**Campus Tree Care Plan**

1. Purpose of Tree Care Plan

The purpose of the Tree Care Plan is to document and clarify the campus commitment to maintaining our campus trees. The programs and policies previously in place have been updated to reflect the current industry standards and procedures for tree care on campus. With the goal of becoming a recognized Tree Campus USA, this document describes the existing practices and identifies areas for improvement.

2. Responsible Department

The majority of trees on campus are under the responsibility of the Grounds department in F&S. This Tree Care Plan is the responsibility of F&S Grounds.

3. Campus Tree Advisory Committee

The Campus Tree Advisory Committee is described in Standard 1, above.

4. Campus Tree Care Policies

The campus tree care policies for this campus are formally documented in the campus’ Facility Standards, published online at http://www.fs.illinois.edu/resources/facilities-standards. Sections of the Facility Standards applicable to the Campus Tree Care Plan are included in the text of this document, for convenience. The university Landscape Architect and the Horticulturist have the authority to approve deviations from tree policies, when needed.

The tree program at F&S is managed by two full-time certified arborists, known as “tree surgeons,” reporting to the Superintendent of Grounds. Each tree surgeon is supported by a full time grounds worker. The tree surgeons have international arborist accreditation, with annual membership fees and continuing education funded by F&S. In September 2017, one of the tree surgeons retired, and the replacement is expected to start in early spring 2018.

The following subsections describe the tree care policies for planting, landscaping, tree maintenance, cultural practices, and managing for catastrophic events.

Tree Planting

Trees planted on the Urbana campus are selected from an approved plant list (see figure 1). The list includes trees native to Illinois as well as other desirable, non-native trees. Species diversity is very important; however, site conditions ultimately dictate what species will be selected. Native species will be considered wherever appropriate. Trees that are selected must be at least 2” in caliper and no more than 4”. Selected tree must be healthy, vigorous, well branched, and symmetric in form with well-developed root systems. The university Landscape Architect or Horticulturist may reject any tree that does not meet these standards. Planting shall only be performed during the acceptable times in the spring and fall, unless otherwise approved.

All tree planting will be in accordance to the latest American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A 300 standards for Tree Care Operations – Tree Shrub and Other Woody Plant Management Standard Practices (Planting and Transplanting).

The planting procedure starts first by digging a broad, shallow hole at least 2-3 times wider than the root ball. The tree is then placed so that the root flare is at or slightly above the existing grade. All burlap, rope, and wire baskets are 3 cut away from the top third of the root ball. The tree is then straightened before back-filling around the base of the root ball with the existing soil. The soil is firmly tamped every few inches of soil added until it is even with the surrounding grade. The tree is then deeply watered and mulched at 2-4” in a saucer like pattern around the tree making sure to keep it 1-2” from the trunk. The tree is only staked if necessary in accordance with the latest ANSI standards. Fertilization is not done at the time of planting.

Tree Replacement Policy

When a university-owned tree is scheduled for removal due to construction work on campus, the project is required to furnish and install a new replacement tree. If a university-owned tree is damaged by any entity and the university Landscape Architect or Horticulturist determines the tree should be removed, the entity that caused the damage shall be required to pay a $450 fine per tree to cover the costs to furnish and install the replacement tree. The cost for tree removal will be in addition to the $450 fine and will be assessed based on actual costs, which will vary based on size, location, etc.

All replacement trees shall be a minimum of 2” caliper. Species and location are subject to approval by the university Landscape Architect or Horticulturist.