



City of Saskatoon
Boulevard Gardening and Maintenance Guidelines

Boulevard Gardening & Maintenance Guidelines

1. Introduction:

Boulevard gardens can create beautiful and diverse streetscapes, add character to neighbourhoods, and increase feelings of community pride and safety. They also increase ecological diversity and create habitat for insects and birds.

The City of Saskatoon appreciates the care that homeowners and renters take in maintaining the boulevards adjacent to their homes, such as weeding and mowing. You may also garden on the front and side boulevards adjacent to your home if you follow these City of Saskatoon Boulevard Gardening & Maintenance Guidelines.

Please note that the City of Saskatoon may require occasional access to the boulevard to maintain underground utilities, build or repair sidewalks, install street signage, access hydrants, or prune street trees. This could mean that plants or other garden features may be removed or damaged.

For your own and others' safety, please [Call Before You Dig \(1-866-828-4888\)](https://www.callbeforeyoudig.ca/) to confirm the location of underground utilities before getting started.

2. Definitions:

Boulevard: The front boulevard is the area between the sidewalk and street curb that is typically planted with grass and street trees. A side boulevard is located at the side of a corner property and does not necessarily have a sidewalk. Boulevards are City of Saskatoon property, not private property.

Boulevard Garden: A boulevard garden includes non-woody plants such as perennial and annual flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Only trees and shrubs planted by the City of Saskatoon are permitted. Boulevard gardens may include temporary structures that can be moved by one person, including potted plants and birdbaths.

Median: A median is a paved, planted, or landscaped strip in the centre of a road. It separates lanes of traffic going in opposite directions. The Boulevard Gardening & Maintenance Guidelines do not apply to gardening on medians. Gardening on medians is not permitted.

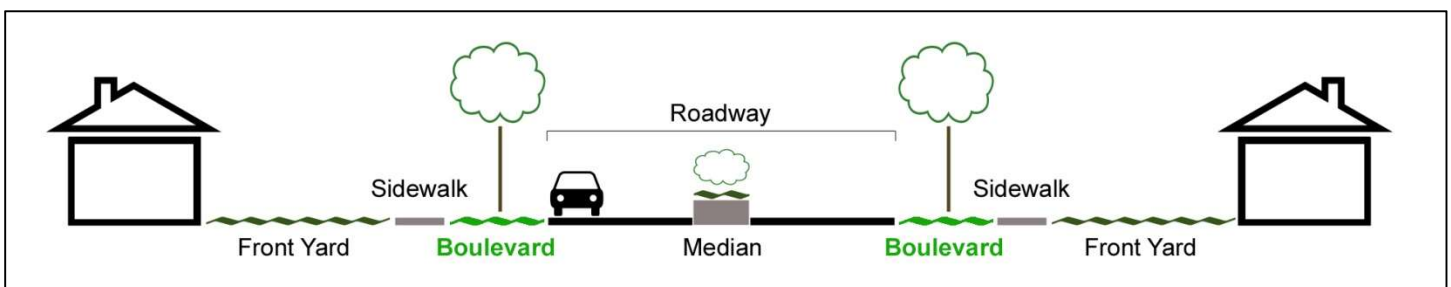


Figure 1: Cross-section showing a typical front boulevard location

3. Gardening & Maintenance Guidelines:

A. Complete the online Boulevard Garden Agreement:

Before installing a boulevard garden, please fill out the City of Saskatoon's Boulevard Garden Agreement at www.Saskatoon.ca/Boulevards. This information will be used to track the number of boulevard gardens that are enriching our city.

B. Call Before You Dig:

Before you dig in the boulevard, you must make sure there are no utilities or other underground structures that could be disturbed or damaged. Please contact [Call Before You Dig \(1-866-828-4888\)](tel:1-866-828-4888) to confirm the location of underground utilities. It is a serious safety risk to disturb or damage underground utilities. You will be held liable for any disturbance or damage.

C. The Need for Access for All:

The boulevard is a shared space and needs to be accessible to everyone, including pedestrians, vehicle passengers, those with limited mobility, and work crews who may need to access utilities.

To ensure full accessibility, please:

- Include 0.3 metres (1 foot) of clearance along the curb edge to allow passengers to open and close vehicle doors. You may grow grass and other low, non-woody plants in this area.
- Include one 1.1-metre wide (3.6 foot) path from the curb to the sidewalk that is wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or a waste cart.
- Include a 1.1-metre wide (3.6 foot) walking path in areas where a sidewalk does not exist so people are not forced onto the street.
- Keep plants, soil, and other garden material clear of utility covers so that work crews are able to easily locate and access them. Please note that potted plants on top of a utility cover are permitted as long as they can be easily seen and moved by one person.
- To ensure visibility, include 1-metre (3.3 feet) of clearance around fire hydrants, utility and light poles, signs, or other permanent structures. You may grow grass and other similar low, non-woody plants in this area.
- Return hoses, tools, and gardening equipment to your property after use. They must not be left on the boulevard or sidewalk, as they restrict access and pose potential safety hazards.
- Ensure that all transit zones (i.e. bus stops and bus shelters) are visible and accessible.

D. Protect Street Trees:

Only trees and shrubs planted by the City of Saskatoon are permitted on the boulevard.

Please ensure that you protect existing boulevard trees when designing, constructing and maintaining your boulevard garden. For example:

- You may not nail or tie signs, trellises, or other fixtures to a boulevard tree.
- Do not rototill your boulevard, as this could cause serious harm to tree roots.

- Raised beds are not permitted, as adding soil (even a few inches) could smother tree roots and harm trees.
- Please read the City of Saskatoon's [Protect Saskatoon Trees](#) document for further details (or call Parks at 306-975-3300).

Any unauthorized excavation, removal, relocation, pruning, or damage to City trees or roots may result in a significant fine, penalty or small claims action.

E. Height and Plant Restrictions:

- Good visibility and clear sightlines are important for pedestrians and drivers. Please ensure that plants and temporary structures are no higher than 0.6 metres (2 feet) in areas adjacent to intersections, driveways, and corners. In all other areas, plants and temporary structures should be no higher than 1-metre (3.3 feet).
- Residents are not permitted to plant trees or shrubs on the boulevard.
- The City of Saskatoon is not liable for any damage to plants that are grown on the boulevard.
- Prohibited, noxious, and nuisance plants, as identified in [Saskatchewan's Weed Control Act](#), are not permitted. For more information, visit: www.saskinvasives.ca.
- Unauthorized plantings may be removed, without notice.

F. Structures:

Temporary structures are allowed on the boulevard (e.g. potted plants, chairs, bird baths, ornaments, stepping stones), provided they can be easily moved by one person and do not interfere with access, safety, visibility, and height restrictions. The City of Saskatoon is not liable for any damage to temporary structures that are on the boulevard.

Permanent structures or installations on the boulevard are not permitted (e.g. raised beds, in-ground irrigation systems, buildings, trees and shrubs, unauthorized signage). Unauthorized structures, signs, signals, or markings may be removed, without notice.

G. Seasonal Considerations:

Snow plowing and street sweeping can pose a risk to plants that are near or overhanging the curb. To ensure snow and ice can be safely removed, please:

- Remove temporary structures from the boulevard before winter weather hits.
- Keep the boulevard accessible for snow removal and snow storage.

H. Growing Food on Boulevards:

You may grow food on the boulevard, but please note:

- The City of Saskatoon cannot guarantee the suitability of your boulevard for growing food.
- It is possible for contaminants to be present in soils at potentially unsafe levels, particularly in neighbourhoods with a history of high industrial and commercial use, or along major roadways.
- If you are uncertain whether your soil is safe, you may choose to have a soil test done. If you are concerned about soil contamination, do not grow food in your boulevard garden.
- Any food grown on the boulevard is consumed at your own risk.

I. Gardening Tips:

To learn how to maintain a beautiful, healthy garden, visit [Saskatoon.ca/HealthyYards](https://saskatoon.ca/HealthyYards). You'll find practical tips on composting, low-water gardening, pesticide-free practices, rain barrels, and more!

J. Responsibility and Liability:

Once your garden is planted, ongoing maintenance is expected. You will be held liable if your boulevard garden causes harm to people, pets, vehicles, or other property. The City of Saskatoon does not take responsibility for injury or damage caused by the vegetation or other garden features you place on the boulevard.

To ensure that your plants, vines and other stems do not pose a tripping or slipping hazard for pedestrians, please:

- Keep plants and garden features from spreading onto the sidewalk, road, neighbouring boulevards, or other pathways. Plants should be pruned if necessary.
- Limit the flow of water and dirt onto the sidewalk as much as possible.
- Keep your boulevard tidy and free of garbage.

Boulevard gardens must be chemical-free. The use of pesticides, such as insecticides (for insects), herbicides (for weeds and plants) fungicides (for fungi) and rodenticides (for rodents) are not permitted.

K. Compliance:

City of Saskatoon employees and enforcement officers may conduct inspections and take steps to administer, enforce, and remedy contraventions of City of Saskatoon bylaws, policies or guidelines. The City reserves the right to remove any plants or garden features at any time.

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The boulevard is a shared public space, so please be courteous of neighbours and visitors by following these Boulevard Gardening & Maintenance Guidelines.

Thank you for taking the time to review these guidelines, and for helping to make Saskatoon a greener place to live, work, and play! Happy gardening!