

# Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

To be read in conjunction with the Nature Strip Landscaping Policy, 2019

A permit is required under the Local Law 10 to undertake any landscaping on a nature strip. Council will now allow some landscaping without a permit - provided it meets the Policy as explained in these Guidelines.

## About Nature Strips

A nature strip is the area between your property boundary and the road edge excluding a footpath. Nature strips are set aside to allow for:

- ❖ utility services,
- ❖ car door opening
- ❖ pedestrian movement,
- ❖ an area for collection of household bins,
- ❖ visibility for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians
- ❖ street tree planting

Council (or VicRoads on main roads) are responsible for the management and safety of nature strips but do not carry out maintenance other than for street trees.

If you wish to landscape your nature strip you will need to complete the following steps.

## Planning the Landscaping of your Nature strip

1. Confirm your nature strip is in an area that is permitted to be landscaped. Some areas e.g. main roads or outside town boundaries (where speed zone changes to above 60km per hour) are not included. Check the Policy or contact Council to confirm.
2. If renting, gain the prior approval of the property owner
3. Refer to the diagram above and the table over page for permitted and non-permitted landscaping
4. Consider whether the design complements the neighbourhood character / suits the streetscape
5. Lodge a 'Dial Before You Dig' query online or dial 1100 to locate services prior to any excavation.
6. Confirm the works can be carried out in a safe manner
7. Consider the ability to maintain the landscaping in a safe and tidy condition in the long term

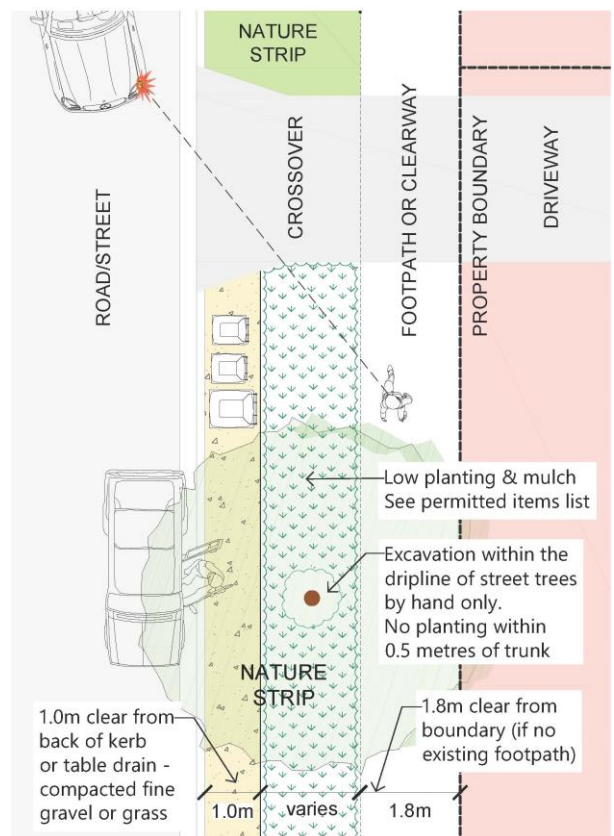




Fig. 1. Plan of permitted landscaping for your nature strip



## Permitted and non-permitted items on nature strips

	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Plants below 600mm in height to maintain motorist/pedestrian sightlines</li> <li>✓ Plants on corner block intersections below 250mm to maintain sightlines</li> <li>✓ Wood chips or mulch 75mm depth between 7 to 25mm size with plantings</li> <li>✓ Compacted fine gravel or toppings to maximum 100mm depth in required clear area only - refer to diagram *</li> <li>✓ Native and indigenous plants</li> <li>✓ Other drought tolerant, low-maintenance, plants well-suited to the Macedon Ranges natural environment</li> <li>✓ Plants placed so when mature they do not overhang footpaths and driveways</li> <li>✓ Allowing 1.8 metres clear from property boundary where no existing footpath</li> <li>✓ Allowing 1.0m clear, either grass or compacted fine gravel, from back of kerb/table drain for bins &amp; car doors</li> <li>✓ Grass or turf</li> <li>✓ Planting min. 500mm offset from trees</li> <li>✓ Mulch/edging level with surrounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Plants above 600mm in height</li> <li>✗ Objects and/or barriers such as fencing, large rocks, logs, or bollards</li> <li>✗ Wood chips, mulch, or gravels across whole of nature strip with no plantings *</li> <li>✗ Fine mulches, compost, other loose materials – can enter and obstruct storm water drains</li> <li>✗ Mulch or garden edging protruding above the footpath/driveway level</li> <li>✗ Mulch on the footpath, road or channel</li> <li>✗ Noxious or environmental weed species</li> <li>✗ Spiny, thorny plants, artificial plants or turf</li> <li>✗ Plants overhanging footpaths or driveways</li> <li>✗ Fertilisers or garden sprays that may wash into storm water drains</li> <li>✗ Planting or modifying street trees (Council only)</li> <li>✗ Irrigation systems or wiring e.g. lights</li> <li>✗ Bluestone pitchers, sleepers or retaining walls</li> <li>✗ Hard paving such as concrete, brick or asphalt</li> <li>✗ Timber or metal stakes, or star pickets</li> </ul>

\* to discourage illegal parking on nature strips as per Victorian Road Safety Road Rules, 2017

Contact Council for further information regarding these Guidelines or to obtain:

- A copy of the Nature Strip Landscaping Policy
- Information regarding applying for a Permit
- A suggested planting list for landscaping Nature strips
- A Guide to the Weeds of Central Victoria, 2015
- A Guide to the Flora of the Macedon Ranges, 2019