

Frequently Asked Questions: Street Trees

Please note all of this information and more can be found at www.canning.wa.gov.au/parks

Why is the City offering trees for verge planting?

Trees are vital to urban areas. Not only are they pleasing to the eye, they reduce urban heat levels, increase surrounding property values and are proven to have a positive impact on our physical and mental health. The trees that line our streets are community assets which will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

The City of Canning currently has urban canopy cover of 7.6%, one of the lowest in the Perth Metropolitan Area. With rising urban temperatures due to loss of vegetation, street tree planting helps to increase canopy cover and reduce urban heat, making our streets, homes and public spaces cooler and more attractive, as well as increasing biodiversity within the City.

How can I request a tree?

Simply [click here](#) to fill out our online form. The Parks and Place Improvement team will then be in touch to discuss the finer details and book a time to assess your verge.

Please note: If you are a tenant, the City requires the owner of the property to authorise the street tree planting request.

How many trees can I request?

If there is room on the verge adjacent to your property for more than one tree, it is possible for the City to plant more if requested.

The amount of trees that can be planted depends on the space available on your verge and other factors such as overhead powerlines and existing trees in the vicinity. The Parks and Place Improvement team will assess the space available and guide you on how many trees will be suitable.

Can I choose the type of tree I want?

Street trees can be chosen from our approved species lists. There is one list for [trees beneath power lines](#) and one for trees that [cannot be planted beneath power lines](#) which aims to increase the biodiversity of the City and includes several native species.

If there is a particular type of tree you would like, please let us know. Requests for a particular species will be considered, but cannot always be met. Once a tree request has been made, the Parks and Place Improvement team will assess the space available and can guide you as to the most appropriate tree for your verge.

How were the trees on the approved species list chosen?

Tree species approved for street tree planting have been selected for a number of reasons including:

- **Growth habit:** Trees which form a straight clear trunk and respond well to pruning (for those selected for planting below power lines).

- **Tolerance:** Tree species need to be tolerant of a wide variety of soil types, climatic conditions and adverse conditions including reflected heat, pollution and limited soil volume as well as being able to survive without ongoing watering once established.

To support a resilient urban forest, a good diversity of botanic families is required so the tree population is not vulnerable to emerging diseases. This includes a range of locally native trees which are beneficial for inclusion in the City's identified biodiversity corridors as they provide habitat and food for local animal species.

Tree which are considered environmental weeds, very large species and those which are known to be unsuitable for the street environment due to undesirable growth habits such as developing surface roots, suckering and vigorous growth have been excluded.

Who is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the tree once it is planted?

The City of Canning undertakes pruning of street trees to ensure trees are clear for pedestrian and vehicle movement, clear of power lines and to allow safe sight-lines along roadways.

All pruning in the City is carried out by suitably-qualified personnel. Working to protect public utilities such as power supplies, the City may also prune to remove dead branches and to correct structural problems.

It is important to note residents and their contractors are not permitted to prune trees on the street verge. If you believe a tree needs attention, please notify the City on 1300 422 664 and an inspection will be arranged.

Once a street tree is planted, the City will water it for the first two summers. New street trees are planted in the cool months, after the rains have started. Additional care by residents is greatly appreciated and will help assist plant survival and growth. To help, you can:

- provide additional water for trees in the summer months
- keep grass away from the base of developing trees
- avoid damaging trees when trimming lawns
- report damaged trees to the City, so replacements can be arranged.

Can I have my current street tree replaced or removed?

As part of the City's commitment to reducing the urban heat island effect and to enhance streetscapes, trees are not removed without good reason.

Street and park trees are generally only removed if they are assessed as dead, diseased or dangerous, where they are causing significant damage or where removal forms part of a streetscape or landscape enhancement program.

If a street tree has structural problems these can often be corrected or managed by pruning. However, remedial pruning can only be completed by the City of Canning or its contractors. Once street trees are removed, where possible, new street trees will be planted near the same site. [Click here](#) to learn more.

How can I report fallen branches?

If there is a fallen branch from a street tree on your street, please send us an email on customer@canning.wa.gov.au or if you believe the issue is urgent, telephone the City on 1300 422 664 during office hours.

Out of office hours, please telephone 1300 422 664 and your call will be forwarded to the after-hours contact centre.