



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



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VIC PARK

Urban Forest Strategy

Quarterly progress report

April 2022 – June 2022

Quarterly progress report

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
1A - The Town, together with the community, develop, resource, and implement a mass tree planting plan [program] to achieve 20% tree canopy cover	<p>2022 Vic Park Leafy Streets plantings program is underway. Letters together with tree information postcards have been mailed to residents. These letters will inform the residents who live in an adjacent street tree planting about the Leafy Streets program. The 2022 Leafy Streets program is looking at planting 1,300 trees for the planting season and runs from June through to late September.</p> <p>This action will also be progressed through the delivery of various planting projects such as: Kent Street Verge – Stage 2 of Tech Park, Forward Reserve Eco Zoning, and projects within the Vic Park Green Basins and micro parks program.</p>
1B - Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway	<p>Tree planting for 2022 has been completed. 15 advanced trees with permeable pavers were installed.</p>
1C - Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity	<p>Action completed with the adoption of Policy 255 Tree Management.</p>
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	<p>Not progressed this quarter.</p>
1E - Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices	<p>Kent Street Verge - Stage 2 Tech Park planting is scheduled for the 31st of July as part of the 2022 Community Planting events. The team is looking to plant approximately 6,800 forestry tubes from the Town's provenance growing program and 40 trees. The UF team is involved in the implementation of the Archer & Mint Street's Stage 1 construction works. This will focus on the delivery of median planting on roadways.</p>
1F - Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders	<p>The micro parks and green basins program will continue this planting season. The 4 shortlisted sites are; 3 Merton Street – Victoria Park, 11 Esperance Street – East Victoria Park, 20 Huntingdon Street - East Victoria Park, and Corner of Horden Street and King George Street – Victoria Park. Site preparation work is currently underway, and the community will be engaged shortly as part of the design process.</p>
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	<p>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.</p>
1H - Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practice	<p>Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.</p>

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	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.
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	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.
1K - Strengthen and enforce the Town's local planning policy to require best practice tree planting and landscaping in non-residential car parks	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the year 2
1L - Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program, community planting days and community gardens	Implementation for the 2022 Planting Season Community events has progressed. 2022's Urban Forest at Home was successfully delivered on the 28th of May. The Town has put out a survey on Culture counts to participants of the program and have received 142 feedback till date which is a great response rate. This information will help provide constructive feedback to help improve the processes for future events. Total plants: 6000 shrubs, 1000 trees.
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	Not Progressed this quarter
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.
1O - Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program	Action complete with integration into adopted Policy 111 Commemorative Recognition.

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

Action	Current quarter progress
2A - Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.
2B - Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions	4 Urban Forest project proposals were received this quarter from members of the community.

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	The Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Working Group has continued its monthly meetings and is continually refining its processes.
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	The team has engaged Matthew McGuire to do the Welcome to country and the Smoking ceremony in conjunction with NAIDOC week. This will take place at the Community Planting day event at Forward Reserve on the 3rd of July.
2E - Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation	The WA Tree Festival was also promoted with the Town's season of events profiled. The festival concluded and the Town's successful events include the Indigenous cultural bush tours, kids focus event with Millennium kids, and community workshops with leading experts in the field. Information and recordings have been uploaded onto the Town's website and accessible anytime. The promotion of the Urban Forest at home event this year through the various media platforms has seen a huge uptake by the community. Launch of the 2022 planting season with a video of the Mayor, and postage of the Urban Forest program booklets to residents.
2F - Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.	The Town continues to collaborate with other LGA's on an Urban Forest Festival and finalised planning of events for the festival.
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	Action complete with securing of funding for 2020 and 2022.
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.
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	Council endorsed the successful application of East Victoria Park Primary School for an Urban Forest Grant in 2022. This school project will be delivered during winter 2022.

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

Action	Current quarter progress
3A - Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.
3B - Revise the 'Town's Verge and Tree Planting Guidelines' to enhance diversity	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3.
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	The RFQ for Forward Reserve eco-zoning has been awarded. Construction works underway in preparation for the Community Day planting event on the 3rd of July. This project is in collaboration with the Town's Better Parks program.

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UFS Strategic Outcome 4 - Maintain high standard of vegetation health

Action	Current quarter progress
4A - Select good stock and species that are resilient to the effects of climate change	This is an ongoing action that is continually progressed.
4B - Continue with dieback treatment trials	Not progressed this quarter.
4C - Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health	Not progressed this quarter.
4D - Conduct bi-annual GIS mapping and analysis of the urban forest to determine tree health	Action complete and next scheduled for the end of 2022.
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	Action complete.
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	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 3

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UFS Strategic Outcome 5 - Improve soil and water quality

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

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UFS Strategic Outcome 6 - Improve urban ecosystems

Action	Current quarter progress
6A - Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 3.
6B - Develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan for all areas to be planted	Contract watering and weeding has been ongoing this quarter at Urban Ecosystem sites to help the plantings survive their first summer.

Action	Current quarter progress
6C - Expand bird nesting box trial and set up new habitat support trials for micro-bat boxes and insect hotels	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in Year 4.
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	The Town's updated Environment Plan is currently in development with the Place Leader Urban Forest contributing to internal review and feedback.
6E - Investigate a biophilic design trial, to inform and promote best practice developments in the Town	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3, 4 and 5.