

Cemetery 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

Overview

- [Cemeteries as Arboreta](#) (workshop recording on the complexities of managing a cemetery arboretum and opportunities to get more involved in tree conservation and research from the [2021 ArbNet Virtual Conference](#))

Application

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

Strategic Planning

- [Mission statement overview](#)
- [Sample mission statement samples](#)
- Example mission statements:
 - [Arlington National Cemetery](#)
 - [Spring Grove Cemetery](#)
 - [Green-Wood Cemetery](#)
- [Sample arboretum plan](#)
- Cemetery example strategic plan: [Arlington National Cemetery](#)

Collections Policy

- [Curation and Management](#) (session recording on curation, collections, and management techniques from the [2021 ArbNet Virtual Conference](#))
- [Sample Collections Policy](#)
- Cemetery examples:
 - [Arlington National Cemetery](#)
 - [Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

Tree Inventory & Assessment

- [Green-Wood Cemetery](#)
- [Mount Pleasant Cemetery](#)

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)
- Cemetery examples:
 - [Forest Hill Union Cemetery](#) (tree care plan)
 - [Spring Grove Cemetery](#) (suggested tree species & plantings information)

Labeling & Mapping

- [Example Label](#)
- [Label Making Comparison Guide](#)
- [Digital Labeling Comparison Guide](#)
 - Not included in the general guide above: [WebCemeteries](#) - an option for cemeteries specifically
- [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](#))
- Cemetery examples:
 - [Arlington National Cemetery](#) (labeling information)
 - [Cypress Lawn Arboretum](#) (virtual tree tour)
 - [Graceland Cemetery](#) (map/brochure)
 - Green-Wood Cemetery: [Tree Finder](#) (interactive map) and [slides](#) about their site interpretation
 - [Mount Hope Cemetery](#) (digital mapping/labeling)
 - [Newton Cemetery](#) (interactive tree map/ tours)

Sustainability

- [Sustainability Index for Public Gardens](#) (American Public Gardens Association)
- Cemetery examples:
 - [Arlington National Cemetery](#) (sustainable practices)
 - [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#) (wildlife action plan)

Conservation Projects / Programs

- [West Laurel Hill Cemetery](#) (SITES Certified Nature Sanctuary)

Educational Resources & Programs

- [Plant Heroes Program](#) (American Public Gardens Association - series of nature-based educational/outreach content for gardens for 4-10 year olds)
- [Educational tree resources](#) (Arbor Day Foundation)
- [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.
 - [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 accessing and downloading the activities is all free ([“how to” video](#)).
- [K-12 educational resources and programs](#) (Longwood Gardens)
- Example cemetery educational programming: [Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

Events

- [150 Ways to Celebrate Trees on Arbor Day](#) (Arbor Day Foundation)
- Cemetery examples:
 - [Green-Wood Cemetery](#)
 - [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

Tours

- [Cypress Lawn Arboretum](#) (virtual tree tour)
- [Graceland Cemetery](#) (arboretum tree tour)
- [Newton Cemetery](#) (interactive tree tour)

Newsletters

- [West Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

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. As a cemetery, your strategic plan will more likely come from the cemetery's and you should develop a mission statement as it relates to being an arboretum

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)

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 tree-related event, open to the general public. Some examples:
 - i. Arbor Day
 - ii. Earth Day with a tree-related event
 - iii. Walking Tour
 - iv. Tree Planting
 - v. Tree Care Education
 - vi. See resources and examples under "Educational Resources & Programs" and "Events" above for more ideas