




Division of Operations

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MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Directors, Departments and Building Captains

From: Darrin "Bear" Edson
 Superintendent of Operations 

Date: August 2, 2017

Subject: **Indoor Plant Program Initiative**

Studies show that Americans spend ninety percent of their lives indoors (RedOrbit September 19, 2005), which means that good indoor air quality is vital for good health. As stated in the February 2005 SixWise Newsletter article, *The Health Benefits of House Plants, Plants are the lungs of the earth: they produce the oxygen that makes life possible, add precious moisture, and filter toxins. Houseplants can perform these essential functions in your home or office with the same efficiency as a rainforest in our biosphere.*

There are more than 600 plants in UAF common areas that have been provided by department staff and faculty. Common areas are defined as any place in a campus building that students or visitors may freely access. These areas include entries, hallways, lobbies, classrooms, teaching labs, reception areas, lounges & study areas.

For the most part the plants are being well maintained but unfortunately many others are not, which is a direct reflection on UAF. A growing number of complaints have been received by Facilities Services requesting action be taken to provide proper plant maintenance. These requests were the catalyst to forming the Indoor Plant Program.

In order to provide consistent and adequate plant care in campus common areas Facilities Services will partner with the building captains to implement the following:

- All plants in common areas will be managed/maintained by the Facilities Services Grounds Department's Indoor Plant Program (IPP) Manager
- Plants will be evaluated by IPP Manager for necessary action to be taken to ensure the plants health and then will be methodically placed in locations more conducive for the plant and its environment
- Department volunteers will be sought to provide routine watering
- Plants will be labeled with type and care information and added to the database
- Facilities Services will review the plants bi-annually to ensure program effectiveness

Please contact me with any comments, concerns and/or questions. I look forward to our partnership in this endeavor and the positive affects it will create on our beautiful campus.