



# TREE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

## Background

The aim of the Baileys Muckleneuk Conservation Association (BMCA), in terms of its constitution, is as follows: “to protect and advance the interests of all owners of houses in the suburb of Bailey's Muckleneuk north of Charles Street and west of Roper Street, and to protect and preserve the existing residential character of this neighbourhood and its status as a “conservation area”.

As such, the protection of trees has long been one of the mainstays of conservation efforts in Baileys Koppie.

Baileys Koppie is known as a leafy suburb abounding in big and beautiful trees. Trees not only serve as beautification of our suburb but also enhances animal and bird life. They also contribute greatly to the aesthetic, environmental and commercial value of our properties.

The management committee of the BMCA would like to propose some guidelines how to preserve our trees and how to enhance a culture of tree protection in order to create a more uniform practice regarding this matter and to offer some assistance in this regard.

These guidelines are not intended to “police” any “transgressions” of the guidelines, but rather as an educational tool to assist residents in exercising the best options in deciding which trees to plant, prune or fell.

The guidelines have been drafted by the Bailey's Koppie Management Committee in collaboration with the City of Tshwane's Environmental Management Division.

## Baileys Koppie Tree Protection Guidelines

1. The guidelines are not enforceable by the BMCA Management Committee or by residents individually but merely serve to encourage residents to foster an acceptable practice regarding the planting, pruning and felling of trees in Baileys Koppie.
2. Residents should at all times adhere to national legislation with regards the NEMA Act (National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998), the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Act, National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (10/2004), the Alien and Invasive Species Lists 2014, National Forests Act of 1998 (Act no 84 of 1998), especially section 15 (3) relating to Protected Trees, and the City of Tshwane (CoT) requirements regarding street tree management.
3. Existing trees planted on the road reserve/sidewalk of our streets (College Avenue, Marais Street and Julius Street), no matter whether the tree was planted by the CoT or by a resident, remain the property of the CoT and may only be felled/pruned/moved/ with the consent of the CoT. New trees may only be planted by or with written permission of the CoT as there are pipes on the sidewalks and this will prevent these from being damaged.
4. A two square metre square should be left around a tree on the sidewalk if the owner decides to cement or pave the sidewalk. No flower boxes are to be built around the street trees. The rain water should be able to run into the ground around the roots of the tree.
5. Trees planted within the boundaries of private residences, are regarded as belonging to our community as a whole. This is in line with some sophisticated metropolitan jurisdictions elsewhere in the world. A tree, especially a big tree, felled on private property, may impact severely on the ambience of our area as well as the value of the property.
6. When a resident requires a tree on his private property to be felled/pruned/moved, he/she should first seek the advice of the Baileys Koppie Tree Committee. Sometimes pruning only selected branches should be considered instead of felling the whole tree.
7. Trees over 60 years old are by law classified as heritage trees and all measures should be implemented to try and save such trees. Old trees can often be saved by selectively pruning some branches.
8. Compacting ground, driving over the roots or paving around tree roots can lead to the tree's slow death.
9. The Tree Committee will investigate the matter with a view to see if all options were considered and then provide the owner with their considered opinion.
10. All trees should be pruned at least 5 metres away for overhead electrical cables.
11. Plants like ivies or bougainvilleas should not be allowed to grow up into the trees as this can lead to the death of the tree.
12. All Category 1 Invader species have to be removed from all private property as prescribed by the law.

## Selecting the right tree

It is important to consider the most ideal tree species for the ideal space. It does not help to plant the wrong tree in the wrong space and have to chop it out after 10 years after it has caused damage to your property.

1. Consider the space available for the tree to grow.
2. Consider the location for winter and summer sun.
3. Consider the pipes for various services in the yard.
4. Consider the space for the roots to grow, paving, swimming pools etc.
5. Consider your neighbours when choosing the tree.
6. Consider the size and width of the trees and the shape that it grows.
7. Consider the size of the leaves, flowers and fruit.
8. Consider the smell of the flowers and maybe the smell of the fruit.
9. Consider the insects the tree attracts.
10. Consider if the tree is indigenous or exotic.
11. Consider if the tree is evergreen or deciduous.
12. Consider the planting area of the tree in relation to electric fences and or security cameras.

## General

1. The Bailey's Koppie Tree Committee consists of a Bailey's Koppie resident, a tree expert from the CoT Environmental Management and Parks Division and a tree specialist from the University of Pretoria.
2. The advice so rendered by the Tree Committee will be free of charge to the resident and it will provide the resident with peace of mind that all options have been considered and that legal requirements have been adhered to. It will also provide other residents with the peace of mind that trees are not unnecessarily felled/damaged.
3. A resident is not obliged to adhere to the advice of the Tree Committee if he/she is of the opinion that the advice is not suitable to his/her needs.
4. In order to involve the Tree Committee, the resident should contact the Baileys Koppie secretary or chairperson who will then activate the Tree Committee.
5. Protected Trees may not be removed or felled without the permission of the National Department concerned. It is an illegal process and carries a heavy fine.

The contact numbers of the chairperson and the secretary of the BMCA are as follows:

Chairperson: Mr Gert van der Walt 083 445 0566

Secretary: Dr Marli Swanepoel 082 926 407 [marliswanepoel@gmail.com](mailto:marliswanepoel@gmail.com)

Correspondence address: [baileyskoppie@gmail.com](mailto:baileyskoppie@gmail.com)

The BMCA management committee would like to thank our Baileys Koppie residents in anticipation for their co-operation in this important matter.

Date: 16 April 2021