

Title: **Footpaths and Shared Paths**
Policy No: 048
Adopted By: Council
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Responsibility: General Manager City Operations
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Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	History
1	20\2501	23/02/10	Adopted
2	21\5435	30/05/2017	Adopted
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1 Policy Summary

This Policy establishes the framework for Council's footpath and shared path pathways network.

2 Policy Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the provision and care of footpaths and shared paths throughout the municipality. Council seeks to maintain and provide a network of footpaths and shared paths for the community that is safe, provides equal access, and is fit for purpose to encourage cycling and walking.

3 Background

Council provides and maintains footpaths and shared paths to ensure safety, accessibility and connectivity of spaces and to improve access for people of all ages and abilities.

4 Policy Statement

Council will construct and maintain a footpath and shared path network throughout the municipality to provide and improve connectivity to properties and public and private facilities in accordance with the following principles:

- i. Council will provide;
 - a. at least one footpath per local road
 - b. two footpaths on sub arterial roads, primary collector roads, adjacent schools, bus routes and other areas of special need, with one path being a shared path
 - c. footpaths and shared paths of suitable widths to meet access and requirements and be fit for purpose (ie schools, recreation, high usage)
 - d. footpaths and shared paths through parks to provide pedestrian and cyclist networks
 - e. connections to walkways
- ii. Council will develop annual and ongoing programs for the maintenance (including overhanging vegetation), construction, reconstruction and removal of footpaths and shared paths.
- iii. New footpath and shared path construction will be determined within budgetary constraints and prioritised according to special need, demand, road hierarchy, connection and linkages, town planning zones, and area plans.
- iv. Council may remove obsolete footpaths and replace with an appropriate verge material when the path has reached the end of its useful life.
- v. Where a footpath is not provided, a pedestrian corridor must be provided and maintained within the verge.
- vi. Commercial property owners must not compromise the Council's verge and footpath in providing compliant access to their building.
- vii. In locations where a footpath or shared path is not provided, access to properties is provided via the driveway.

5 Legislation, terminology and references

The following City of Darwin Policies, Plans and Guidelines are relevant to this Policy;

- Alfresco Dining Policy
- Verge Policy
- Awnings, Balconies and Verandahs Policy
- City of Darwin Subdivision Guidelines
- City of Darwin Standard Drawings
- City of Darwin Community Access Plan
- City of Darwin Bike Plan
- Darwin City Centre Master Plan

The following legislation is relevant to this Policy;

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Relevant Australian Standards

Definitions

“Construction” – construction of a new footpath where one previously did not exist.

“Footpath” – refers to any formalised and constructed pedestrian access within a road reserve, or Council land such as parks. All footpaths within Darwin’s municipality are able to be used by pedestrians and cyclists.

“Obsolete Footpath” – footpaths that have reached the end of their useful life, are no longer serviceable through standard maintenance and are not programmed for future replacement. A serviceable footpath will exist on the other side of the road.

“Pedestrians” – within this Policy, pedestrians include all legal footpath users.

“Reconstruction” – replacement of an existing footpath with a new footpath, which may also be an upgrade to a different material.

“Removal” – removal of an existing footpath.

“Shared Path” – includes any path designed with the intention to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.

“Special Need” – includes any location where pedestrian traffic would be considered to be significant or the users to have limited mobility or require clear guidance.

“Verge” – the area from the road surface/kerb to the adjoining property boundary.

6 Implementation and delegation

City Operations is responsible for managing implementation of this policy.

7 Evaluation and review

This policy is to be reviewed once per term of Council.