

Schedule A - Boulevard Guidelines



A boulevard is a section of City-owned land between a home or business owners property line and the edge of the road. It is usually covered with grass and often includes a sidewalk. In Orillia, many boulevards contain a ditch or culvert, which help manage drainage and reduce the risk of flooding.

Turf grass is the standard treatment for boulevards. It is a type of grass specifically grown and maintained to form a dense, uniform and durable ground cover for lawns and landscaped areas. It is selected for its thick coverage, tolerance to mowing and resistance to foot traffic.

City staff appreciate your support

- Mow boulevard (turf) grass when maintaining your lawn.
- Keep ditches and culverts clear of clippings, debris, branches, etc., do not rake leaves into the ditch. This allows the City's stormwater system to function properly and prevents flooding.
- Permanent installations such as in-ground irrigation systems, drains, fencing, or hard mulches such as pea gravel or small rocks are not permitted.
- Maintain City-planted trees where possible by watering, trimming or treating. For trees that require service (pruning, trimming or removal), the City addresses trees that are greater than 10 feet away from hydro lines. Residents should contact the operating utility directly for trees within 10 feet of a hydro line that require service.
 - Boulevard trees are assessed and serviced in priority sequence based on risk of injury to person or property. To report a potentially dangerous tree, "Report a Concern" on the City's website by submitting a Service Request or email the City at service@orillia.ca.

Boulevard Tree Planting Guidelines

Residents may plant a tree (no bushes) within the boulevard, subject to City approval and the following conditions:

- **Permit Requirement:**
Tree planting on boulevards is permitted only with prior approval through the City's online application form.
- **Approved Tree Species:**
Residents must select from City's approved tree list, based on native and suitable species, including consideration for mature height and clearance requirements
- **Utility Locates:**
Residents are required to request utility locates prior to any digging or planting to ensure underground infrastructure is protected and to prevent injury.
- **Planting Standards:**
Trees must be planted with:
 - Appropriate spacing from sidewalks, driveways, hydrants and utilities
 - Maintaining visibility at intersections and around traffic control devices
 - Ensuring proper drainage is not impeded
- **Ownership and City Management:**
Trees planted under this program become the property of the City upon planting and may be maintained, pruned, removed or otherwise managed by the City.
- **Compliance:**
All boulevard planting must comply with the Clean and Clear Bylaw (Chapter 834) and the Boulevard Guidelines.

Natural Areas and Pollinator-Friendly Habitats

The City of Orillia has official status as a Bee City, a designation provided by Bee City Canada. The designation acknowledges the efforts of residents and the City to bring awareness to the need for healthy, natural, sustainable habitats for pollinators. See more on the City's updated Chapter 834 of the Municipal Code – Clean and Clear.

- Naturalize the boulevard with low wildflowers, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and other ornamental plants (30cm max. height, excluding permitted trees).
- Do not plant in ditches.
- Avoid noxious weeds, poisonous and invasive plants outlined in section 834.3.15 of Chapter 834. These include:
 - Buckthorn (glossy), Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, poison-sumac and phragmites.
- Be mindful of plants that may be affected by winter road salt.
- A minimum 60 cm setback shall remain in place for all sidewalks, curbs and driveway edges.
- Vegetative growth should not obstruct sight lines at intersections or restrict visibility to traffic control signs/devices.

- Vegetative growth shall not conceal or interfere with the use of any hydrant, water valve, culvert, or catch basin for drainage and maintenance-related reasons. Treatments shall maintain positive surface drainage.
- Request utility locates before planting and digging to ensure you are not injured and the local underground infrastructure (hydro, gas, water, cable, internet) is not impacted.
- The City of Orillia will provide ample notice to property owners if they are to return the boulevard to turf grass.

Impact of Road Works

The City maintains roads and utilities. Necessary projects often disrupt the boulevard material. The City of Orillia is not responsible for the cost of restoring boulevard gardens and will give ample notice.

In the event of scheduled boulevard works, City staff will notify the homeowner two weeks in advance, giving the opportunity to salvage plant material. Following any boulevard works, the boulevard will be restored to the sod standard unless the homeowner states their intent to re-establish boulevard plantings within 30 days. Following the 30-day period, if homeowner plantings have not occurred, the City will restore the boulevard to turf grass.

In the event emergency boulevard works are required, notification may not be provided.

References:

Clean and Clear Bylaw Chapter 834.
Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990.