



Heritage listed trees in the City of Gosnells

Located below the Darling Range and along the Canning and Southern Rivers, the City of Gosnells has a history of European and Indigenous cultures based around the rich soils and abundant flora of the South-eastern metropolitan area.

Large stands of mature flooded gums have been maintained along the Canning River and are reminders of the past when eucalypts covered much of the fertile land where Gosnells is now located. In the less fertile soils away from the waterways, banksia and grass tree stands are being preserved in certain areas earmarked for further development.



Fig tree, Liddelow Homestead

Individual trees have been conserved from pre European settlement time. A fine example is the jarrah tree in John Okey Davis Park which is believed to be over 500 years old and is monitored regularly by City of Gosnells' staff to ensure it remains in a healthy state.

*Trees are assessed
on their cultural,
scientific, historic,
and aesthetic value.*

After European settlement in 1829, large allocations of land were provided for agricultural use. During the 19th and 20th centuries, major market garden enterprises and orchards emerged as the main industry for the district – employing the abundant water and fertile river soils to produce much needed food for the young colony.

Settlers planted trees around their homesteads or as entry statements to their large properties. As the district became more settled, the larger blocks of land were subdivided – leaving mature exotic trees isolated from their original intended locations but valued for their uniqueness and beauty.

Good examples of these are the Ficus trees planted at the front of Liddelw Homestead. These huge Hills and Moreton Bay fig trees, according to the Municipal Inventory for the City of Gosnells, "were planted by W Bickley who came back to Western Australia around 1851 after 17 years in India. A real estate map dated 1907 shows a photograph of these trees which were already huge. They are referred to on the map as old Indian fig trees."

List of significant trees

A list of significant trees has been established as part of the City's Heritage Inventory 2010. Trees are assessed on their cultural, scientific, historic, and aesthetic value. Records of the trees' botanical details, known history, and photographs are maintained by the City.



Almond tree, Wilkinson Homestead

For access to the list, or to nominate a tree for inclusion, contact the Heritage Coordinator on 9398 2551.

Owners of listed trees are expected to ensure that the tree receives ongoing maintenance and protection from potential conservation threats such as pests and vandalism.

Conservation of listed trees

Conservation threats exist to many trees in the City and are mainly due to urban development. As Perth's population increases, the trimming of street trees, road widening, subdivision clearance and decreasing groundwater levels can all affect the health and longevity of our significant trees.

For information about other aspects of local history and heritage, please contact the Heritage Coordinator on 9391 6011.

Dieback and other damage can also be introduced through the disturbance of soil surrounding the tree.

Maintaining heritage trees

Maintenance of heritage listed trees should include watering, fertilising, pruning, surgery and protection from pests and diseases – as appropriate for the species. Advice is available from the City's Parks and Environment staff (call 9391 3222) or your local nursery.

All living things have a life span, and in the unfortunate event that a tree should die the City makes an effort to reuse some part of the tree in a way that can be saved for the future. For example, the Canning Park Avenue eucalyptus trees



Pine Tree, old Gosnells train station



Jarrah tree, John Okey Davis Park

which have been subject to rot and termite damage over many years may form part of a future local artwork.

Financial Assistance

Owners of property on which a listed tree grows are eligible to apply for a small annual payment through the City's Condition Reward Scheme. See the brochure "Condition Rewards Scheme for Heritage Places" for more information.