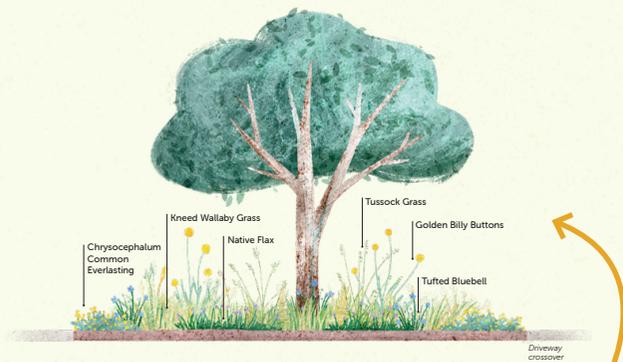
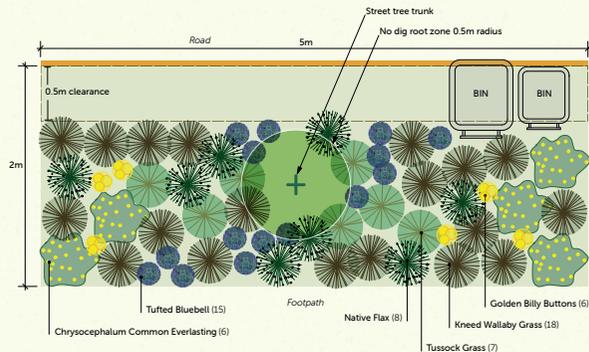


Nature strips provide safe public walkways and contribute significantly to the character of our neighbourhoods. Whilst most nature strips are planted with grass, residents may replace this with other plants which can provide benefits like habitat for indigenous plants and animals and food production.

Nature strips in Hobsons Bay must comply with these guidelines to ensure our nature strips provide social and environmental benefits while maintaining safety and amenity for the community.



See 'Native Nature Strips' on the Council website for advice on indigenous plants and design examples that comply with these guidelines.

Damaged nature strips

Council and utility companies sometimes require nature strip access for maintenance work. If nature strip plantings are disturbed, the service organisation is only responsible for reinstating grass. It is the responsibility of the property owner to restore the nature strip to the desired landscaping.

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

RESOURCES

My Smart Garden

mysmartgarden.org.au

Newport Lakes Native Nursery

2 Lakes Drive, Newport

(03) 9391 0044

newportnativenursery.com.au

GardenSafe at EPA Victoria

epa.vic.gov.au/gardensafe

Hobsons Bay City Council

115 Civic Parade, Altona

PO Box 21, Altona 3018

Phone 1300 179 944

NRS phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944

Email customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

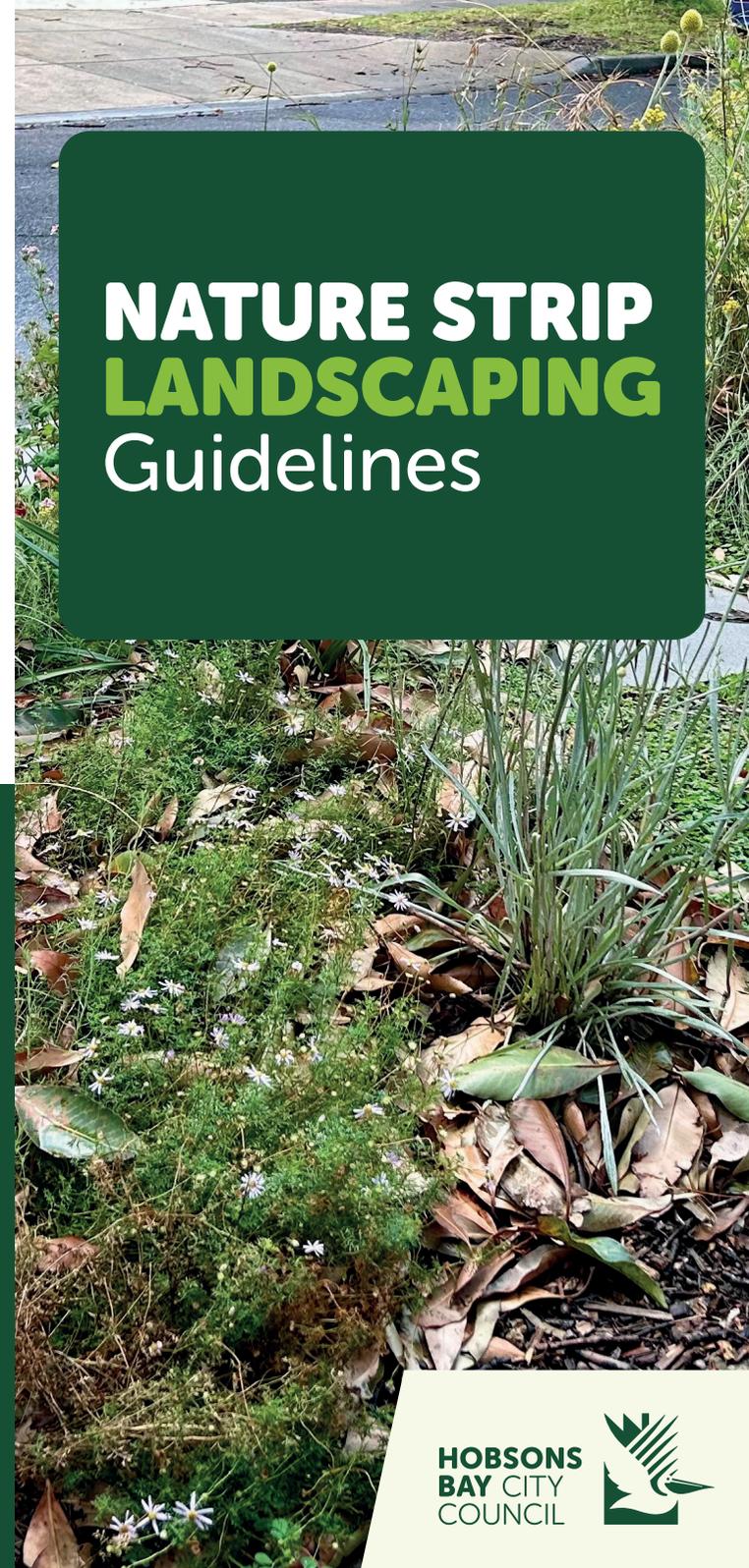
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 www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

 **HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE**

9932 1212
INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES
Your Council in your language

NATURE STRIP LANDSCAPING Guidelines



**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



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:

- ✓ Plants must not exceed 50cm (0.5m) in height at maturity. Near intersections, plants not exceeding 30cm (0.3m) at maturity are recommended to ensure clear line of sight for motorists and pedestrians. See advice regarding Street trees below
- ✓ Where there is no footpath, 120cm (1.2m) from the property line is retained as lawn or a permeable surface to allow safe pedestrian access
- ✓ Plants with spikes or prickles or plants considered weeds cannot be used (see Agriculture Victoria website)
- ✓ Ensure safe and suitable access to the footpath for people exiting a parked car
- ✓ Space must be allowed for waste and recycling bins to be placed for collection
- ✓ Indigenous plant species are preferred due to the benefit they provide to local birds, insects and other small wildlife
- ✓ When planting food plants, please note that soil contamination (e.g. lead) is a common problem in urban areas, and residents are advised to test their nature strip before installing food plants. Free soil heavy metal testing is available through the GardenSafe program at EPA Victoria (see Resources)

Mulch

Mulch supports plant growth by protecting soil, reducing moisture loss and suppressing weeds.

- ✓ Heavy organic mulches such as bark or wood chips should be applied to resist disturbance by wind and rain
- ✓ The recommended level of mulch is approximately 7.5cm which allows rainfall to reach the soil while still reducing evaporation and erosion
- ✓ Spreading ground cover plants can also be used to avoid the need for mulch once matured
- ✓ Please take care to avoid mulch washing into gutters and stormwater drains

Prohibitions

The following are not permitted on nature strips:

- ✗ Plants greater than 50cm (0.5m) in height (e.g. trees or large bushes) (See advice regarding Street trees below)
- ✗ Hard surfaces such as concrete, paving or asphalt (although small areas with permeable unmortared non-slip paving or granitic sand for pedestrian access or waste and recycling bin placement are acceptable)
- ✗ Irrigation systems
- ✗ Objects such as bluestone blocks, bricks, rocks, railway sleepers, edging, retaining walls, planter boxes and logs
- ✗ Letterboxes (these must be on private property)
- ✗ Temporary or permanent electrical wiring (e.g. tree lighting)
- ✗ Synthetic turf, pebbles and other loose stones

Street trees

Council is responsible for planting and maintaining street trees. These trees are carefully selected to 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 Council and we will arrange for one to be planted. You can help your tree flourish by watering it regularly and keeping the base weed free and mulched.

Excavation and cultivation

Excavation and cultivation must use hand tools only (e.g. trowel, spade, fork). Mechanical excavation or cultivation (e.g. bobcat, dingo or rotary hoe) may damage street trees, infrastructure and underground services.

Hand tools may still expose some underground services, so residents are advised to check **Before You Dig Australia (byda.com.au)** for a free set of utility plans. The owner is responsible for repairing damage to infrastructure caused by landscaping works.

Maintenance responsibilities

Residents are expected to maintain the nature strip adjacent to their property, including keeping it free of trip hazards, protruding objects, weeds and rubbish. Residents should also ensure pathways, gutters and driveways remain clear, and prune plants to stay within height limits.

Council does not carry out renovation or maintenance of nature strips, and is not responsible for reinstating grass after a change in property ownership. Renters should seek permission from the property owner before making changes to the nature strip.