

**Tree Policy**  
**Ozarka College**  
**Ash Flat • Melbourne • Mountain View**

Be it made policy by the Ozarka College Board of Trustees.

**Section 1 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this policy to promote and protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the students, employees, and visitors of Ozarka College by providing for the development of an Ozarka College Community Forestry Plan to address the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees on the Ozarka campuses at Ash Flat, Melbourne, and Mountain View in order to promote the benefits of our community forest resources.

**Section 2 Definitions**

Dripline. An imaginary vertical line that extends downward from the outermost tips of the tree branches to the ground.

Hazardous tree. A tree or tree parts with high probability of falling or causing injury or property loss; also, a tree harboring insects or disease that could be detrimental to surrounding trees.

Person. An individual, firm, corporation, partnership, business, group of individuals, city department or other entity which acts singly or collectively for a common purpose.

Topping. Also referred to as stubbing, dehorning, and heading; it is the severe removal of the tree canopy back to large stubs.

Tree. Any self-supporting woody perennial plant, usually having a main stem or trunk and many branches, and at maturity normally attaining a trunk diameter greater than three inches at DBH (diameter at breast height) and a height of over ten feet.

**Section 3 Administration**

The Ozarka Community Forestry Committee will be advisory in nature with the purpose of providing advice to the Ozarka President as to the management of the community forests of Ozarka, in accordance with the intents and purposes of this policy. The President shall make final decisions when the need presents itself.

#### **Section 4 Establishment of the Community Forestry Committee**

The purpose of the Community Forestry Committee shall be promoting the responsible planting of trees on Ozarka property, education about trees, promotion of proper maintenance of trees, advocating trees within the College, and developing innovative and joint funding for projects from a variety of sources.

**(A)** The Committee shall consist of five members including the Ozarka Landscaper, Director of Maintenance, Director of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, Director of Planning and Special Projects, and a Maintenance employee.

**(B)** Members of the Committee shall serve as part of their official Ozarka duties.

**(C)** The Committee shall meet every winter and at any other time deemed necessary to make plans for the coming year concerning its plan for care, preservation, pruning, planting, or removal of trees and shrubs. The Committee shall keep a journal of its proceedings and present its plan to the President for approval. The Committee shall also address educational opportunities for the coming year.

**(D)** The Director of Planning and Special Projects and Director of Continuing Education and Business Outreach will investigate available grants and contributions from governmental agencies, public or private corporations, or individuals.

**(E)** The Committee will encourage and foster the planting of trees and other vegetation for the beautification of the College; and disseminate information to the College concerning proper selection and care of trees.

#### **Section 5 Financial Assistance**

It shall be the policy of Ozarka College to provide budgetary assistance either directly or through the acquisition of grants and donations for the maintenance of its current community forests and to increase the number of quality trees on its grounds.

## **Section 6 Tree Planting and Maintenance**

It is the policy of Ozarka College to maintain existing trees and to provide for and encourage the planting of new trees on its grounds to the greatest extent possible.

## **Section 7 Hazardous and Nuisance Trees**

It shall be the policy of Ozarka College to remove any trees that become a nuisance, diseased beyond being returned to good health, or hazardous. Tree removal requires approval of the President and/or the Ozarka Landscaper.

## **Section 8 Tree Protection**

It shall be the policy of Ozarka College to protect its community forests.

**(A)** It shall be a violation of Ozarka College policy to damage, destroy, or mutilate any tree on the Ozarka College grounds.

**(B)** It shall be a violation of Ozarka College policy to attach or place any rope or wire, sign, poster, handbill, or any other object to any tree on the Ozarka College grounds other than that approved by the Ozarka Landscaper as safe and congruent with tree health.

**(C)** It shall be against Ozarka College policy to top or cut back to stubs the crown of any tree on its grounds but instead to lead by example by using proper tree pruning techniques.

**(D)** It shall be against Ozarka College policy to plant trees inappropriately such as potentially planting large trees under power lines or planting trees and shrubs that would conceal a fire hydrant from the street.

**(E)** It shall be against Ozarka College policy to deposit, place, store, or maintain upon an Ozarka Campus any stone, brick, sand, concrete, or other materials which may impede the free passage of water, air, or nutrients to the roots within the dripline of any tree growing on said campus except with written permission of the Ozarka Landscaper.

**Section 9 Penalty**

Any violation of the above policy provisions shall be reviewed by the President of Ozarka College.

**Section 10 Conflicts in Policy**

Where a conflict arises between this Ozarka College policy and any other ordinance or policy, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Chairman of the Board of Trustees