

Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum



Mission Statement

Custodi Silvestri – Guardians of the Wild/Forest Guardians

Our mission is to cultivate and preserve an environment that merges the modern urban community with the natural world. We seek to ensure the long-term wellbeing of our native flora and fauna, while also creating spaces that foster a sense of community within the Mixson neighborhood for both current and future residents.

Vision

“In wildness is the preservation of the world.” - Henry David Thoreau

The vision of the Arboretum is not only to create and maintain a sustainable, beautiful living space for its neighborhood residents, but also to serve as a model to other communities of how urban lifestyles and nature can intersect and thrive together. The Arboretum seeks to preserve and nurture a wide variety of native plants and trees for the benefit of Mixson residents, the Park Circle community, local wildlife, and beyond.



Arboretum Description:

The Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum is located in the heart of The City of North Charleston. The Mixson Assembly Community consists of around 300 private residences and businesses, which surround seven parks and multiple smaller groves and greenspaces. Together, the private residences and public greenspaces amount to about 31 acres, with just under 10 acres dedicated to preservation spaces, gardens, and parks.

Value of Accreditation:

The Mixson Assembly believes in the importance of preservation, livability, and the maintenance of a healthy environment. The Arboretum's mission and vision highlight the community's desire to be an exemplar of urban planning that coexists and enhances urban development. Through accreditation and the support of grants and funding, we hope to further legitimize our mission and vision of being "Guardians of the Wild" in an urban setting.

Audience

The audience for the Arboretum includes Mixson neighborhood residents, Park Circle residents, and anyone who is a nature/wildlife enthusiast.



Governance / Organization

The Arboretum will be governed by the Mixson Assembly Board of Directors. The Mixson Assembly Board of Directors will appoint an Arboretum Steward who can support the Board of Directors as needed. The Arboretum Steward may be granted the authority to establish a committee who can support Arboretum-specific events and business. The Arboretum Steward may be a member of the Mixson Assembly Board of Directors OR a community member who is compliant with all association governing documents and current in association dues.

Maintenance / Care / Replacement / Restoration

The Arboretum will be maintained and nurtured with the goal of ensuring a diverse, healthy assortment of native plants, trees, and shrubs. The Arboretum will prioritize preservation and restoration over replacement wherever possible, and will take all reasonable action, as advised by a certified arborist, to maintain trees rather than removing and replacing them. When trees must be replaced, the Arboretum will select from an established list of native options with a focus on ensuring that any new planting will thrive in that location while also fostering tree diversity and keystone species.

The Arboretum founders understand the impact of disease on monoculture environments. The Arboretum will maintain a diverse assortment of native plants, trees and shrubs. As opportunities arise on the property to plant new species, the Arboretum will first consider newly available cultivated, disease-resistant plant, shrub, and tree varieties that have been lost to historical diseases or pests. For example, the loss of American Elm trees to Dutch Elm Disease in America caused the trees to be largely unpopular for years. Now that new Dutch Elm Disease resistant varieties have become available, the Arboretum has elected to plant and preserve two small groves of American Elms in the spirit of restoring the population.

The Arboretum's primary governing body will make plans for the general capital improvement of all community spaces, easements, and buffers on the property. These plans will serve as a guide for the gradual growth, improvement, and preservation of the Arboretum.



Collection



The Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum boasts 31 unique species of trees and woody shrubs. The Arboretum is also home to a variety of perennial grasses and other plants. The Arboretum Collection grows annually through Annual Mixson Assembly association dues, community contributions, events, and planned capital improvements. Some of our most special collections include our Southern Live Oak Collection and our Newly Established American Elm Collection.



Southern Live Oak Collection:



The Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum is home to roughly 100 Southern Live Oak Trees. The Arboretum contains three Southern Live Oaks that are estimated to be well above 150 years old. Additionally, the Arboretum has many juvenile and intermediate aged Southern Live Oaks planted in the traditional southern allée style along our many pathways.



American Elm Collection:

The Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum is home to two American Elm tree groves. One goal of the Arboretum is to re-establish tree populations that have been lost or impacted by environmental factors. American Elm trees were introduced in Charleston as early as the 1850s, but have mostly been lost due to age, disease, and development. The Arboretum is working to re-introduce the American Elm to the area. The Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum is home to the only two known American Elm groves in the greater Charleston area.



A list of Arboretum Species/Taxa will be made available on the Mixson Assembly website.

A Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum map will be publicly available on the Mixson Assembly website.

A map of each park will be made available on the Mixson Assembly website, highlighting the unique trees, shrubs, and plants located in various areas of the Arboretum.

Event(s) / Public Dimension

The Arboretum will host one or more annual events to directly engage the community and sustain public involvement.

Events may include but are not limited to:

Winter Gathering- Decorating an Arboretum Holiday Tree with bird/wildlife-friendly materials and foods for overwintering.

Tree and Garden Dedications- Sponsorship of benches, chairs, trees, and gardens to support the general wellbeing, maintenance and growth of the Arboretum.

Mixson Assembly Community Arboretum Plaque Ceremony- Available only to Mixson Assembly Association Members who offer a financial donation to the general wellbeing, maintenance and growth of the Arboretum.

Tree Trimming Workshop- Workshop with the community Arboretum or a trimming specialist for Crepe Myrtle maintenance and general tree maintenance on personal properties.

Arboretum Visuals





