



**ACT**  
Government

# 2022 Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory

## Urban Tree Canopy Coverage

TRANSPORT CANBERRA AND CITY  
SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

On 29 March 2021, Government agreed to the final Urban Forest Strategy and its public release. This report provides an update on the key actions undertaken in 2021-22 to meet the objectives of the Strategy, including:

- A total of 10,013 street trees and trees in open space were planted as part of the TCCS tree planting program. With an additional 7,986 planted on unleased land by other agencies, the total number of trees planted on unleased land is 17,999.
- The proposed new *Urban Forest Bill 2022* will repeal and replace the *Tree Protection Act 2005* to improve tree protection on both public and private land and encourage shared care of trees by the ACT Government, industry and the community.
- A successful nomination saw Canberra officially named an ‘International Tree City of the World’ by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation in April 2022.
- Collaboration on Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) projects to help promote the health of urban forest, support urban biodiversity and build liveability.
- Support for community programs including Urban Parks and Places volunteer groups, the Adopt-A-Park program, the implementation of a citizen science data collection pilot projects, Tree Week 2022, the YourSay planting map, grants offered in collaboration with EPSDD, and contributions to the Suburban Land Agency guide for tree selection for Canberra gardens.
- Collaboration with EPSDD and other organisations in policy development and restoration projects to ensure that species diversity is optimised for habitat and connectivity.
- Recycling of urban wood waste and replacement degraded tree surround surfaces.

City Services continues to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy Target of a 30 per cent tree canopy cover in the ACT by the year 2045.

## 1.1 Definitions

The following terms used in this report have a specific, technical meaning:

Term/Acronym	Definition
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems that create, store, manage, analyse, and map all types of data related to positions on the earth's surface.
<b>LiDAR</b>	Light Detection and Ranging. A remote sensing method using light to measure ranges to objects on the surface of the earth and accurately image the landscape in three dimensions.
<b>TCC</b>	Tree Canopy Cover. An estimate of tree canopy coverage as a percentage of total land area.
<b>Urban footprint</b>	This has been determined as the ACT Divisions area and includes all trees above three metres, on both public and leased land. Where data has referred to a District, these are only the Division areas within the District.

## 2.0 Contribution of Actions in the Urban Forest Strategy

### 2.1 Community support for actions and objectives

The release of the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045 (the Strategy) followed community engagement undertaken in 2020 to seek feedback on the vision, objectives and actions of the draft Strategy. Over 240 people, including interested community groups, had their say by completing a survey or providing a written submission.

The Urban Forest Strategy sets out six objectives and the actions needed to overcome the challenges of species diversity, an ageing tree population, climate change and urban heat island effects.

The community were very supportive of the vision, objectives and actions of the Strategy, with 92% of respondents supporting the vision, 97% either fully or generally supportive of the objectives and seven of the nine actions in the Strategy highlighted by respondents as a key priority.

### 2.2 Contribution of actions

The Strategy has six key objectives to support a healthy, resilient and sustainable urban forest and achieve the 30% tree canopy cover (or equivalent benefit) target by 2045. Each objective is broken down into actions that provide a road map to guide government activities. These actions have been allocated a rating to reflect their potential contribution towards achieving the tree canopy target ([Table 1](#)):

- Major – key contributor to on-ground outcomes
- Moderate – provides direct support for on-ground actions
- Minor – cumulative on-ground impact that supports or complements other actions

[Table 1](#) should be read in conjunction with the Strategy actions and status table ([Appendix A](#)) which outlines the progress made towards increased canopy cover in greater detail. Activities that are underway in 2022 that will provide the largest contribution to achieve the canopy cover target are the expanded planting program and legislative reform to enhance the protection for the existing urban forest. These major contributors will be supported by increasing community partnerships and education, and planning planting programs to promote equitable canopy cover, increase tree species diversity and promote biodiversity. The actions are designed to interact, complement and enhance each other to achieve a comprehensive outcome.

**Table 1 Contributions of Urban Forest Strategy actions towards the canopy cover target**

Objective	Action	Contribution
<b>Protect the urban forest</b>	1.1.1 Maintain and promote the Tree Register (under the Tree Protection Act (TPA))	Minor
	1.2.1 Review and update the TPA to ensure the threshold for protecting trees is appropriate	Major
	1.2.2 Review and update the TPA criteria for removal of protected trees to ensure it aligns with community values and expectations	Major
	1.2.3 Review and update the TPA and Public Unleased Land Act (PULA) to ensure appropriate compliance mechanisms exist to deter illegal tree removals or damage to trees on leased and unleased land, and respond appropriately when they occur	Moderate
	1.3.1 Consider developing a program to ensure the health of mature and remnant trees on unleased land	Minor
	1.3.2 Review and update the PULA to require all developers to erect prescribed fencing to protect existing trees on public land from damage prior to demolition, excavation and/or construction on adjacent blocks	Moderate
	1.3.3 Investigate incentives and programs to better provide for maintenance and care of registered and remnant trees on leased land	Minor
	1.3.4 Program cultural site assessments with a view to developing cultural tree management plans	Minor
<b>Grow a resilient forest</b>	1.4.1 Investigate and implement administrative and technological reforms to systems and processes for administration of the Tree Protection Act to ensure they are streamlined, transparent and efficient	Moderate
	2.1.1 With reference to the 2010 audit, obtain updated data on the current canopy cover of the public urban forest to inform a replacement program	Moderate
	2.1.2 Develop a sustainable program of end-of-life tree removals and replacements for removed trees and existing planting gaps to maintain the urban forest, including best-practice after-care for new plantings	Major
	2.1.3 Develop a sustainable planting program to increase canopy cover equitably across the urban footprint by establishing sufficient additional trees to meet the canopy cover target over the life of the Strategy	Major
	2.2.1 Consider introducing a canopy contribution framework for trees on both public and private land that ensures that when trees must be removed and cannot be replaced on site, they are replaced elsewhere through a contribution based on the value of the tree at the time of assessment	Major
	2.2.2 Review PULA to consider a tree bond scheme for trees on public (unleased) land that discourages tree removal and damage through development	Moderate
	2.3.1 Promote and periodically update the preferred species planting guide to assist the community in understanding what trees to	Minor

Objective	Action	Contribution
	plant on leased land	
	2.3.2 Publish and regularly review a list of climate resilient trees	Minor
<b>Balance &amp; diversify the urban forest</b>	3.1.1 Direct initial prioritisation for new plantings to existing planting gaps and addressing the most vulnerable communities	Major
	3.1.2 Undertake regular LiDAR data capture and analysis every 5 years to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of canopy coverage and permeability across the urban footprint	Major
	3.1.3 Progressively map suburbs at risk of losing canopy due to ageing trees to inform a planned removal and replanting program	Major
	3.2.1 Consider use of spatial mapping and citizen science programs to help identify areas with low species diversity and inform future plantings	Moderate
	3.3.1 Plan planting programs to achieve a best practice age profile of the urban forest by 2045	Major
	3.3.2 Ensure yearly maintenance programs involve adequate removal and replacement of end of life trees to develop a balanced age distribution	Major
<b>Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity</b>	4.1.1 Map remnant trees in the urban area	Minor
	4.1.2 Assess senescent and ageing native trees for retention as habitat preferentially to being removed	Minor
	4.1.3 Collaborate with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) to enhance and conserve biodiversity and eco-cultural values of urban areas (Nature Conservation Strategy – Strategy 4)	Minor
	4.1.4 Identify opportunities to protect young seedlings growing from mature remnant trees on unleased public land where it is appropriate	Major
	4.2.1 Implement strategic planting to support wildlife and enhance movement and foraging opportunities across the city and wider landscape	Major
	4.2.2 Collaborate with EPSDD to undertake fine scale planning for habitat connectivity (Nature Conservation Strategy - Action 1.2)	Moderate
	4.3.1 Develop an urban wood reuse plan for trees removed from public land	Minor
	4.3.2 Ensure by-product from maintenance of the urban forest is used to support tree health and biodiversity conservation including in habitat restoration programs and nature-based park features	Minor
<b>Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability</b>	5.1.1 Investigate and promote use of permeable infrastructure (e.g. shared and bike paths, paving and car parks) in target areas	Moderate
	5.1.2 Continue to promote positive community behaviour in relation to managing and protecting nature strips and other public areas	Minor
	5.2.1 Collaborate across ACT Government to increase tree numbers in priority areas (Action 11 of the Living Infrastructure Plan (LIP))	Major
	5.2.2 Focus public tree plantings to support summer shading along active travel routes (Action 12 of the LIP)	Major

Objective	Action	Contribution	
	5.2.3 Where possible, seek to widen road verges in areas where densification is occurring and along key active travel routes to accommodate additional tree planting	Moderate	
	5.2.4 Collaborate with EPSDD to amend planning regulations to ensure suitable protection of existing trees and the establishment of new trees when planning infrastructure in new suburbs and in urban densification areas	Major	
	5.2.5 Collaborate with EPSDD on the Planning review and TPA review to ensure consistent and appropriate decision making for protected trees	Major	
	5.2.6 Where appropriate, install and maintain rain gardens and swales for urban water run-off in tree and understorey planting areas in urban streetscape upgrades and new estate developments	Moderate	
	5.2.7 Review municipal design standards to include specifications on urban rain gardens and/or urban stormwater swales as planting locations on verges and other locations	Minor	
	<b>Partner with the community</b>	6.1.1 Expand and support community / volunteer programs to encompass a wider range of contributions to grow and maintain the urban forest	Minor
		6.1.2 Develop and make available to volunteers a citizen science data collection program	Minor
6.2.1 Investigate incentives for retention of trees on private land including through collaboration with planning authorities		Major	
6.3.1 Develop community education material to convey the benefits of trees		Minor	
6.3.2 Build indigenous engagement in caring for the urban forest		Minor	
6.3.3 Consider ways to educate young people and how they can contribute to the urban forest		Minor	



## 3.0 Contribution of different regions to Canberra's canopy cover

### 3.1 District canopy cover

The reasons for differing levels of canopy cover vary by district or region. Newer suburbs like Wright, Coombs and Throsby have very low levels of canopy cover as the trees in this area are still young. Failed juvenile trees are replaced as required, and any additional available planting sites are being populated to ensure the maximum canopy potential is establishing. Alternative location-specific solutions such as living infrastructure (green roofs for example) will also help to contribute in newer suburbs where planting sites are limited, particularly on leased land.

Older suburbs are more likely to have higher canopy cover because the blocks and road verges are larger and the trees more established. Canberra's urban forest was established over many decades and a significant number of trees will reach the end of their useful life expectancy (ULE) in the coming decades. Canopy cover in these areas may also be significantly affected by planning decisions that enable urban infill, resulting in a loss of mature trees on leased land.

To develop a best-practice age class distribution essential for future tree population stability it is necessary to:

- Replace trees as they are removed- this will prevent rapid canopy loss due to the time taken by new plantings to reach their potential canopy size;
- enact renewal (removal and replacement of end of life trees) in a staged process to prevent the loss of an entire street's canopy at one time; and
- explore opportunities to increase canopy in parks and open spaces to offset predicted reduction in canopy due removal of ageing street trees and impacts of removals for infill development.

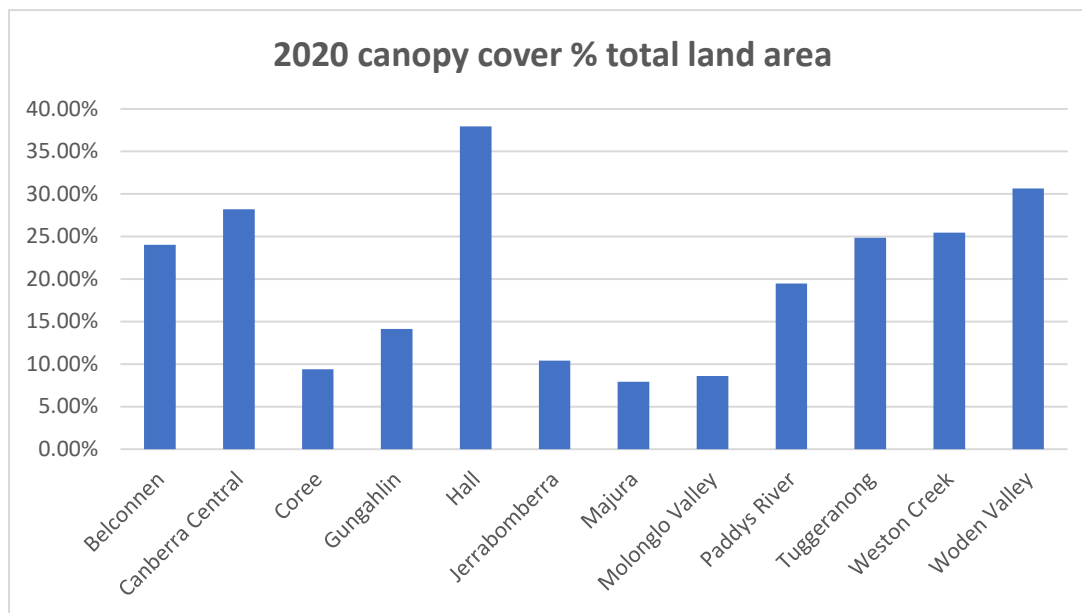
Tree canopy cover was measured in 2020 using the LiDAR remote sensing method. [Table 2](#) shows the percentage of canopy coverage across each district as measured in 2020.

The 2020 tree canopy cover estimates in [Figure 1](#) and [Table 2](#) are a reliable baseline for consideration of existing canopy cover in Canberra. The districts with the highest canopy cover are Hall Village (37.94%), Woden Valley (30.64%), Canberra Central (28.2%), Weston Creek (25.48%), Tuggeranong (24.88%) and Belconnen (24.04%). The districts with the lowest canopy cover are Majura (7.92%), Molonglo Valley (8.62%), and Coree (9.38%).

**Table 2 District canopy cover % of total land area in 2020**

District	2020 canopy cover % total land area
Belconnen	24.04%
Canberra Central	28.20%
Coree	9.38%
Gungahlin	14.13%
Hall	37.94%
Jerrabomberra	10.42%
Majura	7.92%
Molonglo Valley	8.62%
Paddys River	19.48%
Tuggeranong	24.88%
Weston Creek	25.48%
Woden Valley	30.64%
<b>Overall canopy cover</b>	<b>22.51%</b>

**Figure 1 2020 canopy cover % of total land area**



### 3.2 Plantings across districts

At the end of the 2021-2022 financial year, City Services was responsible for the management and maintenance of over 809,000 street and parkland trees in urban areas of Canberra. Tree planting in the ACT is prioritised in vacant street tree locations and in areas where residents have been identified as having an increased vulnerability to urban heat. The availability of tree stock also plays a role in selected street tree planting locations due to the need to maintain established species themes where appropriate.

Since the commencement of the expanded planting program in 2019-20, the focus has moved from responding to public planting requests to the provision of an equitable distribution of new trees across Canberra’s districts. Tree planting is allocated within each program on a district basis. In selecting planting sites within each district, consideration is given to maximising efficiency of ongoing care and watering during establishment. [Table 3](#) and [Table 4](#) shows the distribution of tree planting across Canberra during 2021-22.

As stated in section 3.1, it is anticipated that future plantings will increasingly focus on renewal of end-of-life trees as they are removed, rather than filling existing planting gaps. This will result in a shift in the allocation of future planting towards districts with the oldest age cohorts of trees.

**Table 3 Spring 2021 planting program**

Districts	# Trees
Belconnen	1677
Canberra Central	850
Gungahlin	760
Hall	2
Jerrabomberra	10
Majura	0
Molonglo Valley	76
Tuggeranong	981
Weston Creek	332
Woden Valley	443
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,131</b>

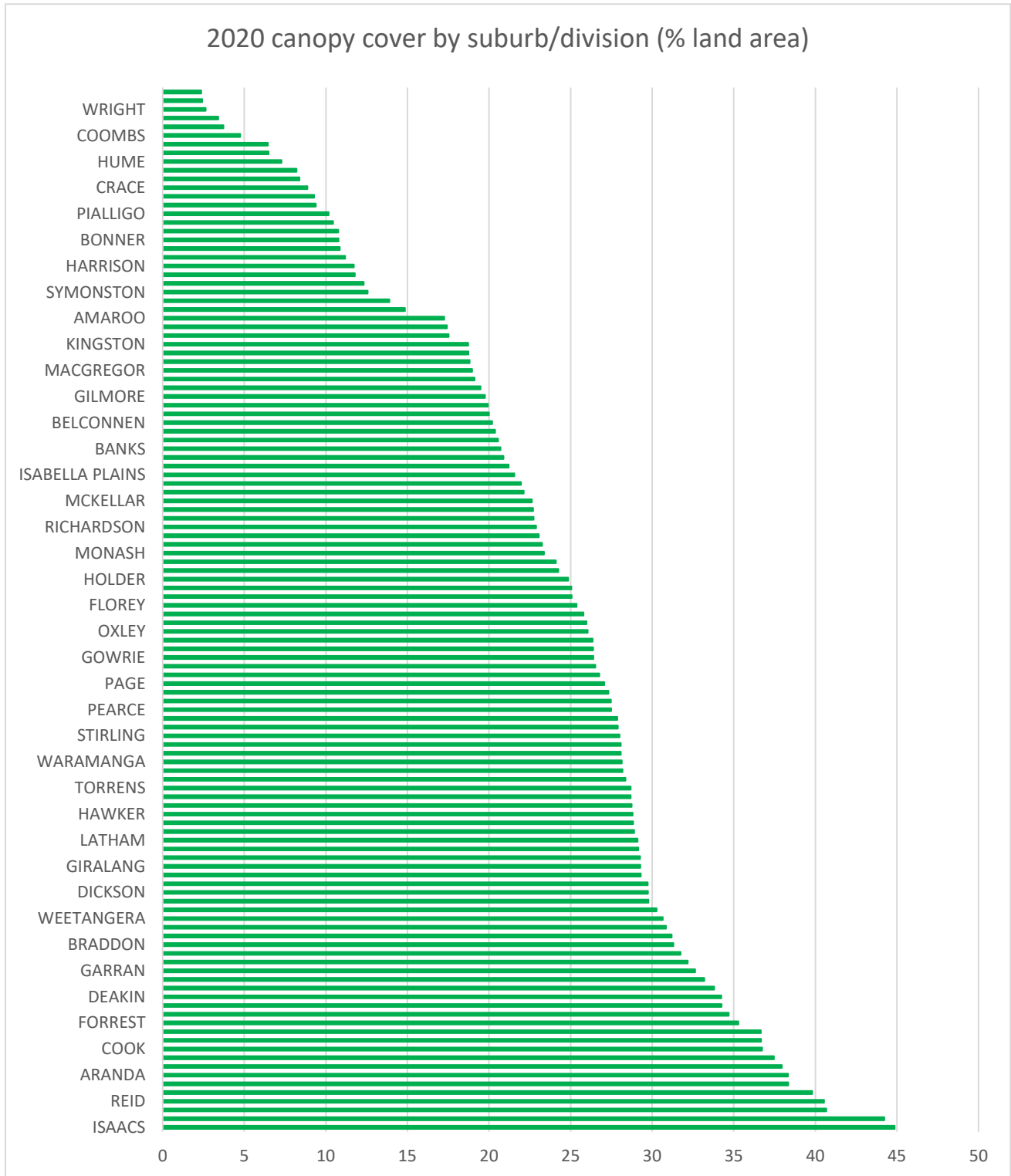
**Table 4 Autumn 2022 Planting Program**

Districts	# Trees
Belconnen	1204
Canberra Central	660
Gungahlin	958
Hall	0
Jerrabomberra	137
Majura	27
Molonglo Valley	121
Tuggeranong	814
Weston Creek	239
Woden Valley	719
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,879</b>

Please note that there is a minor discrepancy between the number of trees planted by region as shown in Table 3 and 4 and the total number of trees planted in 2021-22 due to the live nature of the planting data and the changes that have occurred since the end of financial year analysis was undertaken.



**Figure 3 2020 Tree canopy cover for each suburb/division in urban Canberra**



## 4.2 Identified suburbs affected by heat and vulnerability

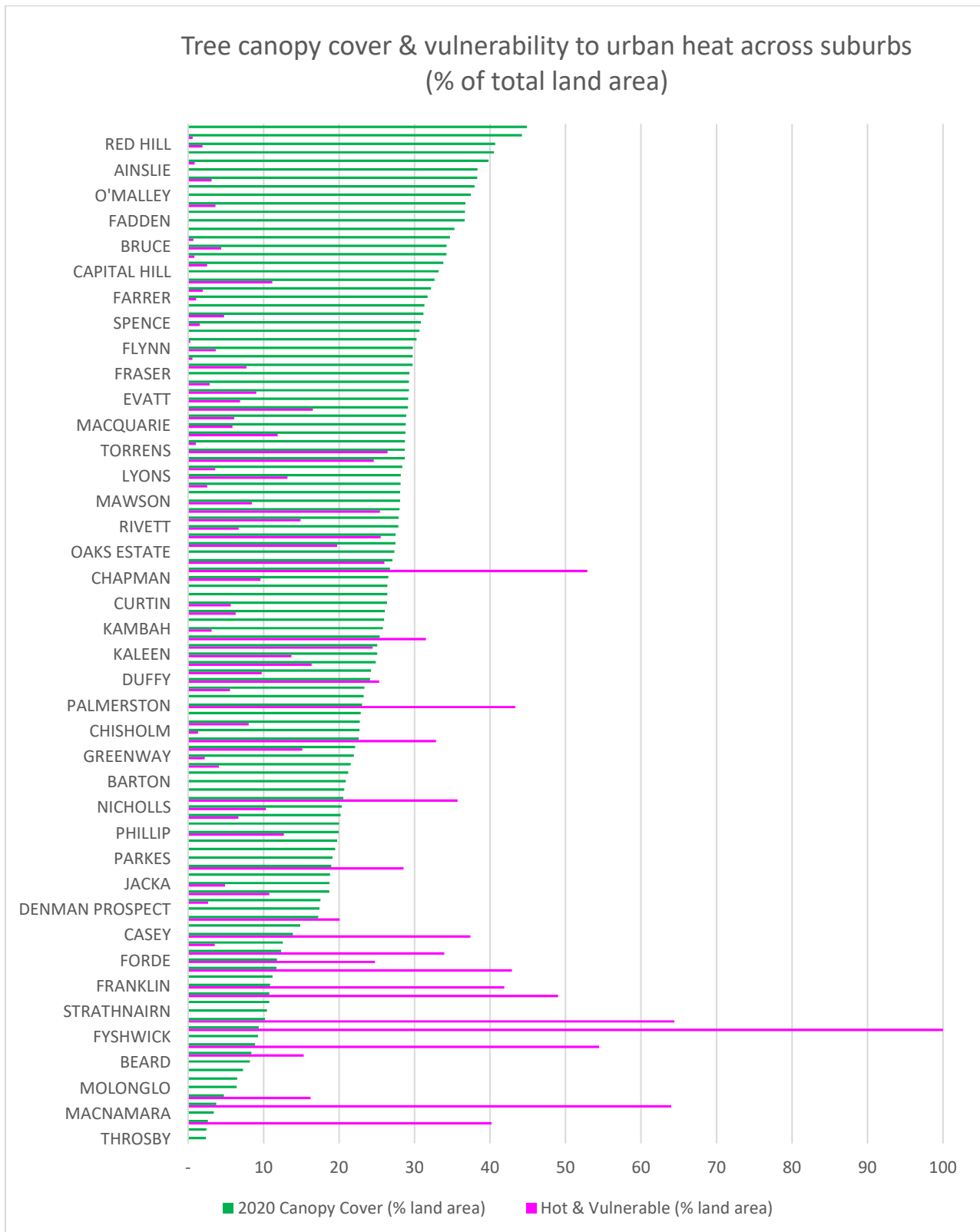
Suburbs where residents are more vulnerable to heat have been identified using surface temperature and socio-economic and age data. The Strategy contains detailed maps that show the areas where heat impacts are likely to be highest.

There is an inverse correlation between the 2020 tree canopy coverage across suburbs and vulnerability to urban heat shown in [Figure 4](#) and [Table 5](#) below. The suburbs with the highest canopy coverage, such as Isaacs, O'Connor, Red Hill and Reid are cooler and have a lower vulnerability to urban heat, while suburbs such as Uriarra Village, Pialligo, Canberra Airport and Wright have very low canopy cover and high vulnerability to urban heat.

While priority is given to planting in locations with greater vulnerability to urban heat during the planning of the seasonal planting programs, the planting statistics for these locations are impacted by the way the vulnerability mapping has been carried out. The heat vulnerability mapping relates primarily to residential zoned land and the mapping extends only to the road centreline. This often results in the capture of one side of the road verge but excludes the opposite verge where there are no residential zones, or where the socio-economic and age demographic of residents is considered less vulnerable. As a result, areas such as adjacent parks, active travel routes and connections to local shops, schools and other community facilities are not captured in the heat vulnerability maps. Despite this, priority is given to planting in all suitable locations in and adjacent to vulnerable areas.



**Figure 4 2020 Canopy cover and hot & vulnerability index**



**Table 5 2020 Canopy cover and vulnerability index**

District name	Suburb (Division)	2020 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Woden Valley	Isaacs	44.87	0
Canberra Central	O'Connor	44.23	0.62
Canberra Central	Red Hill	40.67	1.9
Canberra Central	Reid	40.53	0
Canberra Central	Hackett	39.81	0.87
Canberra Central	Ainslie	38.34	0
Belconnen	Aranda	38.32	3.12
Hall	Hall	37.94	0
Woden Valley	O'Malley	37.46	0
Belconnen	Cook	36.74	3.64
Canberra Central	Turner	36.68	0
Tuggeranong	Fadden	36.66	0
Canberra Central	Forrest	35.29	0
Canberra Central	Campbell	34.69	0.7
Belconnen	Bruce	34.25	4.38
Canberra Central	Deakin	34.24	0.82
Canberra Central	Downer	33.8	2.52
Canberra Central	Capital Hill	33.19	0
Woden Valley	Garran	32.63	11.17
Woden Valley	Hughes	32.18	1.93
Woden Valley	Farrer	31.74	1.06
Canberra Central	Braddon	31.3	0
Canberra Central	Griffith	31.19	4.77
Belconnen	Spence	30.85	1.55
Belconnen	Weetangera	30.65	0
Canberra Central	Yarralumla	30.27	0.29
Belconnen	Flynn	29.78	3.67
Canberra Central	Dickson	29.74	0.57
Belconnen	Melba	29.73	7.73
Belconnen	Fraser	29.31	0
Belconnen	Giralang	29.27	2.84
Canberra Central	Narrabundah	29.26	9.04
Belconnen	Evatt	29.15	6.88
Belconnen	Latham	29.11	16.52
Canberra Central	Watson	28.9	6.1
Belconnen	Macquarie	28.84	5.88
Belconnen	Hawker	28.81	11.87
Tuggeranong	Conder	28.74	1.03

District name	Suburb (Division)	2020 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Belconnen	Scullin	28.69	24.61
Woden Valley	Torrens	28.69	26.41
Belconnen	Charnwood	28.36	3.61
Woden Valley	Lyons	28.19	13.16
Weston Creek	Waramanga	28.14	2.53
Woden Valley	Mawson	28.08	8.46
Tuggeranong	Theodore	28.08	0
Weston Creek	Stirling	28.01	25.4
Weston Creek	Fisher	27.9	14.89
Weston Creek	Rivett	27.87	6.7
Woden Valley	Pearce	27.49	25.52
Woden Valley	Chifley	27.47	19.74
Jerrabomberra	Oaks Estate	27.32	0
Belconnen	Page	27.06	26.01
Belconnen	Higgins	26.76	52.89
Weston Creek	Chapman	26.52	9.6
Tuggeranong	Gowrie	26.4	0
Tuggeranong	Wanniassa	26.39	0
Woden Valley	Curtin	26.35	5.65
Tuggeranong	Oxley	26.05	6.3
Tuggeranong	Calwell	25.98	0
Tuggeranong	Kambah	25.8	3.12
Belconnen	Florey	25.37	31.51
Belconnen	Holt	25.06	24.44
Belconnen	Kaleen	25.05	13.7
Weston Creek	Holder	24.86	16.35
Tuggeranong	Bonython	24.25	9.75
Weston Creek	Duffy	24.1	25.33
Tuggeranong	Monash	23.37	5.57
Tuggeranong	Macarthur	23.25	0
Gungahlin	Palmerston	23.05	43.36
Tuggeranong	Richardson	22.89	0
Canberra Central	Lyneham	22.74	8.03
Tuggeranong	Chisholm	22.71	1.33
Belconnen	McKellar	22.63	32.82
Weston Creek	Weston	22.13	15.13
Tuggeranong	Greenway	21.96	2.19
Tuggeranong	Isabella Plains	21.55	4.08
Canberra Central	Russell	21.2	0
Canberra Central	Barton	20.89	0



District name	Suburb (Division)	2020 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Tuggeranong	Banks	20.7	0
Gungahlin	Ngunnawal	20.56	35.7
Gungahlin	Nicholls	20.38	10.31
Belconnen	Belconnen	20.2	6.66
Canberra Central	Acton	20	0
Woden Valley	Phillip	19.94	12.67
Tuggeranong	Gilmore	19.75	0
Paddys River	Tharwa	19.48	0
Canberra Central	Parkes	19.12	0
Belconnen	Macgregor	18.96	28.53
Tuggeranong	Gordon	18.82	0
Gungahlin	Jacka	18.74	4.91
Canberra Central	Kingston	18.72	10.76
Canberra Central	City	17.53	2.67
Molonglo Valley	Denman Prospect	17.42	0
Gungahlin	Amaroo	17.25	20.08
Gungahlin	Mitchell	14.85	0
Gungahlin	Casey	13.9	37.4
Jerrabomberra	Symonston	12.56	3.53
Belconnen	Dunlop	12.32	33.94
Gungahlin	Forde	11.77	24.76
Gungahlin	Harrison	11.71	42.9
Belconnen	Lawson	11.18	0
Gungahlin	Franklin	10.86	41.87
Gungahlin	Bonner	10.78	49.01
Gungahlin	Taylor	10.76	0
Belconnen	Strathnairn	10.44	0
Majura	Pialligo	10.18	64.42
Coree	Uriarra Village	9.38	99.99
Canberra Central	Fyshwick	9.28	0
Gungahlin	Crace	8.87	54.44
Gungahlin	Gungahlin	8.38	15.32
Jerrabomberra	Beard	8.2	0
Jerrabomberra	Hume	7.28	0
Gungahlin	Moncrieff	6.5	0
Molonglo Valley	Molonglo	6.45	0
Molonglo Valley	Coombs	4.75	16.22
Majura	Canberra Airport	3.72	64
Belconnen	Macnamara	3.41	0
Molonglo Valley	Wright	2.63	40.2

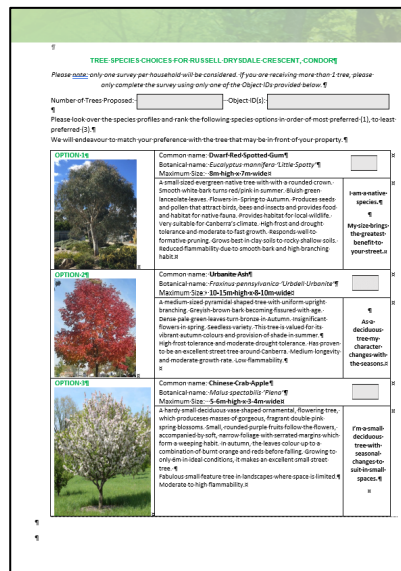
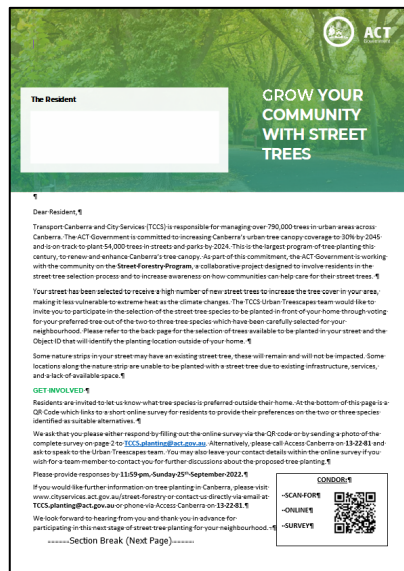
District name	Suburb (Division)	2020 canopy cover (% land area)	Hot & vulnerable (% land area)
Molonglo Valley	Whitlam	2.43	0
Gungahlin	Throsby	2.37	0

### 4.3 Street tree planting

Vacant street tree planting sites were identified in a Canberra-wide audit through the Jobs for Canberra’s program in 2020-21. 10,000 new trees were funded to be planted in the 2021-2022 program with priority given to planting in the vacant street tree sites located in areas with low canopy cover and an increased vulnerability to urban heat. Planting was also prioritised along active travel routes within suburbs with lower canopy cover.

Routine consultation with residents about proposed street tree plantings has revealed a significant rate of refusal from residents in suburbs with low canopy cover and increased areas of vulnerability to urban heat. Proposed plantings that are not supported by the adjacent resident are not progressed and this decreases the number of trees that can be planted in areas with the greatest need. To address this, a higher level of engagement is being undertaken in such areas, including offering residents a choice of two to three different street tree species. This is expected to result in more street trees being planted but will also present a departure from the consistent, themed streetscapes found in many parts of Canberra.

In preparation for the spring 2022 planting program, residents from more than 170 homes in four suburbs (Fraser, Florey, Conder and Holder) were sent a letter outlining the benefits of street trees and invited to select their preferred new street tree species from a selection of three pre-selected species. Street tree options were selected to align with the existing streetscape character and to offer an option of an exotic and native tree, as well as a larger or smaller tree, and residents were able to vote online via a survey form or to respond via email or by calling Access Canberra.



## 5.0 Annual progress update on initiatives

### 5.1 Planting

City Services continues to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy Target of a 30 per cent tree canopy cover in the ACT by the year 2045. In 2021-22, a total of 10,013 street trees and trees in open space were planted as part of the TCCS tree planting program exceeding our goal of 10,000. This included planting 5,808 trees in street verges and laneways and 4,205 trees in parks and urban open space.

The year also saw 7,986 young trees planted as part of the development of new suburbs which were handed over to TCCS for ongoing management. This brings the total number of trees planted on unleased land to 17,999.

There was a particular focus on planting in residential areas with low canopy cover and areas vulnerable to urban heat, with 1,283 trees planted in residential neighbourhoods identified as having high heat exposure and high vulnerability to heat as a population. This figure excludes a significant number of trees planted adjacent to the mapped vulnerable areas that provide cooling benefits and sheltered passages connecting residences to community services.

Over 750 public suggestions for tree planting locations were received through the YourSay interactive map in 2021-22 and 1,807 trees were planted on suitable sites. Since the YourSay interactive map was launched in 2020, a total of 3,819 tree planting location requests have been received and 2,446 trees have been planted in response to YourSay requests.

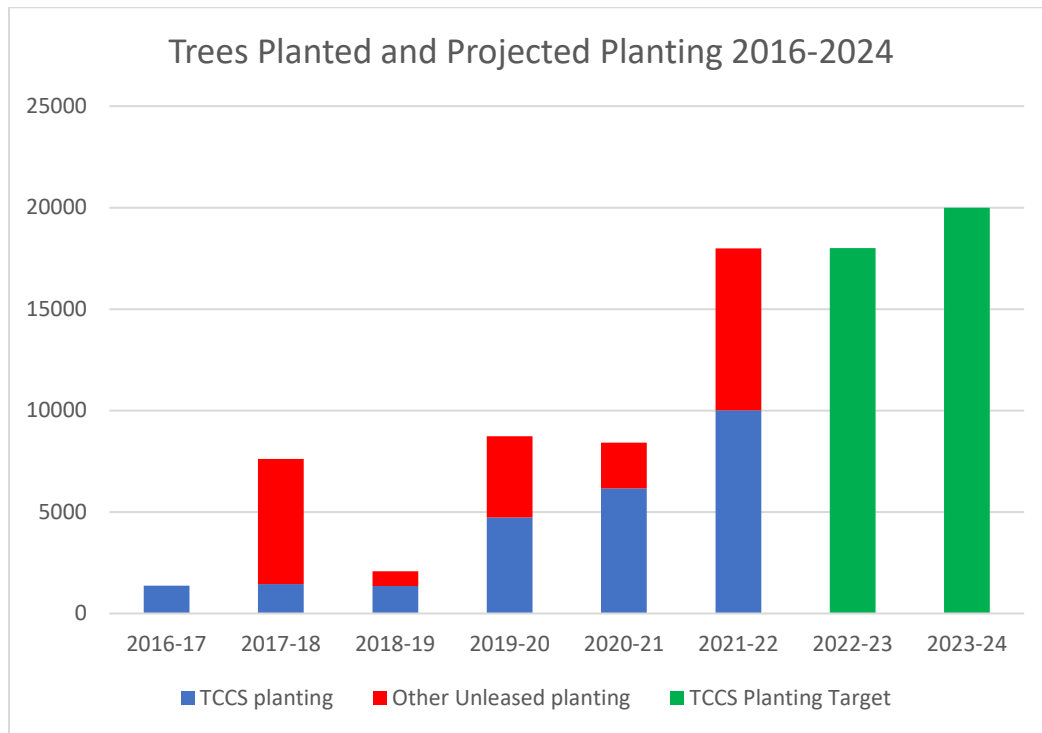
In addition, 1,012 trees were planted in response to Ministerial requests and others received through the Fix My Street online form.

More than 28,779 young trees were watered throughout the warmer months from October 2021 to April 2022.

Recent and projected plantings are shown in [Figure 5](#), including planting on unleased land undertaken by other agencies, with the predicted annual planting numbers required to achieve 30% canopy cover by 2045 reached in 2023-24. This is based on modelling undertaken by the CSIRO in 2019 described in the Urban Forest Strategy. The progressive increase in planting numbers provides the necessary time to plan and develop propagation programs with Yarralumla Nursery to ensure ongoing stock supply.



**Figure 5 Trees planted from 2016-17 and projected to 2023-24**



## 5.2 Updated LiDAR information

The monitoring of TCC to achieve the 30% canopy cover by 2045 target is being carried out through a Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of LiDAR imagery.

Analysis of TCC was undertaken in 2015 and 2020 however the two datasets are not directly comparable because the 2015 dataset has been shown to be less reliable than recent data. The accuracy of the 2015 analysis is compromised by a low LiDAR point density per m<sup>2</sup> (compared to 2020 LiDAR data), a misclassification of non-vegetative structures and the time of year the 2015 measurements were taken (being captured in late May when many deciduous trees had begun to lose leaves).

Using methodologies developed in-house by ACT Government staff, the TCC for 2020 is estimated to be 22.5% of Canberra’s urban footprint. There is substantially higher confidence in the 2020 data as a baseline estimate of TCC and moving forward, the result from the 2020 LiDAR data should be referred to and used instead of any of the previous 2015 estimates.

The 2020 estimates will now provide a baseline from which to measure tree canopy cover into the future towards the 2045 target. These estimates will also enable identification of areas where tree canopy cover is low and prioritisation of planting in these areas to ensure equitable tree canopy cover across Canberra.

A summary of progress against all Strategy actions is at [Appendix A](#).

### 5.3 Urban Forest Bill 2022

Following an extensive review of the *Tree Protection Act 2005* and introduction of the ACT Urban Forest Strategy, the ACT Government is introducing new legislation to further strengthen and improve how we manage trees. The proposed new *Urban Forest Bill 2022* will repeal and replace the *Tree Protection Act 2005* to improve tree protection on both public and private land and encourage shared care of trees by the ACT Government, industry and the community. The *Urban Forest Bill 2022* has a proposed commencement date of 1 July 2023, subject to it being passed by the Legislative Assembly.

The Bill provides a significant step forward in environmental management and climate change adaptation in the ACT and supports the 30% canopy cover target under the ACT Climate Change Plan and Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan.

The community and stakeholders were invited to provide submissions on the Draft Urban Forest Bill from 21 April 2022 to 2 June 2022. During this time 40 individuals and 26 groups had their say on the draft Bill via 66 written submissions. Four industry workshops were held during this period with representative from the building and construction industry, arborists and conservation organisations. Community and industry feedback received during the review *Tree Protection Act 2005* was used in the development the Draft Urban Forest Bill.

### 5.4 Water Sensitive Urban Design

#### Tree surround repair

City Presentation has begun replacing degraded tree surround surfaces with a flexible porous pavement product (Root Pave™). Such products utilise coarse materials and binding agents to maintain porosity while providing a level surface that is suitable for pedestrian traffic. The function of the tree surround is to allow water, nutrients and oxygen to penetrate into the root system in order to maintain tree health. Effective tree surround materials are porous, resistant to water and wind erosion, do not degrade, crack or break up and are resistant to compaction.

A total of 225m<sup>2</sup> of flexible porous paving was repaired and/or installed around trees in locations across urban public space in Canberra in 2021-22. In many cases, the size of the original tree pits was enlarged by removing impervious paved surfaces and replacing with porous pavement. This work addresses trip hazards while improving growing conditions for trees, whilst also reducing surface runoff into stormwater drains.

Work to repair tree surrounds and address trip hazards has been undertaken in the following areas during 2022:

- Belconnen Bus Interchange
- Manuka Shops
- Monash Footpaths
- Palmerston - Nursery Lane and Potters Lane
- Tuggeranong Bus Interchange
- Glebe Park
- Amaroo Shops



**Amaroo Shops** – Root Pave product finished level with surrounding concrete pavement. Root Pave product has a high porosity rate, is flexible and trafficable.



**Tuggeranong Bus Interchange** - New Root Pave product has been contoured over existing structural tree roots and trip hazards have been eliminated.

### Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Projects

TCCS provided advice to protect existing trees and guide new tree planting across a number of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) projects to help promote the health of urban forest, support urban biodiversity and build liveability. This includes the review and input on over ten ACT Healthy Waterways projects across north and south Canberra to capture and remediate stormwater to improve long term water quality in the ACT.

As part of the Healthy Waterways Project, TCCS has been working on numerous sites across Tuggeranong which aim to manage waterflows in major storm events and assist in the reduction of Nitrogen and Phosphorus flowing into Lake Tuggeranong, e.g.:

- Treatment Trains (detain and release basins) which are being incorporated into open space in Fadden, Kambah, Isabella Plains and Wanniasa.
- Naturalisation of Tuggeranong Creek (the channel) at Calwell Playing fields and Tuggeranong Homestead, Richardson
- Kerb flow adjustments across Kambah
- Installation of swales at the back of Kambah Playing Fields No.2.

Construction was completed on the Jamison WSUD tree pit trial designed to monitor the benefits of providing improved growing conditions to shade trees in car parks. Monitoring of storm water quality as it exits the tree pit is underway and the differences in microclimate and tree growth between the trial site and control locations will be captured from mid-spring 2022 to provide data on the value of investing in best practice planting conditions in paved urban environments that tend to be unfavourable for tree health and growth.

## 5.5 Tree City of the World

Canberra has been officially named an 'International Tree City of the World' by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Canberra was granted membership in April 2022 after the ACT Government demonstrated that the city was meeting core standards for caring for trees and the urban forest.

The Canberra community's shared commitment to maintaining our extensive tree canopy has been recognised by our acceptance into the Tree Cities of the World network, which celebrates global leadership in urban forestry.

The Tree Cities of the World program is a network of 138 cities in 21 countries which are dedicated to sharing successful approaches to managing greener, preserving our trees and creating successful policies and initiatives that celebrate the benefits trees provide.



To celebrate the significant achievement, TCCS planted 6 trees in Eddison Park during Tree Week 2022, with one species from each of the six tree'd continents:

**Australia** – *Brachychiton populneus*

**Asia** – *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Yarralumla Clone'

**Europe** -*Quercus robur*

**Africa** - *Podocarpus henkelii*

**South America** – *Podocarpus salignus*

**North America** – *Acer x freemanii* 'Jeffersred' Autumn Blaze

## 6.0 Support for community led contributions towards targets

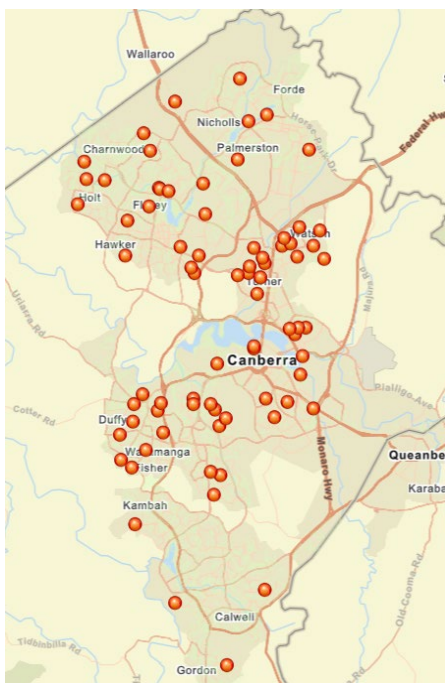
The Strategy identified the need to partner with the community to grow and maintain the urban forest and recognised the important role that community and volunteer groups have in growing and maintaining our urban forest.

TCCS has continued to support community groups from across all five primary regions in Canberra to enhance the urban forest. [Figure 6](#) shows the locations of registered community groups and [Figure 7](#) displays the locations of community tree planting events in spring 2021, autumn 2022.

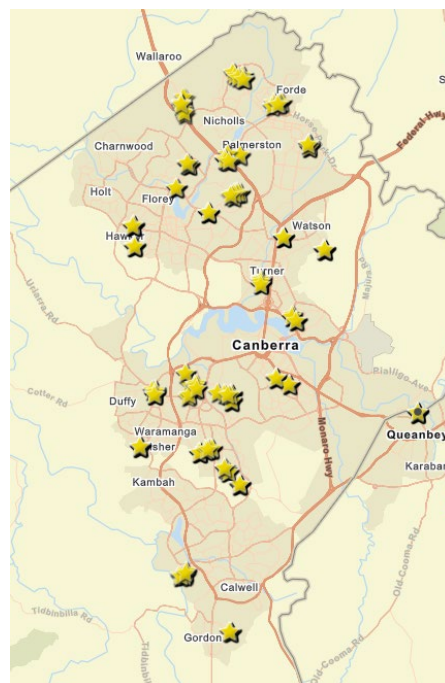
Urban Parks and Places volunteers make improvements to local urban open space areas and are involved in the following activities:

- weed control and removal programs
- horticultural maintenance
- litter collection
- monitoring and reporting issues
- park restoration projects
- minor tree maintenance activities
- habitat restoration
- planting and maintaining plants
- community education and social events
- citizen science
- training and workshops
- conservation projects.

**Figure 6 Registered community groups**



**Figure 7 Community tree planting events 2021-2022**



Additionally, TCCS has provided support to community groups who are working to achieve environmental outcomes by providing specialised tree knowledge. Outcomes have included providing improved habitat and breeding sites for iconic local and vulnerable bird species including Superb Parrots and Gang-gang cockatoos and restoring and revegetating urban waterways.

TCCS has collaborated with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate since 2019-20 to deliver the ACT Environment and Nature in the City Grants.

### 6.1 Urban Parks and Places volunteering

The Urban Parks and Places volunteering is a community partnership between the local community and the ACT Government through TCCS. The program allows the community to get involved in a hands-on way to contribute to the conservation, presentation and maintenance of Canberra's many public urban open space areas. TCCS works with the three ACT Catchment Groups (Ginninderra, Southern and Molonglo) to support over 75 volunteer groups that undertake works on TCCS-managed land.

Support for volunteer tree management groups continued in 2021-22, with 41 groups involved in tree planting activities resulting in 964 trees planted across all districts of Canberra to enhance the urban forest. These groups also undertook species selection and planting design, data collection for mapping, young tree maintenance, formative pruning, and habitat restoration weed management, adding value to the regular maintenance activities of registered urban landcare volunteer groups currently supported by City Services.



A significant tree planting event was held with Weston Valley Archery Club in Holder to provide screening and change behaviour of users of this space and prevent unintended access to archery activities. Over sixty exotic and native trees were planted to improve canopy cover and increase amenity of this space for club members and the wider public.

The community planting program has also contributed to growing a resilient urban forest by engaging with several school groups to educate, plant trees, and increase biodiversity. Students, teachers and parents from Sacred Heart Primary School and Evatt Primary School planted 100 trees and have committed to participating in an ongoing program to educate students about the importance of trees and how to care for them.

## 6.2 In-house planting team to support community groups

The City Services In-house planting team planted 2,241 trees in 2021-22 and supported the planting of 964 trees in parks and other open spaces in partnership with community volunteer groups.



This team also undertook planting and maintenance of young trees (formative pruning, watering, repair and weeding of mulched watering basins), significant tree care (weeding and mulching beneath remnant native trees and significant mature trees), transplanting of trees planted in inappropriate locations and to facilitate road upgrades, and preparation of future planting sites through weeding and mulching.

## 6.3 Adopt-a-Park program

The Adopt-a-Park program is a grants program for community groups to support their work in caring for local parks and open spaces. It supports existing volunteer groups and encourages the establishment of new ones. Projects funded under the grant in the past include ecological restoration projects, local garden projects, revegetation projects to increase shade and canopy cover and educational and training workshops to give the volunteers the skills they need to undertake this work. Volunteers are supported by an ACT Government place coordinator and is a great way to enhance our open spaces, foster community engagement and ownership and to bring people together into the outdoors.

The intended outcomes of the Adopt-a-Park program are to:

- Foster environmental resilience in neighbourhood public spaces through community stewardship;
- increase community use of Canberra's urban parks and places and instil further pride in neighbourhood public spaces;
- create and promote opportunities for existing dynamic volunteering groups to support and care for urban parks and places in the ACT; and
- recognise and enhance the efforts of existing volunteer groups already actively caring for Canberra's urban parks and places.

With funding provided in the 2021-22 ACT Budget, the Adopt-a-Park program will continue over the next 3 years. This year's program will provide support and funding to 21 projects (Table 6).

**Table 6 2021-22 Adopt a Park Grants**

Applicant	Successful Group	Project Title
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Coleman Farm Neighbourhood Park Volunteer Group	Erosion Mitigation and Park Maintenance
Ginninderra Catchment Group (Moncrieff Litter Group)	Moncrieff Litter Collection Group	Moncrieff Reserve Beautification
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Kuringa Woodlands Landcare Group	Kuringa Woodlands
Griffith Narrabundah Community Association	Bass Gardens Park	Bass Gardens Park Interpretive Signs
Woden Valley Community Council	Tree-mendous Hughes Group	Bird and Buddy Bliss in Hughes - growing habitat for gang gangs and superb parrots in the Hughes Urban Open Space
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Hughes Garran Woodland Volunteer Group	Hughes Garran Woodland Restoration
Molonglo Conservation Group Incorporated	Campbell Park	Campbell Park Care
Bragg Street Park Volunteers Group, Hackett	Bragg St Park Volunteers Group, Hackett	Purchase, planting and maintenance of plants in Bragg Street Park, Hackett
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Hughes Grassy Woodland group	Hughes Grassy Woodland Biodiversity
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Holder Wetlands Volunteer Group	Storyboards to engage community in the Holder Wetlands
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Weston Creek Orchard Volunteer Group	Improving Safe Access to Weston Creek Orchard
Southern ACT Catchment Group	Griffith Woodland Volunteer Group	Mowing Strip Management in Griffith Woodland
Downer Community Association	Berry street park volunteers	Berry Street Park - long term revitalisation strategy
Molonglo Conservation Group	Friends of Honeysett Pond	Honeysett Pond Western End
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Hawker Landcare Group	Ambalindum playground interactive landscaping
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Friends of Harrison Wetlands	Harrison Wetlands
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Croke Place Lions Landcare Group	Visitor Resources at Croke Place Wetlands
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Jaramlee/ Dunlop Landcare Group	Jaramlee Woody Weed Reuse
Scullin Community Group	Scullin Community Group	Revitalising Scullin's Green Spaces

Applicant	Successful Group	Project Title
Hackett Community Association for Gilruth Park Supporters	Gilruth Park, Hackett	Gilruth Park, Hackett - further habitat enhancement
Capital Region Community Services	Holt Micro-Forest Community group	Holt Micro-Forest Improvements



Coleman Farm Neighbourhood Park Volunteer Group project objectives included native plantings, rocks for habitat and erosion control and path improvements.

#### 6.4 Citizen Science

A community program is being developed to collect missing data about the trees in our ageing urban forest to improve future program and management decisions. This Citizen Science Project will train volunteers to collect and record information about the tree genus, species, age and health of trees. A pilot project with 3 groups (Table 7) is being developed now that COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

**Table 7 Citizen Science Pilot Projects**

Citizen Science Pilot Project	
Trial location	Groups involved
Telopea Park	Kingston and Barton Residents Group Narrabundah College ANU – Forestry students
Fetherston Gardens, Weston	Friends of Fetherston Gardens
Yarralumla	Yarralumla Residents Association

#### 6.5 Tree Week 2022

TCCS organised and facilitated Canberra Tree Week 2022 from 29 April to 8 May. The successful event included 38 diverse and engaging activities such as online tree themed activities for scouts, guided walks, talks, exhibitions and music workshops. Events were hosted by 15 organisations and individuals across Canberra, in neighbouring regional NSW and online.

Organisations that hosted events included:

- ACT Libraries
- National Arboretum, Canberra
- Government House
- Scouts ACT - Environment
- Friends of ACT Trees
- Sarah St Vincent Welsh (Kindred Trees)
- Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre
- Australian National Botanic Gardens
- City Renewal Authority Haig Park CBR
- The Tree Project
- Tracey Benson
- Braidwood Garden Club
- Urban Treescapes, Transport Canberra and City Services
- Yarralumla Nursery (event cancelled)
- Friends of Telopea Park (event cancelled due to wet weather)

As part of Canberra Tree Week 2022, TCCS and the Australian National Botanic Gardens held an art competition for children (aged 5-12 years). The art competition asked children to illustrate their connect with trees and over 100 entries were received. The artworks chosen as the top 20 finalists had their work printed on corflute for display throughout the botanic gardens during Tree Week.



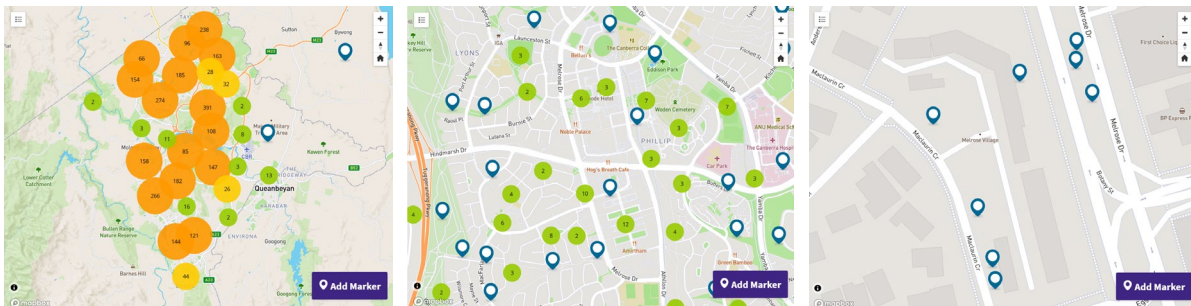
## 6.6 Your Say planting map

The community were also able to suggest planting locations via YourSay on the interactive map (Figure 8) and there have been over 4,300 planting locations recommended by the community since the map launched in 2019.

These suggestions have been utilised to guide the planting locations of 2,446 trees in recent programs. Over 750 public suggestions for tree planting locations were received through the YourSay interactive map in 2021-22 and 1,807 trees planted in suitable sites.

<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/trees-act/tree-planting-across-cbr>

**Figure 8 Your Say planting map**



## 6.7 Grants

Since 2019-20, TCCS has collaborated with EPSDD to deliver the ACT Environment and Nature in the City Grants. The program has been funded annually by the ACT Government since 1997.

With three funding streams available, the 2022-2023 ACT Environmental Grants Program funded community projects to a value of \$480,000:

- \$280,000 of funding made available for the Environment Grants, to support community projects that assist with the delivery of the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23.
- \$150,000 of funding made available for the Nature in the City Grants, to enhance and improve the liveability of our urban open spaces.
- \$50,000 of funding made available for the new Environmental Volunteer Group Assistance Grants, to support environmental volunteer groups in improving their capabilities and capacity to engage in environmental stewardship.

Applications for the 2022-2023 ACT Environmental Grants Program Round closed on 18 April 2022 with 45 applications received across the 3 streams to a total value of \$816,129.

### *2022-2023 ACT Environment Grants*

In the 2022-2023 round, 18 projects to the value of \$353,960 were successful (Table 8) and will contribute to the improvement of the ACT's ecosystem health and conservation outcomes.

Project activities included site rehabilitation and revegetation, care and rehabilitation of native wildlife, and support for on-ground citizen science projects. The successful project proponents and projects were:

**Table 8 2022-23 ACT Environment Grant recipients**

Project	Recipient	Funding amount
Treasuring The Bidgee.	Mr Andrew Geikie	\$14,520
Turtles in the sanctuary	Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$25,850
Tracking the movement behaviours and spatial ecology of brown snakes on the urban fringe	Ginninderry Conservation Trust	\$35,000
Blue-Devil and Native Sunray Grassland Rehabilitation	Umbagog Landcare Group and Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$24,445
Protecting Rosenberg's Goanna: a citizen science project	National Parks Association of the ACT Inc	\$34,820
Community Led Bushfire Recovery	Southern ACT Catchment Group	\$31,900
Following Weston, Considering Country: A multi-disciplinary walks, talks, exhibition, symposium and publication project connecting communities with Weston Creek	Dr Kirsten Wehner and Southern ACT Catchment Group	\$29,810
Ian Loiterton South Aranda Woodland Walk	Friends of Aranda Bushland Inc	\$10,326
Ngunnawal Welcome Feature at the National Rock Garden	National Rock Garden Trust	\$13,500
Rewilding A Peri Urban Park and Surrounding Gardens to Save Hollow Bearing Trees.	Molonglo Conservation Group	\$11,000
Baseline Orchid Survey of Bluetts Block-Piney Ridge	Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.	\$1,740
Fotpin Interpretive Signage	Friends of the Pinnacle and Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$17,103
Bringing the bandicoot back: phase one of reintroducing an ecosystem engineer	Woodlands and Wetlands Trust	\$31,980
Revegetating native ground cover	Friends of the Pinnacle and Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$1,841
Restoration of Gibbs Place Grasslands, Kambah	Southern ACT Catchment Group	\$7,830
Grassland Restoration of Bill Kennedy Memorial Park	Holder Landcare Group and Southern ACT Catchment Group	\$9,570

Project	Recipient	Funding amount
Interpreting Ngunawal Country	Southern ACT Catchment Group	\$33,100
Dryandra woodland (O'Connor) restoration stage 3	Friends of Dryandra Woodlands and Molonglo Conservation Group	\$19,624
	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$353,960</b>

### *2022-2023 ACT Nature in the City Grants*

In the 2022-2023 round, nine projects to the value of \$121,266 were successful (Table 9) and will contribute to the improvement of the ACT's urban open spaces liveability, ecosystem health and conservation outcomes.

**Table 9 2022-2023 ACT Nature in the City Grant recipients**

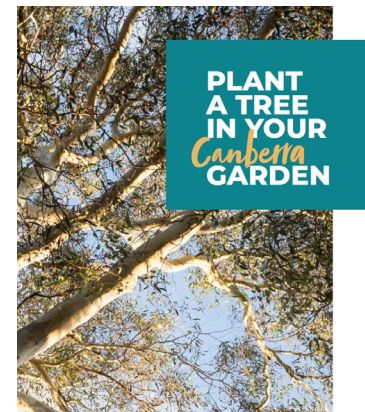
Project	Recipient	Funding amount
UP1751 Urban Revegetation and Habitat Project	UP1751 Owners Corporation	\$14,444
Rewilding Allan Gillies Park and Surrounding Gardens in Curtin to Reduce Urban Heat and Reconnect a Wildlife Corridor	Molonglo Conservation Group	\$11,000
Urban Revegetation in Gungahlin	Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$15,000
Macquarie Native Restoration: Returning to Nature to Escape the Heat	Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$11,000
Many Hands Make Light Work	Oaks Estate Residents Association	\$3,900
Macquarie Microforest Mulangari (Ngunawal for alive)	Macquarie Primary School P&C Association	\$28,500
Blue Gum Point woodland restoration, Yarralumla (year 3)	Friends of Grasslands	\$22,627
Bird and Buddy Bliss in Hughes- helping protect gang gangs, superb parrots and other native wildlife in Hughes Urban Open Space	Tree-mendous Hughes Group and Woden Valley Community Council	\$6,700
Greening Calwell High School	Calwell P&C Association	\$8,095
	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$121,266</b>

**Table 10 2022-2023 Environmental Volunteer Assistance Grants**

Project	Recipient	Funding amount
Landcarer training for pest plant management	Southern ACT Catchment Group	\$5,000
Frogs in your Pocket - a pocket guide illustrating and explaining ACT frogs	Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$5,000
Friends of Harrison Wetlands	Friends of Harrison Wetlands and Ginninderra Catchment Group	\$5,000
New members- new website: upgrading the NPA website and social media	National Parks Association of the ACT Inc	\$5,000
Capital Scraps Carbon squad	Capital Scraps Composting	\$5,000
	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

### 6.8 Community education publications

In 2021, TCCS contributed to a guide to tree selection for Canberra gardens produced by the Suburban Land Authority (SLA). *Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden* is a practical guide to choosing the right tree for residential gardens based on individual house design and local conditions. When selected carefully and placed in the right spot, trees can create shade and privacy in your garden, provide habitat for birds and bees, block winds and grow fruit that you can harvest for years to come. The trees recommended in the guide are suggestions based on Canberra's unique climate and soil conditions, including their frost tolerance. There are also useful resources included in this guide for further reading about choosing the right tree for your garden.



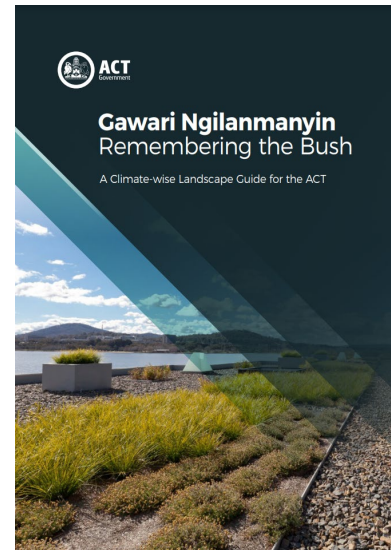
ACT Suburban Land Authority

The Suburban Land Agency has also worked with local landscape architect Edwina Robinson to design beautiful gardens that residents can use as inspiration for their own homes in the *Climate Wise Garden Designs* booklet.



*Gawari Ngilanmanyin—Remembering the Bush: A Climate-wise Landscape Guide for the ACT*, is an outcome of Canberra’s Living Infrastructure Plan released on the Climate Choices website in 2022, which provides extensive advice on integrating tree canopy cover in the planning, design and delivery of diverse open space and landscape types.

It is intended for use by the community and built environment professionals to assist in the planning and design of healthy, climate resilient and bio-diverse gardens and public lands.



## 7.0 Provision for habitat and resources for wildlife (flora and fauna)

### 7.1 Policy

The provision of habitat and resources for wildlife including threatened species and ecosystems, mature native trees and culturally significant trees is addressed in the Strategy. The loss of mature native trees (including hollow-bearing trees) and a lack of recruitment was added to the List of Key Threatening Processes under section 87 of the [Nature Conservation Act 2014](#) (NC Act) in September 2018 (*Notifiable Instrument—Nature Conservation Key Threatening Processes List 2018 (No 1) NI2018-538*). The associated Conservation Advice is Notifiable Instrument NI2018–536.

While the ACT has a significant proportion of its land in reserves, there remains an imperative to protect existing trees and enhance recruitment in the urban environment. TCCS has supported EPSDD in the development of The Loss of Mature Native Trees Key Threatening Process Draft Action Plan, which outlines a series of actions to protect and conserve and extend the standing life of mature native trees, particularly through hollow development and beyond. Actions also include increasing the ecological importance within the Tree Protection Act. Consultation on the draft report closed on 27 May 2022, with a Listening Report released on 28 September 2022. The final action plan is due for release in November 2022.

### 7.2 Planting and natural recruitment

The 2021-22 ACT Budget provides for an increased urban tree planting target of 54,000 trees by 2024. Over 10,000 trees were planted in vacant street, park and open space locations in 2021-22. While vacant street tree gaps have been prioritised for planting, over 4,200 were also planted in urban open space which is progressively being mapped for planting opportunities.

Species will be selected for their suitability in an increasingly hotter and drier climate and with an aim of increasing the diversity of Canberra’s urban forest.

TCCS is collaborating with EPSDD and other organisations to ensure that species diversity is optimised for habitat and connectivity, particularly on main and arterial roads and connecting urban open space.

This year TCCS has worked with several Landcare and resident groups including the Lawson Landcare Group, Hughes Garran Woodland group and Tree-mendous Hughes group to plant species that provide habitat, nesting sites and food for local wildlife. Specialised tree knowledge was provided to groups working to achieve environmental outcomes included providing improved habitat and breeding sites for iconic local and vulnerable bird species including small birds, Superb Parrots, and Gang-gang cockatoos. Through this program City Presentation has also worked with groups to install wildlife boxes in trees on public land.

Two community events focused on improving water management outcomes through water sensitive urban design measures. Planting was undertaken at Bragg Street Park in Hackett to build on bioswales installed to manage stormwater, increase infiltration, and increase biodiversity through a Nature in the City grant. Forty trees were planted across the park to increase tree cover, provide succession planting, and utilise the improved soil moisture created by the swales.



Cooleman Farm Nature Park, an open space area in Chapman with problematic drainage issues, was improved by the community with support of a Nature in the City grant. As part of the design large boulders were placed to slow down water while water loving tree species were planted to soak up excess water.

Other actions include:

- 'Tree Selector' online tool to help inform the community of appropriate tree species selection is under development.
- Community engagement to increase active care of trees adjacent to residences and businesses incl. factsheet, social media posts and City Services website.
- GPS fitted to mowers to enable alarms for no-mow areas to prevent accidental impacts on naturally recruited trees.

### 7.3 Sustainable Urban Green Space

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) is currently involved in grassy box woodland restoration projects in collaboration with community and catchment groups and the Sustainable Urban Green Space project with ACT Natural Resource Management.

Twelve urban open spaces in the Belconnen/Gungahlin areas (Table 11) have been identified as suitable for an urban green space 'refresh' strategy. This alternative management approach will trial the establishment of native 'garden-bed' style enhancement work, including mulching, placement of logs and boulders and understory planting, using remnant mature trees as focal points.



It aims to increase the health and retention of remnant trees, as well as increasing biodiversity and social values at these sites, and thereby also reducing long-term maintenance costs. Lessons learned from this project will feed into the Connecting Nature Connecting People Budget initiative.

**Table 11 Sustainable Urban Green Space sites**

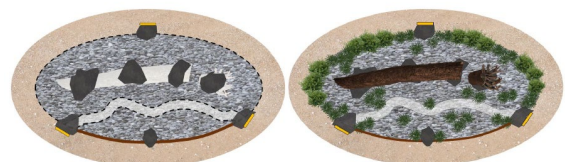
Site name	Division	Suburb	Location
Mullion Park	Gungahlin	Harrison	Mullion Park, Harrison
Durong St Neighbourhood Park	Gungahlin	Crace	Durong Street, Crace
Frances Burke St Pedestrian Parkland	Gungahlin	Gungahlin	Frances Burke St and Helen Turner St, Gungahlin (near Yerrabi Pond)
Tea Gardens Neighbourhood Park	Gungahlin	Gungahlin	Tea Gardens Ct
Proud Street	Gungahlin	Forde	Proud Street and Hibberd Cres
Umbagai Street	Gungahlin	Bonner	Umbagai St and Bieundurry St
Lycos Street Pedestrian Parkland	Belconnen	Bruce	Kinlock Cirt and Lycos St
Murranji Street	Belconnen	Hawker	Tanumbirini Street
Holtze Close Neighbourhood Park	Inner North	Hackett	Maitland Street
Arndell Street Pedestrian Parkland	Belconnen	Macquarie	Arndell St
Mathieson Crescent Neighbourhood Park	Belconnen	Weetangera	Mathieson Cres and Kilby Cres
Mag Place Neighbourhood Park	Belconnen	Dunlop	Polilight St and Mag Pl

#### 7.4 Cultural site assessments and strategic indigenous planting

Site assessments have been undertaken on TCCS managed lands to establish sites and trees of cultural significance. This is being carried out to increase cultural awareness among staff and preserve the cultural significance of the ACT on lands that TCCS maintain. *Municipal Infrastructure Standard 25 – Plant species for Urban Landscape Projects (MIS25)* has also been updated to include Ngannawal Cultural notes which identify the local traditional Aboriginal plants of the ACT region.

TCCS will be installing an Indigenous Garden that will be built around the placement of the Wanniasa Scarred tree, following community engagement on the design.

Interpretive signage will also be installed in the garden to build awareness of culturally modified trees within the ACT and the importance of showcasing cultural integrity of the Traditional Custodians of Canberra.



PLAN PROPOSED SCAL TREE SETOUT



3D VISUALISATION



## 7.6 Distribution of urban wood by-product

Urban wood waste was extensively recycled to produce mulch during 2021-22 through general in-house tree maintenance activities, contractor tree removals and the Belconnen storm clean-up. This mulch was used by City Services on the urban estate for garden beds, tree wells and weed management and by EPSDD, volunteer groups and community organisations in planting and restoration projects. Over 2,000m<sup>3</sup> of mulch was also delivered to the National Arboretum Canberra to replenish tree wells.



Both mulch and logs were used to support the creation of nature play in schools and on unleased land, such as the bush playground at Orana Steiner School.



Large logs were salvaged for use as coarse woody debris in nature reserves and in urban green space, including Jarramlee Nature Reserve in MacGregor for native landscaping and for carving Ngunnawal artwork similar to those created for the Namarag Nature Reserve which opened in November 2021; and various reserves in Harrison, Hackett Macquarie, Weetangera, Crace, Dunlop, Hawker and Bruce as part of the Sustainable Urban Green Space project.



Namarag Nature Reserve

Salvaged logs were also provided to be milled for school woodwork projects and to support the Strathnairn Gallery and the Hall Axeman's Club.

## Appendix A Progress against Strategy Actions

### Immediate actions (within 2 years)

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 2 2022
Protect the urban forest	1.2.1	Review and update the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> (TPA) to ensure the threshold for protecting trees is appropriate	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPA reviewed. The <i>Urban Forest Bill 2022</i> has a proposed commencement date of 1 July 2023, subject to it being passed by the Legislative Assembly.</li> </ul>
	1.2.2	Review and update the TPA criteria for removal of protected trees to ensure it aligns with community values and expectations	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPA criteria reviewed and submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval.</li> </ul>
	1.2.3	Review and update the TPA and <i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i> (PULA) to ensure appropriate compliance mechanisms exist to deter illegal tree removals or damage to trees on leased and unleased land, and respond appropriately when they occur	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPA reviewed and submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval. The <i>Urban Forest Bill 2022</i> provides better protection for trees on both unleased and leased land.</li> </ul>
	1.3.1	Consider developing a program to ensure the health of mature and remnant trees on unleased land	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement to increase active care of trees adjacent to residences and businesses incl. factsheet, social media posts and City Services website.</li> <li>Collaborating with ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM) on Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project.</li> <li>Loss of Mature Native Trees Threatening Process Draft Action Plan agreement between EPSDD and TCCS. Consultation on Draft closed in May 2022.</li> </ul>
	1.3.2	Review and update the PULA to require all developers to erect prescribed fencing to protect existing trees on public land from damage prior to demolition, excavation and/or construction on adjacent block/s	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPA reviewed and submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval. The <i>Urban Forest Bill 2022</i> provides better protection during development for trees on both unleased and leased land.</li> <li>Standardised Land Management and Protection</li> </ul>



			Plan (LMPP) notes to be released by TCCS in 2022-23 to assist in the protection of existing trees during development.
	1.4.1	Investigate and implement administrative and technological reforms to systems and processes for administration of the Tree Protection Act to ensure they are streamlined, transparent and efficient	Immediate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA reviewed and submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval.</li> </ul>
	2.1.1	With reference to the 2010 audit, obtain updated data on the current canopy cover of the public urban forest to inform a replacement program.	Immediate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of LiDAR measurements to inform analysis of canopy coverage completed.</li> <li>• Canopy cover percentages across suburbs used to identify priority suburbs for planting.</li> <li>• Established a Technical Working group composed of specialists from EPSDD and TCCS to assess boundary options for the analysis of urban tree canopy cover.</li> </ul>
	2.1.2	Develop a sustainable program of end-of-life tree removals and replacements for removed trees and existing planting gaps to maintain the urban forest, including best-practice after-care for new plantings	Immediate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 10,000 trees planted in vacant street, park and open space locations in 2021-2022.</li> <li>• Urban tree planting target increased to 54,000 trees by 2024.</li> </ul>
Grow a resilient forest	2.2.1	Consider introducing a canopy contribution framework for trees on both public and private land that ensures that when trees must be removed and cannot be replaced on site, they are replaced elsewhere through a contribution based on the value of the tree at the time of assessment	Immediate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA reviewed with proposed canopy contribution scheme submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval.</li> </ul>
	2.2.2	Review PULA to consider a tree bond scheme for trees on public (unleased) land that discourages tree removal and damage through development	Immediate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA reviewed with proposed bond scheme submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval.</li> </ul>
	2.3.1	Promote and periodically update the preferred species planting guide to assist the community in understanding what trees to plant on leased land	Immediate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Infrastructure Standards (MIS) 25 updated in 2021 and will continue to be reviewed.</li> <li>• 'Tree Selector' online tool to help inform the community of appropriate tree species selection is under development.</li> </ul>



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT pollination calendar released in partnership with ACT for Bees.</li> <li>• Collaboration with Suburban Land Authority (SLA) on Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden.</li> </ul>
	2.3.2	Publish and regularly review a list of climate resilient trees	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Living Labs trial to assess the performance of new 'climate-ready' tree species in Canberra is underway. Information from the trial will inform the update of the preferred tree species list.</li> <li>• Collaboration with EPSDD on the Microclimate guide, Climate wise landscape guide, Climate wise planning report and Tree canopy cover equivalence tool.</li> <li>• Collaboration with SLA on Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden.</li> </ul>
Balance and diversify the urban forest	3.1.1	Direct initial prioritisation for new plantings to existing planting gaps and addressing the most vulnerable communities	Immediate/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree planting is prioritised in vacant planting gaps and in areas that have been identified as being more vulnerable to urban heat.</li> </ul>
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest & liveability	5.2.4	Collaborate with EPSDD to amend planning regulations to ensure suitable protection of existing trees and the establishment of new trees when planning infrastructure in new suburbs and in urban densification areas	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with EPSDD undertaken prior to release of Variation 369 (minimum tree planting requirements on leased land at development).</li> <li>• Collaborating with EPSDD on the Planning review.</li> </ul>
	5.2.5	Collaborate with EPSDD on the Planning review and TPA review to ensure consistent and appropriate decision making for protected trees	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA reviewed and submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval.</li> <li>• Collaborating with EPSDD on the Planning review.</li> </ul>
Partner with the community	6.1.2	Develop and make available to volunteers a citizen science data collection program	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Citizen Science program to capture data on the condition of urban trees is under development.</li> <li>• Planning underway for small citizen science trials at Telopea Park, Curtin, Fetherston Gardens and Yarralumla.</li> </ul>

Short term actions (within 5 years)

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 2 2022
Protect the urban forest	1.3.3	Investigate incentives and programs to better provide for the protection, maintenance and care of registered and remnant trees on leased land	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA reviewed and submitted to Legislative Assembly for approval.</li> <li>• Discussions underway with Master Builders Association (MBA) regarding an annual Tree Protection industry award.</li> </ul>
	1.3.4	Program cultural site assessments with a view to developing cultural tree management plans	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCCS cultural site assessments are underway, with results informing the design and selection of tree planting in urban open space.</li> <li>• Planning underway to develop a process to seek advice from Indigenous cultural representatives prior to planting in urban open space.</li> <li>• TCCS installing an Indigenous Garden &amp; interpretive signage for the Wanniasa Scarred tree, following community engagement on the design &amp; signage.</li> </ul>
Grow a resilient forest	2.1.3	Develop a sustainable planting program to increase canopy cover equitably across the urban footprint by establishing sufficient additional trees to meet the canopy cover target over the life of the Strategy	Short/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 3.1.1</li> </ul>
Balance and diversify the urban forest	3.1.3	Progressively map suburbs at risk of losing canopy due to ageing trees to inform a planned removal and replanting program	Short/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Forest Condition report to inform urban forest renewal planned for 2022-23.</li> </ul>
Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity	4.1.1	Map remnant trees in the urban area	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LiDAR capture and Urban Forest Condition report will assist as a starting point for field assessments to accurately map remnant trees.</li> </ul>
	4.3.1	Develop an urban wood reuse plan for trees removed from public land	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be commenced in 2022-23.</li> </ul>



Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest & liability

5.1.1	Investigate and promote use of permeable infrastructure (e.g. shared and bike paths, paving and car parks) in target areas	Short/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamison Shopping Centre Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) tree pit trial constructed in August 2020. Monitoring underway.</li> <li>• Ongoing repair and installation of flexible permeable tree surrounds is underway.</li> <li>• Provided input on MIS 24 with car park tree ratio and WSUD for passive watering which is known to relieve pressure on the Storm water system (Kenny Park and Ride).</li> <li>• Promoted passive watering of trees in hostile conditions like car parks with technologies like kerb inlets (Kaleen Shops) and regrading towards tree pits in estate development.</li> <li>• Working with Heathy Waterways, Emergency Services Authority (ESA) and Parks to promote non-deciduous trees over swales in high fire zones (Well Station Dr).</li> </ul>
5.2.2	Focus public tree plantings to support summer shading along active travel routes (Action 12 of the LIP)	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree planting alongside active travel routes prioritised during planning of open space and roadside planting programs.</li> </ul>
5.2.7	Review municipal design standards to include specifications on urban rain gardens and/or urban stormwater swales as planting locations on verges and other locations	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MIS suite will continue to be reviewed and updated periodically.</li> </ul>
6.3.1	Develop community education material to convey the benefits of trees	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canberra named an 'International Tree City of the World' by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation.</li> <li>• Social, Economic and Environmental Values of Street Trees report commissioned and made publicly available.</li> <li>• Brochure created on the benefits of street trees and how residents can help care for them.</li> <li>• Development of short videos on the benefits of</li> </ul>



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6.3.3	Consider ways to educate young people and how they can contribute to the urban forest	Short	<p>trees and how to care for them under development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Release of ‘Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden’, the ‘Climate Wise Garden Designs booklet’ and ‘Gawari Ngilanmanyin—Remembering the Bush: A Climate-wise Landscape Guide for the ACT’.</li><li>• Tree planting events held with primary school and sporting groups in 2021-22.</li><li>• Encourage schools and youth groups to hold Tree Week activities. Children’s colouring competition held in 2022.</li><li>• Coordinate celebrations for National Tree Day, World Forestry Day, World Environment Day and Arbor Day.</li><li>• Investigate collaboration with Greening Australia for educational program.</li></ul>
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Medium term actions (within 10 years)

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 2 2022
Balance and diversity the urban forest	3.2.1	Consider use of spatial mapping and citizen science programs to help identify areas with low species diversity and inform future plantings	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per 6.1.2</li> </ul>
	4.1.3	Collaborate with EPSDD to enhance and conserve biodiversity and eco-cultural values of urban areas (Nature Conservation Strategy – Strategy 4)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborating with ACT NRM on Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project.</li> <li>EPSDD ‘Connecting Nature and People’ initiative.</li> <li>Loss of Mature Native Trees Threatening Process Draft Action Plan agreement between EPSDD and TCCS. Consultation on Draft closed in May 2022.</li> <li>Biodiversity mapping by EPSDD to inform TCCS planting programs - ACT Urban Habitat and Connectivity Tool.</li> </ul>
Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity	4.2.1	Implement strategic planting to support wildlife and enhance movement and foraging opportunities across the city and wider landscape	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per 4.1.3</li> <li>Replacement planting program of main and arterial road verges and connecting open space.</li> </ul>
	4.2.2	Collaborate with EPSDD to undertake fine scale planning for habitat connectivity (Nature Conservation Strategy - Action 1.2)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per 4.1.3</li> </ul>
	5.2.6	Where appropriate, install and maintain rain gardens and swales for urban water run-off in tree and understorey planting areas in urban streetscape upgrades and new estate developments	Medium/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated on ACT Healthy Waterways projects.</li> <li>Jamison Shopping Centre WSUD tree pit trial constructed in August 2020. Monitoring underway.</li> <li>Infrastructure installed in upgrade and greenfields developments such as Anketell St, Tuggeranong and Whitlam.</li> <li>Collaborated with EPSDD on the Whitlam Living Infrastructure pilot.</li> </ul>
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest & liability				



Partner with the  
community

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6.2.1	Investigate incentives for retention of trees on private land including through collaboration with planning authorities	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration with EPSDD undertaken prior to release of Variation 369 (minimum tree planting requirements on leased land at development).</li><li>• Ongoing investigation of options.</li></ul>
6.3.2	Build indigenous engagement in caring for the urban forest	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As per 1.3.4</li><li>• Investigating engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Ensuring all procurement opportunities shared with indigenous organisations.</li></ul>

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### Long term (20 years) and ongoing actions

Objective	No.	Actions	Timeframe	Status Year 2 2022
Protect the urban forest	1.1.1	Maintain and promote the Tree Register (under the TPA)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Services website.</li> <li>Promotion pending approval of Urban Forest Bill by Assembly.</li> </ul>
	3.1.2	Consider undertaking regular LiDAR data capture and analysis to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of canopy coverage and permeability across the urban footprint	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LiDAR capture in 2020 to be repeated every 5 years.</li> </ul>
Balance and diversity the urban forest	3.3.1	Plan planting programs to achieve a best practice age profile of the urban forest by 2045	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infill planting in ageing suburbs to offset future removal of ageing trees.</li> <li>Urban Forest Condition report to inform Urban forest renewal planned for 2022-23.</li> </ul>
	3.3.2	Ensure yearly maintenance programs involve adequate removal and replacement of end-of-life trees to develop a balanced age distribution	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of maintenance team in 2020.</li> <li>Further expansion of capacity to be sought in future budgets.</li> </ul>
Take an ecological approach and support biodiversity	4.1.2	Assess senescent and ageing native trees for retention as habitat in preference to being removed	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees marked for removal reviewed by second arborist prior to program.</li> <li>Open space trees retained as habitat if structurally sound.</li> </ul>
	4.1.4	Identify opportunities to protect young seedlings growing from mature remnant trees on unleased public land where it is appropriate	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborating with EPSDD to identify sites.</li> <li>EPSDD 'Connecting Nature and People' initiative.</li> <li>ACT NRM Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project.</li> <li>Mowers installed with GPS to alert to no mow zones.</li> </ul>
	4.3.2	Ensure by-product from maintenance of the urban forest is used to support tree health and biodiversity conservation including in habitat restoration programs and nature-based park features	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood by-product continues to be directed to habitat restoration projects, nature-based park features and mulch for reuse across the ACT.</li> </ul>



	5.1.2	Continue to promote positive community behaviour in relation to managing and protecting nature strips and other public areas	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canberra named an ‘International Tree City of the World’ by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation.</li> <li>• Brochure developed on the value of street trees and ways in which residents can help care for their street tree.</li> <li>• Social media campaigns utilised periodically.</li> <li>• Short videos under development.</li> </ul>
Develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability	5.2.1	Collaborate across ACT Government to increase tree numbers in priority areas (Action 11 of the LIP)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased planting in priority areas is underway.</li> <li>• Collaboration with EPSDD to plan for habitat connectivity &amp; active travel and negotiate tree retention in development projects.</li> <li>• Collaboration with ACT Education and ACT Property Group to build spatial tree asset layer.</li> <li>• Collaboration with ACT Education, Parks and Conservation Service and CMTEED Sport and Rec for planting opportunities.</li> <li>• Collaboration with ACT NRM on Sustainable Urban Green Spaces project.</li> <li>• Collaboration with EPSDD on the Microclimate guide, Climate wise landscape guide, Climate wise planning report and Tree canopy cover equivalence tool.</li> <li>• Collaboration with SLA on Plant a Tree in Your Canberra Garden.</li> <li>• EPSDD report on Cooling benefits of living infrastructure.</li> </ul>
	5.2.3	Where possible, seek to widen road verges in areas where densification is occurring and along key active travel routes to accommodate additional tree planting	Long	
Partner with the community	6.1.1	Expand and support community / volunteer programs to encompass a wider range of contributions to maintenance of the urban forest	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid expansion of community volunteer programs is underway.</li> <li>• Implementation of in-house planting team to support community planting.</li> <li>• Adopt a park funding continued until 2023-24.</li> </ul>



- Collaboration with EPSDD to deliver ACT Nature in the Cities grants program.
  - Community groups assisted to develop programs to promote cultural awareness, restore and revegetate waterways, and deliver environmental outcomes for improved habitat.
-