

Mississippi Arboreta Trail Certification Program



The Mississippi Urban Forestry Council (MUFC) certifies Arboreta throughout the state of Mississippi for over 25 years. The purpose of the certification program is to define what the words Arboreta means in Mississippi and set standards for what can be called an Arboreta. Also, this program is designed to encourage and recognize those properties managed for sound community forestry sustainability with Best Management Practices.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS for Arboretum Certification:

Application Due By: _____

For the permanent certification:

- The site must be open and accessible to the public.
- Management practices must be in place to protect trees from lawn mower and weed eater damage. Protective examples include: employee training, mulch or herbicide treatment.
- All trees must be identified and a list must be provided for visitors. The tree list can be provided in any format, such as a flier, website, geo-cashing, display or signage. Labels on trees may be used but not required. Tree labels should be of a type that will not cause significant damage to the tree.
- Tree lists should have the common and botanical name.

ARBORETUM LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

Level 1 - 30 different species of trees on site

Level 2 - 60 different species of trees on site

Level 3 - 90 different species of trees on site

Level 4 - 120 different species of trees on site

The arboretum must be listed on city or other website.

APPLICATION

Please submit the following:

1. A completed Arboretum Certification application form.
2. A list of all the tree species on site.
3. A description of the Arboretum site. Include information about how and why the Arboretum was started, explain who maintains the site and how, and describe what an Arboretum visitor can expect. Tell us how your arboretum is special.
4. Pictures of the Arboretum site, (3 minimum) of the Arboretum and any educational pieces or activities.
5. During this two year program, certification is at no cost. After the completion of this project the fees for certification will return.
6. Include the educational pamphlet with all levels application.
7. Include Educational weblink or document.
8. Please submit one copy of the application by mail or email.
9. Tracking of costs of management of the arboreta is needed for this initial application to demonstrate the costs associated with developing these arborets. No financial requirements are needed - only the reporting during this project period from April 2024 to April 2027. If you have received a grant or donation for your arboreta, please report that on this form.

WHAT DO CERTIFIED ARBORETA RECEIVE?

- A list of certified Arboreta will be published on the MUFC's website: www.msurbanforest.com.
- Your arboretum will be listed on the Mississippi Arboreta Trail and other locations.
- The Green Communities E-News published by MUFC.
- An Urban Forest Educational tool kit.
- Statewide and National promotion of your arboretum.
- Included as an important piece of tourism sites in our state and part of this valuable statewide program.
- A statewide and local news release will be issued announcing certification.
- A certificate that reads, "The Mississippi Urban Forestry Council has confirmed this site as a certified Arboretum." The site owners must produce a similar outdoor sign and display at all times during the certification period. **Should the sign be stolen or destroyed, it will be replaced at the Arboretum's expense.**

APPLICATION TIMETABLE

- **To be included on the statewide Mississippi Arboreta Trail, all applications must be turned into MUFC no later than July 2026.**
- Application forms are available any time.
- Applications will be accepted now until July 2026.
- Applications will be reviewed as received.
- The site may be visited prior to certification.
- Notification of certification will be given 30 days after receiving application. We will provide a press release.
- Mail application to MUFC at 164 Trace Cove Drive, Madison, MS 39110.

Disclaimer: This certification is a volunteer program. The applicant is responsible for information provided for the certification and the fulfillment of requirements set forth for certification. These guidelines do not involve federal funding and cannot be used as a basis for fulfilling any other contact or agreement. This certification has zero monetary requirements nor required management methods. The MUFC is not liable for any harm, damage or liability resulting from the certification.

This certification can only be used to promote the benefits of urban forestry and provide education to the public and is not intended to be used as a commercial timber certification or for profit in any way.

Mississippi Arboretum Application Form

Applicant: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

County: _____

Circle the Level applying for: **1** **2** **3** **4**

Number of Different Tree Species: _____

Type of Educational Piece: _____

Website Link to Arboretum: _____

MANAGEMENT OF ARBORETUM:

Department and Person: _____

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN ARBORETUM:

Monthly Labor Costs (City employees or volunteers): _____

Costs of plant material and trees: _____

Grants or Donations received: _____

Costs of Signage: _____

Value of land arboretum is on: _____

Other Costs: _____

MAIL TO: Mississippi Urban Forest Council

Arboretum Certification Program

164 Trace Cove Drive

Madison, Mississippi 39110