

Greening our City Case Study



Georges River Casula Parklands

In 2019, Liverpool City 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. Liverpool City Council had the bold idea to transform an old golf course into a welcoming and exciting recreational space in Georges River Casula Parklands for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

Described as a well-hidden parkland, the transformation of the space has unlocked significant activation by including a regional adventure playground, picnic areas, other recreational facilities and improved amenity. The development of the area also complimented the existing regional cultural facility of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, situated at the southern end of the parklands. Tree planting was an important element in the parkland development as it aimed to improve comfort levels for visitors and the overall aesthetic quality of the park as well as increase biodiversity.

As part of the grant for this project, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment funded 210 trees to be planted at Georges River Casula Parklands with many mature trees planted to give an immediate impact to the area. As the parklands sits within the Georges River corridor, it was essential that the new tree planting supported the existing vegetation community and habitat. The majority of the tree species planted in the parklands are therefore native.

The activation of this once hidden parkland has transformed it into a destination for play and is expected to increase civic pride and a sense of ownership within the community. Pride of place and active use will further drive community support for the ongoing maintenance and care of this valued place to love.



Trees planted

210

Tree survival rate

100% 

Grant amount

\$128k

“ The planting at Georges River Casula Parklands has supported Council's vision for a greener Liverpool by providing attractive spaces that enhance health and wellbeing of the community, while improving the conservation at the site. It also supports the integration of tree planting into recreational parks, which will provide shade - reducing the heat island effect in Southwest Sydney. ”

Mayor of Liverpool Wendy Waller

Tree selection

- The majority of trees were native tree species such as Weeping Bottlebrush and Queensland Brush Box, with a small selection of exotic tree species such as Claret Ash and different cultivars of Crepe Myrtle.
- Council planted a variety of trees ranging from 400mm pot to 200L mature trees, the majority of trees were at least semi-mature to give an immediate impact to the area.
- Most trees were native species to support the existing vegetation as the parklands sits in the Georges River corridor. These natives will provide a food source for birdlife and as they mature will provide much needed shade for visitors to the area.
- A smaller selection of exotic species was also planted to enhance the visitor experience with seasonal interest such as spring time blossoms and autumn foliage colours.

Tree establishment

- Liverpool City Council is required to ensure a successful 18-month tree establishment period as part of the grant conditions. This is an important component of the grant program as the first 18-months is critical to the ongoing life of the trees.
- Weeding and general repairs of tree stakes and ties was conducted on a monthly basis.
- The project has seen a 100% survival rate to date.
- Today, the trees are growing to provide more shade canopy, improve public amenity, attract wildlife and reduce urban heat.

Timeline

Date of planting: June 2020

Start of establishment period: September 2020

End of establishment period: February 2022

Ongoing routine maintenance by Council: February 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.

