



KENTISH COUNCIL POLICY

TREE MANAGEMENT

Policy Number 04:02:2002

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OBJECTIVE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To ensure that Council maintains a policy of practical and balanced tree management through environmental and social accountability, whilst encouraging the development of a well-treed environment. 2) To ensure that a fully documented inventory of trees on Council Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas, and Street Reserves is developed and maintained. 3) To formally schedule and document inspections and maintenance of the trees listed in the inventory. 						
POLICY	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Adopted 26/03/2002</td> <td>Minute 8.a.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reviewed 23/07/2002</td> <td>Minute 8.a.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reviewed 17/11/2015</td> <td>Minute 11.4.5</td> </tr> </table>	Adopted 26/03/2002	Minute 8.a.5	Reviewed 23/07/2002	Minute 8.a.3	Reviewed 17/11/2015	Minute 11.4.5
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Reviewed 23/07/2002	Minute 8.a.3						
Reviewed 17/11/2015	Minute 11.4.5						
REVIEW	The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every two years.						

1. INTRODUCTION:

This policy aims to provide a practical and balanced approach to tree management in Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves, that seeks to ensure public safety and allow controlled improvement and beautification. It recognises trees are essential components of a pleasant and functional environment, but at times do come into conflict with other elements of the landscape or services.

It is in the interests of both the community and Council to promote a balanced and safe approach to tree management, such as tree planting, tree removal, tree pruning, and minimising damage caused by trees.



2. TREE INVENTORY:

The “Tree Inventory” document, will contain all relevant information including the location, origin, species, approximate age and health of each tree.

All complaints or notification of problems with trees from residents will be recorded, and the remedial action taken and when it was carried out. This record will be filed with the Tree Inventory to build up a history of the remedial action taken against an individual tree/species.

3. TREE STRATEGY:

A formal “Tree Management Strategy” will be developed and maintained by Council that will provide guidance in prioritising budgetary expenditure for planting and replacement of trees within the Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves,

The “Tree Management Strategy” will be updated annually from the results of the “Tree Inventory” audit.

4. INSPECTION PROCEDURES:

Council will maintain a program of formal inspections and audits of all trees located on Council Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves.

Bi-Annual Audit Review:

A suitably qualified person will carry out a bi-annual audit of trees located on Council Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves. This audit will be carried out against the formal written checklist “RM003-01-03”. The outcomes of this audit will be used as the basis to review and update the Tree Inventory List, and added to the Tree Maintenance Schedule.

5. TREE PLANTING BY RESIDENTS:

Planting of street and park trees by residents will only be undertaken with the approval of Council Officers. Unauthorised planting of street trees by residents shall be discouraged, but recently planted trees shall be allowed to remain provided they meet a set standard.

This being:

- a suitable species which is compatible with the surrounding streetscape;
- a good quality specimen;
- in a suitable location; and
- planted to a Council standard.

Where a tree does not meet these conditions, the resident who planted the tree shall be asked to remove or relocate the tree. If this request is not complied with, the tree will be removed by Council staff at the resident’s expense.



Planting by residents on the nature strip fronting their property shall be permitted provided that:

- trees have no foliage and minimal branch structure between 300 mm and 2500mm from the ground.
- plants do not or will not interfere with traffic visibility or infrastructure services.
- no hazard is created.
- an approved species is used.
- the planting style is compatible with the surrounding landscape
- trees are maintained by the resident to a standard approved by Council.
- the resident formally requests and receives permission from Council in writing before planting.

The resident must also accept that no recourse is available for damage to the planting by Council activity.

6. TREE PLANTING BY COUNCIL:

Planting of trees in Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves by Council will only be undertaken after local residents and community groups have been consulted, and they have been given adequate opportunity to express their opinions.

7. TREE REMOVAL:

Council will take into consideration concerns of residents and ratepayers affected by the removal of a tree. Where possible, concerns associated with the removal of trees will be minimised through proper consultation with residents, but the Council reserves the right to make the final decision.

8. TREE REMOVAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES:

Upon receipt of a request to remove a tree, a suitably qualified and duly authorised agent of Council shall assess the tree for its:

Condition, based on:

- health;
- structure/form;
- life expectancy and amenity;
- safety; and
- damage caused or potential for damage.



Suitability, based on:

- compatibility with the surrounding landscape;
- potential to cause damage and/or nuisance;
- characteristics of species to growing space and conditions.

Significance, based on whether it:

- has a major impact on the landscape;
- has outstanding visual appeal;
- is very large (more than 15m high or 15m wide);
- is very old (more than 40 years);
- is one of a significant species;
- provides a significant habitat for native fauna;
- has historical associations.

9. TREE REMOVAL AUTHORISATION:

A decision regarding removal or retention of trees in Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves will be made on the basis of the assessment criteria outlined above. Unless otherwise stated, authority for removal will rest with Council's Works Manager or the Council's General Manager.

10. TREE PRUNING:

Trees located in Council Parks, Reserves, Recreational Areas and Street Reserves will be pruned to:

- maintain public safety through the removal of structurally unsound limbs;
- maintain tree health through the removal of dead or diseased material;
- maintain prescribed clearances from services e.g. powerlines, over roads, footpaths and driveways;
- ensure traffic safety and visibility of street signs; and
- minimise future work requirements through the removal of potential problems at an early stage

11. TREE PRUNING STANDARD:

Tree pruning within the municipal area shall be in accordance with the Australian Standard for Tree Pruning (AS 4373).

12. RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS:

This policy should be considered in the context of the following documents:

- Risk Management Policy
- Risk Management Framework
- Tree Removal Checklist