



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Understanding Our Urban Forest

*Quantifying current state to inform future
management and strategy.*

The Urban Forest is a significant feature of the University of Melbourne's Parkville Campus. It contributes to the campus' character, provides shade, enhances biodiversity, helps cool the campus at night, and enhances the health, wellbeing and experience of students, staff and visitors. However, without intervention the Parkville Urban Forest may struggle to adapt to a changing, warming climate. For these reasons the University is interested in protecting its trees and landscape into the future by making its Urban Forest more resilient to climate change.

The following work specifically addresses actions out of the University's [Biodiversity Management Plan](#) and will contribute towards the University's future Parkville Campus Urban Forest Strategy:

In 2017, the University undertook a [Tree Temperature Vulnerability Assessment](#) that applied the findings of [recent research](#) and primarily aimed to: identify which trees on campus are at risk from increasing temperatures due to climate change; and which species will be suitable in a future (higher temperature) climate. The findings from this assessment are now used to help inform future species selections, and landscape design decisions on campus. Take a look at our [map](#) to see the findings.

Building on this momentum, since April 2018 the University has begun a project that aims to understand the current state of the Parkville Campus' Urban Forest and what risks and opportunities it will face in the future. The project specifically investigates:

- Campus Canopy Cover
- Species and Age Diversity
- Useful Life Expectancy
- Urban Heat Island Impacts
- Community Values
- Vulnerable Areas
- Green Infrastructure Opportunities
- Climate Change Vulnerability
- Potential Biodiversity Corridors
- Tree Replacement Strategies
- Tree Valuations
- Understorey Composition and Area

For more information on the work the University is doing in this space, please contact either:

Rachael Miller | Urban Forest Planner | Master of Environment Student

rachael.miller@unimelb.edu.au; or

Judith Alcorn | Biodiversity Manager

jalcorn@unimelb.edu.au

