



Case Study

Yale University

At a Glance

Client:

Yale University

Location:

New Haven, Connecticut

Tree Care Needs:

On a campus rich in history and tradition, preserving tree health is essential, demanding regular maintenance, preservation techniques, and emergency response.

The Care of Trees Advantage:

The Care of Trees works closely with Yale grounds supervisors to outline tree care regimens and schedule work at the most convenient times. The tree team's ongoing care efforts, and unique expertise during construction and storms, have solidified their standing as a trusted partner.

The Care of Trees Sustains a Tradition of Tree Health and Beauty at Yale University

The Client

Yale University, located in New Haven, Connecticut, is one of the nation's and world's premier educational and research institutions. Founded in 1701, the university has built a reputation for its contributions in areas such as medicine, law, science and politics. The institution offers a wide range of undergraduate programs, and graduate programs through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and 10 professional schools. Approximately 11,000 students are currently enrolled.

Unique Tree Care Needs

Located in "Elm City," Yale University and the surrounding community are known for their majestic and historic trees, many of which have beautified the campus for centuries. In fact, the stately trees are integral to the Ivy League campus' atmosphere of history and tradition, while at the same time provide the backdrop and shade for students who are studying, napping, socializing and engaging in sports. Recognizing that healthy trees make for a safer, more attractive campus, Yale invests in caring for the approximately 10,000 trees – including elm, beech, oak and sweet gum – set on about 1,000 acres. The university's tree care needs run the gamut, from maintenance to preservation to emergency response, and must take into consideration a bustling campus of more than 20,000 students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The Care of Trees Difference

For more than 50 years, Yale has relied on a team of experts to keep its trees thriving. In 1950, Walgren Tree Care originally began caring for the university's trees, and by providing knowledgeable, reliable care, the company planted the seeds of a trusting relationship with Yale. When Yale and New Haven faced Dutch Elm disease, owner Paul Walgren was instrumental in applying techniques that

ultimately saved many of the campus' and city's invaluable trees. When Walgren retired in the late '90s after more than 40 years of maintaining and preserving the campus's trees, The Care of Trees continued the business and stewardship of Yale's trees, carrying on the legacy of care that Walgren began.

Today, The Care of Trees maintains the trees at Yale with a group of experienced, knowledgeable arborists. On the foundation established early on by Walgren and continued by The Care of Trees, Yale trusts its tree care experts to ensure that its trees receive the best care possible. Peter Tyrell, the arborist who oversees work on the campus, works closely with the university's four grounds maintenance supervisors who are responsible for four sections of the campus: downtown, North/West, the School of Medicine and the athletic fields. Peter meets weekly with supervisors to discuss the university's needs and schedule work to be completed.

A Comprehensive Fertilization and Soil Care Regimen

To keep the trees healthy, The Care of Trees follows an extensive maintenance regimen that includes pruning to shape the trees and remove dead, potentially hazardous branches; spraying or removal to protect against insects; fertilizing to enrich them; and cabling to support trees with structural defects. The Care of Trees supports trees from the ground up with sophisticated fertilization techniques. They inject fertilizers directly into the root system, which carries the nutrients through the vascular system to tree crowns.

The team also takes a proactive approach with The Care of Trees' SoilCareSM program. The experts analyze the trees' soil food web, or the interaction of tree roots, microorganisms, and organic matter in the soil. The diversity within the soil has a direct and indirect impact on the health of soil and trees. The Care of Trees then enriches the soil with special teas designed to enhance soil quality.

The team, usually on site several times a week, carefully schedules much of the regular work to take place during summers or other university breaks to minimize disturbance on the campus. Similarly, they spray trees early in the morning before the campus community begins the day.

Knowledge and Responsiveness Make the Difference

The Care of Trees has also proved to be valuable and extremely responsive in emergency situations, such as storm damage. During a recent thunderstorm, a large limb fell from a silver maple, hitting a car and blocking a sidewalk. The tree care team arrived quickly and within 20 minutes had cleaned up the mess.

Likewise, for a major building renovation a few years ago, The Care of Trees ensured that the 50 to 60 trees nearby were not negatively affected by the activity. They laid out a plan to preserve and fortify the roots against any stress. The result: No trees were lost during the renovation.

Most importantly, the knowledge and professionalism from Walgren Tree Care and now The Care of Trees have been instrumental in ensuring that Yale's trees continue thriving – and will continue to do so for many years to come. In preserving the trees, they are preserving nothing less than Yale's priceless beauty and inspiring atmosphere.

“It's an honor to work with a university that places so much value in preserving the health and beauty of its trees.”

Peter Tyrell
Arborist, The Care of Trees



(top to bottom) A technician sprays a tree to protect against insects early in the morning; matting reduces damage to roots where equipment is used; mulch helps to fertilize and enrich the soil.

The Care of Trees is one of the foremost, full service tree care companies in the industry. We have over 15 offices and more than 350 dedicated arborists and support staff serving more than 60,000 residential and commercial clients. We have offices serving Greater Metropolitan areas of Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. We are able to provide a full range of high quality, state-of-the-art, environmentally responsible tree care services. Our strength is that we offer our clients the extensive resources of a large firm combined with the responsiveness and commitment from our local offices.



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