

## Purpose

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To establish a program that identifies, acknowledges, protects, and preserves trees of significant value to The Ohio State University. Trees provide ample benefits to people such as cooling temperatures (especially in urban environments), filtering the air of pollutants, regulating the flow of stormwater and improving water quality, providing habitat, adding to the aesthetic beauty of our campus, improving physical and mental health, and providing recreational and learning opportunities. Older, larger trees provide exponentially greater benefits than younger, smaller trees, making it critical to protect and preserve them, retain their benefits, and preserve their place on our landscape. These trees, as designated, will be known as Heritage trees. Certain other trees exhibit significant value to the university because of their unique historical, cultural, and/or characteristic value. These trees, as designated, will be known as Specimen trees. Every reasonable effort shall be made to save Heritage and Specimen trees.

## 1. Definitions

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- a. Heritage trees shall be defined as any single stem tree with a Diameter at Breast Height (dbh) of 30" or more, or any multi-stemmed tree with a dbh on the largest trunk of 24" or more and shall be in good to fair condition.
- b. Specimen trees shall be defined as significant to the university due to historical, cultural, or characteristic value.

## 2. Designation Criteria

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- a. Heritage tree
  - i. Size: 30" or greater in diameter at breast height, or 24" on the largest trunk of a multi-stemmed tree
- b. Specimen tree
  - i. Exhibits significant value to the university due to historical, cultural, or characteristic value.
  - ii. Condition: good to fair

## 3. Designation Process

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- a. The Tree Advisory Committee will solicit nominations for candidates for Heritage and Specimen tree status. This solicitation will occur on an as-needed basis to be determined by the Committee.
- b. Nomination packets will include a minimum of 4 photos of the candidate tree and a narrative explaining how the candidate tree fulfills the criteria for heritage or specimen designation.
- c. Nominations will be sent to the University Landscape Architect (ULA) for initial review, who will initiate a site survey from a certified arborist to assess the condition, health, and status of the tree.
- d. If the site survey comes back positive that the tree is in good health and meets Heritage or Specimen criteria, the nomination will be reviewed by the Tree Advisory Committee.
- e. If approved by the Tree Advisory Committee, the nomination will be sent to the President and Provost's Council on Sustainability (PPCS) for final approval.
- f. Designations will be incorporated into the university Geographic Information System (GIS) and shared with the campus community through a GIS application.
- g. To ensure appropriate protection of Heritage and Specimen trees, the Committee will maintain a file documenting all Heritage Trees. That file will contain information about specific tree protection and maintenance standards to be employed. These standards will be developed and overseen by the University Landscape Architect.



#### 4. Designation Implications

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- a. Impact to Planning and Design
  - i. When planning and designing new projects on campus, Heritage and Specimen trees must be accounted for. A complete site survey must be completed, showing utility lines, grading activities, and building elevations in relation to the existing trees. Locations of all Heritage or Specimen trees shall be designated on this plan. The plan must denote which trees will be removed, with an "X". All reasonable efforts must be made to avoid damage or removal of Heritage and Specimen trees.
- b. Impact to Construction
  - i. Any activities performed in the drip line of a Heritage or Specimen tree must have prior written approval of the University Landscape Architect (ULA) or their designee. No more than 20 percent of the total area within the drip line of any Heritage or Specimen tree shall be subject to paving or soil compaction and shall not be allowed within 15 feet of the tree trunk.
  - ii. Tree protection shall be the responsibility of the contractor. All tree protections shall be installed before construction begins and approved by the ULA or designee. A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) shall appear on site plans and all development plans, clearly delineating the area of concern. Fencing shall be erected in accordance with the ANSI 300 standards for tree protection during construction. Encroachments into TPZs may occur when no other alternative exist, and ANSI 300 Best Management Practices shall be applied. Tree protection shall remain in place and not moved or adjusted until the ULA has given the final acceptance notice of the landscape. No construction debris, washout, or material shall be stored or placed in the TPZ.
- c. Impact to Maintenance
  - i. Heritage and Specimen trees will be prioritized for tree care activities across campus. To protect and preserve these unique trees, resources must be allocated to caring for their long-term health. Landscape services staff will be in charge of tree care activities.

#### 5. Removal Process

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Any Heritage Tree that is removed, damaged, or dies during construction activities will subject the contractor to a \$1000 per dbh in fine. Damaged trees will need to be assessed by a university-approved arborist at the contractor's expense. The arborist must be certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or equivalent and shall be onsite to perform evaluation and corrective actions. If corrective measures can be taken to preserve the damaged tree, it shall be up to the contractor to pay for the corrective measures. Corrective measures shall be completed immediately. If no corrective action can be taken to preserve the tree, the party who damaged the tree shall replace it on a 3:1 ratio ... 3" of caliper shall replace 1" of damaged dbh. If the area is not conducive to this assessment, the above fine can be placed in the tree fund for campus, and trees will be purchased and located in other places as designated by the ULA.