



Consultation Outcomes 2013

Background

The City of Melbourne has been collaborating with the community to develop an urban forest precinct plan to guide greening in Carlton for the next decade. Feedback to date has come from:

1. Community workshop at the Melbourne Museum, March 2
2. Intercept survey of 252 people on Carlton streets, February
3. Consultation with Carlton Primary grade 1&2 composite class, March 21
4. Consultation at Carlton Housing Estate during Harmony Day, March 21
5. Online conversation at melbourneurbanforest.com
6. Online conversation at melbourneurbanforest.crowdmap.com

These consultations have involved approximately 300 people in Carlton, including children, residents, visitors and workers.

What We Were Told: Community Workshop, 2 March

Important Landscapes

- Lygon Street, Grattan Street, Drummond St and Faraday Street sections that support outdoor alfresco dining
- Parks and squares for heritage and habitat (Carlton Gardens particularly as a World Heritage Site)
- Cemetery Road East and Two Tree Hill (roundabout with two heritage listed lemon scented gums adjacent to Melbourne University colleges and Melbourne Cemetery)
- Royal Parade, Cemetery Road East, Barkly Street and Barry Street canopies
- Princes Street and Elgin Street
- All existing green areas are valuable



Hopes for Issues to be Included in the Plans

- Heritage
- Iconic tree protection
- Tree risk and safety issues
- Places/trees for children to play on and around
- Managing drought and water
- Managing soil health
- Habitat (especially for native birds and indigenous plants)
- Use of productive trees (e.g., fruit and nut trees)
- Increasing tree canopy
- Including trees that are different (species diversity and visual diversity)
- Use a balance of exotics and natives (there are benefits from both)
- Managing concerns about removal and replacement of established trees as boulevards age
- How to achieve community aims
- Provision of information to the public (e.g., the plans, urban heat island mapping, presentations, consultation outcomes)
- Communicate the value of trees and consider economic values in the plans
- Use trees that work well for small businesses (e.g., provide good canopy but have low allergen, irritant, infrastructure conflict potential)
- Integration into broader planning documents - green strategy outcomes should be condoned more fully in planning approvals and urban streetscape planning.
- Continue to educate the broader communities including large rental population on the benefits of planting and ownership of their own local street trees.
- Need for balance between built form, large footprint buildings (eg., apartments and urban forest)
- Making sure that there is a seamless transition from what we have now to creating a diversified but multipurpose urban forest for all



Locations for More Greening

The map below shows the streets that workshop participants identified as important locations for more greening. The following notes were made to accompany those locations:

- Swanston Street: collaborate with private development of the old CUB site in terms of trees and landscaping
- Grattan Street: Showcase for international students/academics/visitors
- Lygon Street: Maintain and increase canopy but reduce allergen/irritant producing trees, manage stormwater, plant mixed species, prune
- Drummond Street: Enhance pedestrian amenity and green this area, especially adjacent to public housing, median planting opportunity
- Murchison Street and Owen Street: Great opportunity for understorey planting and more canopy cover. More of this across Carlton.
- Pelham Street: Rapid development and street traffic, opportunity for green strategy and pedestrian link to open space.
- Rathdowne Street and Elgin Street intersection: Want trees to be used to deal with road rage at this corner.
- Elgin Street: Need to provide more coverage/shade, trees look half alive



- Rathdowne Street: Important to provide greening where residents live in high rise, traffic and cycling needs should come second.

Streets Identified as a Priority by the Community



Carlton Neighbourhood Character and Preferences for the Future

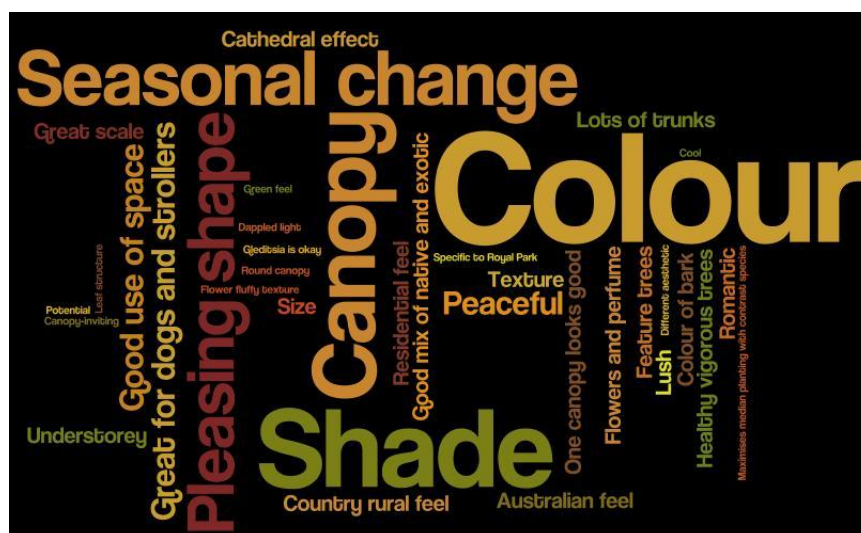
Participants were asked to divide themselves across five tables. Each table was given a set of the same thirty three. The photos acted as prompts to convey ideas of a desired future. Each table was asked to divide the photos into three groups based upon the neighbourhood character they envisaged for Carlton. Photos were to be grouped into the following:

- Photos that best represent the future Carlton.
- Photos that represent the future you don't want.
- Photos you are unsure about or cannot agree upon.

The photos that were generally agreed (by 4 out of 5 tables) to best represent the future Carlton were:



Participants were then invited to add a word or phrase on a post it notes to describe their photo. A summary of these key words from all the tables has been combined into the following wordle:



What We Were Told: Children's Consultation

At both the workshop and at Carlton Primary, City of Melbourne Park Rangers worked through a set of images with children and asked them to 'award' prizes to their favourites. A total of 33 photos that varied from streets with no or very few trees, to streets with high canopy cover and also a range of individual trees that varied in size and colour. The 33 images were the same set given to the adults in the workshop.

The 'prizes' awarded to the images were for shade, prettiness, colour or flowers, 'interesting' and cultural reminders (Christmas and Eid). The children's favourites are below:



Children were also asked to create their own miniature landscapes on pieces of linoleum, with leaves, nuts and pods, sticks and flowers provided. The children were asked to each talk about their own piece of work and explain what it was about. The main elements incorporated into the children's artwork which depicted or represented the types of environments they liked, and the shape or function of trees included:

- The element of play and an environment that they could explore
- Large, shady trees
- Productive fruit trees
- Deciduous trees that drop leaves in autumn
- Understory structure like bushes, flowers, rocks, grass
- Different types of trees that signified different things (e.g., a tree that reminded of Christmas, a tree that reminded of Eid, a conifer that reminded of North America, a deciduous tree, a tall tree and a fallen tree)
- Multiple elements grouped together e.g. ponds, bridges, boats
- Animals
- Streets with trees, cars and animals (a zoo) grouped together



- When asked to review a set of nine images and rate them, people distinctly preferred images with higher canopy. Images with non-natives were slightly preferred over natives. The highly preferred photos were:



The image not preferred at all was:



What we were Told: Harmony Day March 21

Locations for More Greening

- Drummond Street: 'Cooks' in summer
- Drummond Street section adjacent to Princes: should be a 'mini urban forest' with a dense canopy, places to sit in the shade and artistic/cultural feature. Supported by residents of Building 522.
- Balconies: Provide funding to assist or teach residents to plant balcony gardens
- Palmerston and Canning Street Reserve: Was once a great place to sit and meet in the shade of a large walnut tree but it was removed (City of Melbourne Note: Trees were removed due to hazard and park has been replanted with Callery Pears which will restore shade when they mature)
- Queensberry Street: Add edible understorey planting to street tree pits
- Niell Street and Carlton Housing Estate: Provide shade by trees or other means, all the seats are in the sun
- Across Carlton: More shade

What We Were Told: Online Conversation

The online conversation is continuing at melbourneurbanforest.com. Comments to date support:

- Increasing diversity through use of new tree species
- Provision of shade and dappled light
- Continued use of plane trees
- Use of natives
- Understorey planting

The online conversation on our urban forest crowdmap is continuing at melbourneurbanforest.crowdmap.com. Comments to date support:

- Increasing shade on Drummond and Canning Streets
- Enhanced greening of Lygon Street between Princes and Elgin

Summary of Key Messages from Carlton Consultation

There are important landscapes in Carlton where the urban forest, and how it changes over time, should be managed in ways that are sensitive to heritage and existing uses.

The urban forest is highly valued and the community wants to see it thoughtfully managed and enhanced using approaches that meet community needs while improving urban forest health and diversity.

There are many opportunities for enhancing the urban forest in Carlton today.

Desired future states include:

- High canopy cover that provides shade and dappled light
- Visual diversity in terms of colour, shape, seasonal change and contrasts, and understorey planting
- Use of both native and exotic species in the right locations to deliver the benefits that different trees provide
- Species selection that results in mature trees that are in scale and harmony with the streetscape and its uses
- A healthy, lush and vigorous urban forest of big, beautiful, green trees

Important services for the urban forest to provide:

- Shade
- Biodiversity
- Water capture and storage
- Economic benefits to small business
- Psychological benefits (e.g., sense of calm, soothing etc.)
- Food production
- Aesthetic beauty
- Opportunities for play