

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Urban nature strip guideline 2024

Working together for a healthy, connected shire



Acknowledgement of country

Mount Alexander Shire Council acknowledges that the traditional custodians of this land, the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung peoples, proudly survive. We acknowledge their continued practise of custom and their close cultural, spiritual, physical, social, historical and economic relationship with the land and waters that make up their country, which includes Mount Alexander Shire.

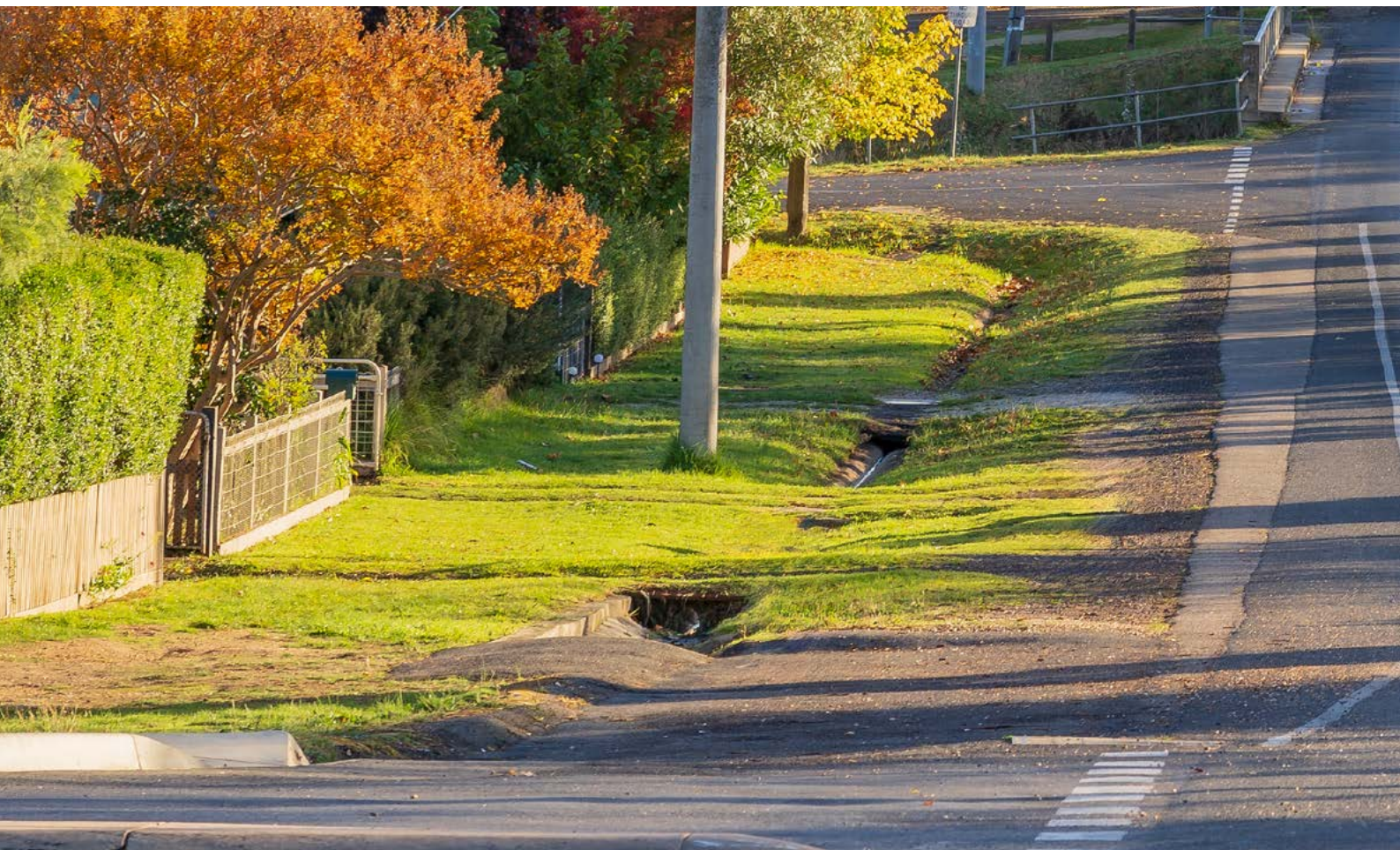
Council recognises the Victorian Government's Recognition and Settlement with both the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.



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Inside cover acknowledgement artwork by local artist Daikota Nelson.



Introduction

Nature strips account for a surprising amount of public land and play an important role in the aesthetic, environmental and social health of an urban area. The most common type of residential nature strip is mown grass, often with one or more street trees. The Mount Alexander Shire Council does support alternative nature strip treatments, in urban areas.

Mount Alexander Shire Council (Council) is responsible for ensuring nature strips allow for safe and accessible public use.

This document provides guidelines for the establishment and maintenance of nature strips along Council managed public roads in urban areas and explain:

- the core functions and benefits of nature strips
- responsibilities of residents/property owners, utility authorities and Council
- the potential for nature strips (especially in streets near our biodiversity corridors) to act as habitat ‘stepping stones’ supporting local flora and fauna
- the options and requirements for residents wishing to renovate their nature strip
- how to apply for a permit from Council to landscape a nature strip.

While Council is the responsible authority for nature strips, we do not undertake any renovation or maintenance (including mowing, watering or weed control) of nature strips unless the condition of the nature strip is considered to pose a hazard. An exception to this is where a nature strip harbours noxious and/or environmental weeds and their control is considered beyond the responsibility of the abutting property owner.

For a variety of reasons, some residents are interested in renovating their urban nature strip, and may wish to convert it from a conventional mown grass nature strip to an alternative landscape treatment. The motivation(s) behind a nature strip renovation can vary, for example:

- to replace grass that is failing or performing poorly
- to beautify and bring visual interest to the nature strip
- to avoid the maintenance of regular mowing
- to support local biodiversity by planting indigenous or native plants
- to avoid or minimise the need for watering or weed control.

If appropriately planned and carried out, alternative nature strip treatments can be practical, visually appealing and require less maintenance while complying with conditions of the Mount Alexander Shire Council General Local Law.

Before changing a nature strip to anything other than an exotic and/or native grass lawn, residents need to apply for an *Urban Nature Strip Renovation* permit from Council, and comply with these guidelines.

Legislation and authority

Council's authority to manage roads is provided through the *Victorian Road Management (2004)* and *Road Safety Acts (1886)* and their related regulations.

This guideline is consistent with Council's obligations under the *Road Management Act (2024)* and the Mount Alexander Shire Council Local Law.

See 'Section 11 - Resources and references' for more details.

Inclusions

These guidelines are applicable to nature strips in urban areas that are located on Council managed public roads.

Exclusions

These guidelines do not apply to:

- Urban nature strips of remnant native vegetation.
- The road shoulder – area between the street kerb/culvert drain and the road carriageway.
- Nature strips on a road not managed by Council, or an arterial road managed by the Department of Transport and Planning,
- Rural roadsides – managed in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan and Roadside Conservation Management Plan.



What is a nature strip?

The Mount Alexander Shire region is an The Victorian Road Safety Road Rules 2017 define a **nature strip** as an *area between a road and adjacent land but does not include the shoulder of a road or a bicycle path, footpath or shared path.*

For the purpose of these guidelines, a nature strip is defined as an area of public land located:

- **between the pedestrian footpath and the back of the street kerb/culvert drain; or**
- **where there is no formed footpath, between the back of the street kerb/culvert drain and 1.5 metres from the property boundary.**

In many urban streets, the traditional nature strip is not present. The road shoulder may accommodate one or more street trees and abut a kerb or culvert. The area between the kerb/culvert and private property may include a nature strip and/or formed/unformed pedestrian path.

NB: The **road shoulder** is not part of a nature strip. With the exception of a Council planted and maintained street tree, no modification or landscaping in a road shoulder is permitted. Refer Figure 2.

In an **urban area**, with the support of the adjacent resident, property owner or management body, nature strips are regularly maintained in a safe and aesthetically pleasing condition.

In a **rural area**, modification of a rural road reserve is not permitted.



Figures 1 and 2 shows the nature strip within the context of the road reserve and reflects the most common situations in an urban area.

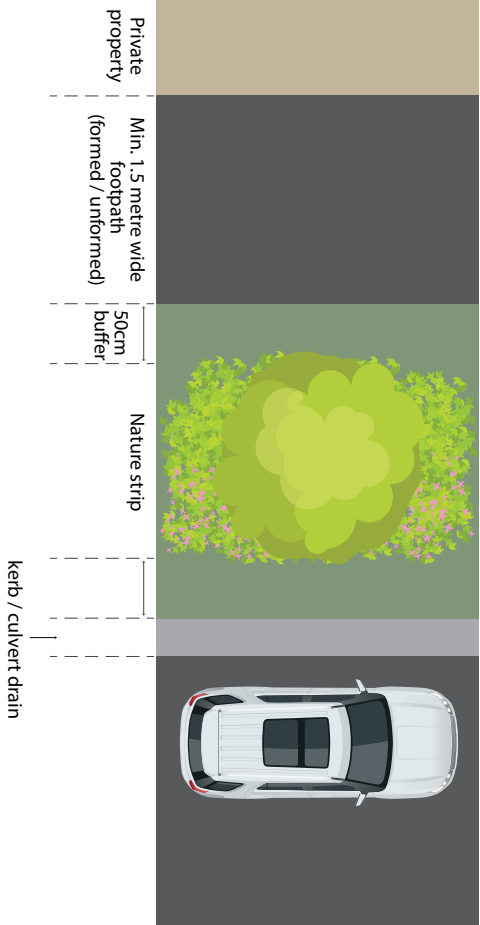
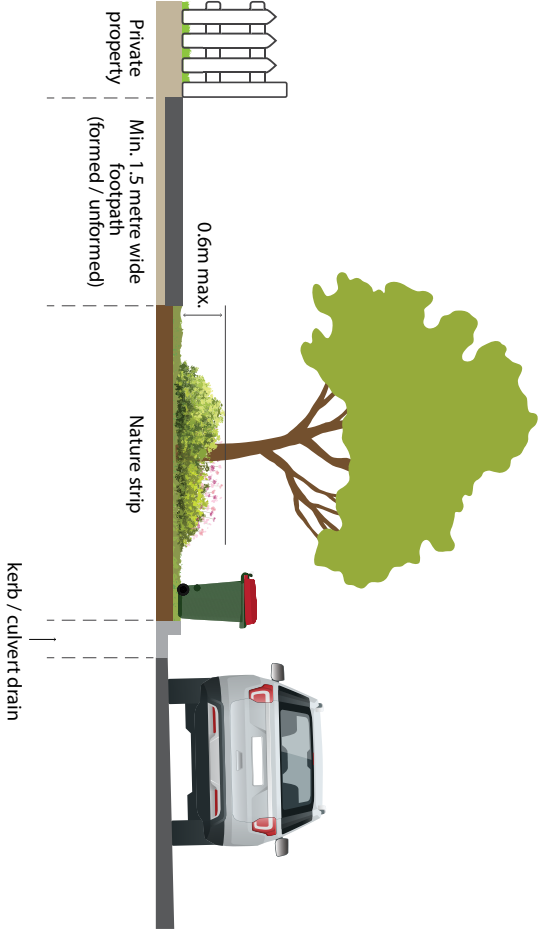


Figure 1. Nature strip - a. Aerial view



b. Street View

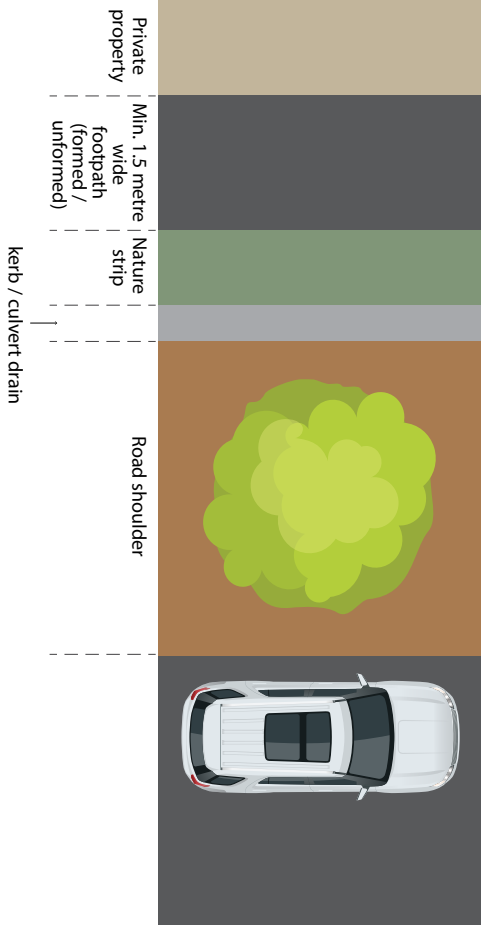
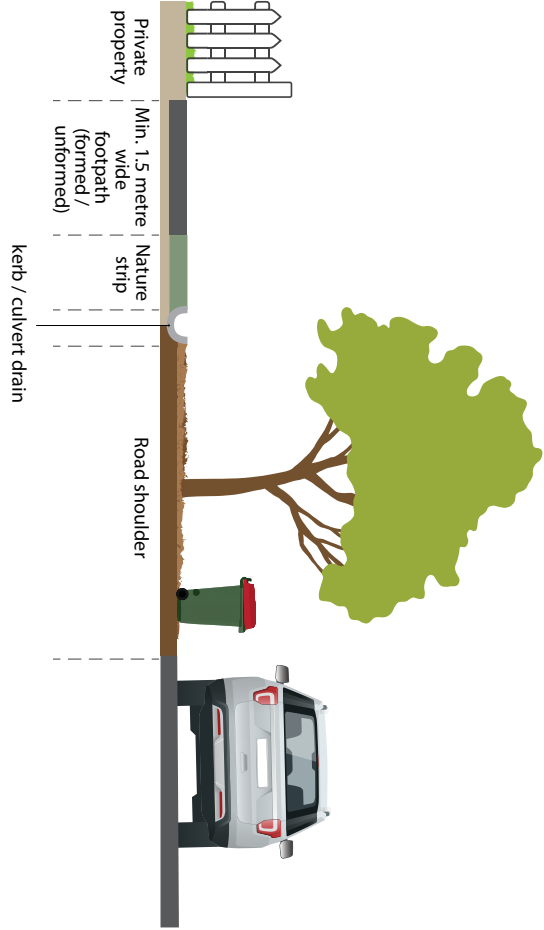


Figure 2. Nature strip, adjacent to a road shoulder - a. Aerial view



b. Street View

Purpose of nature strips

- Nature strips are an important part of an urban area:
- they provide visibility, especially at intersections or curves in the road and near driveways
- they allow for pedestrian spill-over from a footpath when the need arises and movement along the roadside where no footpaths exist
- they allow Council to plant trees for shade and cooling
- they allow for door opening space and access between parked vehicles and the footpath
- they are a part of Council's wider drainage network and offer opportunities for urban sensitive urban design treatments
- they accommodate above and below ground services and utilities (such as electricity, water, drainage, gas, sewage, telecommunications/data, fire hydrants, streetlights, etc.)
- they provide a flat space for the location of household waste and recycling bins.

Victoria's Road Safety Rule 197 (1) states that a driver must not stop on a path, dividing strip, nature strip, painted island or traffic island, making it illegal to fully or partially park a vehicle on the nature strip.



Benefits of nature strips

Beyond the practical functions listed above, nature strips can contribute to the development of good streetscape character.

- Nature strips play an important role in the aesthetic, environmental and social health of urban areas. They complement and enhance the streetscape by providing a “green” zone between the road, footpaths (formed or unformed) and the adjacent property.
- They provide a buffer between pedestrians and vehicle traffic and an opportunity for the establishment of street trees which fulfil a significant role in streetscape character.
- Because nature strips in residential areas are open and largely unpaved, they allow for penetration of rainwater and air into the soil, which improves soil health and promotes growth of nearby trees and gardens. Both street trees and the ‘permeable’ ground on the nature strip act to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff that flows into local drains and waterways.
- Trees and other nature strip vegetation help shade and/or cool the local environment, making for more pleasant streets, especially during hot summer weather.
- When carefully designed and maintained, nature strips planted with indigenous or native plants can provide opportunities to support local biodiversity and enhance an area’s natural ‘sense of place’ - this is especially relevant in streets adjacent to waterways, other biodiversity corridors and nature reserves.



Figure 3. Example of a nature strip planted with indigenous plants

Responsibilities

The Mount Alexander Shire region is an Unsure who is responsible for what?
The key responsibilities of different parties are listed here.

Residents and property owner/manager:

- In an urban area, the resident, property owner or management body of a property regularly maintains in a safe and aesthetically pleasing condition the nature strip abutting the property.
- Residents are invited to help support the health of street trees by watering the tree(s) outside their property during dry conditions.
- Residents are not permitted to plant, prune or remove any trees within the nature strip. To enquire about your existing street tree, or to request a street tree, contact Council's Customer Service on 5471 1700 or info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.
- If the nature strip has been damaged by building or other works undertaken either on your property or an adjoining property, the property owner or builder is responsible for repair.
- Residents wishing to renovate their nature strip - except for drought tolerant exotic and/or native grass - must apply to Council for a '*Urban Nature Strip Renovation*' permit.
- Following renovation/landscaping of a nature strip, residents are expected to keep the nature strip in a well maintained and safe condition.

Mount Alexander Shire Council:

- Council is the 'responsible authority', and must ensure the condition of the nature strip is not a risk to public safety, for example, as a potential fire hazard, or a pedestrian trip hazard.
- Council does not undertake renovation or maintenance, including mowing, watering or weed control (noxious and/or environmental weeds excepted) of nature strips unless there is a risk to public safety.
- Council plants, prunes and maintains all street trees in accordance with its Urban Tree Policy and Tree Management Guideline.
- Council reviews and issues permits for nature strip landscaping treatments, excluding proposals for drought tolerant exotic and/or native grass.
- Council may access nature strips to undertake repair, maintenance or renewal works on Council assets, for example stormwater drains.

Utility authorities:

- Utility authorities, such as Coliban Water or Powercor, will access nature strips to undertake repair, maintenance or renewal works on services, for example, to mains water, gas pipes or power lines.
 - After these works are complete, the utility authority is responsible for the repair of the nature strip with topsoil and grass seed, relying on residents to assist with watering.
- The utility authority is not obliged to reinstate any alternative landscaping. Council is not responsible for replacing plants or landscape materials as a result of such works.
- Residents may negotiate protection and/or reinstatement of nature strip plants or materials with the relevant utility authority.



Landscaping of nature strips

Residents wanting to undertake a nature strip renovation will need to comply with the following guidelines.

Dial Before You Dig

- All underground services (which may include gas, electricity, telecommunications, water supply, sewer and stormwater) are to be located prior to any works. Call 'Dial Before You Dig' on 1100 visit www.1100.com.au to identify service locations. This step is critical as failure to locate and protect underground infrastructure can result in serious injury (or even death) and/or disruption to essential services. Additionally, you will be responsible for the cost of repairing the damaged service infrastructure.

Be a good neighbour

- Your nature strip impacts on the amenity of the streetscape; so ensuring neighbours are supportive / accepting of your planned nature strip landscaping will be important to maintaining good relations. Talk with your neighbours, landlord or management body about your proposal and consider their feedback.

Maintain safe public access

- Ensure nature strip vegetation allows easy opening of car doors and pedestrian access to the footpath by maintaining a clear buffer zone of only grass or mulch along the nature strip edge closest to the kerb/road, crossover and pedestrian areas (minimum 50 centimetres wide). In addition, one or two flat 'stepping stone' pavers, laid flush with the ground level, may be used to help guide foot traffic through a planted nature strip.

Other considerations:

- Allocate space for placement of waste and recycling bins for kerbside pickup.
- Near vehicle cross overs (driveways), maintain a 50 centimetre buffer zone and take particular care to keep all nature strip vegetation below 60 centimetre in height to ensure good sightlines for road users and pedestrians.
- Only ground cover plants and low shrubs to a maximum height of 30 centimetre are to be used in a nature strip within 9 metres of a street corner to maintain visibility and sight lines for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- To minimise risk and inconvenience to people using the footpath, pedestrian crossings and the road, maintain a 50 centimetre buffer zone so all plants and mulch are within the nature strip area i.e. not spilling onto the footpath, kerb or drainage culvert.
- To minimise risk to street tree health, a 200 centimetre tree protection zone must be maintained.
- To support healthy waterways and local biodiversity, minimise or avoid using synthetic fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides.
- Soil, plants and mulch must not cover or impede access to service pits.
- Only undertake landscaping works on the nature strip directly abutting your property.

Council has an obligation to protect remnant indigenous vegetation. The vegetation currently on your nature strip may determine what, if any, nature strip renovation is permitted. If unsure, contact please contact Council's Customer Service on 03 5471 1700 or email info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

For residents wanting to undertake a nature strip renovation, there are a number of options available. Which option you choose will depend on the motivation(s) behind your project.

Nature strips can be landscaped to achieve the following:

- drought tolerant exotic and/or native grass nature strip – no permit is required
- alternative treatments – Urban Nature Strip Renovation Permit is required
 - planting with groundcovers and/or low growing shrubs
 - permeable surface treatment of either organic mulch or compacted fine gravel

Drought tolerant exotic and/or native grass lawn - no permit is required

- Grassed nature strips are the most common form of nature strips in urban areas of the shire. The use of drought tolerant grasses provides a low maintenance treatment that requires periodic mowing to maintain.
- If you are re-establishing a grassed nature strip due to failure or poor

performance of your existing grass, give careful consideration to your choice of grass species.

- Choose drought tolerant or 'warm season' grasses as once established, these will remain in good health with little to no watering. Use of certain native grasses can provide a soft lawn like appearance and drought tolerance. Recommended native species include Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*), Wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma sp.*), Red-leg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*) and Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*). These species are indigenous to the area and require only periodic weeding and can tolerate occasional mowing to assist with maintenance if desired.
- Alternatively, other clumping low growing, strap-leaved native/indigenous plants can be planted such as, Black anther flax-lily (*Dianella admixta*), Carex (*Carex sp.*) and Spiny-headed mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), mixed with Common Tussock-grass (*Poa labillardierei*), to create a low maintenance, functional area that doesn't require mowing.
- No permit is required to establish or maintain grassed lawn or low growing, strap-leaf native/indigenous plants within the nature strip.



Figure 4. Example of a nature strip planted with strap-leaved plants

Alternative treatments - Urban Nature Strip Renovation Permit is required

For residents wanting to undertake a nature strip renovation that incorporates alternatives to exotic and/or native grass, there are two options available, both of which require an Urban Nature Strip Renovation Permit.

Option A: Planting with groundcovers and/or low growing shrubs.

Option B: Permeable surface treatment of either organic mulch or compacted fine gravel, such as granitic sand / toppings.



Option A: Planting with groundcovers and/or low growing shrubs

Use of suitable groundcovers, tufting grasses, wildflowers and/or low growing shrubs within a mulched nature strip can provide a soft and visually pleasing alternative to mown grass.

Whether using native or exotic species, or a combination of these, appropriate plant selection is critical, and helps ensure the landscaped nature strip is attractive and can be easily maintained.

Select plants that are:

- hardy and drought tolerant
- suitable for the climate, soil type and sun or shade conditions
- indigenous or native groundcovers, grasses or small shrubs and/or low growing exotic plants
- no more than 60 centimetres high at maturity and no more than 30 centimetres high within 9 metres of an intersection, to maintain visibility and sight lines for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

All plants that are known environmental weeds, prickly or spiky, poisonous or a common cause of allergies, are prohibited.

It is recommended to carefully consider the placement and spread of plants. For example, unless you have a large area to cover, avoid groundcovers that spread very wide and grow quickly, or you will need to undertake very regular pruning to keep the footpath and kerb and channel/culvert drain clear.

Note: Mount Alexander Shire Council will not contribute financially to the cost of nature strip renovations nor their ongoing maintenance, regardless of any change of ownership/occupancy of the property abutting the nature strip.

Option B: Permeable surface treatment using either organic mulch or compacted fine gravel

A low maintenance alternative to exotic or native grass is to use organic mulch (such as recycled wood chips or bark mulch), gravel mulches (such as granitic sand, toppings or recycled brick up to 20 millimetres in diameter) to create a permeable treatment. Some periodic weeding may be required. To assist with weed suppression, the mulch should be kept to a depth of between 50-75 millimetres, and will need topping up every year or so, depending upon material used and site conditions.

Use of fine organic mulch lightly compacted to a depth of 50 millimetres, will not require watering, but will require periodic weeding.

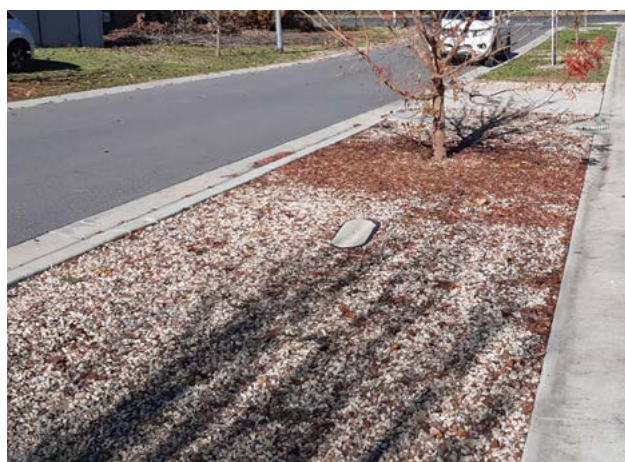


Figure 5. Examples of gravel mulch on a nature strip

Nature strip layout

The following figures show the general requirements for a modified nature strip.

The layout of the area between a property boundary and the kerb/culvert drain is not consistent across the urban areas of the Mount Alexander Shire. If the following diagrams do not reflect the situation outside your property, please contact Council's Customer Service on 03 5471 1700 or email info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

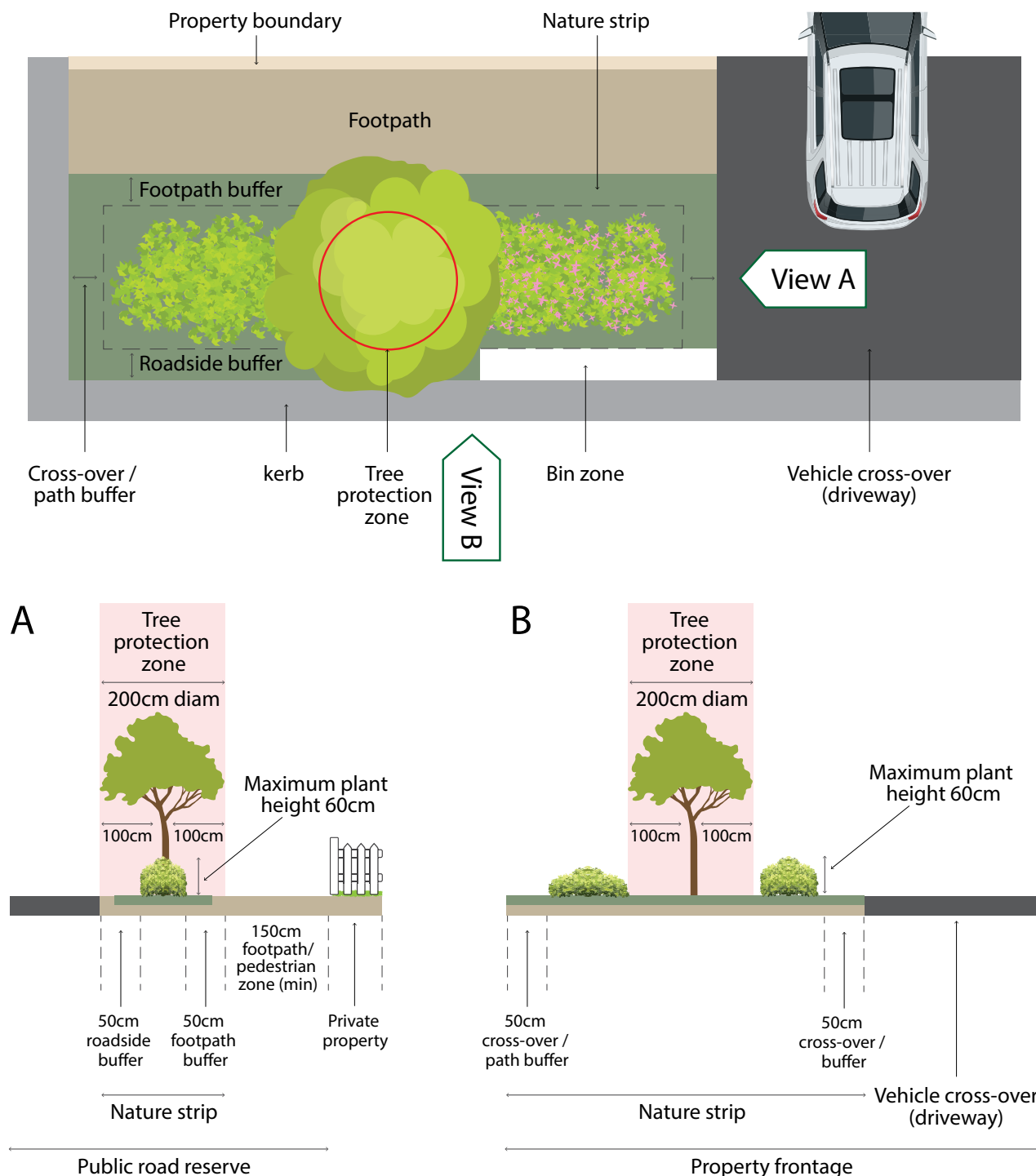


Figure 6. Example of an urban nature strip showing layout requirements

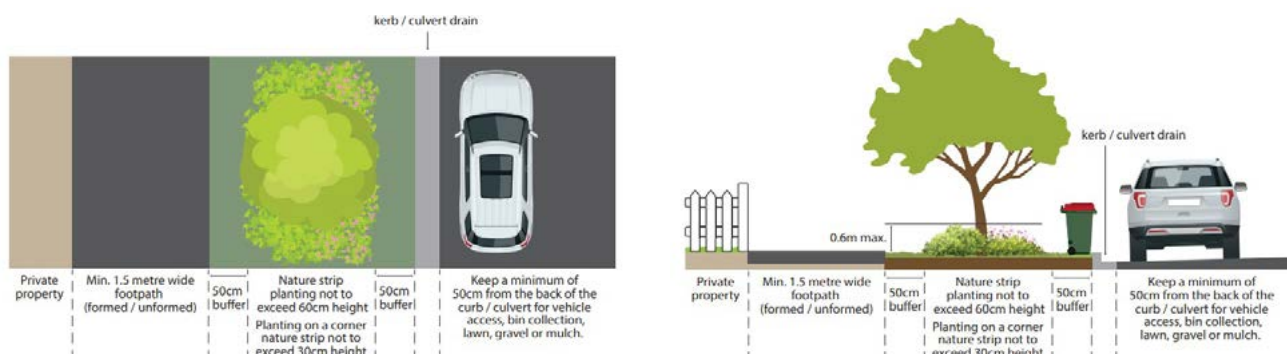


Figure 7. Example of an urban nature strip showing modified layout requirements

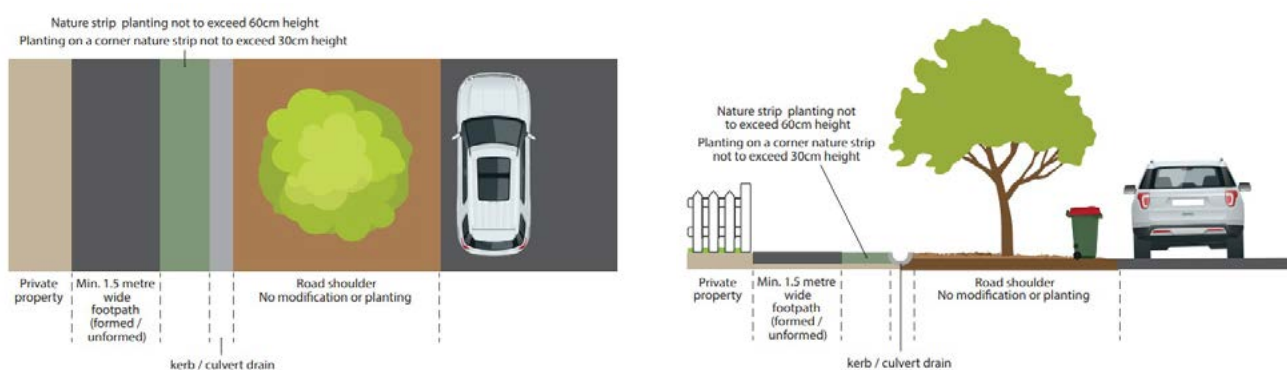


Figure 8. Example of an urban nature strip adjacent to the road shoulder

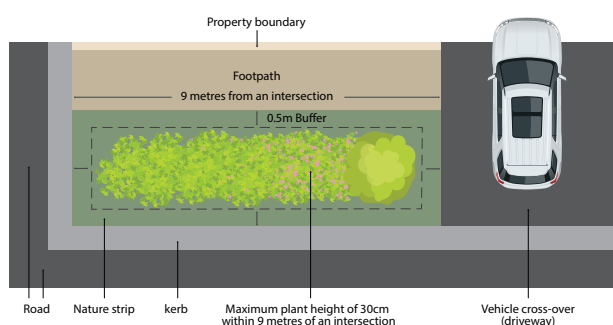


Figure 9. Example of a nature strip on a corner property and planting with ground covers and/or low growing shrubs

Water sensitive urban design treatments

Drainage swales/channels and water sensitive urban design treatments are Council drainage assets.

- If the nature strip contains a drainage culvert/ swale channel, only general maintenance activities such as mowing of grass can be carried out by the resident/ property owner or management body. No modifications are allowed on these nature strips.
- If the nature strip contains a water sensitive urban design treatment the resident/ property owner or management body must not interfere with it in any way, this includes general maintenance activities. No modifications are allowed on these nature strips.



Figure 10. Examples of drainage culvert / swale channels

Figure 6. Example of an urban nature strip showing layout requirements



Plant selection

- When choosing your plants please ensure that you consider the following:
- Plant growth habit:
 - How tall is the plant expected to grow? Will it exceed the maximum plant height of 60 centimetres or 30 centimetres within 9 metres of an intersection?
 - How quickly will it grow and spread? Some plants will require regular maintenance to ensure they do not spread beyond the allowed planting areas
- The general theme of the surrounding streetscape, to complement existing plantings and the character of the area. For example, what others are doing in your street. What, if anything, are your neighbours planting? Are your choices consistent?
- Council encourages the use of native plant species and considers that native wildflowers and groundcovers, correctly maintained, would be suitable.
- While some plants may have a pleasant appearance and a history of use in private gardens, they may still be classified as weeds. Check the Agriculture Victoria website ([Weeds/Biosecurity/Agriculture Victoria](#) search for 'declared noxious weeds') to make sure your selection is not listed.



Here are just a few examples of low growing, indigenous grasses suitable for nature strips.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Jericho Wire-grass	<i>Aristida jerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i>
Cane Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa breviglumis</i>
Half-Bearded Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa hemipogon</i>
Soft Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa mollis</i>
Variable Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa scabra</i> ssp. <i>Falcata</i>
Red-leg grass	<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>
Windmill grass	<i>Chloris truncata</i>
Silky Blue-grass	<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>
Australian Salt-grass	<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>
Slender Club-sedge	<i>Isolepis congrua</i>
Sand Rush	<i>Juncus psammophilus</i>
Weeping grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>
Common Tussock grass	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>
Velvet Tussock-grass	<i>Poa morrisii</i>
Lobed Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma auriculatum</i>
Common Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>
Fine-leaf Tussock-grass	<i>Poa sieberiana</i>
Short Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma carphoides</i>
Brown-backed Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma duttonianum</i>
Hill Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma erianthum</i>
Copper-awned Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma fulvum</i>
Kneed Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma geniculatum</i>
Smooth Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma laeve</i>
Small-flowered Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma monticola</i>
Red-anther Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma pallidum</i>
Slender Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma penicillatum</i>
Velvet Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma pilosum</i>
Striped Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i>
Bristly Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i>
Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>

Site checklist

The checklist below will help you create your site and landscape plan:

- ☐ Have you checked all existing services (e.g. water, electrical, gas)?
- ☐ Have you assessed the suitability of proposed plantings? (Maximum height at maturity of 60 centimetres or 30 centimetres on a street corner - within 9 metres of an intersection)
- ☐ Have you incorporated the required buffer zones? (50 centimetres adjacent to a footpath, culvert/drain, kerb, pedestrian crossing, vehicle cross over.
- ☐ Have you considered existing trees? (Council planted and maintained street tree/overhanging private trees)
- ☐ Have you accounted for the tree protection zone.
- ☐ Have you allowed for a minimum 1.5 metres between the property boundary and nature strip for a pedestrian footpath (formed or unformed)?
- ☐ Does your proposal allow for clear access and site lines?
- ☐ Undertake a Dial Before You Dig – free call 1100 or [visit www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au) for site area and include documentation.
- ☐ Is your nature strip on an arterial road? Refer to: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/design-and-management/working-within-the-road-reserve for more information.
- ☐ Is your property outside the urban area? Modification of a rural road reserve is not permitted. Unsure if your property is in a rural or farming zone, enter your property address at services.masc.vic.gov.au/Maps/MyProperty.

What is not permitted on nature strips?

Regardless of the landscaping option/s you prefer for your nature strip renovation (outlined on previous pages), the following elements are **not permitted**:

- ✗ Synthetic grass.
- ✗ Plants that are known environmental weeds, prickly or spiky, poisonous or a common cause of allergies.
- ✗ Hard landscaping elements including stakes (timber or steel), fencing, plant stakes/climbing frames, water tanks, water features, nets, retaining walls, raised edging, planter boxes/ beds, bollards or ornaments, protruding rocks or timber, compost bins, figurines or statues.
- ✗ Planting of fruit or vegetable crops. While there are benefits to using nature strips to grow fruit and vegetables, there are also risks and for this reason this option is not supported by Council. Key concerns include damage to street tree roots from soil cultivation and health risks associated with potential soil contamination, pest and disease such as fruit fly.
- ✗ Street libraries.
- ✗ Pruning, removal or planting of trees (including fruit or nut trees).
- ✗ impervious or synthetic weed mat (for example, plastic sheeting under mulch).
- ✗ Mulches such as underfelt, scoria, blue metal, pebbles or other loose stones larger than 20 millimetres in diameter. Larger materials used as mulch such as river pebbles, other loose stones, road base or chunky woodchips that are not stable underfoot.
- ✗ Irrigation systems.
- ✗ Laying of additional concrete or asphalt.
- ✗ Sporting equipment such as basketball hoops, swings, cubby-house.
- ✗ Altering the width of the nature strip, road, kerb or channel/culvert drain grassed swale drains located in the nature strip are not permitted to be modified and must remain grassed).
- ✗ Interfering with the natural levels or drainage of the street (for example, through excessive mounding of soil, use of loose materials, or other changes that block drainage).
- ✗ Modification for vehicle or trailer parking – parking of a vehicle, caravan or trailer is not permitted on a nature strip (*Victoria's Road Safety Rule 197 (1)*).
- ✗ Letterboxes – must be on private property.
- ✗ Temporary or permanent electrical wiring or lighting trees.
- ✗ Herbicide application to permanently retain a nature strip devoid of grass.

Street trees

Street trees are planted and maintained by Council in accordance with the Urban Tree Policy and Tree Management Guideline.

Street trees are inspected on a regular cycle and, if required, pruned to ensure they remain healthy. They are also pruned to ensure they satisfy legislative and management obligations to residents and visitors to the area. This is a Council responsibility and not a resident responsibility.

Residents can make a request for a new nature strip street tree, a replacement street tree or to ask for a street tree to be maintained, through Council's Customer Service on telephone 5471 1700 or online: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Council/Report-an-issue.

The tree species, location and timing of planting will be determined by Council in consultation with the resident.

Please note: Residents are not permitted to prune, remove or plant any trees within a nature strip.

Risk management and safety

Street trees are planted and maintained by Council in accordance with the Urban Tree Policy and Tree Management Guideline.

Street trees are inspected on a regular cycle and, if required, pruned to ensure they remain healthy. They are also pruned to ensure they satisfy legislative and management obligations to residents and visitors to the area. This is a Council responsibility and not a resident responsibility.

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The tree species, location and timing of planting will be determined by Council in consultation with the resident.

Please note: Residents are not permitted to prune, remove or plant any trees within a nature strip.



Compliance

Council's General Local Law provides for the enforcement of these guidelines. Failure to comply may lead to one or more of the following outcomes:

- A notice to comply with the Urban Nature Strip Guidelines and/or maintenance requirements may be issued. Council will advise residents, property owners or management bodies how to achieve compliance.
- Council may carry out works where there is either an imminent risk to the public or a failure to comply with directions. Council may recover costs from the resident, property owner or management body.
- The resident, property owner or management body may be required to reinstate the nature strip to the default grass surface at their own cost.
- Infringement notices may be issued and/or court prosecutions may occur.

Applying for a permit

Street trees are planted and maintained by Residents wishing to renovate their nature strip – except for exotic and/or native grass lawn – must be granted a permit before commencing work. This is a requirement under Council's General Local Law.

Applying for a permit confirms that an applicant is aware of and committed to complying with these guidelines. This helps ensure the core functions and public safety of the nature strip is protected.

To apply for an Urban Nature Strip Renovation permit, you can complete a hard-copy application (Appendix 1) or download and complete a hard-copy application from Council's website. (link to be inserted).

If your nature strip is on an arterial road please contact the Department of Transport and Planning to seek permission for you proposed renovation. Refer to www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/design-and-management/working-within-the-road-reserve for more information.



Resources and references

The following resources are available to support in the planning and preparing an application and the application of this guideline:

- Urban Nature Strip Renovation permit. [\(link to be inserted\)](#)
- Mount Alexander Shire Council [General Local Law 2020](#)
- [Connecting Country – Restoring landscapes across Mount Alexander Shire](#)
- Castlemaine Institute – MAS Plant Selection Tool for thriving neighbourhoods reference [Castlemaine Institute](#)

Legislation available from the State Government website – www.legislation.vic.gov.au

- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Road Management (Works and infrastructure) Regulations 2015*
- *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*
- *Road Safety Act 1986*
- *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*
- *Local Government Act 2020.*

For more information on identification and control of pests and weeds visit:

- [weeds_identification_guide.pdf \(nccma.vic.gov.au\)](#)
- [Weeds | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)
- [Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy 2021 to 2025 | Protecting Victoria | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Contact

If you wish to discuss these guidelines with a Council Officer, please contact Council's Customer Service on 03 5471 1700 or email info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Urban nature strip renovation permit application form



Part A: Applicant details

Applicant Name:		
Site Address:		
Phone (Bus hrs):		Mobile:
Email:		

Part B: Meeting the Urban nature strip guidelines

Have you read and understood the Urban nature strip guideline? **Yes I No**

Which landscape treatment is proposed for the nature strip? (Select any that apply)

Option A: Planting with groundcovers and/or low growing shrubs **Yes**

Option B: Permeable surface (organic mulch or compacted fine gravel) **Yes**

Part C: Applicant declaration

During installation and completion of the nature strip renovation, I agree to follow the Urban Nature Strip Guideline by:

- meeting all of the general requirements (see Section 7 of the Guideline)
- excluding all of the 'not permitted' landscape elements (see Section 8 of the Guideline)
- obtaining permit approval before works commence

Applicant signature:	
Date:	

Please email or mail the completed form to:

Email: info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Email: Mount Alexander Shire Council
PO BOX 185
CASTLEMAINE VIC 3450

Mount Alexander Shire Council
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd streets
Castlemaine VIC 3450
Djaara Country

Phone: (03) 5471 1700
Email: info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

