

# Campus Tree Care Plan

## Section I – purpose goals, Tree Advisory Committee and Communication Strategy

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- communicate to members of the Creighton and Omaha communities, contractors, and consultants the value of the campus' tree resource as part of growth and development
- encourage a culture of respect for trees and an interest in their planting and preservation among all groups whose activities may impact the campus forest
- define policies to this end

Stewardship of the campus forest and enforcement of the Plan is the responsibility of Facilities Management.

### Goals and Targets

- the Plan shall be updated in 2009 to include specifications addressing campus security
- a tree survey shall be completed to assist in increasing the diversity of species and for efficiency in screening for specific pest problems. The survey shall include: identification of each tree's species (and cultivar, when possible), the quantity of a given species/cultivar on each property, and any other details of note (general health, existing pest problems, etc.)

### Tree Advisory Committee

A Tree Advisory Committee was established in November 2008, with the first meeting held on December 18, 2008. Regular meetings will be held in February and September of each year, with additional meetings scheduled as needed.

Representatives include:

**Jessica Heller**

Creighton University, Arborist and Horticulturist

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**Lennis Pederson**

Creighton University, Associate Vice President of Administration and Finance, Director of Facilities Management

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**Colin Smalley**

Creighton University, Student

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**Mary Ann Vinton, Ph.D.**

Creighton University, Associate Professor, Biology

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**Kathleen Cue**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Douglas and Sarpy Counties Extension Associate – Horticulture

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Representatives are expected to:

- provide guidance for future planning, especially as it pertains to the benefit of campus trees to academic programs
- review and make recommendations to the Plan, including the lists of Recommended and Prohibited Trees
- aid in the identification of goals pertaining to species diversity

- aid in the identification of opportunities to enhance community appreciation for and stewardship of campus and community trees
- enhance the relationship between Facilities Management and the greater Creighton community, improving the University's reputation as a tree steward
- attend to other tree related issues as necessary or requested

Representatives serve for two years with a renewal option at the end of their term. Terms correspond to the calendar year except for faculty and student terms, which correspond to the academic year with optional participation from May to August. Succeeding representatives shall be chosen to maintain the diversity of the committee which shall always include, but not be limited to: the Arborist, the Director of Facilities Management, a Faculty representative, Student representative, and a representative from the larger community.

### **Communication Strategy**

The Plan shall be communicated to contractors by:

- integrating the Plan into the General Conditions of Creighton University's Design and Construction Guide
- presenting the Plan and any updates at the Contractor's Coffee Break in March of each year
- including the Plan in contract documents for all appropriate projects

Communication of the University's participation in Tree Campus USA shall be accomplished by:

- submitting an article to The Creightonian, the University's weekly newspaper
- placing announcements on the Facilities Management and Sustainability Council websites
- submitting announcements to faculty/staff and student listservs