

JOHANNESBURG CITY PARKS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting: 2012-04-11

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting: 2012-04-04

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: 2011-11-03

Item 10.2

URBAN TREES MANAGEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval of the attached Urban Trees Management Policy.

BACKGROUND


Johannesburg City Parks are the custodians of the City's green heritage and as such are responsible for enhancing and increasing the green image of the City. The City's claim to fame as an Urban forest as well as disparities between the Northern and Southern regions of the City are key aspects of the silent mandate afforded to Johannesburg City Parks.

Therefore the establishment of a Quality Management System through the application of the attached Urban Trees Management policy, will encourage the culture of performance and will ensure that the tree heritage of the City of Johannesburg is administered in an economically efficient and accountable manner which would ensure the health and quality of the Urban trees under the management of Johannesburg City Parks.

The policy attached is essentially an enabling policy allowing Johannesburg City Parks to establish and maintain the existing and increasing Urban tree infrastructure and related systems which are required in terms of the applicable legislation and other environmental requirements.

IT IS RECOMMENDED

That the attached Urban Trees Management Policy be approved for implementation at Johannesburg City Parks.

	OPERATIONS	Policy No.	JCP-OPS-POL-0201
		Revision	Ø
	POLICY TITLE : City of Johannesburg Urban Trees Management Policy	Effective date	
1. DEFINITIONS	<p>For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:</p> <p>Urban Forest Canopy: a group or set of trees making a canopy in an urban settlement.</p> <p>Indigenous Trees: trees that are native to the country (of origin to South Africa).</p> <p>Endemic Trees: trees that thrive in a specific ecological area.</p> <p>Exotic Trees: trees/ plants not native to the country.</p> <p>Alien Invasive Trees: trees that invade and out compete native trees an resulting in a rapid spread and occupation of a geographical area.</p> <p>Regions: geographical borders set out by the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.</p> <p>Wards: geographical borders found within the Regions.</p> <p>SMME Development: Small Medium, Micro Enterprises.</p> <p>Preservation Tree Order: A tree preservation order (TPO) is set out by the Municipality to protect specific tree species, or a particular area from deliberate damage and destruction. The TPO addresses matters relating to the felling, lopping, topping, uprooting or other tree management related activities.</p> <p>Integrated Development Plan (IDP): The framework for specific service delivery related targets established by the Municipality.</p>		

2.	POLICY STATEMENT	To develop a policy framework that establishes Johannesburg City Parks' (JCP) commitment and strategic direction for the procurement, propagation, planting, maintenance, protection and management of trees in designated public open spaces and streets.
3.	POLICY OBJECTIVES	<p>To create and maintain a balance in the green environment between the developed and previously disadvantaged areas within the City of Johannesburg, with specific attention to the planting trees in the Southern regions.</p> <p>In order to achieve this balance, the following objectives have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the reputation of the CoJ as a custodian and manager of an expanding, manmade, urban forest. • To determine and benchmark the urban forest canopy of the CoJ. • To develop and maintain a CoJ urban trees profile via a trees census and GIS mapping. • To increase the number of trees in public open spaces based on regional and ward requirements. • To maintain and improve the existing urban forest canopy through the application of sustainable asset management methodologies. • To establish norms, standards and criteria for the planting of indigenous and exotic trees. • To provide guidelines for the procurement of trees through a balanced approach of SMME development, agencies and tree nurseries. • To optimise JCP tree nurseries as capable suppliers of trees to meet internal planting requirements, as well as for sale externally. • To increase the awareness of communities and developers on the value of trees in the urban landscape. • To apply the CoJ policies and by-laws on the protection and removal of trees in public open spaces and on streets. • To facilitate the removal of alien invasive trees in collaboration with relevant government and non-governmental entities. • To influence and to achieve goals on trees planting and maintenance as per the IDP and Environmental Sector Plan of

		<p>the CoJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide trees planting and maintenance services to State and Municipal owned entities. • To provide guidelines on the prescription of trees requirements for development applications. • To establish criteria for the donation of trees for use in non-designated public spaces. • To document and standardise processes and procedures for the management of trees in the CoJ.
4.	<p>GUIDING PRINCIPLES (for measuring success)</p>	<p>The following measures shall be utilised in order to gauge the progress and success of this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-term street and parks trees master plan developed and implemented. • Trees protected through the application of the 'Preservation of Trees Order' and the policies and by-laws of the CoJ. • An increase in the size of the urban tree canopy in line with targets established through the Environmental Sector Plan. • Trees selection and planting based on a ratio of 80% indigenous and 20% exotic and • A comprehensive trees register in place and continually updated and mapped on the GIS. • Fully operational trees nurseries able to meet the planting needs of the various JCP regions, with a minimum installation size of 100l and 30mm stem girth. • The future generation of revenue through the sale of excess trees to the public. • Decline in the area of coverage of alien invasive trees. • A predetermined trees survival rate achieved on trees younger than 18 months old. • No power outages due to trees under power lines. • Agreed upon trees preventive: reactive maintenance tactics applied using the Asset Management System of JCP. • Response and turnaround times on various trees maintenance and emergencies achieved. • Communities consulted on established trees removals, pruning and planting activities.

5.	SCOPE AND APPLICATION	This policy applies to all managers, staff and all activities in relation to trees in designated public open spaces, including parks, streets and private areas through development applications.
6.	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES	<p><u>Approval</u></p> <p>The Board of Directors maintains an oversight and support role in respect of the implementation of this policy</p>
		<p><u>Accountability</u></p> <p>The Managing Director, as the Accounting Officer of the organisation, is the principal custodian of the organisation's resources and assets; in this case the CoJ trees under management of JCP, and shall be responsible for ensuring this policy is adhered to.</p>
		<p><u>Responsible</u></p> <p>The Executive Special Projects are responsible for approving and communicating appropriate procedures for the implementation of this policy, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees protection, replacement and removal, • Trees planting and selection, • Trees procurement and propagation, • Trees asset management, • Community consultation, training and awareness, • Trees stipulation through development applications, and • Trees management processes incorporating JCP regions.
		<p><u>Coordination</u></p> <p>The JCP Nurseries and Urban Forestry Unit is responsible for the development and coordination of the applicable procedures and processes, as well as for the procurement and propagation of trees and overall trees strategy development.</p>
		<p><u>Management</u></p> <p>Regional Managers are responsible for the implementation of all planting, maintenance, protection and management of trees processes and procedures.</p>
		<p><u>Asset Recording</u></p> <p>The Asset Care Centre (ACC) is responsible for ensuring the application of all trees asset management procedures and processes via the Computerised Asset Management System, as well as through the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS).</p> <p>The ACC will manage and report on the trees register.</p>

		<p><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>The Service Monitoring Unit will conduct regular inspections of the urban tree canopy, particularly on the survival rate of newly planted trees and the condition of mature trees. The inspection reports will provide input on management interventions required.</p>	
7.	DELEGATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES	<p>This policy provides that the Board of Directors hereby delegates all powers and duties to the Managing Director which are necessary in the implementation of this policy and applicable legislation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge and comply with the responsibilities conferred on him/her; • Maximize administrative and operational efficiency; 	
8.	SUB-DELEGATIONS	<p>The accounting officer may sub-delegate any trees and procurement management powers and duties in line with sections 79 and 106 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (No. 56 of 2003)</p>	
9.	RELATED DOCUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Act of 98 • Society of Municipal Arborists documents • Municipal Financial Management Act (No. 56 Of 2003) • National Environmental Management Act • Heritage Resources Act • South African Heritage and Resources Agency • Conservation of Agricultural and Resources Act • Johannesburg Metropolitan Open Space System (JMOSS) • CoJ By-Laws and Policies 	
10.	APPROVAL	<p>The Board of Directors of Johannesburg City Parks</p>	
11.	APPROVAL AND REVIEW DATES	<p>Approved by the Executive Committee on :</p> <p>Approved by the Board on :</p> <p>This policy will be reviewed by:</p>	<p>3 November 2011</p> <p>30 June 2013</p>
12.	POLICY OWNER	<p>Executive Special Projects</p>	