

Program Overview

The Urban Canopy Growth Program (the Program) aims to enhance the verges and increase the wide range of benefits that trees bring to the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup. It also provides an opportunity for residents to play a pivotal role in the enhancement and improvement of our shared natural environment. Participants will be provided with a tree to plant on their verge, all of which are selected for their suitability to the landscape and environment.

Outcomes

This Program has been designed to provide support and promote a collaborative approach between the Shire and the community on environmental matters. It will result in mutual engagement and education for all parties involved, and achieve the following outcomes:

- Learn about the types of trees landowners prefer to have on their properties and the shared local environment as a key resource;
- Facilitate verge enhancements;
- Increase the urban canopy to offset the impacts of climate change;
- Reduce street temperature for the community's benefit; and
- Provide more habitats for local birdlife.

Additional Information

The Program is limited to residents within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup townsites, and only a certain number of trees are available each year.

Planting is to take place between May and August on an annual basis, and will be undertaken by Shire's Parks & Gardens Staff. This is to ensure the success rate of the tree, minimising the watering requirements for landowners in the early months while the tree is establishing an effective root system.

Participating in the Program

Phase 1: Application Submissions & Expressions of Interest

The Program opens routinely each year, with notices and advertising typically shared around the months of November to December. Landowners are invited and encouraged to apply during the specified period – the Application Form can be obtained via any of the following methods.



- Online:** Scan the QR code, or visit www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au
Email: shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 9780 4200
In Person: 1 Bentley St, Donnybrook

The Program Application Form must be submitted before the advertised closure, and can express their interest or learn more by contacting the Shire Administration Office.

Phase 2: Applications & Assessments

Following the conclusion of the submission period, all applications are assessed and considered based on the location of the property, the preferred tree, the suggested location the tree is to be planted, and if the applicant has previously participated in the Program.

Applications are also subject to a site visit and assessment of underground or overhead services.

Phase 3: Notification for Applicants

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their submission for the Program in writing (either by post or via email), which is typically completed by the May following the application period.

Applications are either approved as requested, approved with modifications, or are rejected with explanation and further advice.

Phase 4: Planting

The tree will be installed by the Shire's Parks & Gardens staff. This is to be scheduled for a time in the Winter period when routine works are being planned and carried out.

Suitability & Safety of Verge Trees

Trees are an asset to the Shire; they add amenity, as well as environmental and aesthetic value to our natural environment. In collaboration with environmental specialists and planners, a wide range of information and topics have been considered when selecting the trees available in the Program. These trees must also add to the aesthetic value and amenity of the environment. They should have prolific flowering capability and a large variety of foliage/flower colours. Their habits (such as natural shape, or their ability to be easily shaped) should also be considered.

The Shire recognises that no plant is perfectly suited to all environments, however the trees in this Program will and must:

- Thrive in our local climate with minimal maintenance and watering once established;
- Not invade other areas; and
- Provide both shade and habitat for local wildlife.

Along with the above information, and in an effort to ensure the safety of the public and environment, the trees in this Program must not be prone to dropping limbs and/or large amounts of debris (causing slip hazards), in addition to not creating high fuel loads.

Reduced Impact on Services

Safety & Fire Hazards (Fuel Loading)

Line of sight is a major safety concern regarding street plantings – trees are required to be set back from the road at least 2m to always ensure driver visibility. It is also important to consider the depth of debris that can gather under trees, ensure that any plantings carried out in fire prone areas are appropriate choices with appropriate positioning and spacing to keep fuel loads low.

The approved trees in this document have varying degrees of fire tolerance, and this will be considered during planning.

Root Systems, Debris & Spread

Some species on the list of appropriate plants have the capacity to impact underground services such as water pipes and underground wires, or have roots that can potentially lift pavers, concrete and bitumen. When selecting the plant and location, consideration must be given to the potential risk of root impacts to nearby services. The width of the crown of the plant is a good indicator of the width of the root system.

Deciduous species have the potential to block drainage on properties, and as such they should be planted at a distance of at least 3m from drainage lines, houses, or sheds. Many popular garden plants can spread to and invade other areas. Such plants must not be planted near waterways, drain lines or boundary fences – the distance required depends on the plant, and consideration is required when choosing plants for these areas. Trees that can spread are not approved in this Program.

Powerlines

Powerlines can cause safety hazards when they begin to interact with tree branches. It is important that trees be planted 6m (metres) away from powerlines or light poles, and that any limbs are maintained at over 2m away from cables.

Additional Information:

When planted appropriately, the trees from this Program must not significantly impact any of the above services or areas. The descriptions provided for each tree will also be used to guide which tree species are approved for each application, and will assist in the determination of the most ideal planting locations that minimise risk and impact to safety or infrastructure.

Please be aware that the information contained in this document is not comprehensive, and further investigation may be required by the participant. To discuss further, please contact the Shire's Works & Services department.

Recommended Trees

The trees listed below are available through the Program based on the above constraints, along with their suitability to both the climate and residential environment. Other trees may also be suitable for your property; the Shire's Environmental Officer can assist you with tree selections if required.



WA Peppermint (*Agonis Flexuosa*)

This tree is native to the Southwest, producing small white flowers in Spring. It is drought and salt tolerant, can be pruned to shape (including shrub shape), and attracts Western Ringtail Possums and other pollinators. Grows to an average height of 9m.

Potential Hazards:

- Can spread via seed.



Kings Park Bottle Brush (*Callistemon Citrinus*)

Cultivar of the native Callistemon, with brilliant large red flowers. Hardy in most soil types, this option can be selected where overhead powerlines are present. It can be pruned to shape and is a great hedging plant. Attracts Western Ringtail Possums, birds and other pollinators. Grows to an average height of 4m.

Potential Hazards:

- Drops a carpet of red stamens after flowering.



Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia Ficifoli*)

This tree is native to the Southwest, and features bright pink flowers in Summer and deep green leaves. It prefers sandy, gravelly soil and attracts birds. Grows to an average height of 6m.



Pincushion Hakea (*Hakea Laurena*)



This is a large shrub to small tree with red stems and blue-green leaves. It has stunning globe shaped flowers that open in late Autumn through to Winter. Grows to an average height of 6m.

Potential Hazards:

- Can drop debris during flowering season.



Coral Gum (*Eucalyptus Torquata*)

This tree is native to the Goldfields and is endemic to WA. It produces pink flowers in Spring (from August to December), with greyish leaves and rough bark. Grows to an average height of 7m.



Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca Rhaphiophylla*)

This upright tree is native to the Southwest. It thrives in wetter soil and produces white flowers in Summer, attracting bees and birds. Grows to an average height of 6m.

Potential Hazards:

- Dense foliage can cause a line-of-sight hazard.



Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstoemia*)

This is a non-native deciduous tree, with prolific bright flowers that bloom in the Summer. It has a vase shaped profile and can be pruned to shape. Grows to an average height between 6 - 8m.

Potential Hazards:

- Leaf drop in Autumn.



Flowering Plum (*Prunus Nigra*)

This is a non-native deciduous tree with a vase shaped profile. It features pink-white flowers during Spring, followed by deep burgundy leaves in Summer. Grows to an average height of 5m.

Potential Hazards:

- Leaf drop in Autumn.



Japanese Maple (*Acer Palmatum*)

This is a small ornamental tree that features 5 lobed leaves that are light green, usually turns deep orange and crimson in Autumn. Grows to an average height of 5m.

Potential Hazards:

- Leaf drop in Autumn.



Trident Maple (*Acer Buergerianum*)

This is a small deciduous tree, with small, triangular and tri-lobed leaves. New Spring foliage is a rich bronzy-red colour, maturing to a dark green in Summer, followed by a transition into yellow, orange and red foliage in Autumn. Grows to an average height between 6 - 8m.

Potential Hazards:

- Leaf drop in Autumn.



Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis Anacardioides*)

A rounded shady evergreen tree that features cream flowers in Autumn, followed by orange fruit. It establishes quickly and has non-invasive roots, tolerating drought and frost once established. Grows to an average between 5 - 8m.



Golden Ash (*Fraxinus Excelsior*)

This is a deciduous, spreading, hardy specimen tree. It features attractive yellow bark and lime green foliage that turns yellow in Autumn, and sooty black buds in Winter. Will endure warm conditions in sun or shade. Grows to an average height of 7m.

Potential Hazards:

- Not drought tolerant.
- Leaf drop in Autumn.