



# STEVE TSHWETE

## LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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### Media release

#### Save trees to make our communities liveable

Environmental hazards have cautioned the world to recognize the importance of natural ecosystems which are at the core of human survival. STLM is no exception in experiencing environmental challenges, especially with the rapid urban growth that poses a threat to the environment. As a result, the municipality is employing strategies such as the greening of the municipality, by planting trees.

It has come to the attention of the municipality that trees are being poisoned, topped and cut down leaving the beautiful nature in an undesirable state. Therefore the Steve Tshwete Municipality urges the community to protect and maintain the environment by saving trees. Below is the list of tips on how to save trees.

- Plant the correct tree for the purpose, planting a tree is a lifelong investment, so make sure you match the best tree species to the unique dimensions and circumstances of your planting site.
- Plant Indigenous trees as far as practically possible, because they assist with air and ground water purification and also regulate temperature.
- Plant water wise plants (Turn to water wise landscaping)
- Don't cut, prune or top sidewalk trees if you do not have permission from the owner of the tree.
- For every tree cut down plant two in its place,
- Should the sidewalk not be suitable for a tree, plant a tree inside your property.
- Plant more trees instead of cutting down trees, because trees play a big role in our battle against climate change, they feed our rivers, help regulate the impact of storms and floods, provide shelter, jobs and security for forest dependent populations.
- Note that there are some trees of heritage importance, which should not be cut down within the municipal area e.g. Van Blerk park oak trees, (It can be on private property or municipal owned area.)
- Indigenous sidewalk trees are also available from the municipal nursery on request for the community.(to encourage tree planting)

- Communities are encouraged to plant trees during September which is arbor month, as groups within their residential areas, because trees can also bring diverse group of people together and add unity.
- By planting trees property values will increase and also business traffic will increase (tree-lined streets will slow traffic enough to allow drivers to look at store fronts instead of passing by quickly.)

Should you have a problem with a tree on the side walk on a municipal area please contact the Physical and Environmental Development Department who will advise, and or take the necessary action to assist with saving the tree. If you see trees being cut down on the street, report it immediately on 013 249 7209.

STLM towns and townships leave a demand for well-developed open green areas to ensure that healthy lifestyles are maintained. STLM intends to contribute towards community cohesion and social interaction by creating well developed open spaces within the residential areas e.g. parks, sidewalks, sports areas and cemeteries.

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Yours sincerely

**ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER**