

Exploration of the Online Tree Board University Training

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City of Austin

Urban Forestry Board Meeting

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http://treeboardu.org

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TREE BOARD UNIVERSITY

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COURSES

THIS UNIQUE ONLINE TRAINING WILL HELP YOU LEARN more about trees, about people, and about serving in a citizen advisory role in your city, town, or village.

There are eight courses you can take at your own pace—we expect you'll spend between 2 and 5 hours on each one. After you complete one course, you will have access to the next one, but you can return to the previous completed ones if you would like to review anything. Each course includes videos, multi-media presentations, reference documents, and online links to additional information. Upon completion of the eight courses, you will be able to join an online social networking community, where you can post questions and interact with other like-minded Tree Board members from across the USA. Sign up below to be a part of this new learning experience.

Tree Board University Sponsor

- Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service based upon the recommendation of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC).
- 1990 Amendments to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 created NUCFAC.
- The USDA Forest Service has an Urban and Community Forestry Program (<http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>).

Target Audience for the Training

- A newly appointed member of a tree advisory board.
- A current member of a tree advisory board.
- Someone who is interested in starting a tree advisory board.
- A board member of a local, state, or national urban forestry non-profit organization.
- A volunteer of a local, state, or national urban forestry non-profit organization.
- A staff member of local, state, or national urban forestry non-profit organization.
- An urban forestry professional (municipal, state, private sector).

Modules – Orientation & 1-4

Orientation

1. Tree Board 101

- What Tree Boards Do
- Being an Effective Tree Board Member
- Organizational Development and Group Dynamics

2. Partnerships and Collaboration

- How to Form and Nurture Effective Tree Partnerships
- Keys to Successful Collaboration

3. Engaging in the Political Process

- Local Government 101
- State and National Urban Forestry
- Garnering Support for Trees

4. Community Forestry Planning

- Principles of Urban Forestry and Community Forestry Planning
- Urban Forestry Management Plans

Modules 5-8

5. Communications and Marketing

- Communicating the Benefits of Trees
- Speaking for Trees: Communicating With Your Citizens and the Media
- Marketing Trees and Your Tree Board

6. Financing, Budgeting, Grants, Fundraising

- Financing and Budgeting Tree Activities
- Fundraising and Friend-Raising
- Grants 101

7. Getting Things Done

- Planning and Managing Local Tree Projects
- Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Volunteers

8. Moving Forward

- Urban Forestry Advocates
- Evaluation and Graduation

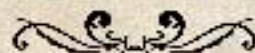
Thoughts on the Training

- You can go at your own pace, but I recommend finishing at least one module per session.
- Each module has a combination of videos and reading material with a multiple choice quiz required before proceeding to the next module.
- There are multiple links to various documents available on the Internet. I read the short links in full and browsed the long ones, which are detailed reports.
- The course is not about the scientific aspect of trees, so a non-arborist will not become an expert in arboriculture.
- Overall, the training provided an overview that would be good for someone new to board/commission membership, but City requirements should be met first.
- For someone already familiar with this process, the modules provide links to various Internet sources for more information.
- As I'm working on specific topics in the future, I plan to go back to relevant modules for review and read the relevant Internet links in more detail.
- It was nice to know that we're not the only ones around the country doing this, and plenty of resources, reports, etc. are out there that may serve as useful examples for issues that arise in the future.

Web Sites Referenced in Training

- Alliance for Community Trees (<http://actrees.org/>)
- Arbor Day Foundation (<http://www.arborday.org/>)
- International Society of Arboriculture
(<http://www.isa-arbor.com/>)
- National Association of State Foresters
(<http://stateforesters.org/>)
- Society of Municipal Arborists
(<http://www.urban-forestry.com/>)
- Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition
(<http://urbanforestcoalition.com/>)
- TLC for Trees (<http://tlcfortrees.info/>)
- Tree Link (<http://treelink.org/>)
- Trees Are Good (<http://treesaregood.org/>)

Certificate of Completion
TREE BOARD UNIVERSITY



This certificate recognizes the accomplishment of

Christopher Kite

for completing all the requirements of the online Tree Board University curriculum and hereby designates
Christopher as a graduate of Tree Board University.

On behalf of the Tree Board University Curriculum Committee


Signature

08/13/2012
Date



Tree Board University was created as the result of a grant from the USDA Forest Service at the recommendation of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Committee. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

