

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Receives \$10 Million Gift

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, part of the Department of Horticulture Sciences at the University of Minnesota, has received a gift of \$10 million for the construction of its new Visitor Center. The gift, from an anonymous donor, is the largest received by the Arboretum in its 42-year history and among the top donations given to Campaign Minnesota, the University of Minnesota's \$1.3 billion fundraising campaign. This raises the total in private donations for the Arboretum's portion of the campaign to \$41 million, including a total of \$12 million received to date toward the \$22 million Visitor Center.

"The new Visitor Center will be the heart of our revitalized Arboretum, and emphasizes a renewed commitment to serving the intergenerational family," said Minnesota Landscape Arboretum director Peter Olin. "This generous gift will go a long way toward educating and inspiring another century of enthusiastic visitors."

The new Visitor Center, which will serve as a formal entry point to the Arboretum's gardens and collections, will echo the Arboretum's historic architecture and provide expanded space for interactive exhibits and demonstrations, classrooms, an auditorium, gift shop, restaurant, and outdoor terrace. Construction is expected to begin in 2003; the new Visitor Center is projected to open in 2004.

"This gift is a strong endorsement of the Arboretum and

its mission," said university President Mark Yudof. "As one of the country's premier botanical gardens and horticultural research centers for cold-hardy plant development, the Arboretum has become a significant contributor to Minnesota's economic well-being. Its impact is felt across the country and around the world."

Intended to raise \$65 million over five years, the Arboretum's goals for Campaign Minnesota are to build new and update existing facilities and gardens, expand educational and research programs, improve visitor services, and preserve its watershed through land acquisition. In addition to the new Visitor Center, a greatly expanded Children's Learning Center is currently under construction. The Arboretum will also build a spectacular glass conservatory, designed by noted Minnesota architect Ralph Rapson. Imaginative new gardens and innovative learning programs for visitors of all ages are also an integral part of the Arboretum's vision for the future.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the largest public garden in Upper Midwest and a premier northern arboretum, is a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education. It is located nine miles west of I-494 on Highway 5 in Chanhassen. For more information, call 952/443-1400 or visit the Arboretum's website at www.arboretum.umn.edu

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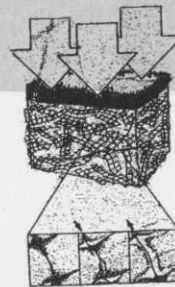
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