

PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

5011

LANDSCAPE AND HARDSCAPE PROTECTION

I. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the responsibilities of all UNM entities for the protection and preservation of the campus landscape and hardscape features.

II. GENERAL

The University of New Mexico campus grounds and landscape is a nationally recognized arboretum in which open-grown trees, shrubs and turfgrasses are on public display for educational and recreational purposes. The campus landscape also provides many environmental benefits, such as sequestering of CO₂, stormwater runoff abatement, increasing air, soil and water quality, shading of surfaces to reduce radian energy absorption, cooling of the atmosphere via transpiration, and by reducing wind speed and infiltration into interior spaces, among others. Accordingly, the campus grounds and landscaping must be protected from campus activities such as excavation, construction, and student and public events.

III. PROCESS

- 1.0 When events, excavation or other work is planned that may potentially impact trees, landscaping, irrigation, turfgrass, signage, or sidewalks and hardscapes, the unit or area performing the work must contact the Grounds and Landscaping manager **before** the work or event begins, to discuss possible landscape protection measures to be implemented. These measures include, but are not limited to, fencing off tree specimens, overlayers on concrete surfaces, weight distribution measures on turfgrass to prevent rutting, flagging of irrigation components, closing valves related to irrigation, and removal of plant material or outdoor signage. The cost for these protection measures is typically covered by the requesting entity.
- 2.0 When emergency work is in process, employees should pay close attention to irrigation wiring and distribution pipes, tree branches and roots, concrete pads and sidewalks, outdoor signage, etc. When these components are damaged, employees must notify the Grounds and Landscaping manager or other supervisory personnel in the Environmental Services Division. If one suspects that a person may be excavating without proper regard for the security of irrigation systems or other landscape components, he or she should report the incident to the Grounds and Landscape manager or other Environmental Services Division supervisors.
- 3.0 When student and public events use campus trees for hanging of hammocks or other items, tree cambium protection devices must be used and approved in advance by the Grounds and Landscape manager. Appropriate fall protection standards must also be provided and approved by the University's Safety and Risk Services.

IV. REFERENCES

PPD Engineering and Energy Services Division Design Standards.

V. ATTACHMENTS

None

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