

Urban and Community Forest Certification Application

The Mississippi Urban Forestry Council (MUFC) certifies 'Urban and Community Forests' throughout the state of Mississippi. The purpose of the certification program is to define "urban and community forest" means in Mississippi and set standards for what can be called an urban forest for educational purposes.

General requirements For Urban and Community Forest Certification

For the five year certification:

- The site for certification must be two or more acres of land inside the city boundaries or located in areas where people live, work or play. The site must contain a diverse variety of native tree species. Number of species will be based on land mass in site and area natives.
- Sound planting practices must be demonstrated. (Guidance on proper planting is provided by MS State Extension Service and the Mississippi Forestry Commission.)
- A long-term maintenance plan must accompany the site.
- Policy on replacement and protection of trees on site must be established.
- Canopy and green space percentages must be a minimum of 25% of area.

Urban and Community Forest categories

The purpose of the categories is to help separate the programming of land use for the public's benefit.

Please choose a category from the following choices:

- Commercial/Revitalization
- Residential
- Parks and Recreation
- Traffic Corridors
- Private Lands
- Other Public Lands (Land Use: _____)

Application requirements

Please submit the following:

1. A completed Certification application form.
2. A list of all tree species labeled with both common and botanical names. (Trees must be labeled prior to the submission of the certification application.)
3. A three (3) page or less description of the site. Include information about how and why plantings were implemented, explain who maintains the site, maintenance plan, site plans and describe what a visitor can expect.
4. Three pictures of the site. (Please send pictures that illustrate the uniqueness of the site, canopy and planting details.)
5. A check or a money order issued to the Mississippi Urban Forestry Council for the \$150.00 Application fees are non-refundable. Mail application with check to MUFC (Check will be refunded if certification is not approved.)
6. Please submit the original and five copies of the application. (Pictures can be photocopied in the five copies.)
- 7 Optional signs may be purchased by applicant. The signs are designed and approved by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council and demonstrates to the public the Certification of the site.

What do certified urban and community forests receive?

A list of certified forest sites will be published on:

- MUFC's Web Page (www.tufc.com)
- The *Green Communities E-News* published by MUFC
- The Urban Forest Educational tool kit.
- A statewide and local news release announcing certification and featured in statewide magazines such as the MS Municipal League.
- A sign that reads, "The Mississippi Urban Forestry Council has confirmed this site as a certified forest" This sign must be displayed at all times during the certification period of 5 years. ***Should the sign be stolen or destroyed, it will be replaced at the owner's expense.***

Application timetable

Application forms are available on the Mississippi Urban Forest Council web site, www.msurbanforest.com or write the council requesting an application.

Applications will be accepted on a first come basis beginning March 1st and ending June 1st.

Note: Only a limited number of applications will be certified each year.

Applications will be reviewed in June.

The site will be visited between June 15th and October 1st.

Notification of certification will be given no later than November 1st.

Recertification

During the fifth year of certification, your Urban and Community Forests, would be eligible for recertification.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Community or Site Applicant:

Contact Person:

Title of Contact Person:

Name of Site or Area for Certification (If one):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

County:

Category applying for:

Commercial/Revitalization

Residential

Parks and Recreations

Traffic Corridors

Private Lands

Other Public Lands. Specifics: _____

1. Site is _____ acres:
2. Number of Different Tree Species Labeled: _____
3. Include a List of Native Tree Species Planted:
4. Include photos showing planting practices in description of site:
5. Attach plan for maintenance and new tree planting:
6. Copy of policies or tree ordinances detailing tree protection, planting and maintenance of trees on site:
7. Percent of Tree Canopy and Green Space: _____%

MAIL TO:

Phone
(601) 672-0755

Mississippi Urban Forest Council
Urban and Community Forest Certification Program
164 Trace Cove Drive, Madison, Mississippi 39110