

WHAT IS A TENNESSEE TREE SANCTUARY?

The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council created the first state-wide arboretum certification program in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry in 2000. This program has evolved throughout the years to include parks, cemeteries, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. The Tree Sanctuary Certification Program was created in 2016 in response to a demand for a private residence certification program. This new program acknowledges the efforts of homeowners that desire to protect and preserve a collection of trees without the certification requirements of the arboretum program.

A tree sanctuary is a collection of trees on a property that is privately owned. Homeowners can apply to become a tree sanctuary for their own benefit or for the benefit of their community. Homeowners can open their yard on occasions to garden clubs and tree enthusiasts or can remain closed except to family and friends.

TREE SANCTUARY PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

This certification program is open to all homeowners throughout the state of Tennessee that want to either create a tree sanctuary (by planting new trees) in their yard or simply want to bring recognition to the beauty that already exists in their yard.

CRITERIA FOR SANCTUARY CERTIFICATION

1. **Identify/Plant and Record at least 10 different tree species** in your yard. Create a list with their common and scientific names. For help with tree identification, please refer to the online resources listed on this application. Although labels are encouraged, they are not required. If you would like your tree list reviewed before making labels and/or your map, please send your list to jillsmith.tufc@gmail.com.

A tree is defined as a woody plant with single or multiple trunks capable of growing to a height of fifteen feet (15') or more.

2. Submit a **map** showing the trees (with their common and scientific names), gardens or other features you would like to highlight.

3. Take **pictures** of your trees and yard to submit with your application. (Please include a picture of a tree label if you choose to label your trees.)

4. Sign the "**Healthy Yard Pledge**"

- Will not top trees
- Will consult a certified arborist to prune large trees
- Will protect trees from mowers, string trimmers
- Will mulch properly (not piled up against tree- no more than 3 inches deep). (Mulching is optional)
- Will use herbicides and fertilizers properly
- Will water properly and stake new trees (if needed) to ensure their survival

- Will regularly check the trees for changes: noticing insects, leaf and bark damage and whether they need additional irrigation due to drought.

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

1. Read over the Criteria needed to become a Tree Sanctuary.
2. Email jillsmith.tufc@gmail.com if you have questions about your Tree Sanctuary project and to submit your tree list to be reviewed.
3. Mail your completed application and payment to TUFC P.O. Box 58443, Nashville, TN 37205.
4. After the application has been submitted and the criteria have been met, you will receive:
 - a personalized certificate of accomplishment
 - a small TUFC tree sanctuary outdoor plaque (see picture)
 - a subscription to the TUFC newsletter
 - If you wish, acknowledgement on our TUFC website of your accomplishment with contact information

"We hope you learn to love and touch trees."

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