



TOWN OF  
**VICTORIA PARK**



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VIC PARK

# Urban Forest Strategy

## Quarterly progress report

July – September 2021

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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
<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 the Vic Park Leafy Streets program has planted a record amount of street trees. This year the locations targeted for this street tree campaign have been "neighborhood connector" streets that have high traffic and pedestrian usage such as Star Street, Etwell Street, Devenish Street, Hillview Terrace, Boundary Road, Goddard Street, Saleham and Staines Streets amongst others.</p> <p>Due to issues with tree stock orders the planting had a delayed start and will run late into planting season. Therefore, exact tree planting numbers achieved are not yet known however this total quantity of street trees planted this year will be around 1200 trees. 430 identified street tree plantings will be postponed until the 2022 planting season due to current industry wide issues with tree stock supply.</p> <p>In addition to the Leafy Street Program, a number of other programs and projects have been delivered during the 2021 planting season that will contribute to the target of 20% canopy cover. These programs and projects include Micro Park creation through the green basins program, eco zoning projects at Houghton Reserve, Alday Reserve, Kent street verge Tech Park and Alec Bell Park and the Urban Forest at Home Program.</p>
<b>1B - Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway</b>	<p>Albany Highway Greening Program for 2021 is in early construction stages with the contract for delivery finalized and tree stock and other materials ordered. 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. On site construction work are expected to commence in early October.</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>
<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>	<p>Not progressed this quarter.</p>
<b>1E - Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices</b>	<p>This quarter multiple rounds of stakeholder engagement have been progressed on the Victoria Park Drive Footpath extension and tree planting project. The final round of design changes is currently being conducted by the external design consultant to arrive at a solution that meets the complex needs of the stakeholder group.</p> <p>Designs have been completed for the inclusion of increased planting area associated with the resurfacing project at Balmoral Street near Albany Hwy in East Victoria Park.</p>

Action	Current quarter progress
<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>	This quarter the green basins program finalized delivery of micro parks at 22 Gallipoli Street Lathlain, 76 Canterbury Terrace East Victoria Park, 6 Paltridge Avenue Carlisle, 30 Satellite Terrace Carlisle and planting and mulching at 91 Planet Street Carlisle.
<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.
<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.
<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>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.
<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>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.
<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>	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the year 2
<b>1L - Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program, community planting days and community gardens</b>	<p>The results of the Urban Forest at Home program were widely communicated and celebrated following its delivery last quarter.</p> <p>22 Gallipoli Street Micro Park planting was conducted by students from the Lathlain Primary School.</p> <p>Four Local, street scaled planting events delivered the planting at the 6 Paltridge Avenue, 30 Satellite Terrace, 91 Planet Street and 76 Canterbury Terrace micro parks. These were highly successful at fostering social connections amongst neighbors and developing a sense of ownership and stewardship of the micro park sites.</p> <p>Two Large scaled Town wide community planting events were eventually held this quarter after both events had to be postponed due to a Covid19 outbreak and a sever weather event. Despite the rescheduling both events were well attended, and feedback received was very positive with 89% of respondents saying the events gave them a sense of community belonging. In total over 250 people took part in the urban forest community events.</p>

Action	Current quarter progress
<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>	The canopy analysis data collected by Arbor Carbon has successfully been incorporated into the public version of intramaps. This data includes canopy coverage, thermal land surface temperature analysis and vegetation condition index for public viewing under the Street Trees module. The Urban Forest Team intend to continually increase the amount of publicly accessible data within this module.
<b>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</b>	Similar to action 1G. Action complete.
<b>1O - Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program</b>	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
<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.
<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.
<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.

**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**

Unfortunately, the NAIDOC themed Town wide community planting event scheduled for NAIDOC week had to be postponed due to COVID19 restrictions. However, the event was still NAIDOC themed despite not being during the celebration week. A moving welcome to country and smoking ceremony was conducted by Nyungar Elder Mathew McGuire and participants were encouraged to literally follow the NAIDOC 2021 theme of "heal country" through revegetating this barren area of land. Members of the Town's Mindeera group and their families attended the event.

Also during this quarter the interconnection of culture and local flora was celebrated with a series of specialist bush food cooking classes being conducted by Dale Tilbrook. Very positive feedback was received by participants in what was a deeply engaging cultural event.

**2E - Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation**

The Town's Urban Forest education campaign successfully raised the profile of the Urban Forest and collaborative approach. Key highlights included:

- The communications support contract tender process was completed for the 21/22 financial year and was again secured by AVA Agency. This will lead to continued high quality communications and education campaign delivery with a contractor who has a deep understanding of the project and established relationships.
- The outcomes of the community planting events including number of participants, number of plants planted, amount of habitat created and post event survey results were captured in a short report. These outcomes were published and celebrated on social media platforms.
- A My Tree Story with long time Park's field team member John was created and released on social media. This story, in both its content and form proved very popular. The story helped to build rapport between Town staff and the community and celebrate those that have been involved in the Town's urban forest for many years.
- The Vic Park Leafy Streets promotion video was completed and released this quarter which had several purposes, to introduce residents to the program, inform residents of the process involved and to provide emotive meaning to the purpose and intent of the program.
- The Town's Place Leader – Urban Forest Pierre Quesnel and UFS Implementation Working Group Chairperson Heather Johnstone presented the Town's Community led Approach to its Urban Forest and the international Tree Cities of the World Conference. This was one of twelve presentations made at the digital conference and the only presentation from the Australasian region.
- The Urban Forest Communications campaign also focused this quarter on promoting community events and was a major factor in the strong attendance in each event.

**2F - Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.**

The Town is currently collaborating with other LGA's on the creation of an Urban Forest Festival planned for April 2021.

**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**

Detailed specialist studies have been conducted by council request this quarter following the creation of a concept plan last quarter. Members of the Town's environment, community development and urban forest team met on site with a scientific expert and members of the Mindeera Advisory Group to discuss opportunities for the project and a process to revegetate the site. Finalisation of specialized reports and refinement of the concept plan is in process.

**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**

This quarter grant recipients have been progressing the projects that received a 2021 Urban Forest Grant. The Millennium Kids Urban Forest Conference had to be postponed and is scheduled for early October.

### 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
<b>3A - Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock</b>	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.
<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>	Eco-zoning projects have been completed at Alday Reserve, Houghton Reserve, Alec Bell Park and Kent Street Tech Park Verge. In addition eco zones have been included in the micro parks delivered by the Vic Park Green Basins program. The Bus Stop Thank you Garden program has also delivered eco zones adjacent bus stops at 408 and 127 Berwick Street.

### Urban Forest Strategy

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

Action	Current quarter progress
<b>4A - Select good stock and species that are resilient to the effects of climate change</b>	This action is complete as described in 3A.
<b>4B - Continue with dieback treatment trials</b>	Not progressed this quarter.
<b>4C - Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health</b>	Information on species selected and care assistance provided to local residents that live adjacent a new street tree.
<b>4D - Conduct bi-annual GIS mapping and analysis of the urban forest to determine tree health</b>	Action complete.

Action	Current quarter progress
<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
<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

### Urban Forest Strategy

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

Action	Current 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
<b>5B - Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations</b>	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.

### Urban Forest Strategy

#### UFS Strategic Outcome 6 - Improve urban ecosystems

Action	Current quarter progress
<b>6A - Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan</b>	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>	Contracts are in the process of development for watering and weeding across Urban Ecosystem Sites to help the plantings survive their first summer. Street Tree watering is due to commence 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 3.
<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>	The Town's updated Environment Plan is currently in development with the Place Leader Urban Forest contributing to internal review and feedback.

**Action****Current quarter progress****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.