



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines



1 Introduction

These Guidelines have been developed to assist residents and Council develop appropriate nature strip landscaping options. The Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Warrnambool City Council Nature Strip Landscaping Policy. The Guidelines provide information and certainty to the community over what landscape treatments are preferred.

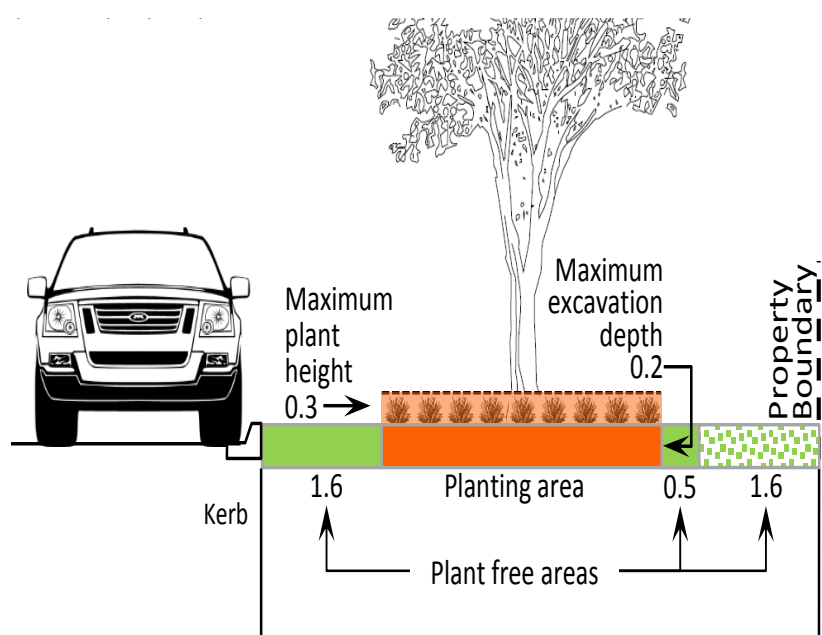
This document include images of landscaping generally in accordance with these guidelines to provide an example of the kind of landscaping that will be supported.

2 General Guidelines

Nature Strips refer to the area of public land between a private property boundary and the road kerb. The land is Council owned and controlled, and are part of the road reserve.

Warrnambool City Council relies on the support of residents to keep their nature strips neat and tidy and to maintain an attractive aesthetic

The diagram at right shows a typical acceptable layout.



3 Acceptable Alternatives

Council encourages residents to landscape their nature strips to beautify the streetscape and to show pride in our neighbourhoods. A well-designed and maintained nature strip garden is a great way for the community to become more socially active and connected, environmentally sustainable and attractive.



Any approved landscaping must be maintained by the resident and must not hinder cars parking in the street, passengers exiting cars next to kerb or pedestrians. The development of nature strips must not cause harm to the natural or built environment.

Council will not support or approve the following treatments on nature strips:

- Any plants that are declared noxious weeds from the Agriculture Victoria list.

- Additional trees (specifically trees that do not match into the existing street 'theme').
- Synthetic Turf or equivalent synthetic materials.
- Hard surfaces (concrete, pavers, asphalt, etc.).
- Irrigation Systems - above ground.
- Raised beds, rocks, star pickets, timer stakes or other trip hazards.
- Compacted crushed rock to facilitate car parking.
- Plantings that obscure pedestrian or vehicle/cyclists sight lines.



4 Realities of Nature Strip Gardens

Before deciding to landscape your nature strip residents should understand:

Soil on public land may be contaminated- Chemical residues in soils are possible. A soil test is advised if there is any doubt of the soil's composition, especially if edible plants are to be planted.

Produce might be taken- The nature strip is public land and the adjacent owner has no right to the produce. Sharing should be expected.

Neighbours may complain- Gardens may attract complaints but the health and wellbeing, place-making, social connection benefits are considered to outweigh these when nature strip landscaping complies with the policy and these guidelines.

Gardens may be vandalised- It may be uncommon, but gardeners should acknowledge this is possible in a public space such as your nature strip.

Traffic can be dangerous- When gardening on the edge of the road, caution must be taken.

Underground Services- As can happen with grassed nature strips, if access to underground services is required the nature strip landscaping/garden will be dug up and may not be replaced with like for like treatment.

Hard Work and Maintenance is needed - When planting any garden, labour and knowledge are required to develop and maintain it. Be prepared to manage the responsibility.

5 Permit Application & Pre Application Checklist

A Road Reserve Works Permit is required to be submitted and approved by Council before any works can take place (penalties apply). The details of proposed works should be included in the application. The Road Reserve Works Permit and associated fee are available on Councils website.

Applying for a permit is important because it enables a review of the proposed works to ensure they are safe for you and the rest of the community. It also confirms, in writing, that you understand your obligations outlined in these Guidelines.

Checklist before you apply:

- **Dial Before-you-Dig:** Call 1100 or visit <https://www.1100.com.au>.
- **Public Safety:**
 - plants must be within the planting zone to retain access.
 - toxic plants and substances must not be used.
 - thorny plants must not be used
 - Visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and cars should be considered in your design, and retained at all times.
- **Maintenance:** Consider who will look after the garden and how will it the watering, pruning and harvesting be managed.
- **Appearance:** a well maintained garden kept within the planting zone is required.
- Have you consulted with adjacent neighbours about the proposed nature strip alterations?
- Do the proposed alterations create any new hazards for the public?
- Do the proposed alterations complement and enhance the streetscape character?

- Do the proposed alterations restrict access to utility services, garbage collection and are there adequate plant free zones for pedestrian access?

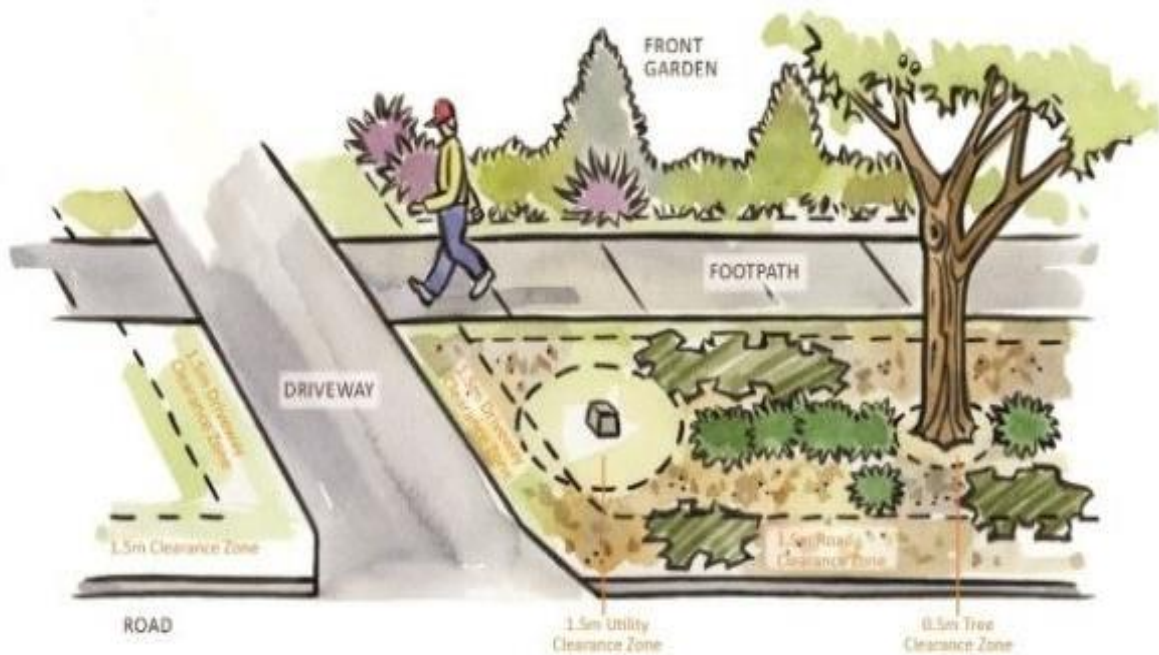


Figure 5 - A landscape development on the nature strip which combines 50% compacted gravel and 50% plants up to 500mm high. Any plants within the clearance zones must be plants that are able to be walked on.