

The rural cemetery movement, which originated during the creation of large-scale, landscaped burial grounds that were located outside of city boundaries but within a reasonable distance for visitors to access. The arrival of the rural cemetery movement in the United States coincided with a growing interest in horticulture and gardening in the country. For example, the nation's first rural cemetery, Mount Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston, Massachusetts, was dedicated in 1831 and was founded with assistance from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which itself had been established only two years earlier. Rural cemeteries immediately

gained popularity with the general public, as they were often the only publicly accessible green spaces in the metropolitan areas in which they were located. These beautifully landscaped open spaces helped influence the designs of public parks such as Central Park. As New York City grew during the 19th century, so too did the need for additional rural cemeteries to serve its residents, which resulted in the establishment of Kensico Cemetery in 1889 along what was then the New York Central Railroad.

Patrick Raftery, Associate Director and Librarian Westchester County Historical Society

Message from the President

The Kensico Cemetery continues to embody the ideals of the rural cemetery movement of the mid-1800s. Its beautifully maintained grounds reflect the original vision of the cemetery as a civic institution – open to the public and rich with imagery of hope and immortality. For more than 135 years, Kensico has remained dedicated to enhancing the landscape through the careful curation, maintenance and cultivation of the thousands of trees and plantings chosen to honor those memorialized here with dignity and beauty.

This enduring commitment is exemplified by Kensico's designation as a **Level II Arboretum**, recognizing it as a tree-focused public garden. Last year's Annual Report celebrated this achievement, highlighting the beauty of the grounds, the depth and variety of plant life and the role nature plays in memorialization of ancestors.

This year, we continue that theme by offering an invitation. We hope to inspire lot owners, their families and loved ones and the broader community to visit and enjoy the magnificence of Kensico's natural setting. In the following pages, you will find more than 20 suggestions for engaging with the cemetery's landscape: from guided educational tours and workshops, to photography tips, notable points of interest and opportunities for volunteering and community partnerships – all designed to deepen connection to this sacred space.

Our commitment to Kensico's landscape and legacy is ongoing. Achieving Level II Arboretum Certification was not a final goal, but rather a milestone in our ongoing journey to honor and remember the departed. The Board of Directors, the employees and our charitable partner, the Friends of Kensico Cemetery, remain dedicated to nurturing

and enhancing the grounds - and to sharing their beauty with the public.

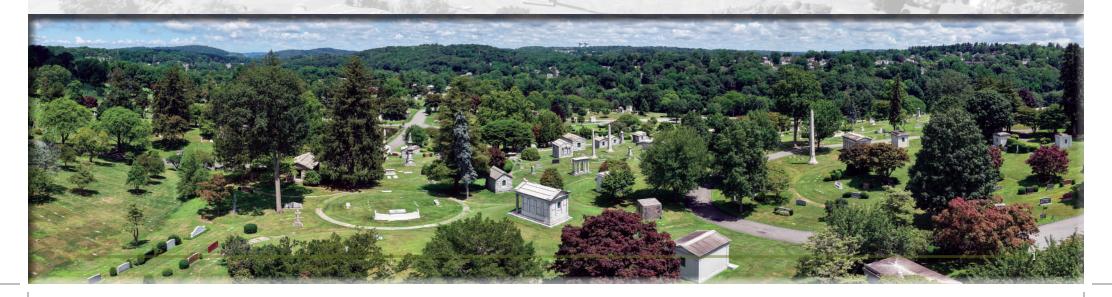
We continue to:

- Identify, cultivate, classify, inventory and label existing vegetation;
- Plant and nurture new species to enrich the arboretum collection; and
- Develop additional educational programming ideas and interpretive signage to share the cemetery's natural features with our community.

In other words, we are proud of how far we've come -- and incredibly excited about what lies ahead. We hope to see you on the grounds!

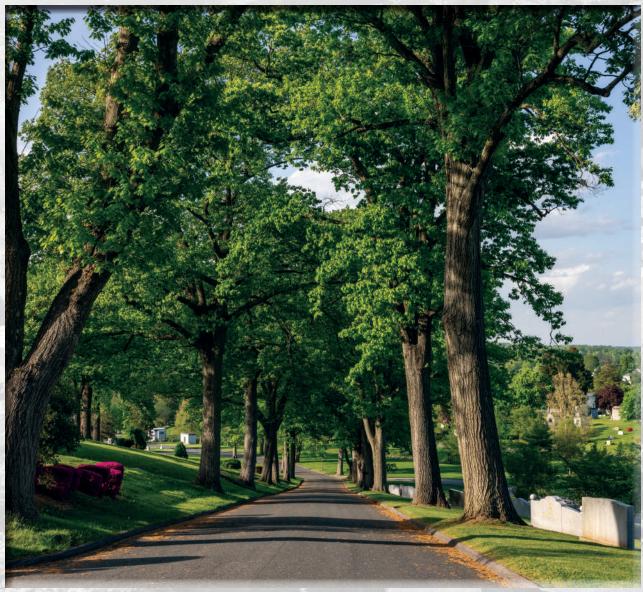
Matthew G. Parisi

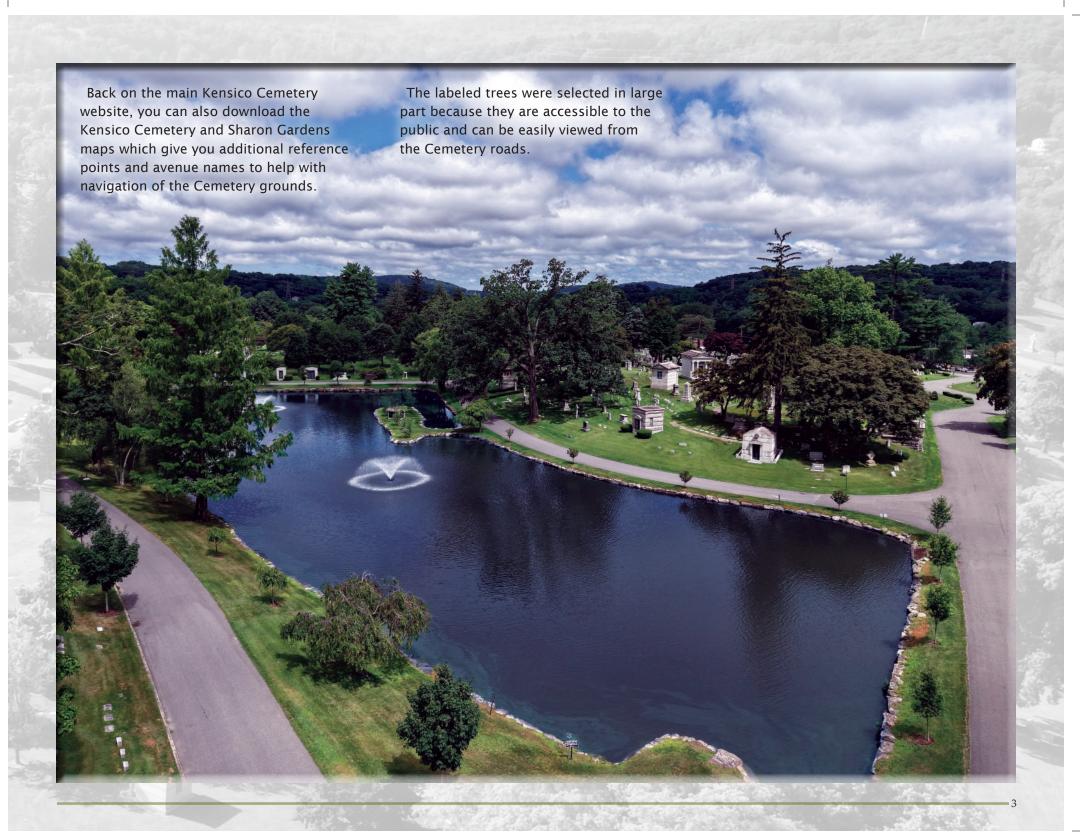
President



Get Started

Kensico Cemetery's Level II Arboretum features a collection of 101 different tree and woody plant species spread across its 460 acres. It can be daunting to figure out the best way to explore the Arboretum. Our suggestion is to first go to the Arboretum tab on the Kensico Cemetery website (https://www.kensico. org/arboretum/) On those pages, you will find an overall description of the Arboretum, a downloadable aerial map of the Cemetery grounds with numbered red markers indicating the locations of the collection's labeled trees and a full tree list which includes each tree's place of origin and approximate age. You will notice on the map several clusters of Arboretum trees, giving you an idea of where you might want to enter, park, walk or drive.





Join Us on Arbor Day

Every year, on the last Friday in April, Kensico commemorates Arbor Day with the ceremonial planting of a tree of special interest across from the Administration Building with Kensico Cemetery board members and staff officiating. The first one planted was a Franklinia in 2022, followed by a Beaked Stewartia in 2023, a Purple Saucer Magnolia in 2024 and a Davidia Involucrata in 2025. Plans are being made to eventually create a meandering path through this grove of unique trees with signage providing interesting facts and additional educational opportunities for visitors. Mark your calendar!





Learn the Red Oak's Story

To the right of the Kensico Cemetery Tower Entrance is a tall Red Oak tree with a small bronze plague attached to a stone to the left of the tree. This memorial is dedicated to those who lost their lives in the September 11,2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Native to North America, the Northern Red Oak was chosen to stand at the memorial as a symbol of strength and resilience through challenging times. A special floral wreath is placed at the monument on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and on 9/11. If you are in the area on September 11th, please join us in honoring the victims of 9/11 and pause for a moment at the memorial.

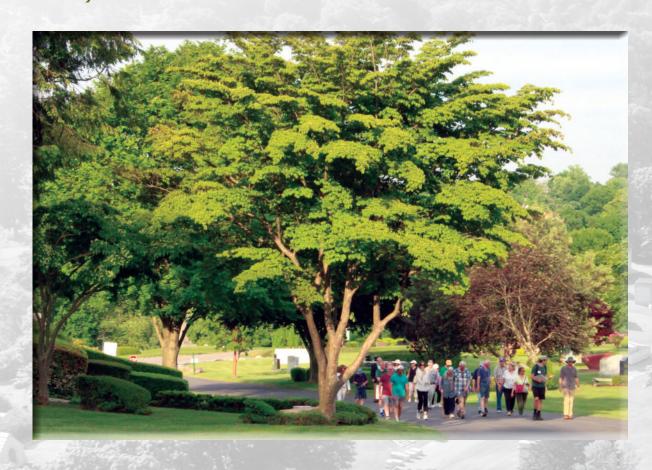


In the composite photo on the right, the Red Oak stands in tribute throughout the spring and fall.



Take a Tour

In late spring, The Friends of Kensico sponsors a series of walking tours highlighting historical, cultural and landscaping features throughout the Cemetery grounds. Led by professional horticulturists, the Tree Tours in particular point out distinctive characteristics of trees and woody plants in the Arboretum collection, share fascinating facts and provide background on tree origins and adaptations. Go to the Kensico Cemetery website (https://www.kensico.org/events/) for tour dates and times and to register. They're free!







Attend a Workshop

Home gardeners and professional landscapers can pick up tips on treating pests that endanger trees and shrubs, tree-trimming techniques, root care and other handy horticultural practices at free workshops held in April. Check the Kensico Cemetery website in early spring for the next free workshop topic and registration details.









Practice Your Latin

Malus hupehensis. Pinus sylvestris. Styrax japonicus. These may sound like new constellations, medical conditions, or Roman gladiators, but they're actually examples of the binomial scientific names you will find on the labeled trees within the Arboretum collection: two words in Latin---a genus name referring to groups of similar organisms with common characteristics and a species name referring to a specific kind of organism within the genus. All of the trees and woody plants in the Kensico Arboretum belong to the Plantae Kingdom, one of 7 levels of Taxonomy. And just to add to the language exploration, taxonomy as a concept has roots in ancient Greece, was coined as a term in French by a Swiss botanist and formalized as an organizational structure by the Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus.

On the opposite page is the full current list of the 101 trees and woody plants in the Arboretum collection along with both their Latin and common name.



Common Species Scientific Species	Common Species	Scientific Species	Common Species	Scientific Species
Yellow Cucumber Tree	Sugar Maple. Alaska Cedar. Japanese Red Cedar Northern Catalpa Dawn Redwood. Horsechestnut Sawtooth Oak White Oak Eastern White Pine Shagbark Hickory Chinese Elm American Holly Southern Magnolia American Sycamore Japanese Maple. River Birch. Silver Maple. Kousa Dogwood Kwanzan Cherry Weeping Cherry Honey Locust Oriental Spruce.	Acer saccharum Chamaecyparis nootkatensis Cryptomeria japonica Catalpa speciosa Metasequoia glyptostroboides Aesculus hippocastanum Quercus acutissima Quercus alba Pinus strobus Carya ovata Ulmus parvifolia Ilex opaca Magnolia grandiflora Platanus occidentalis Acer palmatum Betula nigra Acer saccharinu Cornus kousa Prunus subhirtella Gleditsia triacanthos Picea orientalis caucasus	Inkberry Taylor Eastern Red Cedar Red Maple Japanese Plum Swamp White Oak Black Cherry Norway Maple Tulip Tree Corkscrew Japanese Gray Birch Sterling Silver Linden Crimson King Norway Maple Eastern Redbud Sargent's Weeping Hemlock. Siberian Cypress Crimson Spire Oak Pin Oak Amur Maple. Weeping White Pine Franklin Tree Cutleaf Weeping Japanese Scotch Pine Sweetbay Magnolia	Ilex glabra Juniperus virginiana Acer rubrum Yew cephalotaxus harringtonia Quercus bicolor Prunus serotina Acer platanoides Liriodendron tulipifera Willow Salix matsudana Betula populifolia Tilia tomentosa Acer platanoides Cercis canadensis Tsuga canadensis Microbiota decussate Quercus bimundorum Quercus palustris Acer ginnala Pinus strobus Franklinia alatamaha MapAlecer palmatum Pinus sylvestris Magnolia virginiana
Common Bald Cypress Taxodium distichum Goldenrain Tree Koelreuteria paniculata Japanese Stewartia Stewartia pseudocamellia	Norway Spruce Weeping Mulberry	. Picea abie . Morus alba	Weeping Katsura Tree Pussy Willow	Cercidiphyllum japonicum Salix caprea
Douglas Fir	Colorado Blue Eastern Cottonwood Cutleaf Stephanandra Chinese Juniper	. Populus deltoides . Stephanandra incisa	Shadbush Green Hawthorn Green Giant Upright English Oak	Crataegus viridis Arborvitae thuja plicata
Valley Forge Elm Ulmus americana Tea Crabapple Malus hupehensis	Hollywood Juniper		Shawnee Brave Bald Cypress American Dogwood	Taxodium distichum

Japanese Snowbell Styrax japonicus

Common Winterberry. Ilex verticillata

Corneliancherry Dogwood.. Cornus mas

Paperbark Maple Acer griseu

American Beech Fagus grandifolia

Chestnut Oak Quercus prinus

Beaked Stewartia Stewartia rostrata

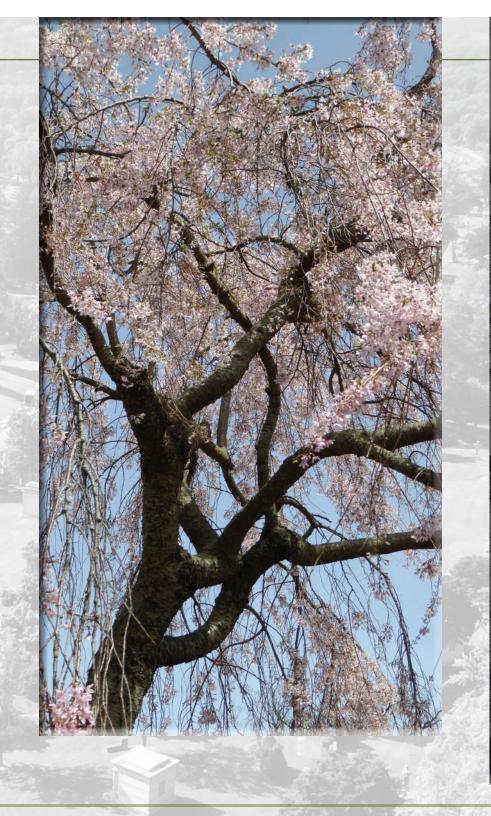
Look Up

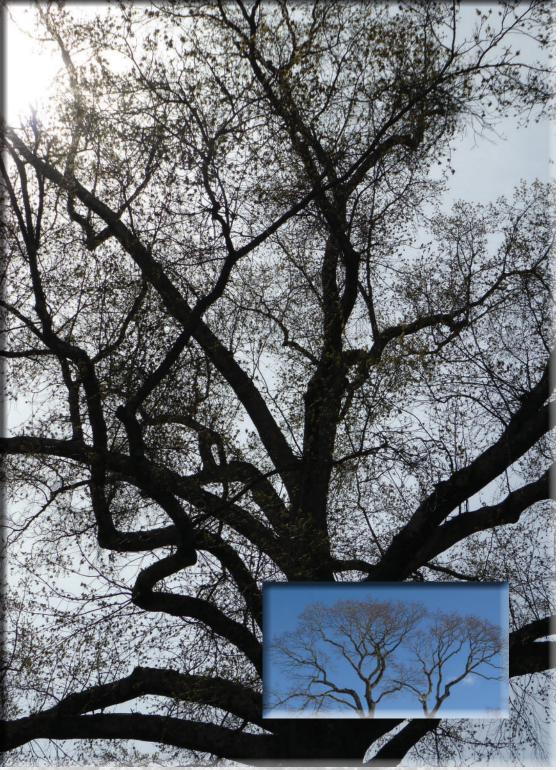
With so many of our trees reaching heights of over 50 feet, we sometimes forget to look up to the top of these magnificent legacy trees. Take a moment to follow their vertical lines to where they meet the sky. Then notice how the dark branches become nature's calligraphy upon the sky's light canvas.





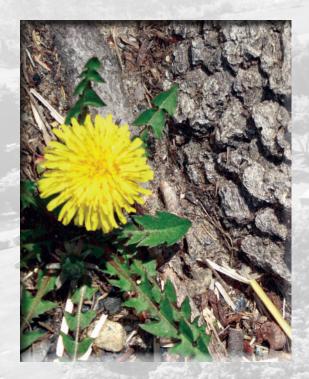






Look Down

There might be some surprises hugging the tree trunk or resting at the base--- a solitary dandelion, scattered leaves, a mushroom. Every inch of a tree---up, down and around---plays a part in telling its story.

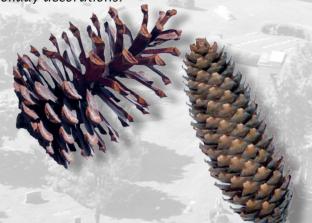




Adopt an Acorn

If you pass by a Northern Red Oak or White Oak in the Arboretum during the fall months, you will likely notice acorns on the ground---the seeds of the tree. Each acorn contains all the nutrients needed to support a new oak tree in-themaking. Feel free to pick up one of these small, sturdy seeds for planting outdoors and help continue that oak tree's lineage into another century.

If you come across pine cones at the base of the Arboretum evergreens, collect those, too. They make wonderful holiday decorations.





Relish the Rainfall

Kensico's Tower holds 100,000 gallons of well water to service buildings on the grounds and for lawn care throughout the property, but we still rely on nature to nourish the Arboretum's roots, leaves and branches. Don't let puddles keep you from a walk in the rainfall to see the sheen on the leaves, droplets on the blooms and patterns on the bark.







Bond with the Bark

A tree's outer layer has so many jobs to do: protecting the tree from damaging weather, providing a barrier from invasive pests and as a reservoir for the tree guiding rainwater down the trunk. Small openings in the bark help the tree "breathe" by facilitating the exchange of carbon dioxide for oxygen. And even as the bark decomposes, it releases nutrients, enriching the soil. Go ahead and touch the texture that forms its character.



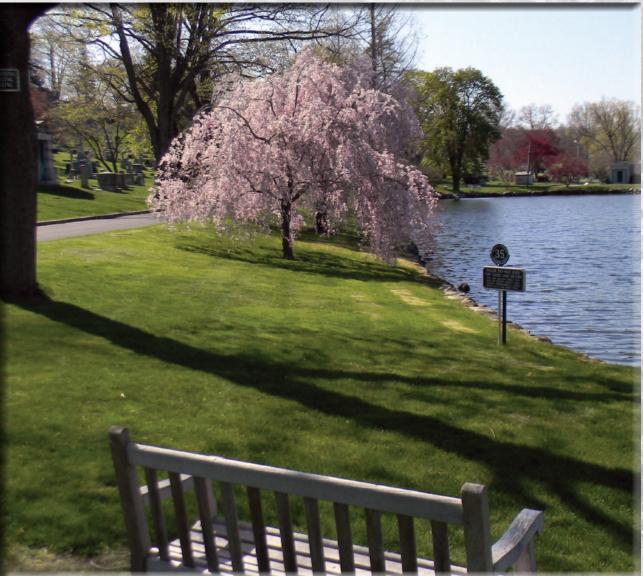




Enjoy the Peace

Kensico is, first and foremost, a Cemetery---a sacred space for memorialization and, as a result, an appropriate spot for moments of quiet contemplation. Trees offer shade and company; benches invite restful moments. Take time from your walk through the Arboretum to listen for breezes through the deciduous trees, a bird's call from a neighboring pine, the fountain's splash at the Lake and Pond. This is the Arboretum saying, "Welcome! Thank you for sharing your day with us."





Bring Your Pooch

With lots of pathways and few distractions, The Kensico Cemetery Arboretum can be a haven for our canine friends. Dogs of all sizes and ages can scout the sixteen miles of paved roads, sniff flowers and just relax in the shade by Mineola Lake. We have a supply station, too!





Watch for Wildlife

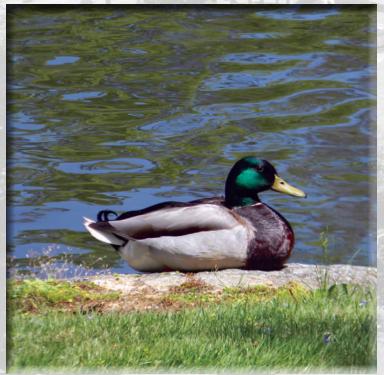
At some point in your exploration of the Kensico Arboretum, you'll discover that you are not the only one enjoying the habitat. Watch for waterfowl that stop at Mineola Lake, red-tail hawks that perch high in the trees, a chipmunk scampering under a bush, listen for bullfrogs in the marshes and be on the lookout for Kenny, our resident snapping turtle emerging from the Pond.

The Kensico Arboretum is committed to promoting the survival of endangered pollinators, as well. You can find a pair of bee colonies and a monarch butterfly waystation along the perimeter of Franklin Montross Jr. Memorial Pond.











Meet the Team

If you spot a large white water tank hitched to a Tahoe or Bandit the Woodchipper out on the grounds, chances are a member of the Arboretum Team is close by. The three employees in charge of the monitoring and maintenance of the trees are experienced arborists and can be seen anywhere in Kensico Cemetery and Sharon Gardens checking on the health of the tree collection. Feel free to stop and ask (left to right) Domingo Martinez, Juan Romero, or Juan Aragon the names of trees, their characteristics and how best to care for them.









Explore Arboreta
World

Kensico Cemetery and its staff belong to, support and participate in educational programming and conferences of several organizations relevant to the horticultural community, including ArbNet, Arbor Day Foundation, Audubon International, Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society (whose nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds can be seen throughout the Cemetery grounds), International Society of Arboriculture and the Native Plant Center.

Whether you're a Master Gardener or a budding horticulturist, the world of arboreta is yours to explore. Go to https://www.ArbNet.com (the international accrediting body that awarded Kensico Cemetery Arboretum its Level II status) and view the country-by-country and state-by-state lists of arboreta that can be found in your local neighborhood or at your next vacation destination. The website includes each arboretum's accreditation level (if applicable), a brief description of its features and a link to its webpage for more detailed information.



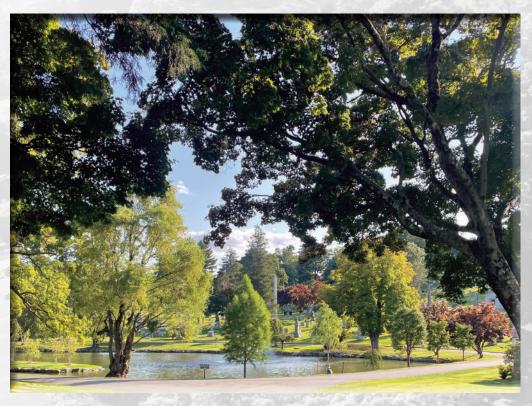
Check out the ArbNet Resources page and click on Educational and Public Engagement---one of twelve categories---and look through the tips and templates submitted by arboreta around the world. Find fascinating ways to engage your children, your friends, your community in the support of tree health and viability.



Spring is when the color green makes its annual opening statement. Here at

the Kensico Arboretum, Leaf Green, Moss Green, Spruce Green, Bud Green, Forest Green, Cypress Green, Evergreen and Apple Green burst onto the scene.





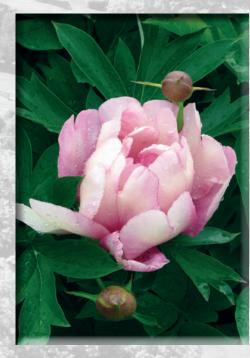


Green isn't the only color of spring here at Kensico. The Arboretum's many flowering species awake from their winter rest with splashes of brilliant color---pink and purple pastels, the bright yellow of peonies, the softest whites of rhododendron---creating a masterpiece of nature.









Fall for Autumn

With fiery reds and golden hues, autumn makes its grand entrance at Kensico Arboretum with passion and grace. The oaks and maples stand in splendid chorus, their leaves dancing in the breeze---calling us to look and linger.





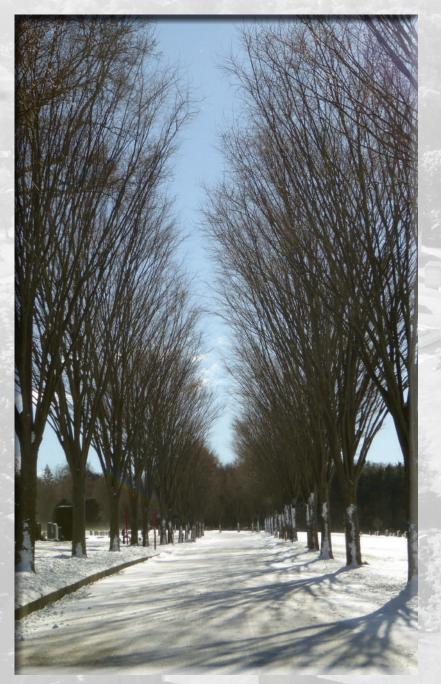


Find Wonder Winter

Just when it seems nothing could rival autumn's vibrant display, winter arrives with quiet wonder. After a fresh snowfall, the Kensico Arboretum is transformed---blanketed in untouched white, glistening under radiant sun. Bare branches sketch delicate patterns against the sky, and shadows play gently across the sparkling ground---inviting a longer gaze.









Become a Friend

Established in 2021 as a 501(c)3 charitable organization, The Friends of Kensico Cemetery, Inc., supports Kensico Cemetery's historical projects and partners with other organizations that are focused on sustainability.

You can help Friends develop roots and grow as an organization through donations, attending events, spreading the word and encouraging the youth in our community to engage in activities that teach and promote leadership in addressing issues impacting our land, our resources, our trees.

We invite you to go to the Friends page on the Kensico Cemetery website (https://www.kensico.org) for more details, options to donate and information about events and volunteering.



Friends of Kensico Cemetery's annual 5K Walk/Run generates funds for local organizations that support the well-being of our community.

Friends of Kensico Cemetery Board Members and Officers

Mary Ann Alonso • Catherine Biddle • Chester S. Day, Chairman • Theresa Doran, Treasurer Leane Freda • Raymond Lou • Judith C. Mitchell • Matthew G. Parisi, President Raymond M. Planell, Secretary • Patrick Raftery • Richard A. Schnall

Follow Us Online

When you can't visit in person, keep in touch via our social media platforms. From "Tree of the Week" photos and seasonal color displays to the latest Bird Cam sightings and wildlife updates, there's always something new to discover at Kensico Arboretum and Cemetery. Explore behind-the-scenes glimpses of our Arborist Team at work, find tree care workshop announcements and photos from special events. You'll also learn historical insights, fascinating stories of those interred on the grounds, and a look at the Cemetery's unique mausoleum architecture, monuments and memorialization. It's all available 24/7 on our website (https://www.kensico.org), Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/KensicoCemetery), and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/kensicocemetery/).

Have you taken photos of the Kensico Cemetery Arboretum that you would like to share? Send them to kensico@kensico.org with your contact information. You can help us spread the word.

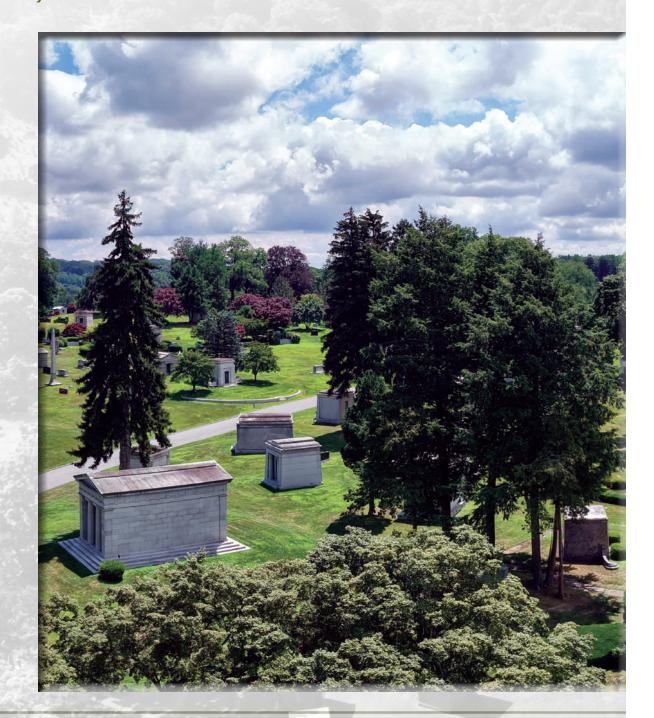




Come Again

You haven't seen it all, because we're not done yet. Over 100 species of trees and woody plants have been identified throughout the property, but at least that many are yet to be inventoried as part of the Arboretum collection. So be prepared to see more labeled trees, more educational and celebratory programming and the introduction of interpretative signage. Come back anytime---The Kensico Cemetery Arboretum gates are open seven days a week from 8:30AM-4:30PM, 365 days a year.

To see and download the Part One of this set which describes the importance of the Arboretum as Backdrop, Habitat, Sentinel, Classroom, Collection, Designation and Throughline, select the Annual Meeting tab on the Kensico Cemetery website (https://www.kensico.org) and click on Annual Meeting 2023. "The Kensico Cemetery Arboretum: A Celebration" Annual Report is posted there.





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Joe Sabio

Thank You

To Michael H. Cook, Jr., Vice President and Superintendent of Kensico Cemetery for his horticultural expertise and day-to-day oversight of the Arboretum operations.

To Natalie Craig, Kensico Cemetery Communication Coordinator, for her invaluable help in taking photographs and locating archived photographs of the Cemetery grounds.

To Richard A. Schnall; Vice Chairman, Kensico Cemetery Board of Directors and Friends of Kensico Cemetery Board Member for his horticultural expertise and decades-long guidance on tree replacement policies and selection.

And to the Legacy Trees, all those Someday-to-Be Legacy Trees and the newly planted trees for collectively capturing each year an estimated 453 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, preventing an estimated 1.5 million gallons of stormwater runoff, removing over 7800 pounds of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, ozone and particulate matter from the air and lowering summer air temperatures by providing welcome shade. We are grateful! (Data provided by The Davey Tree Expert Company.)



Arboreta are more than collections of trees---they're living classrooms and sanctuaries united by a shared mission: to preserve and celebrate the beauty and power of trees. Through the ArbNet global network, these treefocused organizations from around the world collaborate to strengthen their roles as hubs for education, conservation and community engagement.

This effort extends to cemeteries, a growing segment of accredited arboreta, offering green spaces

that serve the public in unexpected ways---such as sharing resources and expertise to promote tree conservation, inspire change and enhance public understanding.

Now, people who may have never visited a botanical garden can experience and learn the importance of trees to human health and well-being---creating a lasting impact for future generations.

Sue Paist, ArbNet Coordinator The Morton Arboretum Lisle, Illinois arbnet.org





