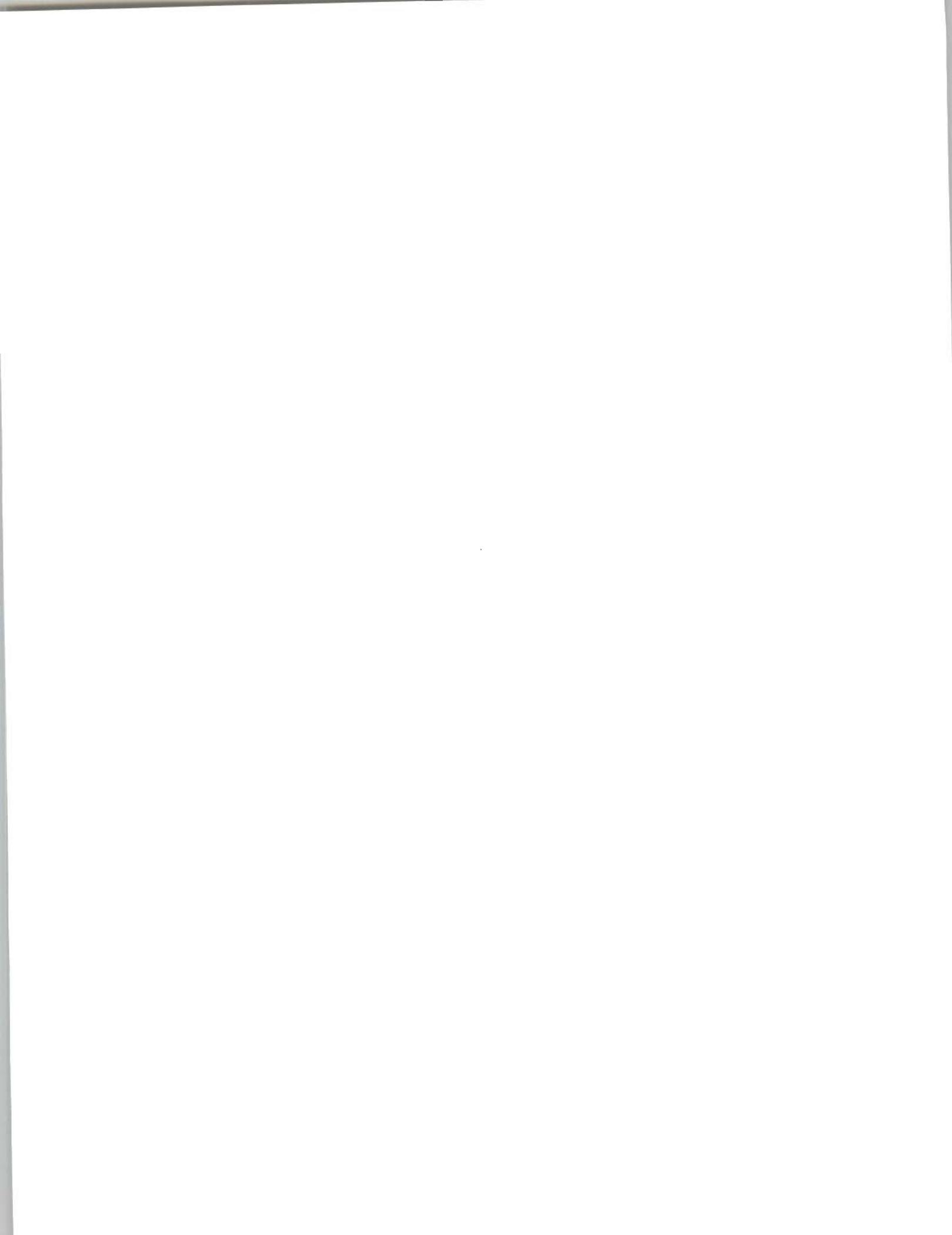


# Campus Tree Care Plan For Lake Land College

## Part One: Introduction and Purpose

Lake Land College prides itself on a beautiful, inviting campus and has become a leader in the community toward promoting and providing education including, and focused on, sustainability. The purpose of this tree care plan is to continue these efforts, as well as to promote the stated core values of the college by investigating, developing and implementing practices regarding the planting, maintenance, protection, and removal of trees on the campus. The plan is designed to continuously improve the aesthetics of the campus and increase tree species diversity, providing additional educational opportunities for students and the local community. Specifically, the plan will include:

- maintaining** a diverse landscape with a wide range of tree species, with special focus on native species;
- encouraging** the college and local community to respect and value the aesthetic, social, and environmental benefits of a healthy and diverse tree landscape;
- continuing** membership in both the Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture;
- consulting** the Best Management Practices (BMTs) of the Society, as well as the American Standard for Nursery Stock of the American Nursery and Landscape Association;
- conducting** an inventory of existing trees on campus and monitoring species diversity to facilitate instruction of courses such as BIO 111, General Botany, BIO 130, Environmental Science, HRT 061, Woody Plants Identification, HRT 201, Introduction to Horticulture, as well as any course, workshop, or public school activity related to the contribution of trees to the landscape;
- protecting** high value trees during construction and renovation projects;
- implementing** appropriate control treatment for pest management;
- identifying** hazardous trees that may harm people or property and taking appropriate, responsive action;
- replacing** trees in a reasonable manner when there is mortality due to weather, pest infestations, or construction displacement;
- and **facilitating** reasonable control of undesirable and invasive species.



## **Part Two: Responsible Department**

Under supervision of the Vice President for Business Services and Director of Physical Plant Operations, the Maintenance Department of the Business Services Division is responsible for the implementation of the Campus Tree Care Plan for Lake Land College. A Tree Advisory Committee is responsible for recommending the best methods for maintaining and improving campus garden areas, trees, and landscape plants.

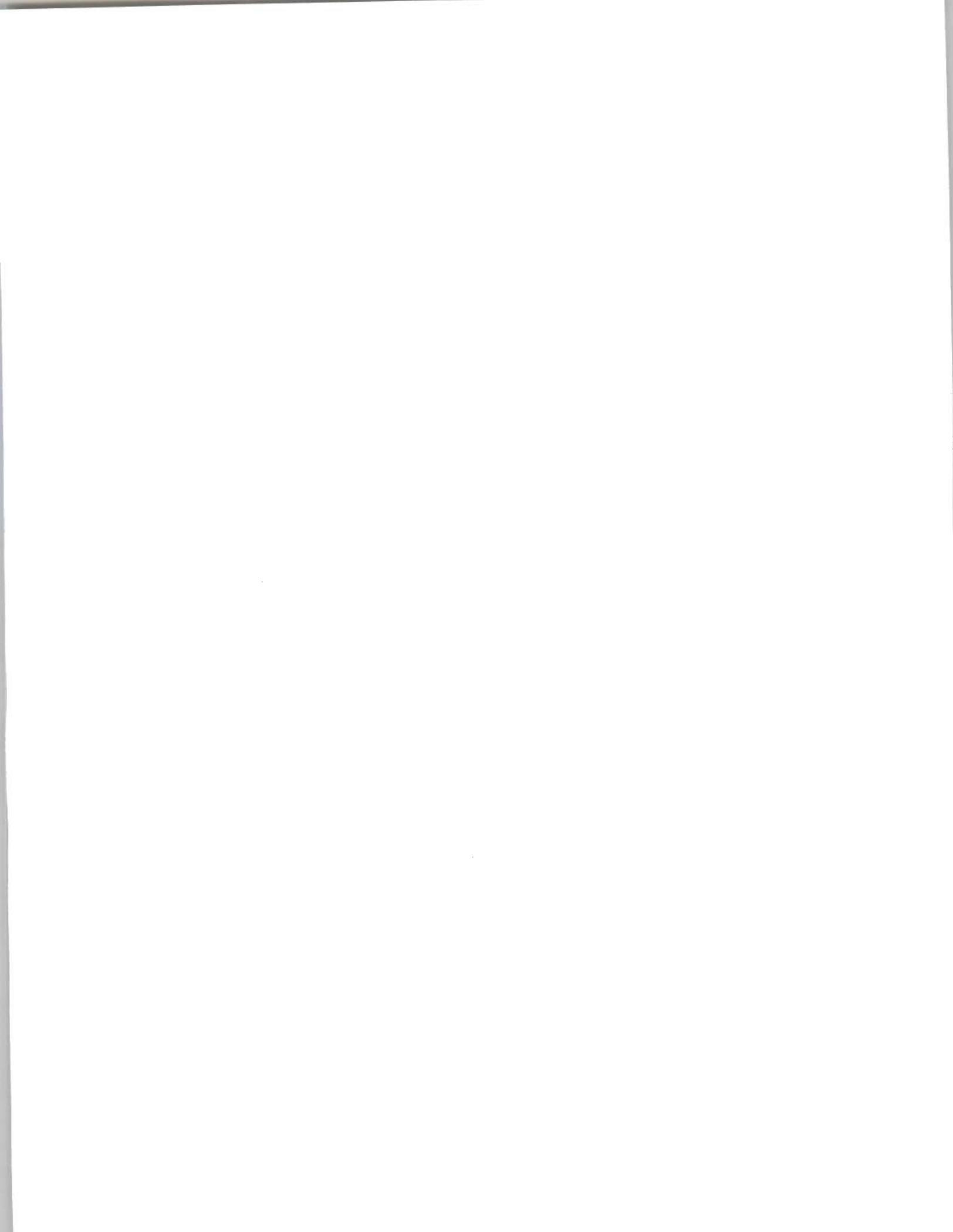
## **Part Three: Campus Tree Advisory Committee**

The Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of Lake Land College faculty, staff, and students, as well as community members with expertise in tree care practices or demonstrated interest and additional expertise in areas related to the purposes of the campus tree care plan. The committee will meet biannually to discuss campus tree establishment, health, and maintenance, as well as outreach activities improving and utilizing the campus tree landscape. The committee will also be available for consultation in all tree-related matters on campus. Membership of the committee is on a voluntary basis, with no term limit, and the chair will be determined every two years by a consensus of those present at the designated meeting for selection. Meeting agendas and minutes will be prepared and made available by the committee chair.

## **Part Four: Campus Tree Care Policies**

The college employs a full time Master Gardener who, under supervision of the Vice President for Business Services and Director of Physical Plant Operations, is responsible for the implementation of campus tree care policies in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards and the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) safety standards. Best Management Practices of the Society will be observed to ensure plant requirements are met and trees are being cared for in the most appropriate manner.

**Planting:** Trees selected for planting will be determined based on recommendation made by the Master Gardener, individuals serving on the TAC, and instructors of Horticulture, Botany, Sustainability, and Environmental Science courses. Final approval/disapproval will be determined by the person serving in the position of Master Gardener and/or appropriate supervisory staff, with the TAC made available to serve in an advisory capacity. Selection will be based on an approved tree list maintained by the TAC representing trees native to Illinois and the recognition of ornamental/exotic trees that are well-adapted to specific conditions such as site drainage or soil properties. Prohibited species will be those that are not adapted to site conditions, or that are known to be invasive. The donation of trees by local individuals, nurseries, businesses, or organizations is encouraged, but subject to the approval/disapproval process. Quality specimens, without any known physical damage, visible stress, or pest/disease problems are required for planting.



**Landscaping:** Native and exotic trees selected for planting according to the Campus Tree Care Plan for Lake Land College will be utilized in landscaping projects for improved aesthetic value of the college campus. Selected specimens of existing plant material will be utilized in Lake Land College curriculum, in-house training, and site development projects that provide or apply practical landscape design skills through processes such as plant selection, computer-aided design, site plan analysis, and cost estimation.

### **Tree Maintenance:**

--Soil tests will determine **fertilization** needs, and the application of chemical fertilizer will be carefully monitored and controlled. When necessary, a slow release fertilizer will be used for campus trees.

--All campus trees will be monitored for **insect and disease** problems, and appropriate control methods will be implemented. Integrated Pest Management practices will be used to treat and/or prevent infestations of harmful insects, fungi, and bacteria.

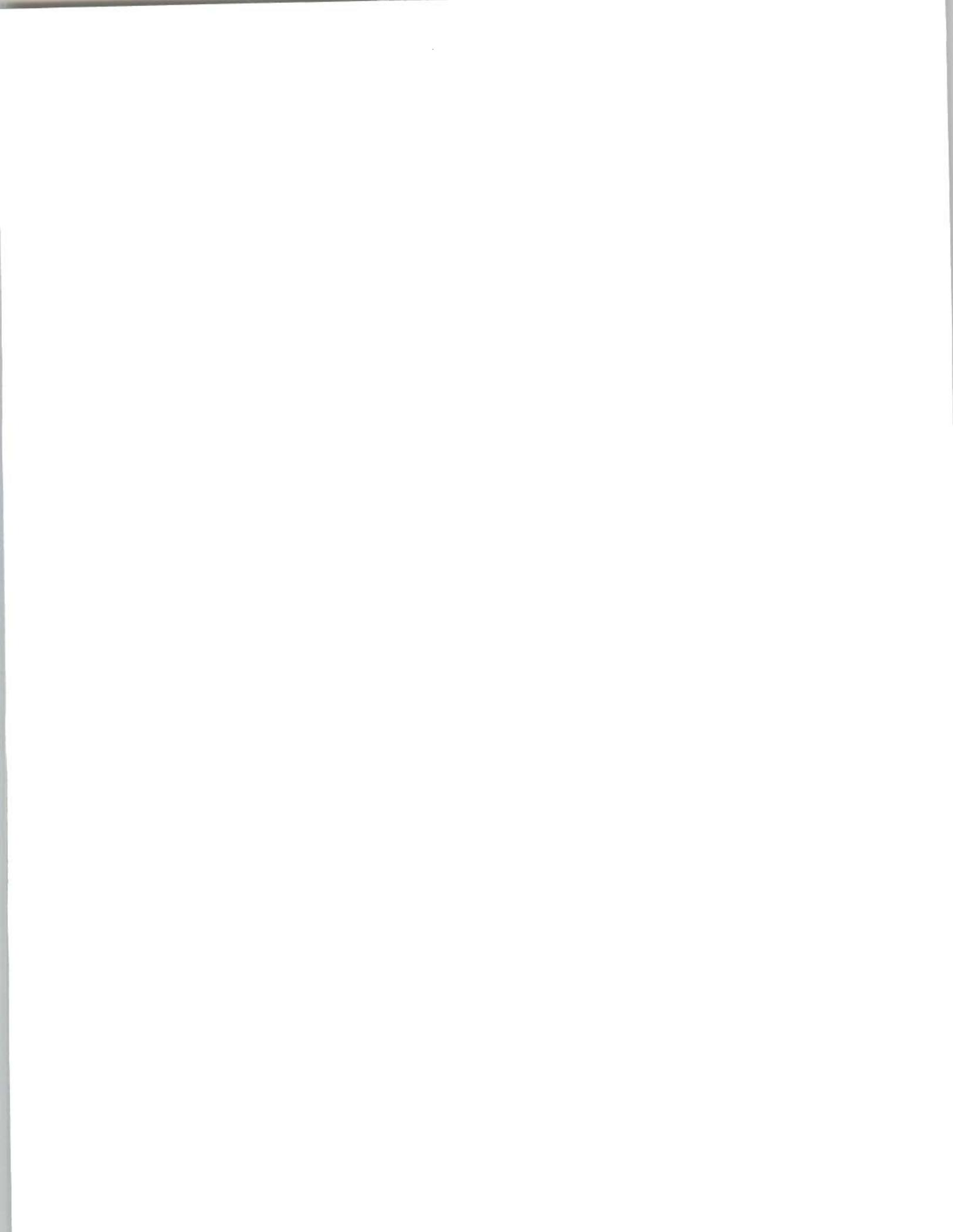
--**Mulch** will be applied each year to trees with a six inch caliper measurement or less. Newly planted trees will have a ring of mulch 2-4" deep, remaining at least two inches from the trunk flare. Additional mulch will be added annually to maintain a weed-free zone and general tree health.

--All reasonable efforts will be made to provide structural **pruning** each year for trees less than seven years old, and every 2-5 years for trees seven to twenty years old. Likewise, maintenance pruning will be conducted every 5-7 years for trees over twenty years old. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards will be followed for all tree pruning on campus.

--**Staking** of trees at planting will not be required practice, but provided when determined necessary.

**Tree Removal:** Deceased and potentially hazardous trees will be designated for removal by approval of the director of Physical Plant Services, who will consult the TAC. Hazardous trees are recognized as those that exhibit a significant defect which may cause part, or all, of the tree to fall on people or property. The TAC should be consulted in cases of construction displacement before removal.

**Extreme Circumstances:** Fallen trees and tree debris resulting from severe weather, traffic accidents, fire, or other catastrophic events will be removed by Lake Land College staff or by an outside tree removal contractor. The recovery plan for extreme circumstances first involves clearing debris from campus roads and access points to critical buildings. Salvageable trees will be pruned to restore health and appearance, while unsalvageable trees will be removed. Fallen and unsalvageable trees will be replaced as is reasonable over time to restore and, where possible, improve the quality of the campus landscape.



## **Part Five: Protection and Preservation Policies/Procedures:**

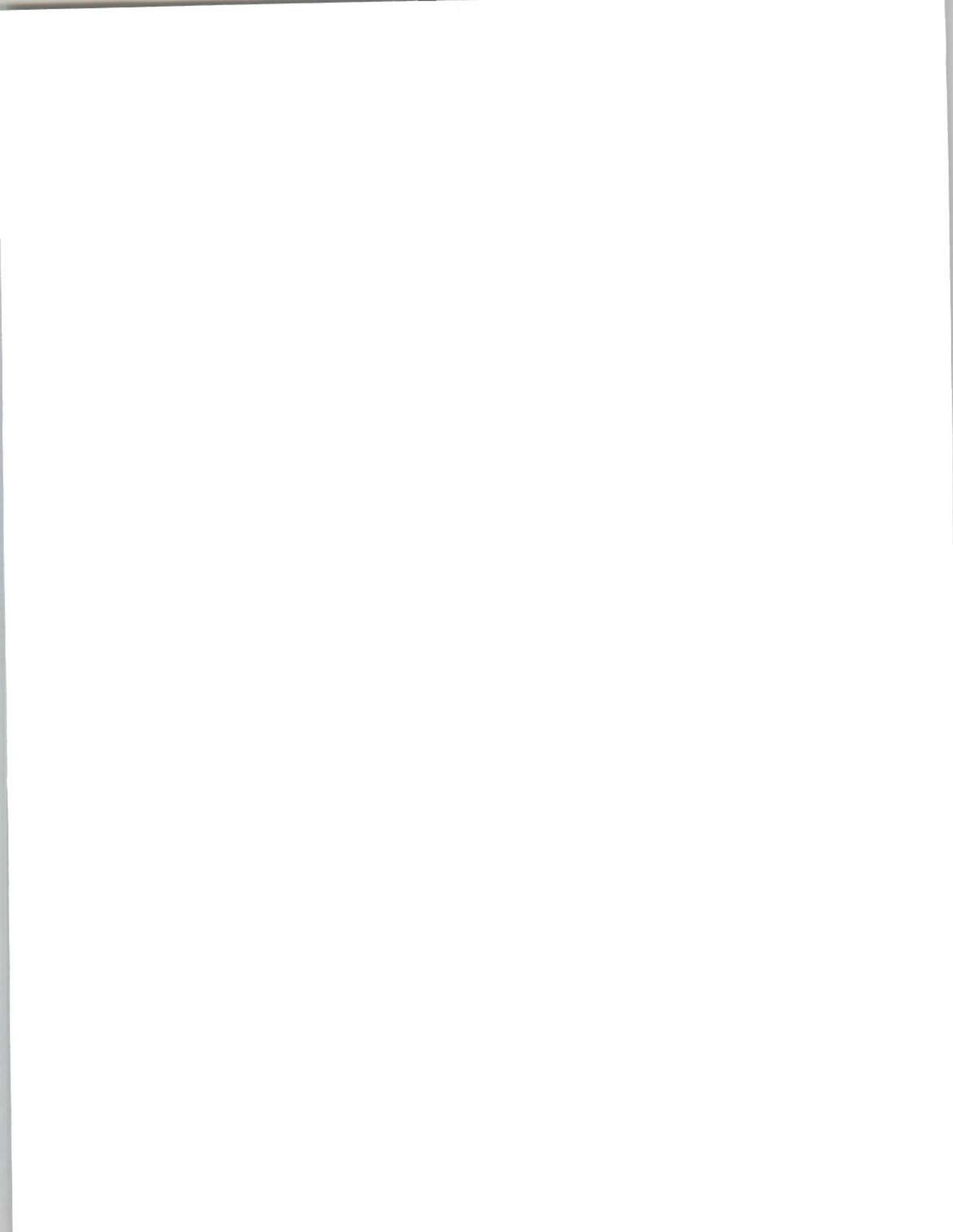
--Construction activities at Lake Land College will be conducted in a manner that minimizes damage to the trunks and root systems of protected trees on the site. When protected trees are imminently endangered due to space constraints at a construction site, tree protection fencing will be installed around all trees to be preserved. Wood, plastic, or chain link fencing will be used at the discretion of the Maintenance Department. Trees to be protected will primarily be mature, high-value trees of desirable species that demonstrate good form and vigor, with a diameter at breast height (dbh) of 10-24 inches. The TAC should be consulted regarding any tree with unique value being considered for protection. Fencing will be installed with a six-foot minimum radius around smaller trees, with a dbh of less than five inches. Larger trees will have fencing installed at a ratio of 1.25 feet or radius per inch of dbh. Pouring or disposal of construction-related substances, storage of equipment or construction materials, and vehicle parking will be prohibited within tree protection fencing.

--Specimen trees near public access areas such as cross-country courses, nature trails, and the frisbee golf course will be marked or otherwise attended to in a fashion that allows them to enhance the feature rather than being put in harm's way by the feature.

## **Part Six: Targets and Goals**

The sustainability promotion and education efforts at Lake Land College include a "Zero Net Energy Use (ZEB)" Building and wind, solar, and geothermal energy utilization, as well as designated and/or natural woodland, prairie, and water ecosystems. The college also hosts a highly recognized, annual Renewable Energy Conference. The Campus Tree Care Plan will be linked to these other green initiatives by providing environmental benefits, such as increased public awareness of sustainability efforts, improved air quality, soil and water protection, and enhanced wildlife habitat. Additionally, the plan will provide Lake Land College with a healthy and safe tree landscape that improves the aesthetic value of the campus and generates pride and appreciation among its employees and public constituencies. In keeping with the overall mission of the college, the landscaping considerations, inventory and planting efforts, and preservation policies will increase the measurable resources available for specific environmental and horticultural courses, as well as other educational and community outreach programs. Specified priorities of the college's tree care plan are:

- Maintaining and/or increasing the **diversity** of tree species present in the college landscape;
- Incorporating **native species** into the college landscape whenever possible;
- Promoting **education and outreach** in regards to the intrinsic value of trees within the community served by the college and beyond its district whenever possible;
- and **sharing** its wealth of tree-related amenities with any and all visitors, including students, staff and community members.



## **Part Seven: Tree Damage Assessment**

The college's Master Gardener will be responsible for the assessment of damaged trees. The TAC will be available for consultation and review before action is taken. When the Master Gardener cannot make a determination regarding damage due to insects, disease, severe weather or construction activities, the consensus determination of the TAC will be accepted, or damaged trees will be assessed by a certified arborist from outside the college, when deemed necessary. Violations of protection measures will be enforced through the Business Services Division, which includes the Facilities Planning Department and Physical Plant Services. The person or company in violation will be required to bring the activity into compliance with policy and may incur related costs.

## **Part Eight: Prohibited Practices**

Prohibited tree species are those that are not adapted to site conditions or that are known to be invasive species. Trees to be planted for dedication on campus must first be approved by Development Services (Foundation Office) and the director of Physical Plant Services. The TAC should be consulted before damaged trees are treated or removed.

Topping, heading back, and practices that lead to "lion's tail" appearance are prohibited practices as they may cause unnecessary stress or compromise the aesthetic qualities of the tree.

## **Part Nine: Definitions and Explanations**

--**Caliper:** the diameter or thickness of the main stem of a young tree or sapling as measured at six inches above ground level.

--**Diameter at Breast Height (dbh):** the diameter of the stem of a tree measured at breast height (4.5 feet or 1.37 meters) from the ground.

--**Exotic Tree:** tree species introduced from another country or geographic region outside its natural range.

--**Hazardous Tree:** a tree that has been identified as a potential risk for failure that would cause injury to a person or damage property.

--**Invasive Tree:** tree species able to survive, reproduce, and spread, unaided, sometimes at alarming rates.

--**Native Tree:** a tree species that occurs naturally and is indigenous to the region.



## **Definitions, continued**

--**Ornamental Tree:** tree species planted in a garden or landscape setting, as opposed to a natural area, for its flowering habit or other desirable aspect of appearance; it may or may not be exotic.

--**Staking:** supporting plants or cuttings with stakes to protect against wind-rocking and promote straight growth.

--**Sustainability:** programs and activities designed to foster the capacity to endure; maintaining diversity and productivity with minimal interruption of natural processes.

-- **TAC:** acronym for the Tree Advisory Committee of Lake Land College.

## **Part Ten: Communication Strategy**

Once approved through the appropriate processes, the Campus Tree Care Plan for Lake Land College will be made available on the college's intranet. It will be submitted to the college's Communication and Creative Services Department for posting on the college's web site and press release. Access to the document will be reported in the "Laker Low Down," the internal newsletter of the college.

The college recognizes an "open door" communication strategy and will promote and maintain a transparent network of communication between Administration, Physical Plant Operations, the Tree Advisory Committee and all volunteers of tree-related service.

