



Title: Nature Strip Gardens

Category: Operating process – all steps

Key words: nature strip garden

File number: F-24-7

Policy owner: Director of City Works (Parks & Property)

Authorisation: Authorised by City Services Committee 4 April 2013 Minute No. 91

Review date: December 2016

Modification history: Reviewed February 2016

Related legislation: Civil Liability Act 2002, Roads Act 1993, Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Related policies: Street Tree Management Policy

Related procedures:

Related forms: Nature Strip Garden Information Package, Street Tree Planting Information Package

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1. Purpose

This policy has been formulated to provide and document the procedure for managing the establishment and maintenance of nature strip gardens by residents adjacent to their properties.

Background

In 1998 Council resolved to allow residents to establish gardens on the nature strip provided certain conditions are fulfilled, an application form is submitted to Council for approval and an application fee paid.

The motivation to permit nature strip gardens was to facilitate a desire expressed by a number of residents to utilize the public space adjacent to their properties for landscape purposes and at the same time improve City appearance.

Approval has been granted to residents to establish nature strip gardens throughout the City in accordance with the conditions outlined in the Nature Strip Garden Information Sheet, however no policy exists that documents the procedure for managing nature strip gardens.

On the 24 May 2012, Council resolved that a report be provided to Council that outlines a proposed policy on Nature Strip Gardens in the City of Canterbury. This policy addresses this request.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- Support the establishment of nature strip gardens that are safe and enhance the beauty and amenity of the City
- Provide residents and Council officers clear criteria for the establishment and maintenance of nature strip gardens
- Confirm and recognise the community's role in maintaining nature strips and to develop a sense of civic pride

3. Scope

The policy applies to residents who want to establish a nature strip garden adjacent to their property.

4. Principles

The Roads Act 1993 decrees Councils as the owners of all public roads in their local government area, other than freeways or Crown roads.

Nature strips are located within and form part of the road reserve.

5. Responsibilities

The Director of City Works has overall responsibility of the Nature Strip Gardens Policy.

The Works Manager is responsible for managing the Nature Strip Gardens Policy and reports to the Director of City Works.

The Parks and Property Coordinator is responsible for implementing the Nature Strip Gardens Policy and reports to Works Manager.

6. Procedures

The Nature Strip Garden Information Package consists of an Information Sheet and Application Form.

The Nature Strip Garden Information Sheet documents the:

1. Application procedure
2. Criteria for approval
3. Planting technique

Residents wanting to establish a Nature Strip Garden must submit a Nature Strip Garden Application Form with payment of the non refundable application fee.

Upon submission of a Nature Strip Garden Application, Council will:

1. Assess the application to ensure the proposed garden meets the criteria for approval.
2. Undertake community consultation if the proposed garden is significant in terms of size, location or likely impact on local residents.
3. Provide a written response to the applicant advising if the proposed garden has been approved and any associated conditions.

If an approved nature strip garden is not being adequately maintained or has changed so that it does not conform to the criteria for approval, Council will notify the resident in writing that the garden does not conform and request compliance within 14 days of the notice.

If after this notification period the garden still does not conform, Council will remove the garden and turf the area.

When a nature strip garden has been established without approval, Council will issue a letter to the resident fronting the garden advising of the Nature Strip Gardens Policy, attach the Nature Strip Garden Information Package and request submission of a formal application within 14 days.

Council may remove the garden and turf the nature strip if the resident does not make a formal application.

If a nature strip garden is found to have any safety issues, Council will undertake all actions necessary to ensure the garden is compliant.

7. Appendix

7.1 Nature Strip Garden Information Package



NATURE STRIP GARDEN INFORMATION SHEET

Canterbury City Council allows residents to plant nature strip gardens which make a positive contribution to the local streetscape.

To establish a nature strip garden, you need to follow the procedure below.

NATURE STRIP GARDEN APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Read the Nature Strip Garden Information Sheet
2. Complete the Nature Strip Garden Application Form and return it to Council attaching the Nature Strip Garden Application Fee
3. Wait for written authorisation from us
4. Construct and maintain the garden



THE RIGHT NATURE STRIP GARDEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE

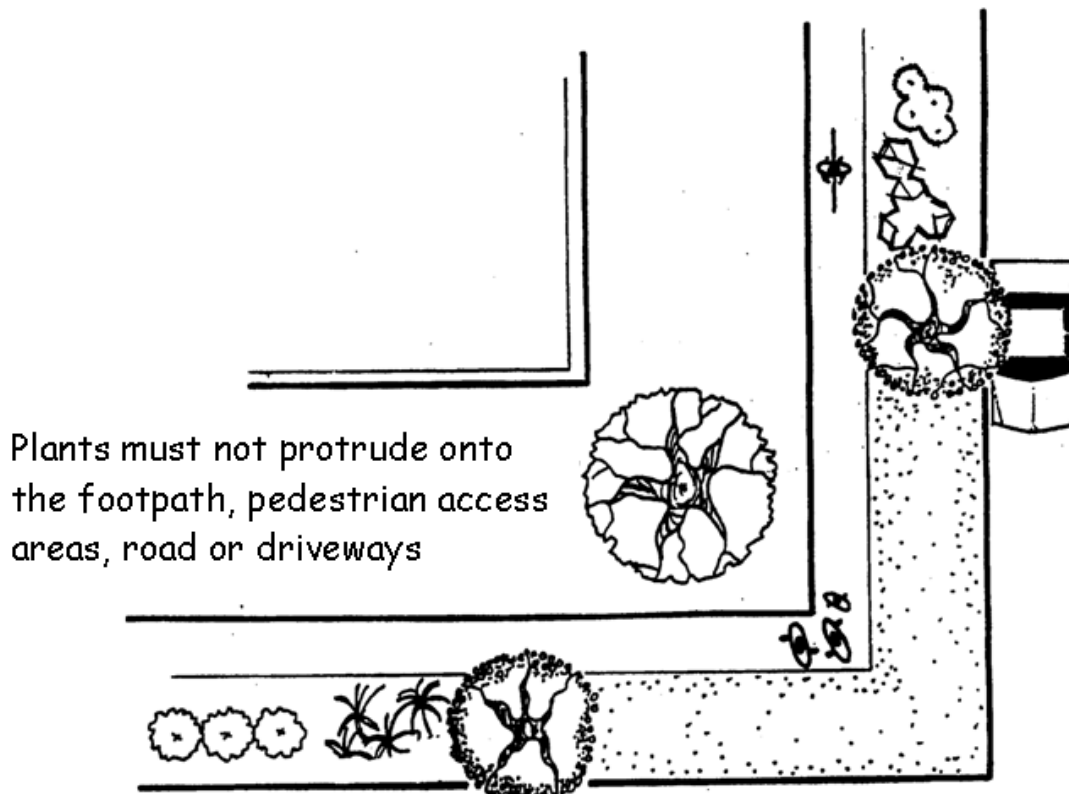
With good planning, the right nature strip garden in the right place will grow into a valuable community asset.

When planning the nature strip garden, you need to consider the following criteria for approval:

- It is the applicants responsibility to construct and maintain the garden, this includes planting, weeding, cleaning, mulching, pruning and watering
- The garden must be more than 10 metres from a corner
- The garden and plant foliage must be more than one metre from the kerb
- Pedestrian access must be provided between footpaths, pedestrian access areas and roads
- The garden must not interfere with car or pedestrian sight lines
- The garden must not interfere with waste and recycling bin services
- Garden structures are not permitted
- The maximum plant height is 600 millimetres and plants must not have thorns
- Plants must not protrude onto the footpath, pedestrian access areas, road or driveways
- The applicant must contact Dial Before You Dig (phone # 1100) and obtain the location of the underground services in the vicinity of the proposed garden
- Council will take no responsibility for any damage to the garden
- If the garden is not being maintained, it is the applicants responsibility to remove the garden and turf the nature strip
- Council reserves the right to add extra conditions or require removal of the garden

THE RIGHT NATURE STRIP GARDEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE

The garden must not interfere with car or pedestrian sight lines



Plants must not protrude onto the footpath, pedestrian access areas, road or driveways

The garden must be 10 metres from the corner and one metre from the kerb

PLANTING TECHNIQUE

Holes should be dug to a minimum of twice the size and depth of the pot size. Compost can be mixed with the existing soil and back filled into the hole. The plant is removed from the pot and planted vertically in the middle of the hole, ensuring the soil level of the potted plant is planted level with the existing soil level.

Mulching the garden will help to reduce weed growth, retain moisture and promote healthy plant growth. The mulch should be 75mm thick and kept away from the stems of plants

Plants should be watered regularly until established and then weekly in hot dry conditions to maintain healthy plant growth.

The garden may be fertilised in accordance with application rates.



NATURE STRIP GARDEN APPLICATION FORM

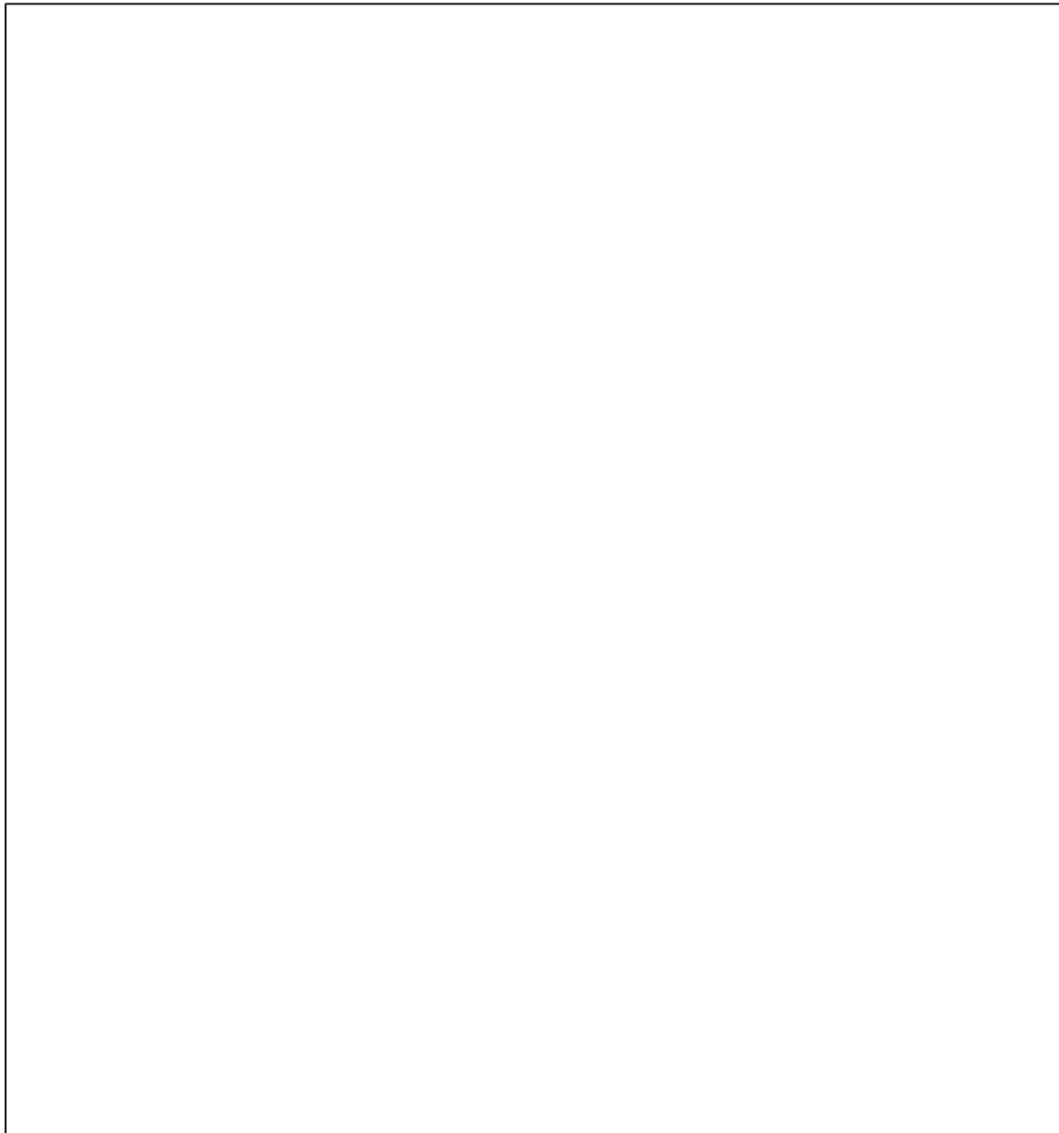
Name:

Address:

Telephone: H..... W..... M.....

Email:

In the box below, please draw a diagram to indicate your street, house, footpath, driveway and garden location.



List the shrubs etc, you wish to plant:

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.....

Describe how you are proposing to maintain the garden:

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.....

I have advised my neighbours adjoining my property about the proposed garden: Yes No

I have contacted Dial Before You Dig (phone # 1100) and obtained the location of the underground services in the vicinity of the proposed garden: Yes No

I have attached the application fee: Yes No

I have read the Nature Strip Garden Information Sheet and agree to maintain the garden as per the conditions of approval and I accept responsibility for all liability associated with the garden.

Signature: Date:

Please send the application to the:

General Manager
Canterbury City Council
PO Box 77
CAMPSIE NSW 2194
Email: council@canterbury.nsw.gov.au

OFFICE USE ONLY

PAID _____ REC NO _____ DATE _____