



University/College Arboretum Toolkit

Introduction: This toolkit is meant to guide you through the ArbNet accreditation process, the steps to create a new arboretum, or building your arboretum's capacity to upgrade to a higher level of accreditation. The toolkit contains resources such as, ArbNet template documents, as well as, examples of the different elements that make up an arboretum from various ArbNet accredited arboreta. Overall, this should give you a more concrete understanding of what you need to create or enhance an arboretum.

Resources

Application

- [Level I Sample Application](#)
- [Level II Sample Application](#)
- [Level III Sample Application](#)
- [Level IV Sample Application](#)

Strategic Plan

- [Fullerton Arboretum at California State University](#)
- [Salve Regina University Arboretum](#) (Ten-Year Plan on how to reach Level III Accreditation)
- [University of California Davis Arboretum](#)

Collections Policy

- [Colorado State University Campus Arboretum](#)
- [Haverford College Arboretum](#)
- [The Botanic Garden of Smith College](#)
- [University of Washington Botanic Garden](#)

Tree Inventory & Assessment

- [Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#)

Tree Care

- [Frank A. Waugh Arboretum at the University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) (Highlights arboricultural practices, damage assessment, etc.)
- [University of Maryland Arboretum and Botanical Garden](#)



Labeling

- [Digital Labeling with PlantsMap](#)
- Example
 - [University of Guelph Arboretum](#)
- [Example Label](#)
- [How to attach an I.D. to a mature tree](#)
- [Label Making Comparison Guide](#)
- [Label Resources from APGA](#)

Mapping

- [ArcGIS Online Account](#) (Free to make simple maps)
- [Elon University Botanical Garden](#)
- [Southern Illinois University Arboretum](#)

Sustainability

- [APGA Sustainability Index for Public Gardens](#)
- [Frank A. Waugh Arboretum at the University of Massachusetts Amherst](#)
- [Purdue University Arboretum](#) (Sustainability Strategic Plan)
- [Salisbury University Arboretum](#) (Highlights their green initiatives, projects and involvement in sustainable practices)

Tree Research

- [Colorado State University Arboretum](#)--(Project focusing on better understanding what woody plants are best to grow in the Colorado region)
- [Ohio State University: Chadwick Arboretum](#) (Phenology study on woody plants)
- [University of Guelph Arboretum](#) (Elm Recovery Project-- assisting the recovery of white elm from Dutch elm disease by reintroducing genetically diverse populations of disease-tolerant elms to their landscape)

Publications

- [The Botanic Garden of Smith College](#)
- [University of California Davis Arboretum](#) (Study looking at genetic distinctions among oaks in their arboretum, contributing to oak phylogeny)

Conservation Projects/Programs

- [CPC Rare Plant Academy](#): hub for learning and sharing, filled with resources centered around plant conservation
- [Donald E. Davis Arboretum at Auburn University](#) (Project focused on making the public more aware of the rare species, *Q. boyntonii*)
- [Donald E. Davis Arboretum at Auburn University](#) (Founding member of the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance, APCA)
- University of California Davis Arboretum: part of the North American Plant Collection Consortium Multisite Quercus (Oak) Collection-- committed to make germplasm available for research and breeding
 - [Quercus Multisite](#) (Provided by the American Public Gardens Association, APGA, Quercus was the first multi-institutional plant collections network collection, one of the goals is to expand and recruit gardens in southeast, southwest and Mexico to improve representation of oaks from those regions)

- [University of Guelph Arboretum](#) (Seed collection--aid conservation efforts in Canada and abroad)
- [University of Guelph Arboretum](#) (Rare Woody Plants of Ontario—est. to survey and document the status of over 20 species of rare woody plants)
- [University of Oxford Botanic Garden & Harcourt Arboretum](#) (Participating in a project that is focused on building capacity for tree conservation in Ethiopia, through the Global Trees Campaign, GTC)

Educational Programs

- [APGA Plant Heroes](#) (Series of nature-based educational/outreach content for gardens)
- [Donald E. Davis Arboretum at Auburn University](#) (Listing of educational programs offered that are related to trees/the arboretum)
- [Purdue University Arboretum](#)

Events

- [Gabis Arboretum at Purdue University Northwest](#) (Outline of their events/activities for the year)

Tours

- [Connecticut College Arboretum](#) (Outlining their available guided and self-guided tours)
- [Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College](#) (Brochure for self-guided tour)

Newsletters

- [Fullerton Arboretum at California State University](#) (Publish a magazine twice a year to keep people informed of the projects at the arboretum)
- [University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#)

Miscellaneous

- [University of California Davis Arboretum](#) (Arboretum Ambassadors--opportunity for undergrads to lead tours, programs, and activities at the arboretum to become effective advocates for the environment)
- [University of Denver: Chester M Alter Arboretum](#) (Collection statistics)

Steps to Becoming an ArbNet Accredited Arboretum (Level I)

1. Complete a Strategic Plan

- a. A strategic plan defines the purpose and mission of the arboretum, its audience(s), and the types of plants that are grown to achieve that purpose or 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. Your plan may be written into the university's plan

2. Governance

- a. A governing board, a 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

3. Staff

- a. Employees or volunteers who ensure fulfillment of the arboretum plan and provide for the basic needs of the arboretum collection and functions of the arboretum.(i.e. grounds crew, student interns/volunteers)

4. Collections

- a. 25 + species of woody plants and label them or mapped in some way (can be mapped online)
- b. All trees do not need to be labeled, just a selection of 25 species for easy public awareness

5. Outreach/Education

- a. Host at least one event, open to the general public
 - i. Arbor Day
 - ii. Earth Day with a tree related event
 - iii. Walking Tour
 - iv. Tree Planting
 - v. Tree Care Education
 - vi. Collaborate with professors or other researchers on campus to utilize the trees and plants for learning, curriculum, observational studies, etc.