

MS4: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Purpose and Scope

The WCU Grounds Maintenance Department maintains all University grounds, landscaping, and stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for over 400 acres. The groundskeepers, equipment operators, and supervisory staff provide exceptional service to the University community. Grounds Maintenance is responsible for all ground maintenance functions, including the appearance of the campus, while also focusing on the quality of the environment.

The Grounds Maintenance Department is responsible for the cleaning of storm drains (pre and post inclement weather events), seasonal maintenance to retention and drainage basins, the removal of leaves and debris, landscape, hardscape, tree care, parking lot/structure cleanliness, campus wide titivation, and the installation of campus cigarette urns and trash/recycling bins. The stormwater facilities on campus are maintained in accordance with municipal agreements.

Procedures

Landscaping Care:

Flower beds, shrub beds and green roofs are prepared and maintained campus wide. This includes design, installation, mechanical weeding, trimming, edging, watering, cleaning out catch basins and storm drain inlets. Retention basins are left to grow to provide a natural buffer/filtrating system. The basins are visually investigated during heavy downpours to ensure water retention occurs. Basin vegetation is trimmed in late spring and multiple times as needed during the summer and fall seasons. The Grounds Department provides support of rain gardens and all other living outdoor laboratories. New plantings and drainage solutions including permeable paver hardscaping across campus are maintained.

Tree Care:

The health of each tree is examined on a regular basis, and the tree inventory traces the historical condition of each tree. Trees are fertilized and treated for diseases as needed. Canopies are thinned and dead wood removed as needed. Hazardous trees are removed. Dozens of new trees are planted each year.

Lawn Maintenance:

A special crew is devoted to the maintenance of the lawn areas. The University is committed to establishing and maintaining beautiful lawn areas throughout the campus. These areas are mowed, trimmed, and edged to give the campus a finished appearance. The campus community is encouraged to stay off lawns by using sidewalks.

Trash Removal:

Trash removal is a two-pronged process at the University. First, the litter must be picked up on a daily basis, and hundreds of outside waste containers must be emptied. Second, trash waste and single stream recycling are collected and removed by a contracted waste service provider.

Composting:

Composting facility is designated for the tons of leaves and seasonal debris collected throughout the year. Course debris such as tree branches and large shrubs are stockpiled then tub ground prior to composting with finer debris. Compost is later sifted and added to topdressing as soil amendments.

Motorpool Autoshop:

The University has not washed vehicles on site since November of 2007. Cleaning of equipment for maintenance and repair of vehicles are done within the confines of the Auto Shop with certified mechanics. The shop is equipped with an oil/water separation unit which siphons off water into the sanitary sewer system.

Contact:

For additional information, contact Environmental Health and Safety:

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