



### **Living Collections Policy**

At the end of 2018, a Strategic Planning Committee set about the task of clarifying the identity of Haverford College Arboretum. In an effort to provide a common direction for both current and future arboretum staff the mission statement was revised, updating and clarifying what the organization is, why it exists, its reason for being.

#### **Mission**

Steward the college's historic tree collection while fostering a connection between the 216-acre campus and those who work, visit, study, and reside here. Maintaining the health, diversity, and history of the tree collection honors William Carvill's original 1834 landscape design, while our educational programming ensures continued engagement with this unique and treasured asset.



## **Living Collections Policy**

### **Founding Intentions**

“It is not easy to overemphasize the importance of beautiful surrounding as a formative factor in the life of a student.” -Rufus Jones

### **Introduction**

#### **Importance of the Living Collections**

The living collections are the framework by which Haverford College Arboretum (HCA) maintains a commitment to the spirit of the mission and founding intention. It is through the collections that the HCA can build upon the garden displays, conservation efforts, educational programming, and research initiatives.

#### **Purpose of the Living Collections Policy**

The purpose of this document is to establish the Living Collections goals and establish effective, efficient, and consistent organization and implementation. It is the building block that informs the development, protection, and use of the living collections.

#### **Ethical and Legal Considerations**

Rigorous standards will be followed to ensure that plant material has not been collected irresponsibly or illegally and that all collections are cared for and disposed of responsibly.

## The Living Collections

The living collections are focused on trees and shrubs native to the Eastern Deciduous Forest of the United States. Haverford College Arboretum seeks to collect plant material that reflects the ecological and genetic diversity of this area.

The Haverford College Arboretum uses its living collections primarily to:

- Maintain the character and cultural heritage of HCA
- Conserve the flora of the eastern United States
- Education and research
- Support comprehensive ecological systems

## Historic Collections

Certain non-native plants will be maintained because of their historical, aesthetic and/or interpretive value and added to or replaced as needed.

- Pinetum
- Center campus
- Allees
  1. College Lane
  2. College Circle
  3. Coursey Road
  4. Featherbed Lane
  5. Walton Road
  6. Woods lane
  7. Orchard
- Group Plantings
  1. Barclay Beach
  2. Observatory
  3. Woolman Walk

All other exotic, historic plantings are maintained to reflect the landscape developed by William Carvill. In cases of replacement, the landscape design concepts that originally defined these areas are the determining factors in the choice of plants. Many existing exotic plants may be allowed to live out their useful ornamental life but will be replaced with at least 70% Eastern Deciduous Forest plants upon removal.

## Seasonal Displays and spontaneous Flora

Non-native seasonal displays are not considered a part of the collection. The primary purpose of these seasonal displays is to enhance the aesthetic experience. Non-native plants for seasonal display are non accessioned. Spontaneous flora within the gardens is considered unwanted and subject to removal. Haverford College Arboretum is committed to monitoring for and preventing invasives species.

## **Governance of the Living collections**

### **Acquisition: Planting**

All plantings will be native trees and shrubs from within the Eastern Deciduous Forest zone, no cultivars, and installed in all areas that are not listed as a Historic Collection. Within the Historic collections, the ratio of native to exotic will be 70/30% with the allowance of cultivars.

- Two trees planted for each tree removed
- Cages will be removed from tree root balls unless otherwise specified

### **Acquisition: Gifts**

The Arboretum Director and Curator will approve the acquisition of gift plants which must be in accordance to the criteria outlined within this document and placement of the gift plants will be at the discretion of the Arboretum staff.

### **Acquisition: Purchase**

The Curator is responsible for the purchase of all plant acquisitions with the exception of seasonal displays.

### **Documentation and Data Management**

Haverford College Arboretum is committed to maintaining a comprehensive plant records/mapping system. A primary goal of the HCA is to capture documentation that is usable, thorough, and accurate. All cultivated plan accessions are labeled and mapped when appropriate.

### **Tree and Shrub Record System**

The plant curator, under the supervision of the Arboretum Director, is responsible for the periodic inventory and review of the tree record and labeling system. As each tree is planted in a permanent location it will be mapped, labeled, and put into a plant record database. The following information will be entered into the tree record system:

- Identification number based on year accessioned
- Family, genus, specific epithet, and, if applicable, cultivar
- Nursery source and price
- Reason for addition to the collection
- Donation/honoree memorial information
- Size
- Label information
- Condition
- Maintenance needs

## **Labeling**

Newly planted specimens will receive a temporary aluminum hang tag marked with the genus, specific epithet, and accession number until a permanent label is ordered.

Center campus tree labels will include the following information:

- Botanical name
- Common name
- Native habitat
- Accession number

Pinetum tree labels will include all of the above information plus family names.

State champion trees should include the above on a gold label.

Ground plaques for commemorative and memorial trees will no longer be used.

## **Evaluation and maintenance of the Collection**

For the purpose of Arboretum maintenance standard, the campus is divided into 5 zones for staff control. Under the direction of the Arboretum Director, Claudia Kent, trees within one zone (one zone per year) are evaluated each year as it relates to the health, safety and stability, function, contribution, New construction and safety/risk association. Appropriate maintenance procedures are implemented as needed.

Minimum standards of maintenance:

- A LEVEL ONE tree inspection will take place on a year-round basis.
- Post-storm inspections.
- Pre/post construction mitigation.
- An insect and disease control program will be maintained, including PHC.
- Tree fertilization and watering will take place as required.
- Pruning and cabling will be implemented where required.
- Removal when required
- Safety supersedes all standards or guidelines

## **Deaccessioning and Disposal**

Criteria necessary to deaccession an item from the collections:

- Death
- Deterioration
- Construction
- Potential safety hazard.

The Arboretum staff must review and approve all decisions on deaccessioning.

If the tree is a gift or memorial, the donor must be notified of the decision.

## Collection Access

Haverford College Arboretum provides open and reasonable access to the Living Collections for conservation, education, enjoyment, and research. The college community and Arboretum members are encouraged to use the collection from dawn to dusk, year-round except for Commencement Day. Special group tours, led by an Arboretum staff member, can be arranged for members or students in addition to the free campus tours regularly offered to the public and sponsored by the College Arboretum Association.



