

Halif**ACT** Acting on  
Climate  
Together

# Ecological Streetscapes

Boulevard gardening in the  
Halifax Regional Municipality



For more information visit  
[halifax.ca/boulevardgardening](https://halifax.ca/boulevardgardening)

**HALIFAX**





# What is a **Boulevard Garden?**

The boulevard, also referred to as the public right-of-way, is the strip of vegetation between the sidewalk and the road. Boulevards appear in neighbourhoods throughout the municipality. As of 2021, residents are allowed to plant gardens in the boulevard in front of their home. Urban boulevards typically consist of sod (lawn) and weedy species like monocultures of Kentucky bluegrass.

# Benefits of a **Boulevard Garden**

**Did you know** that planting perennials in your boulevard has many positive benefits for both people and the planet? A perennial is a type of plant that grows back year after year, as opposed to annuals which die in the fall and need to be replanted every spring.



## Benefits of planting perennials



**in boulevard  
gardens**

### **Sequestering carbon**

100 sq2 feet (about the area of an apartment bedroom) of perennial planting will sequester 355 kg of CO2E over 50 years

---

### **Attracting pollinator species**

such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

---

### **Reducing stormwater runoff**

by absorbing water through the soil and deep plant roots

---

### **Providing habitats**

for birds and other urban wildlife

# Benefits of planting perennials



## in boulevard gardens

### **Beautifying**

the street all year round

---

### **Community connection**

Providing opportunities to connect with your neighbours and meet passersby as you tend to your garden

---

### **Improving physical**

and psychological wellbeing

---

### **Reducing noise pollution**

and providing a visual screen

## This is a natural space.

This boulevard right of way is becoming a naturalized area to support pollinators, encourage biodiversity, build resilience in the landscape, and celebrate nature in our own front yard.

For more information visit [halifax.ca/boulevardgardening](http://halifax.ca/boulevardgardening)

HALIFAX



# Tips for Boulevard Gardening

When selecting plants for your boulevard, it's important to consider the environment that they will live in. The urban streetscape can be an inhospitable place for plants that are too tender or require too much maintenance.

Consider choosing  
**Native Plant**

species over introduced species, and never plant anything that is considered invasive.

For more information about what plants are invasive in your area:  
<https://nsinvasives.ca/fact-sheets/>





# Ecosystems

Consider choosing a few plants that offer food and shelter for pollinating insects, like swamp milkweed – a food of choice for the endangered monarch butterfly. Planting gardens that support pollinators supports the whole ecosystem by providing food sources for birds and other wildlife and increases biodiversity in our communities.

Tips to consider when

# Planting your boulevard garden

## Do:

Think about the ecological services of the plants you select (do they provide habitat or promote pollination?)

---

Consider using native plants

---

Select plants that are hardy and can tolerate the urban environment

Top dress gardens with a minimum of two inches of mulch

---

Water gardens daily for a minimum of two weeks after installation

---

Remove all sod before planting boulevard gardens

Stick to the boulevard strip abutting your property

---

Use hand tools only

---

Have fun and meet your neighbours



Tips to consider when

# Planting your boulevard garden

## Don't:

Plant woody shrubs or trees

---

Use plants that grow above one metre tall

---

Install wooden planter boxes

---

Plant invasive species. For more information about what plants are invasive in your area:

<https://nsinvasives.ca/fact-sheets/>

Use boulders and hardscape elements

---

Plant tall plants near intersections

---

Plant in the strip abutting your neighbour's property without their permission

---

Plant next to accessible parking spots, in centre medians or traffic islands

Dig below 30 cm

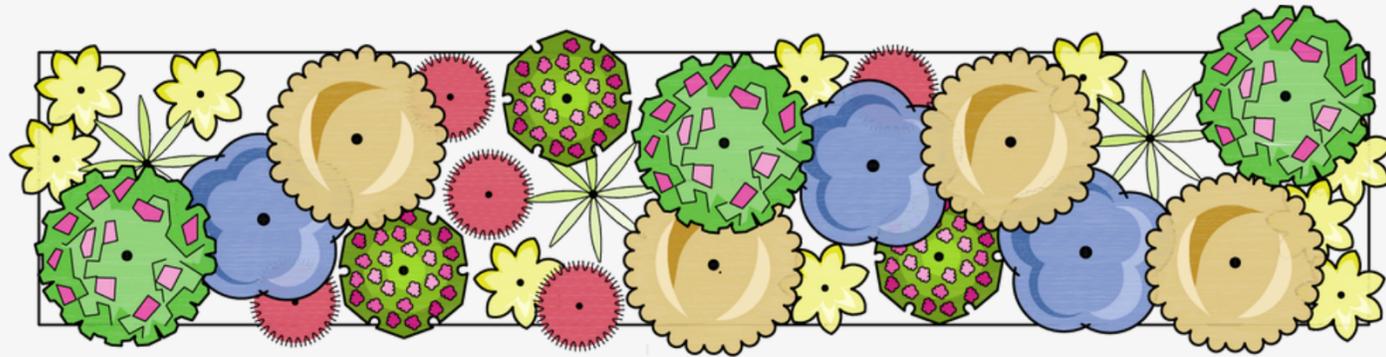
---

Plant gardens near utility poles or existing street trees



# Sample Layouts

## Full Sun



*Echinacea purpurea*  
(Pink Coneflower)



*Calamagrostis brachytricha*  
(Reed Grass)



*Nepeta Fassenii*  
(blue catmint)

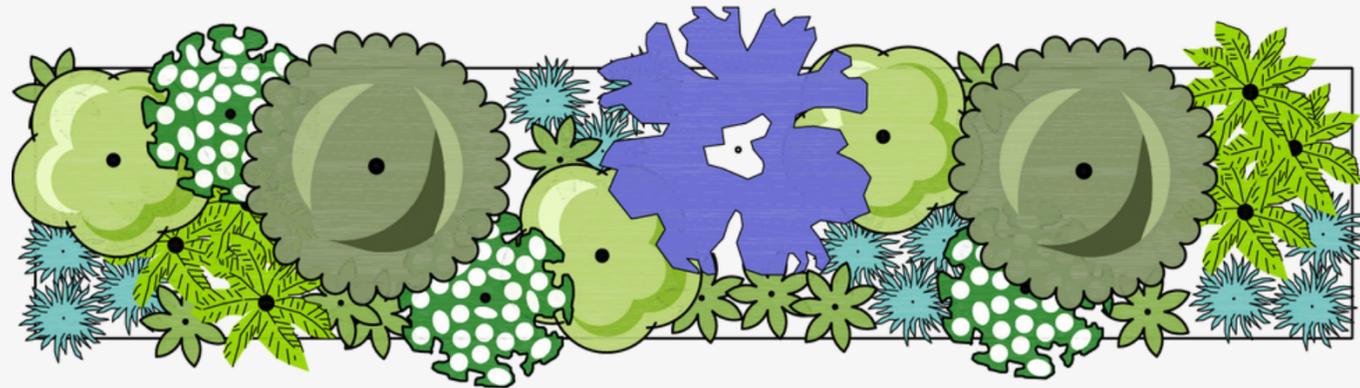


*Aclepias incarnata*  
(Swamp milkweed)



*Sesleria autmnalis*  
(Autumn moor grass)

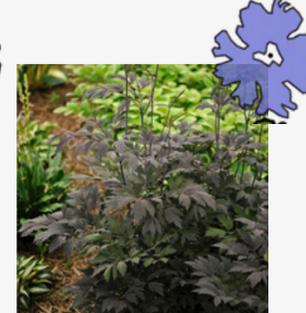
## Part Sun



*Myrica pensylvanica*  
(Northern bayberry)



*Anemone hupehensis*  
(Japanese anemone)



*Cimicifuga ramosa*  
(Black cohosh)

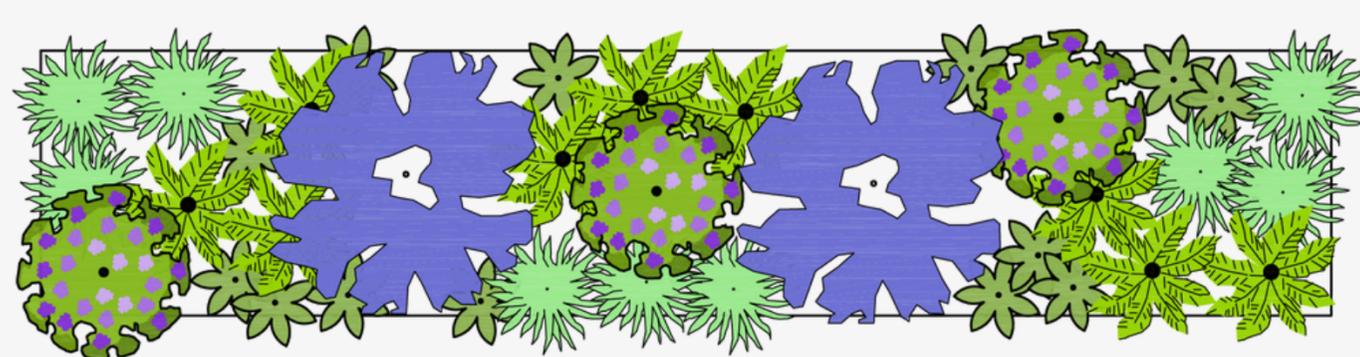


*Alchmilla mollis*  
(Lady's mantle)

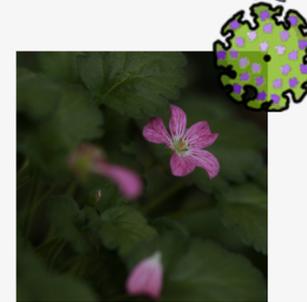


*Sesleria caerulea*  
(Blue moor grass)

## Shade



*Hakonechloa macra*  
(Hakone grass)



*Geranium maculatum*  
(Wild geranium)



*Asarum europaeum*  
(European ginger)



*Athyrium felix-feminina*  
(Lady fern)



*Cimicifuga ramosa*  
(Black cohosh)

# Community



## Following the recently adopted boulevard gardening by-law

we hosted a perennial plant giveaway and street planting party in Dartmouth to encourage participation. Numerous residents got involved and over 300 plants were given away.

Informational lawn signs were also provided to help raise awareness and support for boulevard gardening.

While you don't need to host a formal event in order to plant your own boulevard garden, our team is happy to provide support for an organized initiative in your community.



# Effort



# HALIFAX

Please note that the Halifax Regional Municipality is not responsible for any damages caused to any boulevard garden once installed, including, but not limited to, damage caused by road operations and maintenance, snow removal, or by vandalism, theft or any other circumstance.

For more information, refer to the administrative order Re Boulevard gardening here:  
<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/legislation-by-laws/2020-014-OP.pdf>



# Learn more

For more information visit  
[halifax.ca/boulevardgardening](https://halifax.ca/boulevardgardening)

Halif**ACT** Acting on  
Climate  
Together

**HALIFAX**