

POLICY NO AM22
COMMUNITY PARK AND LANDSCAPE PLAN POLICY

DEPARTMENT:	Works & Infrastructure
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager Infrastructure and Development Services
LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	To provide quality infrastructure which enhances the liveability and viability of our communities for residents and visitors.
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	N/A
OBJECTIVE:	Council’s objective is to develop a comprehensive Community Park and Garden Landscape Plan for each township within the Break O’ Day Municipality to enable the creation of vibrant and sustainable community spaces that reflect the needs and preferences of residents.
POLICY INFORMATION:	Adopted 14 April 2025 – Minute No 04/25.14.4.586

POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life within its townships by developing a comprehensive Community Park and Garden Landscape Plan (that includes nature strips within each township) aiming to create vibrant and sustainable community spaces that reflect residents' needs and preferences.

In developing plans, the Council will prioritise environmental sustainability, aesthetic appeal, liveability, functionality, and community involvement, ensuring our township parks and gardens are beautiful, functional, and accessible. By fostering local engagement in the planning and maintenance processes, we will cultivate a sense of ownership and pride in our community landscapes, ultimately enhancing the well-being and connection of all residents.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We will develop landscape plans that adhere to the following guiding principles, ensuring effective design and lasting impact.

a. Environmental Sustainability

Promoting diversity, sustainability and resilience, considering:

- Plant selection, including other native plant species, to be climate change ready and drought resistant landscaping to reduce water consumption.
- Design, construction and maintenance practices that support local biodiversity, soils, and waterways and manage biosecurity risks.

- Efficient and reduced use of water, materials, energy and waste.

b. Aesthetic Appeal:

Create visually appealing and cohesive community landscapes, by:

- Ensuring that elements complement townships' natural and built environment and landscape character.
- Using a variety of vegetation types and plant species with foliage, flowers and structure for year-round effects and features to create dynamic and engaging spaces.
- Incorporating public art and cultural elements that reflect the community's identity and heritage.

c. Liveability and Functionality

Ensure that landscape plans are practical and meet community needs by:

- Providing for people's comfort, health and safety, community wellbeing and connection.
- Designing pedestrian pathways, open green spaces, and recreational areas that are accessible to all residents.
- Providing amenities such as seating, lighting, and signage to enhance the usability and safety of public spaces.
- Creating flexible spaces accommodating various activities and events fosters community interaction and engagement.

d. Community Involvement

Promote and encourage community involvement, ownership and pride in developing landscape plans to ensure they reflect the preferences and needs of residents by:

- Facilitating community engagement opportunities through public consultations, surveys and significant project workshops to enable people to share their skills and knowledge throughout the planning and implementation process.
- Foster collaboration and empowerment where communities mobilise to lead initiatives and support community volunteer programs for landscape plans.
- Educational programs to promote extending the benefits of green spaces and tree cover across townships and raise awareness about sustainable landscaping practices and environmental stewardship.

e. Maintenance Planning

- Development of a clear and comprehensive strategy including budget considerations for the ongoing maintenance and management of the landscape to ensure its long-term viability and appeal.
- Outline specific maintenance tasks, schedules, and responsibilities to ensure consistent care, incorporating sustainable maintenance practices, such as integrated pest management and water and nutrient conservation.
- Ensure that maintenance plans are affordable and adaptable to changing environmental conditions and community needs.

3. APPROVAL PROCESS

The Council will review and endorse Community Park and Landscape Plans as they are developed and which only align to policy guidelines, applicable regulations, and the fiscal constraints outlined in the Council's Long-Term Financial Plan.

4. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years by the Council's Policy Framework or earlier if significant changes to legislation or related policies or procedures occur or the General Manager deems it necessary.