



# THE FACILITIES TIMES

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

April 2018

### Toomer's oaks show strength, growth for 2018

The Auburn Oaks are, beyond any shadow of doubt, a source of pride for the Auburn family. Standing tall at Magnolia Avenue and College Street, the two trees have represented the spirit that is not afraid for decades upon decades.

And it appears, this time, the current trees may for many more.

University Arborist Alex Hedgepath recently expressed confidence in the overall health of the two trees with root development continuing to occur and strength shown in the wake of rollings throughout the 2017-18 football season.

"Both oak canopies are in fair condition," Hedgepath said. "Each tree has some tip dieback in the upper fourth of the canopy, but the leaves that have pushed out have good color and shoot elongation has also been encouraging."

Members of the Auburn family are well aware of the recent tumultuous past of the Auburn Oaks.

February 2011, the original Toomer's oaks

were poisoned following the Tigers narrowly defeating the University of Alabama 28-27.

The trees were replaced four years later on Valentine's Day 2015. Less than five months later, the Magnolia Avenue oak was replaced after not showing signs of growth or developing a healthy root system or canopy.

About two years later, February 2017, both trees again were replaced after the Magnolia oak was burned following the Tigers defeating LSU in September 2016 and the College Street oak failed to become established in its new home.

While making a full prediction on the trees' future isn't possible after spending less than a year in their new homes, Hedgepath has seen positive development in the oaks while monitoring them throughout the year.

"Leaf color so far is good and should become darker green as the season goes on," he said. "Root development continues to show promise as diameter of feeder roots have grown and perimeter roots continue to elongate."

"Though the root development has been good, they are still very small and subject to breaking under even slight compaction. These trees will continue to show stress as they adapt to their new setting this year and in the next few years."

In short, they are doing pretty well but will be continuously monitored for the near future.

As the Auburn Oaks become more settled in their homes, expect more greenery and growth from the two. Their importance in providing a defining image of Auburn University and the Plains is nationally recognized, and their meaning to the Auburn family is uncanny.

"We're expecting a busy year for both oaks, but I'm confident they will continue to show signs of establishment to their new home," Hedgepath said.



# April News Briefs



Campus is in full bloom as members of Landscape Services have been busy planting hundreds of flowers in preparation for the season.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

April 2018



The April 2018 Construction Update has been released and can be viewed online at [aub.ie/constructionupdates](http://aub.ie/constructionupdates).



Green Dot training was held throughout the month to show Facilities how to actively play a part in preventing violence.

# New process for Tiger Ticket and Certificate of Appreciation photos

In an effort to capture photos of all Tiger Ticket and Certificate of Appreciation recipients as possible, we are standardizing the photo process.

### The new process is as follows:

1. Photos will be taken once each month in the Building 1 Training Room.
2. You do not need to bring your certificate. It will not be used in the photo.
3. Note date and time(s) for each month, to be held in the morning and the afternoon.
4. If you are unable to attend due to work duties, vacation or illness, we will

work with you to reschedule or you may choose to attend the next month's photo session.

5. We will work with departments such as Access Control and Utilities and Energy to visit their locations since they are not located within the Facilities Management complex.

We will be sure not to punish anyone being recognized if they are unable to come to Building 1 on the assigned day. This process will help us photograph as many of those being recognized as possible, and we will be sure to work with anyone who cannot attend.



From left, Eric O'Brien, General Construction; Richard Nelson, Preventive Maintenance, and Joey Carleton and Wayne Staley, both of Paint Shop, recently celebrated their retirements from Facilities Management. We wish them the best in their future endeavors!

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Please remember to recycle this newsletter.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Submit Feedback to Trey Wood at [woodcas@auburn.edu](mailto:woodcas@auburn.edu)

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS



Second from left, Ray Willett gave Certificates of Appreciation to, from left, David Morgan, John Vollar and Ryan Stewart.



At far left and right, Landscape Services Robert Overstreet and Forrest Hall were provided Certificates of Appreciation from Chris Channell, center.



Deandre Gilmore, at left, was given a Certificate of Appreciation from Glenn Rodgers.



Steven "Beaver" Johnston, left, and Ray Willett, right, were given Certificates of Appreciation from Landscape Services' Justin Sutton, center.



From left, Robert Overstreet, Chris Channell, Alex Hedgepath and Anthony Smith help plant an Eastern Redbud in front of Cary Hall in celebration of Arbor Day.

# Contaminated recyclables a problem for campus

As spring arrives, so do a bevy of ways to support the environment. From Earth Week and Arbor Day celebrations on campus to symposiums designed to engage and enlighten students and faculty about the challenges facing our planet, the environment is a hot topic.

But one of the easiest ways to support our planet is also one of the simplest.

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products. Plastic bottles become lawn chairs or trash cans, aluminum cans become construction materials and modes of transportation, and cardboard boxes become new cardboard or cereal boxes.

It is surprisingly easy to turn an entire bin of recyclables from acceptable to contaminated. Someone who throws a half-full paper cup of coffee into a paper recycling bin may think they're doing the right thing, but by wetting the rest of the products in the bin, they've made them all unrecyclable.

"Contamination happens when trash is mixed in with good recyclable material and undoes everybody's hard

work," said Joan Hicken, coordinator for Facilities' Waste Reduction and Recycling Department.

To support Auburn University's recycling efforts, Waste Reduction and Recycling is introducing bins made of recycled milk jugs in various buildings across campus to further sustainability in unique and effective ways, all while combating contamination on campus.

The bins made by Max-R of Sussex, WI, are specially created for different institutions based on size and number of recyclable containers needed. The ones currently used in the Mell Classroom Building at Ralph Brown Draughon Library and the School of Nursing each use about 1,000 plastic milk jugs in their creation.

The bins are made out of high-density polyethylene, HDPE, also known as no. 2 plastic, which can be melted down and formed into new shapes or products, like bottles, toys or piping.

But it's very easy to contaminate recyclables. Leftover salad or a cup of coffee can take them from useful to useless. The issue with contamination is any recyclables spoiled by the food items



or by other means cannot be recycled.

Contamination devalues the recyclables," Hicken said. "It puts it at risk of being thrown away, and it spoils it for everyone else who was doing it properly."

The phrase "reduce, reuse, recycle" has been ingrained in students for decades in efforts to prevent, recycle and manage solid waste in ways that most effectively protect human health and the environment. Recycling conserves natural resources, saves energy, prevents pollution and reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. It's being a good steward of the planet we're a part of.

That also means that we've got to make sure we're doing the right things in the right ways.

With spring here and summer around the corner, it is important to remember that we only have one Earth, and taking care of it should be a top priority.

"It doesn't cost anything to do the right thing. Find a bin and use it properly. It's as simple as that," Hicken said. "We need to encourage people to recycle.

"We're all in this together."

