

Tree Removal and Pruning Procedure

(Revised January 13, 2005)

The Campus Land Use Committee shall consent to all tree removals and pruning projects on the Evergreen campus except as noted in this procedure. The CLUC facilitates an open process for public notification and public hearings before action is taken, as outlined in this procedure.

Generally, trees at Evergreen are not pruned or removed unless they pose a hazard, interfere with proposed construction, or will damage building foundations or other infrastructure. Tree removals or severe pruning that fall under the purview of the CLUC may be deliberated by e-mail or placed on the agenda for discussion at a regularly scheduled meeting, at the discretion of a chair.

Notifying the campus community about a tree removal or pruning, listening to the communities concerns, and proper record keeping are among the goals of this procedure. Therefore announcements regarding tree removal or pruning will be made by:

- 1) Sending an e-mail to the CLUC Distribution List.
- 2) Posting a notice at the tree.
- 3) Sending an e-mail to the TESCCRIER email list.
- 4) Sending an e-mail to persons requesting notification.

Tree Removal and Pruning Exempt from CLUC Review and Within the Sole Discretion of the Director of Facilities:

- * Routine pruning of ornamental trees.
- * The annual sycamore pollarding.
- * Removal of limbs that pose a safety hazard to pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
- * Limb and brush removals that block sign visibility.
- * Brush and limb removals that impede access to fire hydrants, shut off valves, utility vaults and mechanical or emergency equipment.
- * Removal of limbs that interfere with walkway lighting.
- * Removal of downed trees that block sanctioned trails.
- * Removal of limbs and brush that interfere with roadway visibility and safety.
- * Removal of trees that pose an immediate threat to life safety.
- * Removal of trees that threaten public roads or power lines.
- * Removal of limbs and brush pursuant to safety requirements of Thurston County or McLane Fire District.

Evergreen's Criteria for Identifying Hazardous Trees:

A “hazard tree” has a defect or defects and a target. A defect is evidence that the tree is failing or is likely to fail. There are seven main types of tree defects: dead wood, cracks, weak branch unions, decay, cankers, root problems, and poor tree architecture. A target can be a vehicle, building, a place where people gather such as a parking area, park

bench, picnic table, street, paved area, trail or backyard that is within striking distance of the tree. Recognizing and inspecting trees and managing them strikes a balance between conservation and environmental preservation, and safety to persons and property. A low probability that a person will be in a target area beneath a hazard tree at the instant the tree falls does not constitute a rationale for letting the tree stand.

Inspection of Hazardous Trees:

Suspected hazardous trees will be inspected regularly: approximately annually or more frequently if necessary. Tree inspections can be done at any time of year, leaf-on or leaf-off. A thorough inspection regime includes inspection after leaf drop in fall, leaf-out in spring, and after severe wind, icing or precipitation.

Trees will be inspected carefully and systematically. All parts of the tree will be examined, including the roots, root or trunk flare, main stem, branches, and branch unions. All sides of the tree will be examined. A pair of binoculars will be used to inspect branches high in the canopy, if necessary. An increment borer will be used if interior decay is suspected. In cases of uncertainty, a resist-o-graph test can also measure decay.

Habitat Stumps:

Tall stumps for habitat of wildlife will be left where practicable.