Tree Campus Updates

The University of Utah is one of five universities in the state that is designated as a Tree Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation. This designation means the University must observe Arbor Day, create service projects focusing on trees, and have a Tree Campus advisory committee. The University has an inventory of 12,000 trees all across campus. In March of 2015 the University of Utah joined the City of Salt Lake in the Tree City USA movement. This designation has planted over 40,000 trees on campuses around the nation since 2016. The Tree Campus certification is key to keeping our campus outdoor study space studies available for future students. If you are interested in getting involved with the University of Utah’s Tree Campus committee please contact Elise Gatti, committee chairperson, at elise.gatti@utah.edu.

New ENVST Course

A new course will be offered this fall in the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program, Sustainable Streams and Riparian Zones (ENVST 3390 / GEOG 53390) will be a 3 credit course taught by Professor Jennifer Follstad Shah. It will count as an elective in three emphases of the ENVST program (Aim, Water & Health; Land Management, Conservation & Place; Climate & Energy) and one emphasis in Geography (Biogeography emphasizing in Climate & Landscape Dynamics). This course will train students in methods for understanding the structure and function of streams and riparian areas, while also considering issues of equity and economy. There will be field trips along Red Butte Creek to sites with sensor installations and collect data along the riparian area adjacent to the urban area. Students will collaborate with community partners to apply data collected as part of the class to stream and riparian rehabilitation projects within the watershed. This will be a great course for anyone wanting to know more about the many factors that go into conservation and restoration of these ecosystems.

How are students using their degrees?

Students in the ENVST program are exposed to a variety of environmental topics and they plan to use their degrees in many ways.

Logan Hastings

Logan is emphasizing in Land Management, Conservation, and Place as well as minoring in Parks Recreation and Tourism (PRT). She plans on using her degree, in combination with PRT studies, to go into land management for outdoor recreation. She hopes to work with an agency like the U.S. Forest Service or the National Park Service.

Samantha Fox

Samantha is emphasizing in Food Justice and Community Resilience with a minor in Geography. She plans on using her ENVST degree to help guide communities with the potential resources to benefit the whole of their community. This includes community gardens, public transportation, social and environmental justice, and overall grassroots activism geared towards changing policy at the local level.

Sierra Gove

Sierra is majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies along with Ballet. With her degrees, she would like to get a job working with a company or a city as a sustainability coordinator and planner. She wants to incite change beyond the individual level, and cities and companies have the ability to make that change.

Erika Kuskakoe

Erika is majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies with a minor in Japanese. She plans on being a sustainability consultant in the United States and Japan. Erika wants to end solid waste disposal and create a closed loop system where all waste can be reused or recycled.