

Public Question Time

Question from Celine Lee

What are the Council thoughts of kerbside gardening? Is it possible to legalize kerbside gardening? There are already several councils across Australia that have allowed this, can Port Phillip consider this suggestion with urgency.

Response

We have been working since last year on developing guidelines for edible kerbside gardens to work in conjunction with the existing Nature Strip Guidelines. If the edible street garden guidelines are adopted by Council, this will allow for kerbside gardening of all types in the City of Port Phillip.

The edible gardens guidelines are being developed with support and assistance from many departments of Council, including City Design, Waste Management, Assets and Property, Sustainability, Community, Traffic, Accessibility and Parks, to ensure they are well considered. This will include provision for compost bins ancillary to gardens. We anticipate the guidelines to be ready for a Council briefing shortly.

The existing Nature Strip Garden Guidelines, relate to non-edible in-ground gardens.

The guidelines can be found [here](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/nature_strips.htm). www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/nature_strips.htm

Here is some further information on the existing gardening opportunities currently in Port Phillip:

- **Licensed Community Gardens**

These are generally provided with gated access for members, containing a series of plots that are allocated or in some circumstances shared. These gardens are managed by incorporated groups or in some circumstances are attached to leased community facilities.

- **Nature Strip Gardens**

Council has guidelines for non-edible planting on Nature Strips. These guidelines apply to in-ground planting in Nature Strips. The edible street garden guidelines will apply to raised garden beds in Nature Strips, however non-edible plants can also be planted in the raised garden beds.

- **Garden Plots within Parks**

There are several raised garden beds in Council's parks and reserves. These are not licenced, are not fenced and are fully accessible to the broader community. These gardens will only be installed as part of Council's Parks and Open Space upgrades, and are considered on a case by case basis, where there has been an identified need in the local area through Council's 'Public Space Strategy' or specific park master planning process.

- **Gardens on Private Land / Land Owned and Managed by Other Authorities**

Some gardens operate on church or school grounds, on housing estates or sites under the control of other authorities. Gardens may also be privately owned, such as on vacant land that may be waiting on another use or development. In these circumstances, agreements must be directly negotiated between gardeners and

landowners. Gardeners should check with Council's planning team to confirm if a permit is required.

- **Composting in public spaces**

Port Phillip depot has compost and worm farms available that can be used in approved street gardens and ancillary to Nature Strip Gardens. You can also order Green Cones for nature strip gardens, and provide your own for laneways.

- **Commercial Footpath Trading**

Businesses such as cafés or restaurants that install planter boxes as part of an outdoor area, must follow the guidelines for plants and planter boxes in the City of Port Phillip Footpath Trading Guidelines.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*