

## **Janice Hamilton Haldeman Arboretum at Erskine Collection Protocols**

(Approved 02.20.2025 by the Arboretum Committee)

### **Introduction**

The Janice Hamilton Haldeman Arboretum at Erskine is operated under the Janice Hamilton Haldeman Arboretum at Erskine Plan (“Plan”) which provides direction for the growth and development of plant holdings and associated facilities and functions. The Plan defines guidelines for the arboretum and describes roles for the participating parties. It outlines the manner in which the living collections will develop and grow, and it charts the content of the arboretum and the general nature of its research and educational programs now and for the future. These protocols are subject to the Plan and are presented here as an extension and interpretation of the Plan.

Erskine’s Arboretum Committee serves as the collections committee and will, with the assistance of the college, implement the Plan and ensure that the collections will remain significant and useful for the college programs, student study and public education. The long-term goal of the arboretum is to increase the specimens in our native species while maintaining selected non-native species.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Janice Hamilton Haldeman Arboretum at Erskine is to preserve the historic tree collection on Erskine’s campus in order to provide a locus for recreational and educational programs integrating science and the humanities, promoting scientific research, and beautifying the campus, while contributing to regional biodiversity and supporting environmental stewardship.

### **Acquisition**

The living collection is the primary focus of the arboretum, which includes historic, native and non-native specimens. The collection also includes a botanical garden along with a secondary growth woody area that serves as a natural habitat for birds, bees and local fauna.

The arboretum's curated general collection, consisting of more than thirty woody plant families, adds to the beauty and diversity of the arboretum and to the herbarium collection maintained by the Biology Department. The vast majority (over 85%) of the species in these families are native to the Southeastern United States.

## **Criteria for accession**

1. A taxon considered for accession should add meaningfully to the comprehensiveness of the collection or the aesthetic, historic, or scientific attributes of the site.
2. The taxon should provide the possibility to support research opportunities which the arboretum or its cooperators can undertake.
3. Accession and management of the taxon should fit within the college's staff time, building and land facilities, equipment capacity, and financial resources.
4. The taxon, if non-native, should not carry significant risk of becoming invasive beyond the reasonable capacity of the staff to control recruitment.
5. Trees, and genera consisting primarily of trees, will be given priority in the development of the arboretum's collections. Shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants will be incorporated into the landscape design for visual or wildlife effect and may be included for ex-situ conservation or study purposes.

## **Records**

A collections record will be maintained which will include verification of the authenticity of plant identity and other data resources. All reasonable attempts will be made to document and record available provenance data for each accession, including but not limited to botanical name, propagation/collection method, year of acquisition, permanent location in the arboretum, and detailed source data. These records will be maintained in a searchable digital format maintained by the College (a printed copy of the collected data is attached hereto). Herbarium and photographic voucher systems are planned for the future, which will be available when the herbarium is scheduled for digitizing in 2025, subject to unanticipated delays.

## **Collection Management**

As part of the ongoing maintenance of the arboretum collection, the specimens will be inspected at least annually by a representative of the Arboretum Committee. Condition, affirmation of phenotypic taxonomy, presence of labeling, need for pruning or release from competition, and general observations will be made at such inspections. Plants and plant records will be protected from loss or physical damage to the greatest extent reasonably possible.

Decisions regarding plants which are found to be degraded to the extent that their usefulness is compromised, or which are found to be misidentified, will be made by the Arboretum Committee or their designee. Actions may include restorative work, propagation and replacement, interim retention, or deaccessioning, in accordance with the guidelines of the tree care manual.

## **Access**

The Janice Hamilton Haldeman Arboretum at Erskine is the arboretum of Erskine College, and the highest priority for access will relate to the educational programs of the college. Other compatible uses will be accommodated as much as possible within the constraints of staffing and funding.

Plant material for propagation and education may be made available to other public gardens, educators, researchers, and serious collectors to the extent that the arboretum, its collections, and its budget and staff can accommodate such uses. All harvest of such materials will be made under the direct supervision of a member of the Arboretum Committee or their designee.