



Australian Case Study

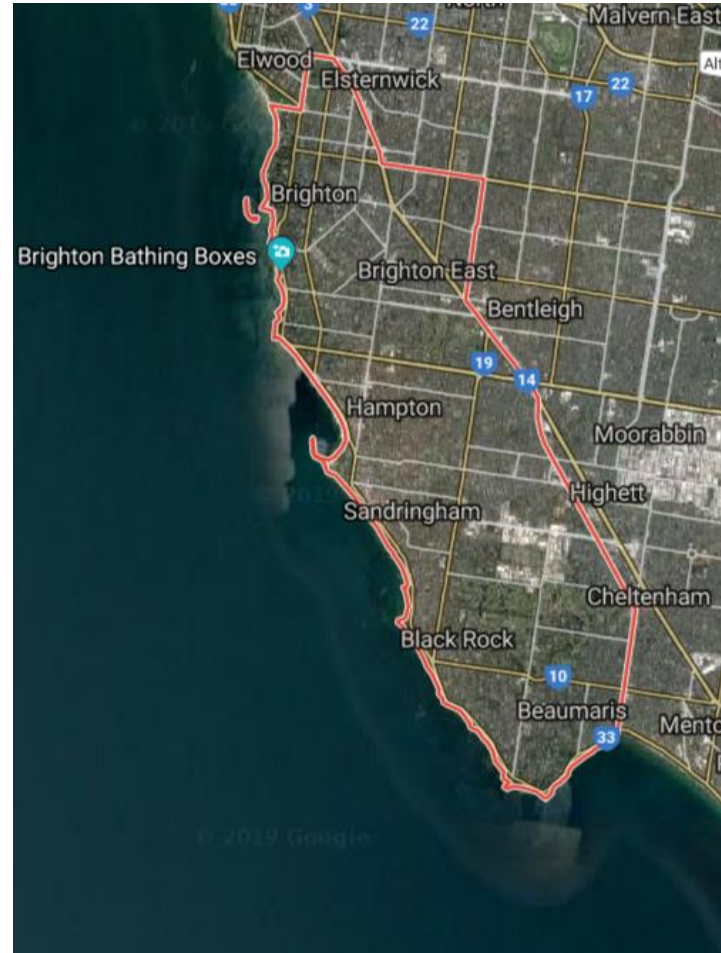
Nature Strips

Bayside municipality, SE Melbourne

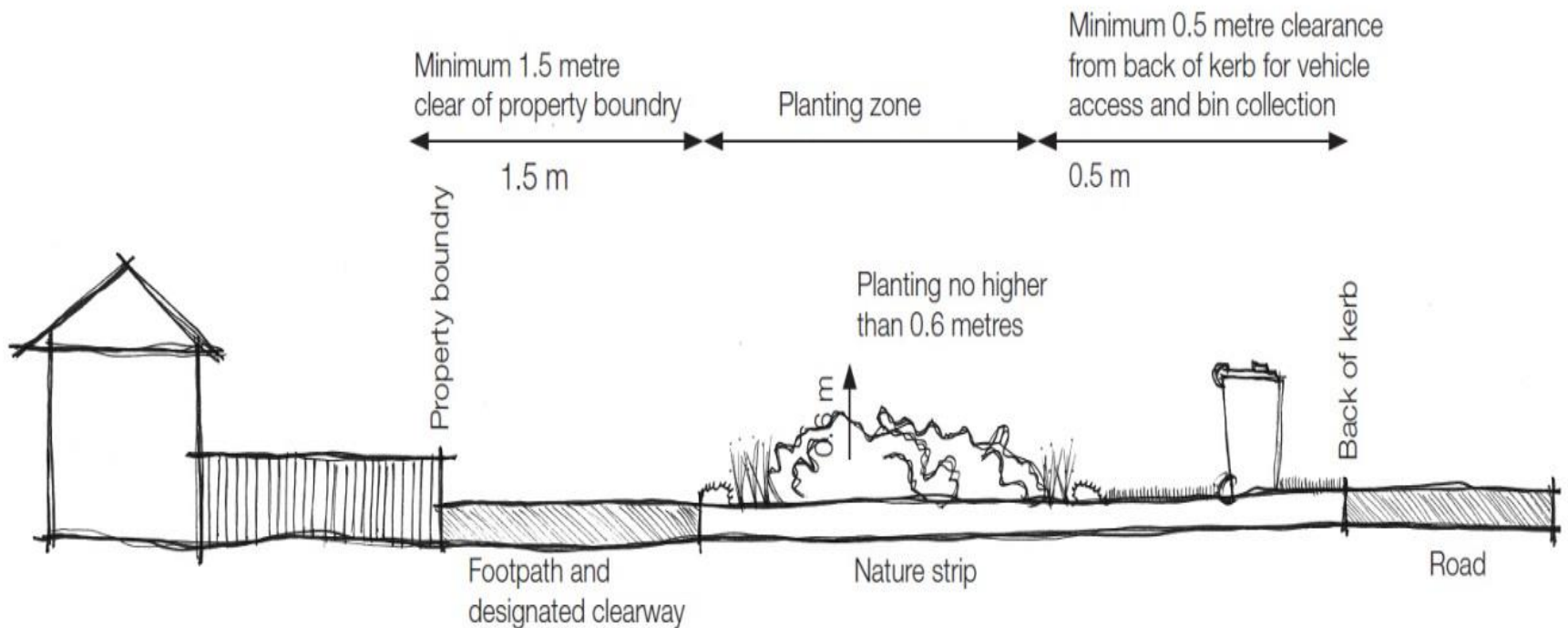
Dr Rob Saunders

Bayside's Nature Strips

- Total area > than 18 hole Sandringham Golf Course
- Nature strip width ranges from ~1 m to > 6 m
- Variations in length, slope, orientation, light
- Currently mostly mown grass, often weedy
- Most dwellings also have one street tree

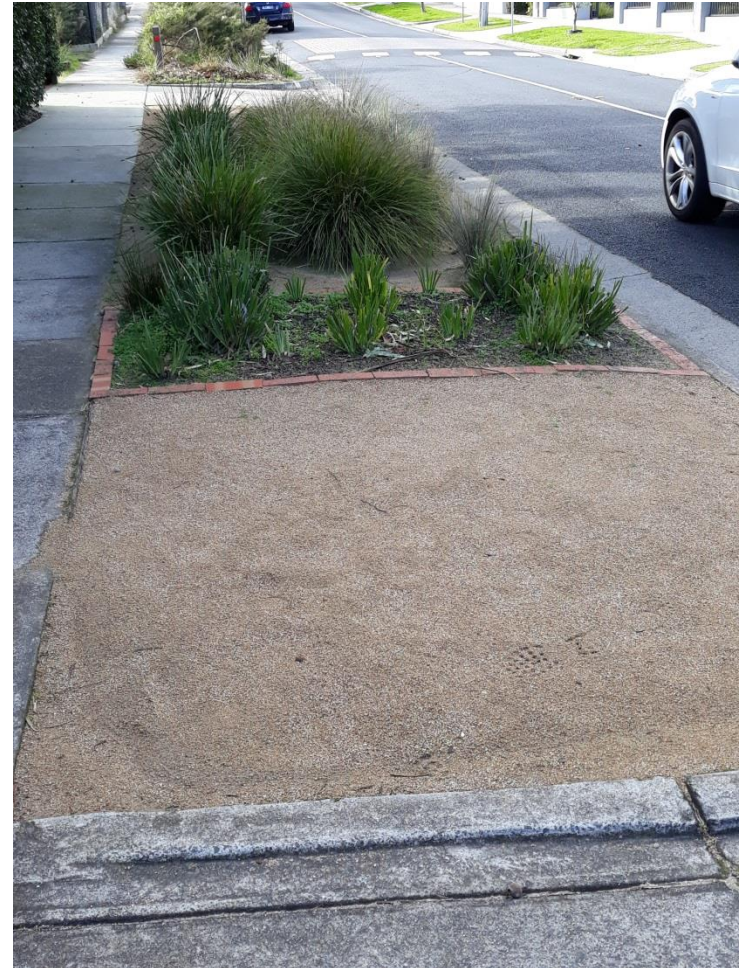


Bayside Council encourages *...appropriate* Nature Strip planting



General guidelines

- Keep plants low for visibility and pedestrian safety
- Avoid damaging pipes, underground wires etc.
- Take special care on corners
- Leave space for access (cars, rubbish bins etc)
- See Bayside Council website for detail:
<https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/how-plant-your-nature-strip>
- Leave all tree planting to Council, but feel free to request a tree (on-line).



Bayside Community Nursery

- Operating for 40 years. Grows only local indigenous plants
- Sells to residents
- Not-for-profit (for conservation)
- Tube stock very cheap (~\$2.65)
- Extensive range (~150 sp)
- Open 10 -12 Thursday, Saturday early April – end October
- Helpful volunteers (advice on planting and propagation)
- Coastal vs inland species
- Adaptations: dry vs swampy
- Take photos of our plant labels (avoids using plastic, cuts costs)



Selecting suitable plants

- 150 indigenous species to choose from
- Some like full sun
- Most take some shade
- Not many need full shade
- Many local plants are drought-hardy once established
- Low shrubs and ground covers are best for nature strips



Nursery Display Gardens

- See plants grown on-site
- Local Bushland Reserves also great spots for ideas
- If you like something, take a photo (we can identify)
- Many species are not grown by major nurseries
- Low maintenance. No mowing, little weeding
- Some watering first season to establish plants



Design Hints for your area

- Use lawn, woodchips or gravel in heavy use areas
- Cluster main plantings for ease of maintenance
- Keep it simple: 5 – 8 species is ample, 3 – 5 of each
- Try local grasses and lawn substitutes. Try tussocks
- Use foliage colour contrast
- Pea family puts N in soil
- Daisy family attract useful insects such as pollinators



Best planting season?

- Autumn, winter, spring
- NOT summer (too hot)
- Ideal: topsoil moist but not cold
- Nursery opens in April (widest choice)
- Closes end October
- Summer is all about survival



Preparation and care

- **Always** dig in organic material (humus)
- NO fertilisers!
- Manage *hydrophobic soils* (use Wettasoil granules)
- Do some watering to establish plants
- Weed regularly
- Tidy plants after growing seasons (spring, autumn)



Plants for dry spots

- Sunny dry spots:
 - Spear Grass
 - Wallaby Grass
 - Tussock grass
 - Kangaroo Grass
 - Karkalla (*Carpobrotus*)
 - Common Everlasting
 - Mat-rush (*Lomandra*)
- Shady dry spots:
 - Flax-lily (*Dianella*)



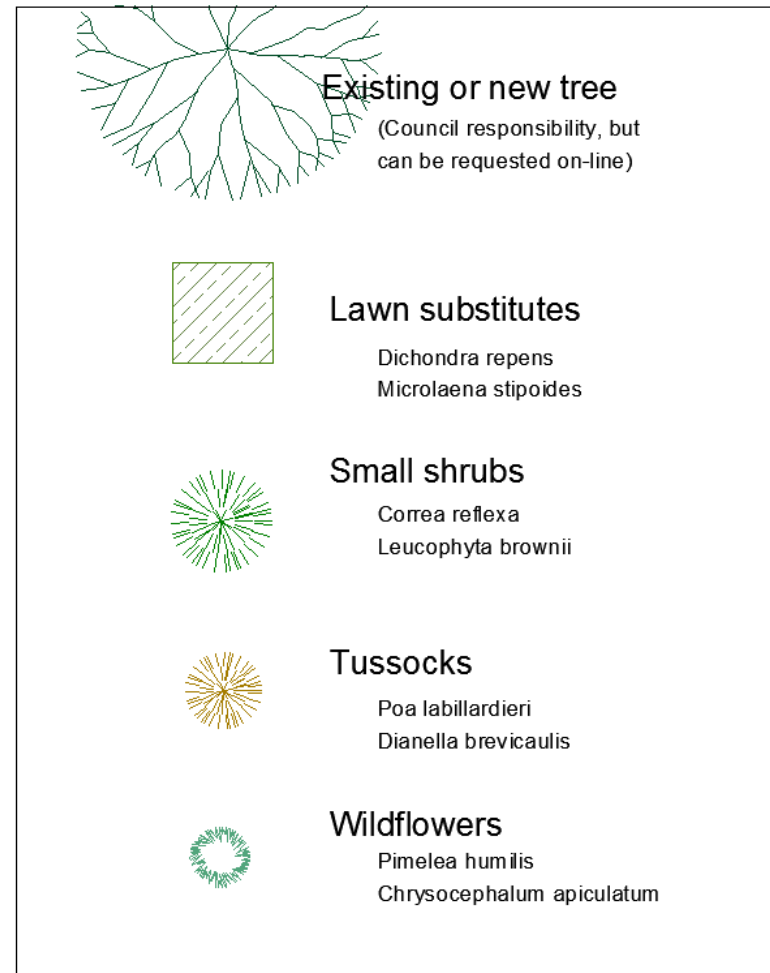
Plants for moist or shady spots

- Moist spots:
 - Native Violet
 - Lobelia
 - Knobby Club-sedge
- Shady spots:
 - Kidney Weed (*Dichondra*)
 - Running Postman
 - Raspwort (*Gonocarpus*)
 - NZ Spinach (*Tetragonia*)
 - Bracken fern

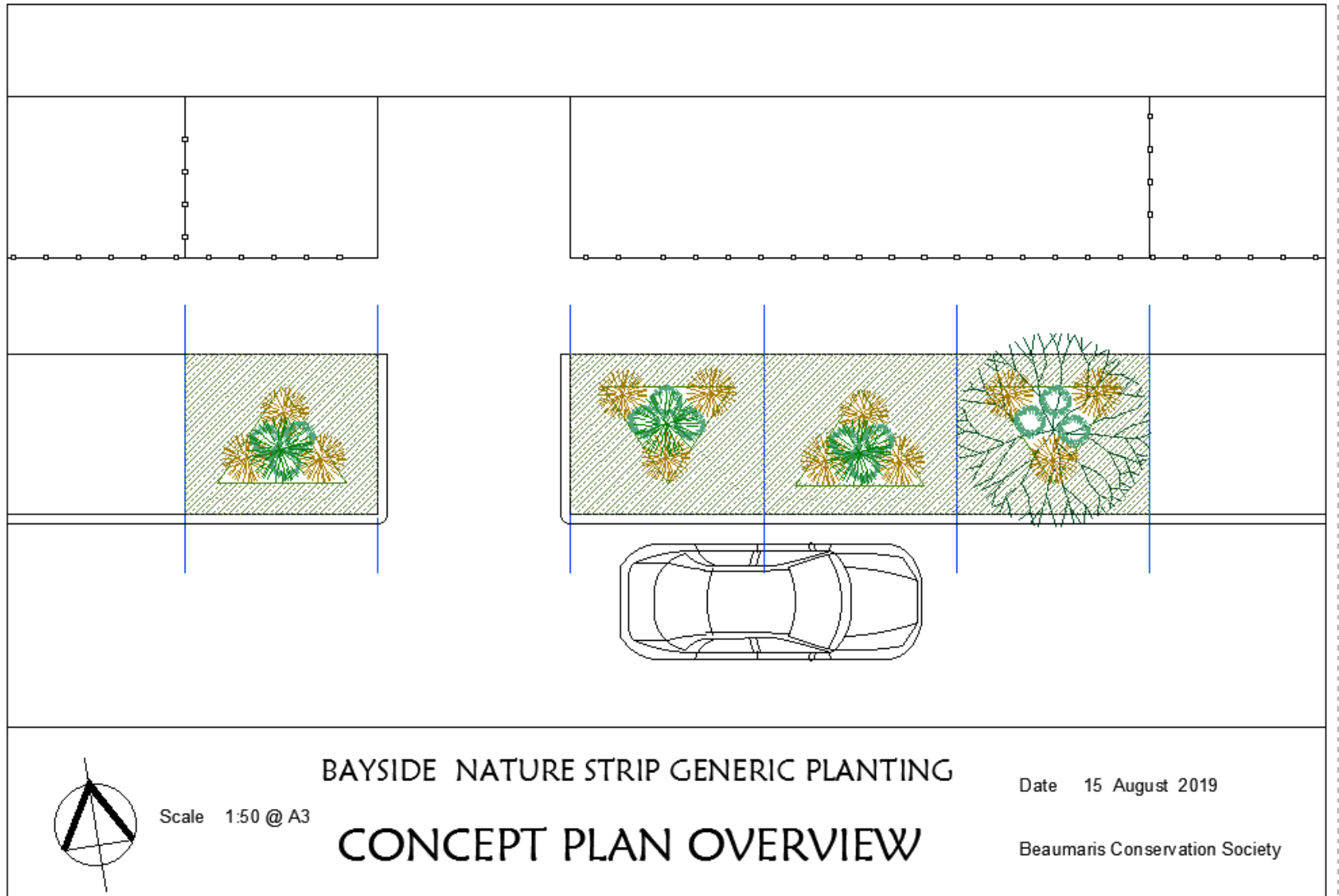


Generic nature strip design ideas

- Beaumaris Conservation Society can supply free
- Use lawn substitutes
 - Access areas
 - Utility spaces (bins etc)
- Clump plantings
 - Define spaces
 - Retain access routes
- Cut and paste to suit
 - Move sections to fit your driveway position etc
 - Blue grid lines every 3 m

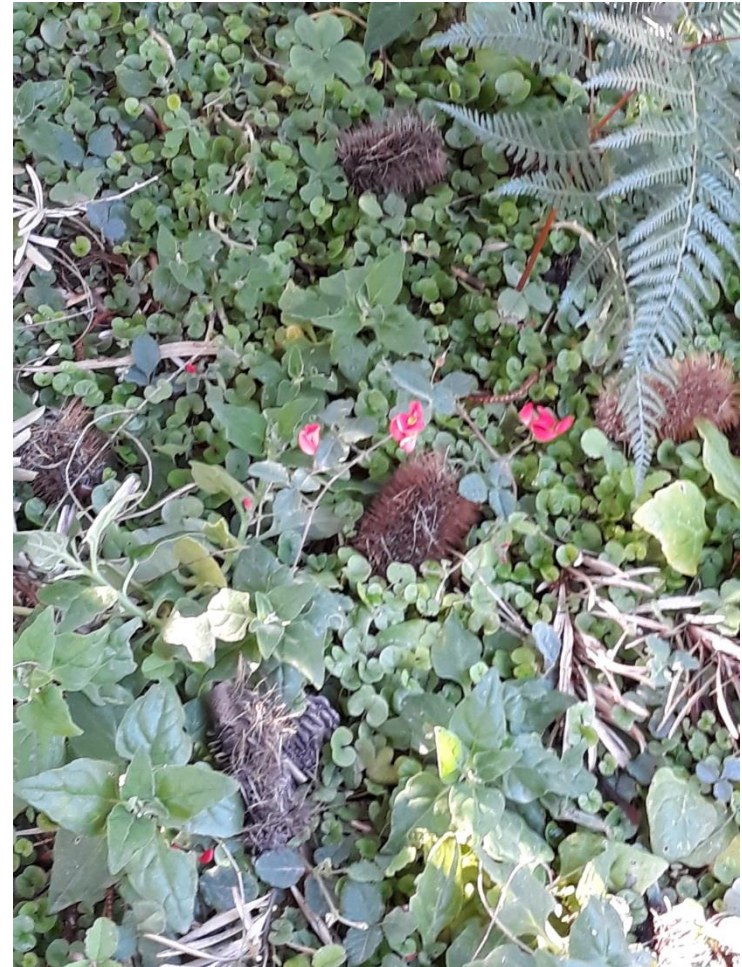


Example of the generic plan



Cost and implementation

- Council approvals
 - No fee
 - Process usually ~2 weeks
- One triangle at a time \$30
 - 10 plants x \$2.35 = \$23.50
 - 1 bag of potting mix \$6.50
- Lawn substitute plants
 - 4 plants per sq m will spread over time
 - 25 sq m = 100 plants
 - Wholesale discount price \$1.50 per tube = \$150



Some useful links

Bayside's Bushland Reserves (main source of plant material)

<https://www.facebook.com/sue.raverty/videos/4423750994365645>

Research background (Melbourne)

<https://theconversation.com/our-land-abounds-in-nature-strips-surely-we-can-do-more-than-mow-a-third-of-urban-green-space-124781>

Gardening Australia: Community Garden verge (Sydney)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6atwsbxWgs>