

# Colonial Williamsburg

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## ArbNet Names Colonial Williamsburg a Level I Arboretum

*Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area joins The Morton Arboretum's global community of arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants*



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Oct. 1, 2018) – Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area in Williamsburg, VA has been named a Level I accredited arboretum by ArbNet’s global Arboretum Accreditation Program for meeting professional standards, practices and criteria of arboreta and botanic gardens dedicated to woody plants.

The Foundation’s historic arboretum is made up of 18th-century tree and woody shrub varieties. Colonial Williamsburg’s landscape department and volunteers steward 25 period species of oak trees and more than 30 iconic historic gardens in the Historic Area, including 14 Virginia state champion trees and 1 national champion tree— the jujube (*Ziziphus jujube*). Other noteworthy champion trees in the Historic Area include the Compton Oak (*Quercus x comptoniae*)— a naturally occurring hybrid between an overcup (*Quercus lyrata*) and a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*)— three large filberts (*Corylus avellana*) and a rare medlar (*Mespilus germanica*).

Accreditation criteria for the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program includes planning, governance, public access, planting, conservation, programming and tree science. Colonial Williamsburg’s accreditation was made possible by the generosity of BrightView Landscape Services, Inc., who sponsored various stages of the accreditation application process, and a core group of dedicated landscape volunteers that spent time documenting the trees and attaching labels.

“We are thrilled that the Historic Area has been officially recognized by ArbNet as a Level I arboretum,” said Jon Lak, Colonial Williamsburg landscape manager. “This accreditation speaks to the unique size and scope of the Historic Area’s 301 acre landscape and is an important milestone for the Foundation’s landscaping team in its mission to educate guests and visitors on

the importance of vegetation in the 18th-century. We are grateful to our certified arborist, Charles Gardner, for initiating and taking the lead with this project, and to BrightView Landscape Services, Inc. for their generosity and for making this accreditation possible.”

The [ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program](#) is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The program offers four levels of accreditation.

Access to Colonial Williamsburg’s landscaped properties, including more than 30 iconic historic gardens, is included with Colonial Williamsburg admission. More information on Colonial Williamsburg’s landscape and garden programs, including an interactive map of Colonial Williamsburg’s arboretum, is available by visiting [www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/arboretumandgardens](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/arboretumandgardens), by downloading the free Colonial Williamsburg Explorer app via the Apple App Store and Google Play, and by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes nearly 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.*