



The Drake Oak Brook's Gardens Receive Four Environmental Stewardship Recognitions

Historic Chicagoland estate becomes the only hotel in North America to hold international arboretum accreditation alongside three wildlife habitat designations - a distinction reflecting its collection of more than 50 tree species and deep commitment to long-term conservation.

OAK BROOK, IL — August 17, 2026 — [The Drake Oak Brook, Autograph Collection](#), an English-style landmark estate in the suburban enclave of Oak Brook, Illinois, today announced that its 20-acre grounds have earned four marquee environmental stewardship recognitions, making it the only hotel in North America to achieve this distinction. The accomplishment reflects the property's commitment to preserving trees, protecting wildlife, and caring for its historic natural setting, while fostering opportunities for environmental engagement among guests and the broader community.

Home to more than 50 species of trees including rare specimens such as the Chinese fringe tree, Sitka willow and Chinese hackberry, The Drake is among a small number of hotels in the United States to earn the Level I Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program, administered by [The Morton Arboretum](#), and the only to pair the recognition with a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat® designation, a Monarch Waystation certification, and an Illinois Audubon Society Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary certification.

- [The ArbNet Level I Arboretum Accreditation](#): The only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards, the program confirms that The Drake Gardens has demonstrated the core functions of an arboretum and recognizes the hotel as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.
- [National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat®](#): Designates The Drake Oak Brook as a landscape that provides wildlife with food, clean water, cover, and places to raise young, and employs sustainable gardening practices to maintain a healthy habitat.
- [Monarch Waystation](#): Certifies that The Drake Oak Brook provides a dedicated habitat for monarch butterflies throughout their life cycle and migration, offering essential resources like milkweed, nectar-producing plants, and shelter.
- [Illinois Audubon Society Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary](#): Certifies that The Drake Oak Brook creates quality habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife by providing food, water, shelter, and space, while incorporating native plantings, minimizing chemical use, and educating others on native habitat.

“When we acquired The Drake, we did not only take ownership of the hotel. We became stewards of an extraordinary historic estate,” said Jim Nagle, owner of The Drake Oak Brook. “These accreditations recognize our dedication to preserving and expanding its living collection and ensuring that The Drake Gardens will continue to inspire guests for generations to come.”

These recognitions build on the property’s broader conservation initiatives led by Saachi Churiwala, the hotel’s Sustainability and Conservation Coordinator, who has become a key force in integrating environmental stewardship into the guest experience. Planned programming includes curated maps for self-guided tours of the gardens, educational signage highlighting notable flora, and opportunities for guests to engage with nearby trails, including the 25-mile-long Salt Creek Greenway Trail. The hotel also continues partnerships such as Plant With Purpose, through which a tree is planted in Ethiopia for every room in which guests forgo housekeeping. In its first 10 months, the program helped facilitate the planting of nearly 2,000 trees.

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About The Drake Oak Brook

Plunged into the limelight as a hotspot for celebrities, politicians and royalty since its opening, The Drake Oak Brook embodies the jet-set glamour of the era during its early days and remaining a social institution for decades to follow. The 154-room, four-story landmark hotel sits on 20 acres in the exclusive suburban enclave of Oak Brook, Illinois and pays homage to years of cherished history and suburban allure, complemented by modern accommodations and amenities at an arm’s reach from Chicago’s pulsating city center. Featuring a renowned restaurant, signature bar, fitness center and 11,000 square feet of flexible indoor and outdoor space, the hotel joins the diverse and dynamic portfolio of more than 180 independent Autograph Collection Hotels around the world that champion values of vision, design and craft. To make reservations or for more information, please visit www.thedrakeoakbrookhotel.com. Get social with them at @TheDrakeOakBrook.