

Boulevard Gardening Declaration Guidelines

Note: These requirements apply to a residential boulevard garden and accompany the Declaration. The Licence of Occupation has separate requirements and a separate permit application.

1. Eligibility
 - 1.1. To be eligible to participate in the Residential Boulevard Gardening Program, the gardener must meet the following requirements:
 - 1.1.1. Be an Occupant or an Owner with a residential boulevard adjacent to the private property. This is the same space that you would normally be responsible to maintain/mow next to your residence.
 - 1.1.2. The gardener must be over 18 years of age. Gardeners under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.
 - 1.1.3. Ensure the garden and all gardening activities comply with the Community Standards Bylaw and the Traffic Bylaw at all times.
2. Boulevard Trees
 - 2.1. If your boulevard has trees, you must follow the minimum protection distance as specified in the Tree Protection Zone. The gardener is responsible for completing their due diligence, which is not limited to conducting a preliminary site inspection, creating a site plan, notifying neighbours, and determining the minimum protection distance from trees.
3. Digging
 - 3.1. "Low-impact digging" is permitted and refers to digging to depths not exceeding 5.1cm (2 inches). Additionally, the gardener is permitted to add 5.1cm (2 inches) of clean, garden mix soil or organic mulch to the existing grade. Cedar mulch or artificially coloured mulch is not permitted, as they can harm City trees. The combination of digging and addition of clean, garden mix soil or organic mulch must be less than or equal to 10.2cm (4 inches).
 - 3.1.1. Digging deeper than 5.1cm (2 inches) is considered "disruptive digging" and requires the gardener to apply for a Licence of Occupation. Note that the Licence of Occupation has a separate application process. Further, there may be additional requirements for disruptive digging such as contacting Utility Safety Partners before gardening can be started.



Figure 1: Maximum 5.1cm (2 inches) of digging

- 3.2. Digging can only be conducted with a hand trowel (no shovels, grating, rototilling, etc) to ensure minimal impact to our trees and underground utilities.
 - 3.2.1. No motorized equipment is permitted.
 - 3.2.2. Take extra care working on the boulevard, as public trees and utilities share the space.
4. Obstructions and Location
 - 4.1. Gardening is not permitted on other public spaces, such as centre medians or on roadsides that the City of Edmonton mows.
 - 4.2. No garden shall obstruct or partially obstruct sidewalks, pathways, or roadways. Gardening amenities, accessories, and features shall not pose danger or create additional hazards to pedestrians, cyclists, parked vehicles, or City and utility workers.
 - 4.3. Gardening shall be located at a minimum distance of 1.5m (5ft) from all fixed objects (fire hydrants, utility boxes, light poles, bus stops, mail boxes, etc.)
 - 4.4. To ensure visibility at these locations, and ensure safety of drivers/cyclists/pedestrians, gardens must be at least:
 - 4.4.1. 5.0 m (16 ft 5 inches) from the corner of an uncontrolled intersection.
 - 4.4.2. 10.0 m (32 ft 9 inches) from the corner of a controlled intersection (stop/yield sign or signals) or an intersection with a marked pedestrian crosswalk.

**This clause excludes gardens that solely include alternative ground cover and low growing plants.*
5. Planters
 - 5.1. Planter specifications
 - 5.1.1. Round planters have a maximum outer diameter of 27.9cm (11 inches) or less.



Figure 2: Maximum diameter for round planters

- 5.1.2. Square planters' base has a maximum cross section dimensions of 27.9cm x 27.9cm (11 inches x 11 inches)



Figure 3: Maximum dimensions for square planters

- 5.1.3. Total combined height of the planter and plant height is less than 1.0 m (3.3ft) tall.

- 5.1.4. The coverage area for your planters is 20% of your boulevard's area:
For example, a boulevard with an area of 50m² would be permitted for 10 planters. 20% x 50m² = 10 planters



Figure 4: Maximum 1.0m height for planter and plants.

6. Prohibited: the following are prohibited on the boulevard:
 - 6.1. Application of pesticides or fertilizers
 - 6.2. Planting of trees or shrubs
 - 6.3. Permanent structures
 - 6.4. In-ground irrigation systems
 - 6.5. Raised bed structures (bottomless with retaining walls)
 - 6.6. Artificially coloured mulch
 - 6.7. Large Ornamentals (patio umbrella, bird baths etc.)
 - 6.8. Park benches
 - 6.9. Signs and vertical stakes
 - 6.10. Gravel or decorative rock
 - 6.11. Stepping stones and hardware
7. Permissible: The following are permitted on the boulevard:
 - 7.1. Flower plugs
 - 7.2. Ground covering plants
 - 7.3. Seeds sown directly into the existing ground
 - 7.4. Organic wood mulch
 - 7.5. Lasagna gardening