

Screen Name	Question	Question Details	Answer
JJ123	Can I confirm a minor typo: On p.7 the 4th bullet point down says "... raised garden box". Shouldn't that say "raised planter box"?	As per subject - thanks.	
Heather	angle parking and raised garden beds as safety barriers	Does the 1 metre clearance apply if there is angle parking in front of the property? We have raised garden beds on the nature strip right in front of the gate to prevent small children running out of the child care and out onto the road ? There is plenty of clear nature strip to accommodate all 3 large commercial waste bins. Are we able to organise a site visit to ensure a safe and inclusive solution to a unique situation?	Thanks for your question. We have had a few queries about nature strips and angle parking and will be considering how we can modify the draft. The childcare centre is a unique situation, please contact us via assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we can discuss further.
Kirsten	Planter box on Nature Strip	I would like to know the new draft guidelines provided to the community with information on nature strips, specifically in relation to the following: - how raised planter boxes can be used; and - where planter boxes can be installed.	The draft guidelines include the following information about raised planter boxes: Raised planter boxes are allowed on residential nature strips if the area between the property boundary and the kerb is over 3.1m wide. The minimum width provides adequate clearances on the footpath and from the road, and allows space for a 0.6m wide planter box. The standards for a raised planter box are: Planter boxes must be placed outside the residential property occupied by the nature strip gardener. A 1m clearance from the edge of the kerb and 1.5m clear footpath area must be maintained. They must not be affixed to any footpath, building, street furniture, pole or other structure. Planter boxes must have a minimum height of 0.3m, be no higher than 0.9m and no longer than 1.8m. Planter boxes must be located a minimum 1.0m away from tree trunks. On a grass surface, a geotextile layer (tough fabric designed to retain soil, available from hardware stores)

			<p>must be placed at the bottom of the planter box to prevent soil and debris flowing out of the planter box. On an asphalt, concrete or paved surface the planter box must have a sealed bottom to prevent soil and debris flowing out of the planter box and to maintain the pavement surface. We would love to hear your views and encourage you to give us feedback through the survey below.</p>
VictorPerton	Tree Canopy and Planting to mitigate climate change	What are the council policy and action plans for tree plantings? Per cent canopy cover target? Urban forest management?	<p>The Greening Port Phillip Strategy is Council's Urban Forest Strategy. The City also has a Street Tree Planting Program which prioritises street tree and park tree planting over 2017–2022, giving priority to streets that have 20% or less canopy coverage. Both documents can be found here for your information: https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-service...</p>
JJ123	Can the 'Share your Feedback' feature be made public (upon submitting) like on other Have Your Say topics? (+2 more Q)	<p>or perhaps at least have the option to be made public? reason: often better ideas come others' ideas.</p> <p>2nd Q: can images be attached (or is that only via email)? I realise the Engagement Report (ER) ultimately include these comments.</p> <p>3rd Q: Will the ER include the Q&A? (there's a lot of good info in there).</p> <p>Thanks and Happy New Year.</p>	<p>Hi JJ123, thanks for your questions. We're happy to share ideas and images, so please feel free to email us at assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au with your ideas or any images you'd like to share with us. We won't publish individual feedback we receive until after a consultation closes, for a few reasons, but the main reason is so we don't risk inadvertently influencing (or being perceived as trying to influence) the direction of the conversation. Our engagement reports will always include a summary analysis of all the feedback tools used, including our Q&A tool, and we will always provide a verbatim record of all qualitative feedback we've received. If you've got other suggestions for how we might be able to improve the engagement experience for you and others, we'd love you to share them with us at engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au</p>

JJ123	Data, info and supporting reports / documents - and I'm also out of characters to type the question properly. Could that be rectified please?	<p>Hi,</p> <p>In earlier responses, it was mentioned that:</p> <p>1/ Council is collecting some data around injuries, tree health (loss) etc,</p> <p>2/ Various departments or teams (8 were listed) within Council have contributed to the Draft NSG V1.</p> <p>Can that info 1 and 2 be shared prior on this page (well prior to 13 Feb please)</p> <p>For 2/ I understand some of it will be verbal, but where it's not mentioned in the Draft, but is important background information, it will help future submis</p> <p>Could you indicate approx when?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question and we're sorry we have not been able to get this information to you so far. We're currently working on gathering the data and information but due to the way these issues are currently recorded, this process involves sifting through individual work orders. As a result, we won't be able to make this information available before the consultation closes. We are investigating how to make these issues easier to record so we can access this information easier in the future. Unfortunately, there is a default word limit built into the platform, but we'll pass on this feedback to the vendor. Please note you can also email questions to the project team via ASSIST@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we will get back to you.</p>
JJ123	Can I please confirm if you will be re-issuing an updated Draft (V.02) of the Nature Strip Guidelines prior to 13 Feb?	If yes, could you please indicate when?	We will be waiting until the end of the community consultation before making any amendments to the guidelines, so that all the feedback we receive can be considered.
Indika	Evidence of damage to tree roots? It's very frustrating there is not enough space (characters) to write the question ?	<p>The very large Plane tree in front of my house was near to totally dead and it was marked to be removed. Then we started to create the NS garden and with all the care and nutrients the tree came to alive and now it's thriving. It certainly seems that the water and the fertiliser that we fed to the NS garden helped to come to return this magnificent tree back to life . This is quite opposite to the discussion papers and I believe that NS garden definitely saved this old tree. So I would like</p>	<p>Thanks for getting in touch with your experience. It is difficult to comment on a specific situation without knowing more information about the tree. If you would like to send us further details and discuss your experience with this particular tree, feel free to email your contact details to OSpace@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we'll get in touch. Trees have a few different types of roots each with their own functions. All trees need access to air around the base. Gas exchange (movement of oxygen and carbon dioxide) occurs in the area where the trunk and roots meet. Soil, mulch and plants can impede the passage of gases in this area, which can result in decay/rot or cause a reduction in tree health over a period of years. When gas exchange is blocked and/or this area is kept moist the woody roots can rot over time, whilst</p>

			growing new non-woody roots that improve the absorption of water and nutrients to the tree. These trees can look deceptively healthy, as the new roots are feeding the tree, while the woody structural roots are decaying. This is a recognised arboricultural issue, and Council has a duty to ensure the safety of the community by preventing unnecessary tree failures where they could have been avoided.
Indika	Why was there zero consultation with all the Nature Strip Gardeners? Why didn't you reach out to the specific nature strip gardeners ?	The council workers are everywhere around the streets and yet I believe at least 90% if indeed any of the residents who have worked tirelessly to create curb side gardens have been informed. Why is this? I don't believe this is being done in the spirit of neighbourhood joy, fairness nor democracy. Council knows exactly where the local N.S gardens are; have you reached out to any of these (specific)residents? I have a nature strip garden and I didn't know about this process or the discussion.	As a nature strip gardener, we're glad you've joined the conversation. We want to hear from everyone including current and future gardeners so we can strike a good balance in the guidelines. We've received feedback about an opportunity to meet with interested community members in person. We've extended the consultation period until 13 February 2022 and we're currently finalising details for an in-person opportunity in January to hear your thoughts, ideas and concerns. Please click 'follow' at the top of this page and you will be notified as soon as these plans are finalised. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss the consultation process in more detail you can email your contact details to engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we'll get in touch.
Carlo Gabriele		Gardens already planted in the nature strips will need to be modified accordingly to this new regulation?	In some cases, existing nature strip gardens may need to be modified to align with the updated guidelines. We'll work with you to see how this can be done. Removing a garden would be a last resort option if we were unable to meet safety and accessibility requirements and/or tree health requirements.
Glenn B	consultation process failure	This consultation process needs to be reviewed and extended. There is a failure in adequately taking into consideration the respondents. Jennifer has answered that many teams have put in a lot of time and effort in developing the guidelines (contracts)	We're working out details for an extended consultation program in response to all the feedback we've received about this consultation process, and we'll let you know more details soon, so please click 'follow' at the top of this page. In the meantime, if you'd like to discuss the consultation process in

		for street gardens. Currently I fail to see how we can have a win / win without meetings in Cobden St examining the gardens and the Council clearly showing there concerns in data and research as opposed to 'this is unsafe for pedestrians.'	more detail you can email your contact details to engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we'll give you a call.
Glenn B	submission process post survey	the best option for concerned street gardeners is to fill out the share you feedback on this same page. Esp Question 2 is there any part of the guidelines that you disagree with?	Thanks for the suggestion. We encourage everyone to give us their feedback through this survey.
Michael	Request to please indicate which questions are to answered later.	Request to please indicate which questions are to answered later. It would alleviate a bit of the frustration with this "live chat" process.	Thank you for your suggestion. We will do this going forward.
Michael	Submission process, beyond survey	Is there a submission process beyond the online survey ? And make them viewable by to the public? The online line survey is very awkward if drawings and photos are to be attached. Also there are many residents interested in this issue, who are directly effected, and would doubtless like to see these submissions if there is to be a mechanism to make detailed submissions.	We're happy to receive your feedback and attachments via email. You can send your email submission to engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au As part of our engagement reporting after a consultation, we include all verbatim comments (including email submissions) as attachments to this report, which is shared publicly. We remove any personal information before we publish these reports.
Mel V	constructive consultation for win win situations	Why are we not having a virtual e.g. "zoom" or face to face on site covid safe protocols consultation?	Since the consultation opened, COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted and we're now looking at how we can offer a face-to-face opportunity for interested community members. Click 'follow' at the top of the page and we'll let you know once details are confirmed.
Michael	Is the Thursday Q&A actually live?	Is the Thursday Q&A actually live?	This Q&A session is live in the sense that officers are online now to try and answer your questions as they come in. We

			will be able to answer many questions but please bear with us for the more complex questions. We've received some feedback that this isn't the type of 'live' chat that some people were expecting and we're sorry for any confusion this may have caused.
MeI V	Timely response to questions!	Why are there not responses to 2 day old questions. It seems to me that this is a tick box consultation program and the council has already decided the outcome.	We're sorry for the delay. Some of the more technical questions take a little longer to answer, as we work through them to provide you with the most accurate information. Please also note that questions posted over the holiday period may not be answered before January 10 due to reduced staffing. We appreciate your patience over this period.
JJ123	Given how lacking the draft is on Raised Edge (Wouldn't it be better to re-issue a draft and to consult from that (before that second draft is presented to Council), because at the moment Council's current draft is, how should I say it politely, it's woefully inadequate. I don't feel it's correct the community is placed in this position of fighting something that is wrong to this extreme; this process should be about fine-tuning. Especially given that key Dept Manager's have quit Council and they would have had major input into the draft	We're using this consultation as an opportunity to test what's in the draft guidelines and what needs to change, so your feedback is a really important part of this process. We're open to any suggestions to improve the engagement experience for our community and we appreciate your suggestion around consulting on an updated version of the draft guidelines. We'll take this feedback on board as we finalise the next steps in this process. In the meantime, as we've heard from a number of people that they'd like the opportunity for some face-to-face engagement, we're looking at what we can organise. If you click 'follow' at the top of the page, we'll be able to update you as soon as details are finalised.
JJ123	More info on 'Safety' please. Could you also please be specific as possible. Thanks!	Can you please clarify specific safety issues Council potentially see with the current arrangements (of resident created Raised Edges (aka low	Hi, thanks for your question. Council tries to balance the needs of everyone to the best of its ability in providing safe and accessible environments to all. Community feedback is one way for us to understand what our community want and what issues or concerns we may have to work through. Referencing relevant standards and guides is another way to inform our approach. Our draft guidelines have been developed referencing the Australian Standard for Access and

			<p>Mobility, the AustRoads Guide to Traffic Management: Local Street Management, and the Walking Space Guide from the NSW Government (currently considered best practice in Australia). These standards and guides were developed to ensure streets are designed to promote safety, comfort and accessibility for everyone to the best extent possible. Some areas in City of Port Phillip, especially residential streets, have narrow footpaths. We've recommended minimum clearances in the draft guidelines to provide some guidance on nature strips in these situations. A key consideration for us in developing our draft guidelines was what might impede access or mobility. In some instances, raised edges placed on footpath nature strips right next to the footpath can constrain the walkable area and may create trip hazards, and the aim of the draft guidelines is to provide some guidance on avoiding these hazards. We've developed the minimum requirements based on preventing these hazards rather than in response to incidents that have occurred due to existing hazards.</p>
JJ123	Engagement Report - my Q is re further (alternative form) engagement	<p>As a quasi passionate resident about this topic, I don't feel it's just or fair to call this "engagement".</p> <p>Others and myself have suggested other ways. This can be done in a COVID compliant manner.</p> <p>I strongly feel you do need to define REs PBs and their various permutations clearly and accurately.</p> <p>You do realise, that before the resident created REs/PBs, council's barren (soil only) around trees was a muddy and slippery mess that only made parked cars dirty. And you're quoting "safety"</p>	<p>Thanks for your feedback about defining raised edges and planter boxes. As part of reviewing the draft guidelines we'll look at how we need to better define these and any other terms. The decision was made to run this consultation online, as a live Q&A rather than the face-to-face sessions that Council would normally hold before the COVID restrictions. While we made the decision not to run face-to-face activities while Victoria was still experiencing COVID restrictions, and there was a lot of uncertainty around what was allowed, circumstances have changed and we're looking at what we can now do to complement this consultation. We always welcome ideas for better engagement with our community, and would love to hear from you. Please email your suggestions to us anytime at</p>

			engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au or call us via ASSIST on 9209 6777
Jon M	tree collars	Can the council recommend tree collars to protect the trunk of the tree from tree rot to assist in the preservation of tree pit gardens	Our arborists don't recommend tree collars to protect a tree from developing rot or disease around the base of the trunk, as they're not designed for that purpose. The circular collars you might see around some trees are watering wells, to help protect the tree from drying out or dying while the roots are establishing in the soil. They can also protect young trees from damage by trimmers such as whipper snippers. Watering wells are designed to allow better water infiltration and are not effective in protecting trees from rot. They also can't be retrofitted on established trees as they may damage structural roots, since plants can still grow in and around the watering well and need to be cleared to prevent root disease and rot. The best way to prevent disease and rot occurring at the base of a tree and in the roots would be to leave space around the base of the tree and ensure it's clear of mulch, plants and any excess soil.
Brian from Moray St	Public Consultation	In my former role constructing DDA accessible tram stops in the City of Port Phillip for Yarra Trams, I was required to hold face-to-face (in person) consultation sessions, inviting advocates from user groups, local residents, and the general public. These sessions elicited valuable information that was often overlooked. Why do the Council and its officers not comply with this important strategy and only rely on this tick-the-box exercise? As you can see there is a myriad of unaddressed issues.	Thanks for your feedback. Our intent was certainly not to offer a 'tick box' consultation and we're sorry if that's how you've perceived it. When we were planning this consultation, Victoria was still under COVID-19 restrictions, and there was a lot of uncertainty around what was allowed or considered safe for both our community and our staff. We would normally include a number of face-to-face opportunities to meet with our community as part of our consultation programs. Since the consultation opened, COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted and Council has adopted a Service Delivery Vaccination Policy aimed at minimising risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus among our community and staff members, and we're now looking at how we can offer a face-to-face opportunity for interested community members. Click 'follow' at the top of the page and

			we'll let you know once details are confirmed. We are always open to suggestions to improve the engagement experience for our community, and you are welcome to pass on any suggestions by contacting me via ASSIST on 9209 6777 or at engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au
Bronwyn	The process	JW as an Urban Forest Planner & passionate advocate to improve urban vegetation you align with people in PP, passionate about living in an urban area surrounded by vegetation. We are on the same page. Would it not make sense to meet with designated champions who live in PP, to develop Port Phillip's urban guidelines. It could be a precedence for councils with similar challenges. This process requires F2F consultation over time. A Q&A ticks boxes. JW are prepared to meet F2F overtime?	We're always open to suggestions to improve our community's experience of engagement, and we appreciate your feedback. When we began our planning for this consultation, Victoria was under strict COVID restrictions. There was a lot of uncertainty around what was and was not allowed or considered safe for both our community and our staff, so we made the decision to run consultations online. It was a difficult decision not to include face-to-face opportunities for conversations with our community as part of this consultation, and we acknowledge the limitations of this approach. Since then, Victoria has lifted its restrictions and Council has adopted a Service Delivery Vaccination Policy aimed at minimising risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We're looking at what we can do to offer an opportunity for some face-to-face conversations – please click 'follow' at the top of this page so we can update you once we're able to confirm details.
JJ123	Who are the key stakeholders? Who has authority to modify the report?	<p>Perhaps I incorrectly thought this would be an avenue to help shape and influence the draft.</p> <p>It seems it's not.</p> <p>My Q is in the subject line. If you can provide first letter of surnames / departments so we can easily locate them when we call.</p>	Council has the authority to decide whether to endorse these guidelines or not, and will consider the final draft guidelines at a Council Meeting in the first half of 2022. You can 'follow' this project page for an update once a Council Meeting date has been confirmed. Various teams within Council have contributed their technical expertise and advice in the development of these draft guidelines, including: Parks and Arborists, City Design, Sustainability, Transport Safety, Site Contamination Management (soil contamination), Local Laws, Permits, Risk and Compliance, Heritage and Assets. Various teams within Council have contributed their technical

			<p>expertise and advice in the development of these draft guidelines, including: Parks and Arborists, City Design, Sustainability, Transport Safety, Site Contamination Management (soil contamination), Local Laws, Permits, Risk and Compliance, Heritage and Assets. Before they're presented to Council, the draft guidelines will be updated based on feedback from our community as our key stakeholders, as well as in consideration of our compliance obligations and longer-term outcomes we want to achieve for our streets, trees and neighbourhoods. We'd like to thank everyone who has participated in the consultation so far, either through this Q&A, completing a survey or providing feedback to the team in other ways.</p>
Jon M	existing gardens	<p>Jennifer you say we are not seeking to remove existing gardens you just want to make them safer. How will existing be made 'safe'?</p>	<p>Options for modifying gardens would be site specific and need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, and we'll work with community members to develop appropriate solutions for each site. Some examples of how we might modify a garden to make it safe include removing or setting back raised edges, pruning back plants at kerb edges or footpath edges, changing higher growing plants to low ground covers or removing protruding garden stakes.</p>
JJ123	Follow-up Q re 1m gap	<p>Your answer " The 1 metre clearance from the kerb edge is to allow for car doors to open and for people to access the footpath safely."</p> <p>Again, I invite you and Council staff to come and have a look. Will you? We all manage, and that includes multiple families with youngsters, strollers etc.</p> <p>Two choices: what we have now. Or remove it all. That latter is what you draft means for us. Will you come and visit? (apologies if you've answered that already in a prior Q).</p>	<p>Thanks for your feedback about your lived experience on your street. The 1 metre clearance from the kerb reflects the optimal setback of any obstruction from the kerb according to the Ausroads Guide to Traffic Management. We do need to provide access points for people to get safely from their cars to the footpath, but we recognise that different streets may have different considerations and we'll consider how we can modify the draft guidelines to reflect this. We welcome any ideas you have about how this could be managed so feel free to email your contact details to engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we'll give you a call. We're also finalising details for an in-person opportunity to</p>

			hear feedback. If you click 'follow' we'll let you know when once these details are confirmed.
Brian from Moray St	Visibility impaired / trip hazard	<p>You claim garden edges are a trip hazard & must be mitigated as per risk management process. Have the relevant disability groups been consulted? In my former PT role, we engaged with vision impaired persons & determined they use the building line as the main method of guidance thru the urban environment. Just as in our suburbs the formed footpath is adjacent to the building line. Vision impaired persons do not wander onto nature strips. Justify the claim a garden edge is a trip hazard?</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your experience in engaging on accessibility requirements. The draft guidelines were developed referencing the Australian Standard for access and mobility, AusRoads guide to traffic management and walkable street guidelines, such as the Walking Space Guide from the NSW Government (currently considered best practice in Australia). These standards and guides are written to ensure safe and comfortable streets for people of all abilities. We haven't contacted individual stakeholder groups as these standards and guidelines provide best practice guidance on accessibility and safety. The minimum clearances recommended in the draft guidelines recognises the complex and historic nature of the City of Port Phillip where footpaths can be narrow, especially on residential streets. As access issues are complex to generalise, the requirement for having travel space wider than the footpath pavement requires further consideration. In many cases the footpath is adequate for most people's travel requirements. However, extra width can be essential for people with mobility requirements, such as mobility scooters and wheelchairs. The extra space is also useful for passing other people, including people with prams and dogs.</p>
Stirling Thorley	1m clearance follow up Q	<p>" The 1 metre clearance from the kerb edge is to allow for car doors to open and for people to access the footpath safely"</p> <p>This was the response provided to the question as to why a 1m footpath clearance was required.</p> <p>My street has 45 degree parking. Why is this</p>	<p>Thanks for your feedback about streets with 45, 90 degree and no car parking. We do need to provide access points for people to get safely from their cars to the footpath, but recognise that some streets may need different considerations. We will consider how we can modify the draft guidelines to consider this issue and welcome any thoughts you'd like us to consider about how you this could be managed.</p>

		requirement made on streets with 45, 90 or no parking?	
JJ123	Median strips - follow up Q - you've not answered the Q!	<p>You said "Council officers will review the wording in the draft guideline to ensure the guideline is consistent."</p> <p>My question was "...on p.19 you say if you think it should be contact council. Shouldn't the draft say this is on a case by case basis?"</p> <p>does your answer mean your draft was meant to say zero flexibility or has case by case flexibility?</p>	Thanks for your feedback and sorry if we didn't answer your question clearly. While planting in medians is generally not allowed due to traffic management and safety considerations, we would consider any requests to plant on specific medians on a case-by-case basis, as the exception rather than the norm. We'll review what's written in page 19 and communicate this more clearly in the updated draft guidelines.
Michael	Why are draft guidelines more restrictive than current guidelines.	<p>Much of this proposed NS guidelines , is significantly more restrictive than the current one. Why?</p> <p>The effect of these guidelines are to stop NS plantings. If council wants an active engaged community, with a sustainable future, these draft NSG are a strange way to go about it. In South Melbourne these are important as they are the only plantings, due most being "nature strips" being paved, and most residents not having any back or front yard.</p>	We're sorry if you perceive the draft guidelines as more restrictive – they were drafted with the aim of providing clearer and more detail around each guideline, to help our community understand how they might start or continue to garden safely on nature strips and support the future health of the trees. The increased community interest in nature strip planting, particularly during Melbourne's recent lockdowns over the past two years, meant that our existing guidelines that were developed in 2013 needed updating. One of our key challenges with our trees is managing tree health due to the impacts of climate change and making sure appropriate space is provided for tree roots while allowing other activities to take place on our nature strips. These draft guidelines have been developed with input from Council's arborists to include guidance around planting in a way that provides the best conditions for our street trees to thrive. We know many areas of our City have extensive paved footpaths and limited opportunities for greening, and we have a commitment in our Council Plan to provide increased permeability of ground surfaces across public streets and in our public spaces to

			allow for greater water infiltration and opportunities for greening We're also looking at ways to support greater permeability on private property. Although this work will take time, the ultimate result we're aiming for is more permeable spaces on streets and more opportunities for nature strip gardening.
JJ123	Evidence of Tree Damage and Safety Issues - data	<p>When you compile the data, so that it's not misinterpreted, I would like to see specific data for specifically defined streets and areas that have had resident planted Raised Edge gardens.</p> <p>Please redact names or any info that could identify an injured person.</p> <p>Taking my on section (block) of the street there has been no tree removal, and no known safety issues. So I would like to see block by block data.</p> <p>Do you agree to provide specific data as per above?</p>	We don't currently collect this type of specific block by block data, but we're looking into how we might effectively collect this type of data. These draft guidelines aim to avoid tree damage, and to ensure safety and accessibility for everyone who uses our footpaths.
Michael	Live chat does not seem to be live!	Hi, is there actual live chat occurring now?	Thanks for your question. At the live chat today, Council officers will be online and answering your questions in real time (note - this is not a face to face session). Just type your questions into this form to have them answered by project officers. Please note, more complex questions may take a bit more time and may be answered after the live chat session time is finished.
Jon M	Dinesh role	Are you just providing tech support ? If not, what is your role at CoPP?	Due to technical difficulties, I will be uploading the answers on behalf of the Urban Forest Planner Jennifer Witheridge. I am an Engagement Advisor.
JJ123	Raised Edges (RE)	<p>I do not have enough characters to quote your response to me.</p> <p>Raised Edges are not defined in the document (like you have below</p>	Thanks for letting us know that we haven't defined raised edges in the draft guidelines. This is something we'll make sure to include in the final draft. Please feel free to contact

			me via ASSIST on 9209 6777 to chat further about a possible site visit.
Jon M	why have the guidelines changed from guidelines to citizen contract	Why have the guidelines changed from 2 pages to 21 pages of specific instruction?	Our existing guidelines were prepared in 2013. Community interest in nature strip planting has increased significantly since then, particularly due to the recent lockdowns in Melbourne over the past two years. We've expanded the guidelines to provide clearer and more detailed information to help our community garden safely on nature strips. We know there's a lot more detail than before, and we appreciate your feedback on this. If you have any suggestions on how we might improve the way we've presented some of the information in the guidelines we'd love to hear your ideas.
Brian from Moray St	Existing 'non compliant' Council bluestone garden boxes around trees.	There is a series of bluestone (over 10) garden boxes around trees on the north side of Park St South Melbourne just west of Ferrars St. Given their uniformity I would say they were installed by the Council. As they are approx 500mm behind the kerb and over 200mm high, will the Council remove these in line with the proposed guidelines?	We acknowledge there are different nature strip treatments around the City of Port Phillip installed by both residents and Council. The nature strip guidelines have been revised to reflect changing regulations and needs, to ensure safety for everyone and to maintain healthy street trees. Your feedback through this consultation process will help identify areas of the draft guidelines where we might make some adjustments, and we encourage people to consider how they could amend their garden designs to be in line with the guidelines once they're finalised, and look forward to working with them through this process. We're not looking to remove existing non-compliant gardens, but if a garden is found to be unsafe we would need to look at options for ensuring they meet safety standards. Removing a garden is our 'last resort' option if we're unable to make it safe. Tree health is a key consideration when assessing existing nature strip gardens. For example, if the soil is built up around the street tree and has been in place for some time, it may not be appropriate to remove it, as tree roots may have grown into the soil and removing the soil will damage these roots. In garden bed

			removal, we would work with you to find a solution that is appropriate for safety and tree health.
JJ123	Proposal - the evolution of NSs	Over the years these have formed into something simply wonderful with the input of multiple passionate residents. Our section of Cobden St is a prime example. I propose that rather than trying to put a square peg into a round hole. the revised document has a wider scope in terms of flexibility and pragmatism and is started from the basis of what has worked. Trying to narrow everything down to a 'rule' leads to sub-optimal outcomes. Would you be willing to re-draft in this manner?	Thanks for your feedback. We want to encourage nature strip planting and community stewardship of our public spaces and we know there are some great examples of how nature strip gardens have brought neighbours together and strengthened community connections. We will be looking at what we might need to change in the draft guidelines based on the feedback we receive from our community, and we welcome any specific suggestions you'd like to share with us. If you'd like to talk through them in more detail with us, please give us a call via ASSIST on 9209 6777 or email assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au
Jon M	respondent background	Jennifer is currently an Urban Forest Planner with the City of Port Phillip. What is the background for Dinesh?	Due to technical difficulties, I will be uploading the answers on behalf of the Urban Forest Planner Jennifer Witheridge.
Jon M	evidence of damage to tree roots	What evidence of damage to tree roots by street garden initiatives does C o Port Phillip have?	We're currently collating data on tree deaths and removals, and we'll share this data as soon as we can. Council has a responsibility to manage and maintain trees within the City to ensure that they survive for future generations. Ensuring trees are not subjected to adverse growing conditions that are known to cause disease and rot is an important part of caring for our street trees. If we think a nature strip garden might be having an adverse impact on tree health, we would work with you to see how we could make both the nature strip garden and the tree thrive in a much more harmonious way.
JJ123	One size doesn't fit all - so why a 1m clear area to the curb in all cases?	We have a range of footpath, road, planters / NS dimensions. So why propose a 1m clearance for both a low nature strip and a	The 1 metre clearance from the kerb edge is to allow for car doors to open and for people to access the footpath safely.

		planter box which can be up to 90cm in height?	
Jon M	pedestrian injury by gardens	How many people have been injured by the street gardens over the last 12 years?	We don't currently have these statistics, but we have received a number of safety concerns from pedestrians. We are looking at how we might effectively collect this type of specific data. We do support nature strip planting, but we also have an obligation to make sure our nature strips meet certain standards around safety and functionality. The draft guidelines were developed to help us mitigate any risk of injury by ensuring everyone can safely travel on our footpaths, people driving can see people walking and riding bikes, and people can safely get into and out of a car parked on the street.
Brian from Moray St	What is the process for these public comments to be included in the nature-strip guideines?	The Council has offered this Q&A session to elicit comments from the public. You have not outlined how these comments and others presented to 'Have Your Say', will be incorporated in a revised (indeed, totally rewritten) guideline. What is the process for feedback? When will a revised document be made public? Will it just be a guideline or part of Council bylaws? Does it need to go to the full Council for ratification?	All feedback received through the consultation will be reviewed and collated in an engagement report. The guidelines will be revised, where appropriate, in response to the feedback received, and the engagement report will explain how the feedback has been used. The engagement report and the final draft guidelines will be presented to Council for consideration at a Council meeting in February/March 2022.
JJ123	Median strips	Why are median strips banned from planting (p.7), but then on p.19 you say if you think it should be contact council. Shouldn't the draft say this is on a case by case basis?	Thank you for your question. Council officers will review the wording in the draft guideline to ensure the guideline is consistent.
JJ123	Will Anthony T or Michael M be on this Q&A?	as per title	Anthony and Michael were working on this project, but are no longer at Council. Claire is Council's Open Space Planner and will help answer any of your questions.
JJ123	Cobden St	Our footpath is 2.4 meters wide. Our NS takes up just under half of that width. We've (most	One of our key goals is to maintain the health of our street trees and tree health is a key consideration when we're assessing existing nature strip gardens and, so it's great to

		of the street) have turned council's barren soil around the trees into low planter boxes / NS (hear that trees and plants are doing so well in your nature strips. We understand that for some of our community members, updated guidelines may mean many existing nature strip gardens would be viewed as non-compliant. We are not looking to remove existing non-compliant gardens; removing a garden would be a 'last resort' option if we were unable to make it safe. We would rather work with you to see how we can make them compliant in terms of safety and accessibility, and we encourage everyone to consider how they could amend their garden designs to be in line with the guidelines once they are finalised. Feedback through this consultation will help identify areas where we might need to make some adjustments to the draft guidelines before they're finalised, so we encourage you to complete our survey if you haven't already done so.
Brian from Moray St	How do we know what each respondent is responsible for without their title or job descriptor?	Jennifer Witheridge is the Urban Forest Planner. Dinesh Mathew is the Engagement Advisor.	
JJ123	Please don't call it a "live chat" when it's not a live chat!	<p>Council's answer "At the live chat today, Council officers will be online and answering your questions in real time (note - this is not a face to face session). Just type your questions into this form to have them answered by project officers."</p> <p>This is merely you answering questions in bulk and forcing residents who are engaged to somehow use a one-sided Q&A form to monitor all the questions and followup questions need a new question. Not an easy way for effective communication between us!</p>	We apologise if calling this session a 'live chat' has created any confusion and we take your feedback about this on board. Normally we'd include some form of face-to-face opportunities as part of our consultations, but planning for this consultation commenced when Victoria was still experiencing COVID restrictions, and there was a lot of uncertainty around what was and wasn't allowed or considered safe for both our community and our staff at the time. As part of our safety considerations, we made the decision to run this consultation online, and while we hoped that these sessions with officers available online to answer questions would be helpful, we appreciate that it's not a like-for-like experience. Since then, COVID restrictions have been lifted in Victoria and Council has adopted a Service Delivery

			<p>Vaccination Policy aimed at minimising risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, so we're looking at what we can organise in terms of a face-to-face opportunity. Please click 'follow at the top of the page so we can update you once we can confirm details. We're always open to ideas around how we can engage more effectively with our community, and welcome your thoughts on how we can do this. You can email your ideas to us at engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au suggestions by contacting us via ASSIST on 9209 6777.</p>
Brian from Moray St	Planter boxes on asphalt	<p>Your guidelines advocate the install of planter boxes on asphalt nature strips in lieu of planting around tree squares. What purpose do the planter boxes serve when their construction is inconsistent, visibly intrusive, does not allow water penetration to the subsoil, is an obstruction and safety risk, requires constant water, and easily falls into disrepair. Why doesn't the Council remove the 6m wide asphalt nature strip to reduce heat sink, provide greener space, water ingress, min flooding?</p>	<p>We know many areas of our City have extensive paved footpaths and limited opportunities for greening. The draft Nature Strip Guidelines include planter boxes as an opportunity for people to garden in areas with wide footpaths where there are currently no existing nature strips. Our Council Plan reflects our commitment to provide increased permeability of ground surfaces across public streets and in our public spaces to allow for greater water infiltration, opportunities for greening and to reduce the heat island effect. We are also looking at ways to support greater permeability on private property. Although this work will take time, the goal we are aiming for is more permeable spaces on streets and more opportunities for nature strip gardening. if you would like to talk in more detail with us about your specific concerns about planter boxes, please email your contact details to engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au and we'll get in touch.</p>
Brian from Moray St	Excessively wide asphalt nature-strip in Moray St	<p>The tree square is currently compacted Dromana toppings which permits limited water permeability to the tree roots. The adjacent asphalt exacerbates water runoff, overland flows, and potential flooding in what is a historical low-lying flood-prone area. Why</p>	<p>We discourage planting in tree squares because this can damage the roots of the tree. If soil or mulch is mounded around the base of the tree, the tree is prone to rot and root collar diseases. This can cause the structural tree roots (roots that hold the tree up) to rot and the tree to die. Extra plants in the tree square can also compete with the tree for water and nutrients and additional soil can damage street trees by</p>

		is the cultivation of the tree square not permitted to allow water to roots?	reducing oxygen supply and slowing down rates of gas exchange between roots and the air in the soil. We agree with you that asphalt does exacerbate water runoff and areas with extensive non-permeable surfaces do make urban areas more flood prone. Our Council Plan includes a commitment to providing increased permeability of ground surfaces across public streets and in our public spaces including widening tree squares and developing new nature strips, which will provide better growing conditions for street trees and more opportunities for nature strip gardening. We're also looking at ways to support greater permeability on private property.
Bronwyn	Can you please provide the live link for the Q & A today? It seems to be hidden?	Can you please post the link so we people can click on it to join the Q & A?	Thanks for your question. At the live chat today, Council officers will be online and answering your questions in real time (note - this is not a face to face session). Just type your questions into this form to have them answered by project officers. Please note, more complex questions may take a bit more time and may be answered after the live chat session time is finished.
Carolyn	How do you join the live chat today? The listing doesnt appear to be "live" ?	Thanks for your question. At the live chat today, Council officers will be online and answering your questions in real time (note - this is not a face to face session). Just type your questions into this form to have them answered by project officers. Please note, more complex questions may take a bit more time and may be answered after the live chat session time is finished.	
Stirling Thorley	How many street trees did Port Phillip issue permits to remove in the last year?	How many street trees did Port Phillip issue permits to remove in the last year?	Council officers are currently collating data on tree deaths and removals and will provide as soon as possible.
Johnnie	Is it possible to have a wider methodology of consultation including a	We're taking this comment on board and looking into options for further consultation now that COVID-19 restrictions have eased.	

	mailout and an extension of the closing date?	Please click the 'follow' button at the top of the page and we'll keep you updated.	
Johnnie	How does this guideline sit with the Port Phillip Heath and Wellbeing Plan?	Given the significantly low levels of "close knit community" and "community connectedness" reported in the Victorian Women's Heath Atlas for Port Phillip Council against other Metro Councils (and against the State average) it would be a shame if gardens were removed - they have brought our street, neighborhood and community closer together.	Council recognises the community connections and joy that gardening on nature strips brings to many people, and will work with our community to ensure nature strip gardens are safe and accessible and in line with the guidelines.
Johnnie	What's the difference between a guideline and a policy? Do local ward Councilors vote on this guideline?	Council's policies outline our high level commitment about our role or position on particular matters. Our guidelines provide information to help our community understand the steps Council will take in implementing these policies, to ensure consistency, legislative and compliance requirements, and risk management obligations are met. Council endorsed the draft guidelines for consultation in August, and all feedback received through the consultation will be reviewed before a final draft of the guidelines is presented for Council to consider adopting at a Council meeting in February.	
Jason - Cobden St.	V1 of Guidelines is too far removed from reality and needs a serious rethink!	Raised Planter boxes must be at least 30cm high (measured from footpath). This doesn't reflect reality, and many are under this, or barely raised at all. Whether or not you intended	An initiative of the Liveable strategic direction of the Council Plan 2021 - 2031 is the delivery of a high standard of amenity, ensuring compliance with planning and building requirements, legislation and local laws to support public health and community safety. Some nature strip gardens in Port Phillip have a low raised edge under 30cm high. These are not considered planter boxes, but a raised edge. A raised

			<p>edge below 30cm high causes some safety and tree health issues. Firstly, the edge is a trip hazard, particularly for people with low vision or decreased mobility. The City of Port Phillip must ensure streets are safe and accessible for all and this is one reason why the draft guidelines ask residents not to construct low edging on nature strips. Secondly, the raised edge is often installed to contain additional soil. Additional soil can damage our street trees by reducing oxygen supply and slowing down rates of gas exchange between roots and the air in the soil. If soil or mulch is mounded around the base of the tree, the tree is prone to root and root collar diseases which cause the tree roots to rot and the tree to die. This is the second reason for asking residents not to construct low edges and fill with soil, we want our street trees to grow and thrive for now and for future generations. Please note, we are not seeking to remove existing gardens, but will asking gardeners to modify their gardens to ensure streets are safe for all and our trees have good growing conditions.</p>
Stirling Thorley	Has the council identified ANY street trees which have died as a result of a street garden being planted under it?	Has the council identified ANY street trees which have died as a result of a street garden being planted under it? If so how many in the previous 12 months and at what addresses?	<p>Root and root collar diseases and rots usually occur when the base of the tree trunk is buried in soil, deep mulch or ground cover plantings, or kept too moist with rain or irrigation. The main roots fail and the tree can appear in fair health only to decline quickly as symptoms are not always apparent. Supplementary soil placed over root systems can reduce oxygen supply and slow down rates of gas exchange between roots and the air in soil which also places stress on the tree and causes decline. The City of Port Phillip has a responsibility to manage and maintain trees within the City to ensure that they survive for future generations. Ensuring trees are not subjected to adverse growing conditions that are known to cause disease and rot is an important part of maintaining our street trees for current and future generations. Council</p>

			officers are currently collating data on tree deaths and removals and will provide as soon as possible.
Stirling Thorley	Why is the only Associated Strategic Direction: Liveable Port Phillip and not Sustainable Port Phillip as well?	My question is why the only strategic direction this policy has been linked to is "Liveable Port Phillip" Street gardens and nature strips surely contribute greatly to strategic direction "Sustainable Port Phillip" as well. Part of the summary for "Sustainable Port Phillip" is "We will work towards a City that has cleaner streets, parks, foreshore areas and waterways where biodiversity flourishes." What reasons are there for the exclusion of sustainability from these draft guidelines?	Thank you for the question. This was an oversight and has now been fixed. We have added Sustainable Port Phillip to the page.
Gary Buck	Is it proposed that these guidelines apply to the CoPP parts of St Kilda Rd 3004?	<p>I understood that St Kilda Rd nature strip needed permissions from Dept of Transport (plus maybe Yarra Trams)??</p> <p>Also the Metro Tunnel project is doing a lot in this area. Not sure that we want residents to alter what the various bodies are committed to carry out</p>	There is a lot of activity along St Kilda road at the moment. Some areas along St Kilda Road also have a heritage overlay, and St Kilda Road is a State Government road (VicRoads) which Council is jointly responsible for some maintenance. While the draft Nature Strip Guidelines are intended to apply across the City of Port Phillip, areas with heritage overlays or protections, or where other landscaping works are occurring need to be considered before residents plant out their nature strips. In these instances, residents can contact the City of Port Phillip for more guidance. Council officers will review the wording in the guidelines to ensure clarity.