



TOWN OF  
**VICTORIA PARK**



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VIC PARK

# Urban Forest Strategy

## Quarterly progress report

Jan 2022 - Mar 2022

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## Urban Forest Strategy

### UFS Strategic Outcome 1 - Plant and protect sufficient trees by 2020 to achieve the 20% tree canopy target as supported by Council

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>1A - The Town, together with the community, develop, resource, and implement a mass tree planting plan [program] to achieve 20% tree canopy cover</b>	<p>This quarter a review of the UFS Implementation Action Plan was conducted with the UFS Implementation Working Group. Requirements to achieve the 20% target were described to the group based on the first two years of implementation. Opinion was sought on the target itself with the group recommending a milestone approach based on projected rather than actual canopy. The group also recommended a long-term aim of 30% to align with contemporary literature around city design and urban forest composition.</p> <p>Planning continued for the 2022 planting season with locations of 1200 street trees determined for the Leafy Streets Program. A number of tree losses (around 10% of newly planted trees) were experienced with new street tree plantings due to the extreme heat that continued through January and February. Investigations were conducted of each dead tree and data collated for ongoing review. All dead trees will be replaced with the canopy addition not included in the annual projected canopy addition.</p>	<p>This quarter the 2021 Planting Season Report was published (<a href="http://www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/Around-town/Environment/Urban-Forest-Strategy/Yearlyplanting-progress/2021-Planting-Season-Report">www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/Around-town/Environment/Urban-Forest-Strategy/Yearlyplanting-progress/2021-Planting-Season-Report</a>). This report detailed the planting seasons achievements. Again, the Town surpassed previous annual records for tree canopy added to the Urban Forest. 140,534m<sup>2</sup> of projected canopy was added during this planting season with 3,921 trees planted. This year the report also outlined the Town's progress towards its overall canopy target of 20% town wide canopy coverage. The town currently has 12.3% canopy coverage (canopy over 3m), it has added 2.1% since the implementation of the UFS, and has a further 5.6% to increase to reach the eventual 20% target.</p> <p>Due to receiving late tree stock the Vic Park Leafy Streets Street tree planting ran late with tree planting occurring all the way into December. This was assisted with late rain however extreme heat at the end of December proved a great challenge for many of the late planted trees.</p> <p>During this quarter tree orders were finalized for the 2023 planting season with orders requiring a May 2022 delivery date for them to meet conditions of sale. It is hoped this will avoid the difficulties encountered this planting season regarding stock availability.</p>
<b>1B - Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway</b>	<p>There has been issue with the appointed contractor in commencing this work due to significant delays on other projects the contractor is working on. The Contractor is expected to commence work at the end of march delivering the next project in the Albany Hwy Greening program.</p>	<p>Due to issues with materials supply and contractor availability the Albany Highway Greening for the 2021 Planting season has been delayed and will be delivered in early 2022. 15 advanced trees will be planted within the pedestrian environment in various locations along Albany Hwy at both the East Vic Park and Victoria Park sections of the highway. Permeable paving will again be installed to allow water and air to access to a suitable root environment below the path.</p>
<b>1C - Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity</b>	<p>Action completed with the adoption of Policy 255 Tree Management.</p>	<p>Action completed with the adoption of Policy 255 Tree Management.</p>

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>1D - 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</b>	Not progressed this quarter.	Not progressed this quarter.
<b>1E - Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices</b>	The Archer Mint upgrade project has completed stage 1A Detailed design and is now out for construction tender. This round of design went to great lengths to avoid the removal of existing mature trees and to create a streetscape that includes as many trees as possible. The UFS has been utilized as justification for this approach.	Budget planning for the 2023 Planting Season has included a Star Street Median project and a Bone and Upton Intersection Project. These are both associated with road improvement works and will represent progress towards holistic street improvement. These projects will be further developed in the next financial year
<b>1F - Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders</b>	Planning has occurred this quarter for planting season 2022 sump revegetation and micro park delivery sites. The appointment of the Urban Ecosystems Supervisor this quarter has been important to the successful delivery of the Vic Park Green Basins program. This role will lead the delivery of projects within this program working with the Place Leader Urban Forest who will lead the strategy phase of the program.	Planning has occurred this quarter for planting season 2022 sump revegetation and micro park delivery sites.
<b>1G - 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</b>	This action is completed with the adoption of policy 101 Tree Planting and Retention. An update of this policy was adopted by Council this quarter involving minor modifications to align it to new state residential design code.	This action is completed with the adoption of policy 101 Tree Planting and Retention.
<b>1H - Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practice</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.

<p><b>1I - 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</b></p>	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.</p>	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.</p>
<p><b>1J - 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</b></p>	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.</p>	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.</p>
<p><b>1K - Strengthen and enforce the Town's local planning policy to require best practice tree planting and landscaping in non-residential car parks</b></p>	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the year 2</p>	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the year 2.</p>
<p><b>1L - Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program, community planting days and community gardens</b></p>	<p>Planning for the 2022 Planting Season Community events has progressed. This year the events will be included within the first WA Tree Festival. This festival is a combined approach to events, education and engagement across a number of LGA's. Two large scale community planting days, Urban Forest at Home, Whadjuk Noongar elder tour of Jirdarup Bushland, Library story time under the trees and 4 community workshops have been organized and promoted. Strong engagement in the promotion has been received already.</p>	<p>Planning for the 2022 Planting Season Community events has progressed with dates and locations determined for two large scale community planting events. Planning for the Urban Forest at Home 2022 has progressed with dates set, species and plant pack compositions determined. Plant propagation contracts have been established for the supply of stock for Urban Forest at home and Community planting events in 2022.</p>
<p><b>1M - Maintain a Town register of net gains and losses (through LiDAR data capture, analysis and report), to be published in conjunction with biannual mapping data</b></p>	<p>Not progressed this quarter.</p>	<p>The data obtained in the Arbor Carbon study was used to derive canopy target status communicated along with the seasons planting report.</p>

**1N - 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**

Similar to action 1G. Action complete.

Similar to action 1G. Action complete.

**1O - Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program**

Action complete with integration into adopted Policy 111 Commemorative Recognition.

Action complete with integration into adopted Policy 111 Commemorative Recognition.

## Urban Forest Strategy

### UFS Strategic Outcome 2 - Maximise community involvement and collaboration in its implementation

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>2A - Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives</b>	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.
<b>2B - Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions</b>	5 Urban Forest project proposals were received this quarter from members of the community.	4 Urban Forest project proposals were received this quarter from members of the community.
<b>2C - 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. This can be largely achieved through the Town of Victoria Park promoting community education, and planting and maintaining tree programs</b>	The Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Working Group has continued its monthly meetings and is continually refining its processes.	The Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Working Group has continued its monthly meetings and is continually refining its processes.

<p><b>2D - 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</b></p>	<p>In conjunction with the Friends of Jirdarup, a bush tour has been planned with Whadjuk Noongar elder Neville Collard. Neville will conduct three tours of approximately 20 people each during the day giving an opportunity for a number of community members the opportunity for an intimate experience. The event is scheduled for Saturday April 2.</p>	<p>The first large scale community planting day has been scheduled for the 3rd of July which is during NAIDOC week. This again will be focused on cultural connection to country and associated with the Town's NAIDOC week activities.</p>
<p><b>2E - Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation</b></p>	<p>The Urban Forest Grant closing date was again promoted heavily during this quarter including paid social media posts and local paper advertisements. A "my tree story" was published featuring Emma, a resident that developed her block and retained mature trees. This help convey the benefits of retaining mature trees when developing in a personal way featuring lived experience. My Tree Stories also featured Cara-Leigh a resident that utilised the Urban Forest Project proposal mechanism to suggest the successfully delivered greening upgrades to Alday Street Park. This was aimed at promoting the project proposal process. The personal experience approach, combined with style an Instagram / Facebook story suited style. The WA Tree Festival was also promoted with the Town's season of events profiled.</p>	<p>The education and communication campaign highlighted the achievements of the 2021 Planting Season. This was in the form of a graphic report, and Instagram and Facebook "takeovers" It is hope that this diverse approach to communication will connect with a broad audience. The Instagram platform seems to be receiving the most engagement for Urban Forest posts and the photographic techniques have been very successful. Our bus stop gardens program was also profiled with short, social media focused videos and received a strong positive response amongst the community and the broader industry via LinkedIn. The Urban Forest Grant opening was promoted heavily during this quarter including paid social media posts and local paper advertisements. My Tree Stories also continued and featured Tamara, From Millen Primary School who was an Urban Forest Grant Program Recipient.</p>
<p><b>2F - Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.</b></p>	<p>The Town continued collaborating with other LGA's on an Urban Forest Festival and finalized planning of events for the festival.</p>	<p>The Town continued collaborating with other LGA's on an Urban Forest Festival planned for April 2021. The Town will be including its community events within this broader program.</p>
<p><b>2G - 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</b></p>	<p>Action complete with securing of funding for 2020 and 2022.</p>	<p>Action complete with securing of funding for 2020 and 2022.</p>

**2H - Investigate establishing an Environmental Resource Centre within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as a public information and action hub for urban ecology**

The delivery of the Kent Street Sand Pit project continues with further refinements to the concept plan given additional cultural, community and scientific input.

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**2I - 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**

Urban Forest Grant applications closed for 2022. Despite 6 applications being started in the Smarty Grants program only one was completed. The recommendation regarding this application will go to April OCM for a council decision.

Grant recipients Millen Primary School, Perth Independent School and Kent Street High School finalized their projects this quarter. Unfortunately, two recipients (Millennium Kids and Harold Hawthorn Centre) have been unable to complete their projects and have returned the funding allocated to the community groups.

**Urban Forest Strategy**

**UFS Strategic Outcome 3 - Increase tree diversity, whilst favoring local endemic and West Australian species that also support wildlife**

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>3A - Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock</b>	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.	This action is complete through partnership with the City of South Perth Nursery and a number of specialist commercial nurseries.
<b>3B - Revise the 'Town's Verge and Tree Planting Guidelines' to enhance diversity</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3.	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3.
<b>3C - 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</b>	The design and RFQ for Forward Reserve eco-zoning has been completed this quarter in collaboration with the Town's Better Parks program.	Planning has progressed for 2022 eco zoning sites with Forward Reserve in Welshpool and Kent Street Verge Tech Park the largest sites. A concept design has been completed for Forward Reserve that will greatly improve the ecological services it provides along with the experience of the reserve

**Urban Forest Strategy**

**UFS Strategic Outcome 4 - Maintain high standard of vegetation health**

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>4A - Select good stock and species that are resilient to the effects of climate change</b>	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.	This action is complete as described in 3A.
<b>4B - Continue with dieback treatment trials</b>	Not progressed this quarter.	Not progressed this quarter.



Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>4C - Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health</b>	Not progressed this quarter.	Not progressed this quarter.
<b>4D - Conduct bi-annual GIS mapping and analysis of the urban forest to determine tree health</b>	Action complete and next scheduled for the end of 2022.	Action complete.
<b>4E - 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</b>	Action complete.	Action complete.
<b>4F - 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</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 3	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 3.

### Urban Forest Strategy

#### UFS Strategic Outcome 5 - Improve soil and water quality

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>5A - Review storm water infrastructure capability to benchmark and maintain or improve soil and water quality</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 4	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 4.
<b>5B - Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations</b>	Action complete however it is an ever evolving initiative.	Action complete. A number of IBC's have been installed around Town for community watering purposes.
<b>5C - Minimise spread of dieback through the soil, in line with the Town's Dieback Management Procedures and Protocols</b>	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.



## Urban Forest Strategy

### UFS Strategic Outcome 6 - Improve urban ecosystems

Action	Current quarter progress	Previous quarter progress
<b>6A - Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 3.	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 3.
<b>6B - Develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan for all areas to be planted</b>	Street tree watering was increased late in the season due to the extreme summer conditions experienced and the number of losses of recently planted trees and shrubs.	Contracts have been established for watering and weeding across Urban Ecosystem Sites to help the plantings survive their first summer. Street Tree watering and tube stock planting watering commenced in early October.
<b>6C - Expand bird nesting box trial and set up new habitat support trials for micro-bat boxes and insect hotels</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 4.	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 4.
<b>6D - 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</b>	Not progressed this quarter.	The Town's updated Environment Plan is currently in development with the Place Leader Urban Forest contributing to internal review and feedback.
<b>6E - Investigate a biophilic design trial, to inform and promote best practice developments in the Town</b>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3, 4 and 5.	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3, 4 and 5.