



GREEN STREETS

Program



HOBSONS BAY
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**URBAN
FOREST**
Strategy

HOBSONS
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COUNCIL



Hobsons Bay City Council: Green Streets Program

Green Streets is a Hobsons Bay City Council initiative that seeks to create healthy neighbourhoods through the provision of quality tree canopy cover. A green street as defined for this program is a street that incorporates well designed placement of trees and vegetation which are cared for and maintained to maximise their benefits. Green streets can also include passive infiltration of stormwater through water sensitive urban design where the possibility of road reconstruction allows for street redesign.

A key difference of the Green Streets program from the standard tree planting program includes the increased level of community engagement and participation in the selection of trees and design for the street. The whole process is completed in collaboration with residents.

Benefits of a Green Street

The intended benefits of a well-designed green street are to:

- cool the environment
- improve streetscape amenity and walkability
- increased passive surveillance and improved safety
- enhance urban biodiversity and provide linkages between pockets of biodiverse areas
- showcase how the city can better adapt to climate change
- increase awareness, knowledge and stewardship about the importance of urban greening within the community
- reduce stormwater flows and pollutant levels where installation of water sensitive urban design allows
- Increase the sense of community and ownerships of the assets (trees)
- Increase longevity of hard surfacing with more durable and long-lasting infrastructure.

How do I get involved?

Residents are encouraged to nominate their street, through Council's Participate page. All streets nominated will be assessed by Council officers for potential inclusion in the program. Further details on the next steps in the Green Streets program will be available to residents of selected streets.

What are the criteria for my street to become a Green Street?

Three residential streets will be selected each year to participate in the Green Streets Program. Street nominations will be assessed against the following criteria for inclusion in the program:

- Does the street:
 - have space to support increased canopy?
 - currently have low canopy?
 - experience high heat?
- Is the nomination supported by the majority of residents in the street?
- Is there any possible renewal opportunities? (Lagunaria program, streets with short Useful Life Expectancy trees or trees that are underperforming)
- Is the street within top priorities of Tree Canopy Delivery Plan?
- Are there other planned works due to occur in the street such as road or footpath upgrades?

Feasibility will be further determined for short-listed sites based on the following criteria:

- Adequate under and above ground space for increased canopy
- Feasibility and type of wsud that could be utilised
- Ground truth planting sites

- Engineering works required (street redesign, kerb outstands, median, trenching, loss of carparks etc)
- Estimated costings

Program Phases for Green Streets

1. Street Selection: Development of a short list of potential streets for the program through community nomination, the road rehabilitation program and priorities in the Canopy Delivery Plan.
2. Capacity Assessment: Determine feasibility of short-listed sites as a Green Street Project. This could include ground truthing, engineering, estimated costings, benefit modelling, options and opportunities identified.
3. Community Engagement A: Educate locals and set a high-level design direction. Design outcomes determined by residents desire. Information event held.
4. Technical Design Process: Drafting of potential designs for the community to select and comment on.
5. Community Engagement B: Finalise design of the street via popular vote.
6. Capital Delivery: Deliver the plantings and street refurbishments. Plantings will take place between May- September each year. Streets combines with road rehabilitation program will be planted in conjunction with road works.

What do I have to do as a resident of a selected Green Street?

Residents of streets that are included in the program will be encouraged to attend two engagement workshops. The first workshop will provide an overview of the program that is tailored to the street, including information on the benefits of trees. The steps involved in the project will be explained. There will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions about the program and provide input to the species selection.

The second consultation session will provide residents with two designs to choose from. It will be majority rule, with the design that has the most votes being selected.

Will Council remove healthy trees through the Green Streets initiative?

Council will only seek to remove underperforming and/or inappropriate tree species through this program. Any healthy, established trees that are appropriate for the location will be retained and incorporated through the redesign. All trees that are deemed inappropriate for the location and/or with low Useful Life Expectancies will be replaced with more suitable species.

Will residents be required to plant the trees?

The trees will be planted and looked after by Council's contractors for the initial two-year establishment period. They will then be incorporated in Council's street tree maintenance program, where they will be assessed by Council's inspecting arborists and maintained through our two-year street tree maintenance cycle.

Residents are not required to carry out any maintenance on the trees. However, they will be encouraged to provide some additional water to their new street tree, if they have the capacity to do so, in the initial years of the tree's life.

Contact us

For further information on the Green Streets program or Tree planting please contact us at urbanforest@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au