

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the requirements listed under the Declaration?

The Declaration requirements are in place to ensure that this program is developed in a safe way that protects pedestrians, road users, our mature trees and aligns with current bylaws (Public Tree Bylaw and the Traffic Bylaw). Boulevards are home to multiple utility networks as well as many of our mature trees.

Why aren't shrubs permitted for boulevard gardening?

Your Declaration permits you to direct seed, ground covering plants and flowers. Shrubs typically grow large and may impact vehicle and pedestrian sight lines. Certain shrubs are known to overwinter pests or host plant disease that can affect the health of our trees. Depending on the surroundings of your boulevard, shrub planting may not be a good fit, if you are interested in shrub planting please submit your project application through the Licence of Occupation permit option for further review.

What is low-impact digging?

Your Declaration permits you to dig 2 inches and add up to 2 inches of soil or mulch to your boulevard gardening space. This gives you a total of 4 inches of plantable area, deep enough to plant a small flowering plant plug or to overseed. Low-impact digging also reduces health risks to our boulevard trees. Boulevards are home to our boulevard tree's feeder roots. These thin hair-like roots absorb water and nutrients from the soil. Feeder roots enhance water retention, are home to mycorrhizal fungi and are found in the upper few inches of the soil.

What about mulch?

Artificially dyed mulch is not permitted; the dye may harm our mature trees. Organic wood mulch and cedar mulch are great options. Try the City's Free Mulch program for a local and disease free option.

How does insurance work?

Declaration applicants approved for low-impact gardening are encouraged but not required to obtain \$2M General Liability insurance, insurance is not mandatory. If an applicant wants to submit a more complex project (LOO), with higher risk, the City may ask for proof of insurance, depending on the scope of the project.

What happens when a participant moves?

This program is intended for Edmontonians that are interested in gardening within their resident boulevard space (this is the space that the resident is already responsible for maintaining). If an applicant leaves their residence they new resident can apply and continue to boulevard garden or revert back to more traditional boulevard maintenance.

How does enforcement work?

There is an awareness that boulevard gardening has been occurring prior to the launch of this program. There is an understanding that it may take time for folks to apply for a permit and for new applications to start their boulevard gardens. There is no plan for our Enforcement Team to aggressively pursue ticketing. This team will start with a warning for applicants where damages to trees or public safety is in question.

What can I plant on my boulevard?

The website has a list of recommended plants that are great options for boulevard gardening. You can overseed with alternative ground covers in areas that require planting setbacks i.e trees, utility boxes, intersections, etc

Can I lasagna garden?

Yes, this garden method stacks compostable materials like newspaper, cardboard, leaves, and grass clippings where over time create soil. However, to ensure the health of the boulevard trees, compostable materials should not exceed a depth greater than 2 inches.