ArbNet
BY THE MORTON ARBORETUM

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City and Municipal Arboretum Tool Kit

Introduction

This tool kit 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 tool kit 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

Arboretum Planning

- Mission statement overview
- Mission statement examples
- Sample arboretum plan
- Example: Tower Grove Park

Collections Policy

- Curation and Management (session recording on curation, collections, and management techniques from the 2021 ArbNet Virtual Conference)
- Sample collections policy
- Example: The Newport Arboretum

Tree Inventory and Assessment

- Mt. Lebanon Arboretum Tree Specimen Collection (interactive tree collection list)

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Tree Care

- Sample tree care plan
- Tree and plant care (The Morton Arboretum)
- Landscape fact sheets (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
- How to plant a tree video tutorial (Iowa DNR)
- Tree pruning video (Purdue University)
- Protecting Trees During Construction (Colorado State University Extension)
- Example: The Forest Park Arboretum (tree care resources)

Labeling and Mapping

- Example label
- Label making comparison guide (an overview - not comprehensive)
- Digital labeling comparison guide (an overview - not comprehensive)
- The Ins & Outs of Plant Records (Workshop session recording on accessioning, key data to record, inventory and labeling, and mapping strategies from the 2021 ArbNet Virtual Conference)
- Examples:
    - Greenwich Town Arboretum (physical labels and park map)
    - City of Bexley Arboretum (virtual labeling/map and tree tours)
    - Cooper-Young Historic District Arboretum (scroll down for tree map)
    - Village of Montgomery (interactive map)
    - City of Fort Collins (interactive map)

Sustainability and Conservation

- Sustainability Index for Public Gardens (American Public Gardens Association)

Educational Resources and Programs

- Education & Outreach Presentation (recording on the role of history and hospitality in engaging diverse audiences, building partnerships between students and outdoor spaces, and connecting families through nature play spaces from the 2021 ArbNet Virtual Conference)
- Virtual outreach K-12 bundles (free) (The Morton Arboretum)
    - Scroll down to the “Celebrate Trees! Arbor Day Bundle” for tree-focused activities organized by grade - these can be downloaded for free through Arborversity.

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    - Link to register for free bundles in Arborversity - to access these bundles you must use Arborversity, The Morton Arboretum's virtual education platform.Creating an Arborversity account and downloading the activities is all free ("how to" video).
- K-12 educational resources and programs (Longwood Gardens)
- Plant Heroes Program (American Public Gardens Association)
- Tree Campus K-12 Program (Arbor Day Foundation)
- Educational tree resources (Arbor Day Foundation)
- Seed Your Future: the movement to promote horticulture and inspire people to pursue careers working with plants
    - DIY project and activity videos
    - We Are BLOOM!: the movement to improve the world through the power of plants for the target audience of middle school and high school students
        - We Are BLOOM! YouTube videos
    - Plant Mash-Up Contest for teachers and youth leaders, including Lessons & Activities
- Young Learners Activities (The Purdue Arboretum)
- iNaturalist Community/Citizen Science - Educator's Guide
    - Getting started
    - Video tutorials
    - Managing Projects
    - Nature's Notebook Citizen Science - Local Phenology Programs
- Examples:
    - Atlanta Beltline Arboretum (youth education)
    - Tower Grove Park (educational opportunities)

Events

- 150 Ways to Celebrate Trees on Arbor Day (Arbor Day Foundation)
- iNaturalist Community/Citizen Science - BioBlitz Guide
- Examples:
    - Centennial Parklands (events page)
    - City of Bexley Arboretum (map tree tour)
    - Atlanta Beltline Arboretum (biking and walking tours)

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Urban and Community Forestry

- Urban & Community Forestry Presentations (recording on community forestry programs and steps to connect with audiences and partners to leverage your program from the 2021 ArbNet Virtual Conference)

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+ taxa/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