



Street Tree Policy

Department/Unit	Field Services	First Implemented	21 July 2009	Review Date	30 June 2023
Origin		Reviewed	07 July 2021	Version	2
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer	Effective From	20 July 2021	TRIM Reference	

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.

The following principles will apply:

- 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 system for street and open space trees as part of Council's asset and risk management systems;

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- 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.
- 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

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 arboriculture 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	Exposure 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	Land zoned general residential, low density residential or urban zone.

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.

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

References / Related Policies

Related policies, standards and plans include:

- Community Initiated Projects Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Mansfield Environment Strategy
- Mansfield Open Space strategy
- AS4970-2009 Australian Standard for protection of trees in development sites


Implementation

This Policy is effective from 20 July 2021


Review Date

This Policy is to be reviewed by 30 June 2023

Authorisation to Implement Policy

Signed:  _____

Councillor

Witnessed:  _____

Chief Executive Officer

Approval dated: 20 July 2021

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