



April 28, 2020

REQUEST TO REOPEN HOLDEN ARBORETUM GROUNDS

Holden Forests & Gardens (HF&G) comprises the Holden Arboretum (located in Kirtland, OH) and Cleveland Botanical Garden and together are the 14th largest public garden in the nation. As an environmental leader in Northeast Ohio, the mission of HF&G is to connect people with the wonder, beauty, and value of trees and plants, to inspire action for healthy communities.

The Holden Arboretum incorporates about 3,500 acres in Lake and Geauga counties with cultivated gardens, natural areas, and hiking trails. The Arboretum grounds is more closely akin to a park or forest preserve than a traditional four-walled museum. We are an outdoor living museum with collections of curated plants and trees that serve education, conservation, science, and public enjoyment purposes. Getting outdoors provides proven physical and mental health benefits, especially during periods of stress.

Following the Governor's announcement on the re-opening trajectory for Ohio, we respectfully request the opportunity to reopen the Arboretum grounds on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. To ensure the safety of visitors and staff, HF&G will follow all the sector specific operating requirements issued by the State of Ohio. Additionally, we will implement the following new business operation protocols:

- Timed entry ticket sales, conducted in advance, will be used to control the number of visitors. Timed entry will be in 30-minute intervals from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the last entry at 4 p.m. Guests will have easy access to at least 200 acres of the Arboretum campus.
- Guests will simply need to show proof of reservation, with minimal staff interaction at the gatehouse entry. Any needed transaction will be credit/debit card only with no cash allowed.
- Via multiple communication channels and on-site signage, we will promote six-foot social distancing, encouragement of face masks, and other tips to mitigate the chance of transmission.
- All buildings will remain closed including the Visitor Center and all public restrooms.
- The Murch Canopy Walk & Kalberer Emergent Tower will remain closed until further notice.
- Food and beverages will not be available for purchase.
- Only essential staff will be on site using appropriate PPE, and all other staff will continue to work remotely. Horticulture staff working in gardens or grounds will have means to create a six-foot barrier between work areas and visitors during public visitation hours.

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Summit County received approval to open their outdoor gardens beginning April 24. We hope to be able to provide the citizens of Northeast Ohio an additional opportunity to be outdoors for exercise, relaxation, and enjoyment on the grounds of Holden Arboretum. We look forward to welcoming back our 17,000 member households and thousands of annual visitors.