

## Sustainable Grounds Management Best practices



*“Our real Estate and Facilities group is leading the effort to seek new and innovative ways for the University to meet its sustainability goals through conservation, reducing, reuse and recycling programs [...] and reducing their energy consumption”*

*University of Miami Strategic Plan. p 44*



*The University of Miami has been recognized **Tree Campus USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation since 2014. “Our general purpose is to guarantee that the standards of beauty, sustainability and environmental stewardship are respected and applied on our campus landscape.”*

### Recommendations for more sustainable Grounds Management practices:

- > Contractor will need to abide by UM Sustainability Mission Statement as stipulated in the current Strategic Plan p 44
- > The contractor will agree to a 30 minute bi-annual training of their Grounds team (zone managers and/or grounds manager) on the following points:

### **1- Increase Biodiversity:**

- For any renovation, maintenance or replanting project, the contractor will choose plants, shrubs and grasses that are promoting native fauna biodiversity. The list of vegetative species selected should be submitted to our Tree Care Plan committee chair for review, prior to project implementation.
- Elimination of invasive plants
- Use local nurseries and businesses
- Maintain a campus tree inventory submitted to the Tree Care Plan committee

### **2- Integrated Pest Management implementation:**

The contractor will submit an annual IPM (Integrated Pest management) plan to our Tree Care Plan committee chair for review, prior to publishing online (UM and ABM sites) and implementation.

### **3- Organic treatment**

- Implement the following rule: no chemical treatment should be applied in the buffer zones (10ft from any body of water and 10ft around and in the Gifford Arboretum)  
These landscape areas increase environmental benefits and reflect the university's campus-wide sustainability goals. By utilizing the correct plants, soil improvements, and mulches, UM will reduce the need for irrigation, fertilization, pest control, and mowing.
- Use mulch made from Melaleuca instead of alternatives preferably.
- Adopt a pollinator protection plan, which bans the use of neonicotinoids – a group of pesticides contributing to declines in pollinator species.

### **5- Conserve Water**

UM will commit to reducing water use for irrigation by implementing the following:

- Chose native trees, plants, and shrubs first when renovating an area of campus
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis on new smart irrigation technology and adopt such technology if financially viable.

### **6 - Vegetative debris diversion from landfill**

UM will commit to divert its vegetative debris from landfill by mulching on site, and using such mulch if risks of spreading diseases are discarded; OR by finding alternative solutions: contracting a company that will reuse the debris as mulch or wood pellets.

The grounds management contractor will train their teams to properly dispose the vegetative waste picked up into the assigned areas, designated by UM, and to not contaminate said areas with non-vegetative waste.

### **7- Contractor Arborist Certification**

The grounds management contractor will have on its team at least one ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified employee. Said employee will have a seat on our Tree Campus USA Board, and will be in charge of updating our Tree Care Plan annually.

The contractor's certified arborist will be in charge of organizing the content and format of the bi-annual grounds employees training.

#### **8- Equipment**

The contractor will include in its equipment (mowers, blowers, carts, trucks ...) as many alternative to gas powered engine as possible: electrical blowers, electrical/solar carts, propane vehicles.