



# Urban Forest and Green Space Policy

<b>Policy Type: Council Policy</b> <b>Policy Owner: Manager Natural Areas and Parks</b>	<b>Policy No. CP- 102</b> <b>Last Review Date: 16 July 2024</b>
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## Policy Objectives

1. To protect, preserve and enhance the aesthetic character of the City of Melville.
2. To realise the social, environmental, and economic benefits of trees and other vegetation as an integral element of the urban environment.
3. To contribute to community wellbeing by integrating and aligning the efficient provision of physical, social, and green infrastructure and management of natural areas.
4. To encourage a sense of shared responsibility and balance individual and community rights to equitably distribute the costs and the benefits of a greener City.
5. To ensure that the urban forest and green spaces that are integral to the City's sense of place are not compromised in areas of increased residential density.

## Policy Scope

This policy applies to land owned or managed by the City, to activities for which the City's discretion or approval is required and to the City's function of advising and providing services to the community.

This policy is intended to give direction to operational strategies and where appropriate, the development of local laws and to guide decisions in circumstances of competing objectives.

## Policy Statement

Green Infrastructure comprises a critical element of the urban ecosystem contributing many social, economic and environmental benefits.

The protection of a healthy, resilient and diverse urban ecosystem is a shared responsibility of the City, other landowners, residents and businesses.

The City is committed to locally targeted increases in tree canopy and understory cover to ensure equality of Green Infrastructure across the City.

The City is also committed to Carbon Neutral by 2030 (organisation) and 2050 (City-wide) and urban forest and green space contribute positively towards this objective.



The City seeks to achieve and maintain locally optimal levels of urban canopy cover that balance:

- the community benefits of trees,
- the benefits of biodiversity and a sustainable ecosystem,
- the needs and aspirations of land owners and users, and
- the health, safety, and quality of life of the community.

The City will foster and facilitate innovative ways to engage the community in increasing urban forest and other green space across the City in all urban environments including streetscapes, parks, civic facilities, infrastructure reserves and private land.

Other than in natural areas, the City will plant trees and shrubs that are well-adapted to the specific site requirements and surrounding land use, are compatible with existing and planned adjacent hard infrastructure and are fit for the purpose for which they are planted.

Management of natural areas will minimise variation to the natural and unassisted species mix occurring in the environment, with intervention in natural areas limited to replacing senescent, diseased or dead plants with the same or similar indigenous species, removing weeds, addressing land and plant degradation and responsibly managing fuel load to reduce bushfire risk.

All future structure plans, Local Planning Scheme amendments and infrastructure asset plans will make reference to urban forest and green space objectives.

The City will develop and maintain a publicly accessible tree inventory for public land, and will regularly assess the extent, health and diversity of the City's urban forest, with the results made publicly available.

The implementation, monitoring and review of this policy will be based on the above data and risk management principles.



### References that may be applicable to this Policy

Legislative Requirements:	The Local Government Act
Procedures, Process Maps, Work Instructions:	N/A
Other Plans, Frameworks, Documents Applicable to Policy:	CP-029 Tree Policy CP-086 Verge Treatment Policy Urban Forest Strategic Plan Open Space Strategy Climate Action Policy CP-120
Policy alignment required:	CP-005 Land and Property Retention, Disposal and Acquisition Policy CP-030 Environmental Policy CP-040 Public Health Wellbeing Policy CP-067 Amenity Policy CP-078 Residential Development Policy CP-087 Non-Residential Development Policy CP-057 Sustainability Policy
Delegated Authority No:	N/A

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### ORIGIN/AUTHORITY

### Item No.

#### Reviews

Ordinary Meeting of Council	20 September 2016	T16/3720
Ordinary Meeting of Council	21 November 2017	T17/3769
Ordinary Meeting of Council	19 November 2019	T19/3827
Ordinary Meeting of Council	17 March 2020	T20/3842
Ordinary Meeting of Council	19 April 2022	T22/3965
Ordinary Meeting of Council	16 July 2024	E24/40