



Trees on Private Land

Case Study

The Challenge

As our climate becomes hotter and drier, it is important to understand high-risk areas and identify opportunities to plan for more resilient neighbourhoods.

Temperatures above 35°C are uncomfortable for our bodies' thermal regulation. The more days we experience this heat, the greater risk it has on our health.

With heatwaves becoming hotter and more frequent, urban density increasing, backyards becoming smaller and less space available for trees, it becomes vital that we act now to keep our cities cool.

Tree canopy cover is unevenly distributed across the City of Unley.

There are heat islands where some areas experience average surface temperature areas 2-4°C above average temperatures. 80% of the land area is privately owned, and we have limited space to plant trees on public land.

Therefore, one of the ways we can act is to increase tree canopy cover across private land. This action can provide for cooler houses, streets, and residential outdoor spaces, ensuring we all benefit from the cooling impact of trees.

'Excellent idea to increase tree coverage in the area'

Tree Voucher Lottery

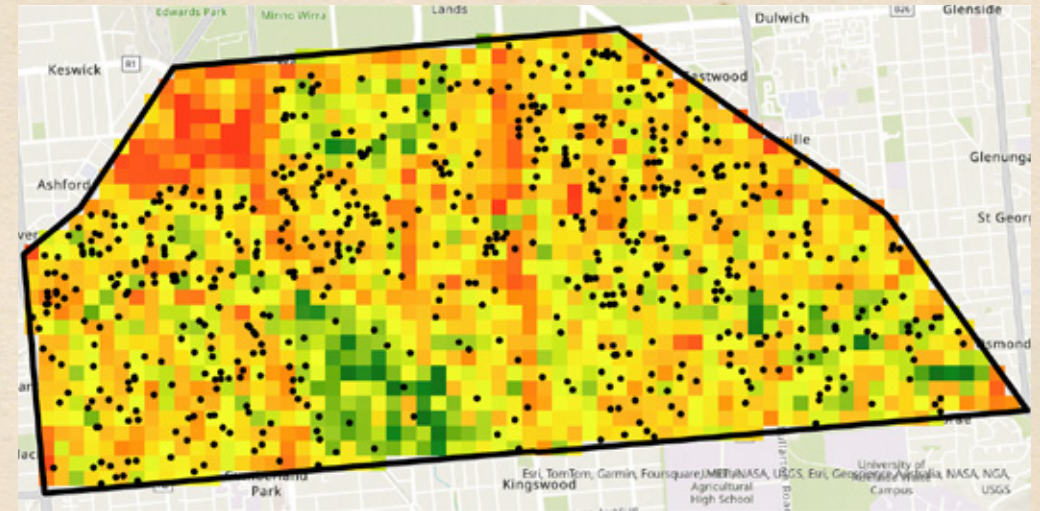
Using canopy and heat mapping data to increase tree planting in urban heat islands.

In 2022, the City of Unley ran an \$80 Tree Voucher Giveaway to incentivise tree planting on private land. There were 983 entries, and 670 vouchers were awarded to property owners via a lottery-based method.

Every suburb was eligible to enter the Tree Voucher Lottery, however, priority was being given to suburbs with lower canopy coverage to encourage city greening:

- Suburbs with less than 20% tree canopy cover automatically went into the draw 3 times (Wayville, Parkside, Forestville, Unley, and Everard Park)

- Suburbs between 20-25% cover went into the draw 2 times (Goodwood, Highgate, Fullarton, Malvern, Clarence Park, Black Forest, and Hyde Park)
- Suburbs with over 25% canopy cover went into the draw with a single chance per entry (Kings Park, Myrtle Bank, Millswood, and Unley Park)



TREE CANOPY



The above map shows that most of the vouchers were awarded in areas of lower canopy.

A tree voucher was provided to allow the winners to select a tree of their choice, seek advice from our local gardening experts and pick a tree best suited to their planting location.

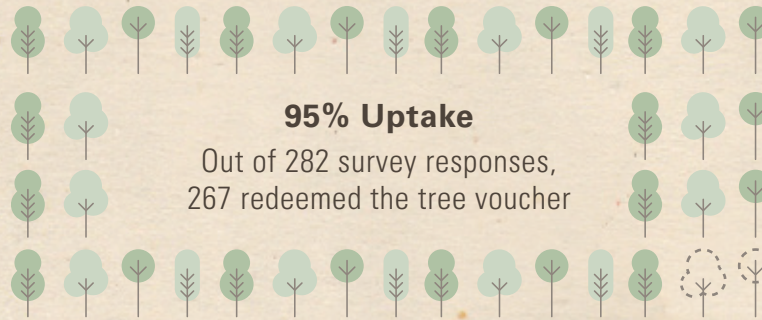
This approach increased the diversity of trees being planted to maximise resilience against pests, disease, and our changing climate, and minimises the risk to Council in providing a tree that was not suited to individual planting locations.

The voucher could be:

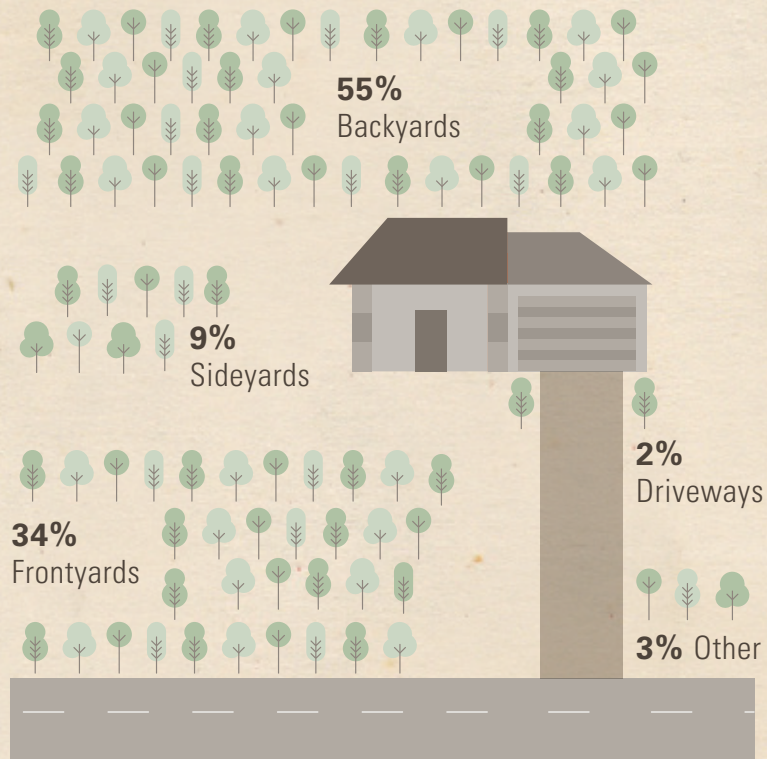
- Used to purchase a native, ornamental or fruit tree that would grow to at least 3m at full maturity to plant at their property in the City of Unley.
- Used to purchase one advanced tree or a few younger trees, as long as they all would grow to a minimum of 3m.
- Redeemed at one of two local nurseries, The Conservatory or Mitre 10 Barrow and Bench.

Program Impact

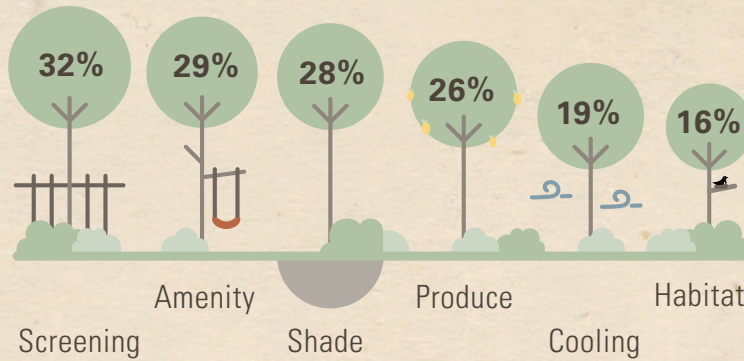
Two years later we asked the Tree Voucher winners about the impact of the program.



TREE LOCATION



BENEFITS TREES WILL PROVIDE

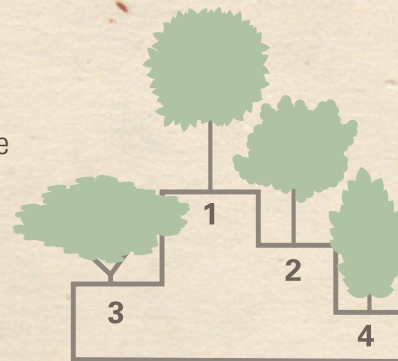


TREE HEALTH



TOP 4 SPECIES

1. Fruit Trees
2. Crepe Myrtle
3. Japanese Maple
4. Magnolia



TYPES OF TREES PLANTED



Should it be continued?

90% of respondents answered "yes"



'The voucher allowed us to buy a more established tree than we would have otherwise. And also prompted us to buy it sooner. Without the voucher, it would have been a few years before we planted in that space'

'An added value was the nomination of local plant sellers to redeem the voucher.'

For more information on Trees in the City of Unley visit unley.sa.gov.au/trees

To find out how much tree canopy cover is on your property visit mycanopy.unley.sa.gov.au

