybe it's the cathedral of trees that provide balm for the soul. Or the trails—through woodlands, wetlands, and prairies—free from the grit and the grind of an urban world. Or our beautifully tended gardens and landscapes that change with the seasons, yet never lose their brilliance.

All of these experiences are made possible because of South Farm, the curatorial hub and heart of the Arboretum. Our reputation as the world's leading arboretum is the direct result of the work of the arborists and horticulturists who work out of South Farm. The South Farm team keeps gardens and natural areas beautiful, supports research in tree science, and sets the stage for enriching and informative visits.

The current buildings of South Farm date back to the 1930s. Since then, The Morton Arboretum has more than quadrupled in size, with a sweeping 1,700-acre footprint and 930,000 annual visitors. This dramatic growth—combined with the urgency and relevancy of our mission—requires that we invest in new facilities at South Farm.

Through this campaign, we will build a new, fully modernized South Farm capable of supporting the world-class botanical institution that The Morton Arboretum is today.

“As a landscape architect who grew up in a conservation-oriented family, I value the Arboretum’s open spaces, which have been so thoughtfully restored and maintained. There’s a science to this work, and the Arboretum understands and embraces its charge.”

Ted Haffner
Terry Guen Design Associates, Inc.
Arboretum Board of Advisors



The Impact of Your Philanthropy

Your support of a new South Farm complex ensures that The Morton Arboretum will:

Provide the best care of landscapes and collections now and well into the future.

Double plant-production space for new plant development and scientific research.

Centralize collections and facilities staff for increased collaboration and productivity.

Allow for future growth and greater synergy in all aspects of our mission.



South Farm by the Numbers

122

Full-time, part-time, and
seasonal staff at South Farm

90,000

Plants grown each year at
South Farm

1,559

Rakes, shovels, and
other implements stored at
South Farm

90

Vehicles in the Arboretum fleet

17

Miles of hiking trails mulched and
maintained each year by Arboretum staff

83,921 ft²

Area of the planned South Farm complex,
including two additional greenhouses



Vice President of
Collections and Facilities
Kris Bachtell

Growing Brilliantly Under One Roof

You've been with The Morton Arboretum for 33 years?

That's right. I was born with chlorophyll on my hands (laughs). I started here when our work with grafting elms was just taking off. Today the elms we developed, varieties resistant to Dutch elm disease, are thriving across our region and the entire country.

Why is revitalizing South Farm so important?

Everything we do at the Arboretum is connected to South Farm. It's like mission control for our collections, research, and new plant development. All of our plans and aspirations for the Arboretum tie directly to new South Farm facilities. It's the best investment we can make.

The current South Farm buildings are 85 years old?

They are. South Farm is actually an array of old barns that we use for staff working space and to house essential equipment and tools. We've made do with them over the years—we're a pretty resourceful bunch—but the time has come to modernize. South Farm may be behind the scenes, but its role in advancing our work is front and center.

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.



Kris Bachtell, vice president of collections and facilities, says a first-grade field trip to Cook County's Sauk Trail Woods forest preserve sparked his lifelong love of trees. His favorite tree is the **bur oak**.

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



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