

Nature Strip Guideline

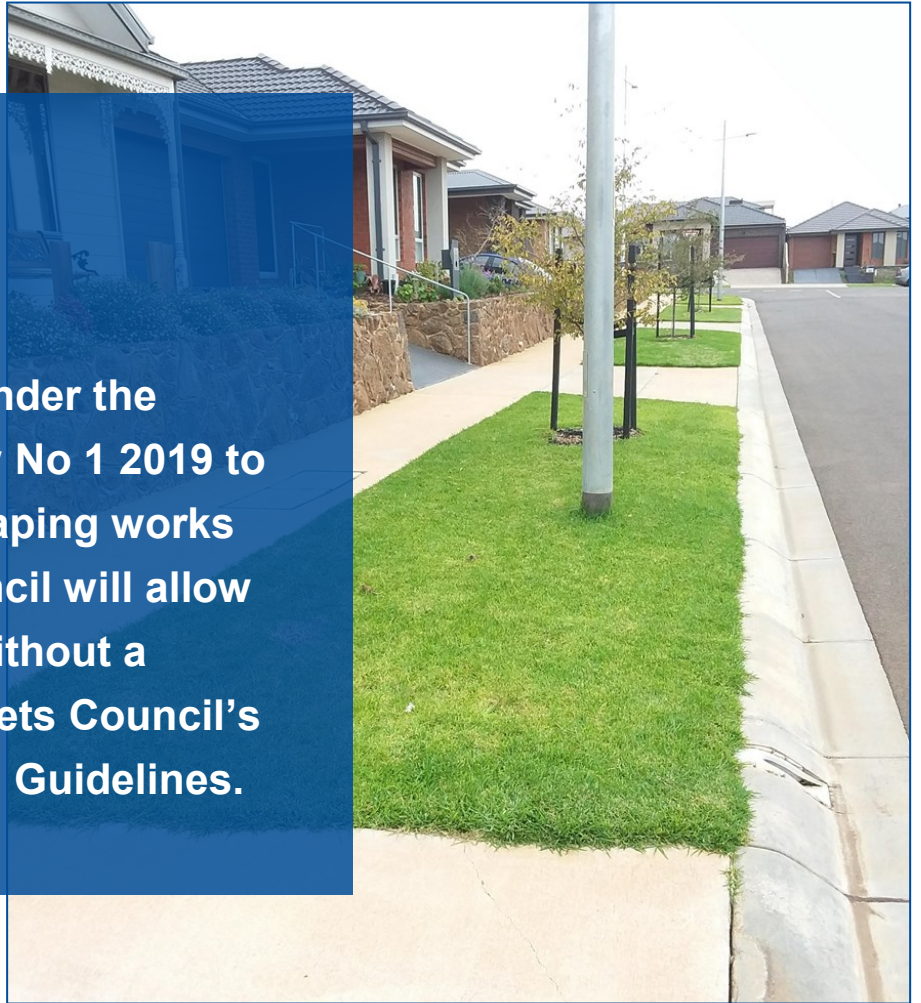
To be read in conjunction with
the Nature Strip Policy, 2021

Moorabool Shire Council

www.moorabool.vic.gov.au

Naturestrip Guidelines

A permit is required under the Community Local Law No 1 2019 to undertake any landscaping works on a naturestrip. Council will allow limited landscaping without a permit, provided it meets Council's Naturestrip Policy and Guidelines.



About Naturestrip

A naturestrip is the area of public land located between a property boundary and the adjacent roadway.

Naturestrips are utilised for:

- Provision of utility services,
- Vehicle ingress/egress
- pedestrian movements,
- collection of household bins,
- visibility for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians
- street tree planting

Council (or Regional Road Victoria) are responsible for the management and safety of naturestrips but do not carry out ongoing maintenance activities other than for street trees.

If you wish to landscape your nature strip you will need to complete the following steps.

Planning the Renovation of your Nature strip?

1. Confirm your naturestrip is in an area that is permitted to be landscaped. Some areas are cultural heritage protected areas, main roads or outside town boundaries (where speed zone greater than 60km per hour) which are not included. Check the Policy or contact Council to confirm.
2. If a rental property, seek approval of the property owner.
3. Refer to the figure above and the table below for permitted and non-permitted landscaping work.
4. Consider whether the design complements the neighbourhood character / suits the streetscape.
5. Lodge a 'Dial Before You Dig' query online or dial 1100 to locate services prior to any excavation.
6. Confirm the works can be carried out in a safe manner.
7. Consider the ability to maintain the landscaping in a safe and tidy condition in the long-term.



FIG. 1. PLAN OF PERMITTED LANDSCAPING FOR YOUR NATURE STRIP

✓ Permitted



✗ Non-Permitted



✓ Permitted



✗ Non-Permitted



Permitted and Non-Permitted items on Naturestrips

Permitted (No Permit Required)	Permitted (Online application Required)	Not Permitted
<p>✓ Grass or Turf</p>	<p>✓ Plants/shrubs with maximum height 500mm including wood chips or mulch with a minimum 75mm depth and between 7 to 25mm in size (all edging to be level with surrounds) (Please see Council recommended plant list which includes Indigenous, Native and Exotic species).</p> <p>✓ All plantings to be a minimum 500mm offset from the edge of footpath and back of the kerb.</p> <p>✓ All plantings to be a minimum of 1800mm clear from property boundary where no existing footpath.</p> <p>✓ All plantings minimum 500mm offset from trees.</p>	<p>✗ Plants above 500mm in height or fruit trees (Council planted street tree exempt)</p>
		<p>✗ Compacted Gravel (Granitic sand, Tuscan or Lilydale toppings, crushed rock/granite) *</p>
		<p>✗ Objects and/or barriers such as fencing, large rocks, logs or bollards</p>
		<p>✗ Wood chips or mulch across whole of nature strip without plantings*</p>
		<p>✗ Fine mulches, compost, other loose materials which can enter and obstruct storm water drains</p>
		<p>✗ Wood chips, mulch or garden edging protruding above the footpath/driveway and surrounding levels</p>
		<p>✗ Planter boxes, water features or statues</p>
		<p>✗ Noxious or environmental weed species</p>
		<p>✗ Vegetables, spiny or thorny plants, artificial plants and turf</p>
		<p>✗ Plants overhanging footpaths or driveways</p>
		<p>✗ Planting or modifying street trees (Council only)</p>
		<p>✗ Irrigation systems or wiring e.g. lights, sprinklers</p>
		<p>✗ Bluestone pitchers, sleepers or retaining walls</p>
		<p>✗ Timber or metal stakes, or star pickets</p>
		<p>✗ Alteration to table drains</p>

Approval Process:

The naturestrip is considered part of the road under the Road Management Act 2004 and Road Safety Act, so a number of safety and legislative requirements must be met before you can commence any work.

The following steps need to be carried out prior to commencing work:

Step 1 No permit Required

- Check Naturestrip Guideline (Grass only).

Step 2 Permit Required Await Approval from Council

- Apply online and receive an approval for the permitted works (planting with mulch/ woodchips)

Step 3 Commence work safely (On receipt of Council approval)

- Contact “Dial Before You Dig”, (free call 1100) to locate any underground services before commencing any excavation to your nature strip.
- If, during landscaping works, services are suspected of being damaged, the relevant utility provider and Council must be notified immediately.
- Council will not be liable for any financial penalties that a resident incurs from damaging underground services.
- Council will not be liable for any damages or reinstatement works caused by utility providers accessing underground assets.
- Traffic Control and Public Safety
- During landscaping works on the nature strip, the resident or their contractor is responsible for their safety and that of others.
- While the landscape works are in progress the “work site” should be signed and barricaded to ensure public safety.
- Where possible the footpath should remain open to pedestrian traffic.
- Any damage caused to Council assets will be the responsibility of the applicant and will need to be reinstated to Council’s satisfaction.

Nature Strip Permit Checklist?

- ☐ Check the Naturestrip Guideline and Naturestrip Policy
- ☐ Apply for online permit if required
- ☐ Obtain a free Dial before you Dig report to identify the presence of underground services in your nature strip. Call 1100 or type www.1100.com.au
- ☐ Prepare and submit a plan showing the proposed works including the location of all existing infrastructure and underground services
- ☐ You must be willing to cover all installation and future maintenance costs
- ☐ Ensure you have left adequate space for collection of kerbside collection bins rubbish and recycling bins and safe access for pedestrian movements
Discuss proposed nature strip amendments with neighbours, the landlord or body corporate
- ☐ Review the Council recommended plant list which includes Indigenous, Native and Exotic species indigenous plants to suit your local environment and surrounding streetscape (Refer Guideline)
- ☐ When working near roads and traffic, the resident or their contractor is responsible for their safety and that of others
- ☐ Your nature strip should be maintained in a neat and safe condition at all times.
- ☐ Acknowledge that service provider or road authorities may need to access underground services and I will be responsible for reinstatement.
- ☐ I may be requested to remove and reinstate the Naturestrip back to turf at the request of the Council

Contact Council for further information regarding these Guidelines or to obtain:

- A copy of the Naturestrip Policy
- Recommended Plant List for Moorabool Naturestrips
- Urban Street Tree Policy
- Moorabool Community Local Law No 1 2019
- Street Tree Strategy
- Street Tree Species Guide



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