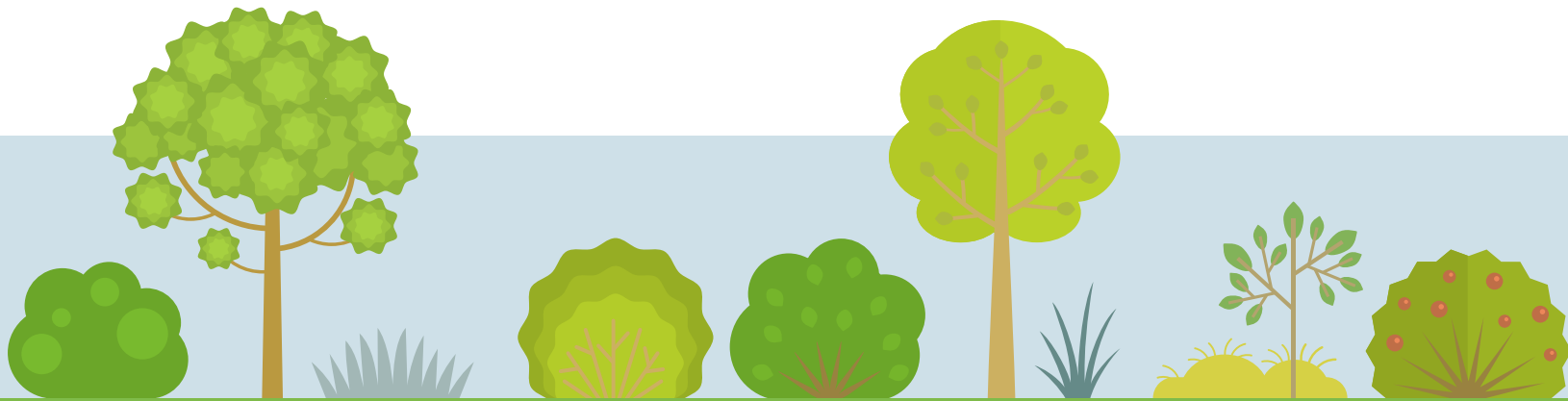
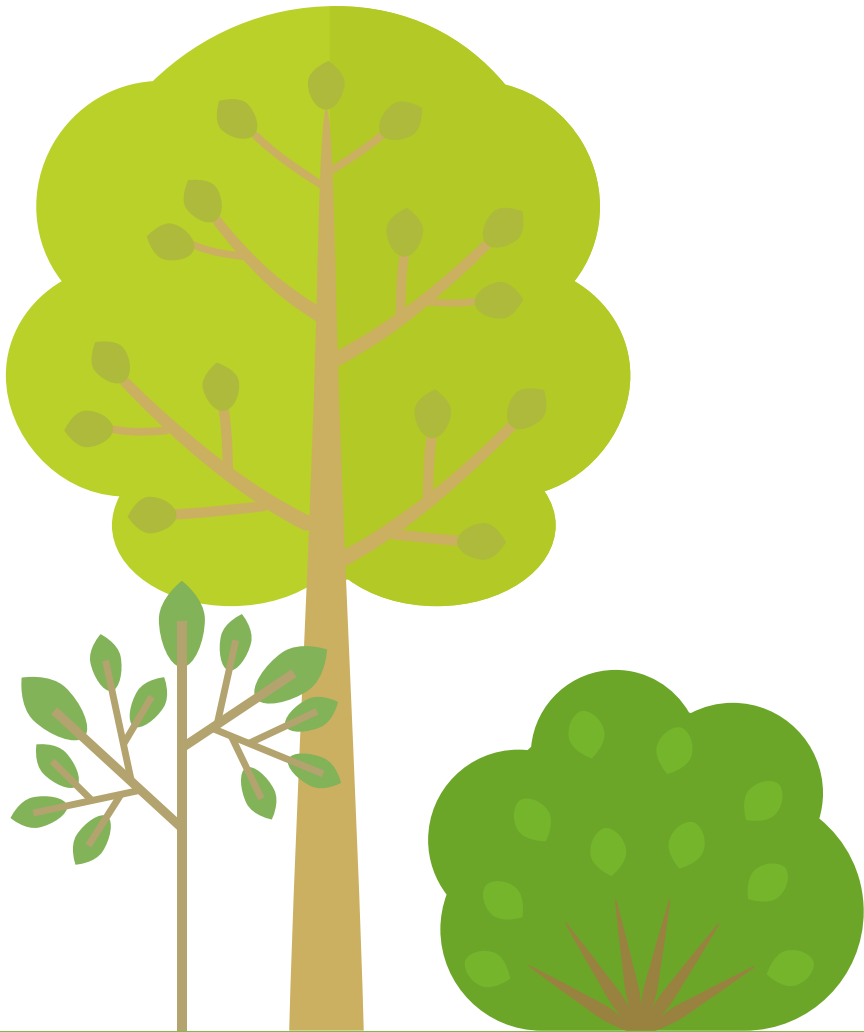


A greening guide for your nature strip

Design ideas and a planting guide to help you improve your nature strip and make the City of Victor Harbor more beautiful



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- 4** What you need to know before you start
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Why green up your nature strip?

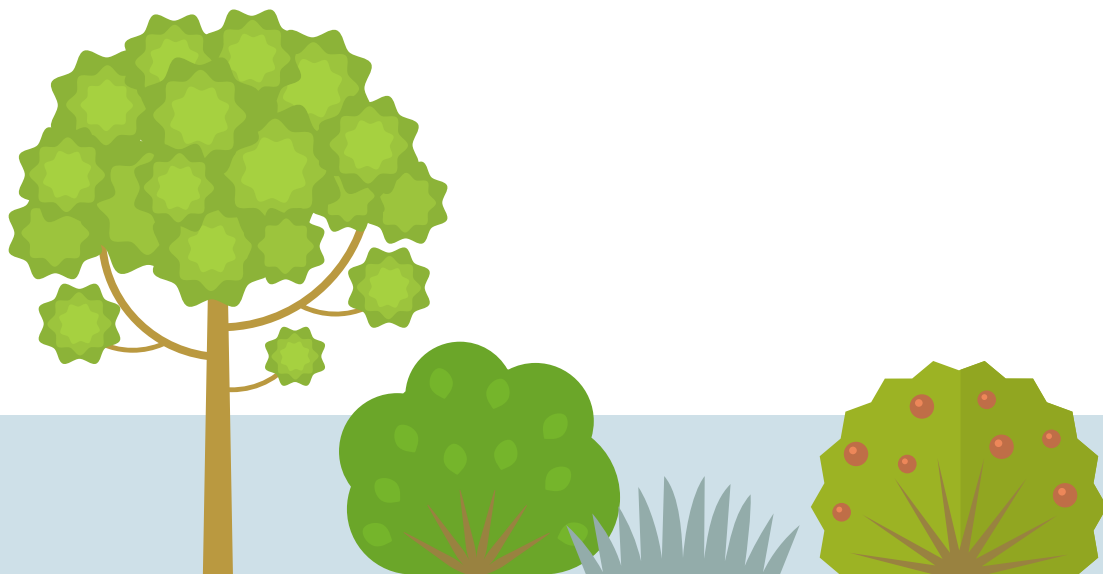
Plants are an attractive feature and can transform the nature strip outside your home. They create unique appeal to your individual property and contribute to the overall beauty of your street.

Street nature strips are spaces that can often be neglected, but by creating and maintaining a small garden on your nature strip, you can add a cool, green feel to your area. You will also improve urban biodiversity, storm water management, the health of your street trees and also support the local wildlife.

Nature strips need to be safe for pedestrians and road users while allowing space for your

bin collection. They are typically narrow spaces of land and this can make the selection of appropriate plants a challenge.

To help green up your nature strip, the City of Victor Harbor offers you this guide with examples of possible nature strip garden designs and plant choices suitable for our Council area.



What you need to know before you start

Your nature strip (or verge) is the area of land at the front of your property between your property boundary and the road.

Nature strip sizes can vary and corner block owners may also have a side nature strip. These strips of land provide an area for street trees and plantings while also allowing room for important public services to your property such as water, power and telephone/NBN.

We are encouraging residents in the City of Victor Harbor to plant and maintain nature strip gardens to increase the beauty of the streets and benefit the entire residential area. Landscaping a nature strip has many positive benefits that will improve livability for residents, health for street trees and the habitat for birds, bees and butterflies. Nature strips also absorb rainwater and act as natural air conditioners as the air moves through the moisture in plant leaves to provide coolness in summer. More plants in your neighbourhood can also encourage people to get outdoors, take short walks and enjoy the greenery.

Who owns the nature strip?

Nature strips are part of public road reserve and as such are owned by Council. It is the Council's responsibility to plant and maintain street trees and to ensure that the nature strip poses no threat to public safety.

The householder often assists with the upkeep and maintenance of the nature strip, and that is why we encourage you to landscape, beautify, maintain and take pride in your nature strip.

It is important that you complete an Application to Alter a Nature Strip form before you start. It is an easy process and the forms are available from the City of Victor Harbor website or the council office.



Some guidelines to help with the planning

Following a few guidelines when you plan to green up your nature strip will ensure the project will be suitable for the space and harmless for the street trees and users of the area.

Before you start

Complete an Application to Alter a Nature Strip form including the details of the changes you want to make to the nature strip. When Council receives your form, they will check it is a suitable plan for your site.

Council will let you know if they have any concerns about the plan such as insufficient space to get in or out of a parked car, or plant choices that may grow to obscure driver vision. Access to services is also an important concern for Council, or plants that might become weeds if not contained. This guide has plant choices and plans that will be quickly approved by Council to make the process easier.

Selecting your plants

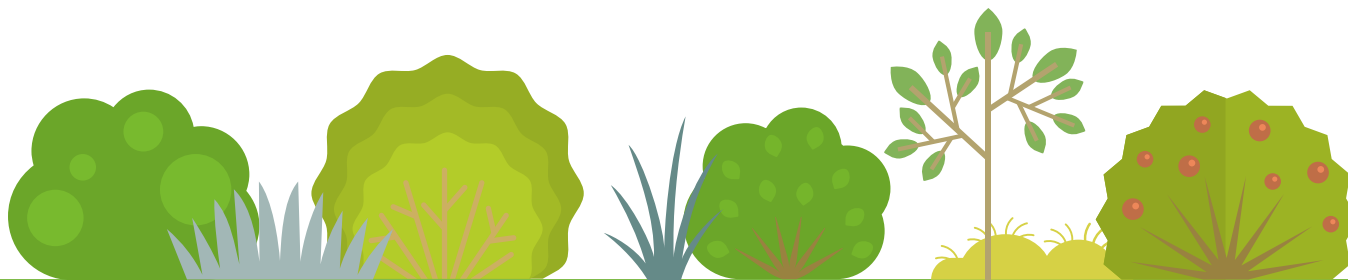
When choosing your plants, read the labels for an indication of the mature plant height. Plantings need to be kept lower than 600mm high to ensure that vehicles entering and leaving driveways have adequate vision in all directions. Keeping your plants regularly clipped to a lower height will also be helpful. We encourage you to choose local native species for your nature strip, especially if you live in the coastal zone or near a bio-diverse reserve. Plants that are sharp, thorny or poisonous will not be approved for planting on a nature strip.

Planting your nature strip

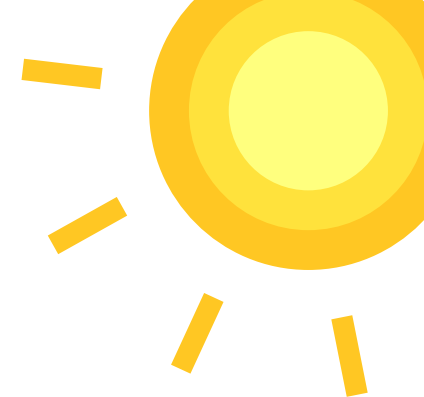
Once you have your approved application, make sure you or your landscape gardener contact Dial Before You Dig (1100) ahead of starting any digging in the soil. This is to avoid damage to services and expensive repair costs. During your landscape works, also be aware of the root system of any trees within the nature strip as they should not be cut or disturbed. Tools and other landscaping equipment should be kept off the road and footpaths to prevent accidents and to keep the area safe.

Maintaining your nature strip

After your planting is finished, it will be your responsibility to care for your new nature strip garden. It will need to be watered, kept free of weeds and pruned to maintain heights and spread. To prevent stormwater pollution, soil and mulch should be regularly swept from the footpath and gutters. A good nature strip design will help minimise soil or mulch loss during heavy rainfall. If your garden is well maintained, Council will be able to continue spraying weeds around the road verge without affecting your plants.



Design ideas and tips



The design of your nature strip will be influenced by your property position. Take a walk around your neighbourhood to see plants that work well on nearby nature strips and what designs others are using.

Consider the types of plants that will compliment your individual property. The use of different colours, leaf textures and plant heights will give a great look and grouping some plant types together can also add impact. Avoid using spikey and poisonous plants, or those that might grow to block vision or create tripping hazards for pedestrians.

You can sketch up your own design on paper or use one of the ideas in this guide. If you are able to draw your nature strip to scale that will help calculate the number of plants you will need.

Choosing the best plants

Before choosing your plants, consider that some plants require more care and maintenance than others. Be aware of how much sun your nature strip receives at different times of the day and how much time and effort you can dedicate to the care of your nature strip.

If you choose hardy waterwise plants or local natives, they should require less watering and minimal fertilising while also providing habitat for small native creatures. You will need to water your natives regularly in the first year, but once they are established, you will probably only need to water them during extremely hot weather.

While some flower stalks above 600mm high are not a safety issue, selecting plants that do not grow taller than that height is important to ensure road and footpath users have a clear line of vision.

Most plant species will be available from garden centres, although some may be unavailable at certain times of the year. The best time to plant your nature strip is in late autumn or winter when there is plenty of rain to soak into the soil and less heat that can kill off your young plantings.

This guide helps you with some plant suggestions, but you can also get ideas from visiting Nangawooka Flora Reserve, or visiting one of our local nurseries. On the Plant Selector Plus website by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, you can search by postcode to find plants suitable for your local area. Another excellent resource is the Coastal Gardens Planting Guide, produced by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges which is available online.

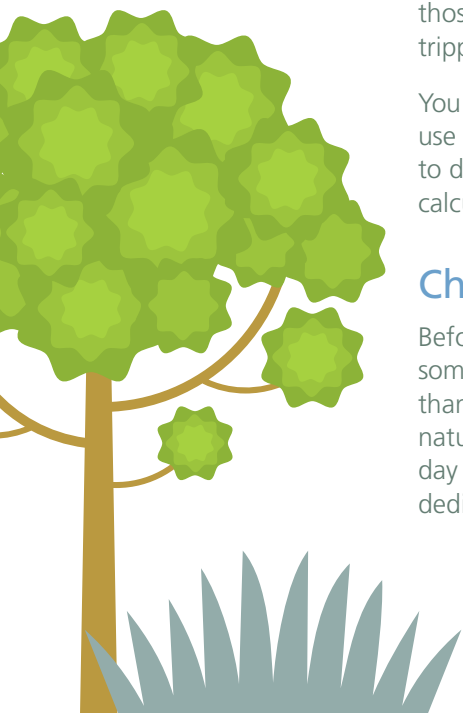
There are a number of garden centres in the City of Victor Harbor region that can offer supplies for your nature strip garden.

Examples of centres you can purchase native plants at are:

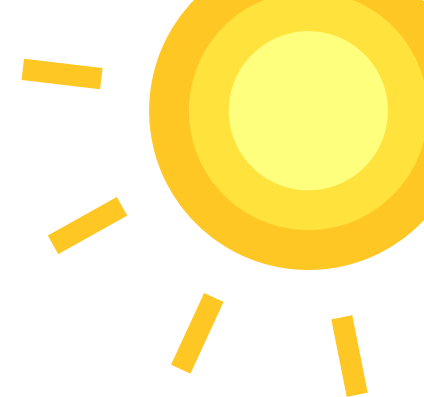
Morgan Park Garden Centre,
Welch Road, Victor Harbor

Bunnings Warehouse,
Lot 5 Adelaide Road, Victor Harbor

Stratco,
95 Victoria Street, Victor Harbor



Design ideas and tips

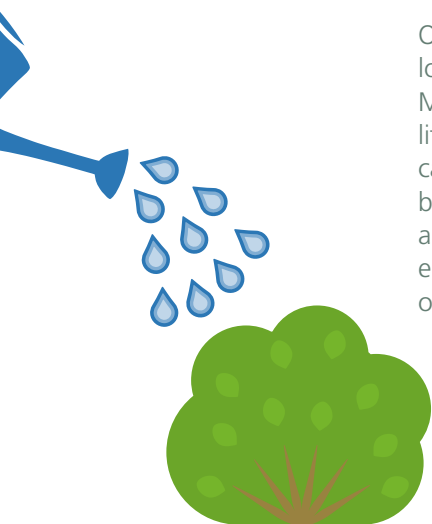


Keep it moist

Nature strip gardens absorb moisture, so they are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff while keeping the soil moist. If you shape the soil to have a small depression in the centre of your nature strip, this will encourage the nature strip to collect water during rainfall, reduce any mulch from dispersing onto the footpath and road, and it should make maintenance easier.

Sandy soil is common in the City of Victor Harbor, which can both benefit or challenge the success of your nature strip garden. You may also want to improve the fertility and water retention capability of your soil by adding compost and other soil enhancers.

Organic mulch helps to retain moisture even longer and reduce weeds in your garden. Mulches such as bark chip, pea straw and leaf litter are organic and readily available. You can also use gravel or pebbles as mulch, but be careful not to build any mulch up too high around your tree trunks (50 to 100mm is high enough), and to leave the footpath area free of loose mulch.



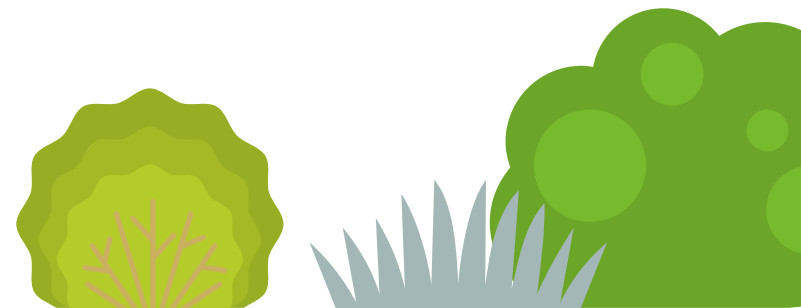
Access and safety

Your nature strip design should allow enough space for visitors to easily enter and exit in their car. Lawn edges or unplanted areas on the road side of your nature strip will allow passengers to get out of their vehicle without disturbing your plants and don't forget to leave space for your kerbside bins. Ideas for suitable designs that allow these access spaces are in this greening guide. Also, make sure you avoid creating trip hazards for road and footpath users if you use any pavers or other hard surface materials in your nature strip design.

Choosing artificial turf is not a good idea as it provides no cooling benefit for your trees and street. It is glued down, very hot underfoot in summer and surprisingly still needs regular weeding.

Most nature strips already have underground cables and pipes which may need to be accessed occasionally. Much of this work can be completed with little impact, but occasionally repairs to services will result in damage to your nature strip garden. You must be aware that utility providers always have the right of access whenever work needs to be carried out and a service box on your nature strip cannot change or block this access.

Your nature strip is also part of the streetscape and may need adjustments during road or footpath upgrades. Street trees need occasional maintenance and occasionally require replacement. For these reasons, it is important you complete an Application to Alter a Nature Strip form so that Council can check if any works are scheduled in the foreseeable future and let you know.

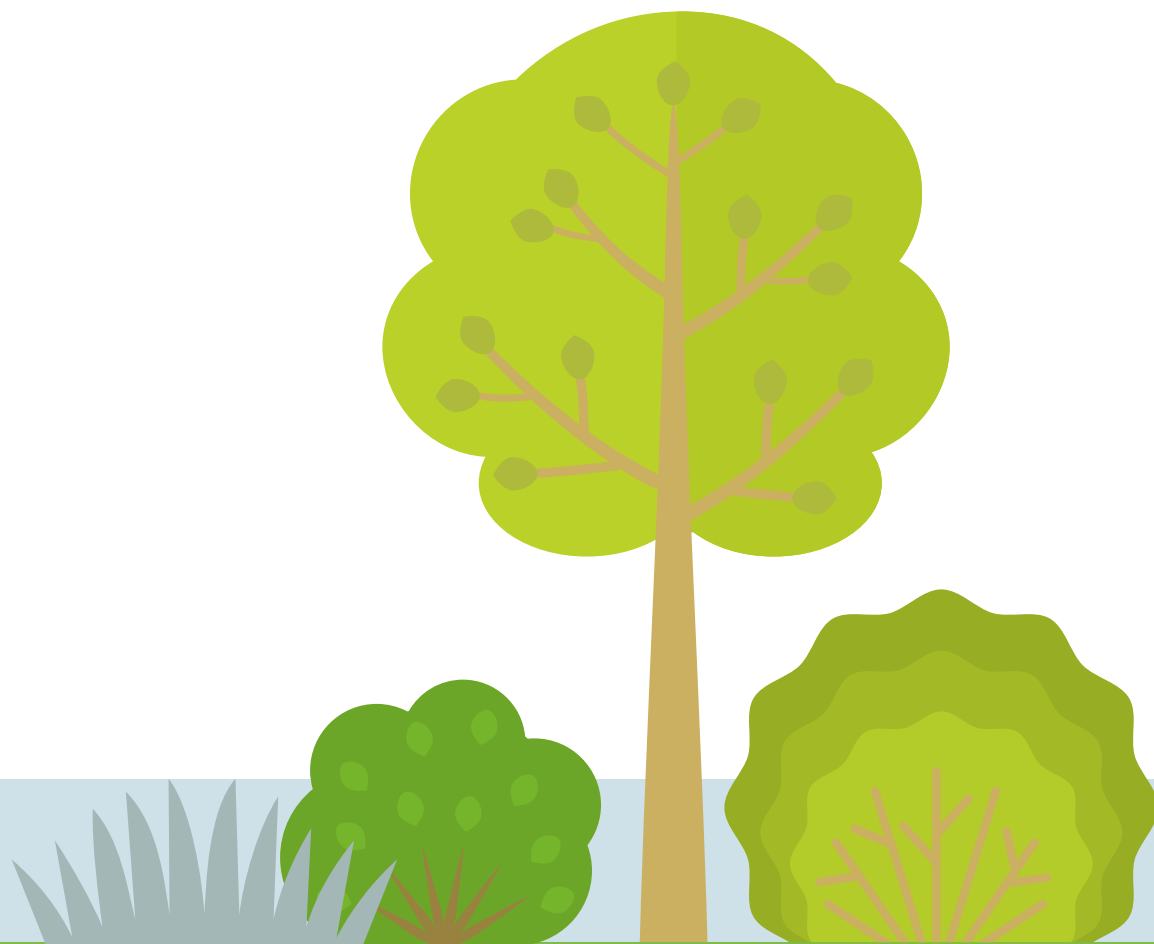


Nature Strip Garden Designs

The following design ideas are examples which meet the City of Victor Harbor nature strip garden guidelines.

You can copy, adapt or use these as inspiration for your own design. There may be slight differences between the garden design plans in this greening guide and the actual display street gardens but the general approach will be the same.

Before using one of these designs, check the length and width of your nature strip and adjust the number of plants according to the space you have. The suggested ideas for path and bin pad treatments can also be interchanged between the designs to suit your own location.



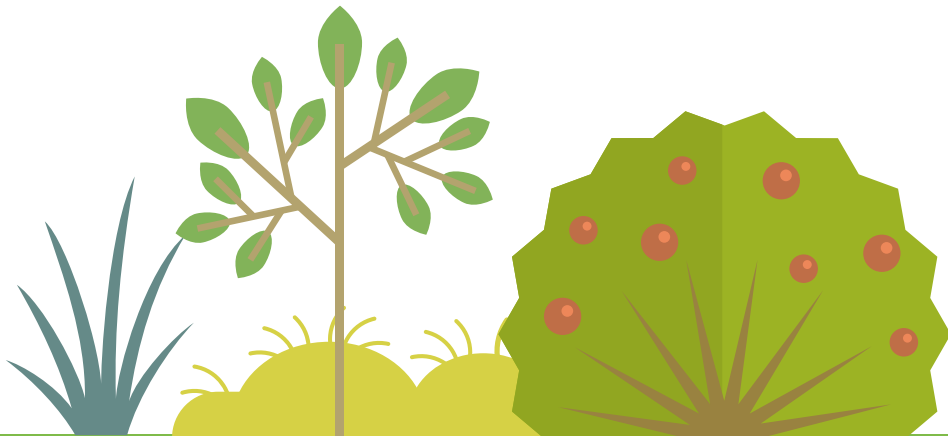
Formal Native

Light:
Dappled 

Maintenance:
  

Watering:


Formal gardens are mostly symmetrical with repeating patterns and often include hedges. Native species, such as *Westringia* or local *Olearia axillaris* can be successfully clipped and shaped to form hedges. This garden design uses *Callistemon* and *Grevillea* varieties that will add impact to a formal native garden and it includes plants that provide colourful flowers and contrasting foliage. Native plants are great for nature strips as they support local wildlife and many are drought tolerant.



Plants



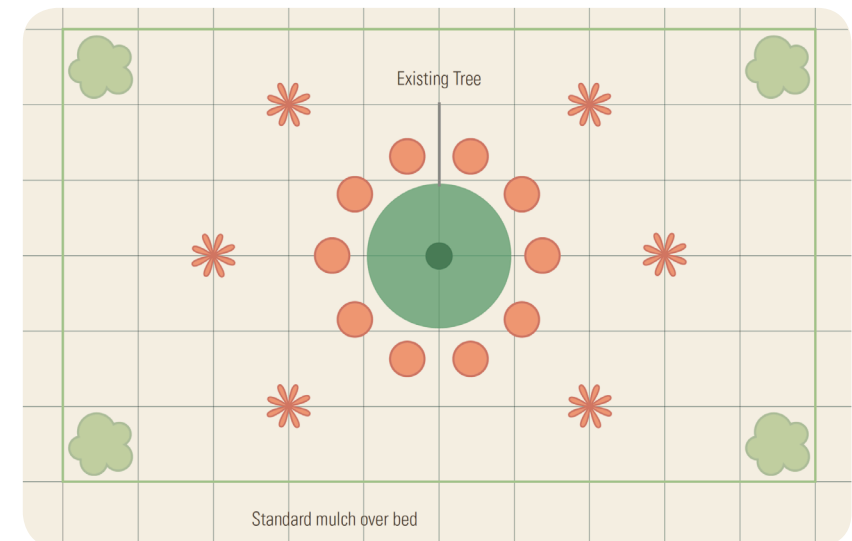

Westringia
'Wynabbbie Gem'
or local native **Coast**
Daisy Bush
Olearia axillaris




Lavender Grevillea
Grevillea lavandulacea




Callistemon
'Little John'
Callistemon viminalis



Herb Garden

Light:
Dappled/Part Sun ☀️

Maintenance:
👉👉

Watering:
💧

Herb gardens look great and also provide foliage for use in your home. When choosing plants for your herb garden, consider how the plants taste and smell. This nature strip design uses edible and ornamental herbs to create an attractive and functional garden. In this design, a Bay Tree is used as a feature in the middle, and you might also consider adding dwarf fruit trees to supply you with more produce.

Plants



Rosemary 'Tuscan Blue'
Rosmarinus officinalis



Sage
Salvia officinalis



Marjoram
Origanum majorana



Marigold
Tagetes



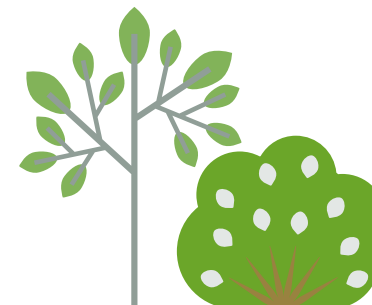
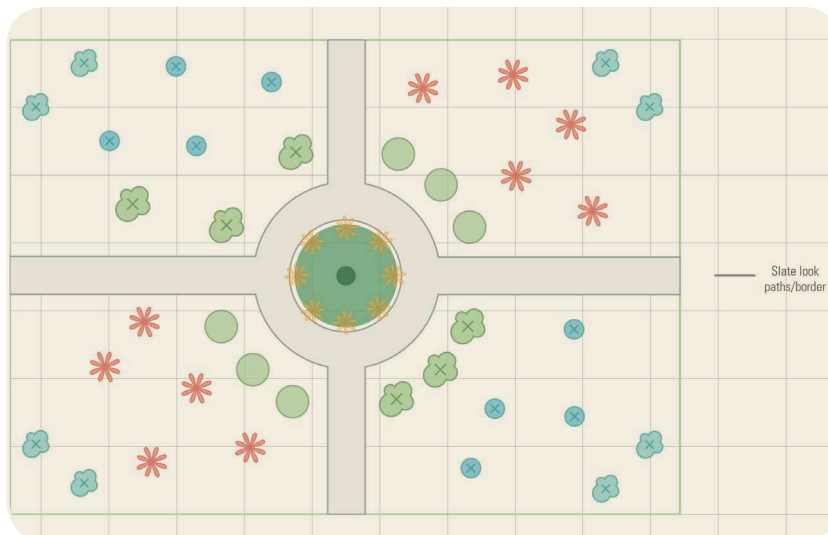
Pineapple Sage
Salvia elegans



Thyme
Thymus vulgaris



Bay Tree 'Little Imp'
Laurus nobilis





Drought Tolerant

Light:
Sunny ☀️

Maintenance:
👉

Watering:
💧

The City of Victor Harbor encourages the community to reduce water use, and that is made easier by creating a drought tolerant garden. It will also help reduce your impact on the environment. Once established, your drought tolerant garden will need minimal care and there are many distinctive looking plants suitable for these low maintenance gardens.

Plants



Lomandra 'Blue Ridge' or local Lomandra 'Woolly iron grass'
Lomandra leucocephala



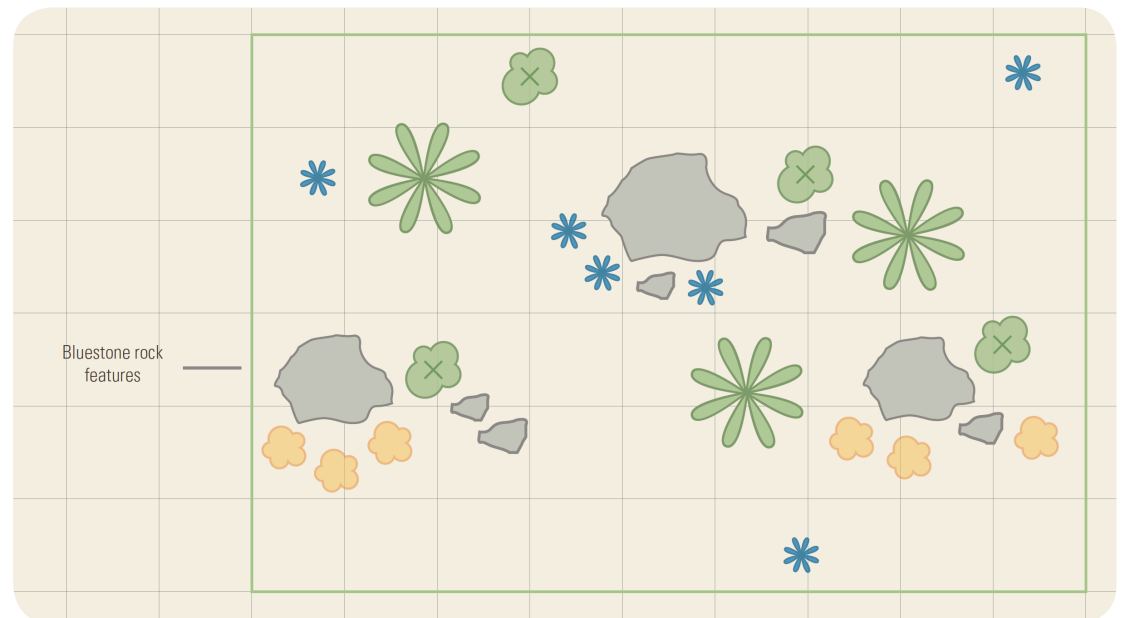
Grass Tree
Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata



Short-stem Flax-lily
Dianella brevicaulis



Conostylis 'Lemon Lights'
Conostylis setigera



Flower Garden/ Cottage Garden

Light:
Sunny ☀️

Maintenance:
👉👉👉

Watering:
💧💧💧

This cottage style garden suits a sunny nature strip, which will help the flowers bloom. The plant selection for this design is hardy, with many species flowering over many months. A flower garden will require a little more maintenance from you as the plants need removal of old flowers and some trimming to encourage repeat flowering from the bushes. You can also substitute some of the plants with local natives and will still achieve the desired look of a flower garden. Ask at your local nursery for those native alternatives.

The pathway in the plan, which enhances the flower garden, could be made from stepping stones or wooden sleepers. You can find an example of a Cottage Garden at Grosvenor Gardens, Victor Harbor.

Plants



Salvia species



Pelargonium species



Native Bluebell
Wahlenbergia spp



Society Garlic
Tulbaghia violacea



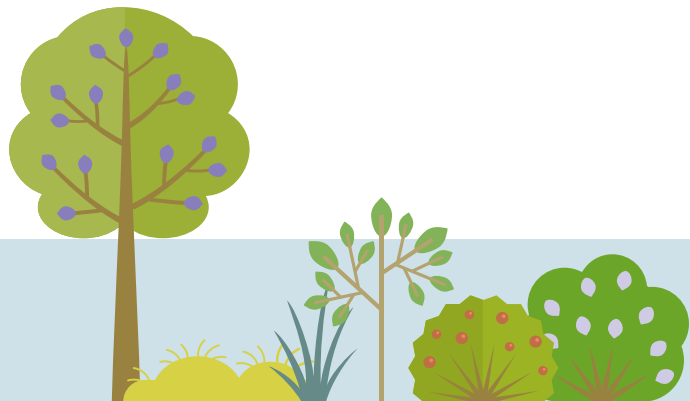
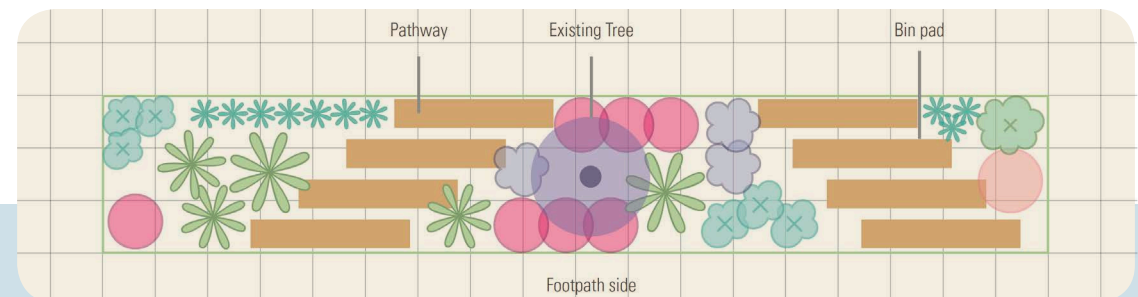
Blue Marguerite
Felicia amelloides



Snow-in-Summer
Cerastium tomentosum



Butterfly Bush
Gaura lindheimeri
(sterile cultivars only)



Butterfly and Bee

Light:
Part Sun ☀️

Maintenance:
👉👉

Watering:
💧

Butterflies need food and shelter during their caterpillar stage and after they become a butterfly. Most of the suggested plants in this design are local natives and suitable food plants for them. This is a simple, natural nature strip garden layout with flowering plants to keep the bees happy as well. Many of these plants are available from your local community nurseries.

Plants



Creeping Boobialla
Myoporum parvifolium



Native Fuchsia
Correa reflexa



Smooth Riceflower
Pimelea glauca



Native Lilac
Hardenbergia violacea



Wallaby-grass
Rytidosperma
Austrodanthonia species



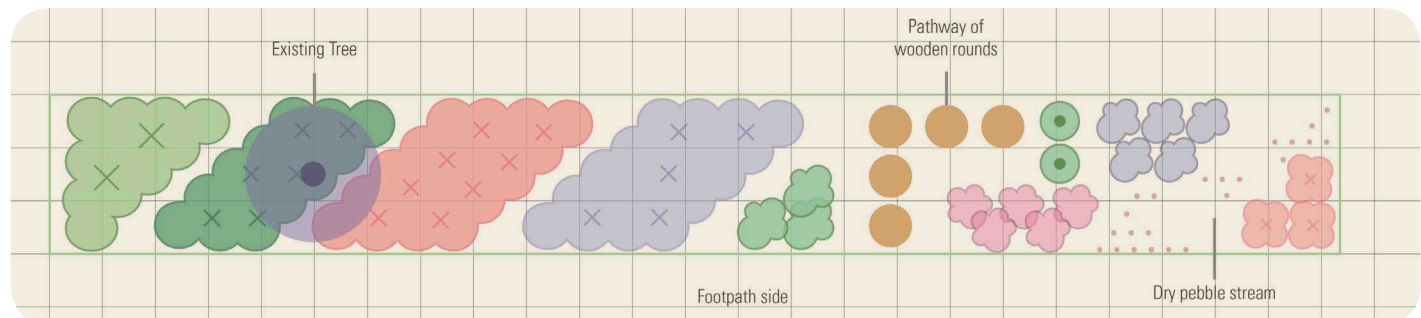
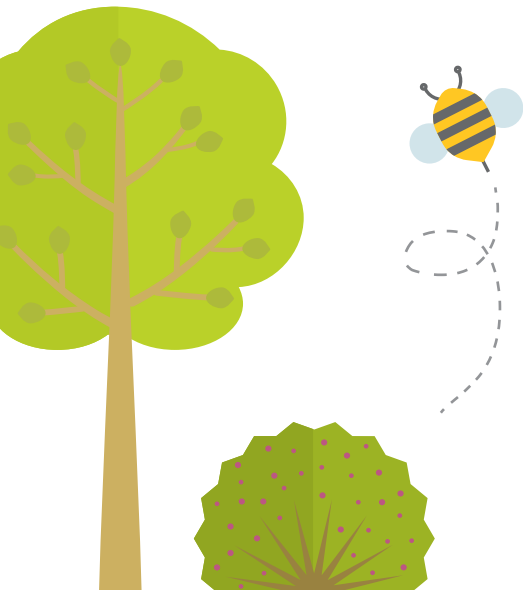
Seaberry Saltbush
Rhagodia candolleana
ssp. candolleana



Common Everlasting
Chrysocephalum
apiculatum



Running Postman
Kennedia prostrata



Local Coastal

Light:
Dappled 

Maintenance:


Watering:


A relaxed coastal garden can be quite informal when planted, but is also effective if the plantings are grouped to create a striking effect. This design and the plant choices do not compromise on style, and offer resilience by coping well with the local weather and sea air.

The Coastal Gardens Planting Guide produced by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges is also helpful when choosing the best plants for a local coastal landscape. You can also find examples of local coastal gardens at Nangawooka Flora Reserve, and Bridge Terrace adjacent to the Victor Harbor Yacht Club.

Plants



Austral Trefoil
Lotus australis



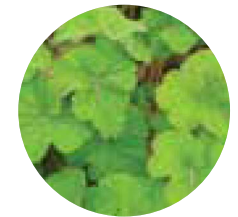
Muntries
Kunzea pomifera



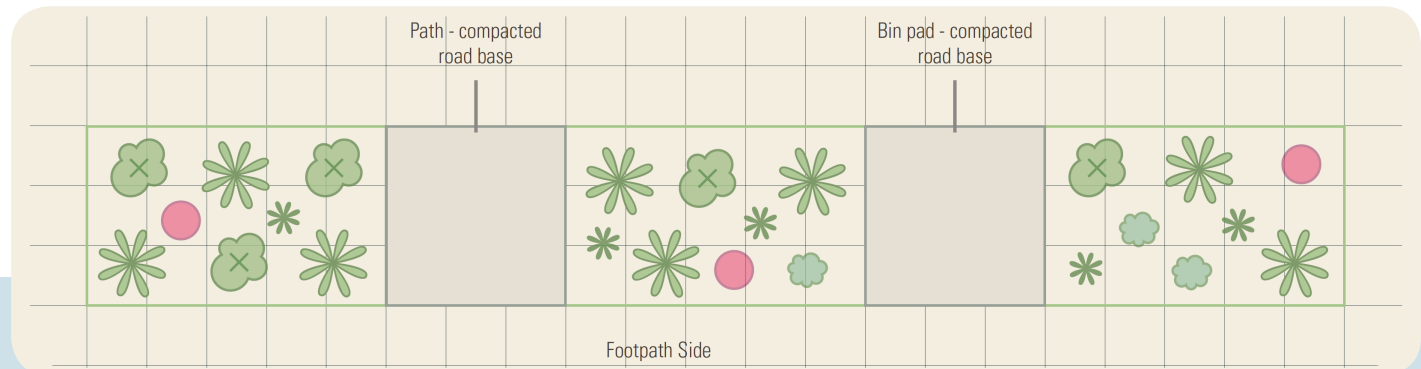
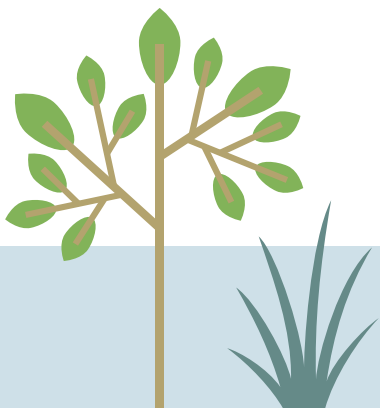
Knobby Club-rush
Ficinia nodosa



Ruby salt-bush
Enchylaena tomentosa



Austral Storks-bill
Pelargonium australe



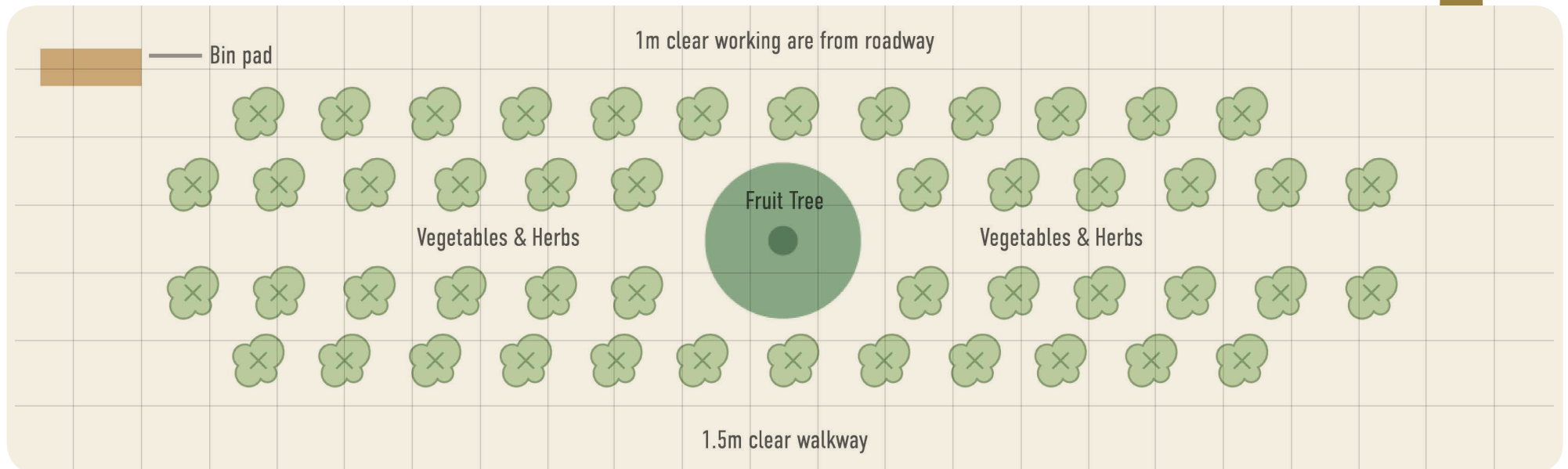
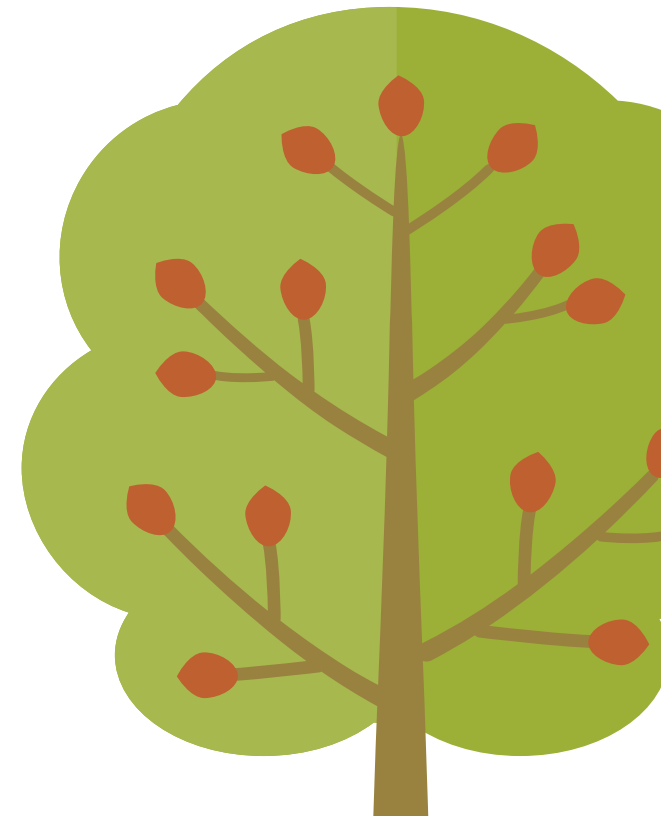
Fruit and Vegetables

Light:
Sunny ☀️

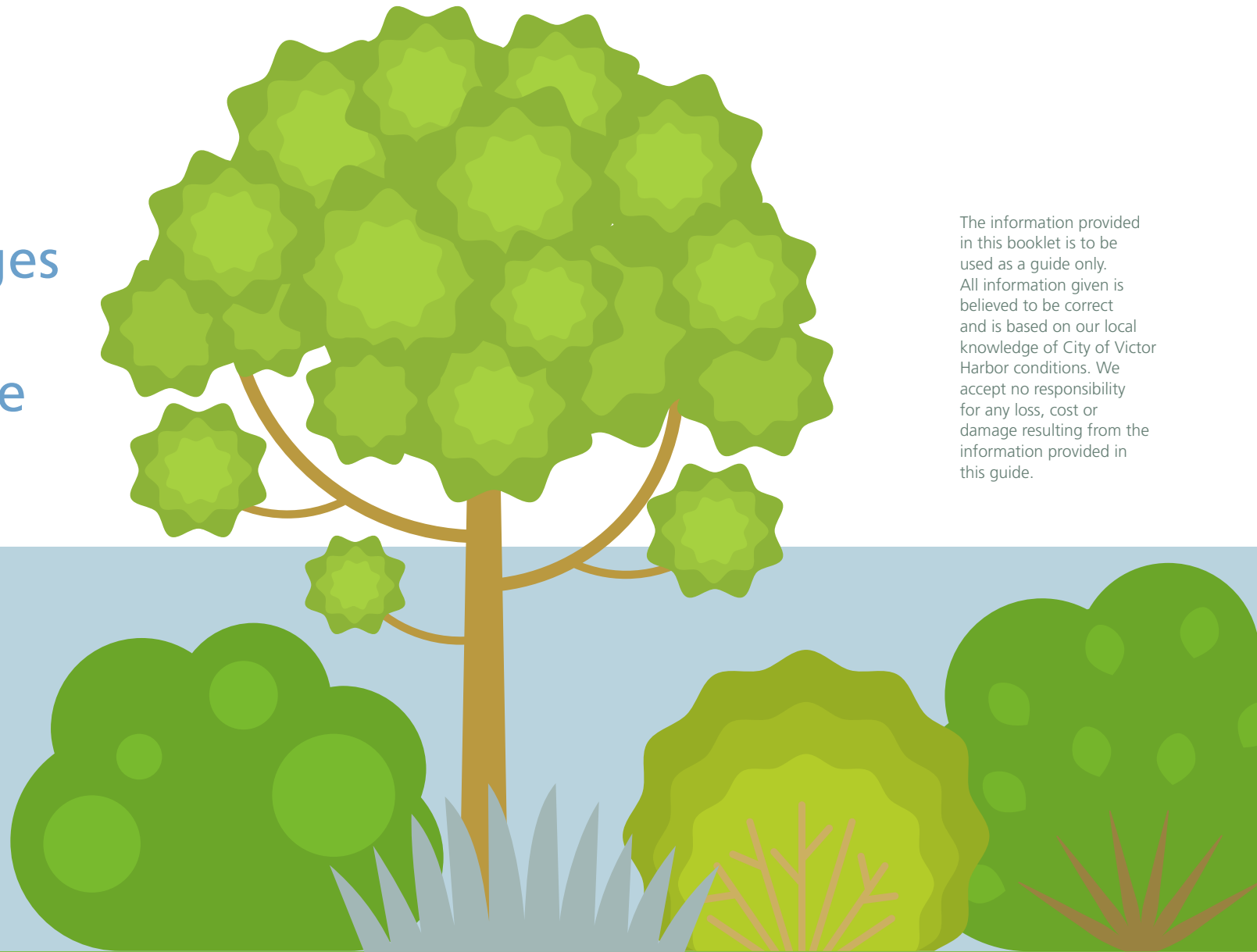
Maintenance:
👉👉

Watering:
💧💧💧

Fruit and vegetable gardens look great and also provide foliage for use in your home. This nature strip design uses edible fruits and vegetables to create an attractive and functional garden. If you are interested in developing a fruit and vegetable garden we suggest you discuss with your neighbours about the best varieties and sharing (remembering that a nature strip is community land and you may not have exclusive use of any produce grown on your nature strip). A local team approach will also help with maintenance when you are away.



We hope this guide encourages you to create a beautiful nature strip garden



The information provided in this booklet is to be used as a guide only. All information given is believed to be correct and is based on our local knowledge of City of Victor Harbor conditions. We accept no responsibility for any loss, cost or damage resulting from the information provided in this guide.

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