

# Urban Forest Strategy

## Quarterly Reporting Table

April 2020



TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK

## Urban Forest Strategy – Quarterly Reporting Table – April 2020

	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1:</b> Plant and protect sufficient trees by 2020 to achieve the 20% tree canopy target as supported by Council.</p>			
1A	<p><i>The Town, together with the community, develop, resource, and implement a mass tree planting plan [program] to achieve 20% tree canopy cover.</i></p>	<p>Year 2, Ongoing</p>	<p>The project proposal and IWG review process has been effective in identifying a multitude of projects that align with UFS objectives. These projects are now moving into a detailed planning stage for implementation during Planting Season 2020.</p> <p>Projects identified and recommended for implementation by the IWG include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albany Hwy EVP path trees (adjacent Park Centre)</li> <li>• Albany Hwy connecting streets project (focused street tree planting)</li> <li>• Oats St Station precinct (focused street tree planting)</li> <li>• Carlisle Station precinct (focused street tree planting)</li> <li>• G.O. Edwards Eco Island project</li> <li>• Victoria Park Drive tree planting</li> <li>• Canterbury Terrace sump verge (between roadway and sump fencing)</li> <li>• Satellite street sump verge (between roadway and sump fencing)</li> <li>• Brodie Hall drive tree planting (Tech. Park)</li> <li>• Sunbury Reserve Eco-zoning and tree planting</li> <li>• Hubert street carpark tree planting</li> <li>• Bishopsgate street median and street trees</li> <li>• Galipoli Street bus stop trees</li> <li>• Galipoli Street micro park</li> <li>• Aqualife carpark tree planting</li> </ul>
1B	<p><i>Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway.</i></p>	<p>Year 1, Year 2</p>	<p>A high profile greening project on Albany hwy has been proposed for the footpath area adjacent the Park Centre car park and Town owned sump along Albany hwy.</p> <p>This project proposes to upgrade the surrounding paving to permeable paving to allow suitable root growth environment and sustainable use of urban water.</p> <p>Following strong support for the project by the IWG it will now move into the detailed design stage for implementation in the 2020 planting season.</p>

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1C	<p><i>Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity.</i></p> <p><i>Explore mechanisms including:</i></p> <p><i>a. Effective street tree bonds,</i></p> <p><i>b. Tree Impact Assessments, and</i></p> <p><i>c. Appropriate penalties for tree removal or vandalism.</i></p>	Year 1	<p>Operational Policy <b>PKS2 Street Trees</b> requires review and update to align with the direction and achieve the requirements of the UFS. The following actions have been taken regarding the update of this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research has been conducted into other LGA's Street Tree Policies</li> <li>• Workshop conducted with Senior Parks Team and Place Leader Urban Forest to provide recommendations for consideration by the Policy Review Committee.</li> <li>• Recommendation summary document created</li> </ul> <p>This policy is included in the revised Policy Workplan for 20/21 and is proposed for determination at the July 2020 OCM.</p>
1D	<p><i>Incorporate tree protection and maximise planting in all projects on public land, especially Town-owned parks, verges and open spaces.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>Significant tree planting opportunities have been identified in a number of strategic projects for 2020 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etwell Street Revitalisation</li> <li>• Archer / Mint street upgrade</li> <li>• Edward Millen Park Upgrade</li> <li>• Talyor McCallum Park active zone</li> </ul>
1E	<p><i>Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices.</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>Greening initiatives have been included in the planning of the following transport infrastructure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verge widening and bus Stop upgrades at 79, 81 Galipoli Street (including tree planting at 78 Galipoli Street) – Trees: 7</li> <li>• 31 Bishopsgate Street Median Works – Trees: 4</li> <li>• 28 Bishopsgate Street Median – Trees: TBD</li> <li>• Rutland Avenue Verge following completion of the PSP</li> <li>• Brodie Hall Drive footpath project – Trees: 33</li> <li>• Victoria Park Drive footpath upgrade: Trees: 34</li> </ul>

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1F	<i>Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders.</i>	Ongoing	<p>Planet Street Sump was re-vegetated in 2019 planting season with the assistance of the local community living adjacent the sump.</p> <p>This planting season a number of planting projects in front of sumps between road and fence are planned, to date these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galipoli Street micro park</li> <li>Canterbury Terrace sump verge</li> <li>Satellite street sump verge</li> </ul> <p>Further drainage studies are required to determine the ability of projects to plant within drainage basin areas.</p>
1G	<i>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.</i>	Ongoing	<p>The Draft Tree Planting and Retention Policy was adopted by council in February. This policy will be applied from June 2020.</p> <p>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.</p>
1H	<i>Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practice.</i>	Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.
1I	<i>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.</i>	Year 3 Year 4	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 3 and 4.

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1J	<p><i>Investigate and trial an incentives program to retain trees on private land.</i></p> <p><i>Explore mechanisms including:</i></p> <p><i>a. differential Council rates based on tree canopy, green infrastructure and land use, and</i></p> <p><i>b. funding to assist landowners to maintain registered significant trees</i></p>	Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.
1K	<p><i>Strengthen and enforce the Town's local planning policy to require best practice tree planting and landscaping in non-residential car parks.</i></p>	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the next financial year (October – December 2020).
1L	<p><i>Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program, community planting days and community gardens.</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>Community planting event sites and dates determined for 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charles Patterson Reserve – 6th June</li> <li>2. Alday Reserve – 20th June</li> <li>3. Tech. Park Kent Street verge – 5th July</li> <li>4. Houghton Reserve – 19th July</li> </ol> <p>The West Coast Eagles players were scheduled to attend under the Community Benefit Strategy agreement.</p> <p>112 Street tree requests were received from residents for planting during the 2020 planting season.</p> <p>Given the likely cancellation of the planting events due to the COVID19 health crisis, the implementation approach will pivot to drive action "at home" rather than large events on public land. This will be developed further during April and is likely to involve the delivery of local trees and shrubs to residents to plant at home. This could have many social, physical and mental health benefits for the community whilst social distancing restrictions are in place.</p>

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1M	<i>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.</i>	Year 1	March 2020 WALGA Urban Forest workshop focused on canopy capture methods and included a presentation on the soon to be released online canopy dashboard from the CSIRO and DPLH Urban Monitor Program. This insight was very interesting and could probably meet the needs of the UFS monitoring without requiring specific LiDAR capture flights. A decision on the value of Town specific LiDAR capture will be postponed until the release of the new Urban Monitor data and system.
1N	<i>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 49m<sup>2</sup> 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.</i>	Year 3 Year 4	Similar to action 1G. New planning policy developed 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.
1O	<i>Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program</i>	Year 1 Year 2	Memorial Tree Planting has been included within the draft amendments to Policy 111 Commemorative Recognition. This amended policy is scheduled for presentation at the April OCM for council review and potential adoption.
<b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2:</b>			
Maximise community involvement and collaboration in its implementation.			
2A	<i>Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives.</i>	Year 1	An online UFS related community hub has been developed on the Your Thoughts platform. This platform will be launched in early April and will be key to discovering, collating and communicating with interested community members and groups.

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2B	<i>Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions.</i>	Ongoing	<p>Potential partnerships have been identified with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Corporation associated with Jarrah Road planting over recent Water Corp Works</li> <li>• Canning College for Hayman Road verge projects</li> <li>• Ursula Frayne college for growing on of plants</li> <li>• The Victoria Park Scouts for planting assistance and involvement</li> <li>• Kent Street High School</li> <li>• Connect Vic Park</li> </ul>
2C	<i>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.</i>	Ongoing	<p>The Implementation working group has, at its own request, met fortnightly rather than monthly to work through a significant amount of projects and process planning in preparation for planting season 2020.</p> <p>The Urban Forest Grant Program was launched in March with applications closing in April. This program will run again in October 2020 to provide a longer timeframes for applications and planning of community led projects prior to the 2021 planting season.</p>
2D	<i>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.</i>	Ongoing	Not commenced. This action will be postponed until COVID19 based restrictions are lifted and it is an appropriate time to conduct these events.
2E	<i>Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation.</i>	Ongoing	External consultant engaged and strong communications planning is completed. Some other initiatives include, brand development and marketing approach, website restructure, Your Thoughts online community page development, grant campaign facilitation and key messaging development.
2F	<i>Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.</i>	Ongoing	Relationships formed with the city of South Perth and the City of Melbourne to learning from their experiences in implementing greening initiatives. Development of new techniques are required as part of the UFS implementation.

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2G	<i>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.</i>	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 required to WALGA for advocacy purposes.
2H	<i>Investigate establishing an Environmental Resource Centre within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as a public information and action hub for urban ecology.</i>	Year 3	This will be examined through the Scoping report to rehabilitate and re-vegetate the Kent Street Sand Pit. Work has commenced on this scoping report and it is anticipated to be complete in the first half of 2020.
2I	<i>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.</i>	Ongoing	The Urban Forest Grant Program was launched in March with applications closing in April. This program will run again in October 2020 to provide a longer timeframes for applications and planning of community led projects prior to the 2021 planting season.

### **STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3:**

Increase tree diversity, whilst favoring local endemic and West Australian species that also support wildlife.



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3A	Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock.	Ongoing	<p>Meetings with the City of South Perth have been conducted along with tours of their propagation and "grow on" facilities.</p> <p>An agreement has been formalised with the CoSP to propagate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10,000 understorey plants from seed collected in Kensington Bushland (Tube stock for community planting day use in 2020)</li> <li>• 500 Trees, 250 of which will be propagated from Kensington Bushland seed (Tube stock for 2020 planting)</li> <li>• 1160 trees, 400 of which are from Kensington Bushland seed for street tree planting in 2021 and beyond (includes growing up to 35L size)</li> </ul> <p>This ability for the UFS planting to originate from seed collected over the last 10 years at the Kensington Bushland site is of great importance. This action is of high local importance as it allows the continuation and expansion of local provenance flora that defines Victoria Park's natural heritage and character. It is also an action of global significance in addressing biodiversity loss. The south west of Western Australia is a recognised global biodiversity hot spot and by propagating from endemic seed the Town is playing a role in protecting the unique genetic diversity of the local area.</p> <p>In march an update was received from the CoSP that the full order numbers are on track for the 2020 planting season.</p>
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.
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	<p>A number of projects and community planting events focused on eco-zoning in parks have been identify for the 2020 planting season. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles Patterson Reserve</li> <li>• Alday Reserve</li> <li>• Tech. Park Kent Street verge</li> <li>• Houghton Reserve</li> <li>• G.O. Edwards Eco Island project</li> <li>• Sunbury Reserve Eco-zoning and tree planting</li> </ul>

### **STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4:**

Maintain high standard of vegetation health

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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	Hillview 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 will be undertaken in the next financial year.
4C	Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health.	Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 5.
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	The new Tree audit contract has been awarded and the contract will exceed this action for the next 3 years with all 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 June – August 2020 quarter.
<b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5:</b>			
Improve soil and water quality			
5A	Review storm water infrastructure capability to benchmark and maintain or improve soil and water quality.	Ongoing	Etwell Street Revitalisation is now in a detailed design stage with the requirement for best practice WSUD principles included in the project brief.  The Albany Hwy path tree planting projects include the town first use of permeable paving. This is a significant benchmark in the improvement of water and soil quality and management in the Town. This project is intended for delivery in the 2020 planting season.

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5B	<i>Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations.</i>	Ongoing	Water tanks have been installed near last seasons revegetation sites in Kensington Bushland. These tanks are being regularly filled by the Town with volunteers from the Friends of Kensington Bushland watering the sites by hand. A project has been identified and supported by the UFS IWG to install an ICB watering tank at the Planet Street sump community planting site. Expansion of this to other sites delivered in 2020 will be reviewed as a possible frequently utilised technique.
5C	<i>Minimise spread of dieback through the soil, in line with the Town's Dieback Management Procedures and Protocols.</i>	Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 5.
<b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6:</b> Improve urban ecosystems.			
6A	<i>Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan.</i>	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the June – August 2020 quarter.
6B	<i>Develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan for all areas to be planted.</i>	Ongoing	The creation of a scoping report was approved to explore revegetation focused opportunities for the Kent Street Sand Pit. An RFQ for the scoping report has been issued to suitable consultants and is expected to be completed in 2020.
6C	<i>Expand bird nesting box trial and set up new habitat support trials for micro-bat boxes and insect hotels.</i>	Year 2	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the Year 2.
6D	<i>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.</i>	Year 1 Year 2	A review of the Environment Plan has commenced with an aim for a draft of the revised version to be created in the next quarter (March – May).

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