

## TREE MITIGATION POLICY

Adopted by LVL, August 2019

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, trees shall be mitigated as specified in this policy. 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 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. Trees that are also considered large shrubs shall be mitigated based on whether the ones being removed are being maintained as a tree or a shrub. Examples of such trees /shrubs include, but are not limited to, Crape Myrtles, Podocarpus, and Ligustrum japonicum. Cabbage palm trees shall be mitigated on a 2:1 basis. Other palms shall be mitigated as specified by this policy. 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 a certified arborist and confirmed by the Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping Committee (LVLC) shall be exempt from mitigation. Pruning of heritage trees shall be discouraged except as needed for the health of the tree and safety of people in proximity. Pruning of heritage trees shall follow the recommendations of a certified arborist. Pruning of heritage trees that has not followed the recommendations of a certified arborist shall incur penalties as determined by LVLC. Facility Services' Grounds department shall be exempt from mitigation and pruning requirements.

Tree impacts shall be offset by contributing to a mitigation fund used to plant new trees or for landscape enhancement projects in appropriate locations throughout campus. When planners and architects make every effort to incorporate existing trees into their designs and there is 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. Heritage Trees shall be mitigated at higher rates as shown in the table below. Unauthorized tree removal is discouraged and shall increase the required mitigation to at least 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. Tree mitigation monies shall be paid into the Facilities Services tree account and held until Open-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 Water Oaks, Laurel Oaks, Loblolly Pines, Sugarberry and Sweetgums (ratios incorporated)	COST TO MITIGATE UNDERSTORY TREES (ratios incorporated)**
5-15	\$500	\$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	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,500
21	\$13,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,500
22	\$15,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$2,000
23	\$16,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$2,000
24	\$18,000	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,500
25	\$19,500	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,500
26	\$21,000	\$2,000	\$500	\$3,000
27	\$22,500	\$2,000	\$500	\$3,000
28	\$24,000	\$2,500	\$500	\$3,500
29	\$25,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$3,500
30	\$27,000	\$3,000	\$750	\$4,000
31	AVOID	\$3,000	\$750	\$4,000
32	AVOID	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$4,500
33	AVOID	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$4,500
34	AVOID	\$4,000	\$1,250	\$5,000
35	AVOID	\$4,000	\$1,250	\$5,000
36	AVOID	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$5,500
37	AVOID	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$5,500
38	AVOID	\$5,000	\$1,750	\$6,000
39	AVOID	\$5,000	\$1,750	\$6,000
40	AVOID	\$6,000	\$2,000	NA
41	AVOID	\$6,000	\$2,000	NA
43	AVOID	\$6,500	\$2,250	NA
44	AVOID	\$6,500	\$2,250	NA
45	AVOID	\$7,000	\$2,500	NA
46	AVOID	\$7,000	\$2,500	NA
47	AVOID	\$8,000	\$2,750	NA
48	AVOID	\$8,000	\$2,750	NA
49	AVOID	\$8,500	\$3,000	NA
50	AVOID	\$8,500	\$3,000	NA
51	AVOID	\$9,000	\$3,000	NA
52	AVOID	\$9,000	\$3,000	NA
53	AVOID	\$9,500	\$3,000	NA
55	AVOID	\$9,500	\$3,000	NA
55	AVOID	\$10,000	\$3,000	NA
56	AVOID	\$10,000	\$3,000	NA
57	AVOID	\$10,500	\$3,000	NA
58	AVOID	\$10,500	\$3,000	NA
59	AVOID	\$11,000	\$3,000	NA
60	AVOID	\$11,000	\$4,000	NA
61	AVOID	\$11,500	\$4,000	NA
62	AVOID	\$11,500	\$4,000	NA
63	AVOID	\$12,000	\$4,000	NA

64	AVOID	\$12,000	\$4,000	NA
65	AVOID	\$12,500	\$4,000	NA
66	AVOID	\$12,500	\$4,000	NA
67	AVOID	\$13,000	\$4,000	NA
68	AVOID	\$13,000	\$4,000	NA
69	AVOID	\$13,500	\$4,000	NA
70	AVOID	\$13,500	\$5,000	NA
71	AVOID	\$14,000	\$5,000	NA
72	AVOID	\$14,000	\$5,000	NA
73	AVOID	\$14,500	\$5,000	NA
74	AVOID	\$14,500	\$5,000	NA
75	AVOID	\$15,000	\$5,000	NA
76	AVOID	\$15,000	\$5,000	NA
77	AVOID	\$15,500	\$5,000	NA
78	AVOID	\$15,500	\$5,000	NA
79	AVOID	\$16,000	\$5,000	NA
80	AVOID	\$16,000	\$6,000	NA
81	AVOID	\$16,500	\$6,000	NA
82	AVOID	\$16,500	\$6,000	NA
83	AVOID	\$17,000	\$6,000	NA
84	AVOID	\$17,000	\$6,000	NA
85	AVOID	\$17,500	\$6,000	NA
86	AVOID	\$17,500	\$6,000	NA
87	AVOID	\$18,000	\$6,000	NA
88	AVOID	\$18,000	\$6,000	NA
89	AVOID	\$18,500	\$6,000	NA
90	AVOID	\$18,500	\$6,000	NA

\* Source: Davey Resource Group ([www.davey.com](http://www.davey.com))

\*\* An evergreen or deciduous tree whose mature height can be expected to range between 15 feet and 35 feet and which has an expected crown spread range between 15 feet and 25 feet as determined by the latest edition of "American Standards of Nursery Stock" as set forth by the American Association of Nurserymen.