

# SIGNIFICANT TREE PROTECTION POLICY

<b>Policy Number:</b>	4.1.8
<b>Approved by:</b>	Council
<b>Date Approved:</b>	December 2025
<b>Date of Next Review:</b>	December 2026
<b>Applicable to:</b>	Whole organisation
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Natural Environment and Parks Open Space Planning Officer Coordinator Parks Services
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Urban Forest Policy Open Space Policy
<b>Related Documents:</b>	Open Space Plan 2014-2024 Wellington Planning Scheme
<b>Statutory Reference:</b>	Nil

## OVERVIEW

To protect significant trees and remnant vegetation located in urban areas from the negative impacts of land development (sub-divisions).

## THE POLICY

This policy aims to provide guidance to applicants in the design of development proposals to ensure that significant trees/remnant vegetation is assessed and incorporated into development design.

The policy refers to lots of less than 0.4 hectare. Lots larger than 0.4 ha will generally be protected by the native vegetation controls afforded by the Wellington Planning Scheme Clause 52.17.

## Definitions

A significant tree is:

- Any tree of outstanding aesthetic quality.
- Any tree outstanding for its large height, trunk diameter or canopy spread.
- Any tree that is particularly old or venerable.
- Any tree which occurs in a unique location or provides a significant contribution to the landscape, streetscape or townscape, including remnant vegetation and important landmark trees.
- Any tree associated with a well-known public figure or ethnic group.
- Any tree commemorating or having association with an important historic event.
- Any tree that is rare to an area (e.g. beyond its normal range of distribution or common cultivation) or is of a rare species or variety generally, including endangered species.
- Any tree which exhibits a curious growth form or physical feature including unusually pruned forms.

- Any tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock.
- Any tree which forms part of a recognised historic garden, park or town.

Remnant vegetation is:

- Any patch of indigenous vegetation, around which most or all of the land has been cleared. The patches of vegetation can provide a repository for seed banks, habitat and corridors for animals, aesthetic and scientific values, soil stability, and a reduction in salinity.

The responsibility to ensure that the maintenance and implementation of the guidelines accords with Council's policy position is vested in the Manager Natural Environment and Parks. Any matter specifically requiring a Council determination shall be reported by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment.

## REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	Change of placement of 'Wellington Planning Scheme' from Statutory Reference to Related Documents.
1.1	December 2023	Date of Next Review updated to December 2024. Minor formatting changes.
1.2	December 2024	Date of Next Review updated to December 2025.
1.3	December 2025	Date of Next Review updated to December 2026 with input from Tree Management Plan 2026.