

**University of Tennessee  
Facilities Services Landscape Services  
Arboriculture Services Section**

**Tree Maintenance Plan**

**2017**

## **Description**

Arboricultural Services is a division of Facilities Services Landscape Services Department and is responsible for the protection, evaluation, selection, preventative maintenance, removal and replacement of trees on the properties of the University of Tennessee Knoxville Campus.

## **Preventative Maintenance and Pruning**

The Arboriculture Services staff will be knowledgeable of and follow the guidelines set out by the ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations. Pruning will be done on an as needed basis to assure our campus community is safe and well maintained. Priority will be placed upon removal of dead trees, large dead or defective branches and clearance of pedestrian areas, buildings, streets and other structures. As needed, other tree care activities will be performed such as insect and disease control, cabling of weak forks and branches and soil amendments for improved root health.

## **Maintenance Pruning**

### **1. Young trees**

**Branch Reduction-** pruning to eliminate codominant stems to improve crown structure and develop healthy canopies.

**Crown raising-** pruning for vertical clearance of roads, buildings, sidewalks and structures such as lamp posts and signs.

**Crown Thinning-** removal of crossing and crowded branches for improved branch spacing and development of strong structural form.

**Crown Cleaning-** removal of dead branches and stubs.

### **2. Mature Trees**

Mature Trees will be pruned in a way that will preserve or enhance a natural, healthy form by utilizing the following methods:

**Crown cleaning-** removal of dead, dying, diseased and defective branches in trees over parking areas, roads, sidewalks and all common areas where students, staff, faculty and visitors may be present.

**Crown raising-** pruning for vertical clearance of roads, buildings, sidewalks and structures such as lampposts and signs.

**Crown reduction-** pruning for lateral clearance of buildings and other structures where vertical clearance is not needed. Crown reduction is also used to decrease the overall size and spread of a tree for safety or health reasons where total removal is not deemed necessary.

## **District Maintenance Schedule; Tree Risk Evaluation and Emergencies**

The UTK campus is subdivided into seven districts. A schedule of systematic tree care will be developed and maintained to assure all districts have regular tree maintenance activities that minimize the occurrence of urgent, unscheduled work. Each district will be regularly inspected by the Arborist and work activities will be developed based upon the following priorities:

- Urgent and Important- dead trees; fallen trees; trees with large dead branches and/or defects that could endanger people or property; broken branches; conflicts with signs, buildings and/or roads.
- Preventative- non-urgent work that is performed on a regular basis to maintain trees in districts.

## **Prohibited Practices**

Any activity that would be detrimental to the health of campus trees is prohibited. The following practices are not permitted within the campus:

- Locking bicycles, signs or any other items to trees
- Attaching flyers or other items to tree trunks
- Leaving slack lines or hammocks attached to trees when not in use
- Unauthorized cutting, vandalism, or damaging trees in any way
- Topping, heading, or any other form of inappropriate pruning practices
- Unauthorized removal of trees

## UT Campus Tree Advisory Committee

The day-to-day decision making for maintenance and operations rests with the UT campus Arborist; however, the Campus Tree Advisory Committee meets once each semester and acts in an advisory role to the office of Landscape Services to provide input for planning future activities and explore possible collaborative opportunities within the University as well as with wider community.

### Current Members of the Tree Advisory Committee

Sam Adams	Arborist, UT Facilities Services
Kasey Krouse	Urban Forester, City of Knoxville
Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe	Associate Professor of Urban Forestry
Ted Murphy	Landscape Architect, UT Facilities Services
Jack Terosky	UTK Student

### **Expenditures**

During the 2017 calendar year UTK purchased 800 seedlings from the Tennessee State Seedling nursery for the annual Arbor Day Celebration re-forestation planting. Additionally, trees were purchased for several in-house landscape and tree replacement projects.

Project Name	Expenditure	Number of Trees
Arbor Day	\$ 539.00	800
Landscape Projects and Replacements	\$8,650.00	35
	\$9,189.00	

### **Tree Inventory**

A tree inventory was completed in 2008. The arboriculture team is continually updating this inventory as trees are added, removed due to mortality or as properties are re-developed. The updated tree inventory is used to plan our work, evaluate and review tree species distribution, environmental services and potential planting sites.



## Planning and Design

The Facilities Services Landscape Design Team is responsible for creating a landscape that reinforces a sense of community for learning and living; that conveys a sense of place, history and character unique to the University of Tennessee; conserves and protects natural resources through functional design and responsible stewardship.

To achieve our team vision and support the primary mission of Facilities Services, the Design Team performs the following duties:

- Develop and maintain the Campus Landscape Vision and Site Standards document.
- Prepare site construction documents and specifications for projects to be executed by the Facilities Services Department.
- Play a vital role in site design review and construction administration for projects executed by the Facilities Planning Department.

## Tree Selection and Planting

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville is an urban campus; therefore selecting and planting trees that match well with the constraints of an urban environment is a very important component of our tree care plan. Planting

trees with function, form, size, and site and soil conditions in mind is critical to our continued efforts to increase the overall canopy cover of our urban forest. Our Landscape Design team takes into consideration these factors as well as current species representation and distribution when evaluating planting plans and developing planting sites for future planting.

Tree planting will be performed during ideal seasonal periods between October and March and all planting selection and procedures conform to the ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations (Transplanting) as well as the American Horticultural Society Standard for Nursery Stock.

### **Tree Protection and Preservation**

The campus arborist acts as a consultant to the design team and contractors when existing trees are to remain during construction and site development activities. A tree protection plan

### **Hazard Evaluation and Emergencies**

Storm response and recovery are generally accomplished in-house; however, additional labor may be contracted. In a crisis, the first priority is to remove tree debris that blocks campus roads, disrupts operations, or poses hazards to the campus community. Once these needs are addressed, a recovery plan is implemented:

- Unsalvageable trees are systematically removed
- Salvageable trees will be pruned to restore their health and structure.
- Lost trees will be considered for replacement to restore the structure and function of the campus forest in a reasonable period.

### **Arbor Day and Community Outreach**

Facilities Services will celebrate Tennessee Arbor Day on the last Friday in April to coincide with National Arbor Day with a ceremonial tree planting and other outreach activities in conjunction with the UT Office of Sustainability's campus wide Earth Month Program to raise awareness about the value of trees to the UT Community.

