

LET'S grow GRANTS

Round One Guidelines

12 February – 30 June 2026

Urban Greening Strategy



Acknowledgement of Country



The Western Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) peoples of the Noongar Nation, whose land and waters are integral to the *Let's Grow* urban greening program.

Since time immemorial, the Noongar people have inhabited these lands, known as Noongar boodja (Country). We pay our respects to Ancestors and Elders, past and present, and honour their enduring connection to sky, land, waters, community, animals and plants.



As one of the oldest surviving living cultures on earth, we recognise the Noongar practice of intergenerational care for Country and its relevance to our work — a practice that continues to guide stewardship of boodja today.

Let's Grow provides a bidi (pathway) to improve the health and vitality of Noongar boodja for our future.

We remain committed to listening, learning and strengthening our partnership into the future to grow urban greening outcomes that benefit Noongar people and the broader community.

‘Whadjuk’ refers to the Country, people and dialect of the Greater Perth region. ‘Bindjareb’ refers to the Country, people and dialect of the Peel region.



Important grants information

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage follows the Western Australian Treasurer's Instructions and Western Australian Grants Administration Guidelines to ensure accountability, transparency, and sound financial governance throughout the grants process.

By applying, you consent to the Department and the Western Australian Planning Commission using and sharing the information you provide for assessment purposes, which may involve external parties.

Successful applicants will be announced on the Department's website and other communications channels. Information such as the applicant's name, project details and funding amount, will be included.

The Department may select the project for ongoing promotion of the grants program, such as social media posts or in a case study; details will be provided in the Funding Agreement.

The Department only collects personal information required to carry out its functions and activities and will handle any personal information or commercial in confidence information provided responsibly.

Once the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* is fully operational, the Department will comply with legislated requirements for Information Privacy Principle entities.

As the Department is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, information provided may be subject to disclosure under that Act.

For details on how your personal information is handled, please see the WA.gov.au [Privacy Statement](#), the Department's [Privacy Policy](#), or contact the Department on (08) 6551 8002 or info@dplh.wa.gov.au

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WAPC

Western
Australian
Planning
Commission

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Part of the *Let's Grow* program, this document has been produced by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission. If you require other formats or languages, please contact the Department.

About the grants program

The State Government's *Let's Grow – Leafy and liveable communities* program brings the [Urban Greening Strategy](#) for Whadjuk and Bindjareb to life.

Let's Grow is the State Government's strategic response to combat urban heat, strengthen climate resilience, support community health and wellbeing, and enhance biodiversity and access to nature.

The *Let's Grow* Grants are administered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (the Department) on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

Round One of the grants recognises the vital role that schools and community groups can play in urban greening.

Funding will empower local leadership and engagement, supporting projects that align with the Urban Greening Strategy to create lasting benefits for generations to come.



Urban Greening Strategy alignment

The Strategy's vision, target and Greening Principles are:

VISION

Let's grow cool, resilient and leafy neighbourhoods with nature and green spaces at the heart of our communities.

TARGET

Increase tree canopy to 30% within Whadjuk and Bindjareb by 2040.

GREENING PRINCIPLES

RIGHT

AMOUNT

Keep vegetation and plant more, with a focus on tree canopy.

RIGHT

PLACE

Plant where it matters most, with good design that maximises impact.

RIGHT

KIND

Choose plants that will suit the site, thrive and boost benefits for people and nature.

RIGHT

APPROACH

Green with others for success, and listen, learn and teach along the way.

Let's grow!

Achieving our greening vision and meeting our targets will require a cultural shift in how we all plan, build and manage our urban areas. No single person, organisation or sector can achieve this alone.

If you have a practical idea to plant trees and low-level vegetation on school grounds or in urban neighbourhoods — such as verges, parks, carparks, community spaces, neighbourhood hubs, public transport stops and walking and cycling routes — then this program can help make it happen.



The Let's Grow Grants support projects that:

- Are in Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel)
- Create leafy, shady and cool places to combat urban heat
- Green urban areas where people live, learn, work and spend time — and where urban heat is felt most
- Focus on tree planting to drive progress towards our tree canopy target
- Consider low-level vegetation (like shrubs, sedges, native grasses) to support tree planting
- Deliver a range of benefits for people, wildlife and nature
- Make good use of public grant funding.

Key dates

The State Government has committed \$10 million over four years to deliver the *Let's Grow Grants*, with \$2.5 million allocated each financial year.

Round One will close at 5pm on 30 June 2026, or earlier if funding has been allocated. You can apply at any time while Round One is open.

Funding priorities and eligibility will be reviewed annually to make sure the *Let's Grow Grants* keep supporting projects that best advance the goals of the Urban Greening Strategy.

Details for future rounds will be announced after Round One closes — [subscribe to the *Let's Grow* e-news](#) to stay updated.

Funding streams

Round One offers two funding streams for applications.

Stream 1: Small projects

- \$500 to \$10,000 (ex GST)
- Best for simple planting projects
- Simpler application and Funding Agreement
- Up to two years to complete the project
- Covers trees and low-level vegetation, plus basic items to support planting such as stakes, watering cans, mulch, shovels and delivery fees
- Does not cover labour, administration or any machinery costs.

Stream 2: Large projects

- \$10,001 to \$100,000 (ex GST)
- Suitable for larger or more complex projects
- More detailed application and Funding Agreement to reflect the scale and scope
- Up to three years to complete
- Covers trees and low-level vegetation, plus basic items to support planting (as per Stream 1)
- Can include labour, contractors, machinery hire and limited administration costs.

Who can apply?

Applicants will first need to confirm if the project site(s) is within a suburb that's located in the Whadjuk or Bindjareb regions — see [Suburb list for Whadjuk \(Perth\) and Bindjareb \(Peel\)](#) to check.

Applicants will need to be one of the following:

- A registered government or non-government school
- An incorporated not-for-profit community group (for example P&C groups, 'Friends of' groups, sporting, recreation or residents' groups), incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* (WA)
- A charity not-for-profit organisation, as registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Applicants will also need to:

- Hold an ABN (or proof you've applied for one), or have a project sponsor (see more below)
- Be operating in Western Australia
- Hold an Australian bank account
- Be up to date with any previous Western Australian Government grant reporting
- Have appropriate insurance (noting all Government schools already have insurance)
- Have written approval of the landowner, land manager or school principal to plant and access the nominated site
- Comply with Department of Education procurement processes if you are a State Government school — see **Appendix 4: WA Government School Applicant Support Guide** for information.

Using a project sponsor

If your school or group doesn't meet all the eligible applicant requirements, you can still apply via a project sponsor who meets the eligible requirements.

State Government agencies and local governments can also be sponsors, even though they can't apply directly.

A project sponsor:

- Applies on your behalf
- Manages the funding
- Must be authorised to sign the Funding Agreement and will be responsible for any obligations under the agreement.

What projects can be funded?

Your planting project must:

- Include tree planting as a key part of the project to help drive progress towards the tree canopy target
- Be within an urban area — this is where people, live work and visit, and where urban heat is felt most
- Be on public or private land, if it provides benefits to your community group, school or the wider community
- Have approval from the landowner, land manager or school principal (as applicable)
- Show how trees and plants will be cared for until they're established.

Tree planting must be the focus of your project but low-level vegetation like shrubs, groundcovers and native grasses are also encouraged.

This aligns with the Urban Greening Strategy and its ambitious 30 per cent tree canopy target.

Examples of suitable projects

- Adding trees for shading and cooling in well-used sites
- Greening hot, paved surfaces to reduce urban heat
- Planting to activate an underutilised space
- Supporting biodiversity through planting local native species
- Boost resilience by adding a variety of new species
- Planting to connect vegetation and create a 'green link' for people or nature
- Creating shadier paths and routes to encourage active transport
- Growing school micro forests or bush classrooms
- Creating pocket forests, bush or habitat gardens
- Converting paved or turf areas to waterwise plantings
- Planting in local parks and recreation spaces
- Trees and low-level vegetation planting to bring about specific benefits, for example, to create wildlife habitat, buffer noise or road traffic, save money on cooling (see **Appendix 1: Urban greening benefits** for inspiration).



What projects can't be funded?

Funding can't be used for projects that:

- Do not include tree planting
- Are not in an urban area
- Are on rural or farming land
- Benefit individuals rather than the community
- Are in private residential backyards
- Are already required by other statutory requirements or approval conditions
- Have already commenced prior to receiving approval under this grant program.



What you can spend grant money on

Stream 1 and Stream 2:

- Trees and low-level vegetation providing they are not listed as weeds, invasive species or as highly susceptible to the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) pest (see **Appendix 3: Helpful Links and Resources** for guidance)
- Supplementary items to support planting and maintenance such as mulch, soil enhancers, stakes, tree guards, hose, watering can, shovel, tap timers and waterwise and cost-effective irrigation to support plant establishment. See **Appendix 5: Supplementary Items Guide** for more guidance
- Delivery fees associated with the trees, plants and supplementary items.

Stream 2 only:

- Contractors or consultants (if needed) for site design, site preparation or planting
- Machinery or equipment hire for the purposes of site preparation or planting
- Limited project administration costs where directly related to the project such as office expenses, insurances and travel between operational sites, capped at 10 per cent of the total grant amount applied for and assessed against 'value for money' criteria.

Seeking quotes

Quotes are only required for:

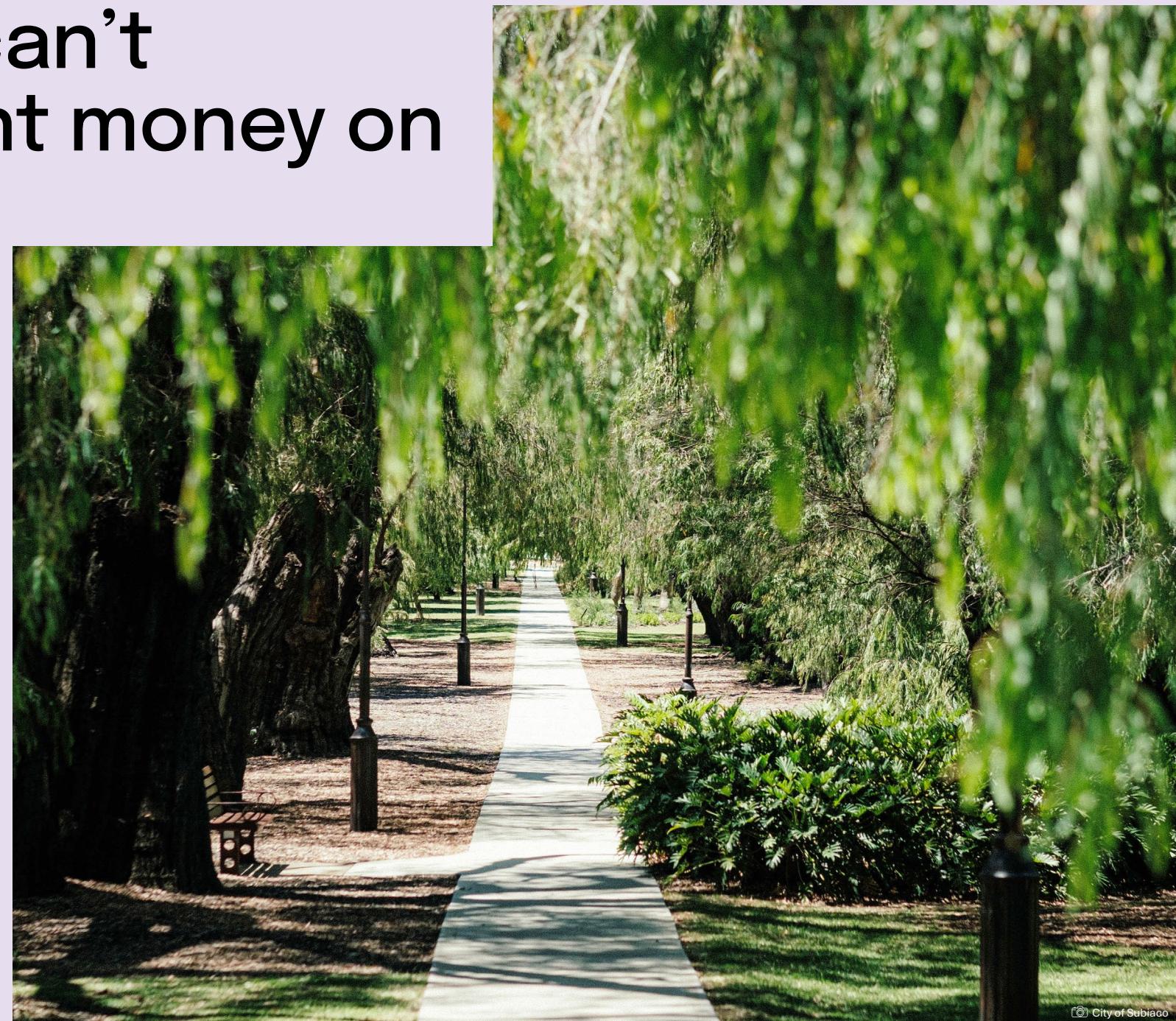
- Any individual item/plant costing \$1,000 or more (one quote per item)
- Any individual machinery or equipment hire costing \$1,000 or more (one quote per item hired)
- Use of contractors or consultants (two quotes per contractor/consultant)
- State Government schools applying for \$50,000 or more must comply with Department of Education procurement procedures.

See **Appendix 6: Quotes Checklist and Guide** for guidance.

What you can't spend grant money on

Below is a list of the exclusions:

- Removing existing trees
- Purchase of turf or seeds
- Staff salaries or normal running costs
- Buying land or other assets such as vehicles, playground equipment, nature play, furniture, hard surfaces such as paving, or IT equipment
- Removing or installing permanent retaining walls
- Event hosting costs such as food, drinks or toilet hire
- Costs incurred before the Funding Agreement is signed
- Any repair or long-term maintenance costs (except establishment watering during the first two years or so)
- Anything not directly related to the site preparation or design to facilitate planting, or to assist plant survival and establishment.



Approvals required

You must obtain written approval (letter or email) from the landowner, land manager or school principal (as applicable) for every property where on-ground activities will take place or where access is required.

For all Government schools, permission from the school principal is adequate.

The approval must:

- Include the property address(es) of the project site or from where it will be accessed; and
- Confirm permission for the full duration of the project.

See **Appendix 7: Landowner Permission Template** to use for this approval.

You are responsible for obtaining any statutory approvals required for your project, including those related to Aboriginal sites, and ensuring all approvals are in place before the project starts.

Planning when to plant

In line with the Urban Greening Strategy's Right Approach Greening Principle, it's important to plant at the ideal time, which is when cooler and wetter weather helps new plants establish before the warmer months.

Planting season in Whadjuk and Bindjareb generally runs from the first rains in May through to September. Plan to plant during this window and avoid planting during hot and dry seasons.

Many suppliers will require lead times in which to supply larger tree and plant orders, especially if certain species and sizes of plants are required. It's best to connect with your local nursery or plant grower to discuss your requirements as early as possible.

- **Stream 1 projects:** have up to two years from approval in which to complete planting
- **Stream 2 projects:** have up to three years from approval in which to complete planting.





How to apply

In the application, you'll be asked about:

- Your organisation or school
- How much funding you're requesting
- Where and what you want to plant
- How the project benefits people and nature.

As part of the SmartyGrants application, you'll also need:

- Written approval from the landowner, land manager or school (unless they are the applicant)
- A simple site plan illustrating where on your site you intend to plant (see **Appendix 8 – Planting Site Plan** for examples)
- 'Before' photos of the planting site

- A cost estimate of the number of trees and low-level vegetation you want to plant
- One quote for any item costing \$1,000 or more
- For Stream 2 only:
 - An itemised budget [Stream 2 Itemised Budget Template](#)
 - Two quotes to support any request for consultant or contract labour hire
 - Successful Government Schools will need to confirm that they'll comply with the Department of Education procurement process (see **Appendix 4: WA Government School Applicant Support Guide**)

All applications must be made online through SmartyGrants at www.wa.gov.au/letsgrowgrants

How the grants process works

The Department administers the grants process outlined below on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC):

- Eligibility check: applications are reviewed to confirm they meet the criteria
- Merit assessment: eligible projects are assessed
- Recommendations: projects recommended for approval are progressed to the WAPC
- Funding agreement: successful applicants enter into a funding agreement with the WAPC
- Post-project report: applicants provide brief details, figures, photos and any other supporting information about the project for program reporting and promotions.

All Stream 2 State Government school applications seeking \$50,000 or more, and any Stream 1 or 2 Government school applications proposing planting trees within 10 metres of built infrastructure (such as a classroom) will be referred to the Department of Education as part of the assessment process.



How applications are assessed

The grants are ‘non-competitive’, meaning projects are not ranked against each other. Instead, each application is assessed on its own merits. Applications are also assessed on a rolling basis to enable a faster rollout of funding for eligible projects.

Eligible applications are assessed using questions that align with the Greening Principles in the Urban Greening Strategy (see **Appendix 2: Greening Principles**).

These are the same principles reflected in the SmartyGrants questions, so if you structure your answers around these principles, you’re on the right track.

Number of applications

Each planting site or school campus can receive funding for a maximum of two successful applications, in any combination of Stream 1 or Stream 2.

Organisations with capacity to deliver projects across multiple sites may submit as many applications as they wish. The WAPC may prioritise a broad geographic spread across the Whadjuk and Bindjareb regions so benefits are shared widely.

Successful applicants

It's anticipated that Stream 1 applicants will be notified within one month, and Stream 2 applicants within three months of submitting a complete application.

If your application is successful, you'll receive a formal funding offer and agreement. This must be signed before grant funding is paid.

- Stream 1 grants are paid upfront in one instalment
- Stream 2 grants are paid in a combination of one upfront instalment, and either a second instalment or several staged instalments depending upon the complexity of the project. This will be detailed in the Funding Agreement
- For GST-registered recipients, GST is paid for all funded activities where GST has been paid to a supplier. For recipients not GST-registered, grants paid will be 'grossed up' by 10 per cent to meet the cost of demonstrated GST payments. Supplies that don't include GST will not attract a GST payment.

Reporting after planting

All funded projects need to provide a simple final report once planting is finished to show how public funding was used. The report also helps us celebrate your achievement to encourage future applications and more urban greening across the community.

The report will be straightforward and typically will include details on:

- Number of trees and low-level vegetation planted
- Species that were planted
- Who took part in the project, from design to delivery
- Photos showing the site before, during and after planting
- How the grant money was spent.

Larger Stream 2 projects may also be asked to provide a short progress update during delivery.

The Greening Principles

The Strategy's four Greening Principles set the framework for the application questions (see **Appendix 2: Greening Principles**).

This section provides an overview of the questions, with some brief guidance for answering them.

RIGHT

AMOUNT 20%

Keep suitable vegetation and plant more, with a focus on tree canopy.

You will be asked about:

- Numbers of trees and low-level vegetation you plan to plant
- Whether trees have been prioritised, with consideration of low-level vegetation to support tree planting.

This principle focuses on prioritising tree planting to help reach the tree canopy target, as well as planting the right mix of trees and low-level vegetation for each site's conditions and context.

RIGHT

PLACE 20%

Plant where it matters most with good design that maximises impact.

You will be asked about:

- Your project location and where the planting will happen within the site
- Why this site was chosen
- What the greening will help shade or cool, for example play areas, paths, buildings, hard surfaces or places people gather.

Assessors are looking for planting in places where trees will make a difference to people and the local environment by helping to shade and cool our urban spaces, schools and neighbourhoods.

Your project should integrate well into the site, responding to its conditions and context.

RIGHT

KIND 20%

Choose plants that will suit the site, survive and boost benefits for people and nature.

You will be asked about:

- The kinds of trees and low-level vegetation you will plant
- How they suit the site conditions and context
- Whether you've prioritised climate-resilient native species and avoided species favoured by the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) pest
- What benefits the project will deliver like shade, cooling, wildlife habitat, social connection, energy cost savings and so on.

The types of plants selected — both species and characteristics — can influence the success of an urban greening project. Assessors want to see suitable plants selected as they're more likely to survive and will need less watering and maintenance.

RIGHT

APPROACH 20%

Green with others for success and listen, learn and teach along the way.

You will be asked about:

- How students, your group, volunteers or the wider community might be involved in the project such as in the site selection, design, plant choices, planting, aftercare or related education
- Who will do the planting and ongoing care like watering or pruning
- How you'll help share or promote the benefits of urban greening.

Urban greening works best when people plan, plant and care for places together. This shows that the project is practical, achievable and will have ongoing support from those involved

Value for money 20%

Your project must demonstrate good use of public grant funding.

You will be asked about:

- How much funding goes directly to trees and low-level vegetation (as opposed to other items)
- If there are other contributions (cash or in-kind) from your community, or from donations or other grants. Other contributions are not required but will be considered favourably.

Projects that maximise planting outcomes while keeping costs reasonable are likely to score well.



Further help

For more information, see the Frequently Asked Questions at wa.gov.au/letsgrowgrants

Contact *Let's Grow* at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage:

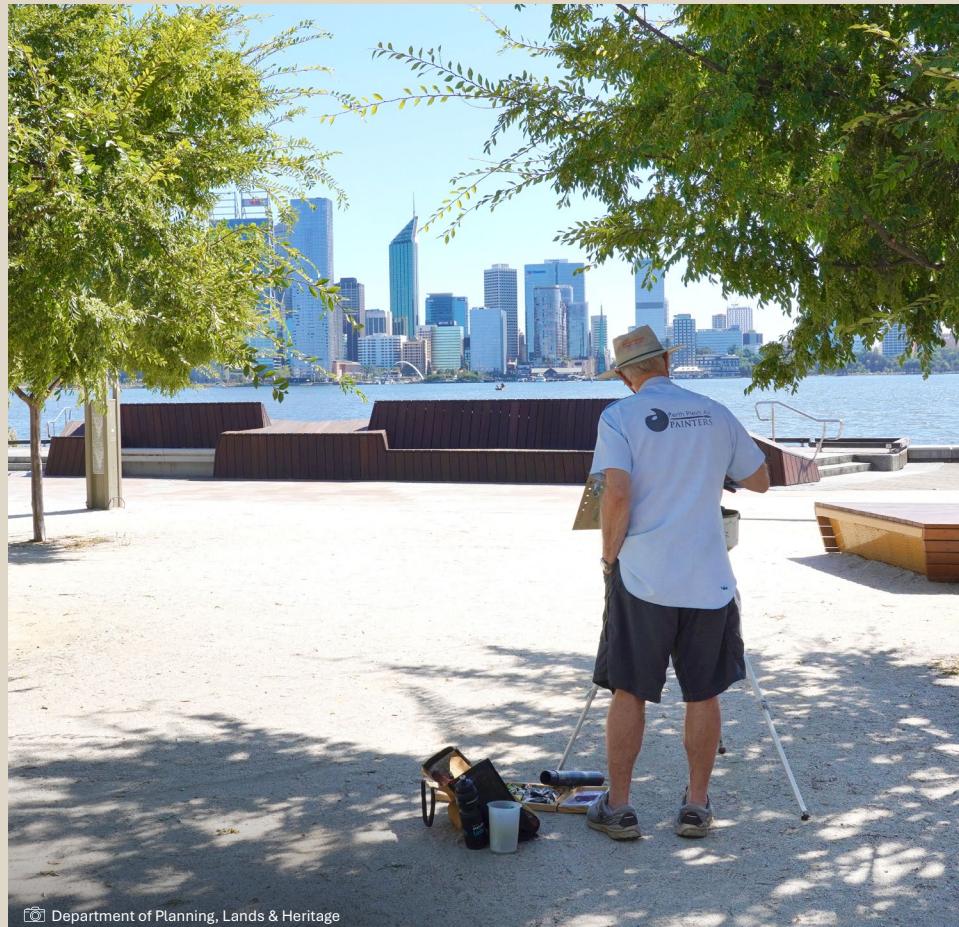
Tel: (08) 6551 8002 | Email letsgrow@dplh.wa.gov.au

To learn more about the *Let's Grow* program visit wa.gov.au/letsgrow



Appendix 1: Urban greening benefits

Urban greening delivers an extensive range of community, environmental and economic benefits.



Community

Healthier people

- The practice of urban greening embodies the Noongar 'Healthy Country, Healthy People' concept, which recognises that a healthy environment is inseparable from the health of its people.
- Well-greened urban areas and access to nature encourage a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and active transport.
- Shading lowers rates of skin cancer and heat related mortality.
- Exposure to nature can be psychologically restorative, reducing stress and boosting mood, memory and cognition. It can have a positive effect on birth outcomes, increase resilience to major life events and speed up recovery times. All this can significantly reduce community health care costs.

Enhanced social connection

- Green, shady and cool spaces bring people together, reducing loneliness.
- Spending time in nature can lead to more positive and cooperative judgments, a decrease in anti-social behaviours and can even lower neighbourhood crime rates.

Cultural katitjin (knowledge) sharing

- Urban greening provides an opportunity to recognise, conserve and share Noongar culture and katitjin, providing a connection to Country and some of the world's oldest ecological knowledge systems.

Fosters local character

- Greening helps shape a place's unique identity.
- Well-designed green spaces with corridors that link urban spaces help strengthen people's sense of connection to those places.

Improves road safety

- The presence of trees and vegetation encourages people to drive more slowly and calmly, improving driver and pedestrian safety, and can also provide physical protection for pedestrians.

Environmental

Shadier and cooler

- Vegetation provides shade for people and buildings, reducing urban heat.
- Trees release water from their leaves into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, helping to cool air temperatures.

Creating habitat and enhancing biodiversity

- Vegetation provides a home and food for native animals.
- Greening conserves our unique local plants and wildlife.
- Strategic plantings support resilient ecosystems through a diverse range of species.

Better air quality

- Plants give us clean, fresh air to breathe as they absorb pollutants and particles, acting as natural air filters. For millennia, Noongar people have understood that plants — as the ‘first-comers’ — created the conditions that enable all other life, including people, to survive.
- Greening leads to better community health outcomes and helps lower emissions into the atmosphere.

Carbon sequestration

- Plants capture and store carbon by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Improving stormwater quality and flow

- Vegetation helps to stabilise the soil by absorbing and reducing stormwater run-off.
- Plants naturally filter water with their root systems, protecting the health of our waterways and groundwater.

Moderating strong winds

- Trees moderate wind speeds, protecting people and infrastructure.

Economic

Financial benefits

- Green, tree-lined streets and vegetated verges help boost property values.
- Trees help protect infrastructure, buildings, gardens and cars from sun damage, reducing asset maintenance and renewal costs.
- Retaining vegetation is significantly cheaper than removing and replanting.

Reduced energy costs

- Well-selected and placed trees and vegetation can naturally cool buildings and reduce reliance on air conditioning, thereby reducing power bills.

Stronger economic activity

- Leafy urban areas and streets attract people to linger longer in shopping and entertainment precincts, resulting in increased spending.

Boosts tourism

- Green spaces attract more visitors by enhancing experiences and attractions, enriching local character, boosting tourist satisfaction and fostering destination loyalty.



Appendix 2: Greening Principles

These four principles offer a practical framework to guide urban greening action across all sectors, on public and private land.

Part of the Urban Greening Strategy, they will point you in the right direction to — explore and seek further advice from friendly experts like your local Council or nursery team.

The Let's Grow program will expand on the principles and show how to apply them in everyday settings.

RIGHT AMOUNT

Keep suitable vegetation and plant more, with a focus on tree canopy.

Setting quantity targets focuses collective action and makes progress measurable. Look for opportunities to increase greenery in your neighbourhood, working towards our shared vision and the strategy's dual targets. Then, find the right mix of trees and low-level vegetation for each site's conditions and context.

First:

- Consider the strategy's target to increase tree canopy (trees 3 metres or higher) across Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) to 30 per cent by 2040.
- Retain healthy, suitable trees and vegetation.
- Prioritise planting trees — mature canopy provides the greatest benefits.
- If you're building or renovating, seek expert advice from an arborist or a landscape architect or designer, for options for incorporating as many trees as possible into your design.

Then consider:

- Low-level vegetation is vital too — it provides cooling, habitat and other benefits. Some spaces can only fit smaller plants. Plus, all greening contributes and every 'green thumb' must start somewhere.
- Create layered heights of trees and vegetation to mimic natural systems — this provides good habitat for different wildlife, with low plants shaded and protected by taller ones.
- Plant low-level vegetation where trees can't grow, e.g. small yards or community spaces, wetlands and narrow corridors.
- How to complement existing suitable vegetation on the site.

Avoid:

- Removing healthy, established vegetation unless necessary. If loss is unavoidable, minimise removal and replace plantings on-site or nearby so benefits remain local.
- Planting trees in the wrong places — ensure they have space to grow and mature.

RIGHT PLACE

Plant where it matters most with good design that maximises impact

With limited urban greening resources like water, space, funding and time, every site counts. From backyards and carparks to schools and local government areas, location is key. Target areas with the greatest need to have the greatest positive impact.

Right Place means improving the distribution of vegetation across places where people live, work and experience urban heat. Once you have got your site, get it ready and position your plantings well so they can thrive and deliver lasting benefits.

First:

- Prioritise areas with minimal trees and vegetation, this is where you can have the biggest impact.
- Choose sites suitable for long-lived vegetation, especially mature trees.
- Explore where greenery could reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, such as shading hard surfaces and buildings from the hot sun.
- Prioritise sites that don't need extensive work to prepare them for planting.
- Plant in places where people live, work and spend time.
- Strengthen green links to benefit people and wildlife by planting to connect clusters or near existing vegetated areas.

Then consider:

- Practical designs that are cost-effective to build and maintain — consider what's above the ground as well as below.
- Space for roots and canopy to grow alongside buildings, roads or infrastructure.
- Improve soils and drainage so plants can thrive long term with less watering and maintenance.
- Being waterwise: where possible utilise sustainable water sources like stormwater run-off, and waterwise irrigation to support plant establishment during the first two years or so (see Right Kind too).
- The best spot for plants within your site to boost survival, maximise desired benefit and respond to your site, e.g. strong coastal breezes, shade from the hot afternoon sun or a buffer for traffic noise.
- Planting techniques, e.g. digging tree wells or mulch for growth/survival.
- Supporting landscaping, e.g. retaining walls, garden beds or adding birth baths, rocks or logs for wildlife.

Avoid:

- Greening that creates safety hazards or reduces visibility for pedestrians, cyclists or drivers.



RIGHT

KIND

Choose plants that will suit the site, survive and boost benefits for people and nature.

The types of plants we choose — both species and characteristics — can make or break an urban greening project. Well-chosen species provide greater benefits, are more likely to survive and will need less watering and maintenance.

First, prioritise:

- Locally native species that suit your site's soil and conditions — they help support local wildlife, shape the landscape's character and define our unique identity.
- Species that provide food, shelter and habitat for wildlife (typically local natives).
- Climate-resilient native species (local natives are best) that require minimal ongoing watering once established, which generally occurs within two years or so.
- Waterwise plants that can cope with our climate and make good use of our limited water resources.
- Plants that deliver the benefits you're seeking, e.g. shade/cooling, higher property value, beauty, a place to connect with others, more birds and better privacy.

Then consider:

- Planting a diversity of species to boost biodiversity and resilience — a wide mix helps withstand climate stressors, pests and disease.
- Some Australian natives from outside Western Australia, if they suit your site.
- Waterwise, non-invasive exotics that thrive locally and deliver benefits, e.g. shady deciduous trees that cool in summer then drop leaves in winter to let the sun warm homes.

Avoid:

- Invasive species or weeds — introduced plants that spread rapidly, disrupt local ecosystems or cause environmental harm.
- Species known to host the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) pest.
- Turf unless essential for sport or recreation, as it uses more water and provides fewer benefits for cooling, habitat and biodiversity. Where turf is required, consider the minimum area you need so that there's space for other vegetation.



RIGHT APPROACH

Green with others for success and listen, learn and teach along the way.

Urban greening works best when people plan, plant and care for places together. Involve others early, listen to key voices and be clear about roles. This applies at any scale — from community spaces to your own backyard. Bring together people with knowledge and passion for greening or for the place itself.

First:

- Don't be afraid to start small and learn as you go — every contribution counts.
- Plant at the right time of year so vegetation has the best start. In Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) the planting season runs from the first rains in May through to September, when cooler and wetter weather helps new plants establish before summer.
- Engage people at each stage and be clear about roles and responsibilities — from planning and design to site preparation, planting and ongoing care.
- Involve the people who will use the green space in its design so you're clear about the benefits you're seeking.
- Gain the best knowledge available from passionate experts, e.g. nursery staff, arborists, landscape architects or your local council.
- Align to katitjin (knowledge) — draw on traditional Noongar cultural perspectives and ecological knowledge, as the custodians of this boodja (Country) since time immemorial.

Then consider:

- Exploring partnerships, co-funding, or in-kind support to share costs, resources and knowledge, which may help scale your project too.
- Broader engagement — depending on your project, involve and educate your family, neighbours or the community about urban greening so it becomes part of how we design, build and look after our neighbourhoods.
- Promoting the benefits, help grow others' skills and confidence and share your passion so more people value and care for plants.
- Coordinating planting efforts to avoid duplication and make the most of available resources.
- How you'll monitor progress over time and adapt if conditions change.

Avoid:

- Planting without understanding the benefits you want to bring.
- Planting without a plan for long-term care.
- Working in isolation — missed collaboration can lead to missed opportunities.

Appendix 3: Helpful links and resources

Explore the following resources to help inform your project. New resources tailored to urban greening in Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) will be developed as the Let's Grow program evolves.

Seek advice from friendly experts — connect with your [local nursery team](#) or your [local government](#).

For large Stream 2 projects, consider engaging a qualified [arborist](#), [horticulturalist](#) or [landscape designer](#).

- [Be Waterwise, Selecting the right tree, Waterwise plants, Groundwater Wise](#)
- [Urban Greening Dashboard](#)
- [Growing local plants and soil types](#)
- [Planting near water assets](#)
- [Before You Dig](#)
- [Firewise Gardening guide](#)
- [Polyphagous shot-hole borer \(PSHB\) pest](#)

- [Weeds](#)
- [Join a Kings Park workshop](#)
- [Which Plant Where](#)
- [NatureLink Perth](#)
- [ReWild Perth](#)
- [Perth NRM](#)
- [Pocket Forests WA](#)
- [Planting food](#) for black cockatoos (Ngoorlarks)



Appendix 4: WA Government School Applicant Support Guide

Introduction

This document complements the *Let's Grow Grants* — Round One Guidelines. It provides specific guidance for Government school staff, committees or school volunteers when applying for a grant.

The *Let's Grow Grants* provide an opportunity to give students practical experience in urban greening and encourage families and local communities to care for Noongar boodja (Country). See the 'Examples of suitable projects' in the Round One Guidelines for inspiration.

Round One of the *Let's Grow Grants* recognises the vital role that schools and community groups can play in urban greening. They empower local leadership and projects that align with the [Urban Greening Strategy](#) for Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel), creating lasting benefits for generations to come.

Grant funding will support projects that increase tree canopy and greening in urban areas. This includes all schools across Whadjuk and Bindjareb

The Urban Greening Strategy recognises that engaging young people through schools is critical, as schools are both learning environments and important community hubs.

Greening schools helps young people build a lifelong connection to nature, while creating leafier, cooler spaces that benefit the whole neighbourhood.

Your project could include greening for educational purposes, or tree and low-level vegetation planting to deliver benefits such as cooling, cost savings and social connection.

The Urban Greening Strategy and broader *Let's Grow* program supports the Department of Education's *Caring for Country Together* framework, making ecological stewardship a part of everyday school learning.

Step 1: Select a location and gain approvals

Choose the location(s) for the proposed planting project(s) and start planning.

- See the 'Right Place' section of **Appendix 2: Greening Principles** for assistance in selecting a planting site.
- Consider the benefits you want your project to deliver — see **Appendix 1: Urban greening benefits**.
- Gain the principal's approval for the project (hint: demonstrate what benefits your project will deliver).
- Grant applications proposing planting within 10 metres of school built infrastructure will be referred to the Department of Education for comment.
- Involve school staff or committees to help select the location of the planting site.
 - Refer to [Create green spaces at your school](#).
 - If you have one, work with the school's sustainability committee.
 - Add this project to the school's sustainability action plan and resource register.
 - Note that the school principal may give permission to plant only on school land (for example, they cannot approve planting on verges).
- If planning to connect plantings to existing pockets of bushland, refer to [Manage bushland at your school](#).
- Check if the location is covered under a 'community use' or 'shared use agreement' — refer to [Community use of public school facilities](#).

Step 2: Get ideas and inspiration

Explore what other schools have done to green their grounds.

- Refer to case studies of successful revegetation/greening projects:
 - [Heathridge Primary Garden Gurus making sustainable attainable](#)
 - [Busselton Senior High School case study](#)
 - Brabham Primary School [Carnaby Cockatoo nesting case study](#)
 - Statewide Services [Bush classrooms initiative case study](#)
 - ABC News story: [The Miyawaki method of creating tiny forests](#)
- Join the Bush Classrooms Connect Community and/or attend Bush Classrooms networks meetings — refer to [Summary - Staff - Connect](#).
- Join the Two-way Science Connect Community to learn about the natural environment, Country and Aboriginal culture — refer to [Summary - Staff - Connect](#).
- Consider a pocket forest or Miyawaki forest — see the [Carbon Positive Australia website](#).

Step 3: Select the trees, plants and any supporting items

- Stream 1 (\$500 to \$10,000) and Stream 2 projects (above \$10,000) should both follow the Department of Education's [Tree Management Strategy](#).
- Stream 2 projects may benefit from engaging a consultant, such as an arborist, landscape designer or horticulturalist.
- Tips for tree and plant selection:
 - Refer to the 'Right Kind' section of [Appendix 2: Greening Principles](#).
 - Prioritise tree planting to help drive progress towards the 30 per cent tree canopy target.
 - Support trees with low-level vegetation — refer to [plant trees at your school](#) and [select plants for your school](#).
 - See [Appendix 3: Helpful links and resources](#).
- Identify any supplementary items required to support planting and maintenance such as mulch, tree stakes or guards, shovel, hose, watering can or tap timers — see [Appendix 5: Supplementary Items Guide](#) for full details.

Step 4: Set a budget

Create a project budget plan, noting if the grant is successful, you will also need to follow procurement processes as outlined below:

- Stream 1 applications need only a realistic budget estimate to complete the *Let's Grow SmartyGrants* application
- Stream 2 applications will need to complete [Stream 2 Itemised Budget Template](#) and submit it through *SmartyGrants*
- Quotes are required for any consultant or contractor, or any individual item costing \$1,000 or more — see [Appendix 6: Quotes Checklist and Guide](#)
- Once successful applicants receive the grant funds, projects costed under \$50,000 should follow the Direct to Market Program and use the soft landscaping guidelines:
 - [Soft landscaping and garden guidelines](#)
 - [Contractors for minor works and maintenance](#)
- Once successful applicants receive the grant funds, projects costed above \$50,000 should follow the Department of Education's guidelines:
 - Using funds for minor works — refer to [School funds for minor works](#)
 - Contact PFM to confirm your asset manager and maintenance records
 - Refer to [Find your facility asset manager](#)

Step 5: Plan for planting and after-care

- As per the 'Right Approach' section in [Appendix 2: Greening Principles](#), urban greening works best when people plan, plant and care for places together.
- Consult those who will use the space to help design it.
- Consider involving the school community or local neighbourhood to help plant your project.
- Create awareness of your *Let's Grow* Grants project and the benefits it delivers.
- Promote the *Let's Grow* program and urban greening to students, staff and the community.

Create a plan for the school to maintain the trees and plants, especially during establishment:

- Schedule regular care for plants with school staff and gardeners.
- Undertake training for gardeners — refer to [Book school gardener training](#).
- Consider tree care and plant maintenance — refer to [Maintain trees in your school](#).

Appendix 5: Supplementary items guide

Use this list to help you plan materials that support planting and establishment. Items must be essential to the planting project, with a particular focus on trees, and represent value for money.

All items must be realistically cost-estimated and any individual supplementary item of \$1,000 or more will require an accompanying quote — see [Appendix 6: Quotes checklist and guide](#).

Planting materials and establishment supplies

- Mulch (woodchip, composted mulch, organic mulch)
- Soil conditioners, compost, or native planting mix
- Fertilisers (e.g. slow-release, native-safe)
- Tree stakes and ties
- Tree guards or protective cages
- Watering basins / tree wells
- Biodegradable mulch mat or weed mat
- Edging material to reduce weed / turf encroachment
- Equipment hire to enable turf or hard surface removal (Stream 2 only).

Tools and installation equipment

- Shovels, spades, trowels
- Rakes
- Wheelbarrows
- Gloves
- Buckets.

Infrastructure that supports tree survival

This is typically only applicable to Stream 2 projects in more constrained sites with contractor assistance, such as:

- tree pits or structural soil cells
- water sensitive urban design infrastructure (e.g. kerb cuts, stormwater inlets, rain sensors, downpipe diversion)
- raingardens, including modular raingardens.

A note on irrigation and being waterwise

Grant funding may be used for waterwise and cost-effective irrigation to support plant establishment.

Consistent with the Urban Greening Strategy, projects should lean into waterwise plants and practices to ensure that our limited water supplies are used efficiently for urban greening.

Projects should prioritise climate-resilient native species that require minimal ongoing watering once established, which generally occurs within two years.

Any irrigation supported through the grant must be proportionate to the planting cost and used for establishing vegetation — for example simple irrigation piping (that doesn't require intensive installation works), watering cans, hoses, tap timers, watering bags, tree gators or temporary drip systems where appropriate.

Extending existing irrigation infrastructure may be considered where it offers clear value for money.

Appendix 6: Quotes checklist and guide

Please provide itemised quotes for any service, equipment hire or individual item (includes plants) intended for purchase that are \$1,000 or more.

Attach the quote to the SmartyGrants application (preferred) or supply it before funding is released.

A good quote typically includes:

- supplier name, ABN, contact details
- clear scope of work or items (what, where, when)
- method and specifications (e.g. weeding method, area, materials)
- detailed cost breakdown (e.g. labour, materials, equipment, time)
- rates and quantities (e.g. hourly/day rates, unit prices)
- delivery, mobilisation and any contingencies
- start/finish dates and validity period
- insurance and safety notes (if relevant)
- total price (ex GST and incl GST).



Appendix 7: Landowner / manager permission template

When is this letter required?

Applicants must provide a landowner / land manager / school principal permission letter if their proposed *Let's Grow Grants* project will take place on land that they do not personally own or control.

This includes projects on:

- school grounds
- local government land
- community facilities
- land managed by another organisation
- land owned by a third party.

The letter confirms that the person or organisation responsible for the land is aware of the project and gives permission for it to proceed if funding is approved.

How to use this letter template — step by step

1. The applicant completes the project and contact details sections of the template as best they can.
2. The partially completed letter is provided to the relevant landowner, land manager, or school principal.
3. The landowner / manager / principal:
 - reviews the project details
 - completes their own contact details
 - confirms permission and support for the project
 - signs and dates the letter.
4. The signed letter is returned to the applicant.
5. The applicant uploads the signed letter as part of their *Let's Grow Grants* application.

Tips for applicants

- Start this process early, as landowners and school principals may need time to review and sign the letter.
- The letter does not commit the landowner to any financial contribution — it simply confirms permission and support.
- If you are unsure whether this letter is required for your project, contact the *Let's Grow Grants* team for advice before submitting your application.

Letter template

Cut and paste the information below into your letter. Feel free to edit if needed to provide additional information.

To the Western Australian Planning Commission

I am writing to confirm my support for, and consent to, the delivery of a proposed *Let's Grow Grants* project on land that I own, manage or am responsible for, as per the below:

Grant applicant details

Name of grant applicant:

[insert school or community group name]

Postal address:

[insert postal address]

Project details

Brief project description:

[insert brief description of the proposed greening project]

Project site address:

[insert address of the land or site]

Proposed project duration:

[insert approximate start and finish dates]

Landowner / manager / principal details

Name:

[insert name]

Position / title:

[insert job or position title]

Organisation (if applicable):

[insert organisation or school name]

Telephone:

[insert telephone number]

Email:

[insert email address]

As the *[landowner / land manager / school principal]* responsible for the site listed above, I confirm that I am aware of the proposed *Let's Grow Grants* project and *[I give / I am authorised to give]* my permission for the project to proceed on the land I manage or oversee, subject to the grant being approved.

I confirm that I support the delivery of the project as described and will allow access to the site for the purposes of implementing and maintaining the project for its intended duration.

I understand that this letter forms part of the grant application submitted to the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Yours sincerely

Signature:

[insert signature]

Name:

[insert name]

Date:

[insert date]



Appendix 8: Planting Site Plan examples

To complete your *Let's Grow Grants* application, you'll need to upload a Planting Site Plan in SmartyGrants.

This helps us get a sense of your proposed project and understand where you will plant trees and low level vegetation within your chosen site.

For more complex or larger projects from Stream 2, a more detailed site plan image would give assessors greater confidence in your project.

Your planting site plan can be created in several different ways, including:

- A hand drawn sketch (you can photograph or scan it)
- A drawing made using your preferred computer or digital drawing app or program
- Mark-ups on a site plan or map you already have
- A screenshot or 'snip' of an aerial image from Google Maps, [PlanWA](#), [Landgate's Locate](#) or similar websites
- A plan created by a landscape consultant or contractor.

What your plan must show

No matter how you create your plan, please include:

1. A north arrow (to show direction – helps assessors see how the sun/shade travels)
2. At least one nearby street name so we can locate your site
3. Labels for key features (if not using an aerial image), for example:
 - Building
 - Classroom
 - Car park
 - Pedestrian path
 - Oval.
4. Label or use a legend to show where you will plant:
 - Trees
 - Areas with low-level vegetation
 - Areas with both trees and low-level vegetation.

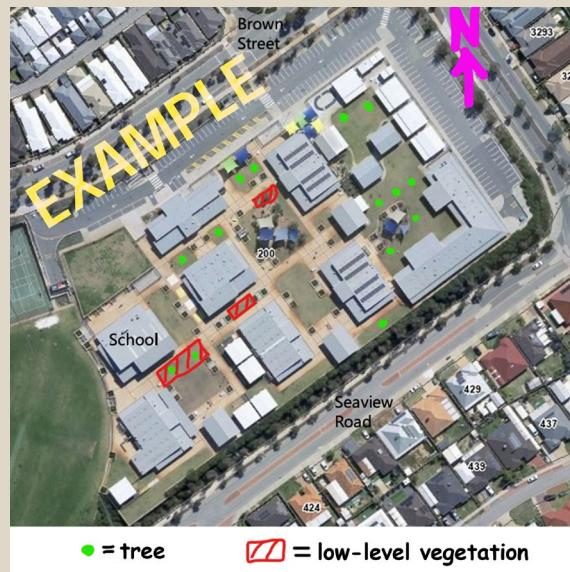
Explore some examples below to help you understand the level of detail to depict on your planting site plan.

Helpful tip

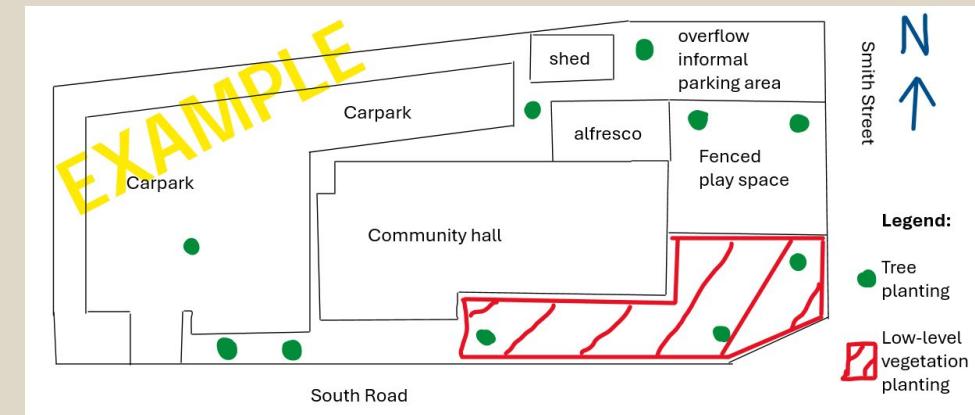
Your plan doesn't need to be drawn to scale — but you'll ideally measure your planting area and think about where you'll place your plants.

This will help ensure the area's planting potential is maximised and your plants will fit and have enough space to grow — especially the trees — without being too close to one another, buildings or other infrastructure.

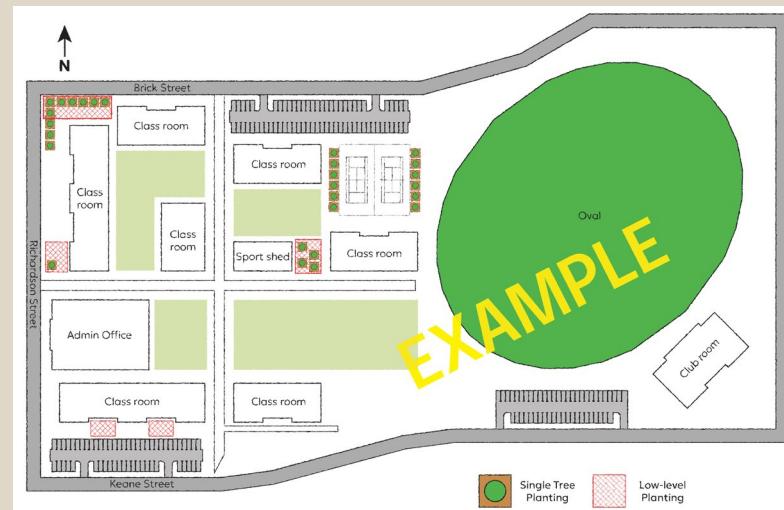
Example 1:



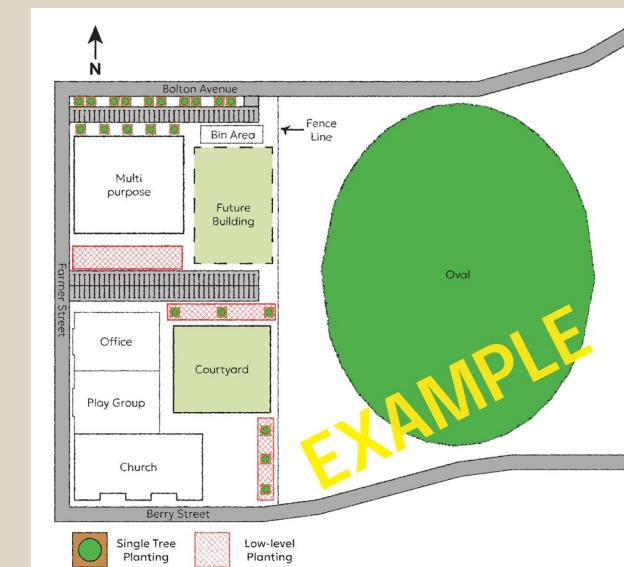
Example 2:



Example 3:



Example 4:





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