

Spotlight Stories

With a department as large as Facilities Services, there's always something to learn about the work we accomplish that keeps campus running. For this issue of Just The FACs, student assistant Ella Stewart shares a few insights on campus landscape and sustainability practices so we can spread the word in support of the incredible work our team does daily.

Taking Care of Campus Trees

How many trees do you think are on the UT Knoxville campus? Would you say over 9,000? If so, that would be correct! There are exactly 9,232 trees on the campus.

That number includes the main campus, UT Research Park at Cherokee Farm, UTIA Research Properties and several other satellite properties in Knoxville and Oak Ridge.

Sam Adams, UT's designated arborist, began working with trees in 1984 as a student worker while pursuing his bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. His passion for arboriculture began then and continues today as he directs the small but mighty arboriculture team.

Currently, the crew is taking advantage of prime planting season here in East Tennessee by planting and transplanting trees around campus. They're also gearing up for annual Arbor Day celebrations on April 5th. Once their seasonal work is completed they will transition into more general tasks such as tree removal and pruning and perform health and risk assessments on the tree population.



They're able to keep track of all these trees through the UT Campus Tree inventory which is a GIS-based map that identifies trees by their location and includes specific attributes such as diameter, height, condition, maintenance, etc.

"The tree inventory is a living document that represents our campus canopy and has to be updated whenever we make a change to a tree's status whether newly planted, pruned or removed," Adams said.

If you would like to learn more about our thousands of trees check out this interactive map of the tree inventory [here](#).