

Metric 6.3



Saint Louis University

strengthening water conservation, wastewater management, and safe sanitation systems across its campuses to ensure reliable, clean, and sustainable water services for the entire university community.



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



Indicator 6.3.5



Saint Louis University **Water-conscious planting**



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



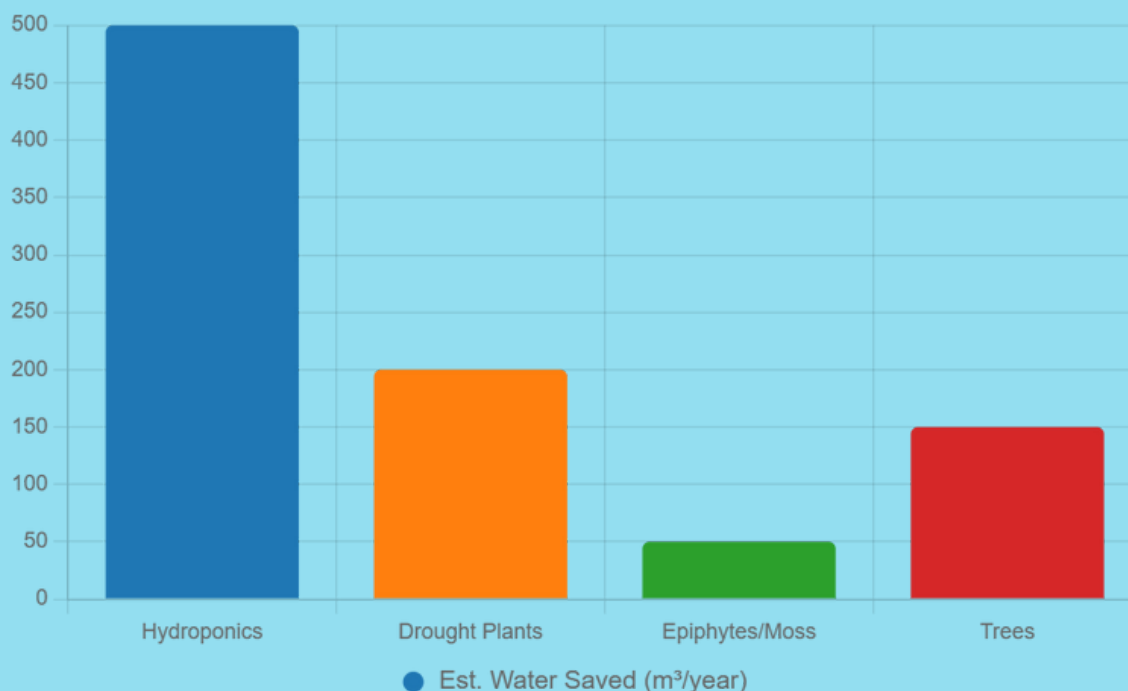
Saint Louis University

Encourages Water-Conscious Planting

SLU fully meets water-efficient landscaping using drought-tolerant plants (e.g., bougainvillea, snake plants, Spanish moss, pine/bamboo) and hydroponic systems that minimize irrigation by up to 90%. These initiatives enhance campus greenery while aligning with SDGs.



SLU Water Savings from Landscaping (m³/year)



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Saint Louis University

Encourages Water-Conscious Planting

Initiative	Key Plants/Method	Water Savings
Bougainvillea Planting (SHMC Parking)	Drought-tolerant bougainvillea	Low-maintenance; ~70% less water than turf
Project Greenify (YCE)	Snake plants in CRs	Minimal watering (1x/month); air purification + sustainable sanitation
Project Moss (YCE)	Spanish moss (epiphytic)	Zero soil/irrigation needs; attaches to structures
Hydroponics Gardening (BEdS)	Nutrient-film hydroponics (leafy greens)	90% less water vs. soil; recirculating systems
Tree Planting & Greening	Native pine, bamboo, coffee trees	Drought-resistant natives; low irrigation
Hydroponics Initiative (Ongoing)	Community hydroponics + composting	Closed-loop water/nutrient recycle

Published in the SLU Website:
<https://www.slu.edu.ph/2024/06/07/bougainvilleas-adorn-the-slu-shmc-medical-arts-parking-building/>
<https://www.slu.edu.ph/2024/04/02/yce-initiates-change-through-environmental-action-with-project-greenify/>
<https://www.slu.edu.ph/2024/03/13/slu-yce-embarks-on-project-moss-promoting-sustainability-one-plant-at-a-time/>
<https://www.slu.edu.ph/2024/06/03/slu-beds-harvests-first-hydroponics-gardening-produce/>
<https://www.slu.edu.ph/2024/11/29/slu-nstp-students-participate-in-bilig-regreening-project/>
<https://www.slu.edu.ph/2025/05/28/slu-hydroponics-initiative-cultivates-sustainability-and-community-empowerment/>

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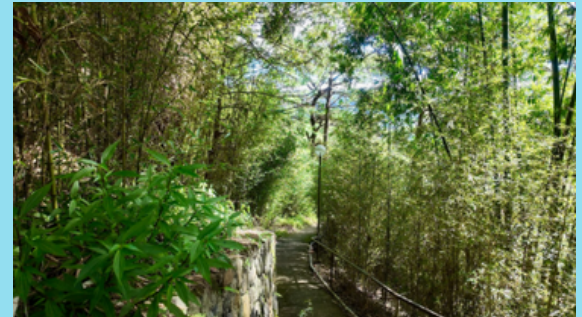
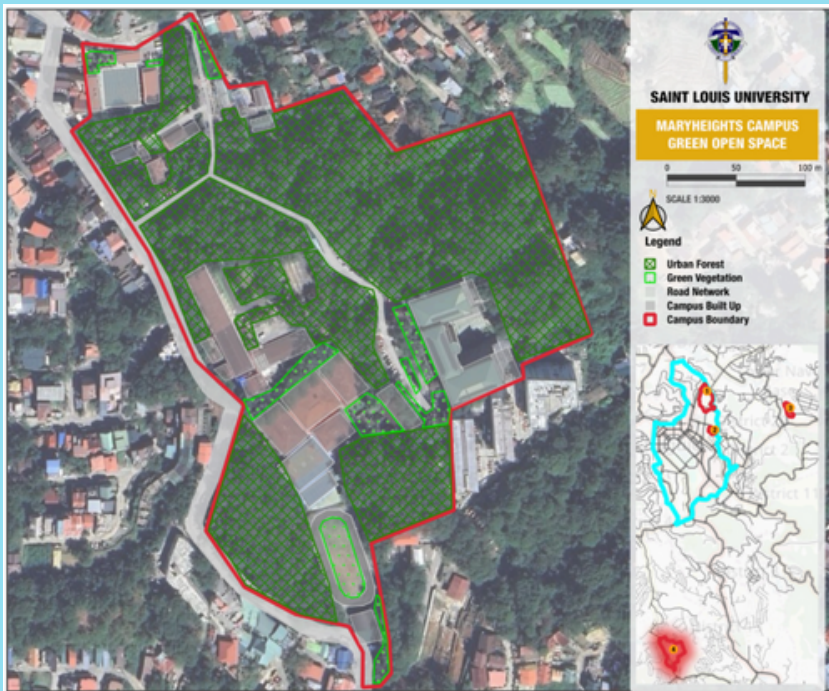
Right Plants, Right Place: How SLU Greens Its Campuses With Water-Smart Landscaping

Saint Louis University (SLU) implements water-conscious landscaping across all its campuses by maximizing drought-tolerant vegetation, preserving extensive forest cover, and designing permeable landscapes that minimize the need for artificial irrigation. Updated maps and vegetation assessments prepared recently by the Campus Planning, Maintenance and Security Department (CPMSD) for submission to UI GreenMetric show that SLU's grounds are dominated by native plants, forested reserves, and managed green spaces that thrive naturally in the Cordillera highland climate—requiring minimal supplemental watering.

The maps below, recently updated by the CPMSD, visualize the distribution of SLU's planted vegetation, forested reserves, and water-absorbent landscapes across the Main, Maryheights, Navy Base, and Gonzaga campuses. Together, they outline the University's deliberate approach to greening spaces with climate-appropriate, low-maintenance plants.

The photos that follow provide a closer look at these areas—showing native trees, resilient groundcovers, landscaped slopes, and shade gardens that flourish naturally with minimal irrigation. These images offer a real-world view of SLU's water-conscious planting practices.





Across the Main, Maryheights, Navy Base, and Gonzaga campuses, SLU maintains 17,965.84 m² of planted vegetation, consisting largely of native, climate-appropriate shrubs, flowering plants, and groundcovers that remain resilient during dry periods. These landscaped zones—including terraced gardens, slope-stabilizing plantings, and shaded walkways—are intentionally designed using water-correct plant species suited for the region, allowing the University to reduce landscape irrigation demands while enhancing biodiversity.

SLU further reduces water consumption through the preservation of 49,213.53 m² of forest vegetation, representing 43% of total campus land. Primarily located in the Maryheights Campus, this forest ecosystem contains native pine stands and natural understory species that sustain themselves without the need for watering. The forest serves as a natural hydrologic buffer—maintaining soil moisture, promoting groundwater recharge, and strengthening slope stability.

Complementing these planted and forested areas are 92,763.47 m² of water-absorbent surfaces, which include grasslands, open fields, rain gardens, unpaved sports grounds, and vegetated pedestrian pathways. These landscapes increase soil infiltration, reduce surface runoff, and maintain natural moisture cycles, allowing vegetation to remain healthy without intensive watering. The presence of rain gardens and permeable zones also demonstrates SLU's commitment to nature-based solutions that conserve water while improving campus microclimates.

Through this integrated approach—emphasizing water-correct planting, native species, forest conservation, and permeable green spaces—SLU ensures that its landscapes are not only visually appealing and ecologically functional, but also highly water-efficient.