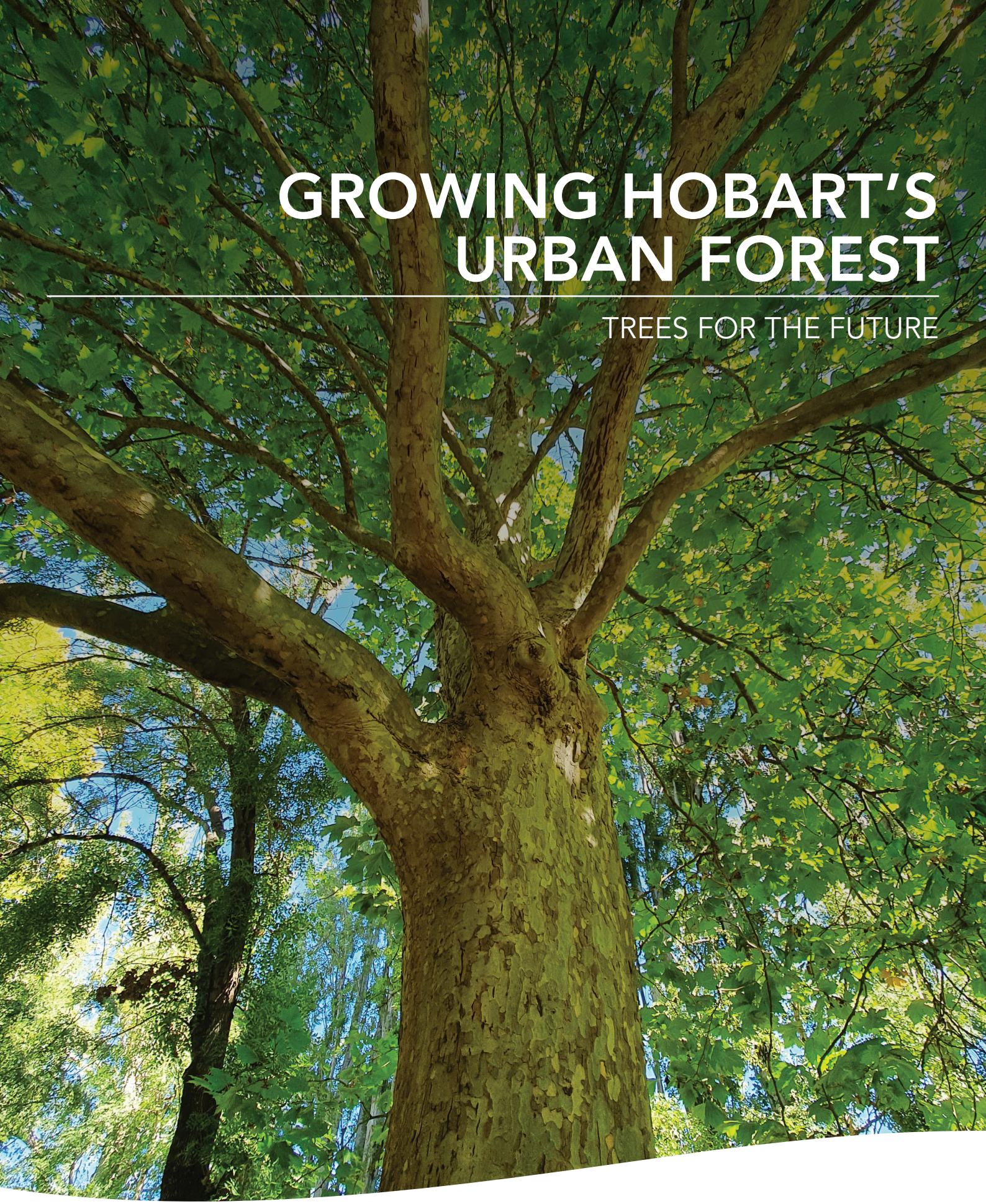


GROWING HOBART'S URBAN FOREST

TREES FOR THE FUTURE

City *of* HOBART

INTRODUCTION

Hobart's trees are incredibly valuable. They filter out pollution, create shade on hot days, provide critical wildlife habitat and will become increasingly important in tackling climate change by absorbing CO_2 and countering the urban heat island effect in the city and our suburbs.

Street trees are also beautiful – they create character and a sense of place for the people who live in Hobart.

But does Hobart have enough street trees and do we need to plant more to create a truly green city?

TREE CANOPY

Cities often measure their health in terms of 'green infrastructure'. This can be calculated, in part, by the percentage of land covered by tree canopy – a measure of the physical spread of trees over land.

The City of Hobart has by far the greatest tree canopy cover of all Australian capital cities at over 59%. The next best is Brisbane, with a tree canopy cover of 49%. Sydney measures in at 15%, followed by Melbourne at 13%.

However, if you look at Hobart's canopy cover in only urban areas, excluding the large bushland reserves on the city's outskirts, Hobart's canopy falls to just 16.7%. This figure includes trees in public parks, gardens, on private land and along our streets.

In fact, 52% of Hobart streets have no trees at all.

CREATING AN URBAN FOREST

Tasmania trades on its clean, green credentials, and aspires to have the healthiest population in Australia.

As Tasmania's capital city Hobart is proud to be one of the most beautiful, liveable and sustainable cities in the world, and has set ambitious targets for environmental stewardship.

These targets include creating a healthy, thriving 'urban forest' – the green infrastructure that is made up of all the trees in the city's bushland reserves, its parks, in private gardens and lining its streets.

This urban forest is a living asset, one that grows, if appropriately managed, over time, and benefits everyone who lives in Hobart.

At the heart of the City's green infrastructure targets is a plan to plant enough trees across Hobart to create an urban tree canopy of 40% by 2046. This goal is on a par with similar aspirations in Melbourne, which has set a target of 40% tree canopy by 2040.

To achieve this goal the City must protect its existing tree population and carry out an ambitious tree planting agenda.





2046 **GOAL**

Increase Hobart's urban tree canopy

by 40%





BENEFITS OF TREES

The City of Hobart actively manages more than 20,000 trees in our streets and parks.

This urban forest is made up of almost 500 different tree species, including the tall oak trees that lend shade and beauty to the Parliamentary lawns and the stately old blue gums at Long Beach, whose hollows provide critical habitat for threatened species such as swift parrots.

The avenue of plane trees that line Fitzroy Place in Sandy Bay bring a sense of grace to the area, while the more than 500 trees planted along the Soldiers Memorial Avenue commemorate the soldiers who died in World War 1.

In the heart of the CBD oak trees, planted more than 150 years ago in Franklin Square, are enjoyed every day by people relaxing beneath their broad canopy.

All of these trees are a highly valuable public resource that contribute to the health of the city and its people – economically, environmentally and socially. They are part of Hobart's cultural and ecological make-up.

In 2017 the City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy put the collective value of Hobart's urban trees at $209 million.



TREES FOR THE FUTURE

Trees are vital to a resilient and liveable city so we need to care for and invest in Hobart's trees now for future generations to enjoy.

This is doubly important if the City of Hobart is to achieve our 40% urban tree canopy target by 2046. To reach this goal many new trees will need to be planted, successfully established and grown.

To get the most benefit out of each new tree planting, species selection needs to address site constraints and identify the specific tree traits that would most enhance the local environment. This might be seasonal interest, habitat for native birds and animals, or shade for summer.

Cities are challenging places for trees to grow – above ground trees are part of an urban landscape that includes roads, footpaths, bicycle lanes, parking and street furniture. Below ground tree roots compete with underground services and compacted soils.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Our annual tree planting program runs throughout the cooler months of the year and focuses on increasing the tree coverage across Hobart's streets and parks.

Sometimes we plant new trees as the result of a desire from the local community for more trees in a particular area, or as part of projects that improve our roads and footpaths. We also identify areas of low tree canopy for future tree planting.

If you would like a tree planted in your neighbourhood you can use our simple online form to share your idea at hobartcity.com.au/tree-planting-ideas

Individual values and preferences for tree species varies greatly across the community. Our street tree strategy balances these values and preferences with the need to plant a diverse mix of tree species that ensure our tree population is resilient to pests, diseases and changing environmental conditions.

PRESERVING EXISTING TREES

There are many mature and significant trees that help make Hobart such a beautiful city. Trees are living organisms that need to be cared for so they can provide maximum benefit to the community.

The City's tree removal policy ensures unnecessary tree removal is avoided and that a healthy, safe and abundant tree population is maintained. For a tree to be removed, it needs to meet one of the criteria in our Tree Removal Policy.

Trees are living organisms that grow and change with the seasons and over years. No single tree will meet everyone's preference and a level of tolerance and compromise allows the entire community to enjoy the many benefits provided by trees.

PLANT A TREE TODAY

The City only controls a small proportion of land across Hobart. What will make a big difference for Hobart's future tree canopy is what happens in people's gardens.

Just like the trees that are planted in our public parks and along our urban streets trees planted on private land are part of Hobart's growing tree canopy, and are just as important for creating a vibrant, healthy and resilient city that is cherished for its natural beauty and environment.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time to plant a tree is now.

Got a neighbourhood tree planting idea you'd like to share with us?

VISIT: hobartcity.com.au/tree-planting-ideas

BENEFITS OF TREES

Environmental	Social	Economic
Clean the air	Cool the city	Increase property value
Store carbon	Improve health and wellbeing	Reduce energy costs
Cycle nutrients	Reduce noise and wind	Create more attractive areas that increase economic activity
Provide habitat and food sources	Provide a connection to nature	Reduce UV damage to infrastructure
Reduce stormwater runoff	Add character and beauty to a city	Reduce health costs
Improve water quality	Encourage physical activity	Improve productivity











Hobart Town Hall,
Macquarie Street,
Hobart,Tasmania 7000

T 03 6238 2711
E coh@hobartcity.com.au
W hobartcity.com.au