



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



Urban Forest Implementation
Working Group
Notes – 17 April 2024



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

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1 Opening

Meeting opened: 7.30am

Acknowledgement of country

Ngany kaaditj Noongar moort keny kaadak nidja Wadjak Noongar boodja. Ngany kaaditj nidja Noongar birdiya – koora, ye-ye, boorda, baalapiny moorditj Noongar kaadijin, moort, wer boodja ye-ye.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and respect past, present and emerging leaders, their continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continues to be important today.

2 Attendance

Attendance

Emma Monk
Nadia D'Hart
Jeff Engledow

Councillors

Cr Peter Devereux
Cr Peter Melrosa
Cr Daniel Minson

ToVP Representatives

Natalie Martin-Goode (Chief Community Planner)
David Doy (Manager Place Planning)
Deniqua Boston (Place Leader (Urban Forest))
Gregor Wilson (Manager Infrastructure Operations)
Penny Fletcher (Parks Technical Officer)
Rachel Guilfoyle (Team Leader Natural Areas)

Meeting secretary

Observers

Nil

Apologies

Rowena Skinner
Shelly Woods (Executive Assistant, Chief Community Planner)

3 Presentations

3.1 UF Program Update

Time	20mins
Presenter	Town UF Project Strategy and Delivery Team
Attachments	1. UF Project Tracking_ Physical Project List_ Update April 2024 [3.1.1 - 1 page]

Purpose of the item

To give an update on the progression of the project delivery.

Outcome

For the working group members to be informed of how the program delivery is going.

Strategic outcomes

Item	Responsible Officer	Status/Comments
New IWG Members	DB	Two position applications were received. Pannel review on the 16 April.
2024 project delivery update	PF/RG/DB	Update
UF Care Resourcing	GW	2 new positions have been put forward to C-suit to support the ongoing care on the UF projects

Discussion/Actions

CR Melrosa:

- Concern for trees under stress due to the current environmental factors we are facing. Request to ask residents to water the trees on their verge.

Cr Devereaux:

- Cost issue is a challenge and council are aware of the resourcing required to deliver. Priority to engage the community more to support the Town with this, we need staff time to help coordinate.
- Build sense of community understanding of the ongoing care of plants and trees. When we do a big community planting, we need to educate and expand residents' knowledge. Build a community that follows the trees they have planted.
- Would like to see a system that residents move from planting to care and then when it gets dry, we engage with the community to trigger the community to support with watering.
- We required staff that have devoted time designated to develop the community engagement on an ongoing basis.

E Monk: Engage with residents who took part in the community planting events that would be happy to water the plants by adding in IBC to the site.

P Fletcher:

- 935 trees to be planted this winter. 250 trees are on the replacement list, recently planted stock that didn't make it through the summer. An additional 60 trees have died and will be included on next year planting list as it's too late and the season and planting schedules have been set.
- Improving the process to increase success rates by adding humates, soil improver and spraying stock with an anti-transparent in Dec.
- Offering up to 5 species of trees for residents to choose from.

D Boston:

- EOI's have closed to fill the two working group member positions. The panel has assessed the application and being put forward for endorsement.
- The Town is requesting the addition of two operation positions to support the delivery and care of the program, these are awaiting approval.

Post meeting notes:

- The Town undertook a social media campaign to encourage residents to water street trees over the summer.

3.2 PSHB Management Update

Time	5 mins
Presenter	Penny Fletcher
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

Inform the working group about PSHB and the current situation in Perth and what the LGA's and independent bodies are doing collectively.

Outcome

Group is informed of the situation and to advocate in the community to ensure quarantine rules are followed to reduce spread.

Strategic outcomes

Nil.

Discussion/Actions

P Fletcher:

- LGA's are requesting a layer of confidentiality lifted of positive cases so LGA's can be informed of positive cases allow them to better manage/ undertake inspections in infested areas.
- Research is being undertaken to seek alternate methods of case management, though this action has been driven by industry opposed to state.
- WALGA will be contacting EM's to inform them of the status of PSHB and the challenges and concerns LGA's have with the management and information sharing with DPIRD.

D Boston:

- The Town is responding with the threat by informing residents to be aware and report cases and adapting our tree species list is resilient to infestation.
- The hot dry summer is putting stress on the trees with more species now being infected, initially it was thought native trees were not susceptible to PSHB, however there has been an increase of cases.
- Advocacy from the Town is requested to have information released from DPIRD and developing research in the treatment and handling of cases.

G Wilson:

- There is concern the current method of removing infected trees is not the best way forward, all councils seem to have a similar position.

Cr Minson:

- Through conversations with the inner-city groups, they are doing their own thing with management, City of Subiaco are not removing infected trees.
- There is an uncoordinated approach across the LGA's with City of Perth reaching out to UWA to look into a research project.

D Doy

- Can you see this as an advocacy role for the Town at the inner-city working group?

Cr Devereaux:

- Opportunity to have topic covered in the WALGA zone meeting too.

E Monk:

- Strongly support advocacy as the state is developing an urban greening strategy focusing on increasing canopy, PHSB is a significant threat to trees and our ability to protect what existing canopy we have.
- LGA's spending millions in delivering their urban forest strategies and not addressing this issue seriously is putting all strategies at risk and the financial investment that councils are making to their own urban forest programs.

D Boston:

- It is important to be aware of the resourcing, roles and expertise required within the LGA to manage PSHB in the Town.

Cr Devereaux:

- Acknowledging the toll this issue takes on moral when we put so much effort in growing our canopy cover to see it at such risk.

E Monk:

- By not addressing the issue here and with urgency and collaboration with LGA's the state government is undermining the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Urban Greening Strategy.

Cr Minson:

- Do we know what position we are in if the borer gets into more trees at Raphael Park?

G Wilson:

- If it is an infested host species, then the approach is aligned with DPIRD's direction to remove the tree entirely. There is no further research or information coming through on alternate methods of treatment.

Cr Minson:

- Is there a deterrent that can be used?

D Boston:

- There is a product been tested that can be used however requires the entire tree to be painted and is not a viable/ realistic method of treatment.

4 Items for discussion

4.1 Project Proposal Review

Reporting officer	Deniqua Boston
Origin of request	NA
Attachments	1. Urban Forest project proposal submission 85 Westminster St [4.1.1 - 1 page]

Purpose of the item

This project is being presented to the group for their review and consideration for future project delivery.

Outcome

Identify level of support and prioritisation for the project.

Discussion points

Considerations:

- Distance to other public open green spaces
- Alignment with the urban forest strategic outcomes
- Environmental, social and education value of proposal
- Level of engagement and commitment by local resident

Strategic outcomes

Nil.

Next steps

Provide feedback to the project request applicant and add the project delivery schedule should it be supported.

Further information

Nil.

Comments:

- Opportunity for pedestrian connection through/across the site.
- Opportunity for re-vegetation adding habitat value add and shade.
- In close proximity to Fraser Park, not high priority for public open space connection as part of the Public Open Space Strategy.
- To be included on the project list for next planting season to be prioritised alongside other proposals.

4.2 (vic) Park Care Crew - Program review and feedback

Reporting officer	Deniqua Boston
Origin of request	Public Places Program
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

For the working group to be briefed on the development of the (vic) Park Care program and to provide feedback.

Outcome

The program to be developed in collaboration with the working group community.

Discussion points

Does the website make sense and is it easy to navigate to what you are after. Is the service we are offering/providing aligned with what the community requires and would like. Are there changes and improvements to the delivery that could be made?

Strategic outcomes

Civic Leadership	
Community Priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL2 - Communication and engagement with the community.	An opportunity for community members to engage with the urban the projects and public space around the Town building a sense of ownership and pride.

Environment	
Community Priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
EN1 - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment.	The public develop knowledge, understanding and skills to support the natural environment
EN4 - Increasing and improving public open spaces	Public places are improved by the investment and sense of ownership by the community.

Next steps

Working group to review website and provide feedback.

Further information

(vic) Park Care is a program initiated by the Public Places Program and delivered in collaboration with the Urban Forest program.

[Your Space » Town of Victoria Park](#)

Discussion/Actions

- Webpage drafted for review. Working group members
- Program goal, to create a platform for engaged community members to participate with care at what capacity they desire.

Cr Melrosa:

- Suggestion to add more graphics to the website to encourage and support community members to water trees and messaging through social media.
- Put together a watering pamphlet to encourage and support residents to water their trees.

Cr Devereaux:

- Add stories of residents on the website, use the stories of residents engaging to encourage other residents to water their new trees.
- Create some practical segways to community involvement with watering trees and citizen science on this web page.

Cr Melrosa:

- Would be good to see how much it would cost a resident to water their own tree give some practical information and the value a tree adds to the value of your property.

N D'Hart:

- Do we have a pamphlet that we send to residents how to water and care for your trees?

D. Boston:

- We don't currently have one, can look at putting one together.

Cr Melrosa:

- Residents may be afraid of watering trees as they don't know if they are allowed to do it. Opportunity to break that barrier and share stories of people that are engaging and doing work in the Town.

D Boston:

- Resourcing in the urban forest project management space is the main barrier to us achieving the goals of the group. The role is very broad with a range of tasks and responsibilities, and it is unrealistic to achieve them all.

N D'Hart:

- I am happy to support with developing and drafting a pamphlet.
- There are other skills in the Town that people are able to offer and volunteer their time and expertise.

E Monk:

- Happy to word smith and get the wording and messaging correct.

Cr Devereaux:

- This all takes time to coordinate it, needs resourcing allocated.

5 General business

1. D Doy: State Government Urban Greening Grant – LGA’s can only access the grant if the funding request is to extend the planting season. We can only access the grant if we go for more, on top of what we are already delivering, however don’t have the resources to deliver. Based on the criteria of the grant we are being penalized for our level of financial commitment.

Worth having a conversation with WALGA and others about this, or if we want to go harder and bring our resources up, we can then look at extending the program to access these funds.

Cr Devereaux: Is this another argument for why we need more operational staff.

D Doy: Yes, this is correct

D Boston: The only option we can look at in applying for the grant is gaining funds for the Urban Centre Greening sub-program as the delivery of this work is contracted out.

6 Actions from previous meetings

Action	Responsible Officer	Status/Comments
Planting Season Booklet	DB	Printed and distributed around the Town
Implementation Action Plan Review	DB	Document drafted being reviewed by C-suite.
Thank you volunteer plaques to recognize UFS volunteer contribution	Working Group	Decision to develop the Bee Hotel structure (designed by UWA student as part of the More than Human Exhibition) and incorporate a recognition plaque. To be located at Kent St Ecological corridor with a bench seat.
Bird and Bat Box workshop	UF Events and Education	RG and DB met with RS. The Men’s shed has agreed to help build boxes. FOJ are undertaking a bat study which will determine box install locations. Meeting: Wed 01 May
UF IWG Member profiles	DB + SD	Awaiting on final profiles.

(vic) Park Care Crew	DB + EVR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IWG member review of the website. Providing comments via the 'was this page useful button'• Review by: 01 May 24• DB to review comments with SD
How to care for our tree's pamphlet	DB +IWG	EM +ND drafting content. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due: 01 May 2024, Wednesday.

7 Close

Meeting Closed at 8:51am