

RESUBMISSION - REVIEWED LANGEBERG MUNICIPALITY TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY (DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITY SERVICES)

PURPOSE

To submit a reviewed Langeberg Municipality Tree Management Policy to the Community Services, Portfolio Committee and Council for consideration.

BACKGROUND

This policy provides a rationale and framework for an equitable, transparent, and consistent approach to the management of trees by the Langeberg municipality. To establish the municipality's commitment and future strategic direction for tree planting, protection, management and maintenance of its trees or urban forest. To address tree management and maintenance issues faced by the municipality. To provide a framework for decision making, documentation and standardized processes to ensure consistency in the management of the municipality's urban forest.

This policy applies to all municipal trees that are on land owned or managed by the municipality within urban boundary, townships, public open spaces, and nature reserves. This policy is applicable to all developers, builders, service providers, residents, civil contractors, event organizers and internal works units undertaking activities in proximity to municipal trees.

The various tree species have different growth characteristics, i.e., shape, growth rate, size when fully grown, wind and drought resistance, vigorous and aggressive root systems, deciduous or evergreen, flower- and/or fruit-bearing, etc. These characteristics must be considered when tree species are selected for planting in residential areas, and it is therefore essential that specie lists are prepared for different areas according to local weather and other conditions. It is necessary to apply a tree policy to address and provide guidelines regarding our street trees.

Langeberg Municipality has an approved Tree Management policy dated on 25 August 2014 and has been implemented since then. The policy has never been reviewed to ensure the ever-changing needs of the communities are addressed together with climatic changes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications

Recommendation

1. That the Tree Management Policy be approved in principle for public participation process to commence for period of one (1) month.
2. Comments received as stated above, be submitted for council approval of the policy.

This item served before a Community Services Portfolio Committee on 12 April 2023

Hierdie verslag het voor die Gemeenskapsdienste Portefeulje Komitee gedien op 12 April 2023

Aanbeveling / Recommendation

1. *That the Tree Management Policy be approved in principle for public participation process to commence for period of one (1) month.*
2. *Comments received as stated above, be submitted for council approval of the policy.*

Public comments

The Tree Management Policy was advertised on municipal websites and notice boards from 10 May 2023 to 10 June 2023 of which the following comments were received.

Menere

Kyk asb na volgende:

BI 2

Council means the Council of the Langeberg Municipality

Pruning kom 2 maal voor

BI 5

Xii en xiv byna dieselfde - by xiv is dit "Langeberg towns" terwyl by xii slegs "towns" genoem word.

BI 7

f Care will be always taken / Care will always be taken?

BI 8

Vi Care will be always taken / Care will always be taken?

Die voorgestelde lys van bome is heeltemal onbekend, kan die alledaagse benaming nie bygevoeg word nie?

Elize du Toit

Blok 9

Wyk 11

All comments were considered and incorporated into the policy.

Recommendation

That Tree Management Policy be approved.

NOTE: The annexure was distributed as part of the agenda for the Community Services Portfolio Committee meeting of 16 August 2023 (pg. 09 – 32)

This item served before a Community Services Portfolio Committee on 16 August 2023

Hierdie verslag het voor die Gemeenskapsdienste Portefeulje Komitee gedien op 16 Augustus 2023

Aanbeveling / Recommendation

That Tree Management Policy be approved with amendments mentioned above.

This item served before the Executive Mayoral Committee on 23 August 2023

Hierdie item het voor die Uitvoerende Burgemeesterskomitee gedien op 23 Augustus 2023

Aanbeveling / Recommendation

That Tree Management Policy be approved with amendments mentioned above.

This item served before an Ordinary Meeting of Council on 31 August 2023

Hierdie item het gedien voor 'n Gewone Vergadering van die Raad op 31 Augustus 2023

Eenparig Besluit / Unanimously Resolved

That Tree Management Policy be approved with amendments as indicated in the report and that any and all trees planted going forward be indigenous trees.



TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

COUNCIL APPROVED

EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

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Definitions

“Aftercare” means the tree maintenance regime which is implemented once the tree has been planted.

“Alien invasive trees”: trees that invade and out compete native trees and resulting in a rapid spread and occupation of a geographical area.

“Blanking” means the replacement planting of trees in gaps where trees have been lost or died, and infill planting has the same meaning.

“Champion trees” is a project that aims to list and protect trees in South African that are of national conservation value.

“Council” means the Council of the Langeberg municipality.

“Endemic trees”: trees that thrive in a specific ecological area.

“Exotic trees”: trees/ plants not native to the country.

“Indigenous species” means any tree that is indigenous to South Africa including the Western Cape.

“Indigenous trees”: trees that are of native to the country (of origin to South Africa.

“Interplanting”: means the practice of planting fast growing trees in between slow growing trees or planting trees in between stressed, diseased or dead trees.

“Landscape plan” means a site-specific plan of the layout of plants to be planted.

“Municipal tree” Refers to all public trees that this policy applies including those that are on land owned or managed by the Langeberg municipality

“Municipality” means Langeberg municipality

“Noxious weed” a weed which is harmful to the environment or animals, especially one which may be the subject of regulations governing attempts to control it

“Planting” means the placing of sapling trees or seeds in the ground or container for them to grow.

“Pot plants”: means trees grown or placed in containers.

“Pruning” means the horticultural and silvicultural practice involving the selective removal of parts of a plant, such as branches, buds, or roots.

“Risk” The combination of the likelihood of an event and the severity of the potential consequences. In the context of trees, risk is the likelihood of a conflict or tree failure occurring and affecting a target and the severity of the associated consequences.

“Road reserves” means the municipal land set aside and zoned for the development of roadways and related engineering services.

“Root barrier” means patented chemical and/or mechanical guides that redirects tree roots down and away from hardscapes, preventing costly root damage.

“TPZ” Tree Protection Zone.

“Tree health” means all factors (biotic and abiotic) that affect the vigour and productivity of a tree

“Tree Management” means the protection and maintenance of the existing tree asset base in the municipality, as well as the planning, planting, and maintenance of future trees.

“Tree”: means a woody perennial plant, typically having single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

“Urban forest” Defined by the sum of all trees and vegetation in an around urban settlement.

“Urban forestry” an integrated, municipal wide approach to the planting, care, and management of trees in an urban area to secure multiple environmental and social benefits for its inhabitants.

“Urban tree canopy” is a measurement which encompasses the layer of leaves, branches and stems of trees that shelter the ground when viewed from above. This measurement is expressed as a percentage of ground area that is covered by tree crowns and relates to the branching spread of the trees in an urban forest.

“Way leave” means an approved right of way given for working over or under another ground or property.

1. Purpose

This policy provides a rationale and framework for an equitable, transparent, and consistent approach to the management of trees by the Langeberg municipality. To establish the municipality’s commitment and future strategic direction for tree planting, protection, management and maintenance of its trees or urban forest. To address tree management and maintenance issues faced by the municipality. To provide a framework for decision making, documentation and standardised processes to ensure consistency in the management of the municipality’s urban forest.

The innumerable environmental, economic, and social benefits provided by the urban forest contribute to a liveable municipality which supports human health and wellbeing whilst enhancing the character of our nature reserves, urban areas, and townships. As urban development increases and vegetation on private land diminishes, the

provision and protection of trees in the public realm has become increasingly important.

The municipality is currently having a problem where, in the past, many trees of the wrong species, both indigenous and exotic, have been planted on its sidewalks resulting in numerous complaints from residents about tree debris littering streets, root damage to property and obstruction of power lines. Most of these complaints are accompanied by requests to have these trees removed. Each request must be fully investigated and treated on its own merit and removal should be considered only as the very last option.

The Tree Management Policy is one of a suitable document used to proactively manage trees in the municipality.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all municipal trees that are on land owned or managed by the municipality within urban boundary, townships, public open spaces, and nature reserves. This policy is applicable to all developers, builders, service providers, residents, civil contractors, event organisers and internal works units undertaking activities in proximity to municipal trees.

The various tree species have different growth characteristics, i.e., shape, growth rate, size when fully grown, wind and drought resistance, vigorous and aggressive root systems, deciduous or evergreen, flower- and/or fruit-bearing, etc. These characteristics must be considered when tree species are selected for planting in residential areas, and it is therefore essential that specie lists are prepared for different areas according to local weather and other conditions. It is necessary to apply a tree policy to address and provide guidelines regarding our street trees.

Trees on municipal-owned land that has been leased out, are the responsibility of the lessee or landowner department, but approval for any work must first be obtained from Parks and Amenities department in writing, in accordance with this policy.

3. Policy statement

Most trees will take many years, if not decades, to establish but are frequently compromised or irreversibly damaged by activities that do not adequately consider the requirements a tree needs to survive and grow. Decisions concerning tree

management must be considered over the long-term and should not benefit one particular outcome at the expense of the multiple benefits provided by that tree into the future.

In recognition of the contribution trees make towards a liveable town, the retention of existing trees in the landscape will be given priority in every instance. As trees are living organisms there will be some degree of leaf and other plant litter as these are shed as part of their natural life cycle. It is not unreasonable to expect residents to undertake home maintenance activities as part of having trees in the urban environment.

4. Policy objectives

- i. Prioritise the maintenance and protection of the existing tree population
- ii. Broaden the emphasis of urban tree management to include urban forestry principles, with trees managed as a collective asset, to maximise the benefits canopy cover provides
- iii. Improve the quality and quantity of municipality's urban tree canopy cover
- iv. Increase species diversity and improve the age spread of the urban forest
- v. Recognise and protect trees considered significant due to heritage, cultural, social, and ecological criteria
- vi. Increase awareness and educate the community, developers, and organisations on the value of trees in the urban landscape
- vii. Enhance the municipality's reputation within the community as a steward and manager of trees.
- viii. To document and standardise processes and procedures to ensure consistency in tree management decisions made by the municipality
- ix. To define the circumstances under which municipal trees may be removed
- x. To establish a tree evaluation formula for the loss of existing trees.
- xi. To promote the planting of indigenous and other drought-resistant plants.
- xii. To enhance crime prevention by introducing tree maintenance programmes to control vegetative overgrowth on public land and in parks.
- xiii. To promote tourism by beautifying scenic routes and thoroughfares to and in the Langeberg towns by the planting of trees
- xiv. To promote the planting of trees through the active involvement of the Parks Section in the annual Arbor Week programs

- xv. To ensure integrated planning with other departments and functionaries i.e., Infrastructure department and Telkom, etc. to prevent unnecessary damage to trees during construction
- xvi. To encourage tree planting in containers where there are insufficient tree planting spaces
- xvii. To encourage the planting of fruit bearing trees to improve the quality of life and food security.
- xviii. To educate the communities of the Langeberg Municipality to appreciate the benefits of conserving the environment. These benefits include the following:

(a) Environmental benefits

- Climate amelioration
- Flood control
- Erosion control
- Air pollution control
- Energy conservation
- Noise pollution control
- Land reclamation
- Bird habitat

(b) Amenity benefits

- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Education
- Health and well being
- Cultural and religious rituals

c. Material benefits

- Food and fruit
- Medicine

5. Legislation

- i. Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- ii. Water Services Act, 1997 (Act 108 of 1997)
- iii. National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)

- iv. National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004)
- v. Conservation of Agricultural Resource Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983)
- vi. Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003, (Act 56 of 2003)
- vii. Local government systems act No,1999 and regulations
- viii. Forest Act, 1984 (Act 122 of 1984)
- ix. Forest Act, 1998 (Act 84 of 1998)
- x. Western Cape Land Use Planning Ordinance No. 15 of 1985 (LUPO)
- xi. National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)

6. Strategic direction

Strategic Direction the Urban Tree Management Policy is divided into 8 key areas.

- a. Tree Protection
- b. Tree Removal
- c. Tree Valuation
- d. Tree Asset Management
- e. Tree Planting
- f. Fauna
- g. Trees on Private Property
- h. Community Engagement

6.1. Tree Protection

Trees are dynamic living organisms that require specific environmental conditions to maintain life, health, and value as an asset. Trees consist of crowns, stems, and roots and damage sustained to one part will compromise the function of the tree as a whole. If trees are to be adequately retained and protected, these requirements must be considered and met during all stages of development. Trees will be protected from construction works and other activities that threaten their health and stability. All construction, works, events and development activities in proximity to municipal trees and trees shown on endorsed plans to be retained must abide by the following requirements:

- a. Removal of trees will not occur unless approved by the municipality consistent with the removal criteria within this policy.
- b. Trees may not be pruned in any form and branches, or roots may not be removed unless authorised by a responsible municipal official. Any pruning undertaken on municipal trees must only be undertaken by sufficiently certified personnel.
- c. All municipal trees will be protected from construction and works activities in accordance with all relevant legislation regarding protection of trees.
- d. A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) shall be established for the duration of any works in proximity to a municipal tree.
- e. All municipality's trees to be retained and protected plus the corresponding TPZ must be clearly identified on all submitted building plans and landscape plans.
- f. Care will be always taken to ensure no damage is sustained to tree stems, crowns, and roots.

6.1.1.1. Root pruning

Roots are responsible for the uptake of water and nutrients and for anchoring and supporting the tree in the ground. Root pruning is generally discouraged as the long-term impacts are not always predictable.

- a. Any root pruning must be authorised by a manager Parks and Amenities.
- b. Where root pruning is unavoidable, all cuts will be clean cut by hand using sharp tools such as secateurs, pruners, handsaws, or specialised equipment.
- c. Under no circumstances will roots be ripped or pulled by machinery.

6.1.1.2. Events

The municipal parks and public open spaces provide the perfect venue and backdrop to a diverse array of community events and activities. Trees provide valuable amenity and much needed shade, especially over the warmer months, however, can sustain damage from activities that occur around them.

- i. If occupancy of vehicles or other equipment beneath trees cannot be avoided, there are many products available that will

distribute loads and therefore reduce the amount of soil compaction sustained.

- ii. Mechanical damage and damage to trees from vehicles, conflicts with equipment, unauthorised pruning and from tethering or fixing equipment and objects to trees.
- iii. the spill of chemicals or liquids into the soil or the scorching of tree canopies due to the proximity of outdoor heaters and exhausts.
- iv. There should be no vehicular movement or placement of sheds/large infrastructure beneath the dripline of a municipal tree except where ground-protection, such as track mats or similar, has been implemented.
- v. Equipment, decorations, and signage must not be tied to, tethered to, nailed to, suspended from, or placed within tree crowns, branches, or stems unless written permission is given.
- vi. Care will be always taken to avoid damage to tree crowns, branches, and stems.
- vii. Trees must not be pruned in any form to facilitate access or activities unless permission from a manager Parks and Amenities has been granted prior to the event.
- viii. Refuelling, cleaning of equipment and emptying of liquid waste may not occur under the dripline of any municipal tree.

6.2. Tree Removal

Trees, like all living things grow, age, and eventually die. The municipality will manage and monitor all municipal trees throughout their lifecycle and remove and replace them as appropriate. Whilst tree removal is a last resort management option, public safety always takes priority. Municipal trees may not be removed unless approved by a director Community Services in accordance with the tree removal criteria stipulated by this policy.

- 6.2.1. All trees that are removed will be replaced as close as practically possible to the tree being removed to ensure that there is no net loss of trees from the immediate area. Unless the Director Community services has granted a permission for the tree to be planted in different area.

- 6.2.2. Any person or organisation who request a tree removal shall be liable to plant a new tree of equivalent or acceptable size not less than 100 litres in a bag at their own cost
- 6.2.3. Waste and debris generated from tree maintenance activities will be disposed of as per the municipal bylaws of policies. Waste, including mulch and firewood, will not be offered to residents or businesses unless permission is granted by director of Community Services

6.2.2.1 Tree removal criteria

Tree removal will not be considered in the following instances.

- i. If the tree is considered healthy and structurally sound.
- ii. If there is a safe and practical means for tree retention.
- iii. For unjustified property or infrastructure damage claims. e. To reduce leaf, fruit, and litter debris.
- iv. For causing minor allergenic and irritant responses.
- v. To minimise obstructions of advertising signage and desired views
- vi. If tree the is less 60% dead
- vii. If it limits sunlight.
- viii. If it has grown too tall.
- ix. If it obstructs views.
- x. To reduce the impact from any bird/bat/other animal waste or noise.
- xi. For superficial bush fire risk.
- xii. If the tree/s provides an important biodiversity function such as recognised high conservation road reserves.
- xiii. For personal aesthetic preference.
- xiv. Trees listed as a 'significant tree', heritage trees, champion trees

6.2.2.2 The removal of municipal trees may be considered under the following instances.

- a. All hazardous trees will be removed as soon as reasonably practicable.
- b. Trees that are unviable, have a high probability of failure, or are structurally unsound.
- c. Any tree deemed dead, dying or in severe decline by a responsible municipal official.
- d. In the case of works and development, only once all practical design solutions to retain the tree have been exhausted.
- e. A tree that has a defect requiring action that cannot be rectified without removal of the tree.
- f. For pest, disease and biosecurity reasons that cannot be managed with the tree in situ.
- g. The tree is a weed species for a particular location.
- h. Trees proven to be causing damage to private infrastructure or services where all interventions to retain the tree have been exhausted.
- i. Trees that hinder installation of municipal or private infrastructure such as solar panels etc
- j. Trees that are recognised as inducing severe allergenic or toxic responses.
- k. As part of a project, whole street upgrade or capital works program which will result in a net increase in or improvement to green space that could not be achieved with the existing trees.
- l. Non-indigenous trees within natural or nature reserves that are considered weedy or incompatible with the conservation values of that reserve.

6.3. Tree Valuation

When the removal of a municipal tree is deemed necessary for construction, development or works, all costs associated with its removal and replacement must be paid by the property owner or developer prior to removal. The property owner or developer has an option to remove the tree on their own cost and risk

6.4. Tree Asset Management

The municipality will ensure that its high standard maintenance regime is continued and strengthened and that it provides adequate resources for ongoing urban tree management. The municipality will regularly update tree maintenance standards and procedures to ensure they reflect legislative requirements and industry best practice.

6.4.1. Tree Data

The Langeberg municipality will develop a computer-based tree register for all municipal trees. The municipality's tree register program will allow for the details of all tree works and inspections to be recorded, providing evidence that the municipality satisfactorily maintains its urban tree population.

To maintain tree register program:

- a. All trees considered to be tree assets are to be electronically recorded as such which identifies the species of the tree, its location, age, size, and condition.
- b. The municipal tree register is to be updated every five years to ensure that the content is current and relevant.
- c. All municipal staff and contractors are to electronically record works for every tree asset as they occur.
- d. Municipal staff and contractors will update electronic information as required including adding trees planted by a third party and recording trees that have been removed.

6.4.2. Tree pruning

- a. Trees can be pruned if they cause an obstruction for pedestrians, traffic, streetlights, roads and traffic signs, overhead power lines, satellite receptions (proof must be provided) and solar panels.

- b. Trees can be pruned if they are diseased or certain parts of the tree appear to be diseased or vandalised.
- c. Trees can be pruned to expand its lifespan.
- d. Height of the tree prevents proper maintenance.
- e. Roots will be pruned if they cause a safety hazard for pedestrians and occupants, and damage walls, buildings, and road kerbs.
- f. No person may prune or remove a tree planted on municipal land without prior authority from Langeberg municipality. In the event of a person or persons being guilty of such an act, the municipality reserves the right to impose the necessary fines or penalties or follow legal action.
- g. Trees that are diseased or vandalised.
- h. Trees that have been planted too close to each other or too close to buildings, which stunts the natural development of the trees.
- i. A tree on a property line will be considered to be on Council property if 50% or more of such a tree is on Council property.

6.4.2.1. Trees will not be pruned for following reasons:

- a. Shedding of leaves, fruits, seeds, or any other plant material.
- b. Causing a nuisance in respect of swimming pool.
- c. Hampering the growth of other plants.
- d. Obscuring private advertising boards and signs.
- e. Causing excessive shade.
- f. Allergic reactions.
- g. Sunlight is limited by the tree.
- h. It is too high according to the complainant.
- i. To reduce the impact from any bird / bat / other animal waste or noise.
- j. For personal aesthetic preference.

6.5. Tree planting

Investment in quality tree stock and industry best-practice planting techniques is essential for giving a tree the best chance of fulfilling its long-term intended function. A combination of planning, site preparation, quality stock selection and on-going maintenance is essential for successful tree establishment and for avoiding costly interventions in future.

- a. The Parks and Amenities department is responsible for planting trees on public land, either at the initiative of its own staff, or at the request of residents.
- b. The planting of trees in the towns must be promoted by the implementation of sustained planting programmes, coupled with community participation.
- c. Preference is given to the planting of indigenous trees. Species selection is of utmost importance to eliminate future problems associated with the growth characteristics of certain trees species, for example damage resulting from aggressive root systems and excessive height that might obstruct and disturb streetlights and power lines.
- d. Categories of planting include new plantings - watered and cared for by the Parks Department, in partnership with community, and the replacement of existing trees.
- e. The choice of tree species is at the discretion of the Manager: Parks and Amenities (See appendix 2 for recommended species for Langeberg Municipality) and will be restricted to varieties known to be suited to the local conditions and those that will enhance the beauty and diversity of the landscape of the Langeberg.

6.5.1. General guidelines for planting or greening

- a. Trees must be planted, allowing unobstructed pedestrian flow.
- b. A tree basin of 1meter x 1 meter must be built around each tree.
- c. No trees must be planted where it is prohibited by service delivery measures, e.g., water, electricity, Telkom lines, etc.
- d. No planting must be undertaken if it could result in impaired visibility or create a traffic hazard.
- e. No planting of trees should be considered:
 - i. on a pavement less than 3 meters wide
 - ii. close to driveways or road intersections where it is likely to impair sight lines of motorists, cyclists, or pedestrians.
 - iii. where it will obstruct sight lines to traffic signs, signals, or direction signs; or
 - iv. where pedestrian paths will be obstructed in such a manner, causing people to walk in the street, or making passage by wheelchairs or push carts difficult.

- f. To prevent root damage to underground services, or hardened surfaces, walls and other control systems may be introduced to redirect roots from the protected areas.
- g. No planting must be undertaken that will interfere with any electrical stay supports. To ensure public safety, existing streetlights / lighting must be taken into consideration when planting is undertaken.
- h. No private planting on Council owned land is permitted without prior consultation with the relevant Parks Department Manager.
- i. Planting distance between trees will depend on the species selected and services encountered.
- j. Existing trees identified to be unsuitable due to various problems, may be removed and replaced with a suitable species. The replaced trees must be the same size as the ones removed.
- k. On pavements not wide enough to accommodate trees, a tree donation to adjacent private gardens will be considered.
- l. Upon receipt of requests from schools and Community Greening Projects, trees may be donated, depending on the availability of resources.
- m. The regulations under Section 29 of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983 (Act No 43 of 1983) will be adhered to, i.e., plants declared as weeds may not at all be planted, while others that have been declared as invaders, must be controlled.
- n. Trees with poisonous fruit and leaves or fruit that stains, should not be planted.
- o. The Parks Section will plant sidewalks with street trees in accordance with its tree planting program during the autumn, winter, and spring
- p. The Parks Section will strive to the target of planting a total of 1000 trees per annum in the Langeberg Municipal area, depending on resources available.
- q. Individual and replacement trees will be planted upon receipt of a written application by residents to the Directorate: Community Services
- r. Residents requesting individual tree planting must undertake to water such trees until they become established (normally three years).

6.5.2. New trees will not be planted under the following conditions:

- a. If they interfere with existing services, i.e., electricity, streetlights, waterlines, sewage, etc.
- b. If it is within 10 meters of an intersection.
- c. If it is within 3 meters of an existing driveway.
- d. If the sidewalk is less than 2.5 meters wide.
- e. If it is a noxious weed, or by the nature of its root system.
- f. If the pavement is not stabilized.
- g. If there are overhead wires (if the lines are high enough, a suitable tree may be planted).
- h. If there is an existing tree on the property that might pose problems at a later stage.

6.5.3. Requests for trees by residents

- a. Depending on funds and the availability of suitable resources, the Langeberg Municipality undertakes to annually plant trees along sidewalks and parks in residential areas, on condition that owners or occupiers of adjacent properties accept responsibility for its maintenance, excluding pruning and pest control.
- b. To ensure adequate aftercare, consideration will only be given to the applications from individual property owners if it is received in the prescribed manner, which includes aftercare instructions and maintenance to be agreed upon.
- c. Residents may indicate their preference of species to be planted, but the final choice lies with Council.
- d. If space on a sidewalk is insufficient, trees may be planted on the inside of the adjacent private property, provided that the property owner takes full responsibility for its maintenance.
- e. Tree request application form must be accompanied by 3-year maintenance plan.

6.5.4. Trees planted by members of the public

- a. Members of the public occasionally plant trees on public land without authorisation. Should municipal officials notice such an unauthorized planting, they must arrange to have the tree removed, if in their opinion, it poses a danger to people or a property and/or problems to future maintenance of the area.
- b. Failure to do so will, in effect, cause the Municipality to accept the consequences of such tree's growth by default.
- c. Owners of a property will be permitted to plant trees on sidewalks, after the necessary approval in writing has been obtained from the relevant department.
- d. The property owner must be informed that such tree, once planted on municipal land, becomes the property of municipality, whilst maintenance there-of remains the responsibility of the property owner.

6.5.4 Financial resources

Public demand for tree planting in residential areas differs from area to area and whilst tree planting should be encouraged and promoted, municipality will only provide and plant trees within its financial capacity.

6.6. Fauna

Urban trees create important habitat for a diverse range of native and exotic fauna including mammals, birds, reptiles, bees, and invertebrates and therefore can be either positively or negatively impacted by routine tree management activities.

In recognition of the contribution that urban trees make to biodiversity in the Langeberg Municipality the municipality will.

- a. Endeavour to relocate native fauna that will be displaced from routine tree management activities where it is possible and reasonable to do so.
- b. Leave the task until the end of the breeding or nesting season if safe, reasonable, and practical to do so.

- c. In accordance with sections 6.4.2.1 (i) of this policy, trees will not be removed or pruned to reduce the impact of waste or noise from any bird, bat, or other animal.

6.7. Trees on Private Property

- a. Apart from “protected trees” as declared under the Forest Act, 1984 (Act No 122 of 1984), the only other instance where municipality is able to protect trees on private property, is when an application is made to rezone private land, or where departures related to planning conditions are requested.
- b. The Parks Section decides on the retention of conservation-worthy trees. The most important criteria revolve around the impact that the tree has on the landscape, the species, size, health, and vitality of the tree(s), as well as proposed site levels and prevailing wind conditions.
- c. Officials of the Parks Section assist with the conservation of trees that are protected in terms of the Forest Act, 1984 (Act 122 of 1984) by alerting the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board about the impending destruction of trees specified under the Act.
- d. Generally, the council does not have jurisdiction over trees planted on private property, unless they threaten the safety of road users and/or the community at large. Should a tree(s) interfere with essential services, a notice can be served in terms of Municipal Ordinance 20 of 1974, which compels the owner to attend to the offending tree.

6.8. Community Engagement

- a. All community engagement activities will be governed by municipality’s community engagement process
- b. The community will be informed and consulted about all major projects involving tree removal and planting and any other specialised projects that involve municipal trees.
- c. The type and extent of community engagement will vary depending on the impact of the works on the local community and will be determined in accordance with several factors including the prominence of the location,

the significance of the tree, the size of the tree, the number of trees being impacted and the visual impact of proposed works.

- d. Community engagement may include direct contact with the customer, letters to immediately affected residents, signage on site and via information on the municipal website.
- e. The municipality will assess customer requests regarding urban trees in line within the parameters of this policy.
- f. All customer service requests will be responded to in a timely manner in accordance with Langeberg municipality Customer Service process.

7. APPENDIX 1

The following formula can be used as a guideline to ascertain the value of a tree.

Seven factors are considered when calculating the aesthetic value of a tree, with each evaluation factor having four possible values.

The appointed value of each factor is multiplied by the other and the accumulative product is multiplied by the inflation rate to provide overall established monetary value of the tree, i.e., factor a x b x c x d x e x f x g = total x 6 = R total.

This formula is based on the British Tree Council formula that is accepted globally by authorities. Evaluation Factor Score

Factors	1	2	3	4	
a	Size of the tree – girth, height, width, and trunk size	Small 0 – 4 m	Medium 4 – 8 m	Large 8 – 16m	Very large 16 m +
b	Useful life expectancy	10 – 20 years	20 – 40 years	40 – 100 years	100 yrs. +
c	Importance of position in landscape (location and function, cultural & historical value)	Little	Some	Considerable	Great
d	Presence of other trees, Surrounds and aesthetics	Many 10 or more	Some 4 - 10	Few 1 - 4	None
e	Relation to the setting, location, foliage, cover and aesthetics	Barely suitable	Fairly suitable	Very suitable	Especially suitable
f	Form, shape, size, height, weight and look of the tree	poor	fair	good	very good

g	Special factors – botanical value of the species, growth rate, flowers, indigenous or exotic, evergreen or deciduous	none	one	two	three+
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7.2. Appendix 2

Recommended street tree list

Vachellia karoo - Soetdoring
 Vachellia sieberana var woodii - Papierbasdoring
 Vachellia xanthophloea - Koorsboom
 Senegalia galpinii - Apiesdoring
 Searsia lancea - Rooikaree
 Searsia pendulina - Witkaree
 Searsia chirendensis – Bos-taaibos
 Dias cotonifolia - Kannabas
 Erythrina spp - Koraalboom
 Harpephyllum caffrum - Wildepruim
 Ekebergia capensis - Essenhout
 Kiggelaria africana – Wilde Perske
 Celtis africana - Witstinkhout
 Grewia occidentalis - Kruisbessie
 Curtisia dentata - Assegaai
 Nuxia floribunda - Bosvlier
 Syzygium cordatum - Waterbessie
 Quercus suber – Cork Oak
 Ceratonia siliqua – Carob tree

Tabled to Council on 31 March 2026.