

Frequently asked questions

How many trees will be planted in Council managed areas to achieve this Target?

8,500 semi-advanced trees will be planted for the first 5 years and 4,500 trees each year thereafter as a minimum will be planted on council managed land. This is in addition to approx. 6,000 – 8,000 tubestock (seedlings) trees that are planted within our conservation areas each year.

Does the Urban Forest include conservation sites?

Yes, the Urban Forest is inclusive of all trees within Hobsons Bay. The strategy compliments the Biodiversity Strategy and the work the conservation team, local friends group and volunteers currently undertake by planting over 20,000 tubestock plants each year, which always includes 6000 – 8000 trees.

Can I plant my own tree on the nature strip?

Residents cannot plant their own tree on the nature strip. If you would like a tree planted on your nature strip please place a request through council and an officer will be in touch. Council own all trees on nature strips and are responsible for the legislative and compliance requirements with managing these trees.

Can I select a certain species for my nature strip?

We plant trees that meet our Tree Selection Guidelines to ensure we are taking all factors into consideration when selecting an appropriate tree for an urban nature strips. Trees need to have minimal impact to surrounding infrastructure and able to be appropriately managed for years to come. You can tell us your preference and if it falls within our Guidelines it will be taken into consideration at planting time.

Will there be fruit and edible trees as part of this?

As this stage, planting fruit trees on nature strips is not an option. We encourage residents to choose fruit trees in their own private gardens. Further appropriate locations for fruit or edible trees on public land will be identified when the urban canopy plan is developed.

I don't want a nature strip tree, do I have to have one?

The Urban Forest Strategy has a target for every available 'gap' along nature strips to be planted with an appropriate urban street tree, this will go towards achieving the objective of 30% canopy cover and reducing our heat vulnerability. If you do not want a nature strip tree, we would encourage you to discuss your concerns with us so that an appropriate tree is selected for the site.

Will trees impact my bay views?

Many places along our coast line have a high heat vulnerability, shared trails and play spaces. These sites have been identified as priority locations to establish shade in the form of increased canopy cover. We aim to establish trees in these locations by choosing appropriate species that are suited to the local environment, provide adequate canopy cover while still providing bay views. More detail on planting at these sites will be developed over the next year.

What measures will you take to protect trees?

We will educate and inform our community on the value of trees to help develop an understanding of the full value of urban trees and what considerations are now taken to select appropriate species. Communication on upcoming planting will be increased, hopefully these measures help to reduce tree vandalism however it remains a serious concern. We will improve enforcement and thoroughly

investigate vandalism and issue infringement notices for people that damage trees with the introduction of an enforcement officer in the Tree Management team.

Are we planting all natives?

Native trees play a very important role in our urban environment. We will continue to plant native trees that will be evenly distributed throughout the municipality however it is important to have a healthy balance of native and exotic trees in an urban environment such as Hobsons Bay. An important objective of the Urban Forest Strategy is to have a healthy, diverse urban forest, having a mix of species will help us achieve this and ensure we are not vulnerable to mass tree loss in the future.