

Frequently Asked Questions

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Creating greener, cooler, and more comfortable neighbourhoods for everyone.

What is the purpose of the program?

To provide the City of Joondalup with increased leafy canopy cover through street tree planting in order to mitigate the environmental impact of climate change and rapid urban growth.

Why is the City planting street trees?

Street trees are an important natural asset which helps maintain liveable urban environments and provide a wide range of environmental, aesthetic, economic and social benefits to the community. Increasing canopy cover throughout the City will create cooler, inviting green urban spaces that will improve the comfort of pedestrian movement and reduce the 'urban heat island' effect generated by existing hardstand and roadway surfaces.

What are the benefits of planting trees in our suburban streetscapes?

There are many benefits to increasing the urban canopy with street trees. Some include:

- Reducing ambient air temperature,
- Reducing cooling energy consumption costs,
- Providing habitats for wildlife,
- Improving visual street amenity,
- Creating safer, cooler walking environments,
- Saving water through reduced evaporation rates,
- Cleaning air by absorbing polluting gases, and
- Improving mental health and wellbeing of residents.

How have project sites been selected?

In March 2020, canopy cover and land surface temperature data was independently captured and used to prioritise project sites which were identified as 'hot spots'. To view the canopy cover and land surface temperature maps, please visit the City's website.

Additional considerations on site selection include potential impacts on Housing Opportunity Areas and existing infrastructure and services.

How have the street trees been selected?

An assessment was undertaken to investigate the existing site conditions each area to inform tree species selection for the suburb. Considerations included:

- Existing soil and weather conditions,
- Existing infrastructure and services,
- Water availability, and
- Existing tree canopy in the area.

These investigations and appropriate tree species selection for the suburb will ensure the healthy development and longevity of the City's leafy canopy.

What works are currently being proposed?

The project sites for 2023 are selected streets in Edgewater, Duncraig and Mullaloo. At least two weeks prior to the installation date, the proposed location of the tree will be marked on-site, including locations featuring existing 'hardstand' surfaces, such as brick paving, concrete, or synthetic turf.

When will the works take place?

The next round of tree planting will commence in May 2023 and will progress through to August 2023. Preparation works on properties with hardstand verge surfaces will commence in April 2023.

How will this project be funded?

The Leafy City Program forms part of the City's Capital Works Program.

Who will be responsible for maintaining the street tree?

The City is responsible for maintaining street trees. To ensure the best chance of establishment, trees are planted in the wetter, cooler months. The City will also provide establishment support, including watering, formative pruning, weeding and fertilising over the first two summers.

If you are concerned about the health of your street tree, contact the City's Customer Care Team on **9400 4000**.

How can I help care for my street tree?

If you are willing and able to help ensure your tree grows healthy and strong you can provide an additional deep weekly watering during the summer months to reduce heat stress and ensure water is reaching its roots. Also keep the tree trunk free of weeds and grass to reduce moisture loss and competition.

Each new tree will come with an information tag attached that includes handy tips and advice to help residents care for their new companion tree.

What happens to my existing landscaping/paving/synthetic turf?

Preparation works on properties with hardstand verge surfaces will commence in April 2023. Approximately two weeks prior to the installation date, the proposed location of the tree will be marked on site. This will give residents the opportunity to remove any plants they would like to keep.

- On planted verges, turf and plants will be removed to allow for a 1.2m x 1.2m tree planting area.
- On 'hardstand' verges, paving/synthetic turf/concrete will be cut to form a tidy 2m x 2m square tree planting area.

Can I request an alternate planting location?

Appropriate tree planting locations have been identified based on:

- Underground service locations,
- Traffic sightlines,
- Prescribed offsets to the footpath/property boundary/kerbs,
- Pedestrian thoroughfare, and
- The overall alignment of trees to be planted in the street.

While some flexibility exists with the tree placement, any proposed variation to the identified tree planting location will need to be in line with the above considerations.

Please visit joondalup.wa.gov.au or contact the City's Customer Care team on **9400 4000** or email info@joondalup.wa.gov.au for more information on tree positioning options.

Can I request an alternative tree species?

Unfortunately, supply of alternative tree species are not possible at this time. Tree species have been selected by the City's arborist, landscape architects and civil engineers. The selected tree for your street has been chosen based on a number of factors specific to your area, as noted above, and alternative species may not be viable.

Additionally, the Leafy City Program is required to source the selected tree species with enough lead time to allow growth to an appropriate maturity for viable planting, approximately 12 months in advance. This means that there is limited tree stock of each species during the planting phase of the program.

What if I don't want a tree?

The trees will not be planted on private property. All trees will be planted on the verge which is part of the road reserve. The tree will therefore be located on Crown Land as a City owned and managed asset, and not the responsibility of the owner/occupier of the adjacent property.

The City aims to work together with local residents to help create cooler inviting green urban spaces to live in for everyone. Please visit joondalup.wa.gov.au to view the Street Verge Guidelines for more information.

Who do I contact for more information on the project?

For further information please visit the City's website, or contact the City's Customer Care team on **9400 4000** or email info@joondalup.wa.gov.au