



Policy Name:	Residential Boulevard Garden Policy	Effective Date: May 20, 2025
Policy Number:	PR-GS001	Approval Date: May 20, 2025
Policy Area:	Parks & Recreation	Council Resolution No.: 2025.152
Policy Section:	Green Spaces	Replaces Policy:
No. of Pages:	7	

POLICY STATEMENT

The Town of Rosthern appreciates the care that homeowners and renters take in maintaining the boulevards adjacent to their homes by mowing and weeding. In addition, low-impact boulevard gardening may be approved on the front and side boulevards adjacent to your home if approved through these policies guidelines.

PURPOSE

To establish clear expectations and responsibilities for community members who wish to beautify boulevard spaces adjacent to their residential properties.

SCOPE

Boulevard gardens are annual and perennial gardens planted within residential street boulevards. They can add character to neighborhoods, beautify streets, and provide environmental benefits like increasing ecological diversity, creating pollinator habitats, and improving climate resiliency. Gardening in residential boulevards can also strengthen community connections and contribute to healthy active living.

An owner or occupant of a residential property can create a boulevard garden, with approval of the Town, in the boulevard immediately adjacent to their private property. Residents who do not own the property where they live will require the property owner's permission to apply. Property owners adjacent to boulevard gardens are deemed responsible for any issues arising from the placement or maintenance of the garden.

Please note that the Town of Rosthern 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 at the gardener's cost.

DEFINITIONS

“Boulevard” - Are sections of Town-owned property along roadways that allow space for important infrastructure such as sidewalks, boulevard trees, fire hydrants, and underground utilities. There are three types of boulevards in residential areas that will be considered for gardening.



Figure 1 - Type I boulevard shows potential garden space between private property line and sidewalk.



Figure 2 - Type II boulevard shows potential garden space between private property line and curb line.



Figure 3 - Type III boulevard showing potential garden space between public sidewalk and curb line.

“Boulevard Garden” – For the purpose of this policy shall mean gardens that include non-woody plants such as perennial and annual flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Only trees and shrubs planted by the Town of Rosthern are permitted. Boulevard gardens may include only temporary structures that can be moved by one person, including potted plants, birdbaths, and raised beds.

“Town” – means the Town of Rosthern.

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PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

1. Complete the Residential Boulevard Garden Permit:

There is a one-time permit application, "Appendix A", for a residential boulevard garden. This permit is free of charge and is approved through Council. The Town has the right to request that the garden be removed at any time. This permit will be used to track the number of boulevard gardens that are enriching our Town.

2. Call Before You Dig:

Once your permit is approved and before you dig in the boulevard garden, 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) to confirm the location of underground utilities. It is a serious safety risk to disturb or damage underground utilities. The Town will locate all Town-owned infrastructure when permit is approved. You will be held liable for any disturbance or damage to all and any utilities or other underground structures.

3. 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 follow these guideline as per Type:

- a. All Types:
 - Include 1-metre (3.3' feet) of clearance along the curb edge to allow passengers to open and close vehicle doors. You may grow grass in this area.
 - Keep plants, soil, and other garden material clear of utility covers so that work crews are able to easily locate and access them.
 - 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, nonwoody 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.
- b. Type II:
 - All guidelines from a. above.
 - Include 1-metre (3.3' feet) path from the curb to the sidewalk that is wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or waste/recycle carts.
- c. Type III:
 - All guidelines from a. above.
 - Include a 1-metre (3.3' feet) walking path in areas where a sidewalk does not exist, so people are not forced onto the street.

4. Height and Plant Restrictions:

- a. 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).
- b. Residents are not permitted to plant trees or shrubs on the boulevard.
- c. The Town is not liable for any damage to plants that are grown on the boulevard.
- d. Prohibited, noxious, and nuisance plants, as identified in Saskatchewan's Weed Control Act, are not permitted. For more information, visit: www.saskinvasives.ca.
- e. Unauthorized plantings may be removed, without notice.

5. Structures and Authorized Materials:

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

Raised garden bed planters must be temporary, free-standing structures and not anchored in the soil. The maximum dimensions for a raised garden bed planters are as follows:

- a. In areas adjacent to intersections, driveways, and corners, the vegetation and temporary structures, including planters should not exceed 0.6 metres (2' feet).
- b. In all other areas, the vegetation and temporary structures, including planters should be no higher than 1-metre (3.3' feet).
- c. Temporary structures, including planters must not exceed 1-metre (3.3' feet) wide and 1.5-metres (4.9' feet) long.

Permanent structures or installations on the boulevard are not permitted. All unauthorized structures, signs, signals, or markings may be removed without notice.

Mulch, rock, concrete, and rubber are prohibited from being used in boulevard gardens.

6. Seasonal Considerations:

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

- a. Ensure that all plants remain contained and do not extend onto the street.
- b. All temporary structures must be removed from the boulevard before October 15th of each year.
- c. Keep the boulevard accessible for snow removal and snow storage.

7. Growing Food on Boulevards:

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

- a. The Town cannot guarantee the suitability of your boulevard soil for growing produce.

- b. 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.
- c. If you are uncertain whether your soil is safe, you may choose to have a soil test done at your cost, or avoid growing produce in your boulevard garden.
- d. Any produce directly grown in boulevard soil is consumed at your own risk.

8. Protect Boulevard Trees:

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

- a. You may not nail or tie signs, trellises, other fixtures, or grow climbing plants on a boulevard tree.
- b. Do not rototill your boulevard, as this could cause serious harm to tree roots.
- c. Raised beds are not permitted on top of tree roots as it may harm the tree.
- d. Any unauthorized excavation, removal, relocation, pruning, or damage to Town trees or roots may result in penalties as indicated in the bylaws:
 - Tree Bylaw 2024-16
 - General Penalty Bylaw 2010-06

9. Watering:

- a. Town-owned infrastructure such as fire hydrants may not be used for watering.
- b. Determine a plan for watering the boulevard garden before getting started.
- c. Permanent structures such as in-ground irrigation systems are prohibited.
- d. Unattended watering with sprinklers on all boulevards gardens is prohibited.

10. Boulevard Work:

The Town is not responsible for damages to residential boulevard gardens resulting from maintenance operations, emergency utility work, or scheduled boulevard work. The Town assumes no responsibility for the cost of repairs nor any damages to a residential boulevard garden.

If emergency utility or Town work is required that will disturb an existing residential boulevard garden, notification may not always be provided.

In the event of scheduled boulevard work, and where the Town has a record of a permitted Type II boulevard garden in that area, the Town will attempt to notify the owner of the boulevard garden five (5) business days in advance, giving them the opportunity to move the raised beds or salvage plant material. Following any Town required work, the boulevard will be restored to the municipal standard upon agreement.

11. Responsibility and Liability:

The boulevard is a public space where there is little control over the activities of neighbours, passers-by and animals. Plants and produce may be picked or damaged by passers-by and garden beds may be contaminated by pets, birds, and other animals which the Town holds no liability for these actions.

Ongoing maintenance of your boulevard garden is expected. You will be held liable if your boulevard garden causes harm to people, pets, vehicles, or other property. The Town does not take responsibility for injury or damages 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:

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

12. Compliance:

The Town's employees and the Community Safety Officer may conduct inspections and take steps to administer, enforce, and remedy contraventions of the Town of Rosthern bylaws, policies or guidelines.

Failure to comply with the regulations in this policy will result in the Town requesting compliance for the boulevard garden or the Town removing the boulevard garden and remediating the boulevard to the Town standard at the full expense of the property owner. Noncompliance may also result in penalties as outlined in all applicable Sections within the Town's *Community Standards Bylaw 2024-07*.

The boulevard is a shared public space, so please be courteous of neighbours and visitors by following this policy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS



Residential Boulevard Garden Permit Application

Submit completed application to:

Town of Rosthern
 Attention: Chief Administrative Officer
 Email: townoffice@rosthern.com, or
 Mail: Box 416, Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0

Name of Applicant: _____

Property Civic Address: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Type of Boulevard: Type I: ☐ Type II: ☐ Type III: ☐

Please provide a brief description along with a site plan of your proposed boulevard garden. *Attach an additional page, if required.*

☐ I, hereby acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with all provisions of the policy.

Applicant Name: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

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