

POLICY NO: 2.1.1

**PUBLIC OPEN SPACE – MAINTENANCE OF
NATURALLY VEGETATED AREAS**

OBJECTIVES

To develop and maintain areas of public open space that have predominantly native vegetation in an attractive and sustainable manner.

POLICY STATEMENT

Certain areas of public open space in the City of Vincent are retained as areas of indigenous vegetation. These areas serve the following functions:-

- provide areas of habitat for native wildlife;
- provide visual contrast to grassed areas;
- enclose and enhance grassed areas;
- stabilise areas that would otherwise be difficult to maintain;
- ensure reduced maintenance costs in the long term;
- provide a reserve of indigenous species for use by future generations;
- provide an indication of what the land looked like prior to European settlement.

The areas that are covered by this policy are those areas of public open space which either contain undisturbed indigenous vegetation, or are areas that have been disturbed and subsequently revegetated with indigenous species. These areas are generally not irrigated.

GUIDELINES AND POLICY PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE – MAINTENANCE OF NATURALLY VEGETATED AREAS POLICY NO. 2.1.1

The Maintenance Policy

The following procedures are to be implemented within native vegetated areas:

1. Where practicable, only plants which are indigenous to Western Australia are to be used. Selection will be based on soil and water requirements and preference will be given to local indigenous species.
2. All new planting to take place at the commencement of the autumn rains or at a time most suitable for the establishment of a particular species:
 - (i) Plants to be planted will be usually “tube stock” or a similar size;
 - (ii) Plants to be planted in a saucer approximately 450mm dia. The saucer is to be mulched with a mulch material collected from the area or woodchips;
 - (iii) Plants to be well watered in and thereafter shall generally receive no more water. Hand watering can be considered over the first summer period if necessary;
3. Weed species such as veldt grass and broad leaf species are to be removed by hand and by careful application of a selective herbicide followed by immediate replanting, following the procedures of the Bradley method of regenerating disturbed bushland;
4. Weeds such as couch grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) to be treated with a chemical such as Glyphosate at a minimum concentration of 25:1 applied with a wick applicator or sponge and immediately replanted, as above;
5. Where necessary for security or fire prevention reasons, a 2.5m wide strip along private property fence lines is to be kept clear of all vegetation over 300mm high. Any mowing is to be at a height of 75mm to 100mm. Plantings closer to fence lines may be considered if they do not create security or fire risks;
6. Selected dead vegetation to be removed annually from areas of indigenous vegetation to reduce fire hazard and maintain a tidy appearance following an annual site inspection. If possible, dead material that may be suitable for animal habitat is to be retained on site or may be stockpiled for use as mulch or for stabilising area of erosion;
7. All established trees are to be maintained to ensure they are safe for the members of the public who use the area. The retention of some logs and other appropriate elements as animal habitat may be required and will be encouraged;

8. Access to the area is to be strictly controlled. Vehicle and cycle access is to be prohibited. Non-vehicular traffic is to be confined to paths; however, the general use of the area for nature study or other similar activities is permitted providing the reserve is not damaged;
9. Adjacent areas of irrigated grass are to be confined by the means of chemical application, followed by removal of remaining runners as required;
10. Areas that are eroded or have no vegetative cover and require stabilisation are to be revegetated. The following procedure is to be used:
 - (i) if required, the area is to be graded to suitable levels;
 - (ii) fencing to be erected to control access to the site; temporary fencing is to consist of a well constructed well strained fence of star pickets or pine posts and ringlock with white tape or other similar material to ensure visibility. Fences if a semi-permanent nature to be of treated pine or a similar material;
 - (iii) brush material to be laid on the slope. Density of the material is to be minimum, so as to reduce the likelihood of fire. Branches off trees that are indigenous to the area are to be used for preference. Fire retardants are to be applied as necessary;
 - (iv) small “tube stock” to be planted in between the brush at a density appropriate to the species and the location;
 - (v) seeds to be sown over the brush area (having been pre-treated as necessary) where considered necessary;
11. The following maintenance program is to be implemented:-
 - (i) once a year major rubbish removal, firebreak establishment and generally attend to all outstanding works;
 - (ii) once a month check area for rubbish and minor weed removal by hand;
 - (iii) twice a year (spring and autumn), weed eradication program (that is, use of herbicides to control couch and other perennial grasses);
 - (iv) once a year refurbishment program including brushing, planting and seeding as necessary;
 - (v) monthly checking of fencing for repairs as required and review of need for fence and when feasible, removal of fence.

Date Adopted:	26 May 1997
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