

East Georgia

STATE COLLEGE®

Campus Tree Care Plan



Adopted by President's Cabinet 3/27/18

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this campus tree care plan is to:

- Promote health and growth of trees located on the East Georgia State College (EGSC) through proper management and maintenance practices.
- Promote awareness and educate the college and local communities of the benefits and importance of a well-managed campus urban forest.
- Ensure protection of trees during periods of construction and renovation projects on campus.
- Provide advisement necessary for the removal and replacement of trees.
- Provide advisement for the selection of tree species to be planted on campus.

II. RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT

The responsibility of the Campus Tree Care Plan will be the Plant Operations department at East Georgia State College under the supervision of J. David Steptoe, Director of Plant Operations.

III. THE CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES:

Members of the Campus Tree USA Advisory Committee are:

- Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp (Dean of the School of Math & Sciences at EGSC)
- Dr. David Chevalier (Biology Chair at EGSC)
- Dr. John Cadle (Instructor of Biology at EGSC)
- Dr. Paul Cerpovicz (Professor of Chemistry at EGSC)
- David Steptoe (Director of Plant Operations at EGSC)
- Katelyn Moore (Communications Coordinator at EGSC)
- Jean D. Schwabe (Director of the Community Learning Center at EGSC)
- Erin Youmans (GYSTC - Coordinator GYSTC)
- Bethaney Fortner (Student in the Associate of Biology program at EGSC)
- Mark McClellan (Regional Specialist, Georgia Forestry Commission)
- Barry Norris (FFA Central Region Forestry Instructor)
- Helen Center (Swainsboro Glad Garden Club member)
- Greg Long (Forest manager and owner of Long Forestry Consultant)

Roles of the members of the Campus Tree Advisory Committee:

The committee shall advise on policies related to the tree care plan and management of trees on campus.

Members will meet at least biannually to review and update policies, assess goals, and plan community initiatives and Arbor Day celebration. The membership will last for one year upon the date of acceptance. Membership can be renewed indefinitely.

The Campus Tree Advisory Committee includes a representative from each of the following audience:

- Student (undergraduate or graduate).
- Faculty.
- Facility Management.
- Community—for example—city forester, municipal arborist, community tree board member.

IV. CAMPUS TREE CARE POLICIES

The selection for new planting will be based on the following parameters:

- Growth requirements of selected tree species including moisture and drainage, light and nutrient requirements.
- Characteristics of the planting location including soil structure, irrigation accessibility, drainage, and existing structures and buildings.
- Zonal hardiness.

A. Tree selection:

The proper species will be chosen by the Director of Plant Operations and the Chair of the Biology Department. Healthy trees will be selected from local nurseries or garden centers.

B. Planting practices:

The following steps will be performed for proper tree planting:

- Holes will be dug twice the diameter and slightly more shallow than the root ball.
- The base of the hole shall be compacted to prevent settling of the root ball.
- Trees shall not be planted too deep to ensure the exposure of the trunk flare.
- Wood chips or pine straw from the campus are used in mulching new tree plantings.
- Trees will be hand watered at planting and as needed through the second year.

C. Maintenance and removal:

Employees of the EGSC Plant Operations will survey the campus trees for hazard concerns and health. Trees will be pruned during late fall and early winter by employees of the EGSC Plant Operations. Trees will be removed as needed.

D. Recommended and prohibited species:

Native tree species are preferred for planting. Nonnative species are utilized for aesthetic and ornamental values. The planting of invasive tree species is not allowed on campus.

The selection of native Georgia trees will be based on the following book:
Trees of Georgia and Adjacent States by by Claud L. Brown and L. Katherine Kirkman.

E. Catastrophic event management

After a catastrophic event, the employees of the Plant Operations department will assess the damages and remove any trees that pose a threat to property or humans.

In addition, all selections and plantings will be in accordance with the USG's grounds and landscape standards (Policy 9.7.4 Campus Grounds and Landscape Standards <http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section9/C528>).

V. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following steps will be taken to protect trees during construction on campus:

- A fence will be placed radially in relation to the critical root zone. The area inside the fence is protected from any disturbance during construction.
- Trees of overall good health or special value (specimen trees) that are located outside of the construction area will be protected

VI. GOALS AND TARGETS

The goals are to:

- Perform a campus-wide tree inventory
- Coordinate efforts with the Bee Campus USA committee to enhance pollinator species on campus
- Celebrate Arbor Day
- Increase the education and awareness of trees of the members of the EGSC campus and the local community

These goals will be assessed by progress towards their completion and the publication of press releases related to these goals.

VII. TREE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

The Director of Plant Operations will be responsible to assess tree damages and suggest a course of action to the Campus Tree Advisory Committee. These actions may include removing or pruning of the damaged trees.

The Director of Plant Operations will be responsible for the protection of the campus trees and enforcement of the Campus Tree Care Plan.

VIII. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Prohibited practices include:

- Planting of invasive species.
- Cutting trees without consulting the Campus Tree Advisory Committee.

IX. DEFINITIONS

Zonal Hardiness: A geographically defined area in which a specific category of plant life is sustainable.

Diameter at breast height (DBH): The diameter of a tree's trunk at approximately 4.5 feet above the soil line.

Critical root zone (CRZ): The area of a tree's root system outside of its drip line.
Specimen tree: A tree of high visibility, age, and aesthetic quality; one that has high prominence in the landscape. The CRZ is defined as the diameter at breast height (DBH) measured in inches, multiplied by 2.5 feet. The resulting product is the minimum root radius.

X. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The following communication strategy will be used:

- The campus tree care plan will be posted on the President webpage.
- The dates of events such as the Arbor Day will be posted on the EGSC web and Facebook pages.
- Press releases will be posted on the EGSC website and sent to the local newspaper.
- The Director of Plant Operations will inform contractors about the policies and procedure.