

Caring for your Nature Strip in Moonee Valley

What to expect when caring for your street garden

Tips & challenges

Gardening on your nature strip (often called street gardening) is a wonderful activity with many positive flow-on effects. While street gardening can create immense positive change for you, your community and local fauna and flora, it can also present some challenges. So, to help you enjoy the journey and create a long-lasting street garden, here are some tips!

4 starter tips...

- **Work within constraints** - look at the MVS one page summary that breaks down the MVCC Nature Strip guidelines.
- **Site preparation is everything** - take your time removing weeds and improving your soil before you plant! Sticking plants into lawn/unprepared land is almost certain death for the garden!
- **Use great hand tools** - you don't need a lot of tools but a mid to high quality trowel and pitchfork will work wonders!
- **Treat other people and their dogs the way you would like the garden to be treated** - they will be the ones caring for and looking out for your garden when you aren't there.



The “Big 5” Street Gardening Challenges



Moonee Valley
Sustainability

www.mvsustainability.org.au/

1 Dryness

- **Preparation and care are key** - street gardens die because of dryness caused by poor site prep and ongoing care.
- **Water regularly** - moisture helps the soil to come to life! No matter what you are told, water regularly (nature strips dry out fast with the surrounding sealed sections) and check that water is getting down to the roots of the plants.
- **Use a great mulch** - renew once or twice a year, use one that breaks down fast and apply 7-10cm thick (most people put it on way too thin).
- **Use good quality soil** - use a good soil/compost blend (not old, leftover potting mix!).

2 Weeds

- **Trick weeds into growing!** - when initially removing weeds from your site, feed the site with seaweed solution or worm tea to get more of the seeds in the soil to grow.
- **Remove grass** - use mulch instead of grass on paths and plant groundcovers on the setbacks.
- **Remove weeds regularly** - do a little often and you (and the garden) will be much happier!

3 Dog poo

- **Clean up and move on!** - though it can be frustrating, it's not worth working yourself up over it!
- **Avoid putting up signs** - everyone knows to clean up after their dog so if they don't do it a sign probably won't work and it can create a negative feel around the garden.
- **Talk to the community** - talk to neighbours to get them looking out for the garden.
- **Plant densely and build up the vegetation** - dogs like to do their business on open soil/mulch.

4 Plant theft

Cut flowers off before planting and plant indigenous tubestock. Most plant theft happens straight after planting as the newness catches people's eye. Small indigenous tubestock are very rarely stolen. If theft does happen, try to see it as forced sharing!

5 Litter

Clean up regularly and encourage more street gardens! Street gardens will catch litter as it blows around our barren public realm - especially on bin day! More street gardens will help!



Prepared by Emma Cutting,
Heartscapes

Proudly supported by:



City of

Moonee Valley