

TREE MITIGATION POLICY

Adopted by LVL, October 2007

Tree mitigation is the act of compensating for healthy tree removal by planting a proportionate number of replacement trees on a site based upon the species and size of each existing tree that is lost or taking other actions to restore and biologically enhance existing green-space. Ideally, construction activities on the University of Florida campus should be designed and executed to avoid impacting trees, and when impacts are unavoidable, the trees are moved and re-located onsite. As this is not always possible, the following tree mitigation policies are provided as a basis for offsetting the loss of values (aesthetic, ecological, monetary, etc.) from taking down a tree based upon its species, size, and relative health.

There are trees and shrubs on the University of Florida campus that have been designated as having particular significance. These plants are National/State Champions, Heritage Specimen trees, trees that are numbered and tagged as part of the University's "Tree Walk," and rare or unique plants used for teaching purposes. These plants are very difficult to replace and must be given special protection during any activity.

Heritage trees are defined as canopy species measuring 20 inches or more in diameter (DBH), except for Water Oaks, Laurel Oaks, Loblolly Pines, Sugarberry and Sweetgums (i.e. "Large Canopy Trees") that shall be classified as heritage trees at 30 inches in diameter (DBH). Understory species shall be considered heritage at 15 inches DBH. All trees below the heritage threshold must be relocated or replaced on a two for one basis (two replacement trees for each removed). Heritage trees shall be replaced at a greater value than non-heritage trees with an additional replacement tree required for every (2) inch gain in diameter over the heritage size threshold. Species recognized by the Exotic Pest Plant Council as an "invasive" exotic and those trees whose health is confirmed to be "fair" or worse as determined by the project team and/or UF Urban Forester and confirmed by the Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping Committee (LVLC) shall be exempt from mitigation.

Where it is not possible to plant replacement trees onsite, tree impacts shall be offset by contributing to a mitigation fund used to plant new trees or for green-space enhancement projects in appropriate locations throughout campus. When planners and architects make every effort to incorporate existing trees into their designs and there is still not room within the project site for all of the required replacement plantings, the offsite mitigation fee shall be calculated using the formula above with a value of \$250 per replacement tree as described in the UF Design & Construction Standards. For example, a 4-inch diameter tree that is replaced 2:1 would require a fee of $\$250 \times 2 = \500 , while a 23-inch diameter heritage tree would be replaced 4:1 equal to $\$250 \times 4 = \1000 . These values should be used as a guide when seeking authorization for tree removal. At the discretion of the LVLC, Heritage Trees may be mitigated at higher rates consistent with this policy and to align more closely with actual costs of moving each tree. Unauthorized tree removal is discouraged and shall increase the required mitigation to twice the rate applied to

authorized removals. The table below provides the value of offsite mitigation fees including heritage trees.

The LVLC shall make recommendations to the VP for Business Affairs on the dispensation of tree mitigation monies that exceed \$50,000 for a single project. Otherwise, tree mitigation monies shall be paid into the PPD tree account and held until green-space enhancement projects are approved by the LVLC for use of these funds. These steps shall ensure fiscal accountability for audit purposes of PECO, Federal, State and other funding sources.

TREE SIZE (DBH)	COST TO RELOCATE EXISTING TREE *	COST TO MITIGATE CANOPY TREES (ratios incorporated)	COST TO MITIGATE LARGE CANOPY TREES (ratios incorporated)**	COST TO MITIGATE UNDERSTORY TREES (ratios incorporated)
3 to 8	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
9	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$500
10	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$500
11	\$3,500	\$500	\$500	\$500
12	\$3,500	\$500	\$500	\$500
13	\$3,500	\$500	\$500	\$500
14	\$3,500	\$500	\$500	\$500
15	\$5,000	\$500	\$500	\$500
16	\$6,500	\$500	\$500	\$750
17	\$8,000	\$500	\$500	\$750
18	\$9,500	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
19	\$11,000	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
20	\$12,000	\$750	\$500	\$1,250
21	\$13,500	\$750	\$500	\$1,250
22	\$15,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,500
23	\$16,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,500
24	\$18,000	\$1,250	\$500	\$1,750
25	\$19,500	\$1,250	\$500	\$1,750
26	\$21,000	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,000
27	\$22,500	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,000
28	\$24,000	\$1,750	\$500	\$2,250
29	\$25,500	\$1,750	\$500	\$2,250
30	\$27,000	\$2,000	\$750	\$2,500
31	AVOID	\$2,250	\$750	\$2,500
32	AVOID	\$2,250	\$1,000	\$2,750
33	AVOID	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$2,750
34	AVOID	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$2,750
35	AVOID	\$2,750	\$1,250	\$3,000

* Source: Davey Resource Group (www.davey.com)

** Large Canopy Trees are Laurel & Water Oaks, Sweet gum, Loblolly Pine and Sugarberry