

Arboretum Application

Strategic Plan

We would like to achieve a botanical garden devoted to trees being cultivated with the purpose of scientific, biblical, and community interests. Our plan is to track tree growth (diameter) rates and monitor bird species changes as the number of trees increase and the existing trees mature. The arboretum will also serve the purpose of teaching tree identification through use of a dichotomous key and learning unique features of each tree. As trees mature we will be placing different bird houses to try and encourage more species diversity. Our primary audience will be Unity Christian High School students as well as grade school students. Trees will be the main plant which will be grown for the arboretum.

Governance and Volunteers

The Earth Science and Wildlife instructors will be the main governing board and authority for the arboretum but will be working closely with administration and the grounds committee of Unity Christian High School. Our volunteers will consist of 25-40 students in Unity's Earth Science and Wildlife classes who will be working on maintaining the health of the arboretum.

Accreditation and Awards

The Genesis Arboretum is [registered and certified](#) through [ArbNet](#) Arboretum Accreditation Program as a Level I arboretum. This is an [award winning accreditation program](#) through the Morton Arboretum. This is an international, professional, collaborative network which sets professional standards for arboretum. It started in 2011 and has accredited over [700 arboreta and botanic gardens in 41 countries](#). The Genesis Arboretum is the second school to be accredited, but the first high school in the state of Iowa!

Trees for Kids Grant Program Recipient: Iowa DNR - 2024

Trees for Kids grant provides reimbursable grants to buy trees and mulch to help increase and diversify tree canopy. Youth are required to be engaged in the process, most often helping to plant the trees on site. This grant is highly competitive, non-match, and awarded in amounts of up to \$2,500 per project.

Environmental Grant Program: Sioux County Soil and Water Conservation District - 2025

This grant program was open to any youth group or organization within Sioux county. The Genesis Arboretum was one of three recipients awarded for a project designed to protect and promote our natural resources while providing educational value to students. A maximum of \$500 was available.

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Please include all hyperlinks