CITY OF BELMONT
Urban Forest Strategy
Canopy Plan – Community Update
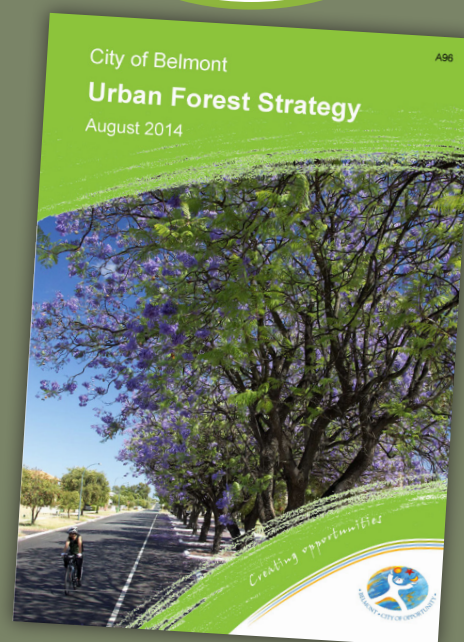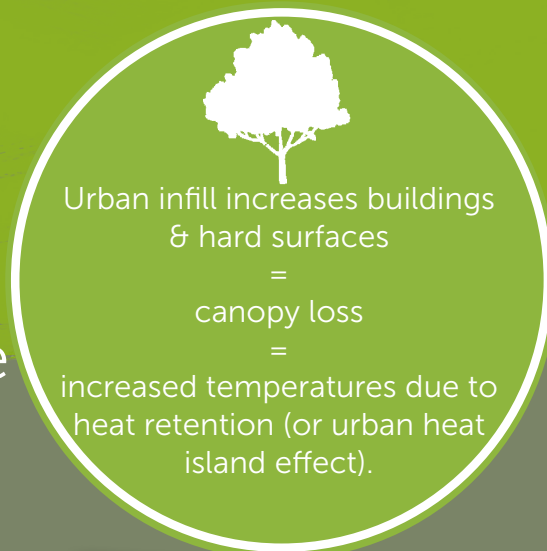
our trees

The City of Belmont wants you to be part of the City's Canopy Plan and we want your local knowledge and ideas on how to best protect and improve the City's urban forest.

Trees in gardens, parks and streets look good and they provide a number of benefits for the environment and the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Almost half of new residential growth in Perth is planned to be achieved via urban infill projects. This is important to reduce urban sprawl, although there are often impacts on existing trees and other vegetation. The City of Belmont has already observed a 28% decline of canopy cover in residential zones between 2001 and 2012, largely due to urban infill development, and we are taking action to address this.

In 2016 accurate aerial remote sensing technology determined that the City of Belmont had a canopy cover of 12.5%.

Urban infill increases buildings & hard surfaces
=
canopy loss
=
increased temperatures due to heat retention (or urban heat island effect).

City of Belmont   A96
Urban Forest Strategy
August 2014

Urban Forest Strategy - City of Belmont

The City of Belmont is committed to protecting and growing its Urban Forest and was one of the first Local Government Associations in Australia to publish an Urban Forest Strategy.

The process for delivering the City of Belmont Urban Forest Strategy is known as the Urban Forest Canopy Plan, and it is being formed in consultation with City of Belmont Councillors, staff and stakeholders, including residents, business owners, their staff and city visitors.

This Community Update is a summary of the draft Urban Forest Canopy Plan. It shows the four key Delivery Principles identified in the strategy and the 13 proposed actions for more trees and a better Belmont.

Urban Forest Canopy

The combined area of trees growing in an urban environment is often referred to as the Urban Forest Canopy.

The total area of canopy is calculated as a percentage of the total land area of the suburb.

City of Belmont Canopy cover

12.5%

2016

Focus Areas

1. Leadership & Governance
- As part of its leadership, the City is to advocate wherever possible the importance of a sustainable Urban Forest, its retention and enhancement.

2. Asset Retention
- The Strategy and Canopy Plan must acknowledge existing trees as tomorrow's canopy coverage and work collaboratively to achieve asset protection, retention and compensation mechanisms.

3. Awareness, Participation & Capacity Building
- The City must work with partners and its community to build awareness and capacity so the compounding value of green infrastructure and the Urban Forest is realised and recognised.
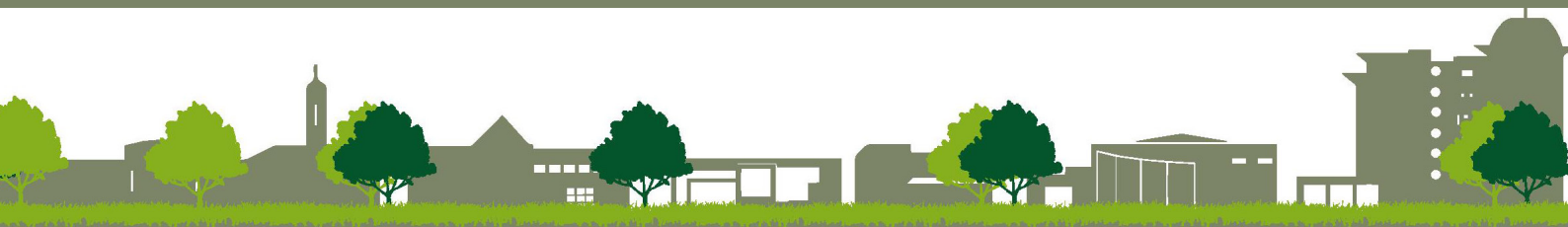
4. Research, Best Practice & Adaptive Management
- Continue monitoring the City's Urban Forest and applying best practice and adaptive management based on current and evolving research.

More trees.
High canopy coverage.
Good physical and mental health.
Lower powerbills.

Fewer trees.
Lower canopy coverage.
Poorer physical and mental health.
Higher powerbills.

Proposed Actions

1. Develop partnerships to support canopy improvement.
2. Develop canopy retention policies and strategies for the City.
3. Retain and enhance canopy coverage on sites where City projects are delivered.
4. Develop innovative policy for canopy creation within residential planning and design.
5. Develop innovative policy for canopy creation within commercial and industrial planning and design.
6. Work collaboratively with Government at all levels to incorporate canopy creation and protection into planning policy.
7. Support research to consider risks surrounding canopy provision and canopy loss.
8. Increase community awareness via education and communication.
9. Support the application of the 'right tree, right place, right reason' principle.
10. Support research to model housing density and canopy integration to establish precinct and city level canopy targets.
11. Continue to identify planting opportunities to increase canopy.
12. Monitor the impact of this plan on the retention and creation of a healthy canopy.
13. Create a dedicated and resourced Urban Forest Team at the City.

What can you do?

Visit connect.belmont.wa.gov.au/our-trees

Have your say and help us grow the City's urban forest.

Tell us where more trees are needed and what you want – tree planting, programs, street trees, etc.

Notes:

Where is your favourite tree or park in Belmont?

What do trees in Belmont mean to you?

Do you have any innovative ideas for creating tree canopy in residential planning and design?

Where and how do you think we can get more trees in Belmont?

JOSH BYRNE & ASSOCIATES