Landscape Design Policy

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Function:	5 - Environmental Management	Responsible Officer:	Team Leader, Parks and Landscape Assets

A - PREAMBLE

1. The City of Salisbury takes pride in presenting a green and attractive environment. In order to provide an environment consistent with the Annual Plan, Key Direction 3: 'The Living City'. Consideration is given to such traits as visual appeal, amenity, accessibility to the location; cost and responsible use of resources in the development of any landscape design.

B - SCOPE

1. This policy applies to all Council's streets, parks and landscape areas, in both new and existing developments.

C – POLICY PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives are for the development of the landscape style, character and form in the City of Salisbury which has the following key components:

   - Creation of a unique landscape identity/ character throughout the City.

   - Developing a sustainable environment.

   - Ensure equitable distribution of resources/ open space across the City.

   - Maintaining the City's biodiversity through the use of indigenous plantings to provide suitable refuge habitat within an Urban Environment.

   - Creation of high quality, practical and functional landscapes.

   - Provide consistency and cohesiveness of landscape elements and materials.

   - Implement outcomes of City of Salisbury Strategic Plan, The Game Plan, City Landscape Plan and Biodiversity Corridors Management Plan.

D - POLICY STATEMENT

1. **Sustainability**

- Creation of a landscape that does not require high resource input with regard to purpose of site e.g. water, energy and maintenance personnel.

- Manage irrigation to limit excessive use of water both potable and recycled and in a way which is able to respond to the function of the public open space.

- Creation of a landscape which would survive for a considerable time, as a result of periodical drought events or a reduction in maintenance level of service.

- Landscapes are to have longevity and regeneration characteristics, particularly in natural/ open reserve areas.

- Create an environment for the conservation and enhancement of existing natural landscape areas.

- Landscapes are to be developed with a diverse mix of species, so as to be resilient within the region and able to be sustained with changes in localised environmental and climatic conditions.

2. **Creation of Identity**

- Create a sense of place (Genus loci) through the use of consistent plant species, landscape elements and materials across the city.

- Assist in distinguishing City of Salisbury from other regional locations.

- Create a landscape that complements the surrounding built form.

- Create a theme which responds to the natural landscape character zones and soil types found throughout the City.

- Create landscapes that relate to the public open space hierarchy, function and agreed maintenance levels of service.

- Utilise water sensitive urban design principles wherever possible.

3. **Equity**

- Provide opportunity for all users to equitably access a range of spaces for formal and informal recreation pursuits across the city.

- Provide landscape maintenance resources across the City which promotes equity for all community members.

- Create a maintenance hierarchy that places resources where they are most required i.e. provide the highest level of maintenance to the areas that are more frequently used.

4. **Creation of Habitat whilst Maintaining Indigenous & Environmental Biodiversity.**

- Maintain existing habitat to ensure future biodiversity provision within the City.

- Provide landscape elements of a diverse nature which are able to develop and enhance habitat opportunities within the City.

- Conservation and enhancement of remnant flora and fauna habitats to support sites of Indigenous historical significance.

- Control influences which may adversely impact on natural habitat such as non-indigenous flora or fauna species, chemical and soil contamination and habitat loss through erosion.

- Design landscapes that use predominantly endemic vegetation, which is well suited to local conditions found within the City of Salisbury (climatic and environmental conditions).

- Minimise the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers in alignment with best horticultural practice for natural areas.

5. **Creation of a High Quality, Practical & Functional Landscape**

- Use recycled water for irrigating high profile and high use landscapes wherever possible.

- Design landscapes to reflect current landscape maintenance practices, industry best practice and availability of resources.

- Developed landscapes should be multi-functional, flexible and sustainable for a long period of time.

- Ensure development approvals comply with this policy.

- Create landscapes with a consistent style, in alignment with the City Landscape Plan and land use, while adhering to good water management and maintenance practices.

- Create safe and equitable fit for purpose environments through design, having consideration for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Universal Design principles.

- Create an environment that minimises the risk of fire, especially in Urban Areas.

- Introduce colour and diversity in landscape planting in line with direction of the City Plan and City Landscape Plan.

- Encourage community to landscape private property consistent with this policy.

6. **Consistency & Cohesiveness of Landscape Elements**

- Create a regular, unified landscape through consistent use of structured shrub and tree planting throughout the City as per the City Landscape Plan.

- Create a holistic/ cohesive landscape through consistent use of hard and soft landscape elements and materials throughout the City as per the public open space hierarchy and City Landscape Plan to provide sense of place.

E - LEGISLATION

1. *Electricity Act 1996*

2. *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*

3. *Sewerage Act 1929*

Document Control

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