



Hobsons Bay City Council  
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## Excavation and Cultivation

**Excavation and cultivation must be by hand.**

**Mechanical excavation (bobcat/dingo) or cultivation (rotary hoe) may damage street trees, infrastructure and services installed underground.**

Only hand (spade or fork) excavation and cultivation is permitted. As hand digging may expose some underground services, the property owner or their contractor is advised to contact "Dial Before You Dig" on 1100. The owner/occupier is responsible for the repairing of any damage to infrastructure caused by landscaping works.

## Damaged Nature Strips

**If the nature strip has been damaged as a result of building work, the property owner or builder is responsible for repair.**

At times, the Council and utility companies that supply water, gas, electricity and telecommunications can require access to your nature strip to perform maintenance work.

If the nature strip becomes damaged following the works, the Service Authority is responsible for reinstating the nature strip with grass. There is no guarantee that they will replace landscaping such as plants and mulch to match the condition that existed prior to maintenance work. It will therefore be the responsibility of the property owner to reinstate the landscape treatment to the previous standard.

## Telephone Interpreting Service 131 450

Arabic	.131 450 خدمة الترجمة الهاتفية
Chin	Telephone in Holhlehnak 131 450.
Croatian	Telefonska služba tumača 131 450.
Greek	Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων 131 450.
Italian	Servizio telefonico interpreti 131 450.
Karen	လီတဲစ် တၢ်ကတိၤကျိးတၢ် တၢ်မၤ 131 450.
Macedonian	Телефонска преведувачка служба 131 450.
Maltese	Servizz ta' Interpretar bit-Telefon 131 450.
Mandarin	电话口译服务 131 450。
Polish	Telefoniczna Służba Tłumaczy 131 450.
Vietnamese	Dịch vụ Thông dịch qua Điện thoại 131 450.

The Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to protecting and enhancing our environment. This publication is printed with vegetable inks on recycled, non-chemically bleached stock.

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**Nature strips** are an integral part of our urban environment. They provide safe public walkways and contribute significantly to the character of our neighbourhoods and streetscapes.



Grassed nature strips remain the most common form of nature strip treatments in Hobsons Bay. The use of drought tolerant plants provides a low maintenance treatment which requires only minor pruning and weeding to maintain.

**Some residents may wish to plant small plants on the nature strip in front of their property. These landscape guidelines have been developed to assist and guide residents in the appropriate landscape development of their nature strips.**

## Plants

**Residents are able to plant their nature strips with a range of ground cover plants, shrubs or grasses, provided the following conditions are met:**

- ✓ Plantings do not exceed 500mm in height at maturity.
- ✓ Only ground cover plants are used for corner blocks to ensure a good line of sight for motorists and pedestrians;
- ✓ Where there is no footpath, 1.2m from the property line is kept clear of planting to allow safe pedestrian access;
- ✓ Ensure safe and suitable access to the footpath for people exiting a parked car and allow space for the opening of car doors; and
- ✓ Allow space for location of emptying of refuse and recycling bins;

**The following plants are not acceptable for nature strip planting:**

- ✗ Woody plants (trees, large bushes);
- ✗ Plants with spikes or prickles;

- ✗ Shrubs which grow to 500mm or higher that obscures driver's line of sight; or
- ✗ Species considered to be weeds (see Department of Primary Industries website for further information on weed species).

## Mulch

**Two mulch types may be used:**

- ✓ **Fine gravel mulches** with a maximum diameter particle size of 7mm, such as washed granitic sand and Tuscan or Lilydale toppings to a depth of 75mm; or
- ✓ **Organic mulch** such as a graded bark or multi-bark mixed to a depth of 75mm, that is resistant to disturbance by wind and rain.

## Unacceptable Nature Strip Treatments

**The following are not permitted on nature strips:**

- ✗ Hard surfaces such as concrete, pavers or asphalt.
- ✗ Irrigation systems.
- ✗ Bluestone pitchers, railway sleepers, retaining walls or rocks – these items are all potential trip hazards.
- ✗ Letterboxes (these must be established on private property and allow for suitable access by Australia Post).
- ✗ Temporary or permanent electrical wiring (e.g. for the use of lighting trees).
- ✗ Hard surface for car parking.
- ✗ Synthetic turf, river pebbles, polished pebbles, scoria, blue metal and other loose stones.

## Maintenance Responsibilities

**The Council does not carry out renovation or maintenance of nature strips.**

**Residents are encouraged to maintain the nature strip abutting their properties. Maintenance responsibilities of landscaped nature strips:**

- ✓ Residents are required to keep the nature strip in a well maintained and safe condition at all times;
- ✓ Prune plants so they do not protrude onto pathways, driveways or within 600mm of the back of the kerb;
- ✓ The nature strip is to be kept free of weeds and rubbish; keep mulch away from the footpath, gutters or driveways. The level of mulch must not extend above the level of the footpath or the kerb; and
- ✓ The nature strip is to be kept free of any tripping hazards and protruding objects.

## Street Trees

**The Council is responsible for supplying and planting street trees.**

**These trees are an important part of the local environment and provide habitat for native fauna as well as shade, shelter and cleaner air.**

If a street tree is required on the nature strip please contact the Council and we will arrange for one to be planted. Any landscaping of nature strips must be avoided in early stages of a tree being planted.

You can help your tree flourish by watering it regularly and keeping the base weed free and mulched.