



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images available upon request

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Spring at Hillwood

Lush gardens overlooking the woodlands of Rock Creek Park offer an unexpected escape in the heart of northwest D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Gray winter days have finally given way as vibrant redbuds and blooming hellebores bring spring to Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. A rainbow of tulips from the annual spring display surround visitors in a riot of color. The splendid wash of azaleas flourishing across the estate are not far behind. Thirteen acres of lush lawns and formal gardens, an exquisite mansion, a collection of decorative art treasures, a special exhibition, and a gracious and welcoming staff, all maintained to the level of excellence befitting its founder Marjorie Merriweather Post, combine to create an unexpected escape right in the heart of northwest Washington, D.C.

An array of programs throughout the spring—in the gardens and all around the estate—reveal the full spectrum of the Hillwood experience for visitors of all ages. To complete the day, Merriweather Café provides a delightful selection of lunch fare and snacks for visitors to fully enjoy the season with a picnic in the spring gardens. The museum shop has released an exciting array of seasonal merchandise, including bright accessories, spring-inspired home décor, books to read throughout the gardens, and more. There is no better time to be at Hillwood.

The Gardens at Hillwood: A Brief Background

The design and function of the gardens and buildings are much as they were when Marjorie Merriweather Post resided at Hillwood. Originally known as Arbremont, the estate was designed by landscape designer Willard Gebhart in 1926, on 25 acres surrounded by natural woodlands. Post purchased the estate in 1955, spending two years on renovations, and hiring prominent landscape architects Umberto Innocenti and Richard Webel to expand the existing gardens to create a progression of outdoor rooms. These rooms, meant to complement the mansion's indoor spaces, are both private and separate, yet joined by winding paths.

To complement her collection of 18th-century French furnishings and decorative arts, Post commissioned Innocenti and Webel to design and build the [French parterre](#), a garden featuring typical formal elements of an 18th-century French garden. Just beyond the French parterre lies the [rose garden](#), designed shortly after Post acquired Hillwood by landscape architect Perry Wheeler. Even in April, before the roses bloom, a variety of tulips blooms in each bed to complement the early

flowering shrubs surrounding the rose garden. Other highlights include the [Japanese-style garden](#), a testament to the taste for oriental gardens influenced by the reintroduction of Japanese culture to America during the 1950s; the [Friendship Walk](#), a colorful, flowering monument honoring Post's lifetime of philanthropy; and the [Lunar Lawn](#), a large, crescent-shaped lawn that provides a view of the Washington Monument and became Post's favorite spot for entertaining.

Spring was one of the two seasons Post spent at Hillwood, as she enjoyed the full beauty of the season in her garden oasis. Stay up to date on this year's bloom schedule on the [What's in Bloom](#) page, to plan a visit accordingly.

Spring Programs and Events

April 1 through June 29
10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

[Spring Garden Tours](#)

Docent-led tours explore the history of the gardens and identify the scores of plants. Space is limited. Tickets are distributed in the visitor center each day on a first-come, first-served basis. Included in suggested donation.

April 18
May 2, 16, 17, and 31
9:30-11:30 a.m.

[Guided Forest Bathing Walks](#)

Slow down, awaken your senses, and connect with nature as you experience a forest bathing walk in Hillwood's gardens and grounds.
\$35, \$30 Hillwood member

April 18
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

[Earth Day Celebration](#)

Celebrate Earth Day with members of Hillwood's Environmental Action Team (HEAT) and learn about environmental stewardship initiatives. Included in suggested donation.

April 23
5:30-8 p.m.
Concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

[Jazz on the Lunar Lawn | Amy K. Bormet Quintet](#)

Enjoy an outdoor concert with the Amy K. Bormet Quintet among Hillwood's gardens! Inspired by the exhibition *Setting Sail: The Story of Sea Cloud*, the concert will feature D.C.-based jazz musicians.
\$30, \$25 Hillwood member, \$10 student, \$5 child 6-18

April 26
1-2 p.m. and 4-5 p.m.

[Onsite Cocktail Container Workshop](#)

Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, and Michael Rollinson, horticulturist, in planting a container with a variety of delectable herbs, vegetables, and fruits that pair with cocktails to enjoy at home.
\$65, \$55 Hillwood member

April 30
May 2, 7, 9
2:30-3 p.m.

[Gardener's Focus Tour | Woodland Path](#)

Take a stroll this spring and explore the wonders of the woodland path! Marshall Paquin, senior gardener, highlights the beautiful woodland path, created in 2016. Included in suggested donation.

May 3
10-11 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m.

[Onsite Native Plant Container Workshop](#)

Celebrate the ecological value of native plants with a fun pot full of summer perennials. Take a short walk with Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, to see and hear how Hillwood is combining a

beautiful aesthetic with sustainability. Then plant a container with native cultivars while learning container design basics and details on the pollinators these plants may attract.
\$65, \$55 Hillwood member

May 13 and 14
10:30-11:15 a.m.

Preschool Program | Colors in the Garden

Experience the wonder of Hillwood with your preschooler! Explore a new theme in the gardens each week through make-believe, hands-on art-making, and imaginative play.
\$12 Child (ages 2-5) with accompanying adult, \$10 Member child (2-5) with accompanying adult

May 27 and 28
10:30-11:15 a.m.

Preschool Program | Magical Creatures

Experience the wonder of Hillwood with your preschooler! Explore a new theme in the gardens each week through make-believe, hands-on art-making, and imaginative play.
\$12 Child (ages 2-5) with accompanying adult, \$10 Member child (2-5) with accompanying adult

General Information

Location: 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)

Information/Tickets: 202-686-5807 for information or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
[Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum)

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, most holidays, and for several weeks in January.

Café: Merriweather Café is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ticketing: \$20, \$17 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6.
Adults and seniors receive \$3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits when reservations are made online.
Members receive free admission during regular operating hours. To join visit <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/membership>
For more information visit <https://hillwoodmuseum.org/visit/hours-tickets>