



NEWS

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UT awarded for tree-friendly stadium expansion

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – Texas Forest Service and Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture presented the 2007 Gold Leaf Landscape Project award to the University of Texas at Austin at the annual Texas Tree Conference October 11 in Waco.

The annual tree conference awards celebrate the accomplishments of those who are dedicated to help Texas build stronger communities by planting, maintaining, protecting, and educating about trees.

“These awards recognize the best of urban and community forestry in Texas,” said James Hull, state forester and director of the Texas Forest Service. The university was awarded for its outstanding contributions to the preservation of sixteen trees on their campus.

These sixteen were all that could be safely and effectively relocated among the forty trees that impeded the \$150 million expansion of Texas Memorial Stadium. In an effort to avoid the demise of all the trees, the university agreed to do all they could to save all of the candidates for relocation. The University even delayed expansion and set to work on the slow, painstaking process ahead of relocating the trees.

“The University of Texas exemplifies that one group’s dedication can be the driving force for change within a community,” said Jordy Hagen, president of the Texas International Society of Arboriculture.

The university has successfully extracted all sixteen trees from the ground and placed twelve in locations scattered through campus. The other four sit in a holding area, receiving constant attention and care, until a suitable site can be found for a replant.

Texas Forest Service’s urban forestry programs develop and improve the capacity of communities to plant and care for trees in parks, along streets and in other urban settings.

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