



A Town of Vic Park
Urban Forest
Strategy initiative

Implementation Action Plan

2019–2024



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK





The Town of Victoria Park's Urban Forest Strategy aims to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community and a sustainable liveable town.

The Urban Forest Strategy was a result of a community-initiated and community-driven process which identified the need to expand and better manage trees within the Town - on both public and private land.

The Urban Forest Strategy was endorsed by our Town's Council in September 2018 and sets an ambitious tree canopy target to increase the Town's tree canopy cover from 10% to 20%. This will require the planting of around 256,000 trees.

This Implementation Action Plan sets out how the Town and the community will work together and implement actions to deliver the Urban Forest Strategy.

The identified implementation actions directly link to the strategic outcomes and targets of the endorsed Urban Forest Strategy.

The actions are to be delivered in accordance with the following Urban Forest Strategy's principles:

- **Community-focused and collaborative**
- **Innovative, experimental and validated; and**
- **Efficient and value for money**

Strategic Outcome 1

Plant and protect sufficient trees by 2020 to achieve the 20% tree canopy target as supported by Council.

	Action	Implementation Timeframe					
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Ongoing
a	<p>The Town, together with the community, develop, resource, and implement a mass tree-planting plan to achieve 20% tree canopy cover.</p> <p><i>* develop a mass tree planting plan and planting user guide</i></p> <p><i>% implementation of a mass tree planting program</i></p>		✓*				✓%
b	Plan and implement greening initiatives on Albany Highway.	✓	✓				
c	<p>Establish a policy to protect existing trees on public land and help new trees to reach maturity.</p> <p>Explore mechanisms including:</p> <p>a. effective street tree bonds,</p> <p>b. Tree Impact Assessments, and</p> <p>c. appropriate penalties for tree removal or vandalism.</p>	✓					
d	<p>Incorporate tree protection and maximise planting in all projects on public land, especially Town-owned parks, verges and open spaces.</p> <p>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.</p>						✓
e	Where possible, include trees in the delivery of road infrastructure, including median strips and traffic calming devices.						✓
f	Develop and implement a sumps vegetation program including sedges, and collaborate with local community groups, State Government agencies, SERCUL, and other stakeholders.						✓
g	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.						✓
h	Encourage voluntary compliance with a benchmarked Tree Impact Assessment scheme for new developments, and reward good practise.				✓	✓	

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.			✓	✓		
j	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.				✓	✓	
k	Strengthen and enforce the Town's local planning policy to require best practice tree planting and landscaping in non-residential car parks.	✓					
l	Foster community-based solutions, such as tree giveaways, the Adopt-A-Verge program , community planting days and community gardens.						✓
m	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.	✓		✓		✓	
n	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 ² 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.			✓	✓		
o	Establish and promote a memorial tree planting program.	✓	✓				

Measuring our progress

Target

Protect existing trees on public and private land, and plant enough trees by 2020 to allow 20% canopy when the trees have matured.

How will this be measured?

- Percentage of tree canopy (actual, compared to the Town's area).
- Percentage of tree canopy (forecasted, once tree reaches maturity for trees on public land).
- Survival rates of the trees planted.
- Plan, policies and other identified documents are completed and in operation.
- Completion of identified actions, within the timeframe.

Strategic Outcome 2

Maximise community involvement and collaboration in its implementation.

	Action	Implementation Timeframe					
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Ongoing
a	Map out community groups and other parties interested in being involved in urban forest initiatives.	✓					
b	Consult and collaborate with community groups, private landowners, businesses and other stakeholders (local, national and global) to deliver innovative urban forest solutions.						✓
c	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.						✓
d	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.						✓
e	Conduct a strong public information campaign to promote the Urban Forest Strategy and encourage community participation.						✓
f	Join with other local governments and government agencies to deliver programs and strategies that support the Urban Forest Strategy.						✓
g	Through the Western Australian Local Government Association, lobby the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to fully fund the ongoing (annual) capture and processing of canopy mapping.						✓
h	Investigate establishing an environmental resource centre within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as a public information and action hub for urban ecology.			✓			
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.						✓

Measuring our progress

Target

The local community will be engaged with the Urban Forest Strategy and will be more closely involved in greening activities within the Town.

How will this be measured?

- Number of community volunteers participating in urban forest initiatives.
- Number of local community groups and organisations participating in urban forest initiatives.
- The effectiveness of the urban forest events ran by both the Town and local community groups, as measured using an evaluation survey, Culture Counts or similar.
- Reach and engagement of communication campaigns.
- Completion of identified actions, within the timeframe.



Strategic Outcome 3

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

	Action	Implementation Timeframe					
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Ongoing
a	Secure a reliable supply of high quality local endemic and West Australian plant stock.						✓
b	Revise the Town's Verge and Tree Planting Guidelines to enhance diversity.			✓			
c	Establish an eco-zoning planting program in public parks and other planted areas to encourage healthy ecosystems.						✓

Measuring our progress

Target

There shall be a tree diversity policy for the Town's public urban forest and guidelines for private land, based on data from regular tree audits (see Strategic Outcome 1). A staged planting program will be implemented to adjust the mix of trees to achieve these diversity targets over the long term.

How will this be measured?

- Breakdown of the percentage of trees from the same genus, within the Town.
- Breakdown of the percentage of trees from the same species, within the Town.
- Percentage of local endemic and West Australian tree species, within the Town (overall).
- Number of local endemic and West Australian tree species planted.
- Completion of identified actions, within the timeframe.

Strategic Outcome 4

Maintain high standard of vegetation health.

	Action	Implementation Timeframe					
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Ongoing
a	Select good stock and species that are resilient to the effects of climate change.						✓
b	Continue with dieback treatment trials.						✓
c	Provide advice and support to private land owners and caretakers regarding vegetation health.					✓	
d	Conduct bi-annual GIS mapping and analysis of the urban forest to determine tree health.	✓		✓		✓	
e	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.						✓
f	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.			✓	✓	✓	

Measuring our progress

Target

Maintaining the Town's urban forest in good health.

How will this be measured?

- Survival rates of the trees planted.
- Percentage of trees on public land, assessed as being in good health.
- Number of trees removed due to tree death, poor health, pests or diseases.
- Results from annual dieback testing.
- Completion of identified actions, within the timeframe.

Strategic Outcome 5

Improve soil and water quality.

	Action	Implementation Timeframe					
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Ongoing
a	Review storm water infrastructure capability to benchmark and maintain or improve soil and water quality.				✓		
b	Install alternative or temporary watering systems (for example, portable water tanks) in suitable locations.						✓
c	Minimise spread of dieback through the soil, in line with the Town's dieback management procedures and protocols.						✓

Measuring our progress

Target

Develop and employ benchmarks that ensure soil moisture is maintained at levels that support healthy vegetation, water quality and effective flood and water resource management.

How will this be measured?

- Survival rates of the trees planted.
- Results from annual dieback testing.
- Completion of identified actions, within the timeframe.

Strategic Outcome 6

Improve urban ecosystems.

	Action	Implementation Timeframe					
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Ongoing
a	Update the Town's Remnant Vegetation Management Plan.	✓					
b	Develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan for all areas to be planted.						✓
c	Expand bird nesting box trial and set up new habitat support trials for micro-bat boxes and insect hotels.		✓				
d	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.	✓	✓				
e	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			✓	✓	✓	

Measuring our progress

Target

Protect and enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure and green corridors that contribute to a healthy urban ecosystem.

How will this be measured?

- Reviewing the Town's green corridors and analysing fragmentations.
- Plans are completed and in operation.
- Completion of identified actions, within the timeframe.

Glossary

Adopt-a-Verge program

A program for neighbours to get involved and transform verge areas across the Town into water-wise native gardens. It aims to reduce water use, encourage biodiversity and create aesthetically pleasing verges.

Biophilic design

Using natural elements and drawing inspiration from the natural world in urban design to contribute to human health and productivity.

Citizen science program

The involvement of volunteers from the community in scientific projects. This can include the community assisting with data collection, the interpretation of data and co-design of projects.

Eco-zoning

The conversion of existing turfed areas into native garden areas. This allows for minimum water to support an area that once sustained turf, saving large volumes of water.

Significant public works

The development of public land by or on behalf of a government authority, with an estimated project cost of \$1 million or above.

Street tree bonds

A bond held by a local government for the protection of street trees where development or other activities are occurring and may have a potential impact.

Tree

A woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

The international standard for a canopy tree is one that is a minimum of five metres in height and creates an average shade canopy of seven m².

Tree Impact Assessment

A detailed and comprehensive report prepared by a qualified arborist that reflects the potential impacts of a development on trees within and/or adjacent to a development site, with consideration to Australian Standard AS4970:2009 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites (as amended).