Rhode Island Tree Campus USA

Tree Campus USA

Tree Campus USA Requirement Checklist

You know that trees benefit the environment. Trees provide shade, protect us from the wind, clean our air…

But your campus can benefit as well:

- A commitment to trees on your campus can, in turn, significantly reduce the amount of energy a campus, and community, needs to generate.
- Planting, and maintaining, trees on your campus and in the community provides environmental, economic and social benefits.
- Green spaces give students and faculty the setting to relax with others, or on their own. What better way to study or take a break than by being outside.

By meeting the annual standards and being recognized as a Tree Campus USA college, you will create a campus that not only benefits the environment but instills pride in the students, faculty, and community.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: DECEMBER 15

Why a Checklist?

Completion of the checklist will assist your campus in meeting the qualifications to obtain Tree Campus USA recognition.

QUESTIONS?

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Standard 1 Campus Tree Advisory Committee

A Campus Tree Advisory Committee comprised of members representing the diverse audience of those with a stake in campus trees is established and meets regularly.

This committee must include a representative from each of the following audience:
- Student (undergraduate or graduate).
- Faculty.
- Facility Management.
- Community, for example, city forester, municipal arborist, community tree board member.

Each individual campus may also have other interested student organizations, alumni, faculty, or staff that could be represented such as administration, sustainability coordinator, professor emeritus, etc.
While responsibility of the campus trees often ultimately lies with the campus forester, arborist, landscape architect, or designated facilities department, the Campus Tree Advisory Committee can assist in providing guidance for future planning, approval of a comprehensive campus tree plan, education of the campus population as to the benefits of the campus trees, and development of connectivity to the community.

Campus Tree Advisory Committee Members

√	Representative	Name
☐	Student	
☐	Faculty	
☐	Facility Management	
☐	Community Member	
☐		
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Standard 2 Campus Tree Care Plan

A Campus Tree Care Plan should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular campus. The Tree Care Plan should be goal oriented and provide the opportunity to set good policy and clear guidance for planting, maintaining, and removing trees. It also provides education to the campus community, citizens, contractors, and consultants about the importance of the campus forest and the protection and maintenance of trees as part of the growth and land development process.

Campus Tree Care Policies should refer to International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) <u>Best Management Practices</u> manuals available for purchase at the ISA website (www.isa-arbor.com). By referring to the BMP manuals in the Campus Tree Care Plan, a campus can avoid tedious writing and "cut and paste" development of a plan. For example, tree planting standards can be reduced to:

Appropriate planting sites and species shall be determined by (authority) and all planting procedures shall follow the International Society of Arboriculture standards in the most current edition of <u>*Best Management Practices – Tree Planting*</u>.

The benefit of this is threefold. First, the policy automatically updates as ISA standards are updated. Second, specifics and diagrams are available in the BMP manuals. Finally, the Campus will be using the professionally accepted standards and demonstrating leadership in tree management.

Tree protection and preservation policies should refer to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) <u>Best Management Practices</u> manual.

Recommended Species The RI Division of Forest Environment – Urban and Community Forestry Program maintains a suggested urban tree list on its website. Due to the importance of maintaining a diverse tree population, nonnative species are included on the suggested list. These species are not currently considered invasive in Rhode Island.

Prohibited species should include the non-native invasives. A species list is maintained by MassAudubon (www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants).

Sample Campus Tree Care Plans are available on the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus USA website. **RIDEM DFE Urban and Community Forestry staff are also available for assistance. Contact information is on the cover.**

Standard 2 Campus Tree Care Plan

√	Requirements
☐	Clearly stated purpose.
☐	Responsible authority/department - Who enforces the Campus Tree Care Plan?

☐	Establishment of a Campus Tree Advisory Committee
	   ☐ Terms of the representatives
	   ☐ Role committee plays

☐	Campus tree care policies utilizing ISA BMPs for:
	   ☐ Planting, landscaping, maintenance and removal
	   ☐ List of recommended and prohibited species
	   ☐ Managing for catastrophic events

☐	Protection and Preservation policies and procedures utilizing ISA BMPs
	   ☐ Include process for implementing tree protection plan
	   ☐ Step-by-step process that every project must follow including construction and trenching

☐	Goals and Targets - develop at least one goal and target for your Campus Tree Plan. These could include (but are not limited to) tree canopy target, development of a link between the Campus Tree Plan and other green initiatives on campus or in the community; completion of a campus-wide tree inventory, etc. ☐ Include how the goal will be measured.

☐	Tree damage assessment - Vandalism and Construction Damage
	   ☐ Enforcement
	   ☐ Penalties
	   ☐ Appeals

☐	Prohibited practices
	   ☐ Tree topping
	   ☐ Attaching signs and other materials to trees
	   ☐ Locking bicycles, etc

☐	Definitions of terminology related to campus trees.
☐	Communication strategy - how the campus tree care plan will be communicated to the college community and contractors to heighten awareness about policies and procedures as well as the goals of the institution.

Standard 3 Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures

A college campus, to be designated a Tree Campus USA, must allocate finances for its annual campus tree program. Evidence should be shown that an annual work plan has been established and expenditures dedicated towards that work plan.

It is suggested, but not mandatory, that campuses work towards an annual expenditure of $3 per full-time enrolled student.

Expenditures could include, but are not limited to:
- Cost of trees purchased
- Labor, equipment and supplies for tree planting, maintenance (pruning, watering, fertilization, mulching, competition control, etc.) and removal, if needed
- Value of volunteer labor (# of hours × $24) and other contributions from student or civic organizations
- Staff time dedicated to campus forest planning, tree care contractors
- All associated costs of the campus tree management including:
    - public education related to the campus forest;
    - professional training;
    - related association memberships (International Society of Arboriculture and local chapter, Society of Municipal Arborists, state urban forest council, etc.)
    - campus tree inventory

Expenditures will be documented on the Arbor Day Tree Campus USA Application. It is available for download on the Arbor Day Foundation Website.

Standard 4 Arbor Day Observance

An Arbor Day observance provides a golden opportunity to educate the campus community to the benefits of the trees on their campus property and in the community. The Arbor Day observance can be on the campus or held in conjunction with the community where the campus is located. Your event may be held at an appropriate time for your campus.

Evidence — recording of date observance was held with attachment that includes program of activities, news coverage, and/or pictures.

Standard 5 Service Learning Project

The Service Learning Project should be an outreach of the spirit of the Tree Campus USA initiative. This project should provide an opportunity to engage the student population with projects related to trees and can be part of a campus or community initiative. The project must be done within the course of the year application is submitted.

Project ideas include, but are not limited to:
- Volunteer tree plantings or tree maintenance
- Tree inventory (campus or community)
- Establish a Nature Explore Classroom for young children at an early childhood development center on your campus or in your community.
- Establishment of campus arboreta
- Student-led effort to have community designated a Tree City USA
- Coordinate internships with the urban forestry or parks department in your community
- Assist Project Learning Tree or other programs centered around trees in training teachers at schools near your campus or organize training for your school's College of Education
- Other tree-related service learning or educational programs for students
- Partnership with state forestry departments on regional projects

For more information on the Tree Campus USA Program, please visit the Arbor Day Website at :

www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/

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