

# Urban Forest Strategy

## Quarterly Reporting Table

July 2020



TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK

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	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 small projects have been grouped under a number of larger programmes.</p> <p><b>Vic Park Leafy Streets</b> Various street tree planting projects proposed by the community or staff have been combined into the Vic Park Leafy Streets program. In addition redeployed leisure center staff have been assessing street tree planting opportunities while facilities have been closed due to COVID19 restrictions. Approximately 400 new street trees have been proposed in key focus areas around train stations and Albany Hwy.</p>
1B	<p><i>Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway.</i></p>	<p>Year 1, Year 2</p>	<p>The detailed design of the UFS Albany Highway Greening Project 1 has been completed. This project involves new trees planted within the highly exposed footpath area in front of the Park Centre on Albany Hwy. These trees will provide much needed shade to this very hot but highly visited pedestrian area. The detailed design 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. The detailed design will now go to tender for construction companies to tender on and is aiming for implementation in the second half of 2020.</p>
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Effective street tree bonds,</i></li> <li><i>b. Tree Impact Assessments, and</i></li> <li><i>c. Appropriate penalties for tree removal or vandalism.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Operational Policy <b>PKS2 Street Trees</b> requires review and update to align with the direction and achieve the requirements of the UFS. This review and rewrite process is now complete and ready for presentation at the Policy Review Committee meeting on the 29th of June prior to proposed presentation at the July OCM.</p>

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1D	<i>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.</i>	Ongoing	<p>Significant tree planting opportunities have been identified in a number of strategic projects for 2020/21 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>• Taylor McCallum Park Active Zone</li> <li>• Macmillian precinct Master Plan</li> <li>• Higgins Park Master Plan</li> <li>• 25 Boundary Road</li> </ul> <p>As the design of these strategic projects progress the Place Leader Urban Forest will remain involved to ensure greening opportunities are maximised.</p>
1E	<i>Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices.</i>	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>• 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> <p>Road infrastructure projects planned for the 20/21 financial year will be reviewed for potential greening opportunities.</p>

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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>In the April 2020 OCM council issued a directive to investigate the options and considerations for the conversion of 4 drainage sumps to micro POS. This led to the decision to focus on these sumps for initial site preparation, planting and exploration of POS potential.</p> <p>The four focus sumps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 91 Planet Street</li> <li>- 76 Planet Street</li> <li>- 30 Satellite Terrace</li> <li>- 6 Paltridge Street</li> </ul> <p>In addition the sump at 25 Boundary Road will become a planting project following the completion of the civil works and creation of front residential lot.</p> <p>Other sumps throughout the town have been suggested as potential UFS projects prior to and since the April OCM however exploration of these sumps will temporarily be on hold while the 4 Carlisle sumps are prioritised.</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.

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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.
1J	<i>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</i>	Year 4 Year 5	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in year 4 and 5.
1K	<i>Strengthen and enforce the Town's local planning policy to require best practice tree planting and landscaping in non-residential car parks.</i>	Year 1	Not commenced. This action will be progressed in the next financial year (October – December 2020).

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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>A number of community planting events were canceled due to COVID19 restrictions. On the 2nd of August is national tree day and a community planting event is planned at Charles Patterson Reserve.</p> <p>With the cancellation of planting events a new way of involving the community was developed that could be delivered despite COVID19 restrictions. The <b>Urban Forest at Home</b> program was launched to drive action "at home" rather than large events on public land. 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.</p> <p>The program was extremely popular and the shrubs sold out within 48hrs of opening. It looks like there will still be some trees remaining by the closing date. Almost 350 households signed up for the program. Plant collection day is planned for the 4th of July and aims to be an enjoyable community experience.</p>
1M	<p><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></p>	Year 1	<p>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.</p>

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1N	<p><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:</i></p> <p><i>a. supplied on the development itself,</i></p> <p><i>b. through retention of mature trees or new plantings onsite or</i></p> <p><i>c. in other locations within the Town.</i></p>	<p>Year 3</p> <p>Year 4</p>	<p>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.</p>
1O	<p><i>Establish and promote a Memorial Tree Planting Program</i></p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 2</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2:</b> Maximise community involvement and collaboration in its implementation.</p>			
2A	<p><i>Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives.</i></p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>An online UFS related community hub has been developed on the Your Thoughts platform.</p> <p>This platform has been successful in allowing direct, 2 way communication between community members and the Town's UFS team. A number of queries from the community have been answered and ideas or suggestions received. The Your Thoughts page has allowed direct stories and messaging to community members that are interested in updates on the urban forest implementation.</p>

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2B	<p><i>Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions.</i></p>	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> <li>• Harold Hawthorn Community Centre</li> <li>• Millennium Kids</li> </ul> <p>Conversations are ongoing with the organisations listed above. The increased awareness of the UFS along with its aims and implementation tools, and have led to successful grant applications from Millennium Kids, Connect Vic Park and the Kent Street High School P&amp;C.</p>
2C	<p><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.</i></p> <p><i>This can be largely achieved through the Town of Victoria Park promoting community education, and planting and maintaining tree programs.</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>The Implementation Working Group (IWG) 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. The IWG has provided invaluable community direction and input into the project and process planning of the UFS implementation. Cohesion amongst the group is remarkably strong given the diverse backgrounds of the members and meetings have been highly productive and functional.</p>
2D	<p><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></p>	Ongoing	<p>This action has been directed towards the creation of "Boorn Stories". Boorn means tree in Whadjuk Nyungar language and this project would comprise a number of short videos with a representative of the Aboriginal community telling a personal or cultural story about a local tree species. Roni and Simon Forest from the Town's Aboriginal Engagement Advisory Group have expressed interest in representing the Aboriginal community and appearing in these videos. Discussions and planning of this project is ongoing. This video will also be utilised by the Town during its NAIDOC week celebrations currently scheduled for November 2020.</p>



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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	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	<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 a scoping report to rehabilitate and re-vegetate the Kent Street Sand Pit. The scoping report is nearing completion and will provide scope to a master plan process to be initiated during the 20/21 financial year.

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21	<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	<p>The first Urban Forest Grant Program has been conducted this quarter. The following grants were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Connect Vic Park – planting project centred around designing and creating a native garden space to occupy the ~150m<sup>2</sup> available at 35 Mackie Street and extend this to incorporate the verges.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>c. Kent St Senior High School Citizens and Parents 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.</li> </ul> <p>The Urban Forest grant 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>

### **STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3:**

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

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	Action	Timeframe	Action Progress
3A	Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock.	Ongoing	<p>Our tube stock order for the 2020 planting season from the City of South Perth Nursery is ready to begin collection for planting.</p> <p>4000 plants will be utilised for the Urban Forest at Home project propagated from Kensington bushland seed along with some additional stock from other specialist native plant nurseries.</p> <p>The remaining stock will be utilised for the community planting event on the 2nd of August.</p> <p>Due to the compressed planting season the Leafy Streets Project could not source appropriate stock for planting all locations during the 2020 planting season. This shortfall is approximately 200 street trees. Rather than accept sub standard stock or less ideal species selections it was decided to hold off on these locations until planting season 2021. Due to the long lead time in tree supply, it was decided to begin Leafy Streets 2021 location identification during the 2020 planting season. This will allow stock to be contract grown specifically for our purposes resulting in improved long term tree health and faster growth.</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	<p>Establish an eco-zoning planting program in public parks and other planted areas to encourage healthy ecosystems.</p> <p>This can be largely achieved through the Town of Victoria Park promoting community education, and planting and maintaining tree programs.</p>	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 – Planned for 2020 community planting event</li> <li>• Alday Reserve – Design and planning in progress</li> <li>• Tech. Park Kent Street verge – site preparation in progress</li> <li>• Houghton Reserve – ON HOLD as future community planting event site.</li> <li>• G.O. Edwards Eco Island project – Planting in progress</li> <li>• Sunbury Reserve Eco-zoning and tree planting – planting in progress</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4:</b> Maintain high standard of vegetation health</p>			
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.

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4B	<i>Continue with dieback treatment trials.</i>	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 implemented in the next financial year.
4C	<i>Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health.</i>	Year 5	The Urban Forest at Home planting giveaway will include information on local species suitable for home gardens. This information will include basic details of how to garden with local native species. It is hoped this program will encourage residents to consider the land they own as important in the urban ecological outcomes.
4D	<i>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.</i>	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	<i>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.</i>	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	<i>Review storm water infrastructure capability to benchmark and maintain or improve soil and water quality.</i>	Ongoing	The Albany Hwy path tree planting projects include 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. The detailed design of this project is now complete and implementation will commence in the second half of 2020.

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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 season's 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 91 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	Individual revegetation plans are being created for each revegetation project.  The creation of a scoping report was approved to explore revegetation focused opportunities for the Kent Street Sand Pit. This scoping report will be finalised in the next month and a master plan project will commence in the 20/21 financial year.
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 an updated version to be finalised in 2020.

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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.