

# Juniata College Campus Tree Care Plan 2020-2021

1700 Moore Street, Huntingdon, PA, 16652

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Juniata College stands on the land of the Onyata a Ka of the Oneida Nation, the People of the Standing Stone, who had a village here in present-day Huntingdon, Pennsylvania at the time of colonisation. The following Tree Care Plan seeks to encourage and commit us to an abiding respect and stewardship of this land.

### 1. Purpose

The Purpose of the Campus Tree Care Plan is to promote the health and protection of trees on Juniata College's campus and properties, and to promote the community's understanding and enjoyment of our urban forest. Specific plan objectives include:

- increase canopy cover of trees native to Juniata College's current and predicted biogeographic region
- maintain a suggested species list of trees native to Juniata College's current and predicted biogeographic region or otherwise approved non-invasive species
- protect high-value campus trees during construction, renovation, and other planned campus activities

- ensure that tree removal on campus and college properties is conducted with proper considerations, notifications, and adequate replacement
- facilitate regularly occurring service learning opportunities for students and community members and encourage campus community members to respect and value the campus urban forest
- promote tree health by using best management practices in groundskeeping practices and providing training to relevant and interested personnel and community members
- encourage and facilitate the adoption and maintenance of land-use management plans across college properties and within the broader region

## **2. Responsible Department**

The responsibility of the Campus Tree Care Plan resides with Juniata College Facilities Services as assisted by the Campus Tree Advisory Committee.

## **3. Establishment of Campus Tree Advisory Committee**

### **3.1. Committee Membership**

The CTAC will be comprised of at least four members and will include at least one member from each of the following: the Juniata College faculty, a designate from the Juniata College Facilities Services, the Juniata College student body, a member of the Huntingdon community (preferably a member of the Huntingdon Tree Commission). Every effort will be made such that the committee membership reflects our commitment to campus equity and diversity.

Inaugural committee membership:

Chris Bomgardner (Facilities Services)

Norris Muth (Faculty)

Uma Ramakrishnan (Faculty)

Matt Powell (Community - current member of Huntingdon Tree Commission)  
Max Muller (Juniata student)  
Grace Lewis (Juniata Student)

### **3.2. Committee Chair**

The senior (months of CTAC service) faculty member on the committee will chair the CTAC unless a different committee member is selected as chair by unanimous consent.

### **3.3. Terms**

The standard term for the student member(s) of the committee will be one year. The standard term for faculty, facilities, and community member positions will be three years. Committee members can agree to serve for a term of less than three years. There are no limits to the number of terms served.

### **3.4. Vacancies and Additional Membership**

Vacancies and additional members will be approved as necessary at the discretion of the existing committee.

### **3.5. Meetings**

The CTAC will meet at least once in the spring and fall semesters. CTAC meetings are open to the public unless specific circumstances prohibit public attendance.

### **3.6. Voting**

Given the largely advisory role of the committee, decisions should be attempted to be made by consensus. Committee recommendations not reached by consensus will be determined by a simple majority vote.

### **3.7. Updating and Recertification**

The CTAC will assess and update the Goals and Targets of the Campus Tree Care plan annually and undertake recertification procedures with Tree Campus Higher Education as prescribed by the Arbor Day Foundation.

## **4. Juniata College Tree Care Policies**

### **4.1. Planting**

Whenever possible, new trees will be selected from the suggested species list maintained by the CTAC. Planting of new trees will be overseen by facilities staff knowledgeable with the most current professional standards. Whenever practical, students will be encouraged to assist in tree plantings.

### **4.2. Maintenance**

#### *Pruning*

Trees and shrub pruning will occur in winter just after the coldest part of the season has passed with minor corrective pruning taking place in the spring or summer. Pruning should be completed with a clear and defined goal by appropriately trained personnel. Tree-topping is strictly prohibited unless required to mitigate an imminent threat to public safety or campus facilities.

#### *Protective Ground Cover*

The use of mulch, stone, or other material is encouraged to protect trees from accidental injury and to reduce soil compaction. Mulched areas around trees will be maintained such that mulch is kept away from the stem.

### **4.3. Removal**

The removal of trees greater than 6" DBH that do not pose an imminent threat to public safety or campus facilities requires prior notification of the CTAC. The CTAC can determine if greater campus-wide notification is appropriate. The CTAC will be notified in a timely manner about emergency tree removals.

#### 4.4. Suggested Species List

The following list includes suggested tree species native to Juniata College's current and predicted biogeographic region. This list will be periodically revisited and updated by the CTAC. Whenever practical, new tree plantings should be of species on the list and facilities staff should consult with the CTAC before planting species not on the suggested species list.

Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	American Hophornbeam ( <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> )
Silver Maple ( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> )	Bitternut Hickory ( <i>Carya cordiformis</i> )
Sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	Pignut Hickory ( <i>Carya glabra</i> )
Yellow Buckeye ( <i>Aesculus flava</i> )	Shellbark Hickory ( <i>Carya laciniosa</i> )
Ohio Buckeye ( <i>Aesculus glabra</i> )	Mockernut Hickory ( <i>Carya tomentosa</i> )
Shadbush / Juneberry / Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier spp.</i> )	Shagbark Hickory ( <i>Carya ovata</i> )
Hercules' Club ( <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i> )	Butternut ( <i>Juglans cinerea</i> )
Pawpaw ( <i>Asimina triloba</i> )	Black Walnut ( <i>Juglans nigra</i> )
Yellow Birch ( <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> )	American Chestnut ( <i>Castanea dentata</i> )
Sweet Birch ( <i>Betula lenta</i> )	American Mountain Ash ( <i>Sorbus americana</i> )
River Birch ( <i>Betula nigra</i> )	Hackberry ( <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> )
Paper Birch ( <i>Betula papyrifera</i> )	Sugarberry ( <i>Celtis laevigata</i> )
Gray Birch ( <i>Betula populifolia</i> )	Dwarf Hackberry ( <i>Celtis tenuifolia</i> )
American Hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> )	Redbud ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )

Pagoda Dogwood ( <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> )	Red Mulberry ( <i>Morus rubra</i> )
Flowering Dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )	Black Gum ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> )
Native Hawthorns ( <i>Crataegus spp.</i> )	Sourwood ( <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> )
Persimmon ( <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> )	Native Spruce ( <i>Picea spp.</i> )
American Beech ( <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> )	Native Pines ( <i>Pinus spp.</i> )
Honeylocust ( <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> )	American Sycamore ( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> )
Kentucky Coffeetree ( <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> )	Bigtooth Aspen ( <i>Populus grandidentata</i> )
American Holly ( <i>Ilex opaca</i> )	Quaking Aspen ( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> )
Winterberry Holly ( <i>Ilex verticillata</i> )	Native Plums and Cherries ( <i>Prunus spp.</i> )
Red Cedar ( <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> )	Hop Tree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> )
Sweetgum ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> )	Native Oaks ( <i>Quercus spp.</i> )
Tulip Poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	Smooth Sumac ( <i>Rhus glabra</i> )
Native Magnolias ( <i>Magnolia spp.</i> )	Staghorn Sumac ( <i>Rhus typhina</i> )
Native Crabapples ( <i>Malus spp.</i> )	Native Willows ( <i>Salix spp.</i> )
	American Basswood ( <i>Tilia americana</i> )
	American Elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )
	Slippery Elm ( <i>Ulmus rubra</i> )

#### 4.5. Prohibited Species List

To maintain a safe and healthy urban tree environment, the presence of certain species should be reduced and restricted across campus. New plantings of any of the following species requires consultation with the CTAC. Other lists of problematic or invasive species should be consulted periodically to update or supplement the following list.

European Black Alder - *Alnus glutinosa*  
 Japanese Angelica-Tree - *Aralia elata*  
 Bee-Bee Tree or Korean Euodia - *Tetradium daniellii*  
 Corktrees - *Phellodendron spp.*  
 Siberian Elm - *Ulmus pumila*  
 Empress Tree - *Paulownia tomentosa*

Amur Maple - *Acer ginnala*  
Japanese Maple - *Acer palmatum*  
Norway Maple - *Acer platanoides*  
Sycamore Maple - *Acer pseudoplatanus*  
Mimosa - *Albizia julibrissin*  
Paper Mulberry - *Broussonetia papyrifera*  
White Mulberry - *Morus alba*  
Sawtooth Oak - *Quercus acutissima*  
Callery/Bradford Pear - *Pyrus calleryana*  
Tree-of-Heaven - *Ailanthus altissima*

## **5. Protection and Preservation Policies and Procedures**

Preceding and during facilities renovations, new construction, or other activities that substantially increase the potential for damage to campus trees, facilities staff will work with the CTAC to ensure that protection zones (comprised of physical barriers and/or visual deterrents) around susceptible plantings will be clearly marked and maintained. Planned activities that require tree removal or alteration requires the notification of the CTAC (in accordance with section 4.3). Plantings that are removed or damaged by these activities should be replaced by commensurate plantings with consultation of the CTAC.

## **6. Goals and Targets**

**6.1.** Create an open and online campus tree inventory with resources for community members who want to learn more about campus trees, forested areas, and other campus habitats. This inventory can be used to inform periodic removal and replacement of invasive, prohibited, or otherwise problematic species. Students should be encouraged to actively participate in the development of this inventory.

**6.2.** Create an initial estimate and report of native (and other) canopy cover and diversity for Juniata College's main campus. Present report publicly at Juniata College's Liberal Arts Symposium.

## **7. Tree Damage Assessment**

Observed damage to campus trees, or violations of campus tree policies, should be reported to the CTAC as quickly as possible. Cost estimates of damage to small diameter (less than 6") or lower value trees will be performed by the CTAC. Estimates of damage to larger or higher value trees will be conducted by a professional arborist. Notifications of damage or policy violations, decisions regarding remedial actions, and enforcement of these actions will be initiated (and executed when possible) by the CTAC. The CTAC will present cases for remediation to the College president, or other relevant College administrator, as necessary.

Contractors may be required to pay replacement or remediation costs for tree damage or soil compaction related to incursion into designated tree protection zones.

## **8. Prohibited Practices**

For their protection, campus trees may not be used or treated in any manner detrimental to their health. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Attaching objects of any kind to campus trees without the permission of the CTAC.
- Cutting or similarly damaging campus trees in any way, other than prescribed maintenance by facilities services or their designates.
- Placement of new asphalt, concrete, or other impervious materials within six feet of the stem of any campus tree.

- Intentional or accidental deposition of toxic materials within six feet of the stem of any campus tree. This includes cleaning of, or application or non-prescribed use of, oils, paints, fuels, solvents, asphalt, concrete, and other similar materials.

## **9. Definitions and Abbreviations**

- *Campus Tree* - unless otherwise specified, includes any woody plant on a Juniata College property (including, but not limited to, main campus, Peace Chapel, Patrick Lodge, and Sparks Farm).
- *CTAC* - Campus Tree Advisory Committee
- *DBH* - The diameter of the tree 4.5 feet above the ground.
- *Invasive* - capacity to spread uncontrollably into surrounding areas.
- *Native to Juniata College's current and predicted biogeographic region* - any species which, according to valid biological research, has a meaningful evolutionary and ecological history in the Ridge and Valley region of Central Pennsylvania or, is in the process of shifting its range into this region from other nearby biogeographic regions, due to climate change.

## **10. Communication Strategy**

Upon adoption of the Campus Tree Plan, members of the CTAC will request meetings with relevant personnel, and/or leadership of relevant campus departments and groups, to share information about the plan. A digital copy of the plan will be made publicly accessible online and hard copies will be made available upon request. Announcement of the plan, and solicitation of interest of involvement, will be made through the College's online campus announcements. Periodic updates and progress towards goals will be presented at the College's annual Liberal Arts Symposium.

## **11. Acknowledgements**

This plan is the result of the joint efforts of Juniata students, staff, faculty, and Huntingdon community members. Juniata College students Max Muller, Hannah Buckwalter, Elisha Serotta, and Sara Consenza were the spirit and driving force behind all aspects of this work. From the College staff, Chris Bomgardner, Jeff Meadows, Jeff Andreas, and Tristan delGiudice lent their incredible expertise and insight into its development. The assistance and support from Community members Matt Powell, Jack Barlow, Ginny Gill, Jim Savory, and the late Bill Bowe, of the Huntingdon Tree Commission, was instrumental to our efforts. Juniata Biology Professor Norris Muth helped facilitate the process.