Southern Oregon University Campus Tree Care Policy

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# 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Southern Oregon University campus tree care policy is to improve the campus ecosystem and foster a positive environment for communication and education regarding the urban forest. This plan will help ensure that SOU has a safe, ascetically pleasing, sustainable urban forest for following generations. The objectives are:

* **The protection of high-value trees on campus**
* **Promote the health of all campus trees by following the International Society of Arboriculture “best management” standards and the American National Standards Institute ANSI A300 standards for tree care**
* **Educate students and community members about the value of a healthy urban forest**
* **Promote proper species diversity and encourage native sustainable plantings**
* **Ensure that planting procedures include, proper species selection, quality locally adapted nursery stock, and proper planting techniques.**
* **Oversee the replacement of trees that are removed or destroyed due to weather, pests, injury, construction damage, vandalism, or any other circumstance that warrants replacement.**

# 2. Responsibility

The Southern Oregon University Campus Tree Advisory Committee along with the Southern Oregon University Landscape Services Department under the guidance of the Director of Facilities Management and Planning will be responsible for the enforcement and evolution of this Campus Tree Care Policy.

# 3. Campus Tree Advisory Committee

The Campus Tree Advisory Committee will consist of volunteers from the campus community who will serve for a one year term. The committee will include at least one student, faculty, community member, ISA certified arborist, facilities member, and management official. The committee’s main purpose will be to oversee the campus Tree Care Policy. Secondary duties will be to help plan educational events on campus each year and the celebration of our annual Arborday event.

# 4. Campus Tree Care Policies

Tree planting, pruning, removal, and assessment will follow the ISA’s Best Management Practices along with the ANSI A300 standards for Tree Care. ANSI A300 standards are the generally accepted industry standards for tree care practices. They are voluntary industry consensus standards developed by Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and written by a committee called the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) A300, whose mission is to develop consensus performance standards based on current research and sound practice for writing specifications to manage trees, shrubs, and other woody plants.

These ANSI and ISA specifications include widely adopted scientific principles that will govern the protection of trees along with SOU’s existing use of Landscape Architect’s recommendations and requirements for the protection of trees before, during, and after all construction activities. The standards include:

* ANSI A300 (Part 1) - 2008 Pruning
* ANSI A300 (Part 2) - 2011 Soil Management (includes Fertilization)
* ANSI A300 (Part 3) - 2006 Supplemental Support Systems (includes Cabling, Bracing, and Guying, and Propping)
* ANSI A300 (Part 4) - 2008 Lightning Protection Systems
* ANSI A300 (Part 5) - 2012 Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction
* ANSI A300 (Part 6) - 2012 Transplanting (includes Planting)
* ANSI A300 (Part 7) - 2006 Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)
* ANSI A300 (Part 9) - 2011 Tree Risk Assessment
* ANSI A300 (Part 10) - 2013 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

These standards will be enforced by Southern Oregon University Facilities Management and Planning (FMP). The tree care standards will be adopted and implemented into the contracts for all future construction activities by FMP. These tree care standards will also include the following list of prohibited species (to be updated and added upon after the first Campus Tree Care Committee meeting each year):

1. Leyland Cypress: Cuprocyparis leylandii
2. Sycamore: Platanus occidentalis
3. Silver Maple: Acer saccharinum
4. Ash Trees Fraxinus
5. Hybrid Poplars Populus
6. Weeping Willow Salix babylonica and related hybrids
7. Black Walnut Juglans nigra
8. Tree of Heaven Ailanthus altissima
9. Salt Cedar Tamarix
10. Mulberry Morus

# 5. Goals and targets

The first goal of the Campus Tree Care Policy is provide the SOU campus with a viable, economic, efficient, and practical plan to guide the maintenance and future plantings of the trees on campus so we can improve the health of our trees. The long term goal of the Campus Tree Care Policy is to work collaboratively with the SOU Green House and Center for Sustainability to help educate students, staff, faculty, and the public to the benefits of trees. The Campus Tree Advisory Committee will also oversee the evolution of the Roca Canyon Arboretum. The responsibility of the measurement and achievement of these goals will be held by the Campus Tree Advisory Committee who will report progress seasonally (four times annually) to the SOU Sustainability Council.

# 6. Prohibited Practices and Enforcement

SOU Campus Public Safety enforces the City of Ashland’s regulations on tree damage, vandalism, and destruction. In addition to these regulations SOU’s adoption of the ANSI and ISA standards, a Tree Care Policy, and the Campus Tree Advisory committee will provide SOU the tools and education necessary to access and report prohibited acts on campus and during new construction activities. Our goal will be to act preventatively to help educate the campus community so that we can hold people accountable for the protection and consideration of campus trees and landscapes.

# 7. Networking and Communication

The Campus Tree Care Policy will be posted on the SOU website under the Landscape Services Department. The Landscape Services Department along with the Sustainability Council, ECOS, the Green House, and the SOU Center for Sustainability will work collaboratively to educate the campus community to the existence of the Campus Tree Care Policy and the Campus Tree Advisory Committee.

# 8. Conclusion

The SOU Tree Care Policy is a crucial tool to provide a safe and healthy SOU urban forest. With this plan SOU will qualify to be accredited as a Tree Campus USA by the Arborday Foundation. This accreditation will help SOU attract potential students interested in sustainability and the outdoors. The Southern Oregon University Campus Tree Care Policy is also an essential part of SOU’s sustainability commitment to be climate neutral by 2050 by insuring we have a healthy urban forest for generations to come.