

Improving Public Spaces Policy

Policy Type: Council Policy

Policy Owner: Manager Strategic Urban Planning

Policy No. CP- 103

Last Review Date: 19 July 2019

Policy Objectives

1. To create a more liveable city.
2. To improve the quality, useability, amenity and safety of public spaces in the City of Melville.
3. To improve physical and mental health outcomes.
4. To develop greener and more sustainable public spaces.
5. To provide a variety of public spaces for different uses and users.
6. To improve accessibility and connections.
7. To show respect for and celebrate Aboriginal culture and history.
8. To deliver best value for money.
9. To create public spaces which are fit for their intended purposes.

Policy Scope

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear strategic direction and inform future decision-making on the best ways to improve public spaces in the City of Melville.

Definitions / Abbreviations Used In Policy

Public spaces include all publicly-accessible land that could be used for sport, recreation, nature conservation, green spaces, exercise, water management, passive outdoor enjoyment and social activities. Examples of public spaces include parks, local or regional reserves, river foreshores, bushland areas, accessible school ovals, footpaths, cycle paths, publicly-accessible decks/rooftop gardens, piazzas, 'parklets' and streets that are or could be made pedestrian-friendly.

Policy Statement

The character and image of an area is often defined by the appearance, quality and functionality of streetscapes and public spaces. High quality public spaces are important components of desirable, healthy and liveable neighbourhoods.

The City is committed to significantly improving public spaces to create a more liveable city. *People, Places, Participation: A Strategic Community Plan for the City of Melville 2016-2026* identified that public spaces are very important for the community.

It is important that the funding available for public spaces is utilised effectively and efficiently to deliver best value for the community.

An independent assessment by POS Tool, developed by the University of Western Australia, calculated that public spaces occupy 25.8% of the City's total area. This percentage does not include other public spaces, such as club pay-for-use facilities and pedestrian-friendly streets. The City of Melville has more available public space than most comparable urban local governments in Perth.

The main issue for the City to address is not an overall lack of public spaces, but rather how to best improve existing spaces. There are a range of opportunities to enhance existing spaces by adding new amenities, providing shade and greenery, improving accessibility and connections, providing more things to do and making spaces more environmentally sustainable.

The following principles will help to improve public spaces:

1. Utilise a best value for money approach to improving public spaces.
2. Prioritise improvements to the quality, useability, amenity, comfort, sustainability, variety, safety and accessibility of public spaces over the purchase of expensive freehold land for additional parklands. The City will only purchase freehold land for additional parkland if:
 - a. The identified needs of the local community are unable to be met by improving the quality, useability, amenity, sustainability, variety, safety and accessibility of public spaces;
 - b. A cost effective opportunity arises; or
 - c. Existing local public spaces are demonstrably suffering from over-utilisation.
3. Recognise pedestrian-friendly streets as important public spaces.
4. Encourage walking, cycling, active children's play and other physical activities to improve physical health outcomes.
5. Develop new or upgrade existing footpaths and cycle paths, particularly to improve connections to activity centres, schools, key public transport routes, parks and reserves.
6. Make public spaces more accessible and comfortable for seniors.
7. Upgrade underutilised public spaces to encourage more community use.
8. Install interpretative signage and artworks in public spaces.
9. Respect and celebrate Aboriginal culture and history in public spaces.
10. Incorporate stormwater management, hydro-zoning and water sensitive urban design in parks and streetscapes.
11. Upgrade drainage sumps to incorporate water sensitive urban design and allow public access where possible.
12. Encourage Community Play Streets.

13. Investigate reductions to speed limits in activity centres and residential areas to improve road safety and promote walking and cycling.
14. Liaises as appropriate and works co-operatively with the state Agencies managing regional reserves in the city, community groups and other stakeholders to manage and improve public spaces

References that may be applicable to this Policy

Legislative Requirements:	Planning and Development Act 2005
Procedures, Process Maps, Work Instructions:	N/A
Other Plans, Frameworks, Documents Applicable to Policy:	Local Planning Strategy Corporate Environmental Strategic Plan Urban Forest Strategy (under development) Green Space Strategy (under development) Public Health and Wellbeing Policy CP-040 Physical Activity Policy CP-028 Path Policy CP-033 Urban Forest and Green Space Policy CP-102 Street Tree Policy CP-029 Verge Treatment Policy CP-086 Natural Area Management Plans
Delegated Authority No:	N/A

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