



Policy Chapter: Chapter 11 Facilities

Policy Number and Title: 11.010 Tree Preservation

I. Policy Statement

Trees provide numerous tangible and intangible benefits to the University of North Texas. Therefore, the University resolves to protect, nurture, and renew this valuable resource following the tenants outlined in this policy.

II. Application of Policy

Individuals and functions operating on the UNT campus.

III. Policy Definitions

A. Donor Tree

“Donor tree,” in this policy, means a tree purchased and planted by the University from gifts given to the University.

B. Heritage Tree

“Heritage tree,” in this policy, means a landmark tree which is significant due to its species or size, or a tree which has historical or memorial significance to the University.

C. Tree Advisory Committee

“Tree advisory committee,” in this policy, means a committee charged with providing recommendations on comprehensive campus tree management, educating the campus population as to the benefits of campus trees, designating trees as heritage or valuable, and developing of connectivity to the community.

D. Valuable Tree

“Valuable tree,” in this policy, means a healthy tree of less significance than a heritage tree but, due to its size or species, should be treated as a special asset. This includes species with a limited population on campus, Post Oaks, Black Jack Oaks, Live Oaks, Elms, Pecans, and trees with a caliper in excess of 18 inches.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Trees will be Maintained, Preserved, and Protected

The University will make all reasonable efforts to maintain, preserve and protect trees and to keep them pruned, stabilized, and free from damages from the elements and disease. Construction project managers will make all reasonable efforts to limit the removal of trees on construction sites for new and expanded buildings, roads, and utilities.

B. Trees may be Considered for Removal under the Following Circumstances

A tree may be considered for removal when it meets any of the following criteria: diseased or dead, constitutes a safety hazard, determined to be an obstruction, a hazard to utility lines, unduly interferes with the construction of facilities, or for any other appropriate, documented, and informed reason.

C. Tree Removal Procedures

1. Removal of a tree that meets the classification of a heritage tree or valuable tree must be approved by the Associate Vice President of Facilities or the Sr. Director of Maintenance.
2. Prior to the removal or relocation of a Donor Tree, Facilities will contact the Office of Development so that the donor may be properly notified of the action.
3. It is recognized that there may be exceptions to this policy, such as, emergencies where safety and preservation of facilities require immediate removal. Facilities will document these removals.

D. Tree Replacement

1. When it is necessary to remove a tree, a replacement tree of suitable size and species will be planted according to the following guidelines. Replacement tree values will be expressed in terms of caliper inches.
 - a. Heritage trees will be replaced with appropriate species at a two to one ratio (for example, a tree with a 24-inch diameter will require 48 caliper inches of appropriate replacement trees, which could be met by eight trees of 6-inch caliper or twelve trees of 4-inch caliper). Replacement trees will immediately be designated as valuable trees.
 - b. Valuable trees will be replaced with appropriate species at a one-to-one caliper ratio and replacement trees immediately designated as valuable trees.
 - c. Other trees of desirable species will be replaced at a one to one-half ratio (1/2-inch tree caliper will be planted for every one inch removed).
2. The location, care and species of the replacement tree must be consistent with the campus master plan guidelines for the area and the University design guidelines concerning tree species.

E. Tree Advisory Committee

The committee will be comprised of the following individuals:

1. Facilities Grounds Manager (Chair)
2. Associate Vice President of Facilities or Sr. Director of Maintenance
3. Faculty Representative
4. Student Representative
5. Community Representative

V. References and Cross-References

UNT Design and Construction Guidelines

VI. Revision History

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| Policy Contact: | Senior Director, Facilities Maintenance |
| Approved Date: | 05/19/2009 |
| Effective Date: | 05/19/2009 |
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