



Greening our City Case Study

Hudson Park Tree Canopy Project



In 2019, Strathfield Council was one of 20 councils successful in securing a share of \$5.3 million in grant funding to deliver more trees across Greater Sydney.

Strathfield is undergoing significant change due to increased building density and growing populations, which has resulted in increased demand for quality open spaces.

Council has responded by identifying opportunities to improve access to available public open space and amenity.

Before 2019, the Hudson Park Public Golf Course had been experiencing declining participation rates and Council resolved to transform the golf course into a District Park. The transformation of the public golf course provided a unique opportunity to deliver a new District Park but also significantly increase tree plantings and canopy cover.

Hudson Park is one of Strathfield's largest parks, stretching across 140,000m² for residents and visitors to access and enjoy.

As part of the grant for this project, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment funded over 1,265 trees to be planted at Hudson Park as part of the park's transformation. The plantings were aimed at delivering a cooler environment and attracting birdlife by increasing the tree canopy by 62%, from 36,043m² to an estimated 58,643m².

The project has delivered a 97% success rate of tree survival and today, the trees are continuing to mature to provide significant benefits to improve comfort levels of visitors and attract birdlife to the park.



Trees planted

1,265

Tree survival rate

97%



Grant amount

\$210k

“ These trees will provide a lasting legacy for future generations, and are already improving our local air quality, reducing heat in the area and providing a welcoming and enjoyable place for all visitors. ”

Strathfield Mayor, Cr Antoine Doueih



Tree selection

- Predominantly native plant species were planted including a large number of Turpentine trees that were formerly indigenous and part of the Cumberland Forest. Other species included Blackbutt, Grey Box, Wollybutt, Ironbark, Honey Myrtle and others.
- Trees were partly selected for their ability to attract wildlife and birds to the area.
- Some exotic species were also planted as specimen trees to add beauty and shade along pathways.

Tree establishment period

Strathfield Council staff have and continue to maintain the trees as part of the grant conditions to ensure a successful 18-month tree establishment period. Throughout the wet weather experienced in early 2021, staff took particular care of the trees to avoid water logging of roots. The project has seen a 97% success rate of tree survival. The trees continue to grow and mature to provide much-needed shade, act as a sound barrier and have already begun attracting birdlife into the Hudson Park precinct.

Timeline

Date of planting: 4 Dec 2019

Start of Tree establishment period: 10 Jun 2020

End of Tree establishment period: 10 Jan 2022

Ongoing routine maintenance by Council: 11 Jan 2022

Greening our City grants

The Greening our City grant program supports local councils and their partners to enhance urban tree canopy and green cover by providing funding for tree planting and demonstration projects across Greater Sydney. Each tree planted counts towards the Premier's Priority of planting one million trees across Greater Sydney, creating cooler suburbs for our communities. More trees also provide improved air quality, better urban amenity and more habitat to support birds and wildlife.