

Municipal Forestry Institute, 2019 - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When does MFI 2019 begin and end?

The MFI begins at 4:00 pm on Sunday February 24th, and ends at 1:00 pm on Friday March 1st. You will need to be there this entire time. Please book your travel arrangements so that you can arrive on time and leave only after it is over.

Q. I don't think that I can arrive at MFI until early morning on the Monday; is that okay?

No. You need to arrive at 4:00 on Sunday at the latest, as you must register and be in class for a 5:00 PM start. Further, MFI continues through until approximately 1:00 PM on Friday, so please don't make any plans that require you to leave early. Your attendance during the complete program is required for graduation. If you can't commit to the entire week, you should not attend MFI so that your spot can be given to someone on the waiting list.

Q. Ok, so I need to be at the Oregon Garden Resort prior to 4:00 pm on Sunday, and will leave after 1:00 pm on Friday. I will need to fly to this event – what airport should I fly into?

The shuttle only goes from Portland International Airport (PDX), so if you fly into any other airport, you will have to get yourself to the Oregon Garden Resort or to PDX in order to catch the shuttle. Plan to arrive at Portland International Airport (PDX) by 2:15 pm on Sunday so that you can take the bus from the airport (PDX) to the Oregon Garden Resort. All the MFI participants will gather in the airport terminal and take the same bus, which will depart at 3:00 pm SHARP. Book your return flight any time after 3:00 on Friday, as the bus will return you to the airport, arriving there at 2:00 pm.

Q. How do I sign up for the bus from the airport to the Oregon Garden Resort?

We will contact you and collect information from you about your airline, flight times, etc. Based on the information provided by you, we will reserve a seat on the shuttle for you. It is your responsibility to be there on time.

Q. I live close enough to the Oregon Garden Resort to drive there for MFI. What time should I arrive?

Plan to arrive by 4:00 pm on Sunday.

Q. My spouse/partner has always wanted to visit Oregon, and from the website, the Oregon Garden Resort looks like a terrific place. Can they tag along and share my room, pursuing their own agenda when I am at class?

No, MFI is intended only for participants. You'll be busy from Sunday afternoon through noon on Friday. Your meals and lodging at the Oregon Garden Resort are a package created just for you in conjunction with this class. Sorry, spouses and partners cannot be accommodated in your room at the retreat site. You can always bring them back another time.

Q. I live alone, and can rarely find anyone who will look after my pet when I am away. Can I bring my pet with me to the Oregon Garden Resort?

Pets are not permitted, with the exception of assistance dogs for those with disabilities. If you rely on an assistance dog, please contact us directly via e-mail to advise that you will be bringing an assistance dog.

Q. What kind of clothing should I pack for Oregon in February?

The February temperature in this area of Oregon is typically a day-time high of 50° (10°C) and night-time lows of 36° (2°C), and this is during the rainy season, so be prepared. You will have some free time midweek to tour the campus, so you should bring a warm dry coat, hat, gloves and boots to ensure that you are comfortable. The Oregon Garden Resort itself is very comfortable, so casual office attire would be suitable for your time spent in the classroom.

Q. Is there good evening entertainment at the Oregon Garden Resort? I have a friend who lives in the area – can they come visit me?

You will find your days and evenings to be quite full, based on the exciting MFI program that has been created for you. Don't make any plans to be away from the Resort either by day or in the evenings. If you have something else you'd like to do in the area, plan to do it before or after MFI.

Q. If I live in the vicinity, can I commute daily to and from MFI?

The MFI Program is designed for attendees who will be in residence at the Resort. Your experience will be diminished if you are not staying at the site, and so commuting is not permitted.

Q. What is the food like?

All of your meals, from Sunday dinner through Friday lunch, will be provided at the Oregon Garden Resort.

Q. I have special dietary requirements; can these requirements be met at MFI?

The chef and kitchen staff at the Resort are very accommodating, and can likely meet your requirements. However, it is important to contact us directly via e-mail to discuss any special requirements that you might have if you did not include them on your registration form.

Q. Will ISA and SAF credits be available for the MFI Program?

In past years, the MFI program has generated credits for both ISA and SAF. It is anticipated that the 2019 program will again generate credits for both certifications.

Q. I like to enjoy a night-cap each evening before bed. Is there a place to get an alcoholic beverage at the Oregon Garden Resort?

The Fireside Lounge sells alcoholic beverages during evenings and you may bring your own alcoholic beverages with you.

Q. I've been trying to quit smoking, but I still need to sneak out for smoke breaks. Is that allowed?

Smoking is not permitted in the classrooms. There are two designated outdoor smoking areas which can be used during break periods.

Q. I would like to keep up with my exercising routine while attending MFI. Is there a fitness center or pool?

There is not a fitness center at the Resort. While there is an outdoor pool, it will be closed at the time that MFI is held. There are many paths to stroll throughout the nearby 80-acre (32 ha) Oregon Gardens, weather permitting.

Q. Can I bring my laptop or tablet? Is there Wi-Fi available?

The Resort offers complimentary wireless internet. You may use your laptop or tablet during the session to take notes if you prefer, but you'll be given resource materials and a Learning Journal that will be useful for that as well. Out of respect for the presenters and your fellow classmates, you will not be permitted to use a laptop to do non-MFI work or web browsing during the sessions.

Q. If there is a family emergency back home how can my family reach me?

Your cell phone should work just fine at the Resort; however, you won't be able to use it while class is in session. The phone number for the Oregon Garden Resort is 1 (800) 966-6490, and that number can be used in emergencies.

Q. What is a typical day at MFI like? Are we in class all day?

Your day begins with breakfast in the Oregon Garden Resort dining room at 7 am. MFI sessions begin promptly at 8:00 am, and last until 5:00 pm. There are often evening activities as well, those begin around 7:00 pm and are done by 8:30 pm. You will have two breaks during the day, one in the mid-morning and one in the mid-afternoon. You will also have 1 ¼ hrs for a lunch break each day, so unless you're a really slow eater, you can probably squeeze in a walk, a run, or even check email during the extended lunch break.