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The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program provides standards and guidelines for the establishment and development of an arboretum. The goals of the accreditation program are to:

1. *foster the establishment and professionalism of arboreta;*
2. *identify arboreta capable of participating or collaborating in certain scientific, collections, or conservation activities; and*
3. *advance the planting, study, and conservation of trees to improve the world.*

Arboreta that are accredited are encouraged to become leaders and serve as models to promote professional development and engagement with other arboreta.

Different levels of accreditation have been established to recognize arboreta at varying degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism. Accredited arboreta are encouraged to continue their growth and development to achieve higher professional standards and can apply to upgrade to a higher level when they are ready at any point after their initial accreditation. Accreditation must be renewed every five years and arboreta will receive a renewal reminder several months prior to the arboretum contact listed on this form.

Arboreta and public gardens are eligible to apply for accreditation by submitting this application along with supporting documentation to demonstrate their level of achievement according to the specified standards. Once the application is completed, a decision will usually be made within four weeks.

The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is sponsored and supported by The Morton Arboretum, [Botanic Gardens Conservation International \(BGCI\)](#), and the [American Public Gardens Association \(APGA\)](#).

For resources and information related to creating, running, and growing an arboretum, please see the [ArbNet Resources pages](#), which include resources on [Starting an Arboretum](#) and [Accreditation](#), among many other topics. Additionally, here are links to sample applications that will allow you to see the full application in its entirety, along with sample responses:

- [Level I sample application](#)
- [Level II sample application](#)
- [Level III sample application](#)
- [Level IV sample application](#)

If you have any concerns about being able to reach particular criteria, please reach out to us. For more information regarding specific accreditation requirements:

**Visit:** <https://www.arbnet.org/arboretum-accreditation-program>

**Email:** [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org)

**Call:** 630-310-7013

**Arboretum Information**

Name of Arboretum  
**Sample Level III Arboretum**

Address or PO Box  
**123 Tree Rd**

City State/Province ZIP/Postal Code (If applicable)  
**Sample City Sample State 00000**

Country  
**United States**

Latitude and Longitude  
**41.40338, 2.17403**

For information on how to find your Latitude and Longitude see [Google Maps Support Page](#)

Acres Hectares  
**450**

Is your mailing address different from above?

**No**

Website

**www.samplearb.org**

Type of Organization (REQUIRED)

Is acting as an arboretum and / or botanical garden the primary purpose of your organization?

**No**

What other roles does your organization have? Please check all that apply

- **Business / Corporate Campus**
- **Cemetery**
- **Community / Organization / Neighborhood Group**
- **Golf Course**
- Historical Site**
- **Hospital / Medical Campus**
- Museum**
- **Nature Preserve**
- **Nonprofit**
- **Place of Worship**
- **Public Park**
- **Retirement Community**
- **School**
- **Town / City**
- **University/College**
- **Zoo**
- **Other**

If you selected "Other", from the checklist above, please briefly describe:

Arboretum Contact (for ArbNet purposes)

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Title	Phone	Email Address
	<b>Ted</b>	<b>Tree</b>	<b>Arborist</b>	<b>0</b>	<a href="mailto:ted@samplearb.org">ted@samplearb.org</a>

Is the person submitting this application different than the contact listed above?

**No**

Authorization and Verification

The chairperson or leader of the applicant arboretum's governing board, organizational group, or authority (corresponding to Section I. below) must approve this application, specifically verifying the accuracy and authenticity of the information it contains.

Approval is indicated by placement below of this individual's name, title or role at arboretum, and contact information.

*Authorizing / Verifying Governance Leader (other than individual submitting application):*

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Title	Phone	Email Address
	<b>Sheila</b>	<b>Shrub</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>0</b>	<a href="mailto:sheila@samplearb.org">sheila@samplearb.org</a>

How did you hear about ArbNet?

Check all that apply:

- **Website**
- **Newsletter**
- **Facebook**

- Instagram
- Arborist
- ✓ Another Arboretum
- ArbNet / Morton Arboretum Representative
- ✓ Conference / Symposium / Workshop
- Other

Other source that you heard about ArbNet

### ARBORETUM ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Accreditation standards are outlined on the [ArbNet website](#) and described in each of the following application sections.

#### FOUR LEVELS OF ACCREDITATION

Please use this chart as a reference. The levels of accreditation recognize arboreta with different degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism.

	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III	LEVEL IV
Arboretum plan	■	■	■	■
Organizational or governance group	■	■	■	■
Labeled tree and woody plant taxa				
25+	■			
100+		■		
500+			■	■
Staff or volunteer support				
Volunteer or paid	■			
Paid management		■	■	■
Curator			■	■
Scientific or conservation staff				■
Public dimension				
Public access and at least one event per year	■	■	■	■
Enhanced public and educational programs		■	■	■
Substantial educational programming			■	■
Collections policy		■	■	■
Collaboration with other arboreta			■	■
Collections data sharing with networked collections			■	■
Tree science, planting, and conservation activities			■	■
Substantial and integrated woody plant conservation				■

Arboretum accreditation level sought  
**Level III**

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If you wish to share additional arboretum planning or guiding documents, there will be the opportunity to attach more files at the end of the application, or you may email them to [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org).

**GENERAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS****1. Arboretum Plans**

Documentation such as an organizational plan, strategic plan, site plan, or other, that defines the mission and purpose of the arboretum, its audience(s), the types of plants that are to be grown to achieve that purpose and serve those audiences, provisions for the maintenance and care of the plants, and provisions for the continuing operation of the organization through time with a clear succession plan. A sample organizational plan can be found here on ArbNet's website.

*Provide the mission of your arboretum and a brief description or outline of the type and scope of the plan for your arboretum. Attach or link to the planning documents (organizational, management, comprehensive/site plan, strategic plan, sustainability plan/policy, etc.), if applicable.*

Mission Statement

**The mission of Sample Level III Arboretum is to steward our historic trees and landscapes to engage our regional community and benefit our environment.**

Brief description or outline of plan(s):

**The overall direction, purpose and audience of the organization are dictated by our mission statement. The Arboretum's living collections policy addresses in general terms the scope of plants to be grown in support of the mission and how those plants are utilized for education, research, horticulture, observation and aesthetic enjoyment. A landscape management plan (attached) addresses maintenance needs, priorities and schedules for specific Arboretum areas and specific plants or genera.**

Optional: Attach your arboretum planning / guiding document or policy here (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB):

Optional: Attach another planning/guiding document here (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB):

Optional: Link to your arboretum planning / guiding document here:

Optional: Link to another planning/guiding document here:

**2. Organizational or Governance Group**

A governing board, group of people, or authority that is dedicated to the arboretum plan and its continuation beyond the efforts of a single individual. Such an organizational/governance group will affirm fulfillment of standards and authorize participation as an accredited arboretum.

Describe the nature of your governance board or authority.

**The Board of Directors is made up of 10 individuals with varying skill sets that reflect the mission of the Arboretum and enable us to meet our needs. The board is made up of both founding members and others from all across the country who share an interest in the success of the institution. A mix of individuals with financial, botanical/horticulture, event-planning and marketing backgrounds compromise the board. Holding four interactive board meetings a year, along with bi-monthly sub-committee meetings, the board has clearly defined roles. The authority and decision making mechanism are the By-laws which are reviewed every three years.**

Optional: Number of people in your governing group:

**10**

Optional: Attach any relevant governing documents or policies (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB).

Optional: Additional documents or policies relating to the Governance Group, if needed.(max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Optional: Provide link to any relevant governing documents or policies

Optional: Additional link to your Governing Documents, if needed.

### 3. Arboretum Staff or Volunteer Support

Resources and examples about staff and volunteer management can be found on the Arboretum Management Resources page of the ArbNet website.

#### a. Levels II, III & IV

One or more paid arboretum employees who have job responsibilities that specifically include management or operation of the arboretum in fulfillment of the arboretum plan (e.g. president/director, horticulturists, arborists, education and engagement staff, etc.).

Describe the staff responsible for management or operations of the arboretum, including staff dedicated to educational programming for Levels III & IV.

**The Arboretum is led by the Executive Director. Support staff includes the Administrative & Financial Officer and Membership & Outreach Coordinator. The grounds are maintained by the Collections & Grounds Manager who leads the Horticulturist/Arborist, Horticulturist/Plant Propagator, Collections Management Intern and Summer Interns. The Children's Education Coordinator and her Assistant lead the school programs. We are also blessed with a multitude of volunteers who aid us in daily operations of the arboretum to give us a total of 2,488 hours of work in 2023. Our Visitor Center is staffed primarily by volunteers (31 volunteers, 880 hours) who work in two shifts daily. Volunteers also give the daily 2pm tour of the Arboretum grounds during the same season (26 volunteers, 210 hours). Our school education program has a total of 13 volunteer school guides who worked 302 hours during the annual school program. The greenhouse utilized 90 hours of time from 3 volunteers. A 13-member core grounds volunteer group worked a total of 696 hours in 2023. The balance of hours was split mainly among diverse administrative functions.**

#### b. Levels III & IV

A dedicated curator, or curator-equivalent employee (e.g. collections manager), who is focused on the care and development of the arboretum collection, in accordance with the arboretum plan and collections policy.

Provide the job title of the curator or curator-equivalent employee(s).

**Curator of Living Collections**

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### 4. Arboretum Collections

Information and resources related to plant collections management and curation is available on the [Tree Collections Resource page](#) of the ArbNet website.

#### a. Collections Activities Checklist

Please check all activities that your arboretum participates in

- Collections policy (covers records management, accessioning, deaccessioning, etc.)
- Regular collections evaluation
- Conducting or participating in woody plant evaluation trials
- Collections manager or curator
  - Herbarium
  - Seed bank
  - Plant exploration program
  - Collections conservation (holding and safeguarding plants of collections or conservation value on behalf of the collective interests of the profession - ex: rare and endangered plants, legacy cultivars, etc.)
- Woody plant nursery
  - Woody plant breeding program
- Accredited or officially recognized collection(s) (describe below in part g.)
  - Collections strategic plan (develops and plans for the themes and

Please describe your woody plant collections management activities not covered by the above checklist:

direction of your collections - could be a standalone plan or part of your greater organization-wide strategic plan or expanded collections policy)  
- Other activities not listed that support woody plant collections management (describe below)

#### b. Labeled Tree and Woody Plant Taxa

The number of species, subspecies, cultivars, varieties, etc. being grown as part of the collection in accordance with the arboretum plan. Plants in the arboretum's collection must be labeled in some way (by physical or, digital labels, walking map or website map with ID) to identify them taxonomically, including scientific name and cultivar if applicable, and documented in some way so that information on their acquisition (if available - source or origin, date of acquisition, etc.) is available for access. Minimum numbers of labeled woody taxa (species, subspecies, cultivars, varieties, etc) are:

- 25+ (Level I)
- 100+ (Level II)
- 500+ (Levels III & IV)

Indicate the number of different woody plant taxa in the collection that are labeled:  
**500 and over**

#### c. Woody Plant Taxa

Indicate the total number of tree and other woody plant taxa in your collections (both labeled and unlabeled):  
**1580**

#### d. Optional: Individual Woody Plants

Indicate the total number of trees and other woody plant individuals in your collections:  
**2581**

e. Describe the method for labeling and documenting the number of trees/woody plant taxa

**Every accession has a unique accession number that is linked to accession and collection details in our BG-Base plant records database. You can access that database by going to [www.samplearb.org/database](http://www.samplearb.org/database). We also share our database with BGCI. The accession number is comprised of two parts: the first is the year in which a particular propagule entered the records and the second is the order in which a particular propagule was received that year. All plants are labeled with an embossed aluminum accession tag with the scientific name and accession number. Through the use of a new laser engraver we are in the process of transitioning to an engraved bi-laminar plastic accession tag with more extensive accession data, including scientific name, common name, accession number, family, source, how a propagule was received, and, if of wild origin, where it was collected. Each year, more and more plants are marked with a more visitor-friendly and larger display label. These labels display scientific, common and family names and accession number. Display labels bearing the five trees of our logo indicate that the plant is our introduction.**

#### f. Collections database

Provide the link to your collections database, if possible.  
**[www.samplearb.org/database](http://www.samplearb.org/database)**

Is this a searchable, open access database (e.g., collection list uploaded to BGCI PlantSearch)?  
**Yes**

If your collection species list is not shared or accessible online, please attach here: (optional, attachment)(max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

g. List any special taxonomic, geographic, ecological, or conservation collections of note (e.g. oaks; Acer; dwarf conifers; halophytes; woody plants of Madagascar; etc.):

**We have a Plant Collections Network Nationally Accredited Collection of Sample Tree.**

**h. Arboretum Collections Policy (Tree Care Plan) (required for Level II, III & IV)**

A collections policy describes the purpose, development, and professional management of the plants in the arboretum collection, in accordance with standards developed in the public garden and museum fields. Such a policy and related practices includes a rationale for holding the particular collections of the arboretum, collections inventory, and record-keeping practices. Examples are available on the [Tree Collections Resources page](#) of the ArbNet website.

Describe and outline the elements of the collections policy.

**Statement of Collection Policy The Arboretum actively seeks to acquire and accession woody plants representing taxa that will increase the genetic diversity of its existing collections and that are simultaneously adapted to our climate and exhibit superior ornamental qualities or unusual botanical features. New acquisitions will include woody trees, shrubs, and climbers as well as herbaceous perennials that augment collection diversity for the purposes of research, teaching, plant conservation and the development of the landscape. While new taxa are sought from around the world, those native to eastern Asia and particularly to Japan – along with those indigenous to North America – form the primary focus of collecting interest. Within the latter region, the Arboretum has an especial interest in the woody plants of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which includes the native flora of our area. In every instance, accessions of documented provenance and/or wild origin are sought. Given constraints of space, the Arboretum endeavors to be selective in its program of plant acquisition and aspires to bring together a diverse collection of rare and unusual plants that will be of interest to the layman as well as the keen horticulturist and botanist. In acquiring new accessions, the Arboretum intends to be ever-mindful of current collecting etiquette and the necessity that it serve as a steward of our native vegetation in preventing the introduction of potentially invasive species. The living collections policy itself goes into the details of the processes involved with accessioning, deaccessioning, distributing materials, external use of the collection and other curatorial practices. (Actual collections policy attached)**

Attach arboretum collections policy, if applicable.(max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Arboretum collections policy link, if applicable

Sharing of plant collections data with [BGCI's PlantSearch](#), a networked collections database, is a requirement for level III and IV accreditation. Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is an international organization with a mission to ensure the conservation of threatened plants worldwide. Its global database provides information on the plants kept in living collections around the world. Your data will help conservationists, policy makers and planners, educators, and others working to save plant diversity—and can help measure the threatened plants safely in cultivation somewhere in the world. The location of your plants is kept hidden from PlantSearch users so you will not face any security issues regarding rare or valuable plants. To share your collections data, navigate to [BGCI's website](#), where detailed instructions are provided.

Have you shared your arboretum's data with PlantSearch?

**Yes**

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*If you wish to share additional arboretum planning or guiding documents, there will be the opportunity to attach more files at the end of the application, or you may email them to [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org).*

**5. Public Dimension / Educational and Public Programming**

Examples and resources are available on the [Education and Public Engagement](#) and [Community and Urban Forestry](#) resource pages of the ArbNet website.

**a. Education & Community Engagement Tree Activities Checklist**

*Please check all activities that your arboretum participates in:*

Open public access and events

**Annual tree events (Arbor Day, International Forestry Day/week)**

- Self-guided walking tours

- Giving engagement and outreach presentations for other organizations and groups

**Hosting conferences or similar events**

- Exhibitions and/or interpretive signage

Recurring public programming

- ✓ Guided walking/ tram tours
- ✓ Docent training & opportunities
  - Conference (or similar venue) presentations
- ✓ Course/class/workshop offerings
  - Hosting webinars/ seminars
  - Community/citizen science programs
  - Children's Garden
- ✓ School programs

Extensive / enhanced educational programming

- ✓ Articulated engagement philosophy or interpretive plan with intended outcomes and assessment plan
  - Plant selection, care, and/or pest/disease consultation & support
  - Educational and outreach publications
  - Digital content - podcasts, online courses, social media outreach, etc
  - Ethnobotanical engagement (indigenous knowledge content & co-creation with community partners)
- ✓ Accredited educational or training programs
  - Internship opportunities
  - Summer/ seasonal camps

Urban & community forestry

- Urban and community agricultural and food forest programs and projects
- Environmental justice and tree equity programs and projects
- Urban and community greening efforts
- Supporting the creation of new accredited arboreta

Other

- Other activities not listed that support education and engagement with trees and other woody plants (describe below)

Please describe your educational and engagement activities not covered by the above checklist:

If Level III or IV accreditation is selected:

#### **b. Arboretum Public Dimension and Substantial Educational and Public Programming**

A public dimension that includes some level of public access along with substantial public programming beyond the basic level required for Level I & II accreditation. Public events or educational programs each year must be related to trees (e.g. tree identification, forest ecology, conservation, collections, or some other tree-focused aspect of the arboretum mission or master plan).

Describe how the arboretum is open or accessible to the public, and describe your substantial education programs related to trees, woody plants, forest ecology, conservation, and other related topics. Provide a description of your overarching program plan including your education program strategy, number of outcome-based education programs, and explain how they are evaluated. Provide a link to your programming and/or course offering page, if possible.

**The Arboretum has a Youth Education Program that was developed to work within the state Curriculum Guidelines. Grades from pre-school to 6th grade from all area schools participate in this place-based learning program. Program coordinators, along with volunteer school guides, present a program in the classroom before the groups visit the arboretum to prepare them for what they will be doing during their supervised visit. The Arboretum has had a full time employee dedicated to public education and outreach for the past 15 years. The primary audience has been adults in the community, and for the past five years we have had a significant children's ed. program as well. The focus is not just on trees, but on natural history, conservation, environmentally sound landscaping and the importance of native plants. On a yearly basis we have averaged about 20 adult programs and 15 children's programs of all different types. We have a regular series of walks and workshops each year that cover tree identification (with and without leaves), woody plant pruning, autumn color and spring woodland wildflowers. Less frequently we cover topics like invasive species, proper planting techniques and starting plants from seeds and cuttings. Examples of special programs include guided walks through our collections by our curator, director and botany professors highlighting special plant groups or uses, for example the ethnobotanical aspects of our native trees and shrub as used by local Native Americans. Recently we hosted an all day workshop on moss identification with field and lab components, and a workshop on identifying seaweeds and preparing various meals with them. For a number of years we sponsored a Bonsai and Asian Arts festival with a local bonsai club. The all day events included bonsai exhibits, workshops, sales of plants and materials and displays of Asian prints and paintings from the College's Chu-Griffis Art Collection. Our main educational event for professionals is a two day intensive ecological design symposium for landscape architects, landscape designers and others in the green industry. We have produced this event consecutively for over 20 years in conjunction with the Univ. of ABC. Over 120 people attended our recent symposium which aims to educate design professionals in the general subjects of native plant horticulture and ecological processes. Woody plants are always part of the subject matter at these events. Our website has an important education function, with information about the content of our collections and our natural areas. There is a "Find a Plant" search function on the website where one can find**



the location of the trees and shrubs in collections.

Educational and public program file upload if applicable (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Additional educational and public program file upload if applicable (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Educational and public program document link if applicable

Additional educational and public program document link if applicable

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*If you wish to share additional arboretum planning or guiding documents, there will be the opportunity to attach more files at the end of the application, or you may email them to [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org).*

**6. COLLABORATION (Required for Level III & IV)**

A professional capability to collaborate in some way with other arboreta or relevant organizations, preferably with evidence of existing collaboration. Examples of collaboration activities with other organizations may include plant evaluations, research projects, in situ or ex situ conservation projects, educational programs, exhibits, public events, interpretation, collecting expeditions, plant exchanges, professional meetings, and co-authoring scientific research papers. The goal of this question is to understand the diversity, breadth, and depth of your collaborations and types of collaborative activities. Information and resources related to plant collections management and curation is available on the [Collaboration and Networks resource page](#) of the ArbNet website.

**a. Collaboration Checklist**

Please check all organization types that your arboretum collaborates with. (required checklist)

- Other arboreta and public gardens
- Botanical garden associations/ societies
- Seed banks and other germplasm repositories
- Conservation, restoration, ecological, and/or environmental organizations
- Invasive species networks or organizations
- Dendrology and/or forestry associations/societies
- Arborist/arboreticulture associations/ societies
- Indigenous peoples groups and organizations
- Community groups and organizations
- Universities/ colleges
- Schools and/or student groups
- Government agencies
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Nature preserves and/or parklands
- Plant, botanical, biological, and/or horticultural societies/ associations
- Garden clubs
- Landscape architecture and design societies/ associations
- Businesses (e.g. arborist or landscaping companies)
- Zoos and/or aquariums
- Zoo, aquarium, or wildlife societies/ associations
- Museum
- Museum societies/associations
- Other organization types not listed (describe below)

Please describe the Other organization type

**b. Collaboration descriptions**

Elaborate on your collaborations selected from the above checklist and provide examples of existing collaborations with other arboreta and related organizations. (required textbox)

**The Arboretum has collaborated with several other public gardens on plant exploration and seed collection expeditions. In the past 10 years, we've take two trips to Japan, which were joint efforts between with Sample Botanic Gardens, Sample Royal Arboretum and Example Public Garden. Additionally, trips to the southeastern U.S. have involved staff from Sample Horticultural Association, ABC Garden, and Regional XYZ**

**Arboretum.** The Arboretum is collaborating with the local Land Bank and the local Meadow Foundation (both conservation groups) to catalog and document the flora of our County. We are a member of the Plant Collections Network and hold the national collection of Sample Tree. Two members of the staff have served (and one currently does) as the Plant Collections Network Northeast Region Coordinator. We are a part of an informal group of public garden professionals and like-minded nursery people that make up the Sample Tree Working Group, the purpose of which is to document, catalog and study Sample Tree, particularly the two North American species. Another element of this group is to further develop propagation and horticultural techniques. We are a part of the ABC Society's rare plant conservation program. The Arboretum is part of a network of official Sample Shrub arboreta through the Sample Shrub Society of America. We continually seeks to develop formal and informal relationships and collaborations.

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## 7. Tree Science, Planting, and Conservation (required for Level III & IV)

Examples and resources are available on the [Tree Science and Conservation Resources](#) page of the ArbNet website.

### a. Tree Conservation & Science Action Checklist (optional for Level III)

Please check all activities that your arboretum participates in. Below the checklist, provide details in part 7b (levels III and IV) and part 7c (level IV only) as appropriate, about the activities that you checked in the list.

#### Links and Acronyms (for reference)

[Global Conservation Consortia](#) (GCC)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Global Tree Specialist Group](#)

[Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#) (BGCI)

[BGCI Conservation Action Tracker](#)

[Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants](#) (PGSIP)

General capacity building for threatened tree conservation

- Promote tree conservation through your networks, conferences, presentations, social media, and arboretum website
- Host or share GCC educational content (e.g GCC Species Steward panels and/or taxa information sheets; these are provided by the GCC Coordinators)
- Carry out education/awareness raising and interpretation among your visitors for threatened trees
  - Host tree conservation conferences, training workshops, or related meetings (e.g. IUCN Global Tree Specialist Group meeting)
- Contribute content, expertise, or other support to tree conservation training materials, such as guidance briefs, manuals, or reports
  - Host employee(s) who is an active member of the IUCN Global Tree Specialist Group
  - Report and share information on your tree conservation work using the BGCI Global Tree Portal, including the Conservation Action Tracker

Ex situ tree conservation

- Enable researchers or conservationists external to your organization to use your grounds, collections, and/or resources for tree conservation and science work/research
- Formal participation in a ex situ conservation project focused on threatened tree species (provide project name in part 7b below)
  - Partner with Indigenous communities to support culturally significant ex situ tree conservation and restoration activities
- Participate in Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants (PGSIP) by collecting and sharing data about plants escaping from cultivation in your arboretum
  - Share threatened tree germplasm/material with other institutions (e.g. for propagation, living collections, seed banks, herbaria, etc)
  - Develop protocols for propagation of threatened tree germplasm
  - Host and manage a native or threatened tree nursery
  - Undertake planting trials for threatened trees
  - Conduct conservation genetics research on ex situ collections of threatened tree species
- Threatened trees included in your collection
- Threatened trees included in your collection with interpretation aimed at conservation awareness
  - Engage in collections climate change adaptation planning and activities

- Provide support to other arboreta to improve their capacity to participate in threatened tree conservation activities (e.g. provide training, financial support, mentorship, threatened tree germplasm/seeds, etc.)
- ✓ Host a metacollection site as a designated Species Steward for one of the GCCs

In situ tree conservation

- ✓ Formal participation in a in situ conservation project focused on threatened tree species (provide project name in part 7b below)
  - Partner with Indigenous communities to support culturally significant in situ tree conservation and restoration activities
  - Participate in in situ expeditions and surveys to seek out and monitor threatened tree populations
  - Host and manage a native or threatened tree nursery to repopulate threatened tree species in situ
  - Conduct conservation genetics research on in situ populations of threatened tree species
  - Contribute to red listing initiative for trees within a taxonomic group or region
  - Lead red listing initiative for trees within a taxonomic group or region
  - Engage in or support in situ habitat restoration or habitat protection in support of priority threatened tree species or ecosystems (e.g. invasive species removal, land protection, reforestation, facilitating sustainable management planning)
  - Engage in or support in situ conservation and recovery of threatened tree species in the wild (e.g. population monitoring/surveys, reintroduction of seeds/seedlings, assisted migration)
  - Carry out conservation planning for threatened tree species, e.g. individual species recovery plans, or multi-species plans

Other activities not listed that support integrated woody plant conservation and science

- Other - describe in part 7b (Level III and IV) and/or part 7c (Level IV only) below, as appropriate

b. Tree science, planting, and conservation research activities (required for Level III & IV)

Active projects and programs related to tree science, forest ecology, strategic planting, or conservation research. These activities should include direct research or the facilitation of scientific activities beyond public educational activities, in which data are acquired to solve problems in tree science or tree conservation. Examples include conducting plant trials; habitat monitoring; detecting pests and diseases; hosting collections-based research projects; and conducting research in forest ecology, physiology, systematics, seed and tissue banking, horticulture and tree care. You may refer to the options provided in the Tree Conservation & Science Action checklist for additional examples of important tree conservation activities.

Describe the arboretum's research activities related to tree science, planting, and/or conservation. Include a list of relevant references, reports, or peer-reviewed journal articles.

**As previously mentioned the Arboretum participates in the ABC Society's rare plant conservation program. Since 1952 the Arboretum has sponsored a long terms vegetation survey in our county Natural Area. Once every ten years a team of students from the University, led by a botany professor inventories all plants in four transects 20 ft wide by 1000 ft long. The survey has documented the effect of both slow, natural changes and catastrophic events including hurricanes and the collapse of the hemlock population due to woolly adelgid infestation. The data is currently being used by a plant ecologist to test various models of how invasive species spread on the landscape. A breeding bird census has been performed on a biennial schedule in the same 100 acre forest over the past 60years, allowing correlations to be drawn between forest and bird population changes. Multiple professional and popular publications have resulted from these long term ecological monitoring projects. The Arboretum is a cosponsor of the state Notable Trees project, which documents the largest individuals of all tree taxa growing in the state and also documents historic trees. Our director has chaired or co-chaired the small volunteer group for the past 30 years. An online, searchable database currently has records of 3276 trees in 440 taxa. The website is hosted by the arboretum and the paper archives are housed in the Arboretum Office. In 2022, the Arboretum began expanding early successional habitat to encourage regrowth of Sample Shrub with a program of clearing overgrowing fields and expanding grassland acreage by clearing and seeding areas that had been engulfed in invasive species. Scientists followed the progress of the seeded meadow and recently published a paper in The Natural Areas Journal that documents the projects first six years. In 2018 a committee led by our director published Native and Naturalized Vascular Plants of ABC State Checklist. This is the first updated list of the state's native plants in 35 years. There have been a huge number of plant name changes and reassignments of plants to different families and genera over that time period, as well as new taxa entering the flora. The checklist serves as a reference to which of the 2,827 plants that are native to our state, and supplies the most current nomenclature. Attached is a list of our articles that have been published.**

Optional: Science and conservation file upload (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Optional: Additional science and conservation file upload (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Optional: Science and conservation link, if applicable

Optional: Additional science and conservation link, if applicable

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Optional additional accreditation comments or explanation

**Additional Attachments**

*If you wish to share additional arboretum planning or guiding documents, there will be the opportunity to attach more files at the end of the application, or you may email them to [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org).*

Additional Document 1 (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Additional Document 2 (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

**Photos**

Please attach at least two photos of your arboretum (high resolution JPEG format in landscape/horizontal orientation) with your application for use on the ArbNet website.

Landscape Image 1 (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Landscape Image 2 (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

Landscape Image 3 (max individual file size 25MB; max aggregate / total file size for application 35MB)

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**Data Information**

In compliance with the 2018 EU "General Data Protection Regulations", ArbNet has to ensure that EU residents agree to ArbNet using your information provided for processing and evaluating your accreditation application. By instructing us to process your application, your data will be transferred outside of the European Economic Area to the United States, kept secure, and will not be shared with a third party. You have the right to revoke your consent at any time by contacting us at [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org). If you chose to be reviewed for our reciprocal accreditation program with BGCI (BGCI Botanic Garden Accreditation), ArbNet will share your information with BGCI.

The uses of your information, dependent on the success of your accreditation application, are as follows:

If you are a successful applicant, any personal and institutional data you have provided will be kept by ArbNet for five years, the length of the accreditation period, so that we can contact you in relation to the set up and administration of your accreditation, to provide information useful to maintain and/or upgrade your accreditation (e.g., new resources, opportunities, etc.), and to provide information on the accreditation renewal process as you approach the five year limit of your accreditation. ArbNet will use the institutional data provided in your application to create a website listing in the Morton Register, and potentially to promote your institution on our website, in our newsletter, and through our social media channels. ArbNet may also use your arboretum's institutional (not personal) de-identified aggregate summary data for sector-wide reporting.

If you are an unsuccessful applicant, the personal and institutional information you have provided will be kept by ArbNet for five years, so that we can contact you to help you achieve accreditation at a future date.

Mailing List Consent

**I want to be added to ArbNet's mailing list for quarterly newsletters and occasional informational updates.**

Data Consent

**ArbNet may use the institutional information (not personal data) I provide for conducting sector-wide analyses for the purpose of research on institutional capacities, networking, and strengthening the garden and arboretum community, as well as populating external datasets (e.g., BGCI GardenSearch; BGCI PlantSearch).**

THE MORTON ARBORETUM EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH PERFORMING ANY OBLIGATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED HEREUNDER AND MEMBER ORGANIZATION RELEASES THE MORTON ARBORETUM FROM ANY LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH OBLIGATIONS. MEMBER ORGANIZATION HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISK IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBLIGATIONS REQUIRED OF MEMBER ORGANIZATION HEREUNDER AND MEMBER ORGANIZATION SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE MORTON ARBORETUM AND EACH OF ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, CONTRACTORS,

LICENSEES, EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES AGAINST AND FROM ANY AND ALL THIRD PARTY CLAIMS, LIABILITIES AND DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY CONNECTED TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATION HEREUNDER.

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