



NATURE STRIP

Landscaping Guidelines

WHAT IS A NATURE STRIP?

The public land located between the private property and the road kerb. Nature strips usually contain services such as telephone, telecommunications, gas, water, sewerage, and power and public lighting. They are typically planted with grass and a tree.

PURPOSE OF NATURE STRIPS

- Provides a flat space for the location of waste and recycling bins
- Allows for door opening space and pedestrian, pram and wheelchair traffic between the road and footpath
- Visibility for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians at intersections or curves in the road and near driveways
- To provide ease of accessibility to service providers such as Telstra and Powercor
- Provides space for tree planting

BENEFITS OF THE NATURE STRIP

- To absorb rainwater and reduce stormwater run-off
- Enhance the natural settings of the neighbourhood through the planting of street trees
- Visually soften the effect of hard surfaces such as roads, footpaths, driveways, paving, fences and buildings
- Nature strip trees can add value to your home and general wellbeing

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE NATURE STRIP?

It is the responsibility of the resident to maintain their nature strip, which may include mowing, weeding and cleaning litter. Wyndham City does not conduct maintenance on nature strips.

NATURE STRIP STREET TREE

Residents are not permitted to plant or remove street trees. The planting and maintenance of street trees is the responsibility of Wyndham City, which conforms with Wyndham City's Street Tree Policy.

ACCEPTABLE NATURE STRIP TREATMENTS

Grass is the most common and preferable form of nature strip treatment; however, the following treatments are also acceptable:

- Fine compacted gravel such as lilydale or tuscan toppings to a depth of 75mm
- Organic Mulch to a depth of 75mm
- Approved planting, ensuring the following conditions are met:
 - Provide at least 1 metre from the kerb free of planting to allow for the opening of car doors
 - Ensure there is suitable space provided for the location and emptying of refuse and recycling bins
 - Allow for safe and suitable access to the footpath for people exiting a parked car – Where there is no footpath, 1.5m from the property line must be kept clear of planting to allow access for pedestrians and Australia Post
 - Plantings must not exceed 500mm in height to ensure a good line of sight for motorists and pedestrians
 - Stepping stones may only be used if the surface is non-slip and at the same level as the kerb and footpath and does not pose a trip hazard

UNACCEPTABLE NATURE STRIP TREATMENTS

Examples of unacceptable nature strip treatments are as follows:

- Plants with spikes or prickles; shrubs higher than 500mm
- Hard surfaces such as concrete or asphalt
- Irrigation systems
- Rocks, railway sleepers or any form of retaining walls or edges
- Star pickets
- Pebbles and loose gravel
- Synthetic turf
- Trip hazards

DAMAGE TO NATURE STRIP

If the nature strip has been damaged as a result of building work, the property owner or builder is responsible for repairs.

Periodically utility companies that supply water, gas, electricity and telecommunications may require access to your nature



strip to perform maintenance work. The utility company is responsible for reinstating the nature strip but only needs to backfill with soil and seed with grass. There is no guarantee that utility companies will replace landscaping such as plants, gravel and mulch to match the condition before maintenance. Any queries regarding these types of work should be made directly with the appropriate utility authority.

PARKING ON NATURE STRIPS

Parking on nature strips is prohibited under the Victorian Road Safety Road Rules 2017. Any breaches of this may result in infringement notices issued. The resident must rectify any damages incurred on the nature strip, including wheel ruts, trip hazards, rubbish, etc.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- **Wyndham City:** 1300 023 411
- **Telstra:** 13 22 00
- **Powercor:** 13 24 12
- **Greater Western Water:** 13 44 99
- **NBN Co:** 1800 687 626
- **Dial Before You Dig:** www.1100.com.au

