



POLICY NO. CP 2.3.9

POLICY STATEMENT

PUBLIC TREES

PURPOSE

To provide guidance on the planning, protection, management, and maintenance of trees located on City managed land.

POLICY

1. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all trees on City managed land, with the exception of any tree provision or removal in association with a subdivision or development process, in which case, guidance is provided by Local Planning Policy 4.7.

2. OBJECTIVES

The City is committed to increasing the number of trees in the public realm to enhance cooling and amenity, improve air quality, and to provide habitat for native fauna.

This policy is intended to guide the planning, planting, management, maintenance, and removal of trees on City managed land.

3. POLICY

3.1 The City provides trees in response to resident requests and through planned planting programs.

3.2 The number of trees planted on the verge abutting the front property boundary line is generally one tree per property (average frontage 15m); however, additional trees may be planted if space permits.

3.3 The species planted will conform to the list of species recommended for planting that is located on the City's website. Preference will be given to trees that provide the greatest canopy in the available space. Tree selection will be determined with consideration to soil characteristics, watering requirements, resident preference, and potential impact on surrounding infrastructure.

3.4 Whilst residents are encouraged to water street trees, all trees planted on City managed land will be managed and maintained by the City. The City will work to ensure trees remain healthy, have appropriate sightline clearances for pedestrians and vehicles, and fulfil legislated clearance requirements regarding overhead power supply. Specifically, the City is responsible for the following:

- Canopy maintenance to improve the health, safety, and amenity of the tree;
- Removal of trees that present an unacceptable level of risk as assessed by a competent Arborist;
- Pruning to remove branches and roots conflicting with other infrastructure;
- Pruning for pedestrian or, vehicular visibility; or removal of trees in conflict with utilities and built structures where all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered.



All works undertaken by the City will aim to cause minimum disruption to the tree to achieve the management goal.

- 3.5 Any works undertaken as part of a development by others within a specified tree protection zone must ensure adequate measures are taken to identify the size of the zone and barricade the area from disturbance to minimise any adverse impacts on the tree. Any costs associated with these works are to be borne by those undertaking the works.
- 3.6 The City will maintain a register of Significant trees in accordance with CP 2.3.20 Register of Significant Public Trees.
- 3.7 All requests for the removal of trees will be assessed by the City in accordance with best arboriculture practice to maximise the possibility of retaining the tree. Tree removal is considered as a final option in tree management and will only be considered in the following circumstances:
- Where the tree is dead;
 - Where the tree is in a state of decline to the point that survival is unlikely;
 - Where the tree is causing significant damage to infrastructure or services, or presenting an unacceptable level of risk to public safety;
 - Where the tree conflicts with infrastructure or services and all reasonable and practical engineering alternatives have been considered; or
 - As provided for by a subdivision or development approval, granted in accordance with Local Planning Policy 4.7.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances; whenever a tree is removed, a replacement tree will be planted in its place.

- 3.8 In considering requests for tree related work, unless there are exceptional circumstances the City will not support the following:
- Removal of trees not considered to be the responsibility of the City;
 - Unauthorised tree removal or pruning of any City managed tree;
 - Removal of trees to improve views;
 - Removal or pruning of trees to improve solar power access;
 - Removal or pruning of trees to provide clearance for CCTV, antenna, satellite dish or other communication devices;
 - Removal of trees due to leaf, fruit or sap drop, bird or bat droppings;
 - Removal of trees due to damage to sewer pipes/built structures unless all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered;
 - Removal of a tree which is in the way of a non-essential crossover or verge infrastructure.
 - Removal of healthy and stable trees;
 - Pruning of trees contrary to Australian Standards;



- Any pruning work outside what a particular species will tolerate;
- Tree work for emotive reasons;
- Removal of trees inhibiting lawn/or grass growth;
- Chemical controls unless deemed absolutely necessary e.g. termite control on nature strips;
- Removal of trees for allergies unless the tree can be medically linked to the allergy by a specialist and all reasonable health alternatives have been considered;
- Removal of trees found to be causing damage to non-approved infrastructure or infrastructure not built to the correct standard;
- Removal of trees found to be causing damage to minor ancillary structures such as footpaths, driveways and synthetic turf; or
- Requests for topping/height reduction of trees other than for aerial power lines.

3.9 Where a tree or vegetation is removed from City managed land without written permission, the City may prosecute the person responsible for breaching the City's *Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2021*. The City may also choose to:

- Replant to the same or greater density;
- Erect signage to seek information or alert the community to the illegal act.

**GOVERNANCE REFERENCES**

Statutory Compliance	Nil.
Industry Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Planning Policy 3.1 - Residential Design Codes• Western Australian Planning Commission Liveable Neighbourhoods Policy• Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy
Organisational Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2021• Local Government Property Local Law 2009• Local Planning Policy 4.7 Public Open Space and Streetscapes• Protection of trees identified by the City of Gosnells Heritage Inventory 2016• CP 2.3.19 – Trees and Urban Canopy• CP 2.3.20 Register of Significant Trees
Process Links	Nil.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer Title		Contact:	
Infrastructure		Manager Parks and Environment		9397 3000	
Risk Rating	Low	Review Cycle	Biennial	Next Due:	2027
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis			
1.	OCM 377/23/08/2011	Redraft replaces revoked Council Policy 2.3.9 Street Tree Policy.			
2.	OCM 418/24/09/2013	Reviewed with no amendments.			
3.	OCM 372/22/09/2015	Reviewed and amended with minor updates including a new section on street tree pruning.			
4.	OCM 317/26/09/2017	Reviewed and amended with minor updates regarding preference for species native to Western Australia.			
5.	OCM 261/24/09/2019	Reviewed and amended			
6.	OCM 16/08/02/2022	Reviewed and amended with changes to the selection of the species of replacement trees and when trees will be considered for removal.			
7.	OCM 2025/45 11/03/2025	Reviewed and amended with changes to increase the protection and broaden the coverage of the policy to all trees on City managed land. Policy title amended from Street Trees to Public Trees.			