

# Nature Strip Trees

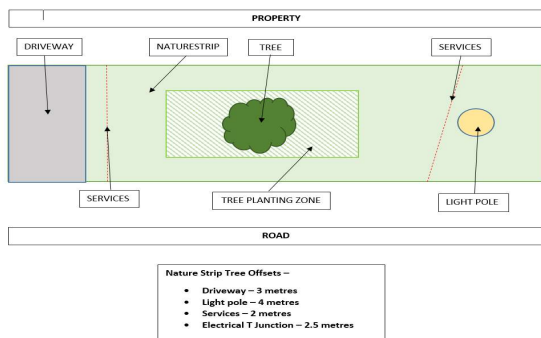
Nature strip trees form an important part of the landscape, providing a range of benefits including shade, environmental biodiversity, amenity and habitat. Council is responsible for street trees and any enquiries regarding the care, establishment, maintenance and removal of street trees must be referred to Council.

Tree planting is a simple and effective nature-based solution for cooling our townships. Trees in townships have many known benefits, including reduction of air temperature, glare and UV radiation. Street trees and other green infrastructure help by absorbing sunlight and shading hard surfaces, and reducing the amount of heat that's absorbed and released.

## Can I plant/have a nature strip tree?

You cannot plant a tree on your nature strip, but Council will if you 'lodge a request' via [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Contact-Us](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Contact-Us)

Officers will assess to ensure there is an appropriate planting zone allowing for a tree to be planted. Our annual planting programs ensure that new generations of plants will keep our streetscapes, parks and reserves viable. We collect information about required planting throughout the year, and we plant trees during the planting season from late May until early September.



If there is adequate space for a tree, this will be placed on the program which will be carried out within the planting season.

## How is the nature strip tree species selected?

When officers are selecting a nature strip tree, consideration for the tree species is undertaken to maintain/enhance the existing neighbourhood character. In some areas where the majority of the nature strip vegetation is indigenous, then the species selected will be of local indigenous provenance (vegetation found in that area). Other more modified areas will have species selected that are the most suitable for that location.

Consultation will occur with the resident whose property the tree is planted in front of.

Broader consultation will occur via a written letter to surrounding property owners when larger scale street tree planting occurs within the street. There will be an opportunity for the residents to provide feedback and discuss concerns with the proposed works.

## Can I prune or remove a nature strip tree?

It is illegal to remove or prune any trees, shrubs or other plants on your nature strip or in a park without Council approval.

Our tree professionals judge each tree against industry best practices and, if necessary, prune the tree to ensure it grows properly.

Unless a tree is within 2m of a built structure, pruning is unlikely to provide enough relief from the perceived nuisance of falling leaves, flowers or fruit.

We only remove a nature strip or park tree as a last resort, if it has been assessed by our trained tree professionals as posing a danger to the public and having faults that can't be fixed.

We do not prune/remove trees if they are reported for dropping too many leaves or fruit, being too large or obstructing a view.

After we identify a tree for removal, we remove it as soon as possible based on the level of risk.

If you are concerned about a potentially dangerous nature strip tree, please lodge a request via [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Contact-Us](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Contact-Us)