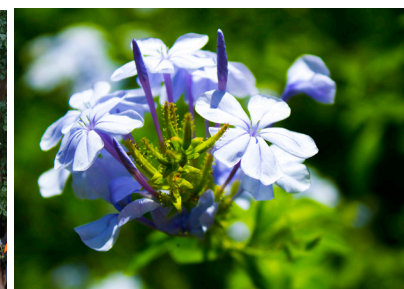


CAMPUS TREE CARE REPORT



PROPOSAL FOR SUSTAINING A HEALTHY AND VIBRANT CAMPUS COMMUNITY FOREST



**"THE EARTH IS NOT
A MERE FRAGMENT OF
DEAD HISTORY,
STRATUM UPON STRATUM
LIKE THE LEAVES
OF A BOOK,
TO BE STUDIED
BY GEOLOGISTS AND
ANTIQUARIES CHIEFLY,
BUT LIVING POETRY
LIKE THE LEAVES
OF A TREE,
WHICH PRECEDE
FLOWERS AND FRUIT --
NOT A FOSSIL EARTH,
BUT A LIVING EARTH..."**

~HENRY DAVID THOREAU

CAMPUS TREE CARE REPORT

CONTRIBUTORS

DR. ALEXIS RACELIS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

SALVADOR ALEMANI

RGV REGIONAL URBAN FORESTER
TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

DR. FRANK DIRRIGL

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

EDWARD KUPREL

EDINBURG CITY FORESTER

DR. HUDSON DEYOE

PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

MARK KROEZE

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

MARIANELLA FRANKLIN

DIRECTOR FOR SUSTAINABILITY

KAREN VILLARREAL

GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN
OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

SAYEED WADUD

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

JACOB CHAPA

INTERN
OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

SAI MULLAPUDI

BUSINESS ECON
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

JOSUE D. ESPARZA

PHOTOGRAPHER
UTPA OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JORGE CANTU

GRADUATE STUDENT
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

**UTRGV OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

**UTRGV OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

UTRGV OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

UTRGV GRADUATE COLLEGE

**UTRGV OFFICE OF FACILITIES, PLANNING,
AND OPERATION**

LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS

UTRGV INFORMATION SYSTEMS CENTER

UTRGV COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM
AGROECOLOGICAL PROGRAM

UTRGV CENTER FOR SUBTROPICAL STUDIES

CITY OF EDINBURG

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND
EXTENSION CENTER AT WESLACO**

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY CAMPUS TREE CARE REPORT

4 INTRODUCTION

5 STANDARD 1 CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 STANDARD 2 RESPONSIBILITY DEPARTMENT CAMPUS ARBOREAL PRACTICES

6 STANDARD 3 CAMPUS TREE PROGRAM ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

9 STANDARD 4 ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE

12 STANDARD 5 SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY AIMS TO HAVE A WELL MAINTAINED CAMPUS COMMUNITY FOREST.

The benefits the forest will provide are myriad. Large trees give us a sense of place and belonging by ensuring landmarks for the future, and add aesthetic beauty to the campus by softening the linearity of its structures. Around campus, trees in parking lots and by sidewalks provide relief from the hot Texas sun, while adequate canopy cover on campus provides shade and pollution-removal capabilities (with abundant leaf surface area on which to deposit, pollutants and particulates are filtered from the air). Clean air, low temperatures, and comfortable areas make recreational opportunities such as socialization and/or improving health possible and enjoyable.

Nearby streets and buildings enjoy reduced energy costs due to the shade provided by the tree forests, and increased property value and business traffic due to their beauty. Trees also serve as strategic barriers to reduce noise, glare, and odors at key places around town.

In addition to making our lives more comfortable, trees are vital for the environment.

Trees provide abundant canopy cover to help reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion, adequate cover, and nutrients to sustain a diverse wildlife population, which UTRGV plans for, and maintains a structured feel on the campus grounds. No one species comprises more than ten percent of the population, and trees planted are native /adaptive species appropriate for the region.

Well-maintained trees reduce hazards, and low-maintenance trees reduce operating costs. Trees selected for planting on UTRGV campuses are wind resistant, strong-wooded, have aesthetically pleasing autumn colors, and provide beautiful seasonal flowers. The trees that make up the forest are a good mixture of small, medium, and large trees optimized for the available space. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley maintains adequate tree canopy cover by planting trees, assisting with developing tree ordinances and tree-related policies. Student, staff, and faculty, along with city foresters, help reduce labor costs while volunteering to inventory,

plant and maintain trees. The Office for Sustainability also provides training and development workshops to further educational efforts related to urban forestry.

UTRGV understands the importance of having healthy trees in the city and on the campus. The university contributes to sustainability goals by providing periodic tree maintenance training to its staff, providing necessary funding to ensure the sustainability of the community forest, contracting arboricultural services to ISA certified arborists with appropriate experience, and encouraging cooperation and coordination among municipal departments where trees are involved.

STANDARD 1

CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Campus Tree Advisory Committee is comprised of UTRGV faculty, staff, a student, and both local and state foresters. The committee was established October 21, 2013 and meets biannually to provide important input for tree care and campus landscape improvement. The committee is tasked with providing guidance for future planning, approval of a campus master tree plan, educating the campus and community on the value of trees, providing recommendations concerning tree removal and planting, and establishing goals for increasing the number of trees on campus.



"I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues. And I'm asking you sir, at the top of my lungs - that thing! That horrible thing that I see! What's that thing you've made out of my truffula tree?"

"Yes, I am the Lorax who speaks for the trees, which you seem to be chopping as fast as you please. But I'm also in charge of the brown Bar-ba-loots, who played in the shade in their Bar-ba-loot suits and happily lived eating truffula fruits. Now, thanks to your hacking my trees to the ground, there's not enough truffula fruit to go 'round!"

- DR. THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DR. ALEXIS RACELIS - CHAIR



Dr. Alexis Racelis is an assistant professor of Environmental Science in the Department of Biology at the University of Texas Pan-American. He joined UTPA in January 2013 after spending four years as a research ecologist with the USDA. In response to the challenges of balancing agricultural and urban development in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Alex has initiated a research and student training program at UTPA in urban and agroecology, with the ultimate goals of elucidating patterns in landowner decision-making and how they relate to environmental and social health, with the eventual goal integrating findings into local food and urban policies, and arming local students with techniques in ecological research, as well as leadership and effective communication skills to best make positive impacts in their own communities.

MARIANELLA FRANKLIN - VICE CHAIR



Marianella Franklin has been with UTPA since 2002, managing projects for Facilities Planning and Construction. She earned her Bachelor in Architecture from Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico. Marianella was transitioned into Director of the Office for Sustainability shortly after receiving her certification as Leadership in Energy and Environment Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP), putting UTPA among the first to begin a sustainability office in the UT system. Mrs. Franklin's passion for sustainability began from her desire to improve quality of design within architecture, which quickly spread to a concern of overall lifestyle for both campus and community.

SAI MULLAPUDI - SECRETARY/TREASURER



Sai Mullapudi is a Research Associate at the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) in Edinburg, Texas, as part of his responsibilities he oversees and directs the Data and Information Systems Center (DISC) under the Division of Community Engagement at UTPA. Mr. Mullapudi holds a master's degree in Science in Information Technology from the University of Texas-Pan American, a master's degree in Business Management from Andhra University and Diploma in Systems Management from National Institute of Information Technology.

SAYEED WADUD



Sayeed Wadud is Assistant Director of UTPA Facilities Management. He previously worked five years with the UTPA DEHS, as a Safety Specialist/Coordinator and Worked 7 years as teaching assistant at UTPA Biology Department. Wadud has ten years of industrial and organizational working experience (Coa Cola, US AID) as well as a B.Sc. Food Science & Technology, MS in Computer Science, and has completed all the course work for a MS in Biology.

CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DR. FRANK DIRRIGL



Dr. Frank Dirrigl is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science in the Environmental Science Program, Department of Biology, The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA). As a professional Environmental Scientist with more than 25 years' experience, he has written over 85 technical reports. He established at UTPA the Lower Rio Grande Valley Biomonitoring Laboratory to conduct research on the response of indicator species and species guilds to land-use development (urbanization and agricultural). A focus of his work is to use biomonitoring techniques for assessing the potential impacts from environmental engineering structural designs on water quality and environmental health.

DR. HUDSON DEYOE



Dr. Hudson DeYoe is a professor in the UTPA Biology and Director of the Center for Subtropical Studies. His expertise is in ecology with a focus on aquatic ecology. Hudson DeYoe earned his Ph.D. in biology from Bowling Green State University in 1991. Dr. DeYoe is interested in finding solutions to reduce or avoid impacts to South Texas coastal waters and ecosystems. His current research is primarily on human impacts on water quality.

JORGE CANTU - PROJECT COORDINATOR



Jorge graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Sam Houston State University. During his undergraduate he worked with an invasive plant parasite, *Orobanchae ramosa*, and its distribution in neighboring cities. He actively helped with collections, pressing, and dissecting of the parasitic plants. He also worked with riparian plant communities, focusing on species biodiversity as the geomorphology of the creek changed. Both of these projects helped prepare Jorge for his work as a graduate student at UTPA where he is leading a campus wide project to help UTPA join the Tree Campus USA Initiative. By becoming a Tree Campus College UTPA will instill pride in our green space, with proper maintenance and control.

SALVADOR ALEMANI



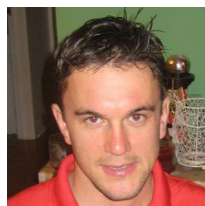
Salvador Alemani earned a Master of Science from Yale University's School of Forestry. Alemani has been a Rio Grande Valley Regional Urban Forester for the Texas Forest Service since 2009. He has served on various committees about planning and as an expert witness in two cases regarding the economic and environmental costs of transplanting trees. With more than 25 years of forestry experience, he was an invaluable member of the UTPA Forestry Team which conducted a campus-wide forestry survey to help UTPA qualify for Tree Campus USA.

EDWARD KUPREL



Edward attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, and received an Associates degree in Forest Technology. He later received a BS Forestry from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. He is very active with many of the city tree plantings and reforestation projects in the Rio Grande Valley. He has been a City Forester in Brownsville and Edinburg for the last several years. He is a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture and firmly believes in and teaching their practices to RGV tree care and landscape companies.

MARK KROEZE



Mark is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and currently works for the Texas A&M Forest Service. His is responsible for working with municipalities and their urban forestry programs in a 42 county region from Del Rio to Rockport. He is a Certified Forester, Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist and a graduate of the Municipal Foresters Institute. He has worked in the forestry departments for the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota and McAllen, TX. He has worked as an arborist in Auckland, New Zealand.



STANDARD 2

A. RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT

The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley Facilities Management Landscape and Grounds Department is responsible for all major decisions regarding the care of campus trees. The grounds department manager will bring issues to the associate vice president for facilities planning and operations, who will in turn make recommendations to the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, to be taken if other than just standard arboriculture tree care is required.



CAMPUS TREE CARE PLAN

B. CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As indicated in Standard 1, and per policy, the committee will meet biannually and at the call of the chair. Permanent members include two UTRGV biology faculty, staff, two community representatives, and one student graduate research assistant. The committee is tasked to assist in providing guidance for future planning, approval of a campus master plan, educate the campus population on the value of trees, provide recommendations concerning Heritage tree removals, and per the campus tree inventory designate status of trees. The committee will also establish goals for increasing the number of trees on campus.

C. CAMPUS TREE CARE POLICIES



Selection of acceptable plant material will be chosen per the University of Texas System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction Design Guidelines. All trees selected are to be native/adaptive to Texas and preferably the South Texas region. Some adaptive plants may be deemed acceptable based on site and special use agreements. Only trees 2" or larger caliper, B&B, trees will be planted on campus. No plastic tub containerized trees will be used. University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley Grounds Department follows the campus arboreal practices as outlined below when maintaining campus trees, as specified by the tree inventory and general requirements outlined in Appendices B, E, and F of the UT System Design Guidelines.

I. PLANT SELECTION

Due to biodiversity being important in this area, tree species approval is prioritized by natives, diversity, and aesthetics. Adaptive species are favored, but native/adaptive ornamentals are used to increase biodiversity, as to not create an unequal abundance of only a few species.

- a. New trees are planted with every construction project.
- b. UTRGV Facilities Management and the Campus Tree Advisory Committee has used and continues to use the species list provided by the City of Edinburg, Texas. The Campus Tree Advisory Committee may submit additions and recommend specific species or cultivars that are absent or underrepresented in the campus.
- c. Invasive plants are avoided in tree plantings.

II. PRUNING

Trees will be inspected on regular campus site visits and any problems will be noted for prioritized maintenance scheduling. Trees adjacent to heavy trafficked areas will be inspected annually for safety and clearance issues. Pruning schedules established in the tree inventory are used to dictate when to prune. Under no circumstances will trees be pollarded as that creates unhealthy conditions for the tree. Storm damage and emergency pruning takes priority over other campus work in order to provide campus users with a safe environment. The priority in pruning will be: safety, tree health, and lastly aesthetics.

PRUNING, CONT.

A clear objective or a necessary outcome is needed to be allowed to prune. Use proper pruning techniques and preventive pruning and plan for the future to reduce responsive pruning.

- Attempt to not damage branch bark ridge and branch collar.
- Unless for a storm response or crown restoration, Internodal cuts are not allowed.

CROWN CLEANING

Thinning with the goal to remove dead, diseased, dying, and defective branches to improve tree health, appearance, and safety. Large branches should be removed with the aid of rigging equipment to minimize risk.

CROWN THINNING

Thinning with the goal to remove overall density of the branches to improve visibility and decrease wind load.

- Branches with a strong U-shaped crotch are favored. Branches with weak V-shaped crotches are removed.
- Lateral branches are evenly spaced on the main stem of young trees, when possible.
- Remove rubbing branches.
- Lateral branches are no more than one-half to three-quarters of the diameter of the main stem to discourage co-dominant stem development.
- Never remove more than one-quarter of the living crown of a tree in one time frame. If it is a must, remove over successive years.

CROWN RAISING

Raising for the vertical clearance for roads, signs, street lights, and structures.

- Always maintain live branches on at least two-thirds of a tree's total height. The removal of too much will hinder the trees development.
- Remove basal and epicormic sprouts.

CROWN REDUCTION

Reduction with the goal to decrease overall height and the reduction in length of an individual branch.

- Only use when necessary. Make a pruning cut at a lateral branch that is at least one – third the diameter of the stem to be removed.
- If it is necessary to remove more than half the foliage of a branch, remove the entire branch.

DEAD LIMB REMOVAL

Limb removal with the goal to improve tree health and safety of the area. The use of equipment may be necessary to minimize risk.

TREE SPECIES ON CAMPUS

Quercus virginiana
(Live oak)

Washingtonia robusta
Mexican fan palm

Fraxinus berlandieriana
Arizona ash

Lagerstroemia indica
Common crapemyrtle

Sabal palmetto
Rio grande palmetto

Ulmus crassifolia
Cedar elm

Washingtonia fillifera
California palm

juniper spp
juniper spp

Cordia boissieri
Anacahuita

Quercus macrocarpa
Bur oak

Quercus rubra
Northern red oak

Vitex agnus-castus
Chaste tree

Pistache chinensis
Chinese pistache

Sophora secundiflora
Mescalbean

Ebonopsis ebano
Texas ebony

Diospyros texana
Texas persimmon

Ilex vomitoria
Yaupon

Prosopis glandulosa
Honey mesquite

Taxodium mucranatum
Montezuma cypress

Olea europea
Olive

Triadica sebifera
Tallowtree

Populus deltoides
Eastern cottonwood

Ehretia anacua
Knockaway

Phoenix dactylifera
Date palm

Phoenix canariensis
Canary island date palm

Chilopsis sp
Desertwillow

Taxus baccata
English yew

Delonix regia
Royal poinciana

Pittosporum tobira
Japanese pittosporum

Prunus mexicana
Mexican plum

Carya illinoensis
Pecan

Ceiba pentandra
Ceiba

Callistemon citrinus
Crimson bottlebrush

Ficus religiosa
Peepul tree

Beaucarnea recurvata
Ponytail palm

Magnolia grandiflora
Southern magnolia

Citharexylum berlandieri
Berlandier's fiddlewood

Salix nigra
Black willow

Condalia hookeri
Brazilian bluewood

Schinus terebinthifolius
Brazilian pepper

Livistona chinensis
Chinese fan palm

Koelreuteria bipinnata
Chinese flame tree

Psidium guajava
Common guava

Duranta erecta
Golden dewdrops

Eucalyptus sp
gum spp

Eriobotrya
loquat spp

Eriobotrya japonica
Loquat tree

Pachira spp
pachira spp

Punica granatum
Pomegranate

Roystonea sp
royal palm spp

Sideroxylon celastrinum
Saffron plum

Celtis laevigata
Sugarberry

Sapindus drummondii
Western soapberry

STANDARD 2



III. MULCHING

All campus tree pruning and removed tree debris is taken to a campus mulching yard where it is ground and processed for mulch. This composted mulch is placed in campus landscape beds and around campus trees to help retain moisture and reduce weeds.

MULCHING

- a. Mulch every two years for trees up to approximately 6”.
- b. With new trees, mounding is advised.

IRRIGATION

- a. Irrigation is used on new trees for six months or passed summer with a minimum of two months, whichever comes first.

FERTILIZATION

- a. Species with signs of sever nutrient deficiencies are diagnosed and fertilized if needed.
- b. Due to lawn fertilization practices, no regular tree fertilization practices are used.

PESTS AND DISEASES

- a. Infected trees are treated, and if necessary, removed.

IV. TREE REMOVAL

Removal is generally done only when trees become a hazard, disease source, or detract from the landscape.

- a. The grounds manager will identify tree issues and submit them to the Associate Vice President of Facilities and actions will be taken per policy.
- b. Trees should only be removed after consultation with the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, after a majority approve.
- c. The majority vote from the Campus Tree Advisory Committee can only be overruled after a certified arborist gives the approval after a detailed inspection.

V. STORM RESPONSE

In crisis, recovery will be first attempted in house. If the scale is too large for Facilities to handle, outside reputable sources will be sought after. The outside sources must consist of a certified arborist and crew. Storm damaged trees will be made safe if possible, until approved action can be taken. Storm-toppled trees need no approval for removal, but documentation/photographs will be recorded and presented to the Campus Tree Advisory Committee. If too much tree damage is present for immediate action, all damaged trees will be appropriately barricaded until they can be safely removed. Roads and sidewalks will be cleared first, then attention will be paid to critical building entrances and finally to campus open space until all debris is removed.

THE PRIORITY IN A CRISIS WILL BE:

- a. Removal of fallen trees that block roads and other heavily trafficked areas such as sidewalks.
- b. Clearing of fallen trees and debris from critical building entrances.
- b. Removal of hazardous branches and trees.
- c. Removal of fallen and unsalvageable trees on campus open spaces.
- d. Salvageable tree pruning and maintenance.

D. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION PRACTICES

PRESERVATION DURING DESIGN PHASE

During the design phase, any trees on the site map will be identified whose root systems and branches could be impacted by construction (may be obstructed or damaged).

- With accordance to the tree inventory, trees that are larger than 15 feet and with a DBH larger than 1 in will need to be noted.
- Trees highlighted in the above phase will be labeled as not salvageable, low priority, or high priority.

SITE PROPOSAL

- Construction site planning should avoid locating general construction sites around heavily wooded areas, unless necessary.
- Construction activities include new walkways, roads, and any other activities that increase impervious structures.
- Avoiding high-valued tree species is recommended.

CONSTRUCTION SITE PRESERVATION PRACTICES

Tree protection will be constructed using chain link fence and metal posts. The fence is to be located a minimum of three feet outside of the drip line of the tree canopy and is to be maintained throughout the project; not to be taken down for any reason without approval from the UTRGV Grounds Manager. Install and maintain a minimum of three inches composted material comprised of shredded hardwood, compost, or cypress mulch.

- Do not mechanically trench under trees. Use Air Spade Technology, hand dig, or bore underneath.
- If roots greater than one inch are encountered and severed, dig back along the root and find solid root wood, then flush cut and treat with an acceptable root sealant immediately. If the roots cannot be treated immediately, cover with moist burlap to prevent desiccation until they can be treated.
- No lighting is to be placed on trees.
- Do not pile any soil, equipment or materials under drip lines of trees- maintain original soil level for any tree remaining on site during construction.

TREE MEMORIALS

Guidelines are in place for the creation and protection of memorial and commemorative trees, benches and other tangible outdoor objects. <https://portal.utpa.edu/portal/page/portal/D75BC93C23AE6736E044000E7F4F739C>.

- The Office of Development and Advancement Services, in consultation with Facilities Management, will work with the requestor or donor to select an appropriate tree species from a University-approved list. A representative of Facilities Management will inspect and select the tree(s) at the nursery.
- The Office for Development and Advancement Services, in consultation with Facilities Management and the requestor/donor, will determine the appropriate location for the tree(s) and plaque.
- Facilities Management will oversee the installation of the tree and plaque.
- If a memorial or commemorative tree must be moved due to construction activity, right of way obstruction, ingress/egress, safety, or appropriate reason and the tree can feasibly be relocated, at a reasonable cost, Facilities Management will identify an appropriate new location, in consultation with the Office of Development and Advancement Services.
- If a tree is lost due to disease or other natural cause, the University will replace in kind, or with an appropriate alternate tree species, as determined by Facilities Management. The University will strive to retain or replace memorial trees for a period of not less than twenty (20) years.

Top: A live oak outside of the HPE2 building marks the approximate location of the original office of James (Jim) Brooks, Athletic Director, Emeritus, Pan American University. The plaque reads, "Coach Brooks served as professor and chair of health and physical education and director of athletics from 1950-1983. He dedicated his life to teaching, coaching, and the development of facilities and programs. His dreams were realized. The facilities for physical education and athletics reflect the foresight and dedication of James A. Brooks. Dedicated on the UTPA campus September 3, 1996."

Bottom Left: A tree outside the Health and Physical Education building was memorialized in 1990 in honor of Earth Day. The tree is dedicated to Louis S. deVries, a naval aviator in WWII, mathematics instructor at Edinburg Junior College, and Physical Plant Director at Pan American College and Pan American University.

Bottom Right: UTPA's Veterans Memorial Garden was memorialized in 2012 in honor of veterans of the five branches of the military. The plaque reads: "This garden is to recognize the students, faculty, staff and alumni who, through their bravery and sacrifice, have so proudly dedicated their lives to their country. We also acknowledge the families that have supported their loved ones through their time of service and ongoing commitment. The University of Texas-Pan American thanks you! You can read about the plaque-installation here: <http://www.utpa.edu/news/2012/01/utpa-installs-veteran-s-memorial-on-campus.htm>



"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. "

~Henry David Thoreau





E. GOALS AND TARGETS

All campus trees are inventoried every five years for quantity, health, and value. UTRGV Data Information Systems Center (DISC) worked with UTRGV's biology department in assisting the urban forestry team to physically tag trees while recording GPS points for GIS mapping. Using the experience of the first tree inventory on the Edinburg campus, UTRGV's goal is to expand the tree inventory process to other UTRGV campuses.

I. TREE INVENTORY

A digital tree inventory covering the core campus has been developed. When the data is placed on a web-based server, updates will be performed by the Facilities Landscape and Grounds Manager, participating Forestry professor(s), or future campus Arborist. Every five years, a tree inventory will be done. The inventory will be carried out in an interdisciplinary manner that will also work as a service learning project. A graduate student, approved by the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, will be chosen to lead a student work force to inventory the trees. As of September, the data is stored locally on a Facilities Management Department computer. The inventory may be used for campus planning purposes, tree management, academic and general public read-only access.

The inventory includes:

1. Tree species
2. Tree tag numbers
3. Maintenance types
4. Maintenance timeline
5. GPS points
6. Hazards
7. Priority Tasks
8. Dimensional data if able



GPS map showing every tree tagged with a GIS point and catalogued during the first Campus Tree Inventory. Every tree is physically labeled with a metal numbered tag.

II. TREE CANOPY AND CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

- a. Increasing the campus tree canopy is an important component, noted in the University Sustainability Campus Action Plan (SCAP).
- b. Every five years, the plan should be reviewed by the Campus Tree Advisory Committee. Any revisions should be approved by majority vote.

F. TREE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

The tree inventory will assess the state of all trees on campus every five years. In case of sudden and widespread damage, higher profile trees are assessed by an outside consultant and assessment on low profile trees is performed via the Campus Tree Advisory Committee. Enforcement of protection measures is performed by project managers and on-site engineers.

- a. In accordance with the budget, removed trees will be replaced to restore structure of the habitat.
- b. If tree is of high value, replanting the tree in a new area should be considered.
- c. Trees of low value, unsalvageable or of poor health should be removed.

G. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

I. BIKE LOCKING

Detailed UTPA Police Department policies can be read here: https://portal.utpa.edu/portal/page/portal/utpa_main/dba_home/police_home/pd_images/2011-2012%20UTPA%20Parking%20Rules%20and%20Regulations.pdf

- a. Vehicles shall not park in a manner that inflicts damage to shrubbery, trees, grass, grounds or structures.
- b. Motorcycles, Motor Scooters, Mopeds and Motor- Assisted-Bicycles shall NOT be parked by or otherwise secured to trees.
- c. Bicycles MAY NOT be secured to any tree, shrub or plant. Bicycle racks are placed at strategic points on campus.
- d. Bicycles parked or secured to trees and landscaping will be immobilized or impounded.



H. DEFINITIONS

ADAPTIVE PLANT: Any plant species which does not occur naturally within the South Texas region, but has the ability to survive in a particular ecological niche, especially because of alterations of form or behavior brought about through natural selection.

CALIPER: The diameter or thickness of the main trunk. Small trees four inches or smaller are measured six inches from the ground level.

CROWN: The crown of a woody plant (tree, shrub, liana) is the branches, leaves, and reproductive structures extending from the trunk or main stems.

DIAMETER, BREAST HEIGHT (DBH): The diameter or width of the main tree trunk measured 4.5 feet above the normal grade at its base. Whenever a branch, limb, defect or abnormal swelling of the trunk occurs at this height, the DBH shall be measured at the nearest point above or below 4.5 feet at which a normal diameter occurs.

CRITICAL ROOT ZONE (CRZ): The minimum area surrounding a tree that is considered essential to support the viability of the tree and is equal to a radius of one foot per inch of trunk diameter (CBH). Preferred method to determine the CRZ is marking a minimum three feet outside the average drip line and forming a circle above the tree.

GIS: A geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

GPS: The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a space-based satellite navigation system that provides location and time information in all weather conditions, anywhere on or near the earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites.

NATIVE TREE: Any tree species which occurs naturally and is indigenous within the South Texas region.

NON-SALVAGEABLE AND LOW/HIGH PRIORITY TREES: Names given to campus trees to delineate replacement value according to the Tree Inventory.

NON-SALVAGEABLE: A tree in close proximity to the proposed building or structure.

LOW PRIORITY: Small tree less than 10 in DBH, falling outside the immediate area of the proposed building or structure; or Larger tree that has low educational or aesthetic value.

HIGH PRIORITY: Medium to large tree of desirable species with good aesthetics, educational value, and healthy enough to be moved.

I. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Currently, the tree protection guidelines are communicated to project managers for inclusion in to project specifications. The tree preservation categorizing process is used by the office of the University Architect for building siting and campus master planning. Upon official adoption, the plan will be shared by the Office for Sustainability in an effort to educate the campus by utilizing all means of campus communication. Effective means of getting the word out include email, the UTRGV weekly student newspaper, and links on the website of the Office of Facilities, Planning, and Operations.



STANDARD 3



UTPA Grounds and Landscaping Department equipment includes a TurfMaker Hydro-mulcher and a Vermeer 600 wood chipper.



CAMPUS TREE PROGRAM WITH DEDICATED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

A college campus, to be designated a Tree Campus USA, must allocate finances for its annual campus tree program. Evidence should be shown that an annual work plan has been established and expenditures dedicated towards that work plan.

It is suggested, but not mandatory, that campuses work towards an annual expenditure of \$3 per full-time enrolled student. The national average among recognized Tree Campus USA colleges and universities is currently \$9 - \$11. Expenditures may take place on or off campus, like in the case of an urban campus that does not have room to plant or care for trees on their own campus but works with a nearby elementary school to plant and care for the trees there.

EXPENDITURES COULD INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

- Cost of trees purchased
- Labor, equipment and supplies for tree planting, maintenance (pruning, watering, fertilization, mulching, competition control, etc.) and removal, if needed
- Value of volunteer labor (# of hours × \$22) and other contributions from student or civic organizations
- Staff time dedicated to campus forest planning, tree care contractors
- All associated costs of the campus tree management including:
 - Public education related to the campus forest;
 - Professional training;
 - Related association memberships (International Society of Arboriculture and local chapter, Society of Municipal Arborists, state urban forest council, etc.);
- Campus tree inventory

**“THE STRUCTURAL VALUE
OF UTRGV TREES -THE
MAJORITY OF WHICH
ARE LIVE OAKS AND
MEXICAN FAN PALMS-
IS NEARLY \$5,735,000.”**

**-GEORGE CANTU, GRADUATE
STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT**



Tree-planting ceremony and unveiling of new equipment.

PROPOSED DEDICATED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

Tree Planting & Initial Care:

Tree Purchases	\$ 5,000
Labor	\$45,000
Equipment	\$33,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 2,000
Planting Materials	\$ 1,500

Campus Tree Management:

Pruning	\$ 7,500
Public Education	\$ 2,000
Professional Training	\$ 2,500
Association Membership	\$ 1,000
Camps Tree Inventory	\$ 6,500
Pest Management	\$15,000
Fertilization	\$ 7,000
Tree Removals	\$ 4,000

Total **\$132,000**

2014 SUMMARY DEDICATED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

Tree Planting & Initial Care:

Tree Purchases	\$50,000
Labor	\$53,200
Labor Contract	\$15,000
Equipment	\$13,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,200
Planting Materials	\$ 3,000

Campus Tree Management:

Pruning	\$ 5,760
Public Education	\$ 3,000
Professional Training	\$ 2,500
Association Membership	\$ 0
Camps Tree Inventory	\$10,000
Pest Management	\$10,000
Fertilization	\$ 5,000
Tree Removals	\$ 3,200

Total **\$174,860**

THE FY14 AVERAGE STUDENT ENROLLEMENT OF 21,015 X THE RECOMMENDED \$3 STUDENT EXPENDITURE EQUALS \$63,045. WITH THE ABOVE DEDICATED EXPENDITURES, UTRGV SURPASSED THE RECOMMENDED YEARLY EXPENDITURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN TREE CAMPUS USA.



STANDARD 4

An Arbor Day observance provides a golden opportunity to educate the campus community to the benefits of the trees on their campus property and in the community. The Arbor Day observance can be on the campus or held in conjunction with the community where the campus is located. Your event may be held at an appropriate time for your campus. Evidence recording that the observance was held includes program of activities, news coverage, and/or pictures.



ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE

Above: New trees were planted on campus by community members, students, administrators, faculty and staff in honor of Arbor Day, April 23, 2014.

ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO
GRANDE VALLEY HAS BEEN
PLANTING TREES SINCE ITS
INCEPTION IN 1927...
THE PURPOSEFUL OBSERVANCE
OF ARBOR DAY ON CAMPUS
WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE
FOUNDING OF THE OFFICE FOR
SUSTAINABILITY IN 2009.**

In addition to the constant planting of trees throughout the year and anytime construction calls for it, Arbor Day is celebrated at UTRGV with an annual tree-planting ceremony on campus. In 2009, UTPA and the City of Edinburg received over 30 donated trees, which were planted both on and off campus. Tree-planting efforts were furthered in 2013 when UTRGV partnered with The City of Edinburg to expand conservation and maintenance efforts into the community after a City-wide Proclamation calling for the observance of Arbor Day was signed. Through this proclamation, The City of Edinburg, alongside UTPA, demonstrate a commitment not

NEW TREES PLANTED ON CAMPUS BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS, STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND STAFF AT EARTH FEST 2014.



only to the protection and preservation of our environment, but also to the restoration of ecosystems and habitats. April 27th was the date specified by the city for tree-planting projects and awareness. Arbor Day events typically include food, entertainment, giveaways and a variety of environmental exhibits. The schedule of activities in 2014 included a one-mile family fun walk, bike rodeo, environmental presentations, Arbor Day planting of trees, Bird-watching Tour, yoga, zumba, and karate demonstrations.

Over the years, UTRGV's Arbor Day has grown into a week-long celebration of sustainability known as Earth Fest. During April 21-25, the community and UTPA students engaged with the Office for Sustainability to encourage the community to practice environmentally-friendly habits. You can read more about UTPA's Earth Week, including a detailed schedule, here: <http://www.utpa.edu/news/2014/04/broncs-go-green-for-earth-week.html>.



STANDARD 5



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

The Service Learning Project should be an outreach of the spirit of the Tree Campus USA initiative. This project should provide an opportunity to engage the student population with projects related to trees and can be part of a campus or community initiative. The project must be done within the course of the year application is submitted.

Aside from Earth Fest, UTRGV engages the community with urban forestry activities and events throughout the year, such as HESTEC, FESTIBA, and Rio Reforestation. Opportunities for student participation in these events are made possible through the collaboration of the Office for Sustainability, Department of Biology's Environmental Science program and Agroecology program, the Department of Community Engagement, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PROJECT IDEAS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Volunteer tree plantings or tree maintenance
- Tree inventory (campus or community)
- Establish a Nature Explore Classroom for young children at an early childhood development center on your campus or in your community.
- Establishment of campus arboreta
- Student-led effort to have community designated a Tree City USA
- Coordinate internships with the urban forestry or parks department in your community
- Assist Project Learning Tree or other programs centered around trees in training teachers at schools near your campus or organize training for your school's College of Education
- Other tree-related service learning or educational programs for students
- Partnership with state forestry departments on regional projects



Lindsey Richards, left, talks to Dr. Rebekah Hamilton about her team's project during the Service Learning Showcase Wednesday April 16, 2014 at the UTPA CESS Building in Edinburg. Richards was part of the Tree Campus USA team that researched trees around the University of Texas-Pan American area. Photo by Gabe Hernandez/gabrielh@themonitor.com

Help UTPA qualify for



Interdisciplinary Service Learning Project



Students will be **trained by local and state foresters** to collect data for a tree management plan. **At least a 4 hour/week commitment (Mondays 8am-12pm)**

Biology and Environmental Science Students can **GET CREDIT** for their learning and service! **Enroll in BIOL 4201 or ENSC 4300**

For enrollment contact **Dr. Alexis Racelis: racelisae@utpa.edu**

Training begins
August 25th



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 1



Tree Campus USA colleges and universities strive to engage their student body as well as their broader community to establish and sustain healthy community forests for the benefit of current and future residents. The Urban Forestry Team initiative provides a unique opportunity for UTPA students, both at an undergraduate and graduate level, to be involved directly in a service project that will qualify UTPA to be certified as a Tree Campus USA university.

Biology and Environmental Science undergraduates are actively recruited to enroll in Biological Problems (BIOL 4201/4202), a two unit course for advanced students capable of addressing a problem independently through conference and activities directed by the instructors, Dr. Alexis Racelis, Dr. Frank Dirrigl, and Dr. Hudson DeYoe.

“The complete tree inventory is not only the basis of the campus tree management plan, but more importantly, the inventory was an educational vehicle meant to transform the way students look at and think about their surroundings. This designation also signals the recognition by campus management of the many benefits of trees, as well as their needs in terms of maintenance,” Racelis said.

Students can enroll in these courses for up to three times. Enrollees will be charged to systematically inventory trees on campus, and will be trained by Dr. Alexis Racelis and a state forester from Texas Forest Service Salvador Alemany, MS. There is a strong component of

DURING THREE SEMESTERS, 32 STUDENTS FROM MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES WERE TRAINED BY FACULTY AND LOCAL AND STATE FORESTERS TO IDENTIFY, MEASURE AND TAG MORE THAN 2,000 TREES ON CAMPUS

TREE CAMPUS USA URBAN FORESTRY TEAM

experimental learning here, where students will be expected to correctly identify, measure, tag, and grade the conditions of campus trees. Tree health data included the health of bark and leaves, when the tree needed maintenance, and the type of maintenance needed. Dimensional data included the physical attributes of the trees, such as diameter, total tree and crown height, and percent dieback. The data was mapped digitally, and by using a free software program - iTree Eco- the inventory was used to quantify and value the environmental impacts of the trees and estimate their ecosystem services, including pollution sequestration, rainwater retention and shade for cooling. Given the estimated number of trees on campus, this project was expected to take at least three to four semesters of undergraduate involvement through the BIOL 4201 course. Efforts began August 29, 2014.

The graduate student, (which is supported and funded by Office of Graduate Studies), will work closely with Professors, Foresters, Facilities Management, Office for Sustainability and assistance from Community Engagement's GIS Specialist, to take data collected by participating undergraduates and integrate it into a tree management plan as required for Standard Two of the Tree Campus USA designation process. The students will work closely with both the Texas Forest Service and UTPA Facilities Management to complete an evaluation of environmental services of on-campus trees and the return of investment for their planting and maintenance. This exciting work will be the basis of the graduate students master's thesis.

Students presented the findings of their service learning projects at the Service Learning Project Showcase, April 16, 2014. You can read about the service learning expo here: http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/utpa-students-display-results-of-service-learning/article_324f1160-c5da-11e3-9e42-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=image&photo=1.

You can read a newspaper article about efforts to qualify for Tree Campus USA designation here: http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/utpa-students-display-results-of-service-learning/article_324f1160-c5da-11e3-9e42-001a4bcf6878.html and about UTPA's trees here: <http://www.panamericanonline.com/news/money-does-grow-on-trees/>.



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 2



TREE EDUCATION FOR LIL' BRONCS

The Urban Forestry team visited and measured the trees at UTPA's Child Development Center September 12, 2014. While they were there, they expanded on their service to the community by speaking to the Lil' Broncs, or children of UTPA students and staff, about how trees grow and why we need to protect them. The team and the children did activities together to impart the importance of trees for the environment and our health on their young minds. The Lil' Broncs learned how trees provide shade, food, and improve air quality.

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 3



COMMUNITY SERVICE AT TRINITY COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Urban Forestry Team's service learning work was not limited to the campus; In July 2014, they traveled to Pharr, TX along with UTPA Civil Engineering students to help develop a site plan for the plot adjacent to Trinity Episcopal Church, locating trees, species, caliper, canopy, height, as well as topography and soils testing in preparation for the Trinity Community Garden, a project the church hopes to establish on the church's property. Trinity Episcopal Church then partnered with another group of UTPA students; from October to November 2014, approximately 35 students and community members worked on a design for the garden under the direction of permaculture instructors Wayne Weiseman and Jarad Barkeim, as part of a Permaculture Design Certificate training sponsored by the Office for Sustainability.

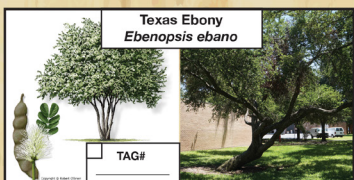
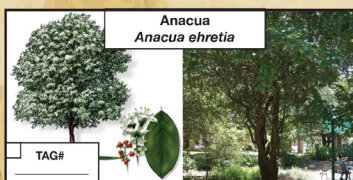
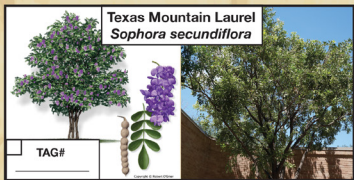
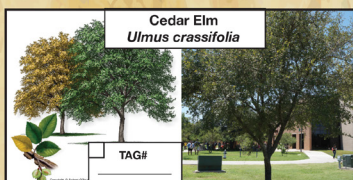
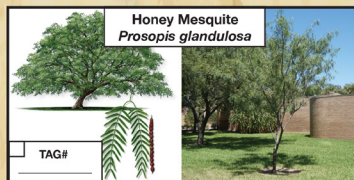
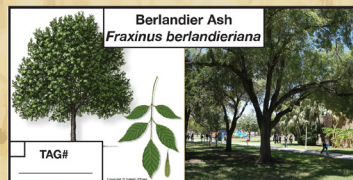
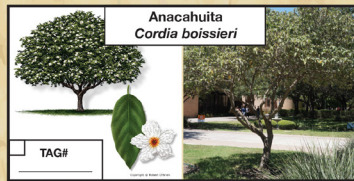
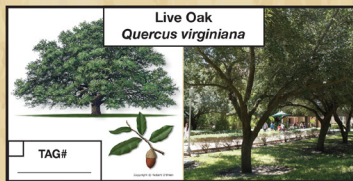


EARTH FEST

SCAVENGER HUNT



• SOUTH TEXAS TREES •



HESTEC MIDDLE SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC) is the week-long Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) conference that has taken place every October at UTPA since 2002. Presentations, attractions, and activities for the community and all age groups are represented at HESTEC, but the focus for the days' events are middle-and-high-schoolers. The majority of such students attending HESTEC are part of the GEAR UP program, whose mission is to provide support for first-generation college students, or those who are the first in their



families to attend college. HESTEC introduces middle and high-schoolers to the campus, inspirational and engaging speakers, and provides educational sessions and interactive activities, such as the tree-identification session offered last year by the Office for Sustainability and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With the assistance of Dr. Craig Wilson and UTRGV students enrolled in the urban forestry course, groups of Middle School Challenge students on campus for HESTEC raced to be the first to complete a campus-wide tree scavenger hunt, which entailed identification of species of trees and data collection (tag numbers) while learning about the preservation of green spaces.





UTPA Office for Sustainability interns have a Lorax story-telling time with a group of middle-school students who learn the importance of trees and taking an active part in protecting their environment.

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 5

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR AT FESTIBA AWARDED ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE PACKAGE

The Office for Sustainability participates every year at the Festival of International Books and Art, (FESTIBA) with a presentation on the importance of sustainability and environmental literacy which includes the importance of urban forestry, and provides resources as an exhibitor. Over 150 educators, librarians and community members are invited to UTPA for the annual literacy event to learn how the arts and literacy are key for uniting the region and elevating the quality of life in our community. A Librarian of the Year is announced on Librarian Day, to whom the Office for Sustainability awards a literacy package/basket, which includes a class set of the year's age-appropriate book and a library visit for story-time and environmentally-focused educational activities. Last year's selected book was Dr. Seuss' chronicle of the plight of The Lorax, who speaks for the trees against the destruction of the environment. Commonly recognized as a fable concerning the danger humans pose to nature, the book ends with a hopeful message that future generations will take better care of the trees.

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 6

TREE-PLANTING AT RIO REFORESTATION

Several UTRGV Student Organizations were among the 800 volunteers who participated in the 22nd annual Rio Reforestation event. Among them, the Environmental Awareness Club is a student organization with a focus on protecting the environment as well as generating awareness on campus and in the community. The Rio Reforestation program aims to plant tree and shrub seedlings on wildlife property south of Harlingen. The site of the tree-planting was the Resaca Del Rancho Viejo tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. You can read about the recruitment effort here: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley/visitor_activities/special_events.html, here: <https://friendsofthewildlifecorridor.org/rio-reforestation/>, and here: http://www.valleymorningstar.com/collection_02dad8e4-4432-11e3-b2dd-0019bb30f31a.html. You can also watch video: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=1111880#VWi35utvf8s>



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 7



TOUR DE TREES: ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING AND BICYCLE RIDE

The Edinburg Forestry Partners and City Forester Ed Kuprel, along with Ciclistas Urbanos, led a bicycle tour of trees in Edinburg Saturday, December 13, 2014. The multi-stop tour was guided by Kuprel, who is a certified arborist, and showcased native, unique and historic trees in Edinburg. The tour's last stop was at the Ebony Hills Golf Course in Edinburg, where the cyclists joined the Edinburg Forestry Partners, UTPA Office for Sustainability interns and staff, along with UTPA student volunteers and helped in planting trees for the future. Forestry Partners are a group of volunteers who want to learn more about the Rio Grande Valley ecosystems and work to plant trees to build urban forests, butterfly gardens, vegetable gardens, and beauty throughout the Valley. You can read about the event here: <http://www.cityofedinburg.com/cityevents.php?actID=1573>

Permaculture

Design & Education



Part I Oct 30 - Nov 2, 2014 | Part II Jan 8 - 11, 2014

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 8 PERMACULTURE DESIGN WORKSHOPS

UTPA hosted several Permaculture Design Workshops with Wayne Weisman that utilize the teachings of Bill Mollison's Permaculture Design System. Course outcomes included a basic understanding of design principles with both large and small scale applications. In July, the intro course trained participants in vegetable and fruit production, earthworks and soil renovation techniques, water harvesting, and more. From October 30 to November 2, the first part of the course went deeper into detail, covering topics such as seed saving. Workshops included field trips to nature centers, gardens, and farms. Part One concluded with an introduction to plant guilds, or groups of plants that grow well together, and the importance of pairing trees with herbs, vegetables, and fruit producing plants. Upon completion of both parts of the eight-day intensive training, participants receive a Permaculture Design Certificate.



Permaculture

Design & Education



Part I Oct 30 - Nov 2, 2014 | Part II Jan 8 - 11, 2014

Permaculture Design Intensive Training

Join us for this Permaculture Design Intensive Training with **WAYNE WEISMAN** that utilizes the teachings of Bill Mollison's Permaculture Design System.

Participants will achieve a working understanding of ecologically-based planning, site design and management. Upon completion of this two-part intensive training with a total 8 days of instruction and a final design, participants will receive a Permaculture Design Certificate.

COURSE OUTCOMES

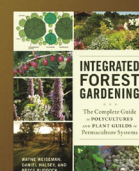
A basic understanding of design and development principles involved with large scale and small scale intensive Permaculture applications. In addition to gaining the minimum requirement of a PDC delivered by a certified, registered teacher, students will also be presented with the following resources and skill sets:

- Whole farm planning/property management planning
- Land component identification and classification
- Earthworks & soil renovation techniques
- Water harvesting & drought-proofing methods and applications
- Vegetable and fruit production
- Farm forestry & tree crop ground preparation, management & processing techniques
- Appropriate technology
- Comprehensive planning and design for the built environment, the use of energy resources and control of the waste stream

This **FREE** intensive training is valued at \$1,800 and is strictly on a first-come first-serve basis.

REGISTRATION & COMMITMENT for both Part I and Part II of this 8 day training is **REQUIRED** to reserve your seat.

REGISTER NOW AT <http://www.utpa.edu/permaculture>

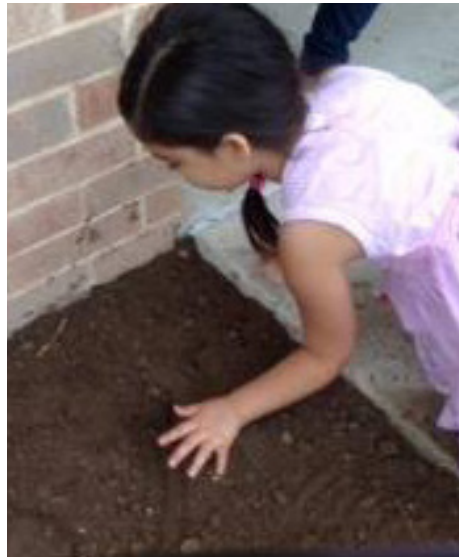


Wayne Weisman's New Book
Integrated Forest Gardening
Book Signing



Contact the Office for Sustainability at sustainability@utpa.edu with questions or assistance in contacting faculty to explain benefits of program that may provide permission to submit classwork on alternate days.

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 9



LIL' BRONCS PLANT "BUDS IN A BOX"

The Office for Sustainability and Bucky visited the Lil' Broncs at the UTPA Childhood Development Center April 21, during UTPA's Earth Fest, to give a hands-on lesson about nature, growth, gardening and nutrition. With the help of teachers and student volunteers, the two-to-four-year-old pre-K children of UTPA students, faculty, and staff planted their own seeds and learned where plants, trees, and food come from.

"FUTURE OF THE FOREST" WITH DR. ALEXIS RACELIS

On Thursday, January 30th, 2014 Dr. Alexis Racelis visited Quinta Mazatlan-World Birding Center to present his most recent research, entitled "Ecological Restoration in 95% of the RGV." Read about the event here: <https://quintamazatlan.wordpress.com/category/nature-lecture-series/>. You can read more about Dr. Racelis's research here: http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/organic-farming-research-growing-at-utpa/article_3fe1753a-5341-11e4-a256-001a4bcf6878.html



Wednesday, April 23

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Soul of our Urban Forestry Walk

Forester for the Texas Forest Service Salvador Alemani will be leading an urban ecosystem walk beginning at UTPA Veterans Memorial Garden at 12 PM across UTPA's beautiful campus educating on the large variety of plant species the university houses. Join us for an enjoyable walk while we explore and learn about the hidden souls of our campus. If you only knew all the stories our trees could tell. Take a walk & talk to the Urban Forestry Students working to qualify our UTPA forest as a Tree Campus USA site. **The event will conclude with a gift basket giveaway.**



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 11



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A CAMPUS-WIDE URBAN FORESTRY WALK LED BY TEXAS FOREST SERVICE FORESTERS.

University students take part in Earth Week, as well. UTPA's Forestry Team held the "Soul of Our Urban Forestry Walk" at the Veterans Memorial Garden, April 23, 2014. The Forestry Team is made up of students enrolled in Biological Problems (BIOL 4201). Salvador Alemani, Forester for the Texas Forest Service, led the urban ecology walk through the campus. Students got a chance to see the different variety of trees on their university, as well as a chance to hear about how UTPA is aiming to qualify as a Tree Campus USA site. [Watch video coverage of the event here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0xPUYj6Fjg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0xPUYj6Fjg)





ADVICE FROM A TREE

BY ILAN SHAMIR

Dear Friend,
Stand Tall and Proud
Sink your roots deeply into the Earth
Reflect the light of a greater source
Think long term
Go out on a limb
Remember your place among all living beings
Embrace with joy the changing seasons
For each yields its own abundance
The Energy and Birth of Spring
The Growth and Contentment of Summer
The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall
The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter
Feel the wind and the sun
And delight in their presence
Look up at the moon that shines down upon you
And the mystery of the stars at night.
Seek nourishment from the good things in life
Simple pleasures
Earth, fresh air, light
Be content with your natural beauty
Drink plenty of water
Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes
Be flexible
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!



CONTACT

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
1201 WEST UNIVERSITY DR.
EDINBURG, TX 78539**

**OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY
(956) 665-3030
SUSTAINABILITY@UTPA.EDU**

**OFFICE OF FACILITIES, PLANNING
AND OPERATIONS
(956) 665-2770**

Printed with Soy Ink on paper made in the USA out of 10% Post Consumer Recycled Fiber with FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Chain of Custody and 100% certified renewable energy.