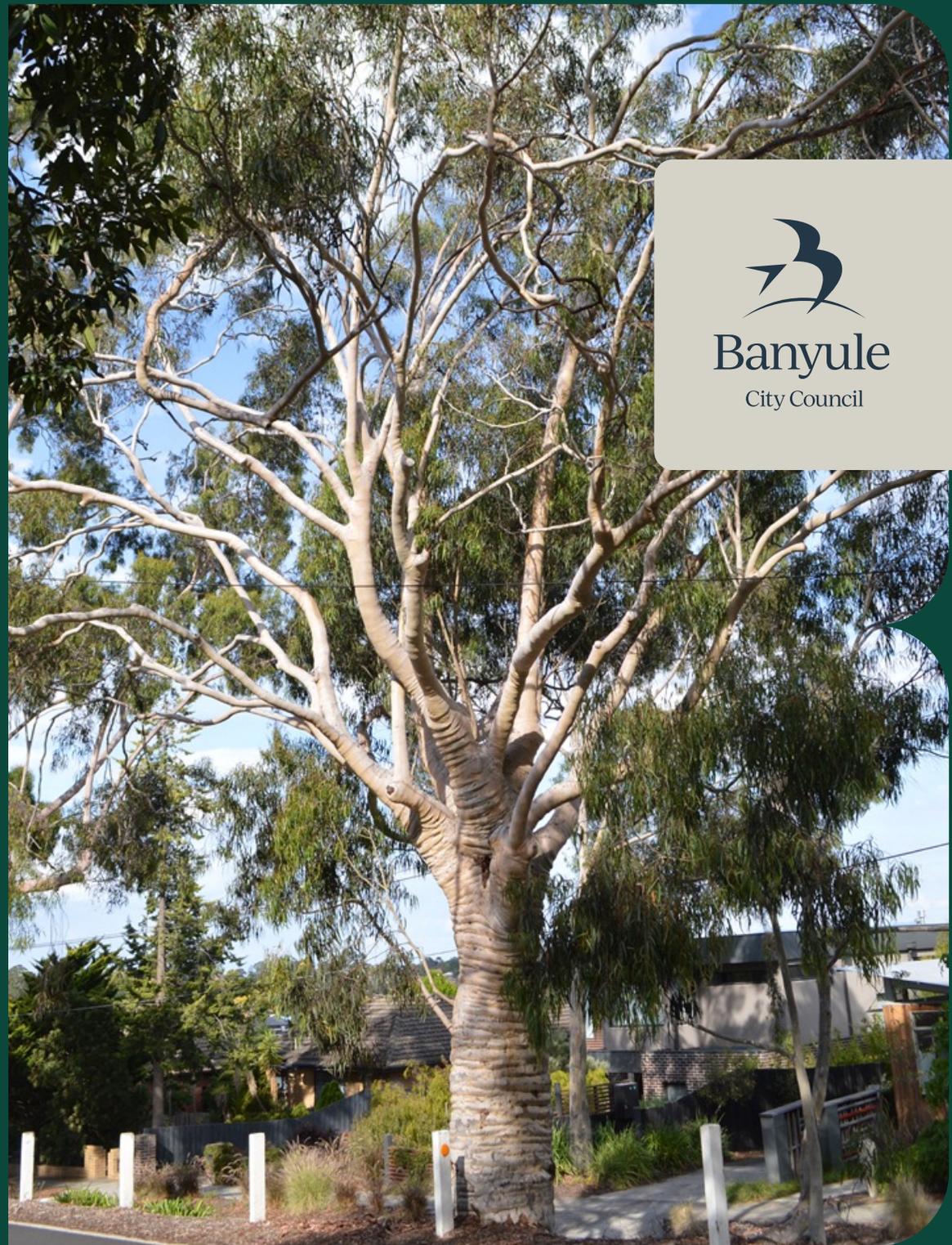


# Urban Forest Strategy

Implementation Plan 2023-2033



**Banyule**  
City Council

# Strategic areas, actions and timeframes

**The Strategy outlines six key strategic areas of focus. Each strategic area has a series of major actions to be implemented over the short- and medium-term.**

**Key Performance Indicators assist with measuring and reporting on success and supporting a continuous improvement process for the management of the urban forest.**

This section outlines each strategic area and provides:

1. An overview of the issue being addressed
2. The major action areas to be implemented by Council and its partners over the next 10 years
3. Case studies of best practice by other local government agencies
4. The details of the actions in each strategic area with classification of their timeframe, investment commitment level, funding model and departments to lead the action.





The details of the actions in each strategic area are listed below with classification of their timeframe, investment commitment level, funding model and departments to lead the action:

<b>Existing</b>	Council can adopt these actions within the current proposed budgets. They can be integrated into existing programs or investigated without additional staff or infrastructure requirements.
<b>\$</b>	<\$10k. Low-cost action.
<b>\$\$</b>	\$10k-\$100k. Council should plan for budget beyond the current proposed budget. Investment in additional research, infrastructure, staffing or funding is required to realise the action.
<b>\$\$\$</b>	>\$100k. Council will require significant additional budget to realise the action, due to the need for new infrastructure, additional staff or introduction of regulations and / or requirements.
<b>Short term</b>	1–3 years.
<b>Medium</b>	4–8 years.
<b>Ongoing</b>	Commencing from 2023.

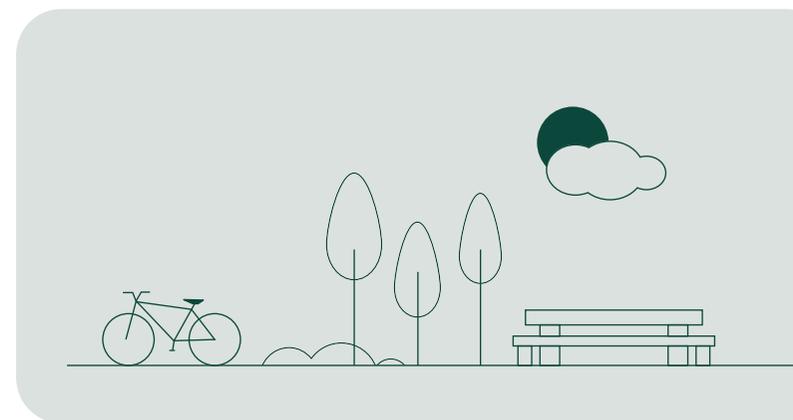
### Summary of investment and timeframe

<b>NO. OF ALL ACTIONS</b>	<b>ACTIONS USING EXISTING CAPACITY</b>	<b>SHORT TERM 2023 – 26</b>	<b>MEDIUM TERM 2027 – 30</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>
60	18	23 actions over years 1-3	14 actions over years 4 – 8	19 actions ongoing

## Strategic Area 1 – Prioritise urban forest improvements in the most vulnerable suburbs and places

### OVERVIEW

This direction will see Council and the community take affirmative action to address the inequity in canopy cover and urban forest quality in the areas with the lowest canopy, the highest proportion of lower socio-economic communities, areas of highest urban heat and exposure to the impacts of climate change.



### MAJOR ACTIONS

#### ACTIONS FOR STRATEGIC AREA 1: PRIORITISE URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MOST VULNERABLE SUBURBS AND PLACES ACROSS BANYULE

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S1.1</b> Develop an agreed urban forest prioritisation method that is based on the Urban Forest Principles to identify areas in most need of planning and intervention.	Determine a weighting for combining spatial factors of canopy cover, socio-economic disadvantage, UHI priority, flooding, wildlife corridors, intersectional gender equity, etc. The output is a map to allocate the relative priority of taking action in different locations.	Short	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	
<b>S1.2</b> Review the urban forest priorities every 3 years (using the prioritisation method) and include actions in asset management and annual operational plans.	To be reflected in service levels and annual operational plans with a workshop review with the output of a report.	Medium	Existing	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	

## ACTIONS FOR STRATEGIC AREA 1: PRIORITISE URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MOST VULNERABLE SUBURBS AND PLACES ACROSS BANYULE

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S1.3</b> Develop and improve the urban forest prioritisation method as new data become available.	Update the matrix as new information becomes available such as Census, canopy or ecological data.	Medium	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	
<b>S1.4</b> Program annual planting in areas with highest priority.	Focus annual street and park planting, and replacement of underperforming trees, in locations of high priority.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	
<b>S1.5</b> Identify vacant street tree sites and program infill plantings to be completed in the medium to long term.	Plant out the approximately 10,000 vacant street tree sites by 2027, in addition to replacement of approximately 2500 annual removals in that time.	Medium	\$\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	
<b>S1.6</b> Work with local indigenous plant nurseries or community nurseries to provide local provenance.	Obtain tree and plant stock from locally sourced seed. Engage nurseries to grow trees to advanced stage for street tree planting or bring in-house to Council.	Short	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Bushland

## Strategic Area 2 - Increase the diversity of the urban forest for biodiversity and habitat with ground cover and shrub layer plantings

### OVERVIEW

**Banyule, like most other local government areas across Australia, has a low level of diversity in its urban forest in certain neighbourhood character areas.**

This strategic area will see Council and the community continue the work to extend the urban forest beyond trees and introduce more diversity into the structure of the forest. If successful it will see a range of trees, shrubs and groundcovers/grasses across the Banyule local government area. It will also see an increase in partnership between Council and the community and enhance community biodiversity actions already activity occurring across Banyule.

As a managed system, selection of species to plant within the urban forest is influenced by many factors. To assist Council staff and the community, it will be important that the rationale for the selection of certain species for street trees is understood and communicated.

### MAJOR ACTIONS

#### ACTIONS FOR STRATEGIC AREA 2: INCREASE THE DIVERSITY OF THE URBAN FOREST FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT WITH GROUND COVER AND SHRUB LAYER PLANTINGS

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S2.1</b> Identify suitable sites in reserves, roadsides and underutilised land where mown turf can be improved to include trees, shrubs, native grasses or groundcovers.	Year 1, map suitable locations and develop a program for implementation.	Ongoing	\$	Project	Parks & Natural Environment	Open Space Planning & Design, Environment
<b>S2.2</b> Establish and maintain new planting locations of shrubs, native grasses and groundcovers.	Year 2 would be a pilot program of a small number of sites. Funding sought in Year 3 to roll out to larger number of sites. Resource staff to establish and maintain planting locations.	Short	\$\$\$	Project	Parks & Natural Environment	Urban Forestry
<b>S2.3</b> Encourage the co-management of new planting sites within the Urban Forest with the community.	Initial target groups will be community groups such as friends' groups or scouts.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Communication

**ACTIONS FOR STRATEGIC AREA 2: INCREASE THE DIVERSITY OF THE URBAN FOREST FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT WITH GROUND COVER AND SHRUB LAYER PLANTINGS**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>FURTHER DETAIL</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>INVESTMENT</b>	<b>PROJECT OR ONGOING</b>	<b>LEAD TEAM (S)</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)</b>
<b>S2.4</b> Develop the nature strip planting program, provide guidelines, and promotion of the benefits to residents.	Implement through a permit system and/or change to the local law to allow residents to plant nature strips where appropriate. Utility owners to be consulted in the process.	Medium	\$	Project	Open Space Design	Urban Forestry, Municipal Laws & Public Assets, Communication, Waste
<b>S2.5</b> Map the ecological corridors (wildlife connection and known fauna movements) to integrate with the urban forest data to identify opportunities for planting sites and habitat structures.	This will include spatial mapping based on fauna movement from an urban ecologist.	Short	\$\$	Project	Environment	Bushland/ Urban Forestry
<b>S2.6</b> Provide recommended species lists for a fit-for- purpose urban forest i.e., the 'right-tree-right-place'. This will include species that are climate ready, suitable for the site and consider the benefit for urban ecology.	Develop an online, location-based list of appropriate species for public and private plantings including a set of suitable substitutes to overly-used or inappropriate species. For example, using deciduous tree for houses north facing in a streetscape.	Short	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	Open Space Planning & Design
<b>S2.7</b> Provide training and information for Council staff on the urban forest – its definition, vision and principles and what it means for their work.	This will run in tandem with S1.2 'Staff training' specifically including the induction process.	Short	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	

## Strategic Area 3 – Manage the urban forest across public and private land for resilience to climate change

### OVERVIEW

This strategic area will focus Council’s efforts on active management of the urban forest to help the community adapt to a changing climate and help the urban forest increase its resilience so it can thrive. This will respond to the current areas of highest urban heat and exposure to the impacts of climate change and to public and private tree resilience by selecting the tree species that will not only survive but thrive in a changing climate.

### MAJOR ACTIONS

ACTIONS FOR STRATEGIC AREA 3 – MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST ACROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND FOR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE							
ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)	
S3.1	Provide support for the protection and survival of listed significant trees on private lands; include tree owners and neighbours in the communication and engagement around significant trees.	Support may include access to a grant for arboricultural tree assessments and/or tree works. The amount of investment will be reviewed annually.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Environment	Development Planning / Urban Forestry
S3.2	Provide care and protection of listed significant trees on public land.	After an annual arboricultural inspection for each significant tree, care may include additional pruning, watering, mulching and understory planting or risk reduction by moving targets.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Environment / Development Planning

## ACTIONS FOR STRATEGIC AREA 3 – MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST ACROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND FOR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S3.3</b>	Work with private and non-council land holders to improve the urban forest on their land via place-based programs and development processes.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Environment / Development Planning
<b>S3.4</b>	Implement passive irrigation (WSUD) for public realm trees and make this business as usual for capital projects and new developments.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Environmental Operations	Capital works / Urban Forestry
<b>S3.5</b>	Provide the public with a recommended species lists for a fit-for-purpose urban forest i.e. the 'right-tree-right-place'. This will include species that are climate-ready, suitable for the site and consider the benefit for urban ecology.	Short	\$	Project	Urban Forestry	
<b>S3.6</b>	Review the recommended species lists annually or when new information comes to light and communicate to community and Council staff.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Development Planning (arborists)

## Strategic Area 4 – Take a long-term, asset management approach to the urban forest

### OVERVIEW

**Managing the urban forest as an essential asset for Banyule is outlined in A vision for Banyule’s urban forest. The definition of an urban forest for Banyule clearly states that the urban forest is a green asset that is strategically planned, designed and managed. This brings urban forest elements into line with other public assets or grey infrastructure.**

With this approach, there is a clear need for:

- clear and accurate data
- an asset management plan that considers timing, resourcing and risk
- resourcing to maintain and renew the urban forest
- monitoring and reporting for continuous improvement
- integration of greening assets with other asset management planning.

The focus of this strategic area is on establishing an asset management approach to the urban forest elements.

The business case for investing in formative pruning of young trees is compelling. Ryder & Moore<sup>57</sup> assessed the number of defects in a population of commonly planted trees in Melbourne, the time required to prune juvenile trees and time required to manage the defects in mature trees. Allowing for inflation, when the cost of pruning a 20-year-old tree is compared to the cost of two formative pruning cycles after three and six years, totalling less than \$10, there is a 13–18-fold increase.

Proactive controls for managing tree risk will adhere to Banyule’s risk management framework and will inform the inspection time frames for trees depending on the location. This will determine that all trees will be inspected for risk in streets, parks, reserves, council facilities, bushland and along the path network with appropriate frequency depending on the risk profile for the area.



## MAJOR ACTIONS

### STRATEGIC AREA 4 – TAKE A LONG-TERM, ASSET MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO THE URBAN FOREST

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S4.1</b>	Develop place-based plans to manage the urban forest, considering use, neighbourhood character, ridgelines and climate. Including: In-fill planting program, maintenance, street tree renewal.	Short	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	
<b>S4.2</b>	Implement a tree valuation policy including amenity value and ecological value then link the urban forest amenity value to current asset management processes.	Short	\$	Project	Asset Management, Finance	Urban Forestry, Development Planning
<b>S4.3</b>	Adopt a canopy cover assessment method to measure canopy gains and losses annually.	Short	\$\$\$	Project -> Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Development Planning
<b>S4.4</b>	Develop a comprehensive urban forest database to allow the analysis of effort and outcome of the urban forest strategy and asset management programs.	Short	\$\$\$	Project -> Ongoing	Urban Forestry	IT

## STRATEGIC AREA 4 – TAKE A LONG-TERM, ASSET MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO THE URBAN FOREST

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S4.5</b> Develop a comprehensive urban forest interactive mapping portal that includes information on street, facility and park trees as well as urban forest understorey plantings.	Essential system upgrade to enable management of the existing tree population, design future plantings and collect tree risk data. Facility trees surround Council-owned buildings such as kindergartens, halls and community centres. Inclusions for external engagement item such as ward newsletters, Banyule Banner as well as digital platforms.	Medium	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	Urban Forestry
<b>S4.6</b> Develop reporting to include urban forest distribution, tree health, species and structural diversity, risk, maintenance.	Resilience and benefits provided by trees such as shade and cooling are linked to the health, complexity and diversity of the urban forest. Structural diversity will be increased with the focus on shrubs and non-tree vegetation.	Medium	\$	Project -> Ongoing	Urban Forestry	IT
<b>S4.7</b> Develop an “Our Trees” web-based tool using collected data for residents to engage with the urban forest.	A public facing web-based tool that is accessible from mobile devices to allow for finding significant trees, generation of requests and has potential for citizen science.	Medium	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	Customer Service / IT
<b>S4.8</b> Prepare a communication plan and program that includes reporting to share information with internal and external audiences.	Inclusions for external engagement item such as ward newsletters and Banyule Banner as well as digital platforms.	Short	\$	Project	Communications	Urban Forestry

## STRATEGIC AREA 4 – TAKE A LONG-TERM, ASSET MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO THE URBAN FOREST

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S4.9</b>	Build relationships with key research partners to investigate the benefits of 'smart planting' programs for street trees and quantify the benefits of the urban forest including carbon sequestration.	Opportunity for universities to have Masters or PhD students work on several projects. This may also include Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and new tree trials.	Medium	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry
<b>S4.10</b>	Develop Tree Risk Management Framework	An asset, risk and customer-focused framework to tree management that includes a documented method for the controls for tree risk. Framework will include a proactive inspection regime in streets, facilities and open space for all trees Banyule is responsible for and that is consistent with Banyule's risk management framework and risk appetite.  Clear and transparent process, procedure and application for managing tree removal and tree planting customer workflows from requests to completion or complaints and disputes that recognises risk profiles for person and property.	Short	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry  Risk, Development Planning

**STRATEGIC AREA 4 – TAKE A LONG-TERM, ASSET MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO THE URBAN FOREST**

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<p><b>S4.11</b> Continue to build on community engagement programs and educate the public about the importance of individual tree retention/removal decisions on the urban forest.</p>	<p>Transparent data should be available for residents when trees must be removed, e.g., due to risk.</p>	Short	\$	Ongoing	Environment / Planning	Urban Forestry / Comms
<p><b>S4.12</b> Create a process for repurposing tree material with a hierarchy for reuse to contribute to the circular economy and waste diversion.</p>	<p>Repurposing of material from removed council trees for habitat, art, outdoor furniture, playgrounds and use in new buildings</p>	Medium	\$	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Open Space Planning





## Strategic Area 5 – Build and maintain partnerships with others in the protection and management of the urban forest

### OVERVIEW

**This strategic area is focused on developing a strong network of urban forest ‘actors’ or ‘champions’ who can work collectively or individually to enhance and protect the urban forest across Banyule. It is focused on supporting existing community programs and delivering urban forest outcomes through them.**

Most of the research around best practice urban forestry highlights the need for the community to play a significant role. Communities need to be part of the discourse and the decisions if we are to enable the significant change required to urban planning and management along with the social change needed to bring about a healthy urban forest.

Fundamentally, community engagement can be broad. In best practice urban forestry, the best form of engagement is where Council staff proactively seek out community. The values, concerns and aspirations of the community are heard while expert information about the problem is shared. In this way, an ongoing partnership with the community is established and decision-making is well understood.

Research into the attitudes, values and behaviours of residents around trees shows that:

- more people value both the personal and community benefits from trees on their properties
- there is a need to address landowners’ concerns about property damage
- interpersonal communication is the most preferred way to learn about urban trees
- personal networks are invaluable in sharing information about tree care
- women may play a crucial role in fostering urban forests
- almost all parents believe it is important for their children to spend time in nature
- millennials own fewer trees but are more likely to volunteer for trees
- Baby boomers have more concerns related to existing trees
- reaching new audiences requires focusing on landowners with lower education and income levels.

Proactive approaches to community engagement include public participation campaigns (before and during the development of plans) and co-management partnerships. Volunteer involvement in citizen science programs is a positive shift from traditional approaches, with many potential benefits.

Although mostly focused on community involvement, developers can play a significant role in enhancing the urban forest through the actions of this strategic area.

## MAJOR ACTIONS

### STRATEGIC AREA 5 – BUILD AND MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHERS IN THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE URBAN FOREST

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S5.1</b> Ensure advisory committees are engaged and informed throughout implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy.	Advisory committees such as The Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAAC) will be updated on the progress and timing of actions being implemented and when new data on the success of the Strategy is available.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Environment	Urban Forestry
<b>S5.2</b> Engage with community through a range of educational activities to build understanding and value of the urban forest.	Ensure events inform the community about urban forestry including information packs for new residents.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Environment	Urban Forestry
<b>S5.3</b> Incorporate citizen science projects and data into Banyule's annual monitoring programs.	Greater use will be made of data sourced from citizen science initiatives to report on biodiversity in Banyule and aid our annual monitoring programme. Sources such as Birdlife Australia, frog ID and iNaturalist.	Ongoing	\$	Ongoing	Environment	Urban Forestry
<b>S5.4</b> Engage with Wurundjeri Narrap team on the implementation of this strategy.	The Wurundjeri Narrap team is an established Natural Resource Management team of the Wurundjeri Council.	Ongoing	Existing		Bushland	

## STRATEGIC AREA 5 – BUILD AND MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHERS IN THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE URBAN FOREST

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S5.5</b> Engage specific community groups and traders in the design and delivery of particular urban forest projects, especially in priority areas.	These areas may be near encumbered open space or near sensitive biodiversity reserves. An example is the Heidelberg West Business Precinct which is within a priority area.	Short	Existing	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	Economic Development, Strategic Planning & Urban Design
<b>S5.6</b> Celebrate the neighbourhood character trees for each area.	Specific trees (including on significant register) and avenues are vital to recognise so that we can continue to have strong neighbourhood character in specific areas.	Medium	\$\$	Project	Urban Forestry	Urban Forestry
<b>S5.7</b> Celebrate trees and the urban forest through becoming a recognised Tree Cities of the World – apply for recognition in July 2024.	The Tree Cities of the World Program is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed and duly celebrated. Currently 7 cities in Australia are recognised and none from Victoria.	Short	Existing	Project	Urban Forestry	Urban Forestry
<b>S5.8</b> Implement a program to make available a free tree to all residents, clubs and businesses in Banyule.	To increase vegetation on private land, this program will be promoted through Council's channels offering a free tree to all residents who request one. The program will be supporting the planting of trees on private land and influencing the diversity and climate suitability of trees that are planted. The trees will be monitored and engage with citizen science.	Short	\$	Project	Urban Forestry	Environment

## Strategic Area 6 – Integrate the urban forest principles into all parts of Council services

### OVERVIEW

**For this Strategy to be successful it is critical that all parts of Council take a role. This strategic area focusses on the Council activities needed to embed the urban forest principles into the organisation, its culture, policies and practices.**

The fundamental capacity for local governments to keep pace with society and community demands is of great importance in this area. Research tells us that local government must support staff and communities to match the rapid societal change needed to respond to current urban pressures.

Solutions to better practice revolve around improvements to the way the urban forest is managed, which requires:

- integration of the physical elements of urban tree planting and vegetation with biodiversity, climate, heat, water, social and cultural benefits
- use and collection of appropriate information and knowledge
- adequate resourcing planning, design and delivery, policies and procedures that respond to the Urban Forest Vision
- maintenance, evaluation and continuous improvement.

### MAJOR ACTIONS

#### STRATEGIC AREA 6 – INTEGRATE THE URBAN FOREST PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PARTS OF COUNCIL SERVICES

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S6.1</b> Integrate the Banyule urban forest principles into the operational plans for all teams across Council.	Integral to the Strategy being a living powerful document, we need Council to work as a holistic team for implementation. E.g. understand the physical and mental benefits that the urban forest provides for residents.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	All
<b>S6.2</b> Advocate with Victorian Government agencies and public authorities about the Banyule Urban Forest Strategy and seek support for the vision and actions.	For example this may include ensuring funding, protecting or planting vegetation on land not controlled by Council.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Strategic Planning & Urban Design	Urban Forestry, Transport, Development Planning

**STRATEGIC AREA 6 – INTEGRATE THE URBAN FOREST PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PARTS OF COUNCIL SERVICES**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>FURTHER DETAIL</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>INVESTMENT</b>	<b>PROJECT OR ONGOING</b>	<b>LEAD TEAM (S)</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)</b>
<b>S6.3</b> Work with Council's capital works and public realm design teams (parks, streets, town centres) to program design work a year ahead of implementation to allow for value add, resourcing.	Many projects are already passed design stage for FY22-23 and FY23-24, and this will be reflected with limited influence until FY24-25.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Capital Works	Assets, Operations, Urban Forestry
<b>S6.4</b> Integrate urban forest principles and action into public domain design and delivery and make space for trees and vegetation in the design through a Blue-Green Working Group/Design Review Panel.	Design capital projects that will include successful tree canopy through passive and supplementary irrigation and providing adequate root volumes. Multidisciplinary team during the design stage to achieve urban forestry outcomes. An allocation of resources for maintaining vegetation planted as part of capital projects is vital for high quality ongoing outcomes.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Capital Works	Assets, Operations, Urban Forestry
<b>S6.5</b> Create a future fund for canopy and greening enhancement to capital projects.	The fund should have \$250k for expenditure on capital projects to achieve 30% canopy cover where possible, and greening outcomes to improve human comfort when 30% canopy is not achievable. To be funded through budget allocation and revenue collected as amenity value for trees that are removed for external and internal projects.	Medium	\$\$\$	Project	Capital Works	Urban Forestry

## STRATEGIC AREA 6 – INTEGRATE THE URBAN FOREST PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PARTS OF COUNCIL SERVICES

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S6.6</b> Develop guidelines and training for streetscape and playground vegetation design and maintenance.	This will include technical planting specifications, passive irrigation and WSUD (Water Sensitive Urban Design). Also, a recognition that funding requirements may change if increased sweeping of leaves is required.	Short	Existing	Ongoing	Strategic Planning & Urban Design	Urban Forestry, Open Space Planning & Urban Design
<b>S6.7</b> Progress the review of policies and plans that relate to tree protection and management, including planning scheme controls, neighbourhood character, housing and heritage strategies.	This includes tree protection during development and other stages to ensure no gaps in protection.	Short	Existing	Project	Strategic Planning & Urban Design	Development Planning
<b>S6.8</b> Share data and analysis of canopy/ tree losses in the private domain and focus responses on priority causes.	Using the canopy data acquired in S4.3, the results will be shared with the public to promote drivers for change. Areas with losses will be targeted with information on how to make positive changes such as encouraging the take-up of Council tree give-away program (S5.8).	Medium	Existing	Project	Development Planning	
<b>S6.9</b> Regularly review and update approach to enforcement in response to trends in urban forest actions.	Currently audits take place, but numbers are conditioned and recorded. We require a target to measure success.	Medium	Existing	Ongoing	Development Planning	Municipal Laws & Public Assets
<b>S6.10</b> Share data and analysis of canopy / tree losses in the private domain and focus responses on priority causes.	Using the canopy data acquired in S4.3 the results will be shared with the public to increase awareness of the drivers for the changes. Areas with losses will be targeted with information on how to make positive changes such as encouraging the take up of council tree give-away program (S1.8).	Medium	Existing	Ongoing	Planning	Municipal Laws & Public Assets

## STRATEGIC AREA 6 – INTEGRATE THE URBAN FOREST PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PARTS OF COUNCIL SERVICES

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S6.11</b> Regularly review and update approach to enforcement in response to trends in Urban Forest actions.	Currently audits take place, but numbers are conditioned and recorded. We require a target to measure success.	Medium	Existing	Ongoing	Planning	Municipal Laws & Public Assets
<b>S6.12</b> Trial small scale passive irrigation to benefit tree growth with a long-term goal to move toward a new standard.	Small scale Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) includes diverting of stormwater to a well below the nature strip that is close to new or existing street trees. To be assessed using smart technologies to determine whether it is appropriate to make a component of standard kerb and channel or footpath design in Banyule.	Short	\$\$	Project	Environmental Operations	Urban Forestry
<b>S6.13</b> Make space for large trees in urban places and plan for trees to maximise the use of the available space for tree canopy.	If space allows, a canopy tree should be planted as many locations are under pressure from development and urbanisation.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Urban Forestry	
<b>S6.14</b> Improve data and knowledge about the species that contribute to neighbourhood character. To assist in planning for tree replacement in private and public spaces.	<p>This will be part of the digital information available to residents to allow resident to make informed decisions on private vegetation.</p> <p>Enabling residents to use digital tools and references developed by Council to guide their decisions about tree selection and planting on private land.</p> <p>Supporting officers to use evidence-based species selection for tree planning and planting in the public realm</p>	Short	Existing	Project	Urban Forestry	

## STRATEGIC AREA 6 – INTEGRATE THE URBAN FOREST PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PARTS OF COUNCIL SERVICES

ACTIONS	FURTHER DETAIL	TIME FRAME	INVESTMENT	PROJECT OR ONGOING	LEAD TEAM (S)	ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)
<b>S6.15</b> Integrate urban forest principles and outcomes into initiatives, programs and strategies as they are developed and reviewed.	As strategies and initiatives are developed or reviewed, the principles of the Urban Forest Strategy will be incorporated to ensure all parts of Council are working towards the community's Urban Forest Vision.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	All	
<b>S6.16</b> Prioritise opportunities to deliver on urban forest objectives through amendments to the Banyule Planning Scheme. Investigate urban forest opportunities while considering current zones and overlays e.g., Environmental planning overlay.	Urban forest principles should be considered with strategic planning work.	Short	\$	Project	Strategic Planning & Urban Design	
<b>S6.17</b> Masterplan of avenues and gateways for urban forest.	Key avenues and gateway roads will have vegetation masterplans developed to ensure the long-term character is maintained and enhanced.	Short	\$\$	Project	City Futures	Urban Forestry
<b>S6.18</b> Use the latest vegetation information and recommended planting lists when providing guidance on vegetation selection for landscape plans and permit conditions.	Recommended species lists to guide landscape plans and tree replacement conditions will be through a living document.	Short	Existing	Project	Development Planning	

**STRATEGIC AREA 6 – INTEGRATE THE URBAN FOREST PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PARTS OF COUNCIL SERVICES**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>FURTHER DETAIL</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>INVESTMENT</b>	<b>PROJECT OR ONGOING</b>	<b>LEAD TEAM (S)</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL TEAMS (S)</b>
<b>S6.19</b> Undertake analysis to determine reasons for tree loss in the private realm and any related outcomes that affect the extent, health and diversity of the urban forest.	Accurate and ongoing mapping of the urban forest is required to aid in these investigations and is a foundation prerequisite action for several other outcomes and is critical for the success of the Urban Forest Strategy and other cross-organisational strategic goals.	Medium	\$\$	Project	Strategic Planning & Urban Design/ Urban Forestry/ Development Planning	
<b>S6.20</b> Update the Banyule Tree Planting Zone Guidelines (2011) to best practice and to support the Urban Forest Strategy. Include guidelines as a Background Document in the Banyule Planning Scheme.	Terminology such as drip lines requires modernisation and alignment with Australian standards.	Short	\$	Project	Development Planning/ Strategic Planning & Urban Design	Urban Forestry
<b>S6.21</b> Continue to use General Local Law No. 1 (2015) to recognise and protect street trees as a Council asset.	Local law will be the on-ground protection of public trees.	Ongoing	Existing	Ongoing	Municipal Laws & Public Assets/ Development Planning	Urban Forestry, Development Planning



# Glossary of terms

TERM	WHAT IT MEANS
<b>Canopy</b>	The uppermost branches of the trees in a forest, forming a more or less continuous layer of foliage.
<b>Urban forest</b>	Banyule's urban forest is the trees and green assets (such as vines and climbers, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses) that exist in an urban area and are strategically planned, designed and managed. The urban forest also includes the ecosystems, soils and water that support our trees and green assets
<b>Urban forest vulnerability</b>	The areas of Banyule where there is a risk of the urban forest not thriving or demonstrating resilience. Areas with low canopy, aging street trees, increased urban development, negative community health outcomes, or the urban forest exhibits stress and disease.
<b>Social vulnerability</b>	Social vulnerability is a widely recognised way of assessing the sensitivity of a population to natural hazards and its ability to respond to and recover from them <sup>60</sup> .
<b>Useful life expectancy (ULE)</b>	The length of time that a tree is expected to remain healthy and provide ecosystem services within its environment before it begins to decline. This length of time can vary between trees and between species as it depends on tree health, condition, safety and location. Note: where possible, trees with hollows should be seen as potentially valuable for habitat depending on the suitability of their structure or location.
<b>Resilience</b>	The ability of the urban forest to adapt, survive and thrive in a changing climate.
<b>Water sensitive urban design (WSUD)</b>	The approach to planning and designing urban areas and buildings that considers how to make use of the valuable resource of stormwater, make places cooler and reduce harm to waterways, rivers and creeks.





**TERM**

**WHAT IT MEANS**

**Urban infill**

Redevelopment within established urban areas, typically using previously undeveloped or underutilised land (grey field) or redeploing previously developed land (brown field).

**Ecosystem services**

The benefits people derive from ecosystems (such as clean air, clean water, shade, cooling, stormwater filtration, pollination etc) – the support of sustainable human wellbeing that ecosystems provide.

**Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)**

A product developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on people’s access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society.

**Climate change**

Changes to the Earth’s climate caused by human activity including burning fossil fuels (coal, gas, petrol and diesel) and clearing vegetation. Impacts include a global temperature increase as well as local droughts, floods, extreme hot and cold spells, and more intense rainfall.

**Green infrastructure**

The green spaces and water systems that intersperse, connect and provide life support for humans and other species in urban environments. Green infrastructure ranges in scale from residential gardens to local parks and housing estates, streetscapes and highway verges, services and communications corridors, waterways and regional recreation areas. Green infrastructure has many benefits for society and the environment.

**Grey infrastructure**

Human-built physical structures and systems, such as buildings, water and electrical supply, sewers, stormwater drains, dams, reservoirs, fences, paths, roads and bridges.

**Habitat structures**

In an urban environment, these can be nesting boxes, created hollows or suitably placed logs.

**Facility tree**

A tree located in a Council property such as a library or located in a leased property such as a sporting facility or kindergarten.



**Banyule**  
City Council

