

Mature Tree Removal In Yarralumla

This information about the Gunn St Parkland in Yarralumla has been provided in October 2009, on request, from TAMS, ACT Government.

These trees were removed under the tree replacement program (TRP), which commenced in 1992 for the staged removal and replacement of trees in deteriorating condition. This program has been the precursor to the Urban Forest Renewal (UFR) program and targeted sites where trees were becoming hazardous or declining and were at risk of losing the landscape amenity. This program primarily focused on trees in older suburbs, whereas UFR will be strategic across the entire city.

This year the TRP has undertaken work in 24 sites, with the removal of 282 trees, and 48 suckers and stumps; 588 trees are to be planted. In June this year residents abutting streets or parkland where works were proposed were consulted via a letter drop. Approval was sought for ACT Heritage Council and National Capital Authority sites where required.

In Gunn St Parkland 62 mature trees were assessed in early 2008; the assessment targeted Blue Gums and Italian Poplar. Many of the Blue Gums were found to have internal rot and were rated as a high hazard. This is common with this species as they are very prone to decay, and often the crown can still appear healthy, but there will be structural defects and cavities that reduce the integrity of the tree.

28 Blue Gums and 3 Italian Poplars are being removed. Other trees in this parkland have not been assessed and will not be affected by the removals, including some oak trees and other eucalypts. 29 healthy Blue Gums are being retained at this stage.

In the past, attempts to establish new trees were hampered by the mature trees, thus groups of poorer quality trees are being removed to provide space for new trees to grow. 29 replacement trees will be planted in 2009, including 15 Yellow Box, 8 Red Box and 6 Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*).

=====

For further information on the TAMS Tree Replacement Program and Urban Forest Management visit

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/parks_conservation_and_lands/parks_reserves_and_open_places/trees_and_forests/trees

=====