

# Tree Management Guidelines





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# Tree Management Guidelines

A street verge is the area between the road and boundary of an adjacent property. The verge provides a safe pedestrian space and vehicular access to properties. The verge also accommodates public service utilities such as street lighting, bus stops, power, water, sewerage and telephone cables.

Street trees make a significant contribution to the urban streetscape in many ways, providing environmental, economic and social benefits. Street trees provide habitat for native fauna and cleanse the air in urban areas, they also add value to properties and surrounding areas and help reduce heating and cooling costs. The City of Joondalup is committed to maintaining and developing a rich and diverse urban forest with its streetscape for the benefit of the whole community.

## Planting Street Trees within the City

The City endeavours to green and enhance the streetscape and will supply and plant trees on residential verges free of charge. The City does **not** permit residents to plant their own trees on the verge without prior approval (please complete a Verge Treatment Application Form).

Residents may apply to have one or more trees planted by the City on the verge adjacent to their property (please see attached form). Subject to a site inspection, the City will supply one tree for standard (non-corner) properties or up to three trees for corner properties (one on the short side of the property, two on the long side).

The City undertakes an annual street tree planting program during winter. All applications need to be made on the attached form or via the City's website and submitted to the City by 31 March of each year. The trees will then be ordered (subject to availability) and planted in the cooler, wetter months.

All applications for street tree planting will be assessed by the City to determine if there is adequate room on the verge for the tree/s, the number of trees that may be planted, species selection (for example, if an 'avenue theme' is already established), and any additional site constraints that may be relevant.

Site constraints can include verge width, length and shape, building set back, overhead powerlines, vehicle and pedestrian access, street lighting and sightlines. These factors will influence the most appropriate location of the street tree. Consideration should also be given as to whether an evergreen or deciduous tree would be most appropriate for the site.

Once a tree is planted on the verge it becomes the City's responsibility, however, the City relies on assistance from residents by asking that residents give a newly planted street tree at least one deep watering (40 litres) a week in the dry months for the first three years after planting.

The City has a preferred tree list (refer to page 6) from which residents may choose a tree, in consultation with the City. This will ensure an appropriate tree species is selected for each location. A description and photographic representation of each tree can be found within the Street Tree Species Guide Section.

### Planting under powerlines

In accordance with Western Power requirements, only suitable trees will be planted under powerlines. Please see attached list.

### Hardstand verge treatments

If a hardstand verge treatment (including synthetic turf) is installed, a minimum 4 metres square (2m x 2m) clearance must be made accessible to allow planting. The City can advise the most suitable position prior to the tree well being created.

## Tree Maintenance

### Powerline Pruning

In those suburbs where there are overhead powerlines, street trees are pruned to maintain mandatory clearances around Western Power infrastructure.

### General Pruning

Pruning is generally only undertaken to further the health and vitality of a tree. If there are concerns that the tree is a hazard, damaged, diseased, dangerous or dead, the City will investigate and arrange the most appropriate action.

In the interest of public safety and for the health of the trees, only the City or its licensed contractors are to carry out any pruning of street trees.

Any unauthorised pruning or removal of trees within the City, undertaken by persons other than the City or its licensed contractor, is an offence and prosecution can occur. The *Local Government and Public Property Local Law 1999* Part 3 - General Clause 13 (n) states:

“A person shall not on or from any local government property, without having first obtained a written approval from the local government to do so: cut, break, injure, deface, pull up, pick, remove, or destroy any tree, shrub, flower, grass or plant of any kind”.

Additionally, Part 13 - Offences and Penalties Clause 70 states: “Any person... who does anything which under this local law that person is prohibited from doing, commits an offence.”

Parties who breach this Local Law may also be responsible for the amenity value, replacement and establishment costs of a suitable replacement tree.

## Tree Removal

The City recognises the importance of preserving trees for the current community and for future generations, however the City may remove trees under the following criteria:

- a. the tree is dead, in decline or past its safe useful life
- b. the tree has been deemed, by a suitably qualified person, as a hazard to persons or property and no pruning techniques can alleviate the hazard
- c. the tree is diseased or damaged past the point of recovery and no remedial treatment will be effective
- d. a development approved by the City deems the removal necessary, in which case the developer shall be responsible for the amenity value, removal, replacement and establishment costs of a replacement tree
- e. the tree has been planted by a resident without the City's approval and may be removed at the resident's expense
- f. the tree is deemed by the City to be an inappropriate species for that location.

Trees will not be pruned or removed for any of the following reasons:

- falling leaves, bark or fruit causing a nuisance
- the variety is disliked or a resident's preference is for a different species
- a perceived danger that the tree or a limb may fail
- perceived damage to infrastructure
- the tree shades lawns, gardens, houses, pools, solar panels, etc
- to enhance or clear views, inclusive of advertising signage
- allergy and/or health problems
- for the installation of non-essential crossovers or verge paving.

# Preferred Street Tree Species List

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height range (m)	Suitable for under powerlines	Suitable for coastal areas	Australian native	Western Australian native	Deciduous
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	WA Peppermint	6-10		✓		✓	
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> 'After Dark'	After Dark	6-10					
<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth-Barked Apple Myrtle	15-20			✓		
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame	15-25			✓		✓
<i>Callistemon</i> 'Kings Park Special'	Bottlebrush	4	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Corymbia eximia</i>	Yellow Bloodwood	10-12			✓		
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	WA Red Flowering Gum	10-15				✓	
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow Leaved Black Peppermint	10-20			✓		
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon rosea</i>	Pink Flowering Ironbark	10-15			✓		
<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	Coral Gum	3-7	✓			✓	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	10-15					✓
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'	Dwarf Magnolia	4-6	✓				
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio	10-12					✓
<i>Prunus nigra</i>	Flowering Plum	6-10					✓
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear	10-15					✓
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow	5-7	✓				✓



# Street Tree Species Guide



### *Agonis flexuosa* (WA Weeping Peppermint)

A flowering evergreen native tree reaching 6-10 metres, with a weeping habit that forms a broad dome shape. The foliage is dark green in colour with smooth edges and produces small white flowers in spring.



### *Agonis flexuosa* 'After Dark' (After Dark)

A variety of the *Agonis flexuosa*, the 'After Dark' is a flowering evergreen native tree reaching 6-10 metres. It has burgundy to purple coloured foliage all year round, with tiny white flowers in spring.



### *Angophora costata* (Smooth Bark Apple Myrtle)

An evergreen native reaching 15-20 metres which produces large clusters of creamy white flowers in early summer. One of its most attractive features is its grey to salmon pink bark.



### *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame)

A summer deciduous tree to about 25 metres, with bright red flowers appearing on bare branches in spring to early summer.



### *Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'* (Bottle Brush)

An evergreen bushy tree reaching 3-5 metres, produces large amounts of vivid red flowers in spring. It is a good bird-attracting species.



### *Corymbia exima* (Yellow Bloodwood)

Fast growing tree to about 10 metres, thick blue green leaves, yellowy brown rough bark. Flowers are white to cream and appear to spring.



### *Corymbia ficifolia* (WA Red Flowering Gum)

This evergreen Western Australian native grows between 9-11 metres and produces clusters of flowers in various shades of red. The tree also has red new growth in spring.



### *Eucalyptus nicholii* (Narrow Leaved Black Peppermint)

An evergreen tree growing between 10-20 metres, it features weeping branches, with narrow light bluish green foliage and creamy white flowers in autumn.



### *Eucalyptus sideroxylon rosea* (Pink Flowering Ironbark)

An upright, evergreen native tree between 10-15 metres with a rounded crown. It features deeply furrowed bark ranging in colour from dark red to black and it flowers in spring with flowers ranging from red to pink.



### *Eucalyptus torquata* (Coral Gum)

A Western Australian native tree ranging in height from 3-7 metres, it has rough grey bark, dark grey-green foliage and coral red flowers.



### *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda)

A tree from 10-15 metres, with a broad canopy and a striking display of purple flowers in spring/summer.



### *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' (Dwarf Magnolia)

A tree to about 6 metres, leaves are glossy green on the upper surface and red brown on the underside. Flowers appear in spring and summer and are highly perfumed.



### *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistachio)

A deciduous tree to 12 metres with rich green leaves turning to bright orange in autumn with yellow to red flowers in spring.



### *Prunus nigra* (Flowering Plum)

An ornamental flowering plum, 6-10 metres in size, with very dark purple summer foliage carried on dark branches. Single pink flowers in spring make a spectacular display.



### *Pyrus ussuriensis* (Manchurian Pear)

An erect deciduous tree to about 15 metres with deep green glossy leaves changing to a deep crimson in autumn. The tree produces flushes pink buds developing into white blossoms in spring.



### *Sapium sebiferum* (Chinese Tallow)

A deciduous tree, 5 to 7 metres, with heart shaped bright green leaves that turn bright orange, red and purple in autumn. The flowers are yellow and relatively insignificant.



# Street Tree Planting Application Form

Please complete this application form and return to the City of Joondalup by 31 March

PO Box 21

Joondalup WA 6919

**Email:** info@joondalup.wa.gov.au

**Fax:** 9300 1383

Property Details	
Date:	
House No:	Street:
Suburb:	Post Code:
Phone No:	Mobile:
Email:	
Please tick: <input type="checkbox"/> standard verge (one tree) <input type="checkbox"/> corner verge (up to three trees). Number of trees requested:	

**Note:** if the applicant is not the owner of the property referred to above please attach a letter from the property's owner giving approval for the intended works.

Application Details (see note above)	
Applicant Name:	
Owner Name:	
Owner Address:	Post Code:
Signature of Applicant:	
Preferred Species (subject to availability)	
Option 1:	
Option 2:	
Option 3:	

Residents will be notified in writing if their application has been successful or declined. Due to the many factors that can impact on this program, successful applicants will not be contacted prior to the planting day.

# Significant Trees within the City of Joondalup

## Objective

The 'Significant Tree Register' aims to protect significant trees on land owned or managed by the City of Joondalup and is an important component of the City's philosophy of protecting natural heritage. Many individual and groups of trees are highly valued by the community, including remnants of the original vegetation of the area now left within an urban environment. These trees hold significant value for their visual/aesthetic, botanic/scientific, ecological and historical/commemorative/cultural and social aspects.

The City values the shade, habitat and amenity provided by trees on land owned or managed by the City and commends practices which seek to preserve mature trees where possible.

Officers and residents of the City are encouraged to recommend trees, considered to be of City-wide significance, for inclusion in the Significant Tree Register.

## Scope

The Significant Tree Register is required so that the City has a single Register of all Significant Trees on land owned or managed by the City. Through the Register, the City intends to compile and use information to conserve significant trees where nominations are approved.

The Register, along with its standardised assessment criteria, provides a consistent and analytical approach to maximise its value as a suitable reference document for all interested parties.

The Register is a 'living document' and will be updated following registration of all new significant trees as per the approved registration process described following.

The Register is one of many ways the City is protecting its natural environment and must be viewed in the overall context of the suite of protection measures currently in place.

## City's Responsibilities

The City will maintain a Register of Significant Trees. This will only include trees on land owned or managed by the City that are assessed as meeting the requirements of the City's guidelines for the assessment of significant trees.

For each tree or group of trees on the Register of Significant Trees, a statement of significance and a management plan shall be prepared by the City in consultation with an arborist.

The City will undertake maintenance work as required to ensure the overall health of the tree/s on an ongoing basis.

## Procedure

Any tree or group of trees that is not on the register, but is considered to be worthy of listing, may be nominated for the City to undertake an assessment and listing consideration in accordance with the City's guidelines for the assessment of significant trees on land owned or managed by the City.

A nomination form in accordance with the guidelines will need to be completed as part of the nomination process, prior to a nomination being accepted.

On acceptance, a notification letter is sent to interested parties with reasons for nomination and category of nomination.

The nomination is investigated by staff and if a nomination is supported, a report is prepared for the consideration of the Chief Executive Officer

On approval, the City will develop a statement of significance and a tree management plan, add the tree to the register and notify the nominee.

## Selection Criteria

Street trees listed by the National Trust, Heritage Council, Tree Society and/or that are listed on the City's Municipal Inventory and/or that are assessed in the future as meeting all of the requirements to be nominated as a significant tree shall be listed on the Register of Significant Trees.

An individual tree, a stand of trees or an avenue of trees, either native or exotic growing only on land owned or managed by the City, will be considered for inclusion in the register on the basis of one or more of the following categories of significance.

### Outstanding Visual/Aesthetic Significance

- a) Tree/s that is outstanding for its/their height, trunk circumference or canopy spread;
- b) Tree/s that occur in a prominent location or context;
- c) Tree/s that contribute significantly to the landscape in which it/they grow (including streetscapes, parks, gardens or natural landscapes);
- d) Tree/s that exhibit an unusual growth form or physical feature, including unusually pruned forms; or
- e) Tree/s that are particularly old or vulnerable.

### Botanic/Scientific Significance

- a) Tree/s that are of an important genetic value that could provide important and valuable propagating stock. This could include specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or climatic extremes or have a particular growth form; or
- b) Tree/s that demonstrate a likelihood of producing information that will help the wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

### Significant Ecological Value

- a) Priority, rare, threatened or locally uncommon species or ecological community;
- b) Indigenous remnant tree/s that predate the urban development in its immediate proximity;
- c) Tree/s that make a significant contribution to the integrity of an ecological community, including its role as a seed source or specialised habitat;
- d) A remnant specimen now reduced in range or abundance, which indicates the former extent of the species, particularly range limits; or
- e) Tree/s which is a significant habitat element for rare, threatened, priority or locally uncommon or common native species.

### Historical, Commemorative, Cultural or Social Significance

- a) Tree/s that are associated with public significance or important historical event;
- b) Tree/s highly valued by the community or cultural group for reasons of strong religious, spiritual, cultural or other social associations, including trees associated with aboriginal heritage and culture;
- c) Tree/s associated with a heritage listed place and representative of that same historic era; or
- d) Tree/s that have local significance, are important to the local community and/or are recognised features of the immediate landscape.

### Further Information

If you have any queries regarding a tree adjacent to your property or within a park, please contact the City's Infrastructure Services Customer Hotline on **1300 369 972** or by emailing **[info@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@joondalup.wa.gov.au)**

Information regarding trees on private property can be found on the City's website **[joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)**

# Significant Tree Nomination Form

Please complete this application form and return to the City of Joondalup

PO Box 21

Joondalup WA 6919

**Email:** info@joondalup.wa.gov.au

**Fax:** 9300 1383

Person nominating tree/s (this information will be kept confidential):			
Name:			
Postal Address:			
Residential Address:			
Telephone (work):		(home):	
Telephone (mobile):			
Email:			
Information about the tree/s			
Address of property containing street tree/s:			
Location description / recognisable location:			
Lot No:		House No:	
Street:			
Suburb:			
Please tick:	<input type="checkbox"/> Single tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Group of trees. Number of trees in group:	
Common Name/s:			
Latin (Botanical) Name/s:			
Height:	metres	Trunk Diameter:	metres Estimated age:
Selection criteria category/s:			

**Note:** the City has the absolute and unfettered discretion to accept or reject any nomination made and will be under no obligation to provide any reasons for its determination.



City of  
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*This document is available in alternate  
formats upon request.*