



**CITY OF
PERTH**
City of Light

Urban Greening Strategy

2023 - 2036



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Perth acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land that we are situated on, the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation and Aboriginal people from other lands. We celebrate the continuing traditions, living culture, and the spiritual connection to Boorloo and the Derbarl Yerrigan. We offer our respects to Elders past and present.

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Strategic alignment	5
3. Our urban greening commitment	8
4. The City's role	9
5. What is urban greening?	10
6. What do we have?	11
7. What have we achieved?	12
8. Why is urban greening important?	15
9. Urban greening challenges	16
10. Urban greening principles	20
11. Key moves	23
11.1 Creating a greener street network	24
11.2 Greening buildings	27
11.3 Enhancing our green open space	28
11.4 Making the blue-green connection	30
11.5 Setting targets	32
11.6 Greening together	34
12. Implementation	36
Glossary	37

1. Introduction

Green infrastructure (GI) is a fundamental part of the city because of the wide range of social, environmental, and economic benefits it provides. There is growing need to protect and expand GI within the urban environment by integrating urban greening into strategies, policy, and development outcomes across a range of spatial scales.

The Urban Greening Strategy (UGS) sets out the City's high-level aspirations for urban greening with a focus on maximising its contribution to Perth's ongoing growth and development as a highly livable, prosperous, and sustainable city.

The Urban Greening Strategy sets out six key moves focused on increasing the level of urban greening across both the public and private realm and engaging and informing our community. Each key move is supported by a range of achievable high-level, strategic initiatives aimed at integrating urban greening into our approach to land use planning and the design of streets, buildings, open spaces and other city infrastructure.

The Urban Greening Strategy has a time frame of 2023 - 2036 to align with the *City of Perth Urban Forest Plan*. It will be reviewed every four years in keeping with the City's business planning cycle.



Image: Kings Park, Perth.

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

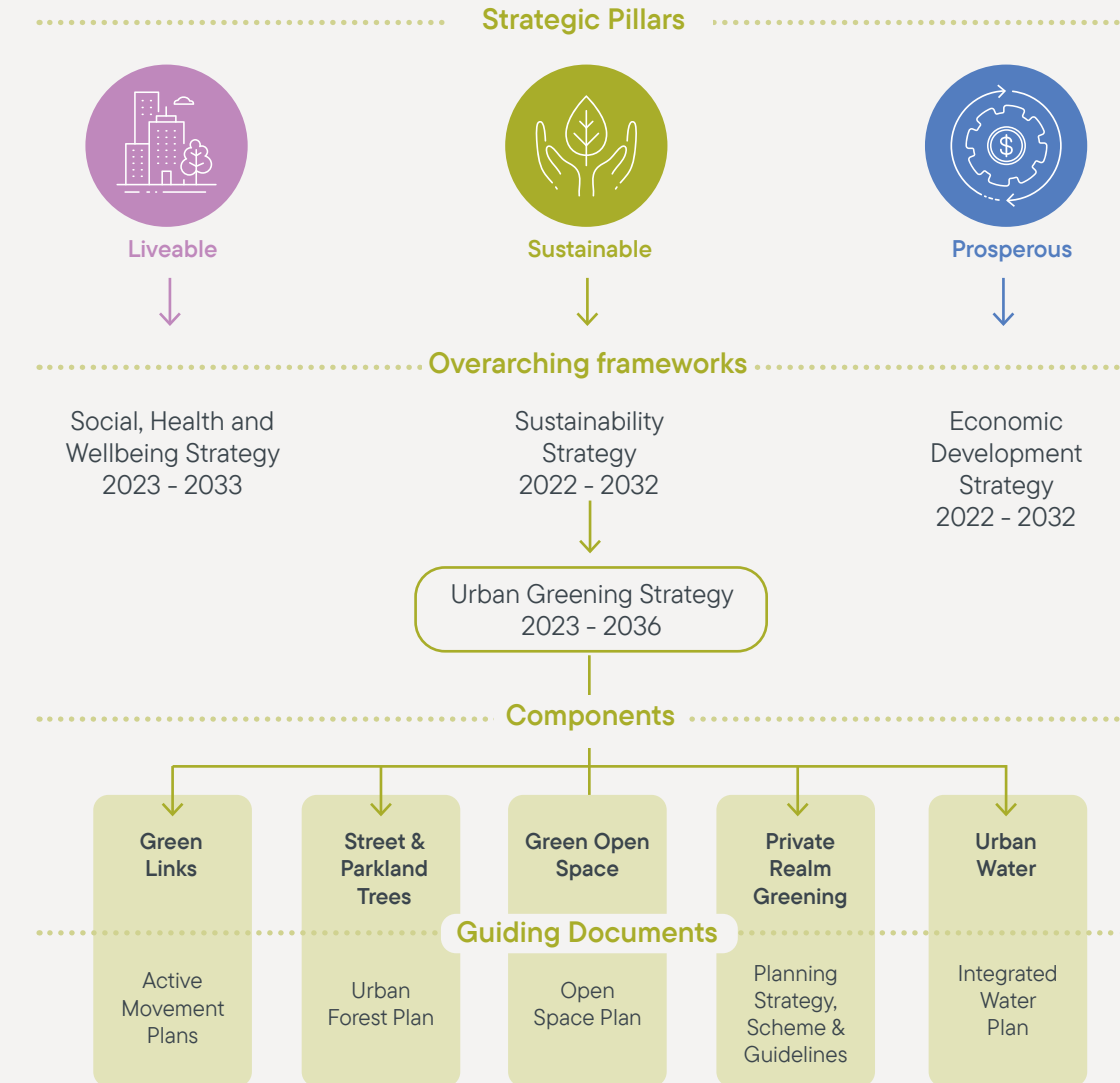


Figure 1: Integrated planning framework

2. Strategic alignment

The Urban Greening Strategy builds on the three pillars of the *City of Perth Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032*, in particular the sustainability pillar.

It is a key component of delivering the Green City theme in the City's *Sustainability Strategy 2022-2023* and provides a high-level, overarching framework for the development of a suite of subsidiary plans for key components of the city's GI.

These plans provide further support for the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy. Each has a strong focus on increasing the level of greening across the city to help achieve the City's overall greening goals.

The plans have been developed using an evidence-based, best practice approach. Their main role is to set out the detailed technical information and specific actions that will guide the City's day-to-day operations and investment in future planning, design and management of each component of green infrastructure.

The suite of plans includes:

Urban Forest Plan 2016 - 2036

The City’s first *Urban Forest Plan* was adopted by Council in 2016. It is a strategic action plan focused on promoting the urban forest’s long-term health and resilience. It sets out goals and objectives to manage, protect and expand our population of street and parkland trees including a canopy cover target of 30 percent across the public realm.

As part of the Plan’s implementation the City has planted over 2,000 new trees as part of its annual infill street tree planting program, and has hosted a range of community engagement initiatives.

Open Space Plan 2023 - 2038

The *Open Space Plan* is an operational document to assist the City in planning for an accessible, greener and more resilient open space network.

It sets out a range of open space projects that will guide future investment in this important community asset to ensure that it meets the contemporary recreational needs of our growing population, supports biodiversity and addresses the challenges of on-going climate change.

Integrated Water Plan 2023 - 2028

This Plan captures the City’s water management strategies and the key actions required to manage this important city asset. A key focus is to ensure a sustainable water supply which is essential for healthy vegetation and the delivery of our urban greening commitment.

Active Movement Plans (in development)

These plans will guide future improvements over the next 10 years with the aim of creating safe, well-connected, accessible routes in the city. They will include planning for green pedestrian and cycle links.

Private Realm Greening (under review)

The recently endorsed *Local Planning Strategy 2023 (LPS)* sets out planning and development priorities for the city over the next 10-15 years and provides high-level strategic direction for urban greening in the private realm.

The LPS provides the strategic basis for the City’s new *Local Planning Scheme No. 3 (LPS 3)* and supporting local planning policies which are currently under underway and the primary mechanisms for implementing the LPS. As part of the preparation of LPS 3, planning provisions are being reviewed to improve urban greening in the private realm, including in-ground planting and protection of significant trees.



Image: Macey Street, Claisebrook



Image: Kaal Yimniny, Hay Street, Central Perth.

3.

Our urban greening commitment

By 2036 Perth city will be a greener, cooler, and more resilient place that is welcoming and vibrant.

Our rich natural heritage will be acknowledged and cared for, and our status as a capital city within a recognised global biodiversity hot spot will be celebrated – strengthening our identity and sense of place. Ribbons of native greening will weave across the city from Kings Park, showcasing our unique floral heritage and creating a perception of a city within a park.

Our streets will be green threads that pull an expanded network of spaces together, providing cool oases for city dwellers to catch their breath and escape the hustle and bustle of life in an increasingly dense city.

City buildings will be covered with a mosaic of green roofs, living facades, planted balconies and courtyards

that provide small ecological stepping stones for wildlife and green views and spaces for residents to enjoy.

Our parks and gardens will provide contemporary landscapes for gathering, playing and celebrating – welcoming a new generation of city dwellers.

Our community will be engaged and aware; actively contributing to the bigger greening picture and creating a green legacy for future generations. A diverse program of community greening initiatives will involve and educate the community, and encourage knowledge sharing. Communication on key milestones will keep our community informed of the progress being made on our greening journey.

We will have completed our transition to a water sensitive city and our green infrastructure network will provide a bulwark against the impacts of climate change on city livability; cooling and calming the city and protecting it from flooding. Native planting will support the development of biodiversity corridors to create a refuge for our unique wildlife and bring more nature into the city.

The Urban Greening Strategy sets out a range of initiatives aimed at integrating our approach to land use planning and the design of our existing streets, open spaces and other city infrastructure to maximise greening outcomes and deliver on this commitment.

4.

The City's role

As key custodian of the public realm the City has a fundamental role to play in urban greening.

We will lead by example; adopting best practice and evidence-based approaches to protect against the loss of existing green cover, support biodiversity, plan strategically for increased greening on City owned and/or managed assets and deliver on-the-ground greening projects in the public realm.

Our commitment to creating a greener Perth will not be fully delivered without effective engagement with our community of residents, business owners, workers,

students and visitors, along with institutional landowners and other government agencies.

The City will collaborate with these stakeholders to engage them in greening initiatives, raise awareness of the importance of urban greening and advocate for better greening outcomes in new development and other major urban renewal projects.

The City will also explore the potential to partner with universities and other research agencies in the development of innovative urban greening projects that meet the specific environmental challenges of Perth's climate and capital city context.



Deliver

- protect the City's GI network
- plan strategically
- public realm greening projects
- supporting policy and design guidance.



Collaborate

- advocate on behalf of the community
- partner with other government agencies
- incentivise the development industry
- promote community driven design and engagement processes for major urban greening initiatives.



Image: Yagan Square, Central Perth.

5. What is urban greening?

Urban greening, also known as green infrastructure, refers to the city's network of natural, designed or cultivated vegetated spaces located on both public and private land*.

Urban greening exists at a range of spatial scales and its key components include:

- small city spaces such as balconies, small building setback areas, internal courtyards and city laneways featuring planting at the micro scale (i.e. pot plants, planters, climbers, small potted trees)
- engineered vegetation systems on city buildings, such as green roofs and walls
- green streets featuring street tree planting and in-ground planting or planters, where appropriate
- city parks and gardens cultivated with trees, a range of mid to low storey planting and featuring irrigated permeable green surfaces
- wider open space network including the riverfront and large leftover spaces around major city infrastructure (road and rail reserves).

(* definition adapted from Standards Australia's Handbook on Urban Green Infrastructure: SA HB 214:2023)

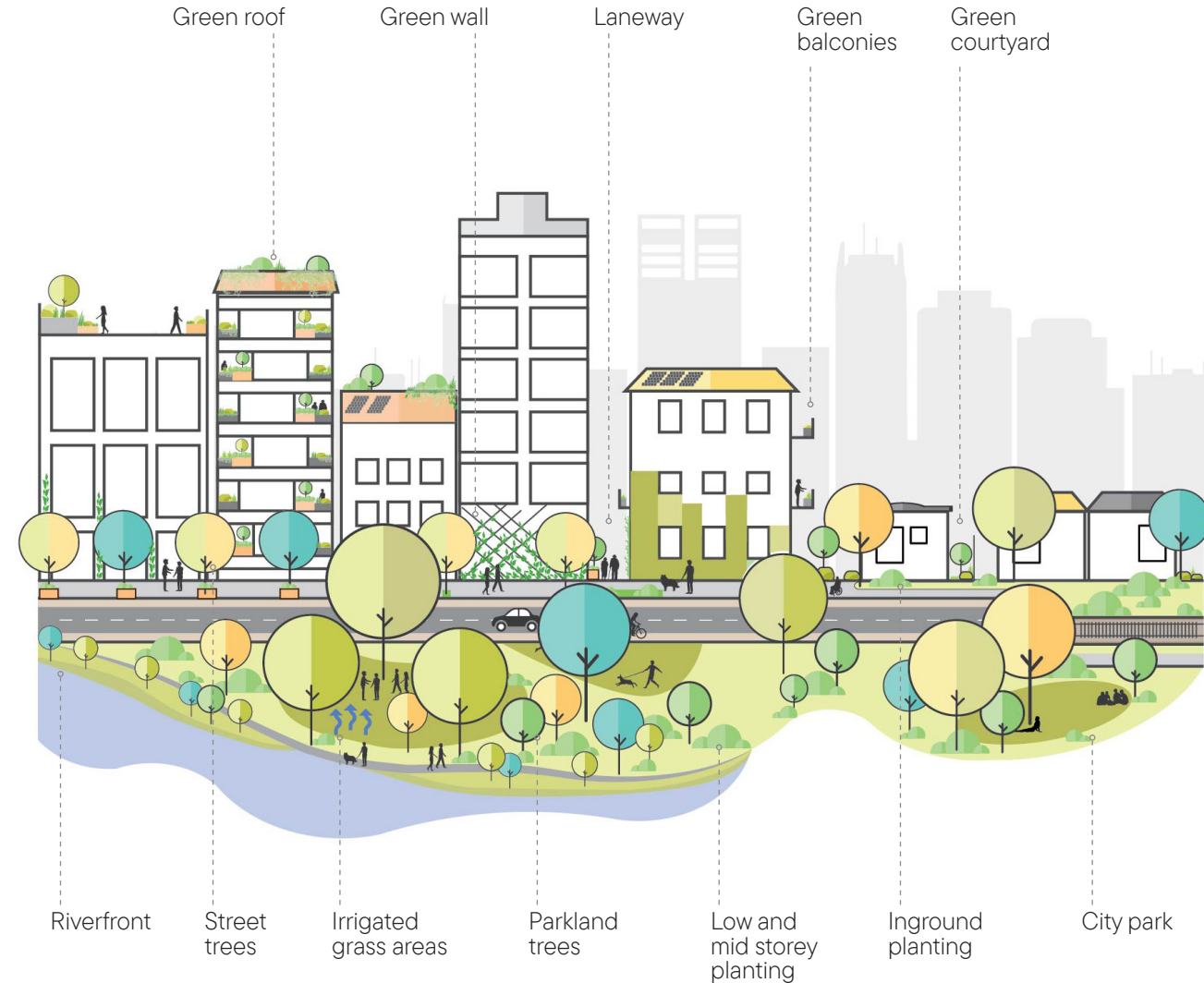


Figure 2: Urban greening

6. What do we have?

Key components of the city's existing green infrastructure are summarised below:



Figure 3: What we have

Image: Kings Park , Perth.

7. What have we achieved?



Roe Street Enhancement

- 200 new trees
- Under storey planting in medians and verges
- Water harvesting tree homes
- Addressing urban hot spot



East End Revitalisation

- Over 90 new trees
- Structural cells and soils installed
- Water harvesting tree homes



Moort-ak Waadiny / Wellington Square

- 350 new trees
- 60% projected canopy coverage
- Native planting including bush tucker
- 36% reduction in groundwater use



Tree Month May 2023

- 320 new trees
- 6 community planting events
- Community educational workshops
- Verge transformation



Thelma St Basketball Court

- New active open space
- Mature trees setting
- Improved accessibility
- Improved health and wellbeing



Urban Forest Infill

- 2000 new trees since 2016
- Water harvesting tree homes
- Urban forest mapping
- Structural cells and soils installed
- Climate change resilient species trials
- Community engagement online



Verge Transformations

- Verge guidelines published
- 923 new native plants in verges
- 10,500 new plants in Thomas St / Winthrop Ave medians
- 2500 new plants in Narrows interchange for National Tree Day 2022



Micro Greening Guide

- Document launched in 2020
- Available on COP website
- Community information sessions



WA Tree Festival

- Community planting days
- Two community information sessions
- Yagan Square big screen exhibition
- Tree films screened in Northbridge Piazza
- Tree story time



Dog Parks

- 2 new fenced off dog parks at Ozone Reserve and Railway Reserve
- 10 new trees at Ozone
- Native under storey planting



Image: A private rooftop garden, Central Perth.



Image: Florence Hummerston Reserve, Central Perth.

8.

Why is urban greening important?

Urban greening delivers a range of social, environmental and economic benefits including:

Social:

- a beautiful environment reduces stress levels
- provides green spaces for social activities and exercise
- acknowledges history and culture
- improves community connection
- activates public spaces, improving safety
- supports active movement
- reduces crime and antisocial behaviour
- reduces heat related health issues.

Economic:

- attracts people to the city
- provides attractive spaces for businesses to thrive
- character and beauty drives investment
- reduces energy use
- reduces infrastructure maintenance
- increases land value
- reduces pollution and related costs.

Environmental:

- urban shading and cooling
- enhances biodiversity
- improves air and water quality
- improved urban water management
- mitigates wind tunnel effect
- carbon sequestration
- protects against flooding
- climate change adaptation and resilience.



Figure 4: Benefits of urban greening

9. Urban greening challenges

Urban greening can be challenging. Perth's drying climate and lack of summer rainfall means our urban greening infrastructure network requires increasing levels of irrigation support to maintain high-quality, aesthetically pleasing outcomes at a time of increasing water restrictions.

Population growth is adding to this pressure, creating demands for a wider range of recreational opportunities essential for city livability.

As temperatures rise, more greening will be required to help cool the city. The contested nature of city space and a harsh microclimate makes it difficult to plant, establish and maintain healthy vegetation. City greening initiatives require careful planning and design and high levels of funding and resources to ensure high-quality planting outcomes.

Key challenges include:

- high levels of activity
- competition for space with other city infrastructure and functions
- changing community expectations and competing demands on use of green open space
- day-to-day wear and tear which damages and erodes planting quality
- higher city temperatures due to the urban heat island effect
- impermeable surfaces
- high construction and maintenance costs
- limited space and pressure for low maintenance greening on private property.

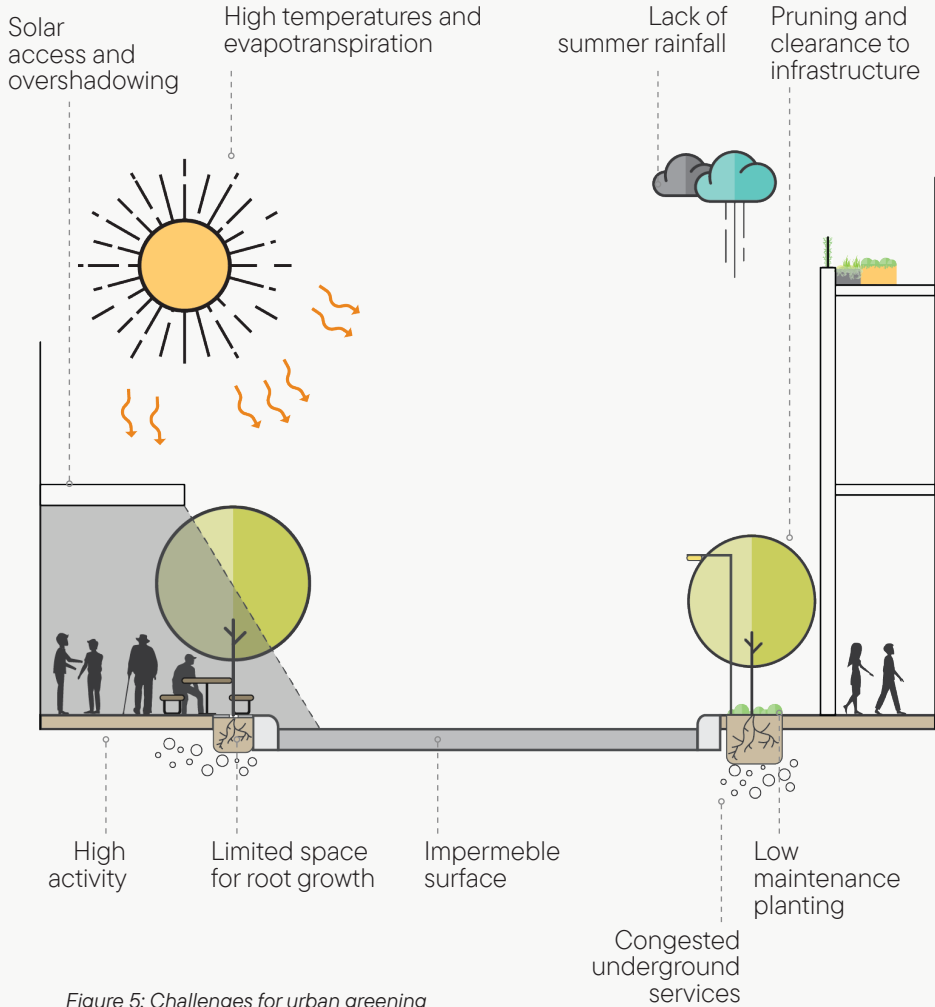


Figure 5: Challenges for urban greening



Image: Murray Street Mall, Central Perth.

Urban Heat Island Effect

Cities are generally hotter than surrounding, less built-up areas due to the proliferation of hard, dark, impermeable surfaces which absorb heat during the day. This phenomenon is known as the 'Urban Heat Island' (UHI) effect.

The adjacent map quantifies this, showing temperature 'hot spot' areas concentrated around major transport corridors and other community infrastructure, such as hospitals, and residential areas.

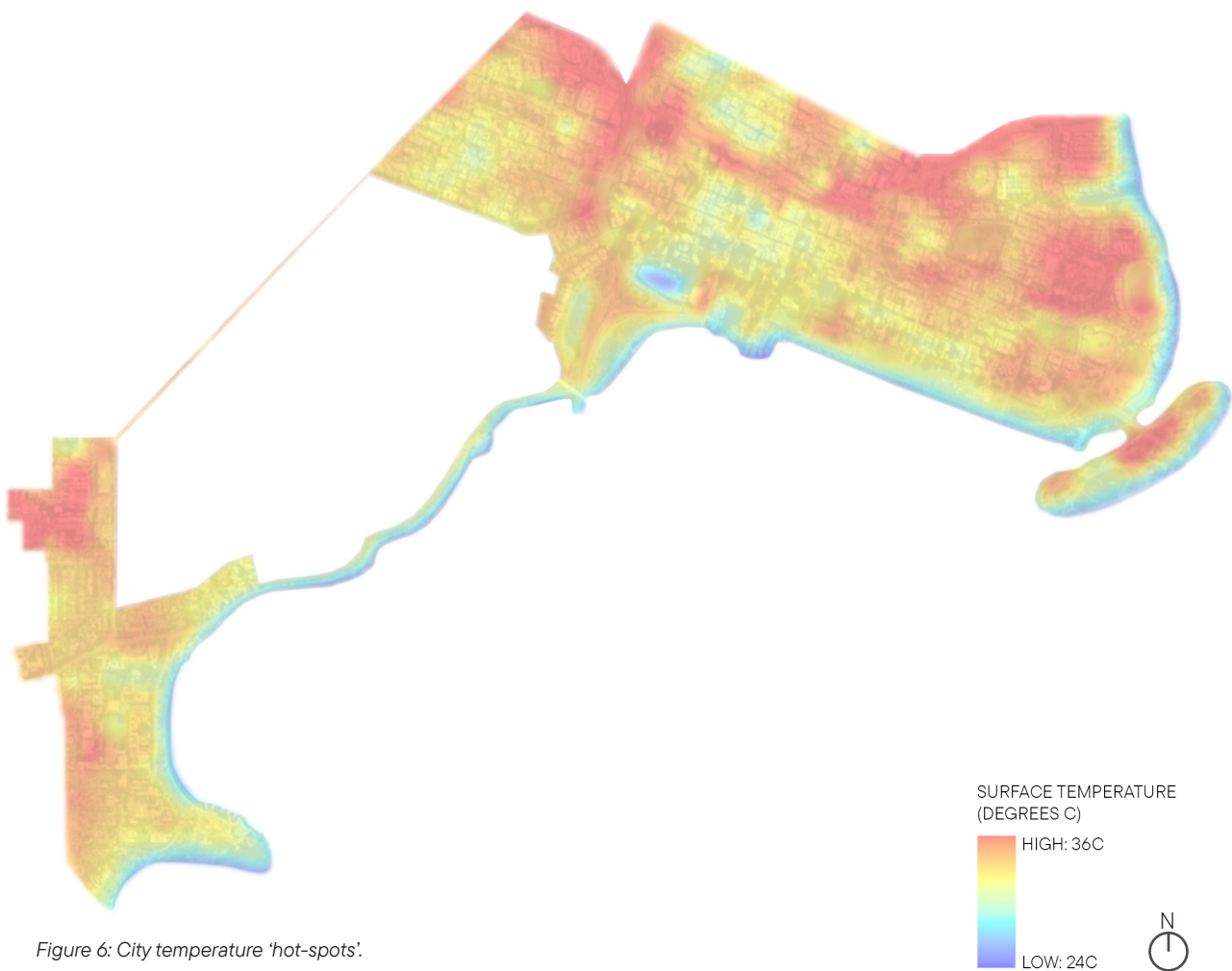
Heatwaves are a serious public health issue, causing more deaths in Australia in the past 200 years than any other natural hazard. Approximately 2 percent of annual deaths in Australia are attributable to heatwaves.

Numerous studies have found green and blue infrastructure has a powerful ability to reduce ambient temperatures up to 10°C locally and 2°C at the precinct scale.

Reduced temperatures lead to reduced energy use and costs, reduced heat related hospital admissions, morbidity and mortality plus generally better health and wellbeing outcomes for the whole community.

Regular mapping of hot spots allows us to direct green infrastructure investment where it can have the biggest impact, lowering surface temperatures and cooling the city.

Addressing the UHI effect is a consistent theme throughout the Urban Greening Strategy's guiding principles, key moves and initiatives.



Biodiversity network

Another underlying feature of all our greening principles and key moves is biodiversity.

Green infrastructure has a critical role to play in restoring and improving biodiversity within the city.

Native trees, shrubs and other low-level planting create habitat for native flora and fauna.

Biodiversity corridors that link up large areas of green space provide additional food, shelter and protection for wildlife. More importantly, they help facilitate movement of plants and wildlife across city habitats and out into the wider metropolitan network. This helps promote greater levels of genetic diversity within our population of plants and animals which is essential for their long-term resilience and survival.

In 2017 the City undertook a *Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Study* to evaluate and provide recommendations on improving our GI assets to support greater levels of biodiversity. Its findings were used to identify potential biodiversity corridors as set out in Figure 7.

The proposed location of these corridors will be reviewed as part of the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy. The review will include an updated spatial assessment informed by more recent research and State Government biodiversity initiatives.

Amendments will be captured in a 5 Year Street Greening Plan that will provide detailed guidance on the design and location of green pedestrian and cycle links and biodiversity corridors within the city.

10.

Urban greening principles

Urban greening initiatives will be underpinned by nine key principles:



Protect

No net loss of urban green cover.



Cool

Maximise the potential of urban greening to:

- help lower city temperatures
- create a comfortable environment for people.



Deliver

Target initiatives in high impact areas and promote an equitable distribution of quality GI.



Expand

Increase planting to meet greening targets with a focus on native planting to promote habitat creation, where appropriate.



Connect

A connected GI network including green links that promote:

- active movement
- accessible green open space
- biodiversity corridors.



Resource

Provide adequate project funding and resourcing to ensure sustainable, high-quality outcomes.



Celebrate

Foster a strong sense of place by celebrating:

- Whadjuk Nyoongar culture
- the City's rich cultural heritage
- unique natural heritage.



Innovate

Promote innovative GI designs that:

- respond to local context
- integrate with other city infrastructure creating multipurpose systems.



Value

Acknowledge GI as:

- a key element of city infrastructure
- offering advantages over traditional grey infrastructure in promoting resilience.



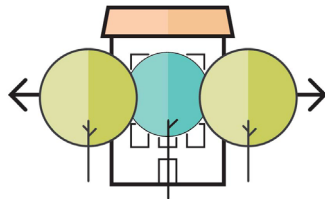
Image: Point Fraser, East Perth.



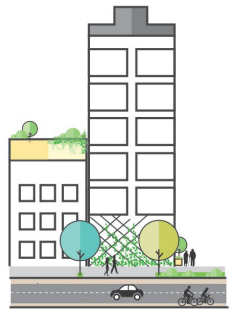
Image: Private balcony greening, Perth.

11. Key moves

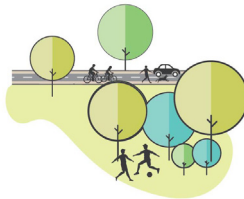
Urban greening exists across different spatial scales, ranging from small pot plants and planters on city balconies to complex ecological corridors along the riverfront. With some key moves each has the potential to help make Perth a greener more resilient city.



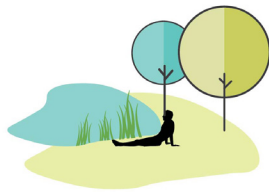
Creating a greener street network



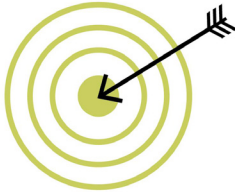
Greening buildings



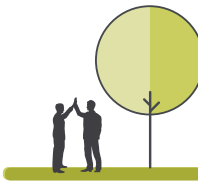
Enhancing our green open space



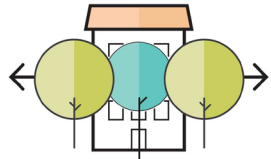
Making the blue-green connection



Setting targets



Greening together



11.1 Creating a greener street network

As streets make up most of the public space in our cities (Gehl Architects have estimated that this can be as high as 80 percent) they can make a significant contribution to urban greening.

The City’s approach to street design is focused on creating a comfortable, inviting and engaging space for pedestrians. Street trees are an important design element. They provide shade and cooling, introduce a human scale, and help buffer pedestrians from moving traffic improving their sense of safety. Studies also show that trees reduce the “optical width” of a street, encouraging people to drive more slowly. In this way, urban greening

can help encourage greater levels of active movement in our streets and reduce our reliance on cars.

Trees often offer the main greening opportunity on busy city streets, and they will be planted wherever space is available. While planter boxes and in-ground planting offer other street greening opportunities these can be more problematic given the challenges of planting in urban environments and require careful planning and considered design.

The city’s laneways are engaging and intimate spaces that can offer other planting opportunities helping to make them leafier, greener and more usable spaces for

residents and visitors where space is available.

Native trees and planting can support the development of biodiversity corridors. The City will prepare a *5 Year Street Greening Plan* setting out the locations for green links and biodiversity corridors. The Plan will be based on a review of the findings from the *GI and Biodiversity Study 2017* and *Active Movement Plans* (currently in development).

Residential street verges in outer urban areas can offer the best opportunities and the City’s *Residential Verge Transformation Guidelines* provide advice and information on how this can be successfully achieved.

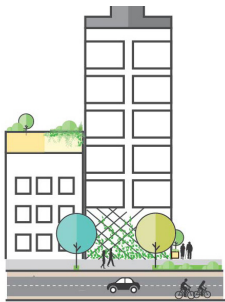
INITIATIVES		CITY’S ROLE	
		Deliver	Collaborate
11.1.1	Continue delivery of the annual Infill Street Tree Planting program as part of the on-going implementation of the Urban Forest Plan	●	
11.1.2	Advocate to the Public Transport Authority for improved greening to help cool and shade the City’s Principal Shared Path network	●	●
11.1.3	Continue collaboration with Main Roads WA on implementation of the Wildflower Capital Initiative	●	●
11.1.4	Finalise the City’s Street Tree Guide (City’s approach to street tree selection, planting and establishment)	●	
11.1.5	Review and update the locations proposed for biodiversity corridors (see Figure 7)	●	
11.1.6	Identify potential green pedestrian and cycle links in the City’s Active Movement Plans	●	
11.1.7	Create a 5 Year Street Greening Plan providing detailed guidance on the location and design of green links and biodiversity corridors	●	
11.1.8	Include urban greening design response in projects for City owned laneways (where width allows)	●	
KEY INFORMING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS:			
• Infill Street Tree planting 5 Year Plan (in progress)	• GI and Biodiversity Study 2017	Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan 2021	• Residential Verge Transformation Guidelines
• Street Tree Guide (in development)	• Laneways: Forgotten Spaces Episode 2	Micro Greening Guide 2020	• Main Street Refresh Program



Image: Hay Street East, Central Perth.



Image: King Street, Central Perth.



11.2 Greening buildings

Creating a greener Perth will require effective engagement with the private sector.

Findings from the *GI and Biodiversity Study 2017* indicate that 80 percent of our existing green infrastructure is located on private or crown land, including Kings Park, Matilda Bay/ Pelican Point, UWA, QEII and Main Roads WA reserves. It is important that this is protected if we are to fully meet our greening commitment.

Improved planting and landscaping within these spaces can also significantly boost the level urban greening across the city. Small micro greening initiatives like simple potted plants and vertical climbers can transform the

balconies, internal courtyards and small leftover spaces around the edges of privately owned buildings. Green roofs and vertical greening (green walls, living walls) can provide additional greening where space is at a premium, also adding amenity for building occupants.

Suburban gardens, communal open spaces in high density developments and landscaped settings of larger commercial and institutional buildings provide additional opportunities for increased greening. Including native and pollinator friendly plants will create ‘ecological stepping stones’ for birds and insects. This is particularly encouraged on buildings located

along biodiversity corridors; along with other small supporting elements such as bee hotels and nesting boxes.

Private realm greening can be encouraged through a combination of broader sustainable design incentives as well as requirements under the City’s local planning framework.

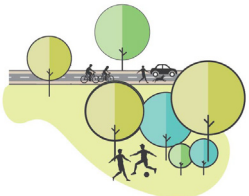
Demonstration projects and technical design guidelines that capture key learnings for green roofs and walls can help provide a level of assurance that viable outcomes can be achieved in the context of specific challenges created by Perth’s local climate and environmental conditions.

INITIATIVES		CITY’S ROLE	
		Deliver	Collaborate
11.2.1	Identify significant trees worthy of special protection and introduce planning provisions to ensure their retention	●	●
11.2.2	Investigate the potential to develop a Green Factor tool to encourage the inclusion of green infrastructure and increased vegetation in new development	●	
11.2.3	Review existing planning policy provisions to increase the amount of landscaping on private property and improve its design and quality	●	
11.2.4	Partner with key external stakeholders to capture key learnings from existing green roofs located on private property and assess their viability in the city	●	●
11.2.5	Capture key learnings from the City owned green walls at Northbridge Piazza and City of Perth Library and assess their viability in the city	●	

KEY INFORMING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS:		
• Local Planning Strategy	• Local Planning Policies (under review)	• GI and Biodiversity Study 2017
• Local Planning Scheme (under review)	• Micro Greening Guide 2020	



Image: Wellington Square, Claisebrook.



11.3 Enhancing our green open space

The city has an extensive network of open space including traditional parks and gardens, large leftover green space around road and rail reserves and Perth's riverfront. It is highly valued by the community for its aesthetic quality and recreational value and is increasingly recognised for its potential to provide benefits that can help the city adapt to climate change challenges and improve levels of biodiversity.

At over 500 hectares or 41% of the city's total land area (including Kings Park) this asset also has significant potential, through careful planning and design, to improve urban greening outcomes and environmental benefits.

The recently completed *Open Space Plan 2023 - 2038* is the primary mechanism for enhancing our green open space network. It advocates for the Riverfront Masterplan as a transformational, city shaping project and proposes the development of a range of masterplans and design concepts for the City's larger parks and gardens, guiding their transition to contemporary parks for our growing residential population. A range of minor

green space interventions to revitalise smaller open spaces include proposals to repurpose redundant/under-used road space to improve overall provision.

These projects will be delivered alongside other City initiatives that impact on open space including Small Playground Design and the Aesthetic Lighting Program.

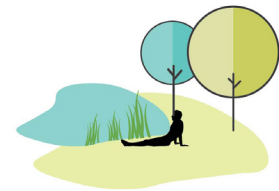
Findings from the *GI and Biodiversity Study 2017* found that while our green open space network is performing well in terms of urban cooling there is room to improve in the areas of sustainable water management and biodiversity.

The Study recommends a design approach that includes consolidating areas of fragmented green open space, increasing the structural complexity of planting and including more native vegetation to support habitat creation and improve biodiversity. These, and other findings, continue to inform the planting and landscape response in the City's major capital works projects including the revitalisation of Wellington Square and the East End.

INITIATIVES		CITY'S ROLE	
		Deliver	Collaborate
11.3.1	Implement Open Space Plan 2023 - 2038	●	●
11.3.2	Review and finalise Perth City Riverfront Masterplan	●	●
11.3.3	Increase canopy cover along road and rail reserves as part of the Urban Forest Plan's Infill Planting program	●	●
11.3.4	Increase level of canopy cover in city parks by 15 percent by 2036 to help meet canopy target in the City of Perth Urban Forest Plan	●	
11.3.5	Planning and design of all open space and major capital works projects to require a clear design response to criteria focussed on enhancing biodiversity, water sensitive urban design and urban cooling	●	
11.3.6	Incorporate climate change risk into open space planning and maintenance	●	
11.3.7	Introduce enhancement lighting to selected parks and reserves as part of the Aesthetic Lighting Program in the City's 5 Year Lighting Plan	●	

KEY INFORMING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS:

• Urban Forest Plan 2016 - 2036	• Open Space Plan 2023 - 2038	• Integrated Water Plan 2023-2028
• GI and Biodiversity Study 2017	• Perth's Riverfront 2020: background & analysis report	• Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan 2021
• Open Space Study 2018		



11.4 Making the blue-green connection

There can be no green without blue. Plants need water to survive and thrive and in return they help to improve water quality and management in an urban context. Permeable green surfaces, raingardens, tree pits and tree canopy capture, slow down and filter urban stormwater reducing flood risk and removing pollutants.

Many of the community benefits of green infrastructure also depend on sufficient water. Permeable, irrigated green surfaces have a critical role to play in lowering city temperatures. Recreational, social and event spaces; a strong connection with nature; and sense of place and visual beauty all rely on water to stay green and support an active, vibrant and healthy community.

Healthy water bodies also create a habitat for water birds, fish and other aquatic life, adding to biodiversity within the city.

Perth’s drying climate and lack of summer rainfall create a major challenge for

increasing our green urban cover and ensuring high-quality outcomes. As access to water becomes more restricted it is vital that we plan strategically and design creatively to maximise existing resources and ensure water is available where it is needed most to cool and beautify our city. The provision of integrated irrigation is particularly important to support new greening initiatives in dense inner-city areas.

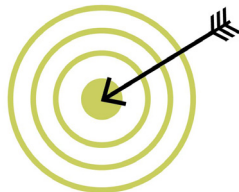
Green and blue infrastructure enjoy a symbiotic relationship. By taking an integrated approach to urban water management and green infrastructure, the City can multiply the benefits of each. The City will also continue to implement a water sensitive urban design (WSUD) approach as set out in the *Integrated Water Plan*, and actively promote innovation to maximise the potential for alternative water sources (e.g. greywater, condensate) to help secure our future water resource.



Image: Perth Cultural Centre Wetland, Central Perth.

INITIATIVES		CITY’S ROLE	
		Deliver	Collaborate
11.4.1	Implement the Integrated Water Plan	●	
11.4.2	Continue to include WSUD in new street tree planting where feasible	●	
11.4.3	Continue trialing of WSUD innovations and document outcomes	●	
11.4.4	Investigate options for permeable paving to support city greening	●	
11.4.5	Deliver grey water and condensate scoping study	●	●
11.4.6	Deliver a grey water pilot project	●	●

KEY INFORMING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS:		
• Urban Forest Plan 2016 - 2036	• Feasibility Study - Alternative Water Sources for Irrigation	• Open Space Plan 2023-2038
• GI and Biodiversity Study 2017	• Integrated Water Plan 2023 -2028	• Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan 2021



11.5 Setting targets

It is important to set targets to monitor and communicate progress in delivering our urban greening commitment. The UGS aims to set achievable, evidence-based targets for increased levels of greening that respond to the local context and current resources.

Similar to the way we monitor canopy cover as part of implementing the *Urban Forest Plan* we

need to set evidence-based targets that can measure and communicate changes in the level of overall green cover and benefits delivered by urban greening (e.g. lower city temperatures, equitable access to open space, biodiversity and water quality and supply).

A target of 30 percent canopy cover across the public realm has been set in the *City's Urban*

Forest Plan. Progress in reaching this target currently relies on analysis of canopy cover data collected every two years by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH); and four yearly audits of the City's street and parkland tree population, an asset with an estimated value of \$98 million when the last audit was completed in 2015/16.



Image: Supreme Court Gardens, Central Perth.

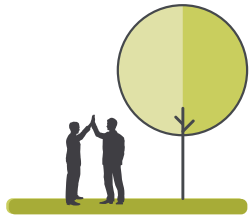
INITIATIVES		CITY'S ROLE	
		Deliver	Collaborate
11.5.1	Fund and resource urban forest street and parkland tree audit in 2024/25	●	
11.5.2	Update the 2019 i-tree eco assessment and report on benefits provided	●	
11.5.3	Analyse canopy cover change using DPLH Urban Canopy Dashboard	●	●
11.5.4	Establish an evidence-based target for urban green cover across the public realm	●	
11.5.5	Establish an evidence-based biodiversity target and measure progress	●	
11.5.6	Monitor the impact of new street tree planting on street temperatures	●	
11.5.7	Complete four yearly thermal imaging surveys using satellite data	●	
11.5.8	Measure improvements to the accessibility of open space	●	
11.5.9	Develop a City Environmental Dashboard and measure UGS progress	●	●
11.5.10	Communicate key milestones and greening achievements to our community through the City of Perth communications channels and media	●	

KEY INFORMING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS:

• Urban Forest Plan 2016 - 2036	• Open Space Study 2018	• Sustainability Strategy Implementation Plan (in development)
• GI and Biodiversity Study 2017	• i-tree eco assessment 2019	
• Open Space Plan 2023 - 2038	• Integrated Water Plan 2023 - 2028	



Image: Mounts Bay Road, Perth.



11.6 Greening together

Our community has an important role to play in delivering the City’s commitment for urban greening, both by planting more plants, shrubs and trees on privately owned site and supporting increased greening of the public realm.

A main outcome from consultation on the UGS was a strongly expressed desire for more community involvement in urban greening, including the participation of a greater range of stakeholders such as Aboriginal people, city businesses, greening professionals and community groups and organisations.

The City recognises the importance of community involvement and raising awareness of the role and benefits of urban greening. We will continue to develop and promote a range of community programs and greening initiatives to support this.

Existing initiatives include community planting days and a developing program of festivals, workshops, demonstration projects and community guides aimed to educate, encourage and empower the community to undertake their own greening initiatives.

The City will continue to promote community driven design and engagement processes in the development of major urban greening initiatives to promote design outcomes that reflect community needs and expectations. This involves knowledge sharing and input from the City’s community advisory groups including the Elders Advisory, Access and Inclusion, LGBTQIA+ and Arts and Culture Groups.

The City will also continue to investigate external funding opportunities and other initiatives such as the City of Melbourne’s Urban Forest Fund. A program of community grants and competitions, will be considered as additional potential options for the City to provide financial support and incentives for community greening projects.

This will include assessment of a program to assist the community to develop community gardens and gardening clubs on their own property, similar to City Farm.

INITIATIVES		CITY’S ROLE	
		Deliver	Collaborate
11.6.1	Continue community engagement on the City’s annual Infill Street Tree Planting Program to raise awareness and highlight progress	●	
11.6.2	Update the City’s Micro Greening Guide to include information on how to grow your own food and plant and care for native plants	●	
11.6.3	Investigate the potential for an annual City sponsored Micro Greening Competition to encourage greater community participation	●	●
11.6.4	Manage and update the Urban Forest project page on the City’s Website	●	
11.6.5	Continue annual community planting days	●	●
11.6.6	Plan and budget for continued participation in the annual WA Tree Festival and the City’s annual May Tree Month	●	●
11.6.7	Investigate the potential for a program of green grants / greening fund to support a range of community initiatives on private land	●	●
11.6.8	Community demonstrations to raise awareness of the City’s Residential Verge Transformation Guidelines and assistance scheme	●	●
11.6.9	Continue to actively engage and seek input from the City’s advisory groups and the wider community on major greening initiatives	●	●

KEY INFORMING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS:

• Urban Forest Plan 2016 – 2036	• Residential Verge Transformation Guidelines	• Open Space Plan 2023 – 2036
• Gl and Biodiversity Study 2017	• Annual Infill Street Tree Planting program	• Micro Greening Guide 2020

12. Implementation

Urban Greening Implementation Plan

The Urban Greening Implementation Plan will be an operational document intended to be read alongside the City of Perth’s Urban Greening Strategy 2023–2036. It will drive the delivery of the City’s Urban Greening Commitment and the six key moves.

The Implementation Plan will set out the detailed actions required to achieve the initiatives under each of the six key moves. It will identify the responsible lead unit, timeframe and projected cost of delivering each initiative.

The Implementation Plan will operate on a four yearly timeframe, to align with the City’s corporate business planning cycle. It will be reviewed on an annual basis and the findings will inform the annual work programmes for each of the units involved in the delivery of the UGS.

Monitoring Framework

The Urban Greening Implementation Plan will include a monitoring framework to help track the progress of implementing each initiative. The framework will identify a success measure for each initiative and record the degree to which that measure has been achieved within a set timeframe.

The monitoring framework will be reviewed annually. This will allow any difficulties or issues in delivering the initiatives to be identified and addressed early, allowing for adaptive management as the Urban Greening Implementation Plan progresses.



Image: Micro greening, Perth.

Glossary

Blue-green infrastructure: network of natural or designed landscape elements dominated by vegetation that has a clear link to water, either permanently or occasionally. Examples included raingardens, bioswales, wetlands and vegetated zones along rivers, lakes and ponds. (adapted from *Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

Ecosystem services – benefits people obtain from ecosystems. (*Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

Green Infrastructure – all of the vegetation that provides environmental, economic and social benefits such as clean air and water, climate regulation, food provision, erosion control and places for recreation. GI includes urban parks and reserves, wetlands and stream corridors, street trees and roadside verges, gardens and vegetable patches, bikeways and pedestrian trails, wall and rooftop gardens, orchards and farms, cemeteries and derelict land. (*CSIRO. Establishing a national agenda for urban green infrastructure. <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/environmental-impacts/sustainability/green-infrastructure>*)

Green facade – supported or unsupported climbing plants that either grow up from the ground or a container, or cascade down from a container, to provide full or partial cover of a building wall or other shade structure. (*Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

Green roof – building roof that is completely or partially covered in a rooting substrate that supports vegetation. They can be deep or shallow and may include solar panels. They typically include a protective layer, drainage layer, rooting medium and vegetation. (*adapted from Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

Green wall – engineered support structure containing a rooting medium that allows plants to cover the exterior of a wall and requires regular irrigation to support growth completely or partially. (*adapted from Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

Urban green cover – combined areas of tree canopy cover and other vegetation on the ground or building roofs when viewed from above in a urban environment. (*Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

Water sensitive urban design – contemporary approach to the planning and design of urban environments that is sensitive to the issues of water sustainability, resilience and environmental protection. (*Standards Australia. (2023). Urban Green Infrastructure (SA HB 214:2023)*)

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