



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHEEKWOOD AWARDED LEVEL II ACCREDITATION
BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Cheekwood has been awarded a [Level II Accreditation](#) by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum for achieving 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.

“Trees have been a defining feature of the landscape at Cheekwood for a hundred years,” said Peter Grimaldi, vice president of gardens and facilities at Cheekwood. “The ArbNet accreditation is an important validation of Cheekwood’s modern focus on plant collections that celebrate our history, promote diversity, and continue to define the character of our institution.”

Cheekwood’s arboretum is located throughout the 55-acre estate and currently includes over 2,100 trees: 1267 deciduous; 576 evergreens; 16 deciduous conifers; and 308 dogwoods. Cultivated and labeled for scientific and education purposes, the arboretum is one of the most comprehensive and unifying features of the Cheekwood offering, providing a logical way to explore the estate and gardens.

The arboretum consists of three primary tree collections, including the Nationally Accredited Cornus Collection™, the historic collection, and trees native to the southeastern United States. The Cornus collection, located primarily within the *Carell Dogwood Garden* and *The Ann & Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail*, is the first dogwood collection in the nation to receive accreditation from the Plant Collections Network of the American Public Gardens Association.

In 2016, Cheekwood established an [Emerald Ash Borer Response Program](#) to protect the institution’s native ash trees from the invasive emerald ash borer. With its presence in the U. S. first noted in 2010, the insect is responsible for killing hundreds of millions of ash trees nationwide. Since the response program began, Cheekwood has expanded its number of treated ash trees on the property from 10 to 188, making the estate and garden a community leader in the response to the emerald ash borer epidemic.

In 2019, Cheekwood planted hundreds of new trees and plants as part of the renovation to the Ann and Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail, which reopened in May of 2020. The institution also regularly offers horticultural education opportunities such as panels, tours, and workshops.

Cheekwood is a member of the American Public Gardens Association and maintains a certified Level 4 arboretum to the highest standards through the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council.

Cheekwood's mission is to preserve Cheekwood as an historical landmark where beauty and excellence in art and horticulture stimulate the mind and nurture the spirit, with a mission to be a nationally recognized destination renowned for its distinctive beauty, historical significance and excellence in art and horticulture.

For Cheekwood's arboretum map, click here [here](#). For more information about Cheekwood, visit www.cheekwood.org.

About Cheekwood

Cheekwood is considered one of the finest American Country Place Era estates in the nation that serves as a botanical garden, arboretum, and museum with historic rooms and art galleries, showcasing works from its 7,000 permanent collection as well as traveling exhibitions. The property includes 12 distinct gardens and a 1.5-mile long woodland trail featuring modern and contemporary outdoor sculpture. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and is a USA Today Top 10 Botanical Garden. Cheekwood is located just 8 miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. Daily hours of operation: Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. For further information, call 615-356-8000 or visit cheekwood.org.

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. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by [The Morton Arboretum](#) in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with [American Public Gardens Association](#) and [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#), is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

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