



## Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

November 29, 2022

Dear friends and patrons of Bayard Cutting Arboretum,

The holiday season is upon us. We take this time to celebrate the achievements of 2022 and look forward to the important upcoming projects that will greatly shape the future of Bayard Cutting Arboretum. As we contemplate the past and future of the arboretum, **I invite everyone reading this to think about what makes Bayard Cutting Arboretum so special to them.**

This past year, 257 woody plants were introduced to the arboretum, including new specimen trees throughout the grounds and a unique collection of Japanese maples in the new Juniper Pavilion Garden. Sixty-seven native azaleas and over three thousand native perennials were planted in the Friendship Wetland Garden. Our hard-working staff and dedicated volunteers began the first phase of shoreline planting, replacing turf with native shoreline plants along our two miles of coastline on the Connetquot River. A bluestone sitting wall was constructed outside of the Four Season Garden, offering patrons a new place to sit and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding area. Our new education program, in conjunction with the CSA Farm built a dynamic community of learning through expanded field trips, the children's farm school, and adult workshops.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2022 and are looking eagerly towards 2023. Trees and shrubs are being ordered from all over the country for next year's plantings. This includes phase two of the coastline planting and the Friendship Wetland Garden, a new woody shrub border in the Woodland Garden, and new specimen conifers in the Old Pinetum. A complete restoration of Olivia's Room will begin in February of 2023, continuing the master plan to restore all the family rooms in the Manor House. Most of all, we are extremely happy to announce that construction of our new Visitor Center and parking lot will begin in the new year with a projected completion date in March of 2024.

November 28th is Giving Tuesday, marking the beginning of the holiday season and our annual appeal. Each and every one of you supports the arboretum through your patronage. However, this is the time of year that we ask for your financial support as well. **Your contributions will assist the arboretum to achieve the many goals that lie ahead of us.**

Every Tuesday until the end of December, we will be sharing with you video stories of what makes Bayard Cutting Arboretum special to different people. In addition, we ask that you share with us the reason why the arboretum is so important to you. Please view the video below and follow the link to contribute. There is a space at the end of the donation page to share your story.

We wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season. Every person within the Bayard Cutting Arboretum community is part of our family and we look forward to celebrating with all of you. Our celebration is what we do every day, trying our hardest to provide the best visitor experience to our patrons and preserving the special "oasis of beauty and quiet" that we all share.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Wiecks".

Kevin Wiecks  
Director  
Bayard Cutting Arboretum