

MEMORIALS IN PUBLIC PARKS AND RESERVES

Statutory context Not Applicable

Corporate context Not Applicable

History Adopted: ??????
Review Period: Every 3 years

Purpose

To:

- Provide guidance in relation to the use of public open space in the placement of memorials, monuments, plaques, and the planting of memorial trees
- Ensure that applications for memorials, monuments, plaques, and trees are managed on a consistent basis and in accordance with the Council's strategic direction and corporate policies

Application

This Policy applies to the placement of memorials, plaques, and monuments as well as the planting of commemorative trees in Shire of Moora owned/managed parks, reserves, public open space, and streetscapes.

This Policy does not apply to operations of cemeteries.

The policy applies to memorials, monuments, plaques, and commemorative trees, where the naming is intended to commemorate a (deceased) person, organisation, or significant event. It also includes the placement of such items for community driven projects, where the intent of the project is to raise awareness of a particular community issue.

Requests to recognise a living person/individual does not fall within the scope of this policy.

An artwork or other feature intended primarily to enhance open space and not designed as a commemorative piece, is not considered a memorial for the purpose of this policy.

Policy Statements

The Shire of Moora recognises that members of the community may wish to use public open space to commemorate a person, group of people or an event through a memorial.

This may contribute to the wellbeing of the community and/or honour the contributions of past community members.

Notwithstanding this, it is also recognised that installation of memorials must be managed to maintain local amenity, ensure community safety and minimise the cost of maintenance/operation of parks and reserves.

All items installed in accordance with this policy become Shire assets and are therefore owned and under the care, control, and management of the Shire.

Criteria for Approval

Each application will be assessed on its merits and must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- An individual or group that contributed significantly to the cultural, political, or social development of the Shire of Moora.

Individual nominees are to be deceased, and demonstrate:

- They were a local community member, and
 - Left a tangible legacy to the community that has resonance with the broader public, and
 - Placement of a memorial benefits the community in acknowledging the deceased.
- An event or occasion to be commemorated:
 - Anniversary or event must be unique and highly significant to the history and development of the Shire of Moora; and/or the State of Western Australia/ Australia
 - Reference to historical, social, or culturally significant events must be highly significant to a particular site within the Shire of Moora.
- Awareness campaign:
 - Where the intent of a plaque or memorial item is to raise awareness of a particular community issue, the applicant must demonstrate the relevance of the issue to the local community.

Application Requirements

All applications will be in writing and confirm:

- The commitment of the applicant to fund the requested memorial item (plaque, memorial, monument, or tree)
- Details of compliance with any of the relevant criteria
- The relationship between the memorial and the open space setting proposed
- Consistency with any approved masterplans for the site
- That the proposed memorial does not detract from the aesthetic value or the operation/maintenance of the site.

Decision Process

Decisions requiring approval by Council:

- Any application relating to memorialising an individual
- Any applications relating to the installation of monuments.

Decisions requiring approval by the CEO:

- Any other application that meets the conditions of this policy for memorials, plaques and trees and/or infrastructure such as seating or tables

- Any application related to an awareness campaign where the relevance to the community has been demonstrated

Any decision may result in approval, refusal, or approval subject to reasonable and relevant conditions.

Design/Installation Considerations

The size, design, installation, siting, structure, species selection (for plants), etc will be in consultation with the applicant(s) but final decisions, approvals and consent will be by the Shire.

Any ordering, purchasing, obtaining of quotes or any other procurement processes will be in consultation with the applicant(s) but final decisions and approvals will be by the Shire and compliance with procurement processes may be required.

Final costings/estimates may be obtained prior to agreement to proceed, and the applicant can confirm a commitment to meet the expected costs and agreement with the design/structure/siting decisions or choose to withdraw the application.

End of Life Considerations

Although some monuments and memorials may have a very extended term of existence (“life”), It is expected that many memorials will have a much more limited life.

There is a reasonable expectation that most items of infrastructure such as seating and plaques will remain in place for a period of not less than 10 years. For a memorial tree, the life of the memorial is the life of the tree.

The Shire reserves the right to remove a memorial after the expiry of 10 years or, should a memorial fall into disrepair for whatever reason (for example vandalism, natural disaster), prior to the expiry of 10 years.

At the end of life of the memorial:

- Council will make reasonable endeavours to contact the applicant or their next of kin
- Council will negotiate an appropriate end-of-life process including the option of applying for a new memorial

Memorial Register

Council will maintain an appropriate register of approved memorials.