



Street Tree Policy

Department/Unit	Field Services	First Implemented	21 July 2009	Review Date	November 2025
Origin	Manager Field Services	Reviewed	June 2023	Version	3
Authorising Officer	Endorsement of Council	Effective From	28 November 2023	TRIM Reference	E4322

Purpose/Objective

The purpose of this policy is to provide a strategic approach to street tree management and tree asset renewal for Mansfield Shire Council.

Policy Statement

Mansfield Shire Council is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for both employees and the community. It is recognised that while trees provide visual amenity, environmental and shade benefits, they can also generate risks for Council employees and the broader community. It is important that these risks are managed in a safe and controlled manner by correctly following procedures outlined in this policy and the corresponding Tree Management Plan.

- ▶ Tree Management is preferable to no management;
- ▶ Safety is the absolute priority;
- ▶ Reasonable management costs are an important secondary objective; and
- ▶ Sustaining amenity is an equally important secondary objective.

Specifically, Council will:

- ▶ Make public safety in respect to the planning, provision, and maintenance of trees a priority;
- ▶ Maintain a tree management plan that incorporates street and open space tree management.
- ▶ Seek to implement an urban greening approach taking into consideration the possible conflict between trees, community expectations and the built environment;
- ▶ Seek to communicate council's tree management philosophy, and complete relevant community / stakeholder consultation to achieve successful outcomes when considering tree planting and maintenance work.

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- ▶ Implement and manage appropriate tree removal/replacement programs that ensure the tree resource is continually renewed thereby ensuring a sustainable tree population; and
- ▶ Implement tree management in line with relevant legislative requirements, strategic policies, principles of sustainability and accepted tree care practices. Operations known to be detrimental to long-term tree health will not be supported.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Tree	A tree is a woody plant with generally a single erect perennial trunk at least 75 millimetres in diameter at breast height (DBH). Most trees have definitely formed crowns of foliage and attain heights in excess of four (4) metres
Hazardous Trees	Those trees that have a defect that may cause injury or property damage if not removed such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Structurally Unsound - bifurcation with high chance of failure within the next five (5) years, excessive borer activity, dying or dead ▶ Exposed Roots - having a high potential as a trip hazard (provided no remedial action is possible) ▶ Inappropriately Located - tall tree species with structural defects under power lines; a tree leaning over road/paths/property whose form cannot be corrected by pruning or other arboricultural methods ▶ Trees Causing Major Damage - where tree branches/roots are causing significant damage to Council, utility, or private infrastructure and where this has the potential to increase significantly
Risk	Expose to a chance of loss or damage (Cognitive Science Laboratory, Princeton University 2005); a prediction of the likelihood and extent of harm (negative consequences) resulting from a given action; risk = hazard x exposure (American Chemical Society 2005).
Urban Trees	Trees according to the Mansfield Planning Strategy that exist in the Main Service Centre, Towns and Townships.

Scope

This policy applies to all street trees in the urban environment on land managed by/ or the responsibility of Mansfield Shire Council.

This policy applies to all Council employees, Councillors, contractors, consultants, volunteers and other authorised personnel of Mansfield Shire Council

Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the application of this Policy is held by the Chief Executive Officer.

Managers are responsible for ensuring their staff comply with the principles, practices, and any associated procedures of this policy. Management, employees, contractors, and volunteers are to be familiar with, and competent in, the application of this Policy, and are accountable for the delivery of this policy within their areas of responsibility.

Council's Field Services Department is the owner of this policy. Any reviews of this Policy must be made in consultation with the Environment Officer, Manager Field Services, Asset Management Officer, Council's Arborist and General Manager of Infrastructure and Planning.

References / Related Policies

- ▶ Community Initiated project policy
- ▶ Community Engagement Policy
- ▶ Mansfield Environment Strategy
- ▶ Mansfield Open Space strategy
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2021 – 2025
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Council Road Management Plan 2020
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Council Road Register 2017
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Council Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2014
- ▶ Mansfield Shire Planning Strategy 2022

Gender Impact Assessment

Street Tree Policy has had a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) completed and is compliant with the obligations and objectives of the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020.

Implementation

This Policy is effective from 28 November 2023.

Review Date

This Policy is to be reviewed by November 2025.

Authorisation to Implement Policy

Signed:  _____
Councillor

Witnessed:  _____
Chief Executive Officer

Approval dated: 28 November 2023

Mansfield Shire Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this Policy at any time.