



[CORRECTED]

NEWS RELEASE

Stan Hywet Opens Historic Grounds to Community During the Pandemic

Access is limited to outdoor space

April 22, 2020— Akron, Ohio – The grounds at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens will open to the public on Friday, April 24, 2020 for walking in the gardens, as a service to the community during the pandemic. Only the gardens and grounds will be open, and the number of guests will be limited to maintain a safe environment. Going forward, hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday, **8:30- 10am for seniors**, and 10am-3pm for all guests. The usual admission fee has been waived, although donations will be accepted. All guests must adhere to current CDC social distancing guidelines by staying six feet from other guests while they tour the gardens. The Manor House and all other buildings, including restrooms, will remain closed.

Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio.

Over the past few weeks, conversations with community leaders began for Stan Hywet to consider opening its grounds as a park, giving the public another option while providing enough area to practice social distancing. With the weather improving, parks and other outdoor spaces have begun to see larger crowds, increasing the need for more options for people to spread out safely during the pandemic. “We are just happy to be able to be a safe resource for the community to get outside and enjoy some relief from the current situation. Stan Hywet is a beautiful place, and we believe that if F.A. and Gertrude Seiberling were still living here today, they’d find a way to help the community during this crisis. I am truly thankful to the community leaders including Representative Roemer, Councilwoman McKenney, and the Summit County Health Department and others for their guidance to ensure we can serve the community in this way,” says Sean M. Joyce, President & Executive Director of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens.

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“The gardens are blooming, so we’re delighted that we can share Stan Hywet with the public for garden walks. We look forward to the day when we can open the estate to include Manor House tours and public programs,” continues Joyce.

Stan Hywet worked with state and local officials to create a plan that is both safe for staff and guests, as well as beneficial to the public during the Coronavirus pandemic.

“I am excited to participate with Stan Hywet, Summit County Public Health and Councilwoman Bethany McKenney to offer our residents another opportunity to safely enjoy the outdoors. Stan Hywet’s renowned gardens are unrivaled greenspace in Northeast Ohio and I feel this is a perfect site for my constituents to get out and about in these times of social distancing,” says State Representative Bill Roemer.

"I'm grateful for how Stan Hywet wants to open up its stunning grounds for everyone to enjoy, especially as spring is coming alive and the flowers are blooming, but to do it in a safe way. It gives us hope and we need hope," says Bethany McKenney, Summit County Council.

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR WALKS AT STAN HYWET

Beginning April 24, 2020, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is open for walking in the gardens, Wednesday through Sunday from 8:30- 10am for seniors, and open to all guests from 10am – 3pm.

There is no admission to take a walk in the garden during the pandemic, but donations will be accepted. Stan Hywet staff will manage the guest capacity for the safety of staff and guests, and to maintain proper social distancing.

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CONTACT: Donna L. Spiegler, Communications Manager 216-410-6550 (mobile), or dspiegler@stanhywet.org