

Arboriculture and Urban Forestry
Certificate | 11 credits

Campus: Vermilion

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 9 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL(NRT) 1255 – Dendrology and Plant Ecology (MnTC Goal 3)		(CLR, CLW)	3	(2/2)
NRT 1138 – Arboriculture and Urban Forestry			2	(1/2)
NRT 1211 – Forest Field Skills		(CLR, MATH 0100)	3	(2/2)
NRT 1222 – Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 2		(Concurrent NRT 1211)	1	(0/2)

SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 2 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
NRT 1212 – General Forestry		(BIOL 1255, NRT 1211, NSCI 1265**)	2	(1/2)

(**or instructor approval for AUF Cert-only students)

Program Description

The Arboriculture and Urban Forestry certificate will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of tree care, management, and preservation within urban settings. Students will learn about the vital role trees play in enhancing urban environments, improving air quality, reducing heat islands, and promoting biodiversity.

This certificate is ideal for aspiring arborists, landscape professionals, environmental scientists, city planners, or anyone interested in contributing to greener urban spaces.

Occupational Titles

Graduates of the Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Certificate may apply for positions in arboriculture, landscape design, environmental science, and city planning.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students of this program will:

1. Understand fundamental concepts of tree physiology, anatomy, growth patterns, the life cycle of trees and their ecological impacts.
2. Identify various tree species based on physical characteristics.
3. Gain knowledge in soil types, health assessment, and management practices.
4. Understand proper pruning techniques to promote healthy growth.
5. Identify common pests and diseases affecting urban trees, and develop integrated pest management strategies that are environmentally responsible.
6. Learn the principles of selecting appropriate planting sites, and understand proper planting techniques to ensure long-term survival.
7. Explore strategies for managing urban forests sustainably.
8. Recognize safety standards related to tree care operations and practice safe handling equipment while performing arboricultural tasks.
9. Understand permitting needs for planting or removing trees in urban areas, and local regulations regarding tree preservation.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

None at this time, however, all courses of this certificate are requirements for the Natural Resource Technology – Forestry/Wildlife Associate of Applied Science degree program. Students interested in continuing their education may be interested in enrolling in this two-year program.

Program Faculty Contact

Rita Koch (rita.koch@minnesotanorth.edu or 218-2352160)

MISSION: *Minnesota North College prepares lifelong learners and engaged citizens through inclusive, transformative experiences reflecting the character and natural environment of the region.*

Minnesota North College is a member of Minnesota State and is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. This document is available in alternate formats upon request by going to MinnesotaNorth.edu to obtain the contact information of your home campus Accessibility Services Coordinator.