



# City of Nedlands

## Urban Forest Strategy 2018-2023

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# 1. City of Nedlands Urban Forest Strategy

An urban forest is broadly defined as the collection of green spaces, trees and other vegetation that grows within an urban area, on both public and private land. It provides a range of social, environmental and economic benefits that enrich the quality of urban life. Most importantly it provides shade which reduces the surface temperature.

One of the ways that urban forest is measured is the size of the tree canopy cover. Tree canopy consists of the branches and leaves of a tree, not the number of trees, that is, the amount of canopy cover that has the greatest impact on shade and resultant cooling. This means it's important to not only plant new trees, but to protect established trees with large canopies because they provide the greater benefit. The individual tree canopy is not included in the statistics until it exceeds three metres in diameter.

The City of Nedlands Urban Forest Strategy only deals with the forest in the public domain. The City will continue to monitor the condition of the trees on private land but does not prescribe to control them within this strategy.

## **Nedlands original bushland forest**

Pre-European settlement, the City of Nedlands landscape was characterised by a mosaic of Tuart, Jarrah, Marri and Banksia open forest and woodlands. Tuart was dominant towards the coast, with Jarrah becoming more dominant on deeper inland sands and Marri occurring on moister sites. Fringing coastal areas were characterised by coastal shrublands and grasslands and fringing river foreshore areas consisted of native sedge lands. The pre-European canopy cover within the City would have been relatively open and irregular.





## 2. Nedlands 2018-2028 Strategic Community Plan

The Nedlands 2018-2028 Strategic Community Plan includes a series of statements and priorities from the community related to the Urban Forest:

The development of the previous Strategic Community Plan, Nedlands 2023, identified evidence of a decline in the condition of the community's assets was starting to show. This was because they were at a natural point in their lifecycle where reinvestment was needed. Strategic Issues facing the community include:

- Variations in weather patterns
- Water shortages and groundwater availability
- Reduced tree canopy

### **Nedlands 2028 Community Vision**

Our gardens, streets, parks and bushlands will be clean, green and tree-lined and we will live sustainably within the natural environment.

### **Nedlands 2028 Community Values**

We protect our enhanced, engaging community spaces, heritage, the natural environment and our biodiversity through well planned and managed development.

### **Nedlands 2028 Priorities**

**Strategic Priority:** Urban form - Protecting our quality living environment:

- Provide, retain and maintain public trees in streets and on reserves to at least maintain the urban forest canopy

**Strategic Priority:** Renewal of Community Infrastructure:

- Invest in drainage upgrades focusing on minimising flooding, maximising stormwater infiltration at source and minimising pollutant discharge to the Swan River
- Invest in parks infrastructure in accordance with enviro-scape master plans

**Strategic Priority:** Retain remnant bushland and cultural heritage:

- Revegetate remnant bushland areas
- Develop greenway corridors
- Undertake tree planting in public areas
- Restore coastal and estuarine areas
- Maintain parks and other green spaces

### 3. City of Nedlands Urban Forest Statistics

- The City currently has 22,188 public trees (Asset Finda: 1/03/18). These consist of 17,277 street trees and 4,911 within parks and reserves excluding bushland.
- The City has planted an average of approximately 760 trees per annum for the past three years in the public domain and an average of 570 trees per annum in road reserves and parks (refer table below).
- If this trend continues, it is anticipated that the 20% increase in potential canopy could be achieved in ten years if the current planting regime is maintained (960 per annum) and there is no spike in tree mortality during this period. Potential canopy recognises that the new plantings are not mature trees.

#### Enviro-scape Master Planning (EMP)

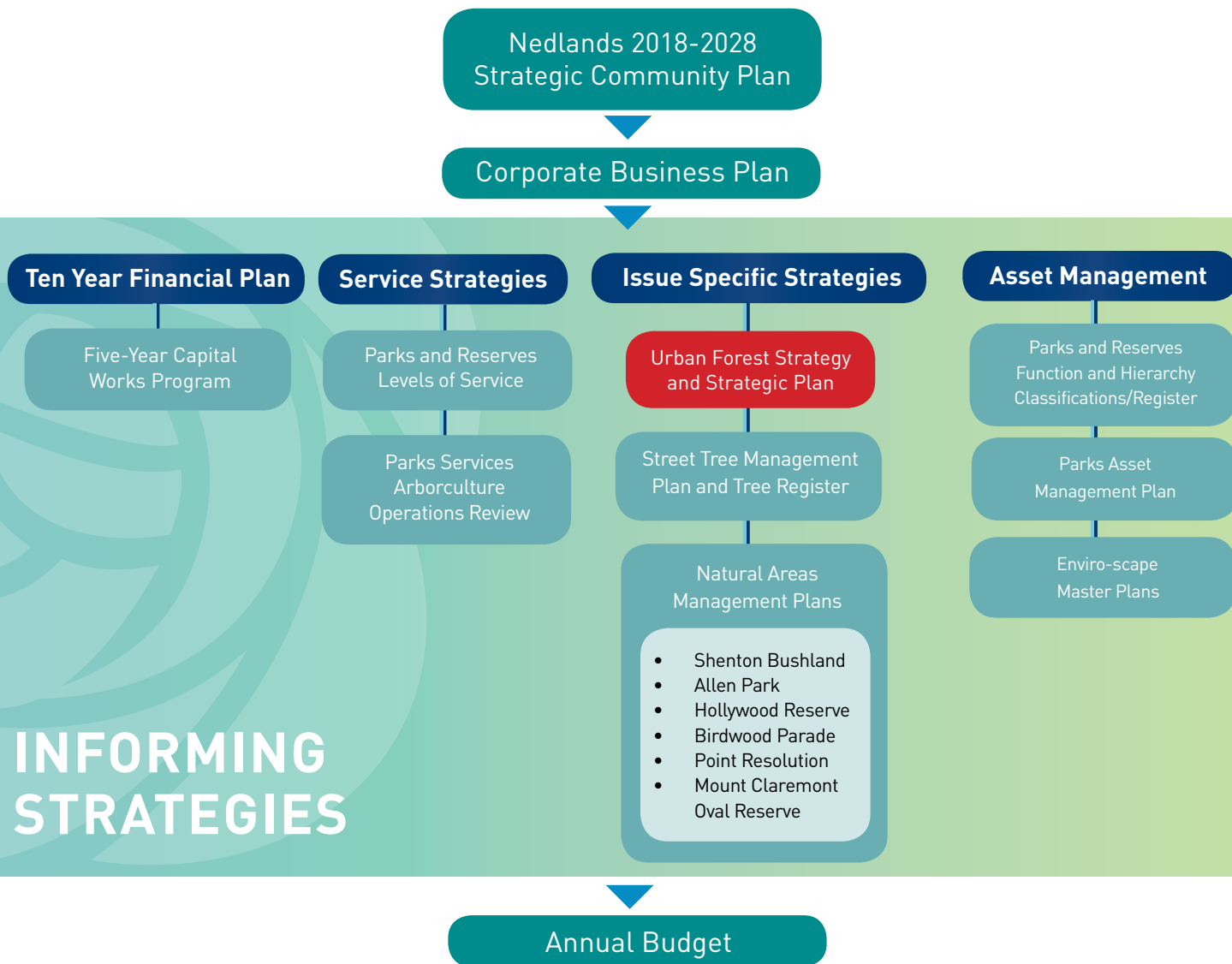
- The City has now commenced eight EMP processes and plans to commence eleven more over the next five years. Generally, the EMP process is commenced prior to the year that the park is planned for irrigation up-grades. The eco-zoning includes provision for new trees to achieve a 20% increase in canopy. The stage of each is included in the following table:

Park/Reserve	Stage of EMP	Capital Works Program
David Cruickshank Reserve	Completed	2016/17
Point Resolution Reserve	Consultation complete	2017/18
Carrington Park	Approved for construction	2017/18
St Johns Wood Boulevard POS	Consultation commencing	2017/18
Jones Park	Consultation commencing	2017/18
College Park	Planning commenced	2018/19
Asquith Park	Planning commenced	2018/19
Bishop Road Reserve	Planning commenced	2018/19
Hamilton Park	Not commenced	2018/19
Charles Court Reserve	Not commenced	2019/20
Hollywood Tennis Court Reserve	Not commenced	2019/20
Allen Park	Not commenced	2020/21
Genesta Park	Not commenced	2020/21
College Green Walkway	Not commenced	2021/22
Paul Hasluck Reserve	Not commenced	2021/22
Daran Park	Not commenced	2022/23
Directors Gardens	Not commenced	2022/23
Mooro Park	Not commenced	2022/23
Terrace Gardens	Not commenced	2022/23



## 4. Urban Forest Strategic Plan 2018-2023 (UFSP)

The UFSP, similar to the Five-Year Capital Works Program, is a five-year planning process which can be reviewed annually. The UFSP and EMPs are an integral element of the management documentation for parks and reserves. The structure with respect to the integrated planning framework including other key documents impacting on the urban forest in the public domain is as follows:



Smaller bushlands such as Swanbourne Estate Bush Blocks, Bishop Road Reserve and Mt Claremont Community Centre do not have individual management plans however they come under the umbrella of the broad recommendations contained within the Natural Areas Management Plan 2013 – 2018. It is noted that all of these plans are due for renewal in 2018.

The UFSP provides the goals, objectives and actions required to achieve the potential canopy growth of ten percent during the life of the five-year plan. It is presented in a matrix form overleaf and will be reported on and updated each year.



## 4.1. The Vision

### **By the year 2023 the City of Nedlands will have:**

- Increased its potential urban canopy by 10% towards the eventual target of 20% by 2028;
- Replaced all deceased public trees (road reserves and public open space);
- Provided street trees to all residents and ratepayers that have requested them;
- Provided infill street trees to all road rehabilitation projects;
- Been recognised for our quality customer service with respect to trees in the public domain;
- Reported regularly to Council and the community on the progress of the urban forest strategy;
- Delivered on greenway and bushland management plans; and
- Progressed with the development of Enviro-scape Master Plans (EMP) for all public parks and reserves.





## 4.2. Goals, objectives and actions

### 1. Urban Canopy

1.1 Objective: Continue to increase the cover of the Urban Canopy to 20% greater than the 2017 audit.

- Replace all deceased public trees in road reserves and public open space (public domain) as first priority
- Provide new street trees on demand as second priority
- Provide infill winter street tree planting to all road rehabilitation projects and EMP projects as third priority
- Ensure there is a nett increase in the number of public trees each year
- Maintain planting targets in greenway and bushland management plans

### 2. Environmental Science

2.1 Objective: Continue to support the operational activities with science-based decisions.

- Work with UWA developing strategies for improving the condition of the City's tree stock and the aquifer
- Source updates of the CSIRO infra-red aerial photography demonstrating canopy growth when available
- Develop a plant pathogen management plan
- Expand and formalise the tree health management program
- Work with Arbor Carbon with respect to native tree health

### 3. Management

3.1 Objective: Continue to progress with quality management practices in area of arboriculture and environmental conservation.

- Ensure there is provision of sufficient and appropriately qualified staff to deliver on the strategy
- Review arboriculture and environmental practices on a regular basis
- Provide an annual training program to maintain the required skills and practices
- Maintain the trees database in Asset Finda and retain accessibility on both the City's intranet and internet sites through IntraMaps





## 4.2. Goals, objectives and actions

### 4. Planning and Reporting

4.1 Continue to develop and maintain documented plans for the maintenance of trees in all public open space.

- Maintain and update all policies, procedures and plans relative to public trees
- Provide an annual plan and report demonstrating the increase in numbers of public trees
- Provide a monthly report in the CEO's Update on the progress of street tree removal and replacement
- Identify the trees in the private and the public domain on the CSIRO infra-red aerial photography to provide for separate reporting

### 5. Customers

5.1 Objective: Continue to improve engagement with our customers

- Work closely with Friends of Groups (FoG) in the bushland projects including development of FoG Agreements
- Update City website and Your Voice Nedlands (Community engagement hub) to facilitate communication and engagement
- Ensure customer service officers are trained to respond to public tree questions
- Provide a site visit service for any queries regarding public trees





# Urban Forest Strategic Plan 2018–2023

The Vision: By the year 2023 the City of Nedlands will have



- Increased its potential urban canopy by 10% towards the eventual target of 20% by 2028;
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1. Urban Canopy	2. Environmental Science	3. Management	4. Planning & Reporting	5. Customers
<p><b>1.1. Objective:</b> Continue to increase the cover of the Urban Canopy to 20% greater than the 2017 audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace all deceased public trees in road reserves and public open space (public domain) as first priority</li> <li>• Provide new street trees on demand as second priority</li> <li>• Provide infill winter-street tree planting to all road rehabilitation projects and EMP projects as third priority</li> <li>• Ensure there is a net increase in the number of public trees each year</li> <li>• Maintain planting targets in greenway and bushland management plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>2.1. Objective:</b> Continue to support the operational activities with science-based decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with UWA developing strategies for improving the condition of the City's tree stock and the aquifer</li> <li>• Source updates of the CSIRO infra-red aerial photography demonstrating canopy growth when available</li> <li>• Develop a plant pathogen management plan</li> <li>• Expand and formalise the tree health management program</li> <li>• Work with Arbor Carbon with respect to native tree health</li> </ul>	<p><b>3.1. Objective:</b> Continue to progress with quality management practices in area of arboriculture and environmental conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is provision of sufficient and appropriately qualified staff to deliver on the strategy</li> <li>• Review arboriculture and environmental practices on a regular basis</li> <li>• Provide an annual training program to maintain the required skills and practices</li> <li>• Maintain the trees database in Asset Finda and retain accessibility on both the City's intranet and internet sites through IntraMaps</li> </ul>	<p><b>4.1. Objective:</b> Continue to develop and maintain documented plans for the maintenance of trees in all public open space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and update all policies, procedures and plans relative to public trees</li> <li>• Provide an annual plan and report demonstrating the increase in numbers of public trees</li> <li>• Provide a monthly report in the CEO's Update on the progress of street tree removal and replacement</li> <li>• Identify the trees in the private and the public domain on the CSIRO infra-red aerial photography to provide for separate reporting</li> </ul>	<p><b>5.1. Objective:</b> Continue to improve engagement with our customers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with Friends of Groups (FoG) in the bushland projects including development of FoG Agreements</li> <li>• Update City website and Your Voice Nedlands (Community engagement hub) to facilitate communication and engagement</li> <li>• Ensure customer service officers are trained to respond to public tree questions</li> <li>• Provide a site visit service for any queries regarding public trees</li> </ul>



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