

Street Garden Policy

Effective Date:	Insert date
Contact Officer: Joe Ingegneri	Manager Technical Services
TRIM Document Number:	Insert TRIM number

1. Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to provide guidelines and a framework for residents to create, install and maintain an authorised nature strip garden or planter box on the nature strip in front of their property while:

- a. Considering responsibility in relation to other users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
- b. Consider other functions of the land including garbage collection, stormwater management, utility service corridor, parking and street trees.
- c. Promote and guide effective management and maintenance of established street gardens.
- d. Reduce hazards that may result in injuries or damage to property.

2. Definitions

- a. **Nature Strip:** The nature strip is the Council owned land between the private property boundary and the road. This area may be grassed and/or contain street trees, footpaths, road and/or parking signs, driveways, street furniture and utility services.
- b. **Street Gardens:** Nature strip gardens or planter boxes installed by the resident on the nature strip in front of their owned or leased property.
- c. **Laneway Gardens:** Laneway gardens refer to plantings within a laneway between the road edge or kerb and the adjacent fence or boundary.
- d. **Nature Strip Gardens:** Nature strip gardens refer to plantings installed by residents at ground level in the nature strip area in front of their owned or leased property. Residents are required to comply with guidelines to ensure that the garden meets the policy objectives, including the submission of a checklist and photographs to Council after completing the installation of a nature strip garden.
- e. **Planter Boxes:** Planter boxes refer to raised structures, in which plants can be grown. In certain circumstances, planter boxes may be installed by the resident on the nature strip in front of their owned or leased property. These structures can have an impact on road users and therefore require an approval process prior to commencing installation of a planter box.

3. Scope

This policy and supplementing documents apply to the roads in the Randwick City Council Local Government Area and aims to provide information to residents about the planning, approval, installation and management of street gardens.

In line with the objectives of this policy, specific locations and situations are excluded from this policy as described in Council's *Street Garden Policy Guidelines*.

4. Policy Content

Residents proposing to establish a street garden in front of their property are required to comply with the Street Garden Policy Guidelines. The guidelines address considerations that need to be resolved for the garden to compliment the streetscape and other road users by setting criteria that must be met to ensure the street garden proposal is approved and compliant throughout its life.

The Street Garden Policy Guidelines define:

- Exclusion Zones;
- Street garden planning;
- Requirements for compliant nature strip gardens;
- Approval process for planter boxes;
- Installation and maintenance;
- Underground utility services;
- Safe gardening; and
- Complaints management.

Authorised and Compliant Street Gardens

The policy permits residents to plant **nature strip gardens** outside their properties on the condition that they:

- a) Meet the requirements of this policy and supporting guidelines.
- b) Submit to Council a completed signed checklist and photos of the completed nature strip garden.
- c) Continue to maintain the nature strip garden to ensure ongoing compliance with the policy and guidelines.

The policy permits residents to install **planter boxes** on the nature strip in certain circumstances, however Council approval is required prior to installation. The process for approval requires residents to:

- a) Complete the application for planter boxes found within the supporting guidelines, and submit to Council.

- b) Ensure that the planter box is installed in accordance with the approval.
- c) Submit photos of the planter box upon completion.
- d) Continue to maintain the planter box to ensure ongoing compliance with the policy and guidelines.

5. LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Legislation

The relevant legislation is:

- *Roads Act 1993, (NSW)*
- *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*

Further information on nature strip gardens and planter boxes, including the nature strip garden checklists, application form and recommended plantings lists can be found within the *Street Garden Policy Guidelines*, which are available on the Council website and at the Council Customer Service Centre.

6. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

7. RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of City Services is responsible for the overall management of this Policy.