



**SELF-GUIDED
JOY PATH
BACKPACK PROGRAM**

Self-guided Joy Path School Backpack Program

History

The Morton Arboretum

Joy Morton, founder and president of the Morton Salt Company, founded The Morton Arboretum in 1922. In 1910, he built a house (presently the site of the Thornhill Education Center) which became his resident at “Thornhill Farm.” He chose this site because it overlooked the East Branch of the DuPage River Valley and had many hawthorn trees that he enjoyed watching change with the seasons.

Since 1910, changes have been made to the residence, but the beautiful sloping landscape and some of the original hawthorns still remain. The present Thornhill Education Center was built in 1942, in place of the Morton home. Remaining from the original house is the library, now known as the Founder’s Room. It is in this room that Mr. Morton kept his botanical book collection. The Founder’s Room is now used for displaying photographs, articles, and papers relevant to the history of the Morton family.

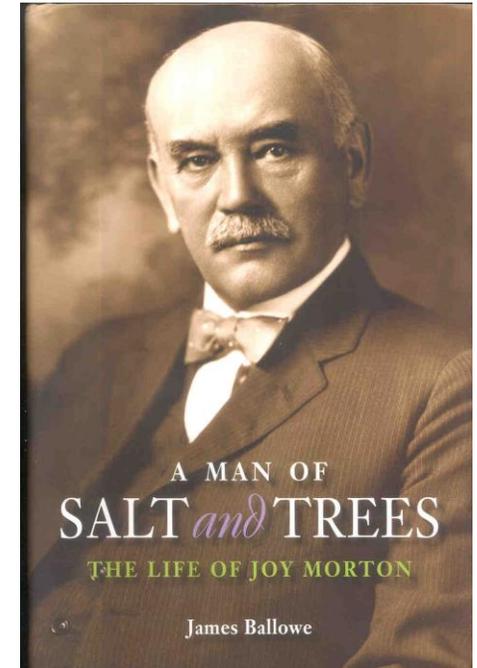
Joy Path

Joy Path leads from the Thornhill Education Center, down through an Oak Woodland, to Lake Road. This path has been here since the early days of the Thornhill Farm and was a favorite walking path for Joy Morton. As you walk down Joy Path, please spend a little time interpreting the selected trees and areas highlighted in this brochure.

Where to Start

The self-guided walk starts on Joy Path, adjacent to the Thornhill Education Center. The map for the self-guided walking path can be found in the backpack. (There are 5 to share)

****Brown signposts with the white schoolhouse icon indicate the numbered stops along the route. The number on the post corresponds to the tree or point of interest described in the Joy Path Backpack Program booklet.**



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Backpack Materials

- Self-guide Joy Path Program Packet
- Hiking route map (5)
- *The Life of a Tree* booklet
- Magnifiers (20)
- Tree Cookies (10)
- Lake Marmo Hike & Hunt Cards (10)
- Paper plates & craft sticks for insect discovery
- Box magnifiers for insects (3)
- A baggie of leaf samples (6)
- Arboretum map

Mission Statement of The Morton Arboretum

The Morton Arboretum was formally established on December 14, 1922 by Mr. Joy Morton (1855-1934), owner of the Morton Salt Company.

The mission of The Morton Arboretum is to collect and study trees, shrubs, and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes for people to study and enjoy and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment. Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier and more beautiful world.

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Plants from Around the World

The plants of the Arboretum come from countries all around the world. Once planted here in our collections, the plants can be evaluated for their ability to survive the challenging climate of northern Illinois (zone 5) and ultimately for their use in landscapes. Each accessioned plant in the collections has a label bearing its name, location and date of inclusion into the collection.

Each accessioned plant has a small metal tag attached on its south side. These labels include the plant's common name, scientific name (just below the common name), location, and accession number. A typical label looks like this:



The plants of The Morton Arboretum are maintained and cared for by a staff of horticulturists. Daily maintenance is necessary to keep the collections healthy and in good condition. In order for us to keep our collections intact and for the enjoyment of others, we ask that all of our visitors follow a few simple rules.

1. Please **only pick up leaves, cones, or fruits that are on the ground**, not from plants themselves.
 - Pulling items off a tree or shrub can injure the plant, making it more prone to insect and disease problems.
2. Please **respect the wildlife that you encounter** at The Morton Arboretum.
 - Remember that the arboretum habitats are an insect's or animal's home.
 - Release all insects after you catch, study, and share them with your group.
3. Please **take care of the materials that The Morton Arboretum provides** for your use.
 - Return all materials to their proper bags and leave your backpack on the white backpack rack at the Thornhill Annex when your tour is complete. (located at the beginning of your program)
4. Please **have fun and enjoy being outdoors** at The Morton Arboretum.
 - Study, explore, respect, and enjoy your surroundings
 - Use your senses while on your tour (look, listen, smell, touch and ask questions)

