# The jungle of soft and green assets:  Implementing the IPWEA Practice Notes

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## Introduction:
The City of Melville has spent the last two years wrestling with the application of the IPWEA Park Practice Notes to its green and soft assets.  This is our journey with some notes for whoever ventures down this trail.

## Describe meetings and changes in thinking:
Prior to the first IPWEA Park Seminars in 2017, the City had:
- little understanding of our green assets
- limited 'fit for use' understanding
- dwindling budget to renew and maintain green assets
- a shelf warming asset management plan

Then the rains come through with:
- increasing awareness in asset management in general with positive evidence from roads and footpath programs
- changing expectations placing a value on green assets e.g. Urban Forest focus, heat island effect risk
- acceptance that something had to be done and the resources provided to start
- data was collected on green assets – spaces and trees
- hierarchy and function determined for green spaces, based on the IPWEA practice notes

## Describe results:
The City now has a:
- comprehensive map of all "green" spaces including function and sizes
- data base on all street trees within the City
- consistent asset naming
- alignment on service provision and status for each
- a price for each level, allowing informed discussion
- a method to inform asset rationalisation
- renewal programs linking to Community Plan, through Infrastructure Strategy plan
- green assets noted in Financial Accounts but not Accounting Standards
- park "Fit for Use" is actually a line item with a budget in the Long term Financial Plan

## Lessons for others:
The biggest challenges have been:
- prioritising the time and keeping momentum
- actually placing a value on green assets (comprehensive valuations)
- managing the change in thinking about green assets – both parks and finance. Explaining, showing and re-explaining
- ensuring good buy-in from staff
- maintaining the data, changing process to embed it in everyday thinking/ work