



Glen Eira City Council

Nature strip Planting Guidelines



**GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL**

Bentleigh | Bentleigh East | Brighton East | Carnegie
Caulfield | Elsternwick | Gardenvale | Glen Huntly
McKinnon | Murrumbeena | Ormond | St Kilda East

Nature strip Planting Guidelines

Nature strips are the public land between the footpath and the kerb on residential streets. A permit is required from Council before planting a nature strip.

Glen Eira City Council encourages residents to use these guidelines for all nature strip planning and planting. This land is set aside for the provision of essential services, such as telephone, gas, water, sewerage, drainage and electricity.

In addition to providing clear viewing lines for pedestrians and vehicle traffic, the nature strip provides a stable area for postal and waste collection services, and clearances for entry and exit from motor vehicles parked on the road for passengers, prams and wheelchairs.

Council currently plants more than 1,000 street trees on nature strips a year.

If you are making changes to your nature strip

Before making changes to your nature strip, always check for underground services. To do this, contact Dial Before You Dig on 1100 or apply online at www.1100.com.au

Access for utility companies

While Council provides permission for residents to plant areas of the nature strip, utility companies may require access to their infrastructure for upgrades or repairs. Please be aware that the utility companies are only obligated to reinstate the nature strip as grass.

Where you can plant

The nature strip is a busy place, services pass through this area; cars park at the kerb and people alight onto the nature strip; and trees are planted that must have an exclusion zone to ensure their survival.

What you can plant

You can plant: annuals, perennials, ground cover, low shrubs and low grasses. The tallest specimen that can be planted must not grow to more than 50 cm high. A list of plants suitable for planting is contained at the end of these Guidelines.

What you cannot plant or use

Those plants selected for the nature strip area must not be prickly, have thorns or pose a threat to the community. Fruit and vegetables cannot be planted.

Landscaping hard surfaces, such as bricks or pavers, rocks, fences, sleepers or edges, planter boxes and other raised structures, ornaments (includes gnomes), or bollards are not permitted.

Artificial turf or grass is not permitted. Hand watering only is suitable - the installation of irrigation systems and any electrical components are not permitted.

Maintenance

The planted area must be maintained and kept neat and tidy. Plants must be healthy and thriving, with no weeds, pests or diseases present.

What happens if I no longer wish to continue with the nature strip planting?

If you decide to no longer maintain the garden on the nature strip, then you are required to reinstate the area to natural lawn which is level with the footpath and kerb.

The nature strip must also be returned to grass on sale or vacating of the property. Alternatively a new permit can be obtained by the purchaser of a property if they agree to continue to maintain the nature strip in accordance with the guidelines.

On receipt of your permit, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all other relevant approvals/permits are obtained, eg. Dial Before You Dig before works commence. The granting of a permit is made with the understanding that access by Council or other utility authorities, under their relevant legislation, can occur at any time and without notification. Maintaining your nature strip is critical to ensure access to infrastructure within the nature strip.

Things to note

Clearance

Street trees require space to be left free of planting to protect their root zone (a tree protection zone). The tree protection zone is calculated by measuring the diameter of the trunk at chest height and multiplying this number by 12 to determine the closest distance to the tree where planting is allowed.

For young trees, the minimum distance is two metres and for large trees, the maximum distance is 15 metres. You can plant lawn within the tree protection zone.

Footpaths require 50 cm to be left clear of planting to allow for pedestrian safety and clear passing.

Driveways require a one metre clearance of planting on either side to allow for car doors to be opened and pedestrian safety and passing.

Power poles, storm water pits, service pits and fire hydrants require one metre be left clear of planting around them.

Parking

Maintain a 90 cm clearance between the kerb and the planting to allow for a car door to be open and for safe pedestrian access.

Height restriction

Height restriction for plants is 50 cm. Ground covers and native grass species are preferred. A list of plants suitable for planting is contained at the end of these Guidelines.

What to do next

The property owner, or if you are a tenant and you have written approval to act on their behalf, is responsible for obtaining all necessary approvals before residents' plant out nature strips.

Please ensure you have obtained a permit before planting your nature strip. Council or utility asset owners may direct you to reinstate the nature strip back to its original condition if a permit is not sought, or if permit conditions are not met. Applications can be made through Council's website www.gleneira.vic.gov.au.

However you will need the following before lodging:

- property owners or body corporate consent (if you are renting or leasing)
- evidence there are no services that will prohibit your proposal; and
- a planting schedule/plan.

This information can be uploaded and incorporated into your application. Council officers will endeavour to inspect and assess your application within 14 days.

Nature strip Planting Guidelines: 2,100 mm nature strip with street tree



Preferred plants

Many local species of grasses and ground covers can be planted into the nature strip.

Planting species that are indigenous to the Sandbelt Region of Melbourne (south of the Yarra River, along the Port Phillip Bay coastline, extending to Frankston) can increase biodiversity and provide habitat for native birds and animals.



Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description of plant: chocolate scented deep pink to mauve flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 60cm high, 20cm to 80cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Cut Leaf Daisy

Brachyscombe species eg. *multifidi*

Native to Victoria.

Description: various varieties with different colour flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade.

Dimensions: 20cm to 40cm high, 80cm to 1.2m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Yellow Bulbine-lily

Bulbine bulbosa

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: grass like with yellow flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained moist soil.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 20cm to 40cm high, 20cm to 30cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Karkalla

Carpobrotus rossii

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: purple flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soils.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 20cm high, 2.5m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: yellow flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 50cm high x 1.3m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Pale Flax Lily

Dianella longifolia var. *longifolia*

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: strappy plant. Blue flowers followed by blue berries.

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 60cm high, 50cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Spreading Flax Lily

Dianella revoluta

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: strappy plant. Blue flowers followed by blue berries.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 50cm to 60cm high, 80cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Running Postman

Kennedia prostrata

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: scarlet pea-shaped flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: Prostrate, 10cm high, 1m to 2m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Creeping Boobiala

Myoporum parvifolium

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: dense foliage with white flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 10cm to 20cm high, 1.5m to 2m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Tufted Bluebell

Wahlenberia communis

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: blue flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun or partial shade. Prefers well-drained moist soil.

Dimensions: 15cm to 50cm high, 15cm to 40cm wide.

Photo: (CC BY 2.5 AU) Russell Best, natureshare.org.au



Midgen Berry

Austromyrtus dulcis

Native to northern New South Wales and southern Queensland.

Description: small white flowers in spring and summer followed by an edible berry.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade.

Dimensions: 40cm to 50cm high, 1m to 1.5m wide.



Fern-leaf Banksia

Banksia blechnifolia

Native to Western Australia.

Description: red flower spikes in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun. Withstands dry periods when established.

Dimensions: 20cm to 40cm high, 1.2m to 1.5m wide.

Photo: Australian National Botanic Gardens, www.anbg.gov.au



Dusky Bells

Correa 'Dusky Bells'

Native to Victoria.

Description: pink flowers in autumn to spring.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 50cm high, 1m wide.

Photo: Australian National Botanic Gardens, www.anbg.gov.au



Blue Rock Bindweed

Convolvulus sabaticus

Exotic.

Description: mauve flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 15cm to 20cm high, 2m wide.



Dampiera

Dampiera diversifolia

Native to southwest Western Australia.

Description: purple to blue flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil.

Dimensions: 10cm high, 1.5m wide.

Photo: (CC BY 2.5 AU) Chris Clarke, natureshare.org.au



Bent Goodenia

Goodenia geniculata

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Description: yellow flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 5cm to 10cm high, 30cm wide.

Photo: (CC BY 2.5 AU) Russell Best, natureshare.org.au



Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardieri

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 70cm high, 40cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, www.victorianflora.com



Coastal Tussock Grass

Poa poiformis

Indigenous to Glen Eira.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 70cm high, 40cm wide.

Photo: Plants of the Elster Creek Area, www.elster-creek.org.au