



Community Food Gardens on the Nature Strip

Guidelines



The City with Spirit



Guidelines

Community Food Gardens provide many benefits, from increasing interest, access, and skills in growing food to improving social connectedness and well-being.

Council recognises that not all residents can access existing community food gardens in the City, and as such, have developed these guidelines.

Establishing community food gardens on nature strips requires special consideration by Council to ensure that accessibility on footpaths, public safety, traffic and road conditions are not affected and that other environmental issues such as stormwater capture and street trees are considered in the design of new garden beds.

Applicants wanting to establish a community food garden on the nature strip will need to complete a short application form meeting a range of criteria as below.

Definition – Nature Strip

A nature strip is an area of public land between the property boundary and the kerb, excluding any footpath.

Location

Gardens will only be considered in locations where:

- Devonport City Council is the owner or managers of the land
- The property owner at the street address is supportive. If the property is sold the applicant will remove all vegetation and return the area back to turf unless the new owner demonstrates support
- There is neighbourhood support to implement and maintain the nature strip vegetable garden.
- Underground infrastructure will not be affected.

Suitability of Site

The site should have no major safety, health or traffic concerns. It should not create access barriers or hazards for pedestrians, road users including public transport, neighbouring properties, public utilities and services.

Pedestrian access of 2m wide is to be maintained at all times and this area is to remain free of hazards (eg hoses etc). In nature strips where no footpath is provided, an area of two metres is also to be maintained, free of obstructions for pedestrians to walk if necessary.

Ensure access remains to Telecom pits, water meters and hydro poles.





Guidelines continued....

Accessibility

Any plantings on nature strips must provide enough flat space for waste collection bins, which include general waste and recycling.

Access ways are to be maintained at all times.

Gardens must be well maintained to ensure they remain safe, tidy, attractive, and do not cause runoff of water, soil or other material.

Design

The following design elements are to be considered into any proposed garden:

- Raised edges such as bricks or fences, tall or spiky vegetation that may block sight lines or impede people using the footpath are prohibited.
- Do not include the planting of trees or pruning of existing trees. Limited to low growing plants (no more than 500mm high from ground level to maintain site distances for traffic) and must be non-hazardous to pedestrians, motorists and/or cyclists. Plants are acceptable if planted to maintain, a minimum clearance of 500mm from any existing and/or proposed footpath, and/or crossover.
- Temporary barricades and signage for the purpose of establishing community gardens are acceptable provided that the materials used do not create a hazard and are identified with markers to ensure the safety of pedestrians.
- Irrigation systems or private lighting systems can be considered.
- Only recognised organic herbicides or pesticides are to be used.
- Where a bus stop exists, the proposed garden must provide a minimum 1.5m clearance around the bus stop and between the bus stop and the foot path.
- Garden stakes are permitted as long as public safety is maintained.
- Do not include any species considered to be weeds (see DPIPWE website).
- Suitability of any mulch proposed

Cost

Any changes to the nature strip is at the residents expense.

Residents must bear the cost of establishment, maintenance, renewal of the area and plants, and any reinstatement if so desired or directed. Any licence issued will clearly identify that all reinstatement costs are to be met by the licence holder.

Application and permit are at no cost.

