



Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum UPGRADED TO LEVEL II BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Fairfield, CT (12/19/2019) – Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum in Fairfield, CT has been upgraded to a Level II 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, Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum 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.

Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum is a non-sectarian cemetery in Fairfield which has served Fairfield County since 1865. The historic grounds consist of well-maintained trees and shrubs as well as wetlands, woodlands and wildlife preserves. Since its inception it has been the intention of the Board of Directors that the grounds serve as a botanical garden. This program to preserve and enhance Oak Lawn's park-like setting has continued for over 150 years. Furthering this mission, the current Board of Directors established an Arboretum Committee to oversee its existing historic trees and formulate a plan to add additional species to its collection. As part of this endeavor Oak Lawn Cemetery successfully applied to the ArbNet Accreditation Program for certification as a Level I Arboretum which was awarded in 2014. Since that time Oak Lawn has continued to add additional species to the grounds on a yearly basis and to encourage public participation with self-guided tree tours of Oak Lawn's legacy trees and other educational programs. An audio tree tour has also been produced which includes historical narratives of some of Oak Lawn's most notable residents. Over 150 specimens have been identified and tagged with botanical signs and a Living Collections Policy has been established with emphasis on Oaks, Dogwoods and Deciduous Conifers. As part of its conservation program and with the help of a grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Oak Lawn Cemetery had restored over 6 acres of its land which was entirely overtaken by various invasive species. This area has been converted into a park consisting of native trees and plants and including a pollinator garden and a 9/11 memorial path lined with oak trees grown from acorns obtained from the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. In conjunction with the Fairfield Women's Garden Club, an Apiary is also maintained on the grounds. As a result of the Arboretum's accomplishments and educational programs over the ensuing years, Oak Lawn's certification has been upgraded to a Level II Arboretum.

About Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum

Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum, located in Fairfield, CT on a sprawling 100 acres, was established in 1865 and serves the community with a wide range of personalized burial options and supports families with the utmost in professionalism and comfort in the process of choosing a cemetery. Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum has been honored with the unique distinction of Level II Arboretum in recognition of its extraordinary collection of special, mature trees which is foundational to its magnificent botanical garden and park-like setting.

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.

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