Guideline

Tree Protection, Planting, Pruning, Removal & Maintenance

Purpose
This is a City of Swan Guideline for tree protection, planting, pruning, removal and maintenance to enable the efficient and consistent management of all trees on City land.

Guidelines

1) Tree Planting

1.1) The City’s approval shall be required for all tree plantings within City land including those undertaken by Developers, residents, community groups, City staff and/or by contractors on behalf of the City.

1.2) The City will continue to offer to supply and plant at least one tree to the verge of each lot within the City and will consider requests to supply and plant additional trees for corner or wider frontage lots. In the case of requests, residents shall be responsible for watering the tree/s supplied. Where practicable the tree/s should not be planted under powerlines, unless their potential mature height remains within the specified distance from powerlines - ensuring minimal pruning of trees under powerlines.

1.3) Tree supply and planting shall be in accordance with approved City standards as outlined in the City of Swan Landscape Guidelines.

1.4) Where a resident or developer has undertaken unauthorised planting on City land, which the City deems to be unsuitable and not compliant with the City of Swan Landscape Guidelines, the City may take action towards the removal/relocation of unauthorized plantings, and may require that the costs be met by the resident or developer.

2) Tree Pruning – Trees General

2.1) Except in situations where tree pruning responsibility rests with statutory authorities such as Western Power or, as approved by the City, with the Developer of a site, the City shall be responsible for the pruning of all Trees General within City land.

2.2) Pruning of Trees General by the City shall be undertaken in accordance with set annual programs.

   a) Clear canopy from interference with overhead power lines (as per Western Power’s code of practice and responsibility model) and other essential services;

   b) Under prune low growing branches hazardous to traffic and pedestrians and remove overhanging branches hazardous to property, pedestrians or traffic (as per Western Power and Australian Standards)

2.3) Non-programmed and emergency pruning of Trees General may be undertaken by the City for reasons as noted below:

   a) to remove dead, dying, diseased or pest infested stems, limbs or branches;

   b) to prune roots hazardous to private or public property;

   c) to redefine the framework of mature trees;
d) to rejuvenate vigour in old growth;
e) to reduce crown density so as to redistribute growth to lateral branches; or
f) to carry out remedial or corrective surgery as required as a result of storm damage.

2.4) Requests for tree pruning shall not be considered for the following reasons:
a) tree causing excessive shade;
b) tree shedding excessive leaf, fruit or bark;
c) tree considered too large or too tall;
d) tree obstructing scenic views.

2.5) Requests for tree pruning may not be considered for the following reasons:
a) solar panels;
b) tree litter fallen or blown into gutters, down pipes or drainage systems.

2.6) In cases of demonstrated exceptional circumstances, the City will review such situations on a case by case basis and arrange for an Arboricultural Assessment if required.

3) Tree Removal – Trees General

3.1) Except for specific arrangement with Western Power for naturally occurring trees, the City shall be responsible for the removal of any Trees General within City land and this approval may extend to situations where the tree is:
a) dead or diseased and beyond remedial treatment;
b) structurally weak and dangerous, posing a risk to public & property safety;
c) rendered dangerous and/or irreparable due to storm damage;
d) a hazard to pedestrians and motorists as its location, species or alignment obstructs necessary vision or other safety aspects;
e) affected by public works and every option for preventing loss of the tree has been investigated without practical solution;
f) dangerously in contact with overhead power lines or distribution wires and where for reasons of growth habit pertaining to the species, selective pruning is not practical;

3.2) The following shall not constitute sufficient reason for the removal of a Trees General:
a) growth of tree obstructing scenic views;
b) dislike of the species or its growth habit;
c) leaf, fruit or bark shedding causing a nuisance; unless causing risk to property. To be assessed case by case by City officers
d) species considered inappropriate to its location. Replacements shall be considered to replace removed tree in most cases.
e) existing tree collocated with first (essential) driveway crossover, unless there is no alternative and replacement trees are planted
f) existing tree collocated with a second or any additional crossover;
g) tree litter fallen or blown into gutters, down pipes or drainage systems
3.3) Trees General may be removed by the City as part of the community endorsed and City approved tree replacement program normally using the City Communications Protocol - Letters, mail out etc.

3.4) Any proposed removal of a Trees General shall be preceded by public communication in accordance with the City’s Communication Protocol, if the proposed tree removal affects the Guildford Planning Guidelines or the Woodbridge Planning Guidelines.

6) Tree Removal – Development

6.1) Where trees are intended for removal to benefit the further development of an area, the City reserves the right to value the tree as a City asset using the Burnley or similar recognised method of Tree Valuation, with the developer being liable for the payment of the valuation of the removed asset.

6.2) All efforts are to be made by the developer to design the new development taking into account the existing tree/s, with removal being the last option.

6.3) Where the request from a developer for the removal of a tree to benefit the further development of an area is not deemed to be significant, the developer will be required to relocate the existing tree/s to a more suitable location or replace the tree/s with an agreed species in an agreed location.

6.4) All requests from developers for the pruning or removal of City controlled trees will be dealt with at the time of Planning Development Approval.

6.5) The developer will incur all costs associated with the pruning, removal, relocation and replacement of City controlled trees.

Guideline Administration

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