



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 South Yarra for the next decade. Feedback to date has come from:

1. Community workshop at South Yarra Primary School, April 20
2. Online conversation at melbourneurbanforest.com
3. Online conversation at melbourneurbanforest.crowdmap.com

The workshop included 20 adults and 2 children from the community. The online consultation website received 4,371 separate visits over the consultation period.

What We Were Told: Community Workshop, April 20

Important Landscapes

- Eucalyptus Cornuta (Bushy Yate) planted by Baron Von Mueller
- Morton Bay Fig in Fawcner Park
- Sugar Gum in Royal Botanical Gardens
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Fawcner Park avenues of trees
- Paisley Street South trees
- Tree on Walsh Street (Exceptional Tree Register)
- Como Hill (not in City of Melbourne)
- Golden Elm (corner of Punt Road and Alexandra Avenue)
- Row of Plane trees that create avenue effect
- Liquidambars on Millswyn Street
- Interesting trunk on gums



Hopes for Issues to be Addressed in the Workshop and Precinct Plans

- To understand more about the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS)
- Contribute to the UFS
- Be heard
- Hear a range of opinions
- Sense of security and assurance that community will be consulted
- Keep European trees to provide large canopy
- Understand the placing of trees
- Discuss the type of trees – include natives, edible trees and clumping.
- Creating forest of trees
- Understand how things will change as trees are taken out
- Recognise that older trees need replacing
- Consider tree loss and the constraints of powerlines and underground pipes.
- Discuss 'problem' trees (e.g. declared weeds)
- Discussion of powerlines and putting them underground to allow trees to grow to maturity.
- Keep birds and provide nesting habitats



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:

- Millswyn Street: Maintain current tree character
- Punt Road: A real problem area needing greening. Plant natives, possibly shrubs.
- Park Street: Address issues with infrastructure conflicts, trip hazards and granitic sand.
- St Kilda Road: A priority to maintain elm trees.
- Alexandra Avenue: Protect what is there. Plant more trees.
- Walsh Street: No trees on the road, parking is at a premium.
- Fawkner Park: Add edible trees, plant more natives, shade kid's playground. Increase planting without encroaching on sport fields. Create different environments including a forest clump, less ordered space on the edge or middle, connectivity between green spaces, big joining canopies.
- Toorak Road: Clumps of trees on both sides; natives.
- Commercial Road: Natives.
- Leopold Street: More trees in narrow streets, flexible to reduced parking.
- Batman Avenue: More trees.
- Clowes Street: Needs more watering, struggles in summer.
- Yarra River banks: space for avenue.
- General: Green roofs and walls, edible trees and plants, WSUD.
- Policy: Integrated planning, developers required to plant trees, talk to other councils to green the other side of South Yarra



South Yarra Neighbourhood Character and Preferences for the Future

Participants at each table were 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 South Yarra. Photos were to be grouped into the following:

- Photos that best represent the future South Yarra.
- 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 3 out of 4 tables) to best represent the future South Yarra 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 the workshop City of Melbourne Park Rangers worked through several urban forest activities and a set of images with children.

In one of the activities the children created their 'ideal' landscapes on lino with materials collected from the urban forest. The types of elements that they built included lots of trees, habitat, animals, leaves/nuts/branches on the ground and grass.

The photo exercise used the same set provided to adults. The children's favourites are below.



What We Were Told: Online Conversation

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

- Planting fruit trees
- Planting a canopy to cool the city in summer and allow light through in winter
- Creating an edible food forest

Comments on the urban forest crowdmap online conversation on our urban forest included:

- Identification of the Moreton Bay Fig near the tennis courts in Fawkner Park as a favourite tree for play
- The gum in Kings Domain at the north end of Domain Street is a favourite tree because it changes colour every month.

Summary of Key Messages from South Yarra Consultation

South Yarra is home to exceptional trees, tree avenues and open spaces that are central to the community identity and wellbeing. The community would like to see the heritage and character of South Yarra's urban forest respected while also creating opportunities to contemporise the landscape and increase the use of native trees that provide habitat for native birds.

There are opportunities to enhance South Yarra's urban forest, particularly on arterial roads and by reducing conflict with overhead utilities.

Desired future states include:

- Maintenance of existing tree character and important avenue plantings
- Tree planting on arterial roads and in narrow streets
- A diversity of trees that provide shade with green, leafy, lush canopies
- Use of native trees to provide habitat for birds and bees
- Visual interest that is diverse, engaging and spectacular through the use of shape, colour, shadows, productive trees and understorey planting
- Large trees and/or volume plantings that make a statement (sculptural) in urban, residential and parkland spaces

Important services for the urban forest to provide:

- Shade
- Biodiversity
- Food production
- Aesthetic beauty and screening
- Psychological benefits (e.g., sense of calm, soothing etc.)
- Opportunities for play