

Urban Forest Strategy

Quarterly Reporting Table

February 2021



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK

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	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1:			
Plant and protect sufficient trees by 2020 to achieve the 20% tree canopy target as supported by Council.			
1A	<i>The Town, together with the community, develop, resource, and implement a mass tree planting plan [program] to achieve 20% tree canopy cover.</i>	Year 2, Ongoing	<p>The summary of the 2020 Planting Season was released in a graphic digital format showing a further increase in Town tree planting and the addition of 110,000m² of projected tree canopy to the Town, a 42% increase on the previous year.</p> <p>The report can be found: https://www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/Around-town/Environment/Urban-Forest-Strategy/Yearly-planting-progress/2020-planting-season-report</p> <p>Vic Park Leafy Streets Leafy Streets planting site identification commenced with Urban Forest Officers (UFO's) directed to focus on neighborhood connector streets.</p>
1B	<i>Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway.</i>	Year 1, Year 2	<p>Albany Hwy Path trees project (Park Centre) Construction contract award and materials ordering for the Albany Highway Tree planting and Permeable paving project adjacent the Park Centre in East Victoria Park (expected construction start date of 11/1/21).</p>
1C	<p><i>Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity.</i></p> <p><i>Explore mechanisms including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Effective street tree bonds,</i> <i>b. Tree Impact Assessments, and</i> <i>c. Appropriate penalties for tree removal or vandalism.</i> 	Year 1	Action completed with the adoption of Policy 255 Tree Management.

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1D	<i>Incorporate tree protection and maximise planting in all projects on public land, especially Town-owned parks, verges and open spaces. At the onset of any proposal for significant public works, conduct and publish a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment of proposed design, engineering plans or changes.</i>	Ongoing	Not progressed this quarter.
1E	<i>Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices.</i>	Ongoing	Not progressed this quarter.
1F	<i>Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders.</i>	Ongoing	25 Boundary Road has been revegetated following the creation of a saleable lot on the site. Planning has been occurring for 2021 sites that include: 91 Planet Street – Carlisle, 76 Planet Street – Carlisle, 30 Satellite Terrace, 6 Paltridge Street, 25 Canterbury Terrace and 22 Gallipoli Street.
1G	<i>Promote relevant changes to local and state planning rules to require open space, setbacks, deep soil zones and canopy trees on private property, particularly for 'battle-axed' blocks and new residential and multi-use development sites.</i>	Ongoing	This action is completed with the adoption of policy 101 Tree Planting and Retention.
1H	<i>Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practice.</i>	Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.

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1I	<i>Engage an arborist to provide recommendations to update and expand nominations to the Town's Significant Tree Register. In conjunction to this, strengthen the status of the Town's Significant Tree Register to have statutory weight under the Town's Local Planning Scheme, and investigate and establish effective penalties to deter the illegal removal of registered significant trees.</i>	Year 3 Year 4	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.
1J	<i>Investigate and trial an incentives program to retain trees on private land. Explore mechanisms including: a. differential Council rates based on tree canopy, green infrastructure and land use, and b. funding to assist landowners to maintain registered significant trees</i>	Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.
1K	<i>Strengthen and enforce the Town's local planning policy to require best practice tree planting and landscaping in non-residential car parks.</i>	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the year 2.
1L	<i>Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program, community planting days and community gardens.</i>	Ongoing	Orders were secured for the propagation of 25,000 shrubs from Kensington Bushland collected Seed. Additional non provenance orders were placed for 2021 Urban Forest at Home Program and 2000 35L trees for the Leafy Streets program.
1M	<i>Maintain a Town register of net gains and losses (through LiDAR data capture, analysis and report), to be published in conjunction with bi-annual mapping data.</i>	Year 1	Arbor Carbon have been engaged by the Town for detailed canopy analysis. On the 22nd of December Arbor Carbon flew a dedicated flight to capture thermal mapping and canopy coverage across the Town. It is anticipated this will result in a user interface for the public to assess their local canopy coverage and heat mapping.

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1N	<p>Investigate a new policy to assign a minimum tree canopy loading per dwelling for all new developments in the Town, whether large or small, on public or private land. A benchmark of 49m² of tree canopy per dwelling is recommended as the minimum standard. Investigate ways to provide tree canopy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. supplied on the development itself, b. through retention of mature trees or new plantings onsite or c. in other locations within the Town. 	<p>Year 3 Year 4</p>	<p>Similar to action 1G. Action complete.</p>
1O	<p>Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program</p>	<p>Year 1 Year 2</p>	<p>Action complete with integration into adopted Policy 111 Commemorative Recognition.</p>
<p>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: Maximise community involvement and collaboration in its implementation.</p>			
2A	<p>Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives.</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.</p>
2B	<p>Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>5 Urban Forest project proposals were received this quarter from members of the community.</p>

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2C	<p><i>Create community capacity (training and funding) by partnering with key community stakeholders to plan, plant, maintain and record the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>This can be largely achieved through the Town of Victoria Park promoting community education, and planting and maintaining tree programs.</i></p>	Ongoing	The new UFS Implementation Working Group for 2021 composition, selection criteria and membership were endorsed by council following an Expression of Interest Process. 3 Elected members were also appointed to the group by council determination.
2D	<p><i>Work with Whadjuk Noongar traditional owners and Aboriginal people to develop community programs that increase knowledge about the cultural significance of landscapes, flora and fauna in the Town.</i></p>	Ongoing	Four Boorn Stories videos were filmed and released during NAIDOC week and featured Prof. Simon Forrest describing the cultural significance of local trees and the natural landscape.
2E	<p><i>Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation.</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>The Towns Urban Forest education campaign successfully raised the profile of the Urban Forest and collaborative approach. Key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town's Urban Forest Strategy was featured nationally on Gardening Australia. • The Place Leader Urban Forest presented and WALGA's Tree in a Liveable City, Urban Forest Conference. • Town's Urban Forest Strategy implementation approach won the LG Professionals Award for Environmental and Sustainability Leadership. • Green Tour 2020 was conducted with staff and elected members touring the key planting sites completed during the 2020 planting season. This was a successful event and will be held again in 2021.
2F	<p><i>Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.</i></p>	Ongoing	The Town has collaborated with the City of South Perth again to secure locally grown provenance plant stock. The Town also joined with the city of Canning in the aerial analysis project mentioned in action 1M.

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2G	<i>Through the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) lobby the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to fully fund the ongoing (annual) capture and processing of canopy mapping.</i>	Ongoing	Action complete with securing of funding for 2020 and 2022.
2H	<i>Investigate establishing an Environmental Resource Centre within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as a public information and action hub for urban ecology.</i>	Year 3	The draft Design Opportunities and Directions Report has been received by the Town. This report will formalise the direction and scope of the master plan for the site. The master plan project will be delivered this financial year.
2I	<i>Implement an annual Urban Forest grant funding program to assist local community groups in delivering initiatives which contribute to enhancing the Town of Victoria Park's urban forest.</i>	Ongoing	Urban Forest Grants round 2 were opened and promoted following the successful completion of the first round of grants during the 2020 Planting Season.
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3:			
Increase tree diversity, whilst favoring local endemic and West Australian species that also support wildlife.			
3A	<i>Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock.</i>	Ongoing	This action is complete through partnership with the City of South Perth Nursery and a number of specialist commercial nurseries.
3B	<i>Revise the 'Town's Verge and Tree Planting Guidelines' to enhance diversity</i>	Year 3	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3.

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3C	<i>Establish an eco-zoning planting program in public parks and other planted areas to encourage healthy ecosystems. This can be largely achieved through the Town of Victoria Park promoting community education, and planting and maintaining tree programs.</i>	Ongoing	Not progressed this quarter.
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4:			
Maintain high standard of vegetation health			
4A	<i>Select good stock and species that are resilient to the effects of climate change.</i>	Ongoing	This action is complete as described in 3A.
4B	<i>Continue with dieback treatment trials.</i>	Ongoing	Not progressed this quarter.
4C	<i>Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health.</i>	Year 5	Not progressed this quarter.
4D	<i>Conduct targeted arborist checks annually in problem areas on public land (as identified by GIS mapping) and Town-wide checks for trees on public land every three years.</i>	Year 1 Year 3 Year 5	Part of this action is complete with the engagement of consultant arborist for annual assessment of street trees and bi annual assessment of park trees. Stage 1 of the Colombo Street Oaks arborists report was completed and recommended management actions to help maintain this highlight of the Town's tree assets, and one of its most beautiful streets. These actions will be conducted in January 2021.

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4E	<i>Establish a citizen science program to assist the Town with on-ground data collection and provide training in detecting common pathogens (such as the Asian woolly hackberry aphid and white cedar moth) and prevent their spread.</i>	Ongoing	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 2.
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5: Improve soil and water quality			
5A	<i>Review storm water infrastructure capability to benchmark and maintain or improve soil and water quality.</i>	Ongoing	Not progressed this quarter.
5B	<i>Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations.</i>	Ongoing	Specialised water tanks have been installed at George st reserve, Kensington bushland, Charles Patterson reserve and 91 Plant Street sump to facilitate community watering activities.
5C	<i>Minimise spread of dieback through the soil, in line with the Town's Dieback Management Procedures and Protocols.</i>	Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 5.
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6: Improve urban ecosystems.			
6A	<i>Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan.</i>	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 2.
6B	<i>Develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan for all areas to be planted.</i>	Ongoing	This quarter contracts were established for the watering of Urban Ecosystem Sites to help the plantings survive their first summer.
6C	<i>Expand bird nesting box trial and set up new habitat support trials for micro-bat boxes and insect hotels.</i>	Year 2	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 2.

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6D	<i>In collaboration with relevant research agencies and local stakeholders, review the Town's Environment Plan to incorporate utilising the ecosystem services of trees to address environmental problems such as urban heat island effect. Urban Ecology and Biodiversity outcomes will be considered in conjunction with addressing environmental problems.</i>	Year 1 Year 2	Not progressed this quarter
6E	<i>Investigate a biophilic design trial, to inform and promote best practice developments in the Town. Explore trialling: a. Roof top gardens b. Green walls c. Planter boxes d. Parklets</i>	Year 3 Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3, 4 and 5.