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## Award honors a green UT

### National Arbor Day Foundation names UT a Tree Campus

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Students and faculty are not the only ones to win awards for the University; a greener, leafier entity received a national nod this week.

UT was recognized as the first Texas university to hold the Tree Campus USA status by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Nine of 80 national colleges that applied for the distinction were selected.

To be recognized, a college must meet five standards to promote healthy trees, including a tree care plan, an Arbor Day celebration and a campus tree advisory committee composed of students and faculty.

About 50 people, including student volunteers, state representatives and city council members, attended a Thursday celebration during which UT formally received the award.

Students and community volunteers left the ceremony and walked to the intersection of Red River Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to plant 70 trees given to the University by the foundation.

UT first began to plant trees in 1942, with baby live oaks, said foundation spokeswoman Mary Widhelm. She said the award promotes planting trees on campus and among college-age students.

"We're engaging college-age people because they will be the stewards of tomorrow," Widhelm said.

Pat Clubb, vice president for employee and campus services, said trees are more than just aesthetically pleasing.

"We love the outdoors," she said. "[It's] the ideal place to read a book or hike. It's an investment for the future. Kids see it as the ultimate jungle gym. [People] mark the years by how trees change and grow over time."

Hydrology junior Melissa Seal, member of the Campus Environment Center, was ready to get dirty and plant some trees.

"Trees are a visible symbol of taking care of our future," Seal said as she approached the hill to plant a tree.

Larry Maginnis, UT urban forester for landscape services, said the University's view in regard to tree preservation has turned a corner.

"We're improving the quality of the campus," Maginnis said. "Students are the reason we're out here."



Caleb Miller, Daily Texan Staff

Psychology sophomore Nate Tews reads under a tree on campus Thursday afternoon. UT was recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its practices in campus community forestry.

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