



Street Tree Master Plan 200



Table of Contents

Vision Statement

Part A Introduction

- 1.1 Context
- 1.2 Benefits of street trees
- 1.3 Key objectives
- 1.4 Who will use this Plan
- 1.5 The structure of the Street Tree Master Plan 2004
- 1.6 Street Tree Policy documents

Part B Tree Species Selection

1. Tree Selection Criteria
2. Design Principles

Part C Precinct Plans

1. King Street Wharf and Walsh Bay
2. The Rocks and Millers Point
3. Northern Financial and Alfred Street
4. Western Commercial
5. Retail Core and Martin Place
6. Town Hall and Mid City
7. Hyde Park and Cook and Phillip Park
8. Woolloomooloo and Potts Point
9. East Sydney
10. Surry Hills
11. Southern CBD
12. Haymarket
13. Chippendale
14. Ultimo
15. Pyrmont
16. Darlington
17. Camperdown
18. Glebe
19. Woolloomooloo
20. Elizabeth Bay
21. Darlinghurst
22. Redfern and Waterloo
23. Erskineville and Alexandria
24. Moore Park and Paddington
25. Rosebery
26. Green Square
27. Southern Industrial

Table of Contents

Part D Street Tree Master List

Part E Technical Guidelines

- 1.0 Trees in Footways - Guidelines for Placement
 - 1.1 Layout
 - 1.2 Spacing of Street Trees
 - 1.3 Width of Footways
- 2.0 Strategies to Avoid Damage to Footways and Services
 - 2.1 Root Barriers
 - 2.2 Aerial Bundled Conductors
- 3.0 Street Tree Specification and Installation Details
 - 3.1 Nursery Stock Purchase and Specification
 - 3.2 Street Tree Planting Technical Details
 - 3.3 New Tree Installation Specification
 - 3.4 Root Barrier Specification
 - 3.5 Protection - Tree Guards
 - 3.6 Maintenance

Part F Appendices

- 1.0 List of Tree Species - Small, Medium and Large Trees
- 2.0 Tree Data Sheets
- 3.0 List of State, Regional and Collector Roads

Part G Bibliography

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Street trees are one of a city's most important natural assets. They are crucial to maintaining the high quality of our public realm and perpetuating the Living City vision for Sydney.

The Street Tree Master Plan 2004 is a blueprint for the provision of street trees in the City of Sydney. The objectives of this Master Plan are to improve and develop the number, health, longevity and form of street tree species; and to enhance the distinct character of the various city precincts.

With this Master Plan, the City will be able to provide healthy street trees which will beautify our urban environment today and will become a legacy for future generations.

Cr Clover Moore

Lord Mayor

Vision Statement

1.1 Context

The City of Sydney Local Government Area covers approximately 26.15 square kilometres with a population of 140,000 people (Figure 1).

Given its location as the economic and cultural heart of the Sydney metropolitan area, our area is densely urbanised. As the oldest city in Australia the built form dates from early 1800s and includes many items of historic and heritage value.

In general the City of Sydney consists of three distinctive areas that present opportunities and challenges for street tree planting.

These are:

- **CBD**
The CBD area with its predominantly high rise buildings can create harsh conditions for street trees due to excessive overshadowing, wind tunnel effects, radiant heat from pavements, and high levels of pollution from vehicle emissions. In some streets building awnings prevent establishment of in ground tree planting.
- **Residential areas**
The residential areas contain a variety of architectural styles and building types ranging from traditional Victorian and Federation architecture, to newer medium density housing developments. Suburbs such as Glebe, Newtown, Surry Hills and Darlinghurst incorporate fine grain street patterns and allotment sizes that enhance the historic character and create streetscapes that are defined and have a sense of enclosure.
The building alignments of these older residences are often located on the boundary of relatively narrow footpaths. This raises issues of tree location, solar access, and pedestrian egress when planning for street trees.
Other suburbs such as Rosebery consist predominantly of single storey houses on large blocks with generous setbacks from the street.
Green Square and Pyrmont / Ultimo are major urban renewal areas with the conversion of previous industrial uses into medium density residential.
These areas provide the opportunity to plan for the successful establishment of street trees as part of the public domain planning and development consent process.
- **Southern Industrial area**
The southern part our area that includes the suburbs of Alexandria and St Peters consists predominantly of large industrial blocks with a coarse grain street network.
The generous setbacks of many of these developments allow the opportunity to establish larger trees as well as using consent conditions to include additional rows of trees within the private frontages.

For our area street tree planting is a very significant component of the physical makeup and appearance of the street and is a critical factor in our overall impression of the public domain.

For this reason the City of Sydney has committed the time and resources to the creation of a Street Tree Master Plan to provide a co-ordinated and strategic approach to its street tree planting activities.

1. Introduction



Trees in Martin Place humanise the space. (image: D. Beaver)



Terraces are a common housing type in our area. (image: L. Johnson)

1.2 Benefits of street trees

Street trees are an important urban element that can transform the city's streets and provide environmental, aesthetic, cultural and economic benefits. In the long term, they can create a sense of place and enhance public domain.

Street tree plantings:

- Improve environmental amenity by providing summer shade for the comfort of pedestrians and residents.
- Improve environmental comfort as street tree canopies diminish traffic noise, screen unwanted views and reduce glare.
- Improve environmental conditions as their leaves absorb heat and filter air pollution and dust of city streets.
- Create a sense of place - tree lined streets provide orientation and contribute to the city's character.
- Provide a human scale that contrasts with the towers that dominate some city streets.
- Enhance property values as they establish and mature.
- Provide seasonal interest and natural beauty through foliage and their interesting leaf patterns, flowers, bark, fruit and canopy.
- Provide a link to nature and a source of delight.
- Provide habitat and a food source for urban fauna.

1.3 Key objectives

The key objectives of the Street Tree Master Plan 2004 are:

- to establish a street tree species palette suited to the environmental conditions of the City of Sydney's public realm.
- to reinforce and enhance the special characteristics of city precincts using distinct street tree planting.
- to direct the most appropriate species and planting techniques for the many potential tree sites in Sydney - "the right tree for the right location".
- to establish green city corridors by providing high quality street trees.
- to increase the number of trees in Sydney's streets.
- to improve street tree establishment and survival rates.
- to guide the maintenance and management of existing and new trees to ensure that they survive and thrive in the harsh urban conditions.
- to provide clear guidelines to ensure a consistent approach towards the provision of street trees in the City of Sydney.
- to set and maintain high tree establishment standards.

1. Who will use this Plan?

The Street Tree Master Plan 2004 is intended for use by:

- City of Sydney staff - as a guide for the provision and management of street trees within the city's public domain.
- Landowners and developers- to assist in the selection and installation of tree species.
- The general public - to foster a better understanding of the desired street tree character for city precincts.

1.5 The structure of the Street Tree Master Plan 200

The Street Tree Master Plan 2004 provides a guide to the provision and planting of street trees in the City of Sydney. The Master Plan consists of the following sections:

- A Introduction
- B Species selection - including tree selection criteria, design principles
- C Precinct Plans - nominates the tree palette and design objectives for each precinct
- D Street Tree Master List - nominates the tree species for every street.
- E Technical Guidelines - indicates tree set out, tree planting and surrounding details and specifications.
- F Appendices - includes tree data sheets, road classification lists.

1.6 Street Tree Policy documents

The Street Tree Master Plan 2004 is part of the City of Sydney Tree Management Policies - *Trees for a Living City* documents which will provide the necessary tools to effectively manage street trees in our area. The documents comprise:

Volume 1 Urban Tree Management Policy

Volume 2 Tree Preservation Order

Volume 3 Street Tree Master Plan

Volume Significant Tree Register

Figure 1 shows the relationship between the City of Sydney's tree management documentation.

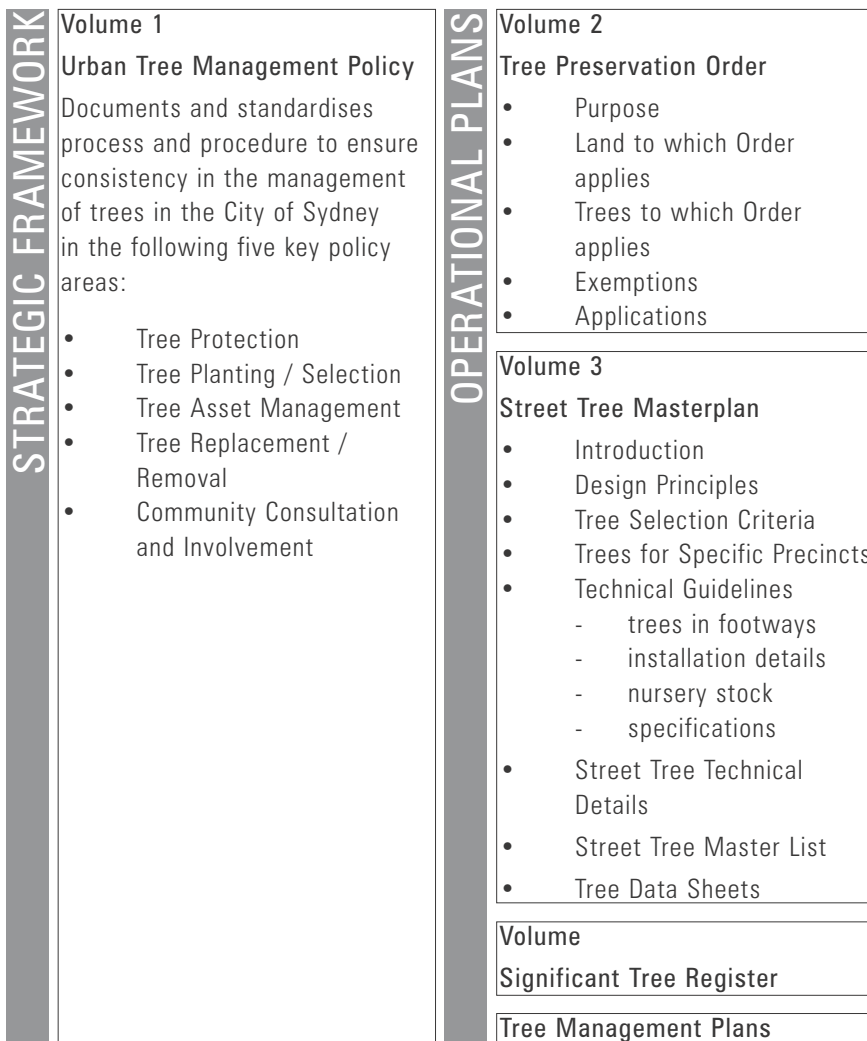


Figure 1