



Randwick City
Council
a sense of community

RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL

STREET GARDEN GUIDELINES



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APPENDIX

- Nature Strip Garden Checklist*
- Recommended Plant List*
- Approval Flow Chart Diagram*
- Frequently Asked Questions*

1. INTRODUCTION

Policy objective

The objective of the **Street Garden Policy** and these guidelines is to provide a framework for residents to create, install and maintain an authorised nature strip garden or planter box on the nature strip in front of their property, or a laneway garden adjacent to their property while:

- (a) Considering responsibility in relation to other users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
- (b) Consider other functions of the land including garbage collection, stormwater management, utility service corridor, parking and street trees.
- (c) Promote and guide effective management and maintenance of established street gardens.
- (d) Reduce hazards that may result in injuries or damage to property.

Definitions

- (a) **Policy:** The Council adopted **Street Garden Policy**, which accompanies these guidelines and sets the framework and outlines procedures for residents to create and install street gardens as defined in the *Policy Objective* above.
- (b) **Nature Strip:** The nature strip is the Council owned land between the private property boundary and the road. This area may be grassed and/or contain street trees, footpaths, road and/or parking signs, driveways, street furniture and utility services.
- (c) **Street Gardens:** Street gardens are nature strip gardens or planter boxes installed by the resident on the nature strip in front of their owned or leased property.
- (d) **Laneway Gardens:** Laneway gardens refer to plantings within a laneway between the road edge or kerb and the adjacent fence or boundary.

- (e) **Nature Strip Gardens:** Nature strip gardens refer to plantings installed by residents at ground level in the nature strip area between their owned or leased property and the road.

Residents are required to comply with these guidelines to ensure that the garden meets the policy objectives, including the submission of a checklist and photographs to Council after completing the installation of a nature strip garden. The signed checklist submitted to Council is for verification and record-keeping purposes. Residents who do not complete, sign and lodge the checklist in *Appendix 1*, and comply with the policy are not permitted to install road verge gardens.

- (f) **Planter Boxes:** Planter boxes refer to raised structures, in which plants can be grown. Planter boxes are above ground containers consisting of a raised edge with no solid base. In certain circumstances, planter boxes may be installed by the resident between their owned or leased property and the kerb. Planter boxes may have an impact on road users and therefore require approval prior to installation.

Approval is granted with the concurrence of Roads and Maritime Services, under *section 138* of the *Roads Act 1993*, where a planter box is located on the public footpath of a classified road.

The policy criteria outlines that any street garden on the nature strip must respect other users of the footpath, while also maintaining access and amenity.

2. EXCLUSION ZONES

Public land not adjacent to your property

Street gardens are not permitted to be installed on any public land that is not directly out the front and/or directly adjacent to your property.

Median strips

Street gardens are not permitted within any median strips.

Remnant vegetation and habitat corridors

The policy excludes areas of land that contain, or are adjacent to remnant vegetation and land identified as having *Biodiversity Significance* (refer to the *Randwick Comprehensive Development Control Plan 2013 Part-B4-5*).

Food crops are not permitted within these areas.

Shared zones, bus zones and cycle ways

A shared zone refers to a street section where pedestrians, bike users and vehicles share the road space. Drivers and cyclists must give way to pedestrians. If you would like to install a street garden in a shared zone, contact Council to discuss your proposal.

Street gardens aren't permitted within 15 metres on the approach side of a bus stop and five metres on the departure side of the bus stop.

Street gardens are not permitted adjacent to any cycleway to ensure clear sightlines between cyclists, pedestrians and traffic.

Street corners and angle parking

Street corners are to be clear of street gardens. The exclusion zone is defined by an area perpendicular to the property boundary and to the kerb, to ensure clear sightlines for traffic and pedestrians. Refer to *Diagram A - Typical Corner Exclusion Zone*.

Street gardens are not permitted between the kerb and footpath adjacent to areas of angle parking. This will ensure access to vehicles is provided, while reducing ongoing nature strip maintenance issues.

Adjacent to existing street trees and power poles

Street gardens are not permitted within 1.5 metres of any existing street tree trunk. Refer to *Diagram B - Preferred Nature Strip Garden*. Any planting within 0.5 metres of a power pole is also excluded.



Diagram A – Typical Corner Exclusion Zone

3. PLANNING AND DESIGN CRITERIA

Characteristics of the nature strips of Randwick City

The nature strips within the Randwick City Council local government area are diverse and offer different opportunities and constraints to residents who are considering installing a street garden.

In the older settled areas to the north including Randwick, Coogee, Kensington and Clovelly, the soils are generally deeper, meaning more nutrients and large established street trees. The nature strips can be narrower with a smaller green space between the kerb and footpath. Due to the undulating terrain of these suburbs, some nature strips are battered from kerb to footpath or property boundary, which may

constrain planting proposals with consideration to other users, plant success and maintenance.

In the southern suburbs, the nature strips can be wider allowing different opportunity for street gardens. Nature strips are more commonly on a flat grade, however the soils are not as deep, and may not have as much nutrients as the northern areas of Randwick City. Soils are dominated by a larger sand content and selection of appropriate plant species is critical for the success of the garden. These areas are also more exposed to the southerly winds from the Pacific Ocean and Botany Bay.

Planning your garden

The Street Garden Policy is intended to help you establish a compliant garden in front of your property. There are considerations that need to be resolved for your street garden proposal to be approved and compliant throughout its life.

You should plan your proposed street garden to ensure that consideration is given to site suitability, plant selection, access to water, other users, existing structures, utilities, safety and existing uses of the site.

The following should be considered when assessing site suitability:

- (a) Ensure the location is directly in front of your property and not encroaching onto the nature strip in front of your neighbours' home;
- (b) Street Gardens are best suited to streets with low levels of traffic;
- (c) Ensure there is a clear pedestrian travel path maintained;
- (d) Maintaining clear sight lines for traffic and sufficient space for access and circulation for people entering or leaving their parked cars;
- (e) Ensure your proposed street garden(s) are set back at least 1.5 metres from the trunk of existing street trees. It is important to note an established large tree with an extensive root system will out-compete any adjacent plantings for soil nutrients.



- (f) Does the space receive enough sunlight to nourish the plants?
- (g) How will you source water?

Residents need to remember that nature strips are on the public footway and may be used by pedestrians, people accessing vehicles, or putting out waste bins for collection. Council will take appropriate care, but takes no responsibility for damage to street gardens.

Council reserves the right to remove or modify any nature strip garden and remove or relocate any planter box to conduct works; including but not limited to construction of a new footpath, kerb and gutter, or planting street trees.



Nature strip garden requirements

Residents are permitted to plant and maintain nature strip gardens on the nature strip out the front of their properties on the condition that they meet the requirements of the Street Garden Policy and these guidelines.

The considerations below are critical to ensure that your nature strip garden is compliant:

- (a) Do not create access barriers or hazards for pedestrians, road users, neighbouring properties, public utilities and services;
- (b) Raised edges such as fences, rocks, bricks, timber, plastic or steel edging are not permitted in any circumstances. Garden edges must be flush with the adjacent ground levels;
- (c) The garden is required to have a clean straight edge so the adjacent surface can be effectively maintained;
- (d) Select plants from the provided recommended plant list.
Refer to Appendix 2;
- (e) Ensure appropriate access from the footpath to the kerb by providing a gap when you have a wide frontage;
- (f) Maintain a minimum 1m of clear space between the nature strip garden and any driveway edge;
- (g) Maintain a minimum 1.5m of clear space between the nature strip garden and any existing tree, with a 2m clearance if the existing tree has a trunk diameter greater than 300mm;
- (h) Ensure your garden is well maintained, safe, tidy, attractive, and does not cause runoff of mulch, soil or other material;
- (i) Do not plant any new trees or prune any existing trees or tree roots.
- (j) Use mulch within the garden bed to help retain moisture and suppress weeds;
- (k) Irrigation systems are not permitted;
- (l) Council strongly encourages using organic products rather than synthetic fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals;
- (m) No structures, trellises or ornaments are permitted within your nature strip garden.

Upon installation of the nature strip garden, the resident is required to submit a completed signed checklist with accompanying photos of the nature strip garden to Council. The checklist can be found in *Appendix 1*. The completed checklist and photos are intended for you to demonstrate compliance with the above requirements.

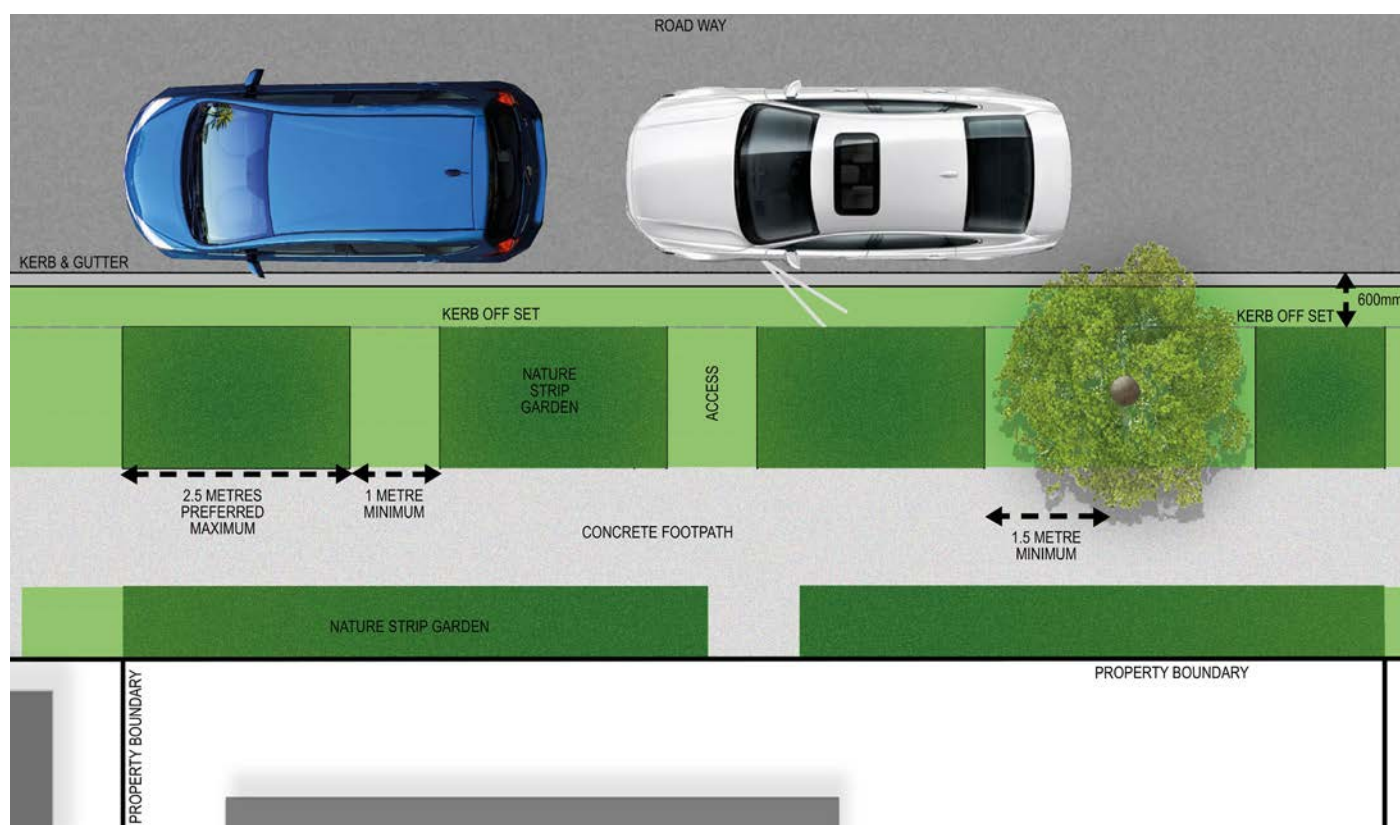


Diagram B – Preferred Nature Strip Garden

Planter box requirements

Planter boxes are permitted in nature strips when proposals meet approval requirements. Due to the nature and variability of planter boxes and site suitability, an approval is required prior to installation. An *Application to Undertake Civil Works* needs to be completed and lodged with Council. The application form can be found on Council's website.

- (a) Planter boxes are required to be installed on firm level natural surfaces to allow for effective drainage;
- (b) Do not create access barriers or hazards for pedestrians, road users, neighbouring properties, trees, utilities and services;
- (c) Do not impact or damage the footpath or any adjacent property;
- (d) All planter boxes must have a weedmat or geofabric layer at the base to form a separation barrier between the existing site soil and the imported growing medium;
- (e) Select plants from the provided recommended plant list in *Appendix 2*;

- (f) The planter box must be free of sharp edges, nails or any overhanging material which may impede the footway or cause injury to pedestrians;
- (g) Use mulch within the planter box to help retain moisture and suppress weeds;
- (h) Irrigation systems are not permitted; No structures or ornaments are permitted within your planter box;
- (i) Ensure the planter box is regularly maintained and kept in a presentable condition.

Planter boxes are required to meet the following set out requirements;

- Where there are multiple planter boxes proposed, they must be positioned to ensure an uninterrupted 1m clearance between each planter;
- A clear distance of 0.3m minimum is to be maintained between the edge of the footpath and the planter box;
- Planter boxes are not suitable for nature strips narrower than 2 metres (excluding the concrete footpath);
- Maintain a minimum 1m of space between your planter box and any driveway edge.

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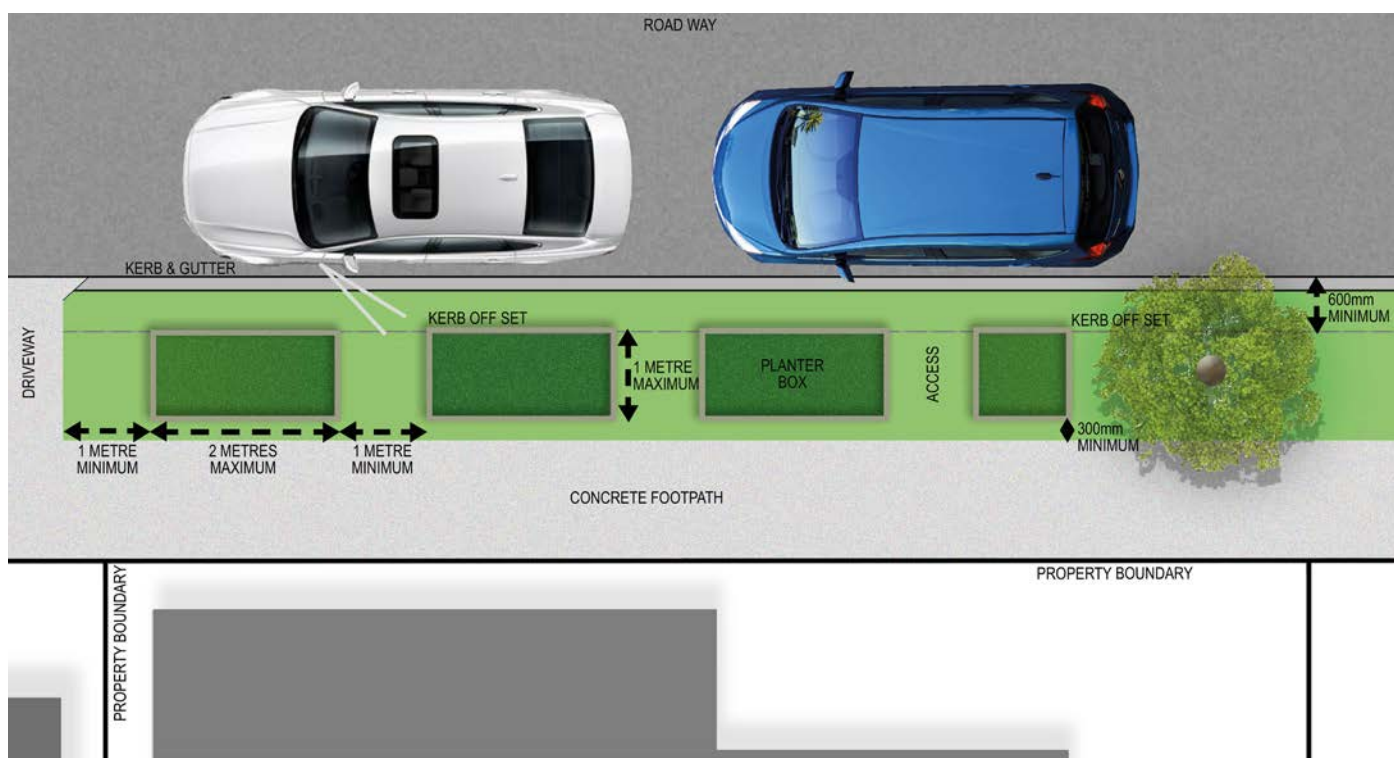


Diagram C – Typical Planter Box Layout

Council only permits two types of planter boxes as follows;

- A colourbond steel planter box.
- A treated pine (ACQ or LOSP) planter box.

Both options are available commercially, with the colourbond steel option available in a ready-to-assemble modular kit;



Treated Pine Planter



Colourbond Steel Planter

Colourbond Steel Planter (Available in Kit or Modular Form)

Material & Colour	Corrugated steel in neutral colour.
Steel Edge	Rolled steel safety edge with rubber trim.
Fixings	Galvanised fixings and screws.

Treated Pine Planter (Make it Yourself)

Board Size	90-180mm max (h) x 30-40 mm thick* (Max 2 boards)
Corner Post	50mm x 50mm stake x 400mm high
Fixings	Galvanised fixings, min. M8 diameter

* ACQ or LOPS treated pine only.
CCA treated pine not permitted.

Laneway gardens

Some laneways provide opportunity for residents to plant gardens and enhance a laneway space. Laneway greening can also soften and beautify otherwise harsh, dull spaces, while at the same time engaging communities. However not all laneways are the same and some have certain constraints and conditions to consider.

If you are contemplating a laneway garden, contact Council to discuss your proposal and planting options. We will work with you to reach a best outcome.

Neighbourhood relations

Although no formal neighbourhood notification is required, it is recommended that you extend

DISTANCE	REQUIRED FOR	NATURE STRIP GARDEN	PLANTER BOX
100mm	Maximum depth of mulch around tree roots	○	
300mm	Maximum depth for digging into nature's strip	○	○
1m	Maximum height of plants in nature strip garden	○	
600mm	Maximum height of plants in planter boxes		○
1m	Minimum uninterrupted access between garden beds	○	○
1m	Minimum clearance from street furniture	○	○
600mm	Minimum 'no planting' offset from kerb face	○	○
1m	Minimum 'no planting' clearance from a driveway	○	○
1.5m	Minimum 'no planting' offset from property boundary where there is no footpath	○	○
1.5m	Minimum clearance from existing tree trunk with trunk girth <300mm	○	○
2m	Minimum clearance from existing tree trunk with trunk girth >300mm	○	○
300mm	Minimum clearance from a footpath		○
500mm	Minimum clearance from a power pole	○	○

Diagram D – Offset Matrix

the courtesy of explaining your intentions to your neighbours.

When installing or maintaining your street garden, do not leave tools on the footpath, avoid leaving any holes or trip hazards, maintain plants so they don't encroach or grow onto the footpath or road.

Leaf litter, mulch, soil, flowers or general plant debris, must be removed from the footpath, the gutter or the nature strip.

Roads, traffic and access

When planning and installing a street garden it is critical that footpaths remain accessible for pedestrians and people accessing or leaving parked vehicles.

The nature strip is public land and as a result you must consider other users in your planning, installation and the maintenance of your street garden. Allow enough room for people to access vehicles and open car doors. You will also need to consider and leave enough space for your neighbours to put bins out and allow enough space for pedestrians to circulate.

People with limited vision usually use the building line to help safely navigate the footpath,

orientate themselves and locate businesses and premises. Additionally, wheelchair users, pedestrians with limited mobility, and people pushing prams require sufficient space to travel. To ensure the nature strip is usable for everyone, a setback from the kerb to the street garden must be provided and maintained. There also must be sufficient clearance from street furniture, underground service lids, energy kiosks or pillars. Refer to *Offset Matrix* above.

Plant selection

The success of your street garden largely depends upon your plant selection. Refer to *Characteristics of the nature strips of Randwick City* for information on the varying planting conditions in the Randwick City Council Local Government Area.

When determining your plant selection, the following must be considered:

- Growing food plants on the nature strip is not recommended. The quality and fitness of food grown in this environment cannot be assured. If a resident has an interest in growing food plants, Council recommends that the resident finds a community garden in their local area.
- Plants that are spiky, have sharp leaves, spines, thorns or cacti are not permitted;
- Toxic plants, noxious or environment weeds

are not allowed;

- Only shrubs, grasses and groundcovers are allowed to be planted; Plants must not exceed 1 metre in height at maturity when planted in a nature strip garden;
- Plants must not exceed 600mm in height at maturity when planted in a planter box;
- Mature plants must be pruned to not exceed their maximum allowable height;
- Do not plant trees. Trees are only to be planted on the nature strip by Council and are determined under Council's Street Tree Masterplan;
- Select drought tolerant plants and plants that are resilient to coastal conditions;
- Select perennial plants over those that last for one growing season to minimise garden maintenance.

trees on a nature strip;

- The root and trunk area of the existing tree must not be compromised in any way. This includes placing any soil, compost or mulch upon or against the trunk or roots;
- A 1.5m minimum distance applies to the installation of any street garden to any existing tree. For trees trunks greater than 300mm in diameter, a 2m offset will be required. Do not cut, damage or remove tree roots to facilitate planting.

If Council deems that the health of an existing street tree may be compromised by any planter box or nature strip garden, Council will ask the resident to rectify the situation to ensure the perseverance of the tree's health and may recover costs in extreme cases.



A recommended plant list has been provided in *Appendix 2* of these guidelines. Council urges that this list is followed. If you have any questions about plant selection in your street garden, please contact the Randwick City Council Nursery (Ph 02 9093 6250).

Existing street trees

All street trees growing within the nature strip are owned and managed by Randwick City Council. It is important that this green infrastructure is preserved and protected. When a street garden is being planned and installed, it is crucial that you:

- Do not cut the roots or branches of any street trees. Only Council staff or Ausgrid are allowed to plant, prune or remove street

4. AUTHORISED AND COMPLIANT STREET GARDENS

Nature strip gardens

The policy permits residents to plant **nature strip gardens** outside their properties on the condition that they:

- (a) Meet the requirements of the policy and these guidelines;
- (b) Submit to Council a completed signed checklist and photos of the completed nature strip garden;
- (c) Continue to maintain the nature strip garden to ensure ongoing compliance with the policy and guidelines.



Planter boxes

The policy permits residents to install **planter boxes** on the nature strip in certain circumstances, however Council approval is required prior to installation. The process for approval requires residents to:

- Complete the application for planter boxes found within the supporting guidelines, and submit to Council;
- Ensure that the planter box is installed in accordance with the approval;
- Submit photos of the planter box upon completion;
- Continue to maintain the planter box to ensure ongoing compliance with the policy and guidelines.

Public liability

This policy has been developed to manage public liability risks. However, this does not prevent a third party from making a claim against the resident for any injury, loss or damage caused by the road verge garden or planter box.

5. UTILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

Underground services

Underground pipes and cables transmit services such as gas, electricity, water, stormwater, sewerage, and communications. These services are located in all streets and some of them will be directly connected to your property. If you are planning on installing a street garden you will need to find out what underground utilities run through or near your proposed site at the planning stage.

For residents' safety and the safety of others, it is important to avoid damaging any of these underground pipes or cables. Legal action may be taken against individuals or companies by utilities for damage to their assets.

Residents are required to contact **Dial Before You Dig** prior to undertaking any digging on public land. Dial Before You Dig is a free service for locating underground services and utilities. It is a legal requirement to obtain and consider Dial Before You Dig information before starting any excavation in the nature strip.

The following must be also considered prior to, and during any excavation:

- It is the excavator's responsibility to expose underground pipes and cables manually;
- All planting must be carried out by hand with no excavation deeper than 300mm;
- Mechanised tools and equipment are not permitted;
- Location plans provide an indication of the presence of underground service only; they do not pinpoint the exact location, or depth; this is why manual exposure is required;
- It should be noted that service connections from the street to your property may not be shown on the Dial Before You Dig plans;
- A service location service can be sourced at your cost to further determine the service line location and depth.



Dial Before You Dig can be contacted via **11 00** or visit www.1100.com.au

Future works

Utility authorities and Council reserve the right to carry out works within the nature strip. This includes but is not limited to footpath construction, tree planting, installation of street furniture, etc. These works may result in the removal or disturbance of an established street garden. It is the resident's responsibility to make good and repair their street garden as a result of any impact caused during these works.

6. SAFE GARDENING

Working near the road

Individuals interested in gardening within the nature strip are encouraged to consider basic safety precautions, including appropriate clothing, safe use of tools and sun protection. Health and safety precautions are the responsibility of the resident responsible for the garden.

Residents are reminded that they are working within proximity of the road. Materials or tools must not be stored on the footpath or road, and work should not be undertaken from the road surface.

- Prune and cut your plants to control growth;
- Ensure branches and leaves do not spill out onto the footpath or surrounding areas therefore becoming a trip hazard for pedestrians;
- Mow the grass around your street garden;
- Use organic pesticides;
- Birds, rodents, bugs, worms and snails may take up residence in your garden, so it is important to regularly check your garden and work out a plan to protect it;
- Water your garden during dry periods to ensure vitality and health of your plants.

Randwick City Council is not responsible for the upkeep, repair or replacement of private street gardens.

7. MANAGEMENT AND COMPLAINTS

General maintenance

A nature strip garden, planter box or laneway garden that is maintained, trimmed, watered and mulched helps contribute to the visual quality and overall look of a healthy, nurtured and well-presented street.

When a resident installs a nature strip garden, planter box or laneway garden, it is their responsibility to maintain their street garden in a safe, clean and tidy way that is free of disease, vandalism, foreign matter, dead plant materials and hazards.

Maintaining a street garden includes the

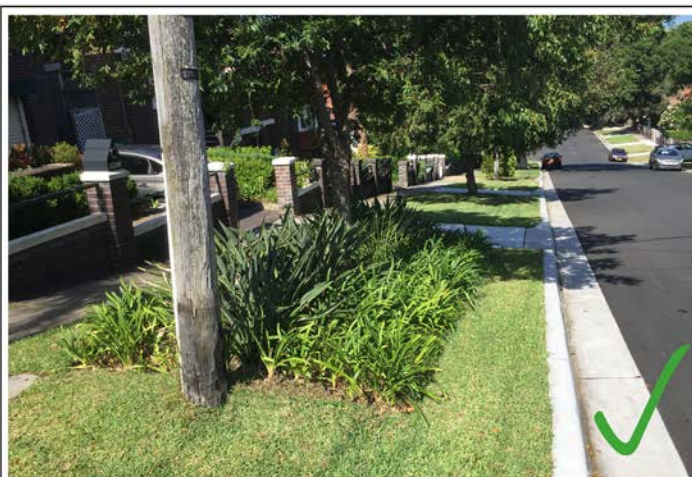
- Limiting plants to a maximum height of 600mm, when planted in a planter box, or 1 metre when planted in a nature strip garden, to ensure line of sight is always maintained and reduce potential clashes with or between pedestrians and road users;
- Top your garden bed twice a year with mulch to promote water retention and suppress weeds;

Complaints

If Council receives complaints in regard to a nature strip garden, planter box or laneway garden, Council will assess the complaint against the policy, guidelines and site specific conditions. A nature strip garden, planter box or laneway garden that has not been maintained in accordance with this policy, or has been neglected, abandoned, or become hazardous in any manner will be deemed non-compliant with the policy.

Council may issue instructions to reinstate the garden to a satisfactory standard. In certain circumstances, Council may require that the street garden be removed and the area to be reinstated with turf to Council's standard.

Non-compliance with Council directions to restore or remove a street garden may result in Council removing the street garden and recovering costs.



THE ABOVE NATURE STRIP GARDEN IS COMPLIANT AND SHOWS HOW THE RESIDENT HAS ALLOWED:

- A minimum 600mm offset from the kerb.
- Observed and offset the garden from services.
- Only installed the garden out the front of their property.
- Provided plant species that do not exceed 1 metre at mature height.
- Provided a clean garden edge without any raised edges.



THE ABOVE NATURE STRIP GARDEN IS COMPLIANT AND SHOWS HOW THE RESIDENT HAS ALLOWED:

- Observed and offset the garden from services.
- Only installed the garden out the front of their property.
- Provided plant species that do not exceed 1 metre at mature height.
- Provided a clean garden edge without any raised edges.

Diagram E – Examples of Compliant Nature Strip Gardens



THE ABOVE NATURE STRIP GARDEN IS **NOT** COMPLIANT. THIS GARDEN HAS THE FOLLOWING NON COMPLIANT ISSUES:

- Includes structures.
- Has raised edging which may create a trip hazard.
- Plants spill out on to the footpath impeding pedestrians.
- The garden bed does not allow any through access points to the road kerb, from the footpath.



THE ABOVE NATURE STRIP GARDEN IS **NOT** COMPLIANT. THIS GARDEN HAS THE FOLLOWING NON COMPLIANT ISSUES:

- The garden is in an 'Exclusion Zone' on a street corner.
- Includes plants that exceed 600mm in mature height.
- The garden is planted out right up to the kerb, impeding access for people getting in and out of parked vehicles.
- The garden bed does not allow any through access points to the road kerb, from the footpath.

Diagram F – Examples of Non-Compliant Nature Strip Gardens



NATURE STRIP GARDEN CHECKLIST

Nature strip gardens are to be installed in compliance with the Street Garden Policy and Guidelines.

After completion of the installation of your nature strip garden, you need to confirm that the garden meets the requirements of the Street Garden Policy and submit a completed signed copy of this checklist to Council, with accompanying photo images showing your completed garden.

Make sure you answer all the questions relevant to your nature strip garden.

If you can't answer 'yes' or 'NA' to all the questions in the checklist, contact Council to speak with one of our officers about your project.

1/ Location of proposed nature strip garden

1. The footpath nature strip on which I will install my nature strip garden is not within the policy exclusion zones (i.e. an area not in the front of your property, median strips, near remnant vegetation, habitat corridors, corners, adjacent to angle parking or a cycleway or within a shared zone).

YES ☐ NO ☐

2/ Gardening on the footpath nature strip

1. My nature strip garden does not include raised edges such as fences, rocks, bricks, timber, plastic or steel edging.
YES ☐ NO ☐
2. My nature strip garden does not prevent access or create hazards for pedestrians, road users including public transport, neighbouring properties, public utilities and services.
YES ☐ NO ☐
3. I have contacted Dial Before You Dig and have identified and located any underground services, including the service depth.
YES ☐ NO ☐
4. I have used plants from the provided plant list.
YES ☐ NO ☐
5. My nature strip garden(s) is not longer than 2.5m without a break to allow for effective pedestrian access and circulation.
YES ☐ NO ☐
6. I have maintained a minimum 1m of clear space between my nature strip garden and any driveway edge.
YES ☐ NO ☐
7. My nature strip garden has not encroached any closer than 1.5m to any existing tree or within proximity of any tree pits with grates, crushed granite, granite or porous paving.
YES ☐ NO ☐
8. My garden will not result in the planting, pruning or removal of trees.
YES ☐ NO ☐
9. All planting was carried out by hand with no excavation deeper than 300mm.
YES ☐ NO ☐
10. My garden will not allow run-off of materials such as water, soil, mulch or debris onto the footpath, road or into gutters or drains.
YES ☐ NO ☐
11. I have not or will not install any structure within my nature strip garden, including stakes or guidewires.
YES ☐ NO ☐

3/ Maintenance

1. I understand that it is my responsibility to maintain the nature strip garden so that it complies with the guidelines including plant selection and height.
YES ☐ NO ☐
2. I will top my garden bed twice a year with mulch to promote water retention and suppress weeds.
YES ☐ NO ☐
3. A clean edge will be maintained to my nature strip garden so that the garden is clearly defined and well presented.
YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐
4. I will mow the grass around my nature strip garden.
YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐
5. I will water my garden during dry periods to ensure vitality, appearance and health of my plants.
YES ☐ NO ☐

5/ Declaration

I have read and understood the Street Garden Policy and completed the nature strip garden checklist accurately and honestly. I can also confirm that my newly installed nature strip garden and ongoing management and maintenance will meet the requirements of this policy.

I have attached a minimum four photos of my completed nature strip garden. Each photo is clear and shows the extent of the finished garden, including images showing the required offsets outlined in the accompanying guidelines (Diagrams A-C).

Name:
Address of Property:
Signature:
Date:

Privacy Note

This completed and signed checklist is information that Randwick City Council will keep on file to maintain a record of complying nature strip gardens that have been established within our local government area.

Once completed and signed, send this attachment to either:

Email: council@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Post: Attention: Nature Strip Gardens, 30 Frances St, Randwick, NSW 2031

In Person: Randwick City Council Administrative Building, 30 Frances St, Randwick, NSW

RECOMMENDED PLANT LIST

Shrubs

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH
<i>Acmena smithii</i> 'Forest Flame'	Lilly Pilly 'Forest Flame'	1-2m	1-1.5m
<i>Agapanthus orientalis</i>	Agapantha, African Lily	0.4-0.6m	0.4-0.6m
<i>Baeckea virgata</i> 'Nana'	Dwarf Baeckea	0.5-0.8m	0.6-1m
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i> 'Birthday Candles'	Banksia 'Birthday Candles'	0.4-0.5m	0.5-1m
<i>Buxus japonica</i>	Japanese Box	0.5-1.5m	0.5-1m
<i>Buxus microphylla</i>	Korean Box	0.2-0.6m	0.4m
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> 'Captain Cook'	Callistemon Captain Cook	0.8-1.5m	0.5-1m
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Fringe Myrtle	1-2m	0.5-1.2m
<i>Clivia miniata</i>	Clivia, Kaffir Lily	0.4-0.6m	0.3-0.5m
<i>Correa alba</i>	White Correa	0.6-1.5m	0.6-1.5m
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Native Fuchsia	0.5-1m	0.5-1m
<i>Darwinia citriodora</i> 'Sea Spray'	Darwinia	0.5-1m	0.5-1m
<i>Darwinia fascicularis</i>	Clustered Scent Myrtle	1-2m	1.5-2m
<i>Eriostemon myoporoides</i>	Long Leaf Wax Flower, Philotheca	1-2m	1-2m
<i>Gardenia augusta</i> 'Florida'	Gardenia Florida	0.8-1m	0.6-1m
<i>Grevillea</i> 'John Evans'	Grevillea John Evans	0.7-1.2m	0.7-1.2m
<i>Grevillea sericea</i>	Silky Grevillea	0.7-1.5m	0.7-1.5m
<i>Grevillea speciosa</i>	Red Spider Flower	1-2m	1-2m
<i>Lavandula dentata</i>	French Lavender	0.7-1m	0.7-1.2m
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> 'Claret Tops'	Claret Tops, Honey Myrtle	1-1.2m	0.6-1m
<i>Nandina domestica</i> 'Gulf Stream'	Dwarf Nandina, Heavenly Bamboo	0.4-0.8m	0.4-1m
<i>Phebalium squamulosum</i>	Scaly Phebalium	0.6-1m	0.5-1m
<i>Rhagodia spinescens</i>	Creeping Salt Bush	0.8-1m	2-3m
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i> 'Snow Maiden'	Indian Hawthorn	0.6-1m	0.3-0.5m
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	1-1.5m	1-1.5m
<i>Syzygium australe</i> 'Allyn Magic'	Lilly Pilly Allyn Magic	0.5-0.6m	0.5-1m

Groundcovers

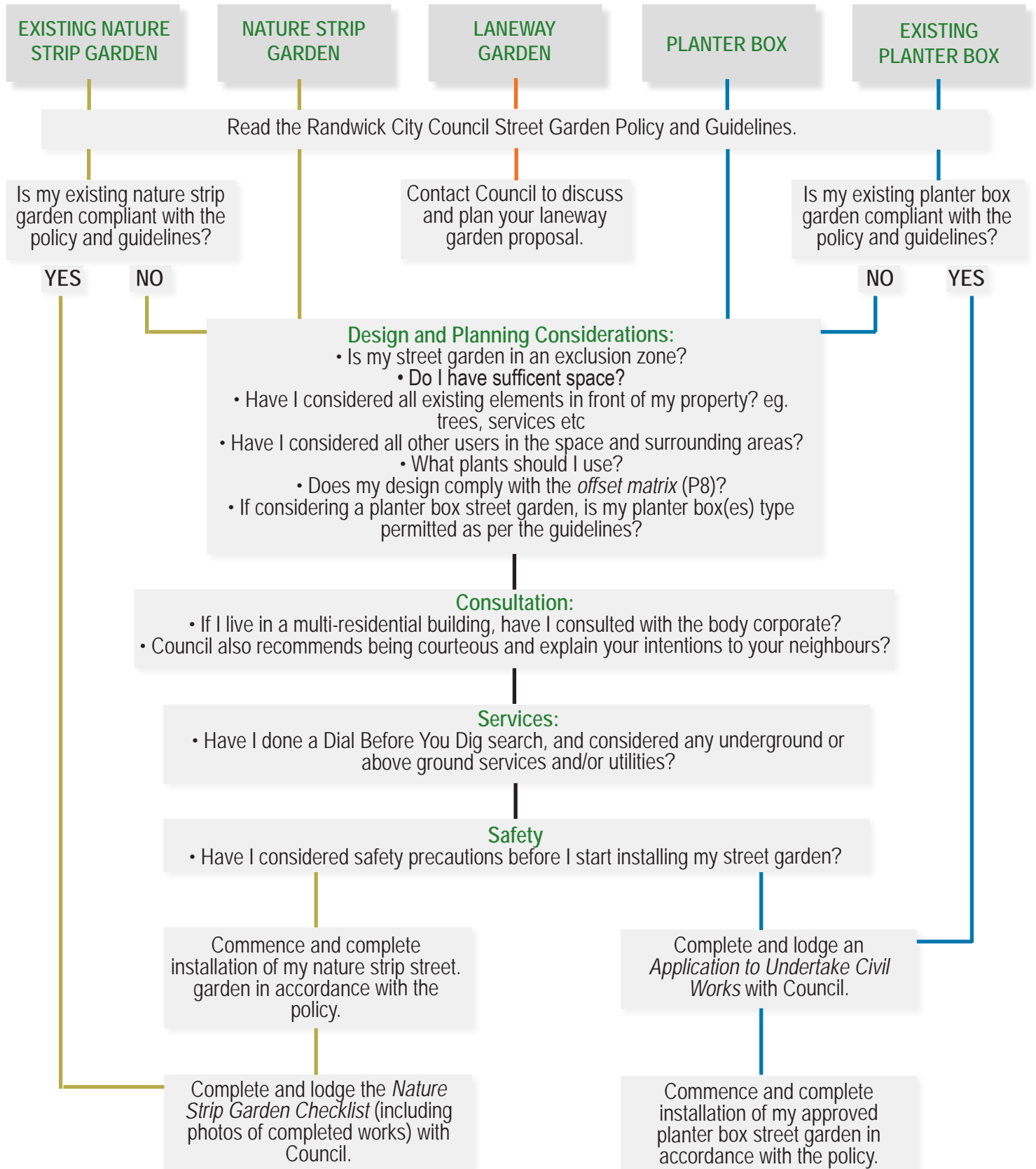
BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH
<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	Pig Face	<0.2m	1-2m
<i>Gazania tomentosa</i>	Gazania	<0.15m	1-2m
<i>Grevillea x gaudichaudii</i>	Ground Cover Grevillea	<0.3m	2-3m
<i>Grevillea obtusifolia</i>	Obtuse Leaved Grevillea	0.4-0.5m	1-3m
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Native Sarsparilla	1-3m	1-4m
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	Guniea Flower	0.5-3m	1-5m
<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	Japanese Shore Juniper	<0.3m	1-3m
<i>Mandevilla</i> 'Aloha Red'	Aloha Red	2-4m	0.5m
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Creeping Boobialla	<0.2	1.5-5m
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	Mondo Grass	0.15-0.3m	0.3m
<i>Scaevolea aemula</i>	Fairy Fan Flower	<0.5m	0.5-2.5m
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Variegated Star Jasmine	<0.4m	4
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet	<0.15m	0.5-1m
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> 'Mundi'	Coastal Rosemary Mundi	0.4-0.5m	1-1.5m

Grasses

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH
<i>Angiozanthos 'Big Red'</i>	Kangaroo Paw	1-2m	0.6-1m
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tussock Sedge	0.5-1m	0.5-1m
<i>Dianella caerulea 'Little Jess'</i>	Blue Flax Lily	0.3-0.5m	0.3-0.5m
<i>Dietes grandiflora</i>	Wild Iris	0.5-0.7m	0.4-0.6m
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club Rush	0.4-1m	0.3-0.6m
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Lily Turf	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.6m
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat Rush	0.5-1.2m	0.6-1m
<i>Lomandra longifolia 'Tanika'</i>	Mat Rush	0.5-0.7m	0.3-0.6m
<i>Lomandra longifolia 'Verday'</i>	Mat Rush, Basket Grass	0.5-0.7m	0.3-0.6m
<i>Pennisetum advena 'Rubrum'</i>	Purple Fountain Grass	1-1.5m	1-1.5m
<i>Phormium tenax 'Purple Haze'</i>	Purple Haze Flax	1-2m	1-2m
<i>Phormium tenax 'Bronze Baby'</i>	Bronze Baby	0.6-1m	0.6-1m
<i>Poa labillardiera 'Eskdale'</i>	Common Tussock Grass	0.5-1m	0.5-1.5m
<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	Bird of Paradise	1-1.5m	1-1.5m
<i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo Grass	0.5-1m	0.5-1.5m
<i>Xanthorrhoea australis</i>	Grass Tree	0.5-1m	0.5-1.5m

STREET GARDEN APPROVAL FLOW CHART

What type of street garden am I considering to install and/or have approved?





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is responsible for mowing and/or maintaining the nature's strip?

Randwick City Council relies on residents to maintain the nature strips adjacent to their house, which are a logical extension of their own lawn areas. In general, residents throughout the City have been most co-operative. Council has not maintained nature strips for many years. This allows Council to dedicate funds to other services for the community's benefit.

If you have a street garden, do you need to provide a space to put your bins when they are put out for collection?

During the design of a street garden, the resident must consider locating their waste bins for collection. As a guide, an allowance of one square metre adjacent to the kerb should be considered for each waste bin that is put out for collection. The resident will need to make sufficient allowances depending upon the number of bins that need to be put out for collection, adjacent parking and collection methods.

I am a resident in a unit block, how do I go about installing a street garden?

Council recommends that residents within multi-residential buildings first consult with the body corporate of their building. If a non-compliant street garden is installed in front of a multi-residential building, Council will make contact with the body corporate about the matter.

My street garden proposal does not meet the measurement or offset criteria in the guidelines. What should I do?

Residents must meet the design criteria outlined in the guidelines. In some circumstances, a street garden may not be feasible within certain nature strips, or you may be left with a very small usable space. For more information refer to page 4-9 of the guidelines, including Diagram D – Offset Matrix.

If the nature strip out the front of your property has challenging constraints, you may wish to contact Council to discuss your proposal.

What if there is an accident as a result of my street garden?

It is hard to predict the nature of any accident, especially within a public space like a nature strip. Therefore Council can't provide any guidance on liability for residents who wish to install or maintain a street garden. We recommend you seek the professional insurance advice from your Home and Contents Insurer.

The policy and guidelines have been written to assist with minimising risk for any individual creating or maintaining a street garden. This also extends to minimising risk associated with other users of the space where a street garden may be located. However the policy can't cater for the actions of individuals in a public space or for any unforeseen circumstances.

Can I plant vegetables or edible plants in my street garden?

Council does not recommend the planting of vegetables in street gardens. Council cannot ensure the quality of vegetables if planted in the nature strip, due to potential soil contamination and/or poor quality soils. The need to provide constant maintenance of food plants to ensure the plants flourish are other factors that must be considered by a resident. Poorly maintained or unhealthy vegetables also attract pests such as insects or rodents.

Residents are permitted to plant herbs into planter boxes.

Council recommends that residents find a community garden in their local area if they are interested in growing food plants.

What if a street garden does not comply?

If you believe a street garden within your neighbourhood is not compliant, you may wish to contact Council. Council will assess the complaint against the policy and guidelines, as well as site specific conditions. We request that you supply an address, description of the street, as well as photos to assist Council with the investigation. The name of the complainant can be withheld.

Why can I not plant within 1.5 metres of an existing tree?

The preservation of the health of existing street trees is paramount. Digging around a tree can damage tree roots within the critical root zone.

Why is there so much criteria for the creation of a compliant street garden?

The framework and criteria within the Street Garden Policy and Guidelines has been established so residents understand their responsibility in relation to other users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The guidelines outlines methods for reducing hazards that may result in injuries or damage to property as a result of a street garden. Residents also needs to consider other functions of the land including garbage collection, stormwater management, utility service corridor, parking and street trees.

Council has established this policy and guidelines to promote and guide effective management and maintenance of established street gardens, to ensure the appearance of the immediate streetscape is either enhanced or remains at a visually acceptable state.

What if the mulch from my street garden washes into the gutter or onto the footpath?

Residents must ensure their street gardens are maintained. This includes not allowing mulch to wash, blow or be swept into areas outside of the immediate street garden, including drains, gutters or onto footpaths.

Can I get subsidised or free plants from the Council Nursery?

The street garden policy is proposed independently of the Council Nursery operations. Residents will need to procure their own plants for their gardens.

What if I have a pre-existing street garden?

Residents should attempt to make their street garden compliant with the street garden policy and guidelines and then lodge a nature strip garden checklist, with accompanying photos to Council. A pre-existing planter box, will need to follow the required process of obtaining approval through Council's Application to Undertake Civil Works.

What if I move from my residence?

Council requires that residents remove the street garden and reinstate a turf nature strip prior to vacating their property.