Campus Tree Care Policy

Effective Date: December 2018

Office: Office of Facilities Management

PURPOSE: *This section should include reason or rationale for the policy.*

The purpose of the University of Indianapolis campus tree care policy is to describe the University's commitment to caring for trees on campus.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ RELATED INFORMATION: *List any other policies or information that should be cross referenced.*

Basic Tree Assessment Form

ANSI A300 Standards

SCOPE: *Who is affected by this policy or needs to read it?*

University of Indianapolis campus community

POLICY HISTORY: *Include any information about previous versions or whether this replaces an existing policy.*

POLICY STATEMENT: *State the policy here. The policy statement should include the principles of the policy: what is permitted or prohibited, what is required, or how issues will be handled. If viewers read only this section, they will know what the policy is and how it extends to the University. How-to procedures can be elaborated on in the Procedures section.*

The University of Indianapolis acknowledges that trees on its campus are a vital asset for students, faculty, staff, and the wider public, providing significant social, well-being, capital, economic returns, wildlife and environmental benefits.

For these reasons, trees have been placed high on the priorities in all aspects of the University activities to make the University campuses and residential accommodation a livable, attractive and healthy place to work and study.

The University will actively identify opportunities to increase tree canopy cover across campus.

The University of Indianapolis is committed to a high quality maintenance regime that provides adequate resources for the long-term health of its trees. The UIndy Facilities Management Tree Care Guidelines incorporate the ANSI A300 series of Standards for Tree Care Management, which is the generally accepted industry standard for tree care practices.

Tree Selection:

- In selecting trees, the campus landscape designer will give preference to native species when possible, maintain a diversity of species, avoid trees that are prone to insect and disease problems, and prohibit the planting of invasive species.
- In addition to native trees, the University will add variety to the master list of trees by adding newer hybrids and non-natives that are more readily available.

Tree planting:

- All tree plantings and transplants will follow ANSI A300 standards.
    - Site considerations
        - For multiple tree installs, a soil test is recommended to ensure that the soil has suitable nutrients for the desired variety.
        - The University will not plant trees under existing power lines.
        - The University will consider the mature size of tree when planting near utilities such as hydrants and streetlights.

Preventative Maintenance/Pruning:

- The University will follow ANSI A300 pruning guidelines for all trees as they mature.
- The University will inspect and prune trees along walks, roads and around buildings to provide adequate and safe clearance.

Tree Health Assessment:

- The University will monitor tree health across campus as part of daily responsibilities and may consult with a certified arborist when necessary.
- The University conducts a formal health assessment of trees twice annually and employs the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Basic Tree Risk Assessment form to log issues regarding at-risk trees.
- Trees, like all living things, grow, age and eventually die. Tree removal for trees at risk is a "last resort option" as public safety by necessity must take priority.
- When a tree must be removed, the University commits to two on-campus plantings in its place.
- When trees are damaged due to severe weather (tornadoes, ice storms, etc.), the first priority is to remove blockages that disrupt campus access and safety.

Tree Care and Campus Maintenance and Construction:

As the campus continues to undergo development, special consideration must be given to the design and placement of buildings so as to minimize the loss of trees. Existing trees must be taken into consideration before decisions about placement of buildings or other construction are made.

All campus development needs should be planned with the aim of preserving the University's campus trees. If removing a tree, the construction project must provide the tree fund with adequate compensation to cover the cost of two plantings. This should be incorporated into the initial planning of the construction budget.

In addition:

- Contractors must give adequate relief to root zones of trees during construction. This area needs to be fenced off before ground breaking and remain in place throughout the project.
- After construction, a fertilization and revitalization program must be implemented to aid in the trees recovery.
- The landscape designer should be consulted prior to construction to develop the preservation and revitalization plan for the trees in the construction area.
- Root zone protection–tree root zones need to be protected from equipment, boring and digging.

Prohibited Trees and Practices:

- Bradford (ornamental) Pear Trees
- Ash (all varieties)
- Elm (unless Dutch Elm disease resistant)
- Cottonwood
- Bicycle locking to trees
- Advertising on trees