

Campus Trees—The Monarchs of Sustainability

VYA E-NEWS

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CAMPUS TREES

If you have “monarch” trees (large, long-lived, native trees), your campus is greener and more sustainable than you think. These trees sustain the environment more than any thing else on campus. They remove carbon dioxide, make a significant contribution to energy conservation in buildings, help reduce the overall utility burden on the campus and create a prestigious campus setting. Celebrate your monarch trees with caution, though; even the most valuable trees can be taken for granted. While it has taken eons for these trees to rise to the top of the plant kingdom, they can be surprisingly fragile when matched against the demands of an active campus. The good news is that the investment required to wisely manage campus trees is small and the rewards for sustaining them for future generations are great. The trick is knowing what to do and when to do it.

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PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING CAMPUS TREES

1. Understand risk management of hazardous trees
2. Identify and conserve monarch trees
3. Conserve other important trees, but not those with low potential
4. Plan tree replacements with an eye to 2050 and beyond
5. Acknowledge emotional and political viewpoints
6. Agree on priorities and budget

VAN YAHRES ASSOCIATES is one of the nation’s leaders in campus tree management (over 100 projects) as well as master planners and site designers for colleges, universities and historic properties throughout the country. We will periodically send you this newsletter with valuable tips to help you better design and manage your campus assets. This first newsletter concentrates on often-overlooked assets – campus trees.

Contact Mike Van Yahres (myv@vanyahres.com) to learn more or to discuss specific tree management options.

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