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| Responsible Directorate | Infrastructure and Works |
| Responsible Section | Parks and Natural Environments |
| Responsible Officer | Manager Parks and Natural Environment |

OBJECTIVE:

The objectives of this policy are to:-

1. Provide guidance in relation to the management of the Towns park trees;
2. Increase the Towns canopy cover;
3. Enhance the amenity of the open space for users; and
4. Define the circumstances under which the Towns trees may be removed or pruned.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all trees within parks, reserves and natural areas that are owned or managed by the Town of Cambridge.

Residents, owners, builders, developers, contractors, representatives and event organisers are all to comply with this policy.

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. PLANTING

- (a) For parks that have an approved Park Improvement Concept Plan, tree planting is to be consistent with these plans and no new tree planting is to occur until these plans are approved;
- (b) The tree species selected for each park should complement the existing park landscape and established character, using an appropriate combination of ornamental trees including native and non-native species;
- (c) The perimeter of parks and sporting reserves should be planted with suitable large shade trees;
- (d) Where appropriate, the tree species selected should provide a suitable habitat for fauna;
- (e) Active areas in parks should be kept free of trees; and
- (f) Passive areas in parks should have a combination of large shade trees and ornamental trees that will provide colour and interest all year round. Shade trees should be planted near barbeques, seating and playgrounds. Fruit and nut trees may also be appropriate in these areas.

2. MAINTENANCE

- (a) Trees will be maintained to best practice industry standards to ensure they stay healthy and viable; and
- (b) Consideration will be given to pruning trees that block views, overshadow gardens or generate excessive leaf, nut and branch litter in a way that does not endanger the health of the tree.

3. REMOVAL

The Town will:-

- (a) Remove, as required, dead or dying trees;
- (b) Remove and relocate if possible, a healthy park tree as deemed necessary to:
 - (i) create more usable open space;
 - (ii) replace the tree with a more appropriate species;
 - (iii) safeguard the users of the park and adjacent residents from unacceptable risks of injury/damage; or
 - (iv) allow more sunlight to penetrate the park.

4. ILLEGAL WORKS

- (a) It is an offence in terms of the Town of Cambridge *Local Government and Public Property Local Law 2017* to destroy any tree on any local government property. This includes pruning, removing or poisoning. Depending upon the information provided following a Town investigation, the Administration may initiate an infringement and/or legal action under clause 9.10(2)(a) Town of Cambridge *Local Government and Public Property Local Law 2017*; and
- (b) Trees will be replaced and the Town may seek to recover costs if those responsible are identified.

5. COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Residents will be informed of the Town's park tree planting programs and strategies as required.

DEFINITIONS:

A tree is any plant over 4 metres in height with a distinct single main trunk that has at least 50% of its base located on public land.

Document Control

Office Use Only:

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| Previous Policy No | Policy No 5.1.4 |
| Statutory Legislation and Compliance | <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> ; |
| Related Documents/Legislation | Town of Cambridge Local Government and Public Property Law |
| Date of Adoption by Council | Council Meeting – 27 November 2012 |
| Date Reviewed/Amended | 23 June 2015 24 May 2016 26 June 2018 23 June 2020 |
| | 26 November 2024 |
| Next Review Date | 30 November 2025 |