



Community assets are acquired or built to deliver services and in order to provide continuous services, these community assets have to be maintained routinely. When a community asset ceases to provide a service, it has to be renewed or replaced.

An **asset** can be defined as something owned or controlled that provides services for the community over a period of time, greater than one year¹.

This complete cycle forms the basis of community asset management, which is the legal responsibility of the Municipalities or the Provincial Government.

Therefore, each community asset must be managed in a planned way, comprising:

- Routine maintenance.
- Repairs.
- Provision for replacement at the end of its useful life.

Community assets:

- Are facilities, sites and infrastructure that are publicly owned by the community.
- Are usually under the care and management of government in national, provincial or municipal spheres.
- In the provincial or municipal spheres, may include:
 - multipurpose centres and halls, e.g. libraries, city halls
 - sports fields, parks and community gardens
 - medical and veterinary clinics, crèches and old age homes
 - projects set up for specific groups of people (e.g. women's cooperatives)
 - projects for specific purposes, e.g. poultry projects
 - transport networks, e.g. roads, rails, bus services and bridges
 - water utilities e.g. water supply pipes, pumps and waste water treatment plants
 - rubbish facilities, e.g. landfill dump sites
 - energy utilities, e.g. power stations and electrical cable lines
 - historic monuments and heritage sites, e.g. museums, monuments and historical buildings.

Reference:

1. Hope, D. & Rimmington, G. (2005). Community asset management guidelines for provincial and municipal staff. Brisbane City Enterprises, Australia.)

