

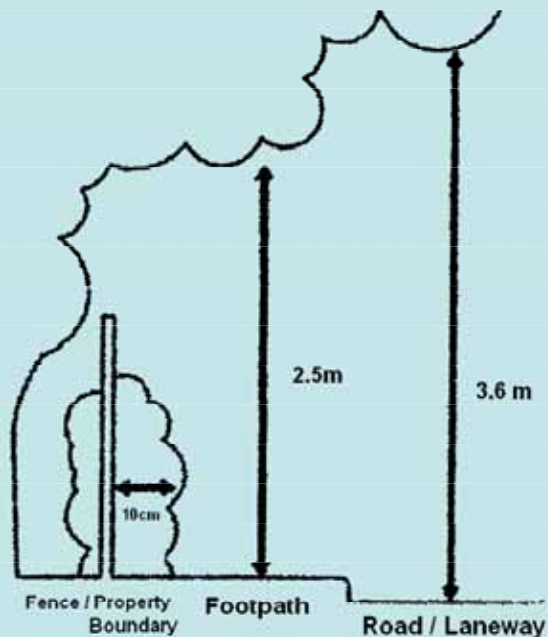
Maintaining Your Nature Strip

Once established your nature strip should be a low maintenance, easy access area

- Keep your nature strip free of weeds and rubbish;
- If using mulch, keep it contained and below the level of the footpath and kerb. Mulch must not be allowed to spread over footpaths, driveways or into the kerb and channel; and
- Keep your nature strip free of any tripping hazards and any protruding objects.

Plants Overhanging the Footpath

Plants spreading over the footpath and nature strip from within your property also need to be maintained. Keep plants cut back so they are well clear and don't obstruct footpaths or roadways. The following diagram shows required clearance distances.



Remember: The aim is to keep your nature strip well maintained, to provide safe pedestrian access along the street, safe access to your house and not to obstruct service providers.

Examples of Unacceptable Nature Strip Treatments

Plantings on nature strips are unacceptable because pedestrian access is impeded. The aim is to provide safe pedestrian access along the street, safe access to your house and not to obstruct service providers.



For more information please contact:

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Introduction

Nature strips are an important part of any streetscape. As well as being visually attractive, they are intended to provide safe pedestrian access along the street and to act as a service area for adjacent homes.

Street lighting and service utilities (power, water, gas and phone) are often located over and under them. The postie, couriers, friends and neighbours use the nature strip and footpath to access your home, which also acts as a buffer between your property and the roadway itself.

Nature strips are public land and form part of the road reserve.

To ensure that nature strips can continue to serve the purposes for which they were intended, it is important that they are maintained as open, safe access and service areas.

This brochure illustrates ways in which you can maintain the nature strip outside your house to meet these aims.

It also highlights examples of landscaping and planting that are not acceptable because they compromise one or more of the purposes of a nature strip.



Low maintenance, drought tolerant grasses require only periodic mowing and weeding.

Your Nature Strip



Fine gravel mulch such as Lilydale or Tuscan topping is acceptable

In new areas, developers/builders usually clear, level and plant grass in the nature strip when completing the houses. Either the Council or the developer provides a suitable street tree. Householders then maintain the nature strip adjacent to their properties.

Lawn covered nature strips with a single street tree/shrub remain the most common nature strip within the townships in Surf Coast Shire. Low maintenance, drought tolerant lawn require only periodic mowing and weeding to maintain.

Approved Surfaces

Lawn

There is a range of tough, drought tolerant lawns now available eg Buffalo Grass, Kikuyu or Santa Anna Couch. These establish rapidly over the summer months and once started they provide a low water, low maintenance and attractive finish.

Mulch

Two types of mulch may be used:

- Fine gravel mulches such as washed granitic sand and Tuscan or Lilydale toppings to a depth of 75 mm; or
- Organic mulch such as a graded bark or multi-bark mixed that is resistant to disturbance by wind and rain (mulch to be at least 75mm deep). **Remember: keep mulch contained and below the level of the footpath and kerb.**

Street Trees

Planting and maintaining street trees is Council's responsibility. Residents are not permitted to plant or remove street trees, except unless advised by Council.

Planting the wrong type of street tree can make the street unsightly and unsafe. Unsuitable species can grow into power lines, their roots can block drains and lift footpaths, their limbs can become visual or physical obstructions. If a street tree is required in the nature strip, Council will arrange for a street tree that conforms with Council's Street Tree Policy to be planted. To arrange for a street tree to be planted, please call our Customer Service staff on 5261 0600.

Damaged Nature Strips

If the nature strip has been damaged as a result of building work, the property owner or builder is responsible for repair. If service authority maintenance works damage the nature strip that authority is required to reinstate the nature strip to a basic standard. However, the authority may not replace gravel or mulch.

Unacceptable Nature Strip Treatments

Because they pose a public safety hazard, the following treatments must not be used on nature strips:

- Any plants other than lawn or approved street trees
- River pebbles, polished pebbles, scoria, blue metal and other loose or large stones, bluestone pitchers, synthetic turf, railway sleepers or retaining walls.

Other unacceptable features include:

- Hard surfaces such as concrete, pavers or stones;
- Irrigation systems;
- Letterboxes. (Your letterbox must be on your own property. Australia Post requires easy access.)
- Temporary or permanent electrical wiring.