

Service 8: City Tree Management

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the management of trees within public areas managed by the City of Kalamunda (City) to meet the needs and expectations of the community which is consistent with the City's strategic objectives and operational requirements.

2. Planning

Priority 2: Kalamunda Clean and Green

Objective 2.1 - To protect and enhance the environmental values of the City.

Strategy 2.1.2- Development and Implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy.

3. Policy Statement

The City will strive to improve the overall tree canopy in areas that are managed by the City through conservation and protection where possible of healthy existing trees and as resources are available, increase the overall tree numbers.

It is recognised that trees are an integral part of the identity of the City and a vibrant urban forest is shown to positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of the City.

If a tree is deemed necessary for removal by the City, an objective methodology of assessment shall be undertaken and documented.

4. Detail

Tree management in public areas forms part of the annual operating processes of the Assets Directorate determined within available budgets.

In achieving suitable community outcomes, the City will:

- a) Take a proactive asset management approach to the management of trees in public areas.
- b) Recognise and manage budget limitations and ensure decisions reflect the principles of financial sustainability.
- c) Manage trees in line with utility and infrastructure service provider requirements.
- d) Minimise risk and meet its duty of care legal obligations.

- e) Deliver broader ecological, social and aesthetic benefits to present and future generations.
- f) Retain healthy trees wherever possible.
- g) Encourage owners of Private Property that have tree branches or limbs overhanging their property to consult with the City and then undertake removal of limbs and branches inside their property at their cost rather than remove the tree.
- h) Undertake assessment of the need to remove trees within City controlled parks, reserves, and leased areas where:
 - i. All or part of the tree is dead, suffering termite or other damage or is determined by the City to be declining in health. In some cases, dead trees may provide habitat for local fauna and will be assessed accordingly for possible retention.
 - ii. It is a cultivated tree and is considered a hazard to residents, motorists, or property (where pruning of overhanging branches onto private property will not sufficiently mitigate these risks).
 - iii. A street tree was planted without approval from the City and is determined to be unsuitable in the area.
 - iv. As part of any development approval process the tree is considered by the City, appropriate to remove.
 - v. The tree causes reoccurring damage to public infrastructure that outweighs its public benefit.
 - vi. The tree has adverse impact on access to the relevant property.
 - vii. The tree presents an unacceptable risk regarding the City's Bushfire Management Plan and procedures
- i) For every tree that is removed, either 4 smaller trees or 2 semi mature trees shall be planted by the City and near where the original tree was removed (if practicable).

5. Community Consultation

This policy is internally focussed upon the Council and the Administration and hence is not required to undergo public consultation.

6. Governance

Where it is recognised that there may be significant community concern regarding a proposal to remove a tree, the matter will be referred to Council for decision.

Where there has been a request to remove an existing tree which is otherwise assessed by the City as suitable for retention, the matter will be referred to Council for decision.

If Council decides to proceed with a proposal to remove a tree, the City will undertake localised community consultation on the matter and if there is significant objection refer the matter back to Council for final deliberation.

The City will maintain records setting out matters regarding to retention, removal and community consultation regarding City managed trees.

7. Measures of Success

The success of this policy will be measured by:

- a) Evidence where trees are retained through proper processes
- b) Community satisfaction surveys.

8. Definitions

City Managed Tree – means a tree that has most of its trunk located within land that is under the care and control of the City.

Cultivated Tree – means a tree that is not endemic to Western Australia

Street Tree – means a tree planted in the verge or median of a road reserve

Status	New Policy for Adoption		
Related Local Law	Street Lawns and Gardens (1964)		
Related Council Policies	Governance 8: Risk Management		
Relevant Delegation	CEO		
Related Internal Procedures	Updated Procedure Pending		
Related Budget Schedule	Operating Budget Business Unit 450 Open Space Management		
Legislation	Local Government Act 1995 (WA) Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Bushfire Act 1954 (WA)		
Notes and Conditions	N/A		
Authority	Council		
Adopted	12 October 2021	Next Review Date	12 October 2023