

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

Updates to 2013 goals:

- The Tree Advisory Committee was relatively inactive in 2013, however we did add a Creighton Jesuit, Father Bisbee to the committee. It is hoped that his connection with the student population will help recruit students to the committee (and to TCUSA events).

2014 goals:

- Strengthen the Tree Advisory Committee by increasing membership. The hope is that having a broader membership base will increase the effectiveness of meetings and involvement of members. The measureable outcome will be documentation of recruitment efforts and (hopefully) increased membership numbers. This goal was not achieved in 2012 however, increase in committee membership is considered so important that the goal will be carried over into 2013. Though some steps to improve committee membership were accomplished in 2013, we will continue this goal into 2014.
- Increase awareness of the Tree Care Plan and its policies amongst Project Managers and contractors. This will mainly be accomplished by presenting the plan at the Contractor Coffee Break in March of 2014.

Tree Advisory Committee

A Tree Advisory Committee was established in November 2008. Regular meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month in April and October with additional meetings scheduled as needed.

Representatives include:

Jessica Heller

Creighton University, Landscape Supervisor

jessicaheller@creighton.edu

Anna Osborn

Creighton University, Student

annaosborn@creighton.edu

Mary Ann Vinton, Ph.D.

Creighton University, Associate Professor, Biology

vinton@creighton.edu

Kathleen Cue

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

kcue@unlnotes.unl.edu

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:

- 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
- integrating the Plan into the General Conditions of Creighton University's Design and Construction Guide
http://www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/AdminFinance/Facilities/docs/Division_32_Exterior_Improvements.pdf
- integrating the Plan into the Landscaping and Lawn Care section of the Services tab on the Facilities Management web page
<http://www.creighton.edu/adminfinance/facilities/services/index.php>