

DUKE STREET RAINGARDENS

NOVEMBER 2024

Overview

As our climate moves to hotter and drier conditions, Subiaco is embracing sustainable, waterwise initiatives to foster resilience in our landscape and minimise urban heat island impact, safeguarding our City's leafy charm well into the future.

Recent community feedback has called for a focus on greening our urban streetscapes. The Duke Street raingardens are a step towards delivering this, enhancing the streetscape with a water-sensitive design that assists in managing stormwater runoff and reducing the current and future heat island impact in this area. In addition, the raingardens will enhance street appeal and biodiversity of the streetscape with native plantings, and new tree canopy.

The Duke Street raingardens are intended to serve as a benchmark for future raingarden installations throughout our streets as the City continues to work towards delivering a greener, cooler, and more sustainable environment for the Subiaco community.

Upgrade features

- » Installation of raingardens to capture and filter stormwater run off, and reduce the urban heat island impact.
- » Redirection of water away from stormwater drains to infiltrate into the ground, supporting stronger plant growth and reducing the impact on waterways and their ecosystems.
- » Installation of timber decked bridge and gabion wall.
- » Planting of seven advanced Australian native trees.

Construction details

- » Construction is scheduled to commence late November 2024, through until early-mid December 2024.
- » Two car bays will be removed to accommodate the raingardens.
- » Additional public carparking will be made available in this area as part of an adjacent development.





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Frequently asked questions

What are raingardens and how do they work?

Raingardens are garden beds that have been specially-designed to catch and filter stormwater runoff from surrounding hard surfaces (like roads). They are filled with plants that can survive periodic water inundation, and often with plants that have adapted not only to tolerate the higher pollutant levels in stormwater, but also to remove many of those pollutants.

High speed waterflow depositing into waterways causes erosion to the waterway ecosystem, making it hard for marine species to establish along the waterway banks. High pollutant loads, like excess nitrogen or phosphorous, cause algal blooms in waterways that can be dangerous for people and marine life.

Raingardens reduce the amount of water entering our stormwater system in high rainfall events. This preserves the longevity of our urban drainage, and also protects the waterways that these drains deposit into by reducing the speed and pollutant level of the water depositing into them.

Why is the City putting raingardens in Duke Street?

With our climate becoming hotter, the City is adopting sustainable waterwise solutions through implementation of the City's Urban Forest Strategy, Public Open Space Plan, and Street Tree Policy. These waterwise solutions reduce temperatures on our streets and ensure rainfall infiltrates into the ground instead of overwhelming our stormwater drainage systems. Raingardens and increased tree canopy coverage are crucial in achieving this.

Duke Street is an ideal location for the installation of raingardens as they will also replace the recent reduction in canopy lost due to adjacent developments. In addition to replacing lost canopy, they will increase streetscape greening and improve overall street aesthetics.

When was the community consulted on this?

A variety of recent community consultation was reviewed, including feedback from:

- MARKYT Community Scorecard,
- Ada Street Greening Project,
- Seddon Street public realm upgrade,
- SubiPOP upgrades, and
- Subi Greenwalks upgrade.

The feedback provided by community across these projects consistently called for a focus on greening our urban streetscapes.

Close proximity residents were issued a further notification letter on Thursday 26 September 2024.

What species were chosen for inclusion, and why?

The species selected for the raingardens are native plants that are drought-tolerant and thrive in Perth's climate. They were chosen based on their ability to filter stormwater, absorb pollutants, and withstand periodic inundation, ensuring they contribute to the long-term sustainability of the gardens.

Will the Duke Street raingardens impact parking?

Yes. Two car parking bays will be removed as part of the raingarden installation. However, additional public car parking bays are being made available in this area as part of an adjacent development.

When is construction taking place, and for how long?

Construction will commence late November 2024, for a period of one to two weeks.

Will there be night-time works?

No. No night-time works are scheduled as part of this project.

For enquiries, contact the
City of Subiaco Parks Team
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