

























Key	
	Completed
	Ongoing *
	Annual **
	Monitor/Behind Schedule
	In Progress
	Off Track or Deferred
	Not Due to Start

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Annual UFS Actions (2021-2031)













Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
3.9	Plant a range of indigenous species including trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers to improve habitat and connectivity within public open space.		To increase indigenous vegetation and biodiversity on public land which contributes to community health and wellbeing and helps preserve local character, habitat, and fauna	
4.3	Offer a range of public talks, workshops, incursions and excursions to pre-schools, schools, tertiary groups, and other community groups to raise awareness and encourage the interaction between people and their local natural environment.		To promote the benefits of the urban forest for the community, including health and wellbeing	
4.6	Deliver a community science program in partnership with community science agencies such as iNaturalist to extend awareness of biodiversity and improve data collection.		To maximise local knowledge and enhance data analysis that help ensure effectiveness of programs	
4.7	Facilitate a series of environmental events such as Clean up Australia Day and National Tree Day to invite the community to actively care for nature through weeding, planting and rubbish collection.		To increase community awareness and activation, while increasing indigenous vegetation and biodiversity on public land which contributes to community health and wellbeing and helps preserve local character, habitat, and fauna	
5.7	Review and report against targets annually to demonstrate progress.		To analysis programs and activities to determine progress and ensure effectiveness, and modify if required	
Total 5				








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Ongoing UFS Actions (2021-2031)








Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
1.8	Integrate bushfire management principles into urban forest management to manage risk.		To ensure community safety and effective planning and management of the tree population	
1.9	Advocate for the permanent application of Amendment C219 and strong tree protection measures within the Victorian Planning Scheme to the Minister for Planning.		To ensure protection of tree canopy on private property	
1.15	Advocate strongly to the State Government to retain trees and vegetation when it is designing and installing new and revised infrastructure. When there is no option but to remove it is expected that for every tree removed three would be planted in its place within the Municipality.		To ensure tree canopy is valued and retained, or replaced where not possible to retain, to achieve canopy replacement as quickly as possible	
4.1	Support the planting and care of healthy vegetation and trees in the home garden through programs such as the Tree Education program.		To promote and enable planting opportunities and maximise tree canopy on private land	
4.4	Raise awareness of the importance of indigenous flora and fauna within Whitehorse to enhance biodiversity on private land.		To promote the increase of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity on private land which contributes to community health and wellbeing and helps preserve local character, habitat, and fauna	
4.8	Provide technical and logistical support to volunteers and community groups such as 'Friends of' groups who carry out weeding, planting, mulching and monitoring within Council managed land.		To support the community with activities that help manage the urban forest	

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Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
4.9	Collaborate with surrounding municipalities, waterway managers and community groups to enhance biodiversity links within and outside of the City of Whitehorse.		To maximise the health of Councils urban forest through collaboration with other authorities that impact or contribute to the Whitehorse urban forest	
4.10	Increase communications and media coverage to celebrate our urban forest and its significance. Raise awareness about planning controls that protect trees on private property.		To increase community awareness of the many urban forest benefits and ensure accessible information	
5.3	Monitor canopy cover changes to understand changes in canopy cover according to land tenure.		To ensure actions are having a positive impact, and analyse any gaps or modifications required	
5.4	Collaborate across sectors and regions to achieve better monitoring outcomes.		To increase vegetation and biodiversity objectives via our strategic corridors across municipal boundaries or catchments.	
5.6	Track tree removal, retention and replacement to better understand canopy loss and gains where a City Planning and Development permit has been required.		To analysis program to determine outcomes and ensure effectiveness, and modify if required	
Total 11				








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Completed UFS Actions (2021-2031)








Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
1.1	Extend the Council tree inventory to capture standalone park trees to develop a proactive management plan and improve risk management.		To enable efficient management of the tree population and strategic planning to identify locations for increasing canopy cover and forward planning for individual tree replacement requirements due to age and structure.	
1.2	Integrate tree inventory into Council's asset management system to better manage funding, scheduled works program and auditing processes.		To enable efficient management of the tree population and strategic financial and asset management planning	
1.3	Develop a purpose-built tree and urban forest asset management program.		To enable efficient management of the tree population and strategic planning to identify locations for increasing canopy cover and forward planning for individual tree replacement requirements due to age and structure	
1.4	Review and strengthen the 10-year proactive management program based on results of inventory to minimise risk and maximise tree health and vigour.		To ensure long term tree health and resilience and a low-risk tree environment with a responsible approach to electric line clearance.	
1.11	Review Landscape Design Guidelines for new development.		To ensure Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) is undertaken, and the importance of retaining vegetation is recognised and managed	

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Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
2.5	Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to implement the Council Environmental Sustainable Design Policy to achieve canopy targets using tools such as the Green Factor.		To ensure protection and enhancement of tree canopy on public and private property	
2.6	Develop an integrated water management strategy to encourage the use of water sensitive urban design as appropriate incorporated use of stormwater for passive irrigation in streets and open spaces wherever possible.		To ensure all water is valued as a resource, promote healthy landscapes and waterways and reduce flood risk	
2.11	Renew the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy to increase opportunities for urban greening to mitigate heat island effect, to improve connectivity and to extend canopy cover.		To identify locations for increasing canopy cover and biodiversity to assist with local cooling and health improvements	
3.6	Map habitat street trees and artificial hollows to better manage those trees to protect wildlife.		To ensure holistic tree management is undertaken where tree pruning is sympathetic to environmental conditions	
3.8	Align Open Space Strategy property purchases criteria to allow for improved habitat connectivity.		To identify locations for increasing canopy cover and forward planning to enhance connectivity	
4.2	Formalise and expand the indigenous plant co-contribution program for local residences and schools.		To promote and enable planting opportunities and maximise tree canopy and vegetation on private land	

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Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
4.12	Develop an interactive online map with individual tree data to raise awareness of the value of our urban forest, such as the City of Melbourne Urban Forest Visual interactive map.		To enable the community to access relevant up to date information on Council's tree management practices and the benefits of the urban forest	
5.1	Extend the street tree inventory to include all council managed trees within high traffic areas of public open space including the identification of vacant sites.		To enable efficient management of the tree population and strategic planning to identify locations for increasing canopy cover and forward planning for individual tree replacement requirements due to age and structure, and management of all tree related risk	
Total 13				








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2021-22 (Immediate - In Progress)













Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
2.9	Explore non-regulatory mechanisms to encourage planting of canopy trees in new developments e.g. incentives, educations, supporting innovative developers.		To promote and enable planting opportunities	
2.14	Develop a climate resilient species trial program to test suitability and resilience within the streetscape and parks in collaboration with other Councils and research agencies.		To document local research with the aim to ensure the Urban Forest is resilient and can adapt to climate change and withstand pest and disease incursion	
3.5	Collaborate with local indigenous plant nurseries to better understand the impacts of climate change on indigenous vegetation and conservation approaches.		To document local research to determine the extent to which local indigenous species can adapt to climate change	
Total 3				








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2022-23 / 2023-24 Short term (1-2 years)








Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
1.5	Review the Street Tree Valuation Procedure to include Ecological Services Value, review the valuation cap and set up an accounting process to ensure reinvestment into the urban forest.		To ensure trees are appropriately valued, and where removal is required, ensure the funds collected are used to help protect the broader urban forest	
1.6	Revise the existing Whitehorse Tree Policies and tree management plan to bring into line with best practice in a changing climate. (Interim Urban Forest Policy – Tree Management Plan).		To ensure a contemporary policy position that aligns to the UFS and assists Council to manage and maximise the urban forest	
1.10	Improve accessibility of information about tree removal, retention and replanting through the City Planning and Development process whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements of the City Planning and Development and Environment Act and the Privacy legislation.		To ensure the community are aware of Council's processes and the aims of the UFS	
1.12	Investigate opportunities for developing a program for cable bundling of powerline spans where high value trees are negatively impacted by powerline clearing requirements.		To protect and retain maximum tree canopy while achieving compliance with powerline clearance regulations	
1.13	Develop an approach that preferences asymmetrical planting street design where overhead powerlines exist while recognising the historic nature of 'avenue' planting.		To ensure cost effective maintenance to achieve compliance with powerline clearance regulations, while balancing streetscape amenity and historical character	
1.14	Develop plans for select street trees that would otherwise require significant pruning for powerline clearance.		To protect and retain maximum tree canopy while achieving compliance with powerline clearance regulations	

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Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
2.2	Prioritise areas for planting over the next 10 years targeting areas of low canopy areas, hot spots, social vulnerability, biodiversity and green corridors.		To expand tree canopy and biodiverse vegetation to achieve health and wellbeing benefits for the community	
2.3	Set thresholds for street tree diversity to improve the resilience of the street tree population.		To ensure the Urban Forest is resilient and can adapt to climate change and withstand pest and disease incursion	
2.7	Develop planting guidelines for easements on private property.		To ensure appropriate vegetation can be planted to help increase the urban forest benefits while managing infrastructure requirements	
2.8	Develop a tree palette with a suite of future-proof trees suitable for streets, parks and the home garden for a range of outcomes: Enhanced biodiversity, Shading and cooling, Landscape character and amenity		To ensure the urban forest is resilient and adaptable to climate change, providing long term health and wellbeing benefits	
2.13	For each new structure plan include canopy targets that support the municipality to achieve the overall target of 30% across Whitehorse. In some areas it may be necessary to set higher canopy targets on public land to compensate for areas where there is little space for canopy trees on private property.		To maximise tree canopy cover throughout the municipality	
3.1	Scope and develop green corridors enhancement program which identifies and prioritises areas for new vegetation throughout the urban landscape to improve connectivity. Once the scoping is completed, set targets to drive an increase in area of land managed to enhance biodiversity.		To increase vegetation and biodiversity on public and private land in strategic corridors which contribute to community health and wellbeing and helps preserve local character and fauna	

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Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
3.3	Develop an animal pest management action plan to protect biodiversity assets in line with Eastern Region Animal Pest Management Strategy.		To effectively manage pests that would otherwise cause significant environmental damage	
3.7	Strengthen the Whitehorse Tree Management Plan to preserve the treed character of classified streets cited by the National Trust.		To ensure tree management is sympathetic to local conditions	
5.2	Maintain the Biodiversity Inventory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record notable flora and fauna sightings Repeat biodiversity inventory surveys every 5 years Draw on community science programs within the community to gain a better understanding of biodiversity in Whitehorse. 		To analyse programs and activities to determine outcomes and ensure effectiveness, and modify if required	
5.5	Review the list of trees deemed to have significant characteristics including those that were in VPOs 2 and 4 to extend the reach of the Tree Assistance Fund.		To ensure the community has access to appropriate tree management funding that benefits the urban forest and whole community	
Total 16				

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2024-25 / 2026-27 (3-5 years)				
Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
1.7	Trial the use of structural soils in footpath and road construction projects to support tree growth and surrounding infrastructure in high density areas		To determine effectiveness in supporting tree root growth which enhances tree health, while also supporting surrounding infrastructure management	
2.1	Identify and quantify existing opportunities for planting on Council land across the city including within the streetscape, parks, reserves and other council managed land. Seek partnerships with state agencies to provide further planting opportunities to establish more canopy. Identify streetscapes for increased tree planting beyond the standard practice such as kerb outstands, median, plazas, carparks and roundabout plantings. (Approach - projects pre-planned). Identify wide streets suitable for in-road planting in conjunction with traditional nature strip tree planting as part of traffic calming treatments and improved canopy cover.		To expand tree canopy and biodiverse vegetation to achieve health and wellbeing benefits for the community	
2.4	Develop urban forest precinct plans to maximise opportunities to extend canopy to achieve a range of prioritised outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced biodiversity • Shading and cooling • Improved amenity 		To enable strategic planning to identify locations for increasing canopy cover and forward planning to ensure the balance of neighbourhood character, compliance, and streetscape amenity is achieved	
2.15	Develop a drought response plan to manage the health of individual Council managed trees within streetscapes and parklands during times of drought.			







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Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
3.4	Develop vegetation and biodiversity sensitive design guidelines for Council's capital works and upgrades.			
4.5	Advocate to partner with the State government to implement a community planting program for schools and local residents within areas identified as green corridors.			
4.11	Develop a program for working with residents to increase nature strip planting to strengthen connectivity.			
Total 7				

2027-28 / 2030-31 (5-10 years)

Action	Description	Status 2024	Benefit	Status 2025
2.10	Increase the use of passive irrigation within the streetscape to improve soil moisture levels for street trees.			
2.12	Advocate for changes in the Planning Scheme for greater uptake of green walls, roofs and facades in both residential growth and commercial zones.		To increase green infrastructure that supports community health and wellbeing	
3.2	Develop Master Plans for the Gardiners Creek, Dandenong Creek, Mullum Mullum Creek and Koonung Corridors to improve connectivity for both biodiversity and active modes of transport.			
Total 3				