



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

Urban Forest Strategy

Quarterly progress report

April 2021 – June 2021

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	Vic Park Leafy Streets program has determined detailed locations and species selections for trees to be planted on verges, parks and public spaces around Town. Letters have been sent informing residents who live adjacent a street tree of the program and its purpose and process. The team is aiming for 1500 trees to be planted in this program during the 2021 planting season with the planting to run from June through to late September. This action will also be progressed through the delivery of various other projects such as: Kent Street Verge Tech Park, Houghton Reserve Eco Zoning, Alday Reserve Eco Zoning and projects within the Vic Park Green Basins and micro parks program.
1B - Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway	Albany Highway Greening Program has completed its detailed design for this seasons Albany Hwy tree plantings with 16 advanced trees to be planted within the pedestrian environment. Permeable paving will again be installed to allow water and air to access to a suitable root environment below the path. These trees will be installed at select locations along the length of the Albany Highway strip and provide an instant impact on the Albany Hwy experience. Tenders have been received and a contractor will soon be engaged to deliver the works.
1C - Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity	Action completed with the adoption of Policy 255 Tree Management.
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	Not progressed this quarter.
1E - Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices	The design has been completed for the Vic Park Drive footpath addition and landscaping. This project now awaits internal and external stakeholder approval.
1F - Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders	The micro parks and green basins program continued with the delivery of micro parks at 76 Canterbury Terrace in East Vic Park, 22 Gallipoli Street Lathlain, and the completion of site preparation works at 6 Paltridge Avenue Carlisle and 30 Satellite Terrace Carlisle. 76 Planet Street has required surveying and engineering design to achieve the best outcome for this site. Therefore, this delivery will be delayed until the 2022 planting season.
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	This action is completed with the adoption of policy 101 Tree Planting and Retention.
1H - Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practice	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.

Action	Current quarter progress
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	The second year of the Urban Forest at Home was successfully delivered on 29 May. This program was again extremely well received by the local community with a large uptake and very positive feedback received. The final statistics were: -7310 Local shrubs (of that total number 4160 were from Jirdarup propagation) - 920 trees with projected canopy addition: 22,143m ² - 500 residents ordered shrub packs - 200 residents ordering 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	The Town has received the final report from Arbor Carbon from the aerial analysis conducted during the flight on 22 December 2020. The mapping data is in the process of being uploaded into the public version of Intramaps for the community to view. This includes canopy coverage, thermal land surface temperature analysis and vegetation condition index.
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.

Urban Forest Strategy

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.

Action	Current quarter progress
2B - Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions	Four 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	A NADIOC themed community planting event will be held on the 4th of July. The community are encouraged to celebrate this years NAIDOC theme of “heal country” by helping to revegetate a baren area of land adjacent Tech Park in Bentley. A smoking ceremony, welcome to country and other cultural activities are planned for the day. Also during NAIDOC week the interconnection of culture and local flora will be celebrated with a series of specialist bush food cooking classes being conducted by Dale Tilbrook.
2E - Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation	<p>The Towns Urban Forest education campaign successfully raised the profile of the Urban Forest and collaborative approach. Key highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Mayor launched the 2021 Planting Season with a video explaining the Planting Season and tying a tree tag to a mature tree in Town. - The Mayor also filmed her “Tree Story” sharing the specialness of the historic Morton Bay Fig trees at Raphael Park. - A My Tree Story with Patrick who was an Urban Forest grant recipient and painted information postcards for residents on growing local flora for fauna’s optimal habitat was filmed and released on Instagram for the launch of the planting season. This video will again be promoted during the planting season. - We are currently working with local resident – Emma Bridgeman – to share her tree story of building a new home at the Town around existing trees. This aims to encourage the retention of existing trees on private property and incorporation within new developments. - Filming for our Vic Park Leafy Streets explainer video has also started which aims to explain the motives of the program and why it is important to creating a healthy urban environment. - The Town’s presentation for the Tree Cities of the World Global Conference has been accepted. The title of the presentation is “Deepening Community involvement through inspiring engagement and Urban Forest governance.” It is the only Australian presentation accepted with other 12 presentations, including from London, Auckland, Madrid. The presentation has been pre recorded and it is planned to use the pre-record to share with the local community and residents.
2F - Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.	The City of Stirling are asking for partners to help develop a state or Perth metro wide Urban Forest Festival. The Town has shown strong interest in involvement in the development and delivery of this celebration.
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.

Action	Current quarter progress
2H - Investigate establishing an Environmental Resource Centre within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as a public information and action hub for urban ecology	The concept plan for the Kent Street Sand Pit was completed and the council have requested detailed specialist studies are conducted prior to the report being released for public comment.
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 recipients of the 2021 Urban Forest Grants. The Kent Street SHS P&C, Millennium Kids inc, Millen Primary School and the Perth Independent School were successful in their applications. A ceremony was held to officially acknowledge the grant recipients.

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
3A - Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock	This action is complete through partnership with the City of South Perth Nursery and a number of specialist commercial nurseries.
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	Site preparation projects are complete at Alday Reserve, Houghton Reserve and Kent Street Tech Park Verge in preparation for eco-zone planting activities to occur during Planting Season 2021. The activities described in action 1F also progress this action.

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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 action is complete as described in 3A.
4B - Continue with dieback treatment trials	Not progressed this quarter.
4C - Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health	Information on local species was provided to residents during the Urban Forest at Home program including local plant care guidance.
4D - Conduct bi-annual GIS mapping and analysis of the urban forest to determine tree health	The Town has received the final report from Arbor Carbon from the aerial analysis included. GIS mapping of Canopy coverage extent, and vegetation condition index. This gave an overall picture of Urban Forest extent and health and allows focused analysis on a fine grain level.
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	Not progressed this quarter.
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 2.

Urban Forest Strategy
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 progressed this quarter.
5B - Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations	Not progressed this quarter.
5C - Minimise spread of dieback through the soil, in line with the Town's Dieback Management Procedures and Protocols	A tender was conducted to select a mulch supplier for the Town's projects that could supply large quantities of batch certified Phytophthora free high-grade mulch. This will be used on Urban Forest Program Projects to ensure Phytophthora is not brought into our urban ecosystems in imported mulch.

Urban Forest Strategy
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 2.
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.
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 2.
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 early draft's expected in the next quarter.
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.