

P18 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

PURPOSE

To improve the Shire’s green network by enhancing the natural qualities of public open spaces, enriching biodiversity, rationalising water use and maintaining high quality spaces for public use.

Objectives

1. To rationalise the Shire’s public open space reserves to reduce ground water use, while still maintaining high quality facilities, by developing projects for each site;
2. To reduce the need to use large volumes of water on existing turfed areas by converting them to native garden areas; and
3. To reduce the occurrence of overwatering by grouping types of vegetation into categories with similar water requirements.

POLICY

Requirements for projects aimed at rationalising existing POS

Each project must submit the following details for consultation with the Shire’s Planning & Infrastructure Services, prior to Shire approval:

1. Site Plan, showing the site location, location of proposed plantings, list of species to be planted and technical details as necessary; and
2. Project description that briefly:
 - a. demonstrates consistency with the Green Infrastructure Strategy’s aims and objectives through the project’s: contribution to sense of place/community, relationship with adjoining land, rationale for species, water conservation and rainwater harvesting technique(s);
 - b. explains the required works, planting, mulching, actions/responsibilities; and
 - c. explains the expected ongoing maintenance requirements.

Consideration of Projects

The Shire’s Planning & Infrastructure Services will consider each project on its merits in terms of consistency with the Green Infrastructure Strategy’s aims and objectives and potential impacts on: visual amenity, services, public safety and Council’s other policies, plans and strategies. When considering projects, the Shire will generally prefer the use of native trees, shrubs and other plants, where appropriate.

Water Conservation Requirements

Each area of public open space must meet the following requirements:

| Type of POS | Max volume of water per year |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| High use, high profile | 10,000 kl/ha/yr |
| Low use, high profile | 7,500 kl/ha/yr |
| Low use, low profile | 6,000 kl/ha/yr |
| Dry areas of POS, parks and bush | 0 kl/ha/yr |

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