

Urban and Community Forest Certification Application

Latest Update: February 2009

The Mississippi Urban Forestry Council (MUFC) certifies mature Urban and Community Forests throughout the state of Mississippi. The purpose of the certification program is to define what an 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 three year certification:

- The site for certification must be one or more acres of land inside the city boundaries or located in areas where people live, work or play. The site must contain a mature, diverse variety of native tree species. The number of species will be based on land mass within the whole site and conservation of area natives. The site cannot be split among other areas. Each site that is not connected by undeveloped land mass must be certified as a separate site. Entire cities cannot be certified.
- 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 (for both canopy & green space).
- MUFC or its representatives have the discretion to not approve a site based on any reason deemed necessary. The site will be inspected for compliance.
- Tree names must either be posted at each tree (no nails, screws or other attachment method that will harm the tree) or names may be listed in a flyer provided on site or a site sign visible by the visiting public.

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 for the site from the following choices: (Must match the local zoning maps.)

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 planted with both common and botanical names. A written confirmation from a local landscape professional that the trees listed are native to the site.
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. Please submit the original and five copies of the application. (Pictures can be photocopied in the five copies.)
6. 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 3 years. The sign must be a copy of the certificate presented to recipient. *Should the sign be stolen or destroyed, it will be replaced at the owner's expense.* 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.
7. A check issued to the Mississippi Urban Forest Council for \$150.00 to cover the three year application and inspection.
8. Site Inspection by a qualified forester/arborist representing the MUFC.
9. Presentation to the MUFC board regarding certification of the site at a MUFC Board meeting.

What do certified urban and community forests receive?

A list of certified forest sites will be published on:

- MUFC,s Web Page (www.msurbanforest.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, when available.
- A certificate that reads, The Mississippi Urban Forestry Council has confirmed this site as a certified forest. This certificate will be used as copy for a permanent weather-proof sign. *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 anytime.

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 15 and October 1.

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

Recertification

During the third year of certification, your Urban and Community Forest will be up for review and recertification.

MISSISSIPPI

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Community or Site Applicant:

Contact Person:

Title of Contact Person:

Name of Site or Area for Certification:

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. Determine the percent of tree canopy and Green Space: _____%__
8. I certify that I have read, understand and complied with all instructions outlined for this certification. _____

MAIL TO: Mississippi Urban Forest Council
Urban and Community Forest Certification Program
Phone (601) 672-0755 164 Trace Cove Drive, Madison, Mississippi 39110

“The Certified Urban Forest designation does not imply that these forests are certified under any of the national third-party forest certification systems currently in existence and can only be used to enhance the community and indicate that specific areas are designated urban forest for community promotional and recreational use only. The MUFC holds no responsibilities for the quality, maintenance and safety of said model urban forest and designation cannot be used for monetary gains.”

