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**EDITOR'S NOTE: Photos available for download [here](#).**

## **Lincoln Park Zoo Receives Arboretum Accreditation**

*The Zoo Announces ArbNet Level II Accreditation on Arbor Day*

**Chicago (April 25, 2019)** – In anticipation of Arbor Day tomorrow, [Lincoln Park Zoo](#) has announced it has received arboretum accreditation from ArbNet (hosted by Morton Arboretum), the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards.

“Arboretum accreditation is an exciting initiative for Lincoln Park Zoo as it highlights our commitment to all living things and the preservation of species,” said Director of Horticulture Joe Rothleutner.

The zoo has received Level II accreditation with the identification, labeling, and ongoing monitoring of tree and woody plant species across its 49 acre park. Part of this labeling initiative includes the historic oak tree canopy that predates the founding of the city of Chicago.



Currently, there are more than 330 species of trees, shrubs, and woody plants represented at Lincoln Park Zoo consisting of more than 650 taxa represented by more than 2,000 individual plants. Zoo visitors can see labels across zoo grounds containing the common and scientific names, family, and accession number that correlates with their origin and life history information. This data, along with GPS coordinates of the plant's location, is all captured in the digital plant database.



“We adhere to the same rigorous science-based approach for plants in our care as we do for animals,” says Vice President of Animal Care and Horticulture Maureen Leahy. “Trees and plants create beautiful gardens for our guests, become homes to native wildlife, and supply valuable nutrients and food sources for some animals here at the zoo.”

As the zoo's gardens continue to grow, three flagship groups have risen as priority species including North American hydrangea, hibiscus, and ninebark which can be seen across the zoo. In addition to the formal gardens at the zoo, the Horticulture department also manages the native prairie habitat that is Nature Boardwalk, as well as the vegetation and flora found in animal habitats.

Learn more about Lincoln Park Zoo and its gardens, visit [lpzoo.org](#).

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## **ABOUT LINCOLN PARK ZOO**

Lincoln Park Zoo inspires communities to create environments where wildlife will thrive in our urbanizing world. The zoo is a leader in local and global conservation, animal care and welfare, learning, and science. A historic Chicago landmark founded in 1868, the not-for-profit Lincoln Park Zoo is a privately-managed, member-supported organization and is free and open 365 days a year. Visit us at [lpzoo.org](http://lpzoo.org).