Nature Strip Landscaping Policy

The Nature Strip Landscaping Policy gives residents the chance to personalise their nature strips by choosing their own plants.

The policy is a practical way to encourage the creation of more green space in our neighbourhoods. Go to mvcc.vic.gov.au/naturestrip for more details or to view the policy guidelines.

FAQs

Do I need Council permission to change my nature strip?
Grassed nature strips with low maintenance drought tolerant grasses that only require periodic mowing and weeding do not require notification to Council. You must notify Council if you plan to carry out any landscape treatments other than grass. All works must abide by Council’s Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines.

Can I plant anything I want?
Permissable landscape treatments include native and drought tolerant grasses and planting with low growing ground covers. See guidelines for suggested plants. Rocks, timber, retaining walls and ornaments must not be used. Large trees and unsafe or invasive plants such as cactus and serrated tussock are not allowed.

Can I remove the grass and lay mulch or stones?
Synthetic turf, hard surfaces such as concrete, pavers or asphalt, or loose surface treatments such as sand or gravel are not permitted. See guidelines for prohibited treatments.

Can I put planter boxes on my nature strip?
Yes. Refer to guidelines for size, height and placement requirements.

Where do I put my rubbish bins?
Adequate space must be left for placing rubbish and recycling bins for collection.

Who is responsible for maintaining nature strips?
The property owner is expected to undertake general maintenance of nature strips, including mowing, weeding, edging and any works needed to keep the nature strip in a safe and tidy condition.

Can I plant over the entire nature strip?
No. See the policy guidelines for requirements for planting within the nature strip.

What happens if I do the wrong thing?
Nature strip landscaping carried out without Council consent will be reviewed and residents will be advised of any changes required. The property owner will be given a fair and reasonable time to rectify the work, unless the works present an immediate risk of danger. Failure to obtain a permit or comply with the policy could incur a penalty.

What if utility companies or Council need to access assets under my nature strip?
Utility companies that supply water, gas, electricity and telecommunications may from time to time require access to the nature strip for maintenance/emergency works. Council’s drainage network is also located within the nature strip. It’s standard practice for utility companies to re-instate the nature strip following maintenance/emergency works, but is unlikely they would re-instate residential nature strips with anything other than grass seed. Council will not be responsible for replacing plants or landscaping as a result of such works.

Where can I get more information?
See the Nature Strip Landscaping Policy guidelines at mvcc.vic.gov.au/naturestrip or phone our Local Laws or Parks and Gardens team on 9243 8888.