



Tree Management Policy

(Policy Number – K-OPPOL001)
(Policy Type – Council)

1 Aim

The aim of the Tree Management Policy is to ensure:

- (a) Council maintains a policy of practical and balanced tree management through environmental and social accountability, whilst encouraging the development of a well-treed environment.
- (b) that a fully documented inventory of trees on Council Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas, and Street Reserves is developed and maintained.
- (c) there is a schedule of inspections and maintenance of the trees listed in the inventory, and that all such activities are recorded.

2 Policy Statement

This policy provides a practical and balanced approach to tree management in Council's parks, reserves, recreational areas and road reserves, ensuring public safety while allowing for the controlled improvement and beautification of the area. Council recognises trees are an essential component of a pleasant and functional environment, but at times there can be a conflict with other elements of the landscape and/or services.

It is in the interests of both the community and Council to promote a balanced and safe approach to tree management, such as tree planting, tree removal, tree pruning, and the minimising of damage caused by trees.

3 Policy Detail

Purpose	Description
Tree Inventory	<p>The "Tree Inventory" document will contain all relevant information including the location, origin, species, approximate age, and health of each tree.</p> <p>All complaints or notification of problems with trees from residents will be recorded, and the remedial action taken and when it was carried out.</p> <p>This record will be filed with the Tree Inventory to build up a history of the remedial action taken against an individual tree/species.</p>
Tree Strategy	<p>A formal "Tree Management Strategy" will be developed and maintained by Council to provide guidance in prioritising budget expenditure for planting and replacement of trees within parks, reserves, recreational areas and road reserves.</p> <p>The "Tree Management Strategy" is to be updated annually from the results of the "Tree Inventory" audit.</p>



<p>Inspection Procedures</p>	<p>A program of formal inspections and audits of all trees located on Council parks, reserves, recreational areas, and road reserves will be maintained.</p> <p><u>Bi-Annual Audit Review:</u></p> <p>A suitably qualified person will carry out a bi-annual audit of all trees located on Council parks, reserves, recreational areas and road reserves.</p> <p>The outcomes of this audit will be used as the basis to review and update the Tree Inventory List and add to the Tree Maintenance Schedule.</p>
<p>Tree Planting by Residents</p>	<p>Planting of street and park trees by residents will require the approval of Council's Manager Infrastructure & Assets.</p> <p>Unauthorised planting of street trees by residents is discouraged. In circumstances where trees have been planted without approval, the trees will only be allowed to remain if they meet a set standard, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a suitable species which is compatible with the surrounding streetscape;• a good quality specimen;• in a suitable location; and• planted to a Council standard. <p>Where a tree does not meet these conditions, the resident who planted the tree shall be asked to remove or relocate the tree. If this request is not complied with, the tree will be removed by Council at the resident's expense.</p> <p>Planting by residents on the nature strip fronting their property shall be permitted providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• trees have no foliage and minimal branch structure between 300mm and 2500mm from the ground.• plants do not or will not interfere with traffic visibility or infrastructure services.• no hazard is created.• an approved species is used.• the planting style is compatible with the surrounding landscape• trees are maintained by the resident to a standard approved by Council.• the resident formally requests and receives permission from Council in writing before planting. <p>The resident must also accept that no recourse is available for damage to the planting by Council activity.</p>



Tree Planting by Council	Planting of trees in parks, reserves, recreational areas and road reserves by Council will only be undertaken after local residents and community groups have been appropriately consulted, and they have been given adequate opportunity to express their views on what is proposed.
Tree Removal	Council will take into consideration concerns of residents and ratepayers affected by the removal of a tree. Where possible, concerns associated with the removal of trees will be minimised through proper consultation with residents, but Council reserves the right to make the final decision.
Tree Removal Assessment Guidelines	<p>Upon receipt of a request to remove a tree, a suitably qualified and authorised agent of Council shall assess the tree for its:</p> <p>Condition, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health; • structure/form; • life expectancy and amenity; • safety; and • damage caused or potential for damage. <p>Suitability, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compatibility with the surrounding landscape; • potential to cause damage and/or nuisance; • characteristics of species to growing space and conditions. <p>Significance, based on whether it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a major impact on the landscape; • has outstanding visual appeal; • is very large (more than 15m high or 15m wide); • is very old (more than 40 years); • is one of a significant species; • provides a significant habitat for native fauna; • has historical associations.
Tree Removal Authorisation	A decision regarding removal or retention of trees in parks, reserves, recreational areas and road reserves will be made on the basis of the assessment criteria outlined in this policy. Unless otherwise stated, authority for removal will be determined by the Manager Works, or the Manager Infrastructure & Assets or the General Manager.
Tree Pruning	Trees located in Council parks, reserves, recreational areas and street reserves will be pruned to:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain public safety through the removal of structurally unsound limbs; • maintain tree health through the removal of dead or diseased material; • maintain prescribed clearances from services e.g. powerlines, over roads, footpaths and driveways; • ensure traffic safety and visibility of street signs; and • minimise future work requirements through the removal of potential problems at an early stage
Tree Pruning Standard	Tree pruning by Council shall be completed in accordance with the Australian Standard for Tree Pruning.

4 Associated Documents and References

4.1 Strategic Plan Reference

Area	3	Infrastructure
Program	3.4	Parks and Reserves
Objective	3.4	To maintain our parks and reserves to an appropriate standard to enhance lifestyle.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL: 23 January 2024

Minute: 12.1

EFFECTIVE DATE: 23 January 2024

ADMINISTERED BY: Manager Infrastructure & Assets

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance in terms of community needs and expectations and Council goals, targets, budget and statutory requirements.