

Statement Regarding Tree Management Activities at Tabler Farm and the Soccer Field Property

Shepherd University has begun a forest management project at Tabler Farm and portions of the property adjacent to the soccer field. The project is intended to improve the long-term health and safety of the area, address aging and vulnerable trees, and support responsible stewardship of University-owned land.

This is not a clear-cutting operation. Tree removal is being conducted under the guidance of forestry and arboriculture professionals, including an ISA Certified Arborist, with the goal of improving forest conditions while preserving and enhancing the overall landscape. The company performing the services is also committed to following all applicable regulations in timbering the trees. As part of the project, Shepherd University has committed to replanting two trees for every tree removed.

The University recognizes the importance of maintaining a natural buffer between neighboring residences and University property. Trees within the wooded area between the soccer field parking lot and nearby homes along Canal Way and the Maddex Drive pass-through are not included in the planned harvesting activities.

The project includes the replacement of selected trees while creating opportunities for new growth and long-term forest regeneration. Shepherd is exploring opportunities to involve neighborhood residents in future replanting efforts, including discussions regarding tree species selection and planting locations.

Current estimates indicate that work at Tabler Farm will take approximately seven to ten days, while work near the soccer field is expected to take approximately 14 to 20 days. Work is anticipated to begin between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. each day, depending on the location and nature of the activities being performed. A staging, loading, and transport area will be located near the end of the soccer field parking area and will remain active throughout the project.

Shepherd University understands that residents have questions about the project and appreciates the community's interest in the long-term health of these properties. The University remains committed to responsible land management practices and open communication with neighboring residents throughout the project.

For the safety of everyone involved, Shepherd University asks that the community keep their distance during all tree management activities.