



# Planting out your Naturestrip

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Streetscapes make an important contribution to the amenity of residential living areas, and Darebin Council is committed to the development of attractive streetscapes.

*Council has a comprehensive Green Streets Strategy, which promotes the development of streetscapes and identifies suitable species of trees for use throughout the Municipality*

*Council is happy to work with residents in order to improve the amenity of their particular street, and often gives approval to individual residents who wish to replace existing grass within the road reserve, with other plants.*

***Any proposal you have for planting out your naturestrip needs to meet the following requirements:***

**1. Area to be planted:**

The area to be planted out must be contained directly in front of your property within the road reserve.

**2. Plant selection:**

Tree planting in street naturestrips may only be undertaken by the Darebin Parks Department or Open Space Planning Branch. Existing naturestrip trees are to be maintained. Plants with an invasive habit or that are currently listed as environmental weeds, should not be planted. Plants that are indigenous to the local area should be used when naturestrip planting is to be carried out within 100 meters of the Darebin and Merri Creek environs.

**3. Mulching:**

Mulching helps to retain moisture and reduce weeds. The area of road reserve must be mulched with a suitable wood medium such as wood chips or pine bark to a minimum depth of 75 mm. (It is important to note that spraying existing grass and the use of weed mats prior to mulching, can significantly reduce future weed infestation on the area to be planted.) Materials such as straw, underfelt etc are not to be used as mulch.

**4. Maintaining existing services:**

Landscaping must not result in any alteration to the existing naturestrip width, existing footpath, channel or curbing.

You must identify the location of services and storm water drains prior to planting. Plants must not impede access to service pit covers.

**If possible residents should phone the “Dial before you Dig” Number 1100 to identify the exact location of services. A Fax is required to receive information from this number**

**It is important to note those Service Authorities such as water, gas, electricity and telecommunications all have access rights to the road reserve. Such Services may be required to dig up the naturestrip periodically. Residents who plant in the road reserve will not be compensated for any loss of vegetation**

**5. Maintenance:**

The resident is responsible for the maintenance and tidy appearance of the naturestrip planting, and must ensure that foliage does not impede passing pedestrians or reduce the visibility of traffic. Residents should note that Council will remove any naturestrip planting that is not adequately maintained, and reinstate the naturestrip with lawn. Council will also remove any planting that creates a traffic or public safety hazard

**6. Cost:**

The resident will be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of landscaping the naturestrip area.

**7. Safety:**

Any vegetation planted is not to interfere with sight lines. Planting should consist of low shrubs and ground covers, not higher than 500mm. Provision should be made to enable pedestrians to safely cross the road reserve in order to access the footpath.

**Any proposed naturestrip planting, must be approved by Councils  
Open Space Planning Department**

***The attached form should be filled in and returned for approval.***