Urban Forest Strategy Quarterly Reporting Table

October 2020



	ban Forest Strategy – Quarterly Report Action	- T	Action Progress
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	RATEGIC OUTCOME 1: nt and protect sufficient trees by 2020 to achie	eve the 20% t	ree canopy target as supported by Council.
1A	The Town, together with the community, develop, resource, and implement a mass tree planting plan [program] to achieve 20% tree canopy cover.	Year 2, Ongoing	A full review of planting season 2020 will be undertaken and released upon its completion. Some of the highlights delivered this quarter include: Vic Park Leafy Streets This year the Town's street tree planting program, Vic Park Leafy Streets focused on the side streets off Albany Hwy and on areas around Carlisle and Oats Street Train Station. In total 771 street trees were planted this year. An additional 198 were planned however were not able to be sourced so these locations will be planted in 2021 Planting Season. Urban Forest at Home 800 trees and 5000 local shrubs were collected for planting on private property across the Town. Private land is key area for canopy increase given the typical pressure on the public realm to deliver canopy and meet the ambitious targets. GO Edwards Island The island within the lake at G.O Edwards Park was cleared and planted with local riverine sedges, shrubs and trees. This will provide key habitat to local fauna. Victoria Park Drive Tree Planting 16 Tuart trees have been planted on the train station side of Victoria Park Drive. These large trees will have a large positive impact on the experience of this challenging area. Brodie Hall Drive - Tech Park 27 Marri Trees and 6 Liquid Amber Trees have been planted along Brodie Hall Drive in Tech Park. This key food species for black cockatoos will contribute to the long term continuation of the Curtin University Campus and surrounds as a black cockatoo "super roost".

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		Sunbury Reserve Planting Upgrade 29 Trees of various species were planted in a planting upgrade at Sunbury Reserve.	
		Aqua Life Carpark 1 Tuart and 7 Corymbia maculata have been planted within the car park at Aqualife to shade the car park's large expanse of hard surface and mitigate Urban Heat Island effects.	
		Gallipoli Street Bus Stop Garden 6 Marri trees and 1 Jacaranda have been included in the delivery of the Gallipoli Street Bus Stop garden.	
		25 Boundary Road 29 Marri trees have been included in the greening of the drainage basin at 25 Boundary Road St James.	
		St James Welcome Projects 33 Street Trees of various species have been planted at the entrance to the Town from the south near Shepperton Road and Albany Hwy in St James. This focus area will improve the experience, ecosystem services and Urban Heat Island mitigation in this high profile part of the Town.	
		Charles Patterson Park Community Planting Day 18 Eucalyptus rudis were planted at Charles Patterson Park by the local community during a community planting event. These large riverine species will provide significant ecosystem services to the surrounding area. These trees are in addition to the shrub species planted – please see action 1L.	

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
18	Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway.	Year 1, Year 2	Albany Hwy Path trees project The construction tender process for the delivery of 10 new trees within the Albany Hwy footpath has been completed and a preferred contractor selected. It was hoped this project could be delivered during the 2020 planting season however a number of delays have occurred on the planning of this complex project. This has pushed the construction project timelines into the later portion of the year. With minimising disruptions to Albany Hwy during the lead up to Christmas the highest priority, the construction has been scheduled for the first week in January 2021. These trees will provide much needed shade to this very hot but highly visited pedestrian area. The project includes the Town's first use of permeable paving which will take surface run off water down into the root zone of the trees. This is a significant Water Sensitive Urban Design first for the Town.
1C	Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity. Explore mechanisms including: a. Effective street tree bonds, b. Tree Impact Assessments, and c. Appropriate penalties for tree removal or vandalism.	Year 1	Operational Policy PKS2 Street Trees was significantly changed and renamed Policy 255 Tree Management . This new policy was adopted by Council at the July 2020 OCM. This policy provides a wide range of improvements in the management of trees in the Town and will go a long way to prioritising tree canopy in the Town.

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
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.	Ongoing	 Significant tree planting opportunities have been identified in a number of strategic projects for 2020/21 including: Etwell Street Revitalisation Archer / Mint street upgrade Edward Millen Park Upgrade Taylor McCallum Park Active Zone Macmillian Precinct Master Plan Higgins Park and Playfield Reserve Master Plan 25 Boundary Road As the design of these strategic projects progress, the Place Leader Urban Forest will remain involved to ensure greening opportunities are maximised.
1E	Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices.	Ongoing	 The following road infrastructure projects have included tree planting and been delivered in the last quarter: Verge widening and bus stop upgrades at 79, 81 Galipoli Street (including tree planting at 78 Galipoli Street) – Trees: 7 Brodie Hall Drive footpath project – Trees: 33 Victoria Park Drive footpath upgrade – Trees: 16 In addition to those already delivered the following opportunities have been planned: Rutland Avenue Verge following completion of the PSP Road infrastructure projects planned for the 20/21 financial year will be further reviewed for potential greening opportunities.

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
1F	Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders.	Ongoing	The various sump greening project proposals will be drawn together into a single "Vic Park Green Basins" program. It is the intention that this program can run over a number of years and each year deliver a number of greening projects within the Town's sumps. The first project from this program to be delivered will be at 25 boundary Road St James . This basin has been re-profiled to meet its recommended capacity with the front portion of the site prepared for sale as a residential lot under the Land Asset Optimisation Strategy. The drainage basin portion of the lot is now being planted out utilising the last of this years Kensington Bushland propagated stock. The basin batter will be covered in biodegradable coir fibre mesh until the plants establish and the roots preserve the slope. The basin floor will be planted with local rushes that are intended to be removed and replanted during basin maintenance (every 5+ years or as required). These plants will strip nutrients and other contaminants from the storm water improving water quality that recharges into our ground water systems. Scheduled for focused planning during this coming "planning season" is the drainage basin sites at: • 91 Planet Street - Carlisle Micro Parks site (April2020 OCM) • 30 Satellite Terrace - Carlisle Micro Parks site (April2020 OCM) • 6 Paltridge Street - Carlisle Micro Parks site (April2020 OCM) • 25 Canterbury Terrace - Received local resident petition • 22 Gallipoli Street - Resident and business owner initiated co-design process Investigation, preparation and planning of these sites will continue in preparation for 2021 planting season.

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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.	Ongoing	The Draft Tree Planting and Retention Policy was adopted by council in February. This policy has been applied since June 2020 with minimal issues resulting in improved tree planting and retention on private development sites. The DPLH Design WA – medium density design code is currently in development and a draft is due for release this year. The policy will have significant impact on the retention of existing, and planting of new trees in residential developments.				
1H	Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practice.	Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.				
11	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.	Year 3 Year 4	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.				
IJ	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	Year 4 Year 5	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.	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the next financial year (October – December 2020).				

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	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
1L	Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program, community planting days and community gardens.	Ongoing	The Urban Forest at Home program was conceived to drive action "at home" during the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved a plant give away program of local shrubs and trees that could be ordered and then collected by the community for the purpose of planting at home on private property. The program was very popular and all shrub packs were subscribed within 48hrs of opening. The collection day was an enjoyable community event in itself with a lot of extra trees and shrubs given away on the day. 800 WA trees and 5000 local shrubs, 3500 of which were grown from Kensington Bushland seed, were given to 350 vic park households to grow at home. This has an educational outcome allowing people to learn about local flora through a personal hands on experience. Charles Patterson Park Community Planting Day was held on Sunday the 2nd of August. Approximately 100 members of the community came together to plant 3500 of the Kensington Bushland tube stock and 18 trees. The event was designed to be engaging for the community who were able to choose the plants they wanted to plant and where to plant them with a few planting rules for guidance. A large amount of positive feedback was received on the day and following the event from community members who enjoyed the experience.
1M	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.	Year 1	The new online canopy dashboard from the CSIRO and DPLH Urban Monitor Program is still to be released. This action is on hold until the new system can be fully explored. Following this a decision can be made on whether additional measurement by the Town is required or if the new system meets our needs.

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
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 including: a. supplied on the development itself, b. through retention of mature trees or new plantings onsite or c. in other locations within the Town.	Year 3 Year 4	Similar to action 1G. New planning policy developed and implemented with a focus on tree number rather than a canopy target. This can be reviewed in year 3 and 4 for potential update to canopy target.
10	Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program	Year 1 Year 2	Memorial Tree Planting has been included within the draft amendments to Policy 111 Commemorative Recognition. This amended policy was adopted at the April 2020 OCM. A procedure is now in place for applications for commemorative recognition via tree planting.
	ATEGIC OUTCOME 2: kimise community involvement and collaboratic	on in its imple	mentation.
2A	Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives.	Year 1	A major benefit of the UFS Implementation Working Group (UFS IWG) is the contacts and relationships the members of the group have within the community. A number of schools and community groups have been in contact with Town staff and with UFS IWG members, and are considering the various options for how they can get involved in the UFS implementation. We expect a number of these groups will apply for the next round of Urban Forest Grants. In particular two UFS IWG members are directly helping a local primary school and an aged persons community centre form projects suitable for grant funding.
			The UFS related online community hub on the Your Thoughts platform continues to be engaged with by some community members. This platform has been successful in allowing direct, 2 way communication

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
28	Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions.	Ongoing	 Potential partnerships have been identified with: Water Corporation associated with Jarrah Road planting over recent Water Corp Works Canning College for Hayman Road verge projects Ursula Frayne College for growing of plants The Victoria Park Scouts for planting assistance and involvement Kent Street High School Connect Vic Park Harold Hawthorn Community Centre Millennium Kids Conversations are ongoing with the organisations listed above. The increased awareness of the UFS along with its aims and implementation tools have led to successful grant applications from Millennium Kids, Connect Vic Park and the Kent Street High School P&C. It is expected that submissions will be received from Millen Primary School and Harold Hawthorn Community Centre for the coming round of Urban Forest Grants.
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.	Ongoing	The UFS Implementation Working Group (UFS IWG) has shifted back to meeting monthly. This group continues to provide invaluable community direction and input into the project and process planning of the UFS implementation. One member of the six person group resigned due to increased work commitments and has been replaced by one of the initial EOI applicants as pe the current Terms of Reference. A new working group composition is required for 2021 following adoption of the Working Groups Policy. Planning for next years group has commenced with a proposed selection criteria created for consideration by Council at the October 2020 OCM.

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	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
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.	Ongoing	The UFS is progressing this action in partnership with the Friends of Jirdarup at the Jirdarup Bushland Spring Celebration Event . The UFS delivered the cultural component of the event with the inclusion of a smoking ceremony, guided bushwalk and bush food cuisine at the event. Attendees of the event experienced the connection between the Whadjuk Noongar culture and the natural environment and the interconnectedness of natural and cultural heritage.
2E	Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation.	Ongoing	A number of new initiatives are being planned in addition to those already established. The new initiatives will continue the focus on experience and a personal approach through story telling and narrative. This content will include a number of techniques such as videos, articles and stories that will be delivered throughout the coming year.
2F	Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.	Ongoing	The Town has collaborated with the City of South Perth to understand their long term learnings in developing tree planting specifications. A new tree planting specification has been developed in collaboration with the City of South Perth, the Town's Parks Team and the current tree planting contractor. This specification has been adopted during the 2020 planting season and the trees planted with this specification will have improved survival and health. In addition trees planted with the new specification will receive half the amount of watering to establishment which is the single largest expense involved in establishing a mature tree.
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.	Ongoing	This program has received a commitment to run the capture in 2020 and again in 2022. The extent to which the data is utilised by local governments and other entities will determine the extension of this program. The imminent release of the new online dashboard will influence the use of this data by the Town and feedback will be sent to WALGA for advocacy purposes.
2H	Investigate establishing an Environmental Resource Centre within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as a public information and action hub for urban ecology.	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.

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21	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.	Ongoing	The successful applicants to the first Urban Forest Grant Program are currently delivering their projects. These projects are: a. Connect Vic Park – planting project centred around designing and creating a native garden space to occupy the ~150m ² available at 35 Mackie Street and extend this to incorporate the verges. b. Millenium Kids – Patrick's Postcards project aims to reach all residents within the Town with information postcards that will assist with informing them about the importance of planting trees for birds. c. Kent St Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association – improving the grounds of the Kent St Senior High School by providing more shaded areas for the students as well as beautifying some dead areas of the school grounds. The Urban Forest Grant Program will run again in mid October 2020 to provide a longer timeframe for applications and planning of community led projects prior to the 2021 planting season.
	ATEGIC OUTCOME 3: ease tree diversity, whilst favoring local endemic an	nd West Austra	alian species that also support wildlife.
3A	Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock.	Ongoing	The location identification for the 2021 Leafy Streets Street tree planting program is currently occuring. By starting this process nearly a year prior to the planting of these trees we will be able to have the stock specifically grown for our purposes. This will avoid the issue encountered this year were not enough stock of our selected species were available for planting. It will also improve the health and vitality of our trees leading to improved short and long term outcomes. In addition we have renewed our orders for the propagation of plant stock from Kenisngton Bushland seed to begin the process of germination and growing up of plant stock for use during planting season 2021.
3B	Revise the 'Town's Verge and Tree Planting Guidelines' to enhance diversity	Year 3	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3.

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
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.	Ongoing	 A number of projects commenced during the 2020 planting season which focus on eco-zoning which is the creation of urban ecosystems throughout the Town. Such projects include: Charles Patterson Park - Community creation of 3500m2 of new eco-zone 25 Boundary Road - 1000m2 of re-vegetation to drainage basin G.O. Edwards Eco Island project - Project completion and creation of the new "eco-island" Tech. Park Kent Street verge - site preparation has began with weed control underway 72 Planet Street - site preparation commenced 30 Satellite Terrace - site preparation commenced
	RATEGIC OUTCOME 4: Intain high standard of vegetation health		
4A	Select good stock and species that are resilient to the effects of climate change.	Ongoing	Initial planting order is mainly derived from Seed Stock of local remnant vegetation. This stock has an increased hardiness due to evolving to suit local conditions and is more resilient than hybrid or cloned (cutting / tissue culture derived) stock.
4B	Continue with dieback treatment trials.	Ongoing	Hill View Terrace dieback assessment report has been completed. This report found the bushland to be 83% uninfested and the remaining portion to contain an unidentified pathogen. The recommendations of the report including treating the site with phosphite which will be implemented in the next financial year.
4C	Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health.	Year 5	The Urban Forest at Home planting giveaways included information on local species suitable for home gardens. This information included basic details of how to garden with local native species. In addition this program aimed to develop a familiarity with, and an understanding of local species. It is hoped this program will encourage residents to consider the land they own as important in the urban ecological outcomes.

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4D	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.	Year 1 Year 3 Year 5	A consultant arborist has been engaged to conduct health assessment and provide a management plan for the Colombo Street Oak Trees . This study will be done in two stages to assess the trees at two different seasons (spring and summer). The outcome of this project will be short and long term recommendations to improve the health of these trees. The Colombo Street Oaks are one of the most impressive tree assets in town. They also contribute to the heritage of this important area with the Oak trees estimated to be almost 100 years old. The trees face considerable challenges in this highly urban area with verge parking, hard surfaces, poor soils, root space and climate suitability contributing to their suffering from pests and diseases. The Town's tree audit program is continuing with street trees audited annually and all park trees audited biannually.			
4E	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.	Ongoing	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the October – December 2020 quarter.			
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5: Improve soil and water quality						
5A	Review storm water infrastructure capability to benchmark and maintain or improve soil and water quality.	Ongoing	The Albany Hwy path tree planting project includes the Town's first use of permeable paving. This is a significant benchmark in the improvement of water and soil quality and management in the Town.			
			As previously stated the construction tender is for this project is now complete and the project will commence with product ordering and general preparation before installing the trees in early January.			

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5B	Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations.	Ongoing	New water tanks have been ordered and will be installed at 91 Planet Street in Carlisle. This will allow the local community to water this drainage basin site. Additional sites where this is suitable will be explored. This can be promoted, and the watering teams led by Vic Park Urban Foresters via their H2Heroes program.				
5C	Minimise spread of dieback through the soil, in line with the Town's Dieback Management Procedures and Protocols.	Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 5.				
	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6:						
Improve urban ecosystems.							
6A	Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan.	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the January-March 2021 quarter.				
6B	Develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan for all areas to be planted.	Ongoing	Planning for the ongoing management of planting sites is in process with specifically skilled contractors engaged for the tasks.				
6C	Expand bird nesting box trial and set up new habitat support trials for micro-bat boxes and insect hotels.	Year 2	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.	Year 1 Year 2	A review of the Environment Plan has commenced with an aim for an updated version to be finalised in 2020.				

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6E	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	Year 3 Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 3, 4 and 5.			