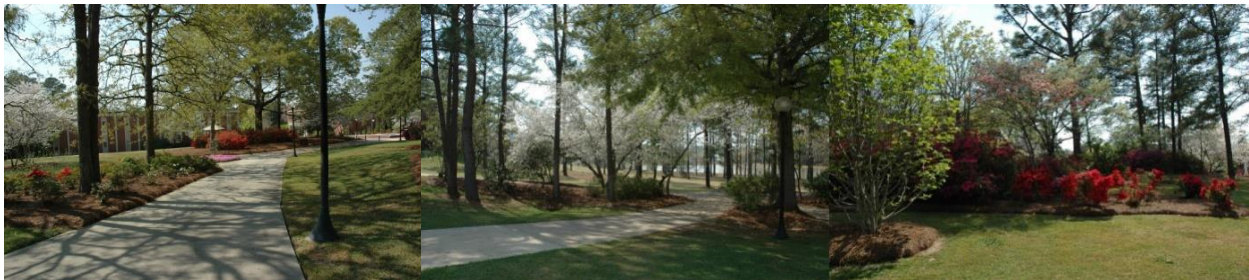


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## Middle Georgia State University Tree Care Plan 2016



- I. Purpose of the tree care plan:
  - Facilitate the reestablishment of the tree canopy after the May 11, 2008 storms by implementing the design of the Campus Master Plan.
  - Ensuring replanting of trees is done so reasonably and properly.
  - Protecting and maintaining the campus urban forest during development.
  - Bringing awareness to the value of urban forestry and its impact in our community.
  
- II. The Physical Plant and Arborist are responsible for the enforcement of the Campus Tree Care Plan.
  
- III. The Campus Tree Advisory Committee meets regularly to discuss and plan community events, ground construction/renovations, and any other pressing issues concerning the Middle Georgia State College campus grounds. Each committee member will serve one year terms, except any students who will serve semester terms. It is comprised of:
  - Todd Hurt, UGA Training Coordinator
  - Karol Kelly, County Extension Agent
  - Wimberly Treadwell, Landscape Architect
  - Debra Rollins, Community Member
  - Ed McDowell, Community Member
  - David Sims, Assistant VP of Facilities
  - Michael Glisson, Grounds Manager/Arborist
  - Maria Creekmore, Student
  - Laura Gay, Director of Plant Administration
  - Kim Pickens, Associate Professor

#### IV. Tree Care Policies

##### a. Plant selection

- All new landscape designs for Middle Georgia State College will coordinate with the themes of the Campus Master Plan and use the plant lists provided by the Physical Plant.
- Substitutions of plant material must be requested in writing to the Arborist, who will reject or accept the request in writing.
- All plants are subject to inspection and rejection, by the Arborist.

##### b. Planting

- Plants are unloaded and stored in an upright position until being planted.
- The planting hole is to be dug to three times the diameter of the root ball.
- Dig the hole to a depth such that the first lateral root leaving the trunk collar is 1-2" above the surrounding grade.
- If you must backfill the hole underneath the root ball, pack firmly to prevent settling.
- Before backfilling remove and discard all strapping, burlap, and wire basket from the upper 1/3 of the root ball.
- Be sure that the native soil used to backfill the upper 12" of the planting hole is composed of a minimum of 1/3 organic matter. Use a soil conditioner amendment when necessary to meet the minimum requirement.
- Create no water ring around the root ball.
- Water in thoroughly and check for air pockets around the root ball.
- Apply a 3" layer of mulch to the entire planting hole but tapering toward the tree trunk.
- Stake trees only when the root ball is not stable.

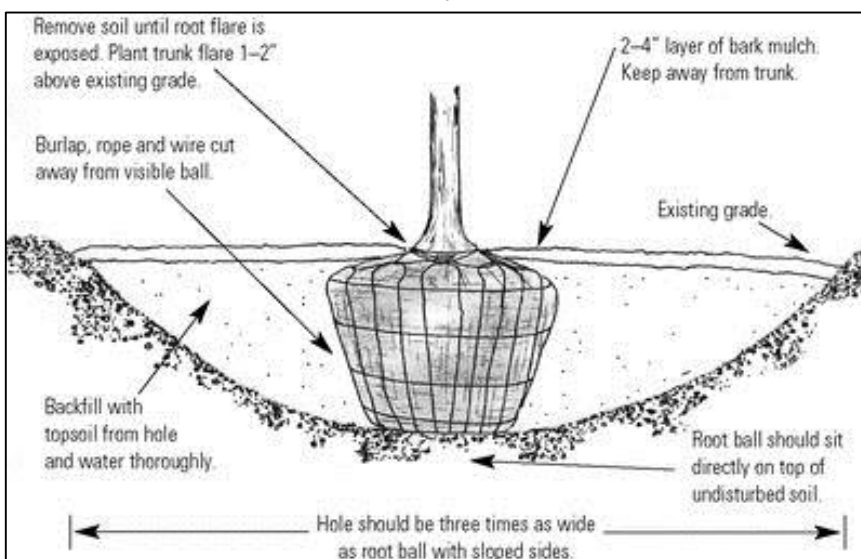
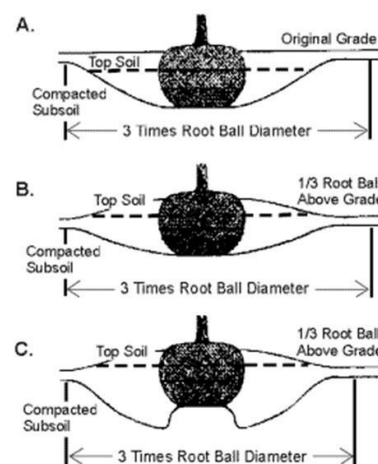


Figure 2. Planting Hole Modification



#### Tree maintenance

- Newly planted trees will be watered with root stimulator and Super Thrive when showing stress throughout the growing season.
- All young trees are fertilized using soil injections once a year.
- Mature trees are fertilized using soil injections every other year.
- Throughout the growing season trees are cleaned of any dead or broken limbs and pruned to keep all roads and sidewalks clear for pedestrians.
- Lower scaffold branches are not removed off any trees to a height more than 1/3 of the total tree height. Reduction cuts must be used until this minimum requirement is met for complete limb removal.

#### c. Prohibited species

- All plants listed by the GA-EPPC as a category 1 invasive species will not be planted on the campus. All existing invasive plant colonies will be removed and treated with the appropriate chemicals to kill the root system.

#### d. Storm response and recovery

- In the event of a catastrophic event, large debris from the roads will be cleared first and all areas with partially fallen trees will be flagged off.
- Next, plant operations and the grounds department will be split into two crews. Crew one will drop the partially fallen trees previously identified, while the other crew will begin clearing the walkways to the building entrances.
- After all fallen debris and safety hazards are addressed, plant operations will contract an ISA certified master arborist to assess the damage and identify the proper corrective measures on remaining trees to ensure public safety.

#### V. Protection and preservation procedures

- Before beginning any construction the tree critical root zones must be protected using 4' orange construction fencing. One foot per DBH inch is the minimum, but on large stressed trees Arborist may request one and a half feet per DBH inch.
- During the construction this area is to remain at the original grade, using retention walls when necessary. The area is to be entirely off limits during the entire construction project and cannot be used for storage or parking.
- All utilities will be directed around the critical root zone barrier, but when necessary, the use of directional boring equipment is permitted at the appropriate depth.
- All contractors, students, and employees caught damaging landscape material are held responsible for the costs of replacement to the preexisting conditions.

## VI. Goals and targets

- A digital tree inventory covering the entire campus has been developed and available online for the public. Plant services goal is to keep good documentation on all planting projects in order to efficiently manage the reforestation process.
- Educate the public on the difference between a vigorous tree and a declining tree and the required maintenance to keep a young tree vigorous.

## VII. Tree damage assessment

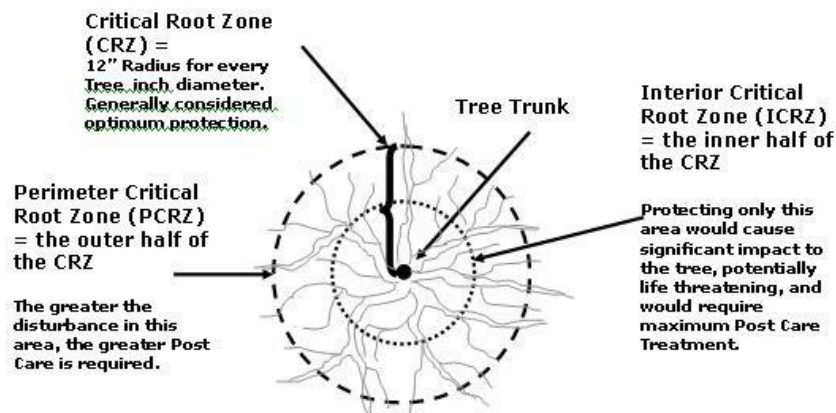
- Plant operations certified arborist will assess all damaged trees. Results from the evaluation will determine whether the tree should be removed, pruned, or treated.

## VIII. Prohibited practices

- Driving through, parking or storing equipment in the critical root zone.
- Trenching in the critical root zones.
- Changing grade within the critical root zone.
- Applying mulch directly to the trunk of the trees.
- Mulch will not exceed a depth of 4"

## IX. Definition of terminology related to campus trees.

- Canopy trees: A tree that will grow to a mature height of at least 40 feet with a spread of at least 30 feet.
- Critical root zone: an area of soil surrounding a tree that should be left undisturbed to give a tree a reasonable chance at survival as shown in the diagram below.



- GA-EPPC: Georgia Exotic Plant Pest Council
- ISA: International Society of Arboriculture

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X. Communication Strategy

- The tree advisory committee shall organize the Spring Garden Symposium and National Planting Day each year. These events will be used to increase awareness about Middle Georgia State College's tree care plan.
- A biannually brochure will be sent out to local residents informing them of current garden events.