

Tight Grove

Architect	President William G. Tight
Date of Construction	1906–07
Listed Criteria	National Register # 336 A
Name Origin	Named for President Tight, the third president of the University.
Primary Materials	Siberian Elm, Rio Grande Cottonwood, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, Crabapple, and turf.



Figure 49: Tight Grove

Historical Significance

In 1905, UNM President William G. Tight, faculty, and students began planting Tight Grove at what is now the northeast corner of Central Avenue and University Boulevard. Tight believed that a beautiful campus would foster a better academic environment, and he formed the Campus Improvement League to accomplish his vision. Tight’s vision was based on English Romantic tradition, which called for a planned landscape that appeared to be natural and informal like the English countryside. In the case of Tight Grove, the rolling ground surface and the informal placement of trees accomplished this vision (Figure 49). Annually, on Arbor Day, Tight, faculty and male students would bring trees from the Sandias and plant them on campus. While the men worked, the female students prepared food for an afternoon picnic. The predominance of deciduous trees in the southeast portion and evergreens in the northwest portion provides a variety that one would find in many natural landscapes.

Fairly recent additions to Tight Grove include the sculpture of the University mascot, the Lobo, a ground-level light fixture that illuminates the sculpture and a ground-mounted sign of the University surrounded by a flower garden (Figure 50).

Today, the view of Tight Grove from the busy intersection of Central and University signals to students and visitors that a landscaped oasis lies within the boundaries of the UNM main campus. It promises a place where pedestrian traffic is more important than vehicles, and where noise levels are reduced to solitude and contemplation.

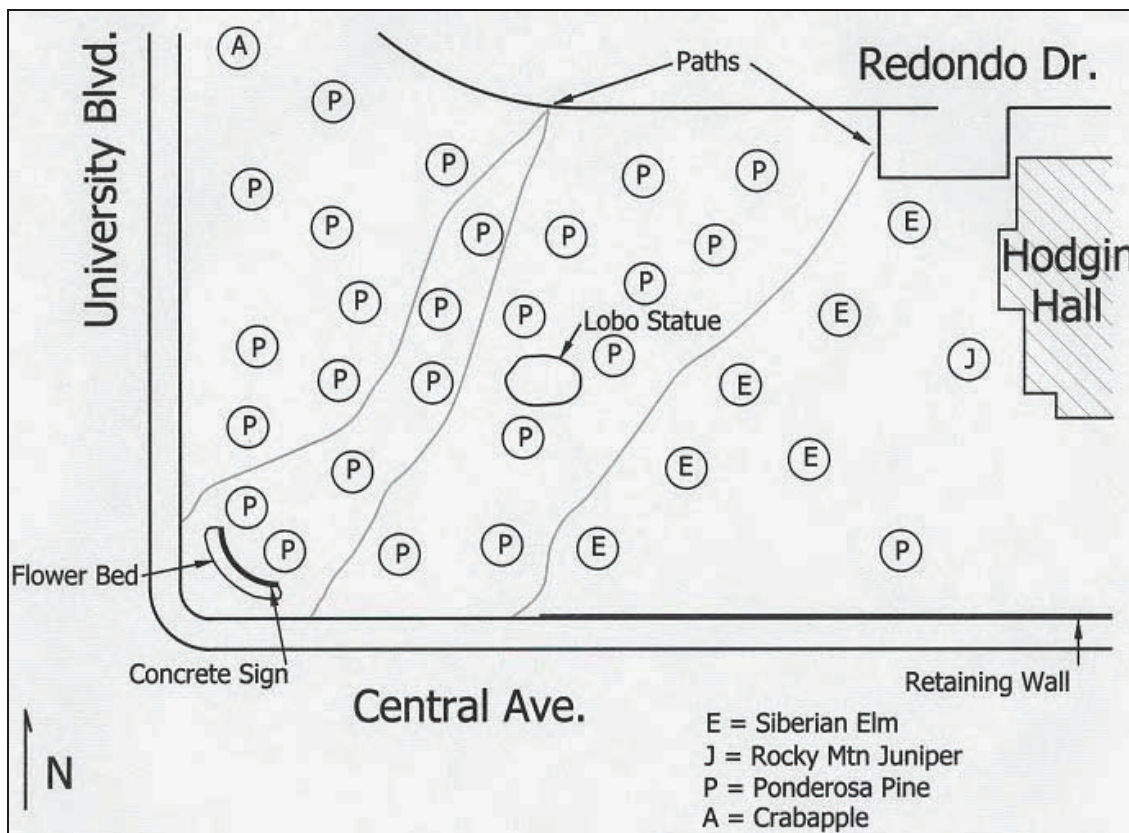


Figure 50: Tight Grove Landscape Plan

Character Defining Features

- Gentle, grassed, undulating topography sloping toward the southwest
- Density of mature ponderosa pine trees
- Density of mature Rio Grande cottonwood trees
- Location of deciduous trees to southeast portion and evergreens in the northwest portion

Important Views of this Setting

- From University and Central streets
- As one walks or drives along Redondo in either direction
- From the windows of Hodgin Hall