

25.5 Landscaping and Screening

25.5.1 Purpose

- a) Landscaping provides a range of aesthetic, functional and ecological opportunities for environmental enhancement. This chapter includes standards for screening activities and contributing to the amenity of the streetscape. Landscaping in this context is intended to soften hard surfaces and bleak areas, reduce visual impacts and provide visual unity. The standards also recognise that landscaping can contribute towards improved ecology.

25.5.2 Objectives and Policies: Landscaping and Screening

Objective	Policies
25.5.2.1 To maintain and enhance amenity values within and around development, while contributing to local ecology and cultural connection where possible.	25.5.2.1a Minimise visual impacts of developments in part by providing appropriate screening and planting around activities and between zones.
	25.5.2.1b Encourage the planting of native species where appropriate.
Explanation <i>Screening between zones, activities and particular development features, such as service and storage areas, helps mitigate the visual impact of development and contributes to the amenity of the streetscape.</i>	

25.5.3 Rules – General Standards

25.5.3.1 Landscaping

Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with the following standards.

- a) Activities adjacent to a major arterial transport corridor
- i. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any boundary adjacent to a major arterial transport corridor **from which vehicle access is obtained.**
 - ii. **A 2m wide buffer strip shall be required along any boundary adjacent to a major arterial transport corridor from which vehicle access is not obtained.**
 - ii. The requirements in (i) **and (ii)** shall not apply in the City Centre Zone, all Residential Zones, Special Character Zones and Future Urban Zone.
- b) Activities in the Industrial Zone (including Amenity Protection Area)
- i. A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a **2.1m** wide buffer strip shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or Special Character Zone or Open Space Zone; and
 - ii. **Either**

- A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any boundary adjoining a transport corridor, ~~or~~
 - ~~A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence and 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any boundary adjoining an Open Space Zone or transport corridor~~
- iii. Where a site is wholly or partially within the Amenity Protection Area, a 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a 5m wide buffer strip shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or Special Character Zone.
- c) Activities in the Community Facilities and Knowledge Zones
- i. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along the boundary of a site adjacent to any Residential, Special Character or Open Space Zone, and
 - ii. When adjoining a transport corridor, a 30% planting area for the front setback adjoining the transport corridor shall be required.
 - iii. The requirements in (i) and (ii) shall not apply to the ECMT railway and private roads within the Knowledge Zone.
- d) Activities in the Business 1 to 7 Zone
- i. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along the boundary of a site adjacent to, or facing, any Residential or Special Character Zone.
- e) Activities in the Ruakura Industrial Park Zone
- i. A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a 2m wide buffer strip shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or the Knowledge Zone; and
 - ii. Either
 - A 2m wide planting strip, or
 - Up to a 1.8m permeable fence and 2m wide planting stripshall be required along any boundary adjoining an Open Space Zone or transport corridor.
- f) Drive-through services adjacent to a Residential or Special Character Zone
- i. A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or Special Character Zone, and
 - ii. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any front boundary facing any Residential or Special Character Zone
- g) Ground-level parking spaces, loading spaces and vehicle storage areas adjacent to a transport corridor ~~in all Zones (except Residential, Special Character and Future Urban Zones)~~

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- i. Where ground-level parking, loading spaces and vehicle storage areas (not associated with residential units) are provided within 5m of a boundary of a transport corridor, a 2m wide planting strip shall be required between that area and the transport corridor boundary
- ii. Where ground-level parking spaces associated with residential units are provided within 3m of a boundary of a transport corridor, a 1m wide planting strip shall be required between that area and the transport corridor boundary.
- h) External ground-level parking spaces in all Zones
- i. Parking areas of more than 10 parking spaces shall be landscaped with tree planting and ground cover planting at a rate consistent with Rule 25.5.4.6
- ii. Parking areas of five or more parking spaces shall have either:
- ~~A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence, or~~
 - A 2m wide planting strip; or
 - Up to a 1.8m high permeable fence and 2m wide planting strip
- between the parking area and the boundary with any Open Space Zone; and
- iii. Parking areas of five or more parking spaces shall have either:
- A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, ~~and a minimum 1m wide buffer strip, or~~
 - A 2m wide buffer strip
- when along the site boundary, between the parking spaces and any Residential or Special Character Zone
- i) Service areas in all Zones
- i. Where service areas are visible from a transport corridor, any other public space, Residential or Special Character Zones (except where provided by ii below) they shall be screened from view with either:
- A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a minimum 1m wide buffer strip, or
 - A 2m wide buffer strip
- ii. Service areas associated with residential units shall not be required to be screened from view from other Residential or Special Character zoned land.
- j) Outdoor storage areas in all Zones
- i. Where outdoor storage areas are visible from a transport corridor, any other public space, Residential or Special Character Zone they shall be screened from view with either:
- 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a minimum 1m wide buffer strip, or
 - A 2m wide buffer strip
- k) Activities in the Ruakura Logistics Zone and the Crawford Street Freight Village

- i. Where fencing is required to meet specialised security needs (e.g. Ministry of Agricultural quarantine specifications) a 6m high permeable fence may be used, provided that a 10m planting or buffer strip shall be provided along boundaries with any transport corridor or Open Space Zone.

- A 2m wide planting strip, or
- A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence and 2m wide planting strip

shall be required along any boundary adjoining an Open Space Zone or transport corridor

l) Utility Buildings/Cabinets

- i. The requirements of Rules 25.5.3.1 (a) – (k) do not apply to the small utility buildings/cabinets not exceeding 10m²/3m high, and network utility support poles and antennas.

25.5.3.2 Implementation

All planting shall be implemented within the first planting season after any buildings and other site works are completed.

25.5.3.3 Planting Strips, Buffer Strips and Planting Areas

Planting strips, buffer strips and planting areas shall not be:

- i. Required on that part of any boundary required for pedestrian or vehicle access to the site.
- ii. Required within an approach sight distance triangle as outlined in Rule 25.14.4.4.
- iii. Used for outdoor storage, parking or vehicle manoeuvring.

25.5.3.4 Frangible Vegetation

Where a buffer strip or planting strip is to be located within 5m of the carriageway of an arterial transport corridor with a posted speed limit greater than 70 kilometres per hour all vegetation within the strip shall be frangible.

25.5.3.5 Maintenance

All fences and planting required by 25.5.3.1 shall be maintained in a manner to ensure ongoing compliance with relevant standards in this chapter. This will require regular care of planted areas, the timely repair or replacement of damaged fences, and the replacement of dead, dying or diseased planting.

Note

1. Guidance on selecting plant species appropriate to the site conditions is available from Council.
2. Particular care needs to be taken in selecting and locating specimen trees for planting, for example tree species which tend towards an expansive root system are an inappropriate choice for planting near underground network utilities. Guidance should be sought on appropriate species and local site constraints to ensure that the tree suits the site and any constraints.

25.5.4 Rules – Specific Standards

25.5.4.1 All Fences and Walls

- a) Any fence or wall adjoining a buffer strip or planting strip required by this plan which is adjacent to a transport corridor or other public space shall be either:
- located so that the buffer or planting strip is between the fence and the external site boundary, and shall be designed to enable access to plantings for maintenance purposes; or
 - Be permeable in accordance with Rule 25.5.4.2 below.

25.5.4.2 Permeable Fences

- a) The following design and dimensions shall apply to permeable fences.

Design requirements	
i. Materials with 50% or more see-through visibility in a consistent manner along the entire length of the fence, or	
ii. Materials with 50% or more see-through visibility	6m (Ruakura Logistics Zone only, see Rule 25.5.3.1k)

Note

- Refer to Figure 25.5.4a for examples of acceptable and unacceptable fencing solutions.
- Glass, metal bars or louvres are acceptable fence designs to achieve minimum 50% see-through visibility.

25.5.4.3 Buffer Strips

- a) Buffer strips shall be of a permeable nature for stormwater purposes.
- b) Buffer strips shall consist of shrub or hedge planting (hedges are recommended where buffer strip widths are less than 2m) selected and maintained in a manner to ensure a mature height of at least 1.8m and shall be at least 0.5m in height at the time of planting.
- c) Shrub or hedge planting shall be selected, located, provided at a density, and maintained in a manner to ensure that, when mature, a visually impermeable screen of planting is achieved (refer Figure 25.5.4b):
- Along the length of the buffer strip, and
 - To a height of at least 1.8m.
- d) Buffer strips shall include specimen trees at the following minimum rates:

Length of the buffer strip	Number of specimen trees
Up to 10m	1
For each additional 10m or part thereof	An additional 1

Except where frangible vegetation is required by Rule 25.5.3.4, in which case frangible trees shall be required instead of specimen trees.

- e) Trees required by 25.5.4.3d) shall be selected to ensure they are capable of growing to a mature height of more than 4m and shall be at least 1.8m in height at the time of planting.

- f) Where two or more trees are required by 25.5.4.3d) they shall be spaced along the length of the buffer strip to ensure they are no more than 15m or less than 5m apart (refer Figure 25.5.4c).

25.5.4.4 Planting Strips

- a) Planting strips shall be of a permeable nature for stormwater purposes.
- b) Planting strips shall consist of a combination of groundcover and shrub planting, with shrub planting selected to ensure they are capable of achieving a maximum mature height of 0.8m, and are least 0.4m in height at the time of planting.
- c) Groundcover and shrub planting shall be maintained to ensure they do not exceed a height of 0.8m (refer Figure 25.5.4d).
- d) Groundcover and shrub planting shall be selected, located and provided at a density to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the surface of the planting strip is covered from the time of planting.
- e) Planting strips shall include specimen trees at the following minimum rates.

Length of the planting strip	Number of specimen trees
Up to 10m	1
For each additional 5 spaces or part thereof	An additional 1

Except where frangible vegetation is required by Rule 25.5.3.4, in which case frangible trees shall be required instead of specimen trees.

- f) Trees required by 25.5.4.4e) shall be selected to ensure they are capable of growing to a mature height of more than 4m and shall be at least 1.8m in height at the time of planting.
- g) Where two or more trees are required by 25.5.4.4e) they shall be spaced along the length of the strip to ensure they are no more than 15m, or less than 5m apart (refer Figure 25.5.4c).
- h) All trees shall be maintained to ensure that a clear distance of 2m is achieved between ground level and the tree canopy (refer Figure 25.5.4d). This standard shall not apply until a specimen tree reaches at least 4m high.
- i) Trees within the planting strip shall be selected, located and maintained in a manner so as not to:
- i. Create traffic safety problems by obscuring visibility for road users or train drivers.
 - ii. Obstruct traffic, official road, or hazard signage.
 - iii. Interfere with transport infrastructure or network utilities.

25.5.4.5 Planting Area

- a) Where a planting area is required, the area shall:
- i. Be of a permeable nature for stormwater purposes.
 - ii. Consist of a combination of groundcovers and shrubs or hedges.
 - iii. Include specimen trees at the following minimum rates:

Length of front boundary	Number of specimen trees
Up to 10m	1
For each additional 10m or part thereof	An additional 1

- iv. Be located in the front setback between the non-residential activity and the adjoining transport corridor boundary.
- v. Include groundcover, shrub or hedge planting that has been selected, located and provided at a density to ensure that a minimum of 30% of the area of the front setback requirement of the relevant zone is covered from the time of planting.

25.5.4.6 Internal Planting

- a) Internal planting shall be located within the sealed area to break up the impermeable expanse of paving and hard surfaces while ensuring pedestrian and vehicle safety. For large areas this will require the internal planting requirements to be split into more than one location.
- b) Internal planting shall consist of a combination of groundcovers and shrubs.
- c) Internal planting shall include specimen trees at the following minimum rates:

Number of parking spaces	Number of specimen trees
Up to 20	1
For each additional 10 spaces or part thereof	An additional 1

- d) Groundcover and shrub planting shall be selected, located and provided at a density to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the surface of the internal planting area is covered from the time of planting (refer Figure 25.5.4e).
- e) Shrub planting shall be selected to ensure it is capable of growing to a mature height of at least 0.5m and shall be at least 0.3m in height at the time of planting.
- f) Trees required by 25.5.4.6c) shall be selected to ensure they are capable of growing to a mature height of more than 4m and shall be at least 1.8m in height at the time of planting.
- g) Trees shall be located within a planting space free from impermeable surfaces with a minimum dimension or diameter of 1.5m diameter.
- h) All planting shall be protected from potential pedestrian and vehicle damage.

Note

1. Suitable means of compliance includes providing formalised pedestrian crossing points, ensuring plant selection and layout does not make crossing difficult, low fencing, or wheel stops (refer Figure 25.5.4f).
2. For larger external ground-level parking spaces in all zones (more than 20 parking spaces) any assessment of landscaping proposals should consider the total site area including landscaping and trees to be planted within planting and/or buffer strips.

Figure 25.5.4a: Examples of acceptable fencing or wall solutions.

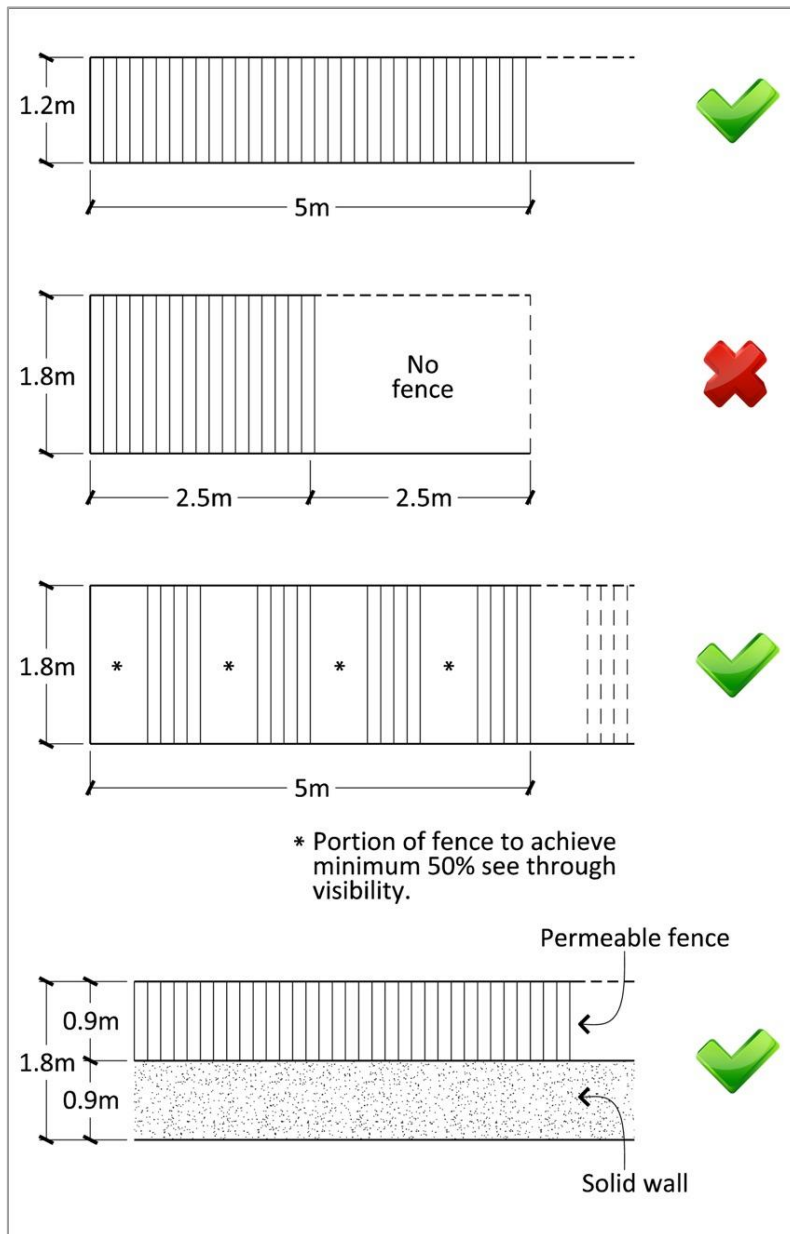


Figure 25.5.4b: Examples of shrub or hedge planting to achieve a visually impermeable screen



Figure 25.5.4c: Examples of achieving specimen tree spacing

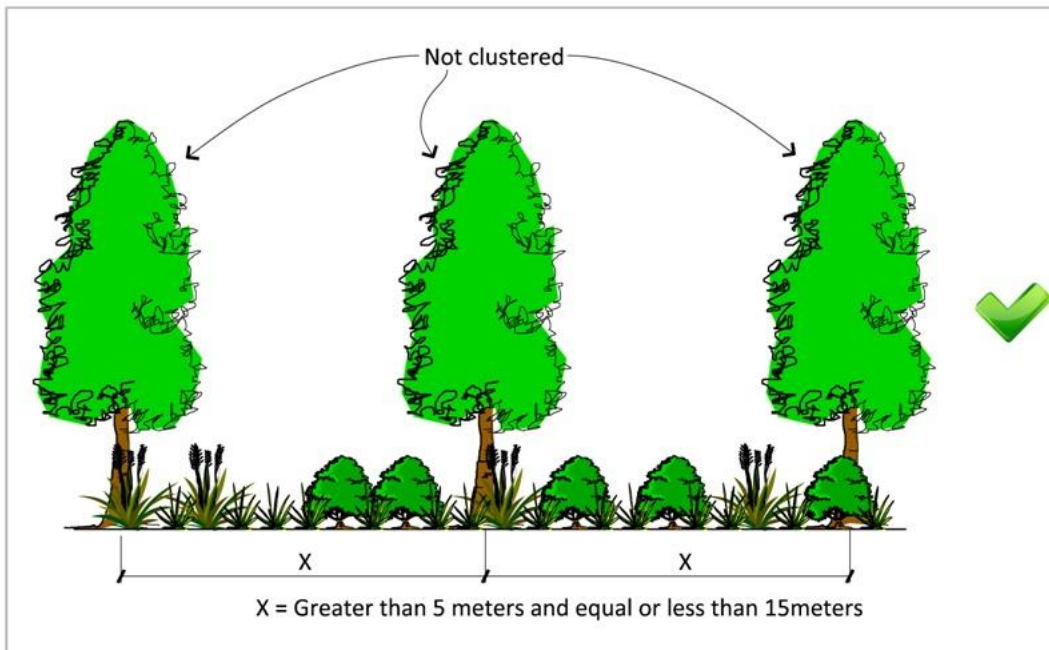


Figure 25.5.4d: Example of well-maintained groundcover

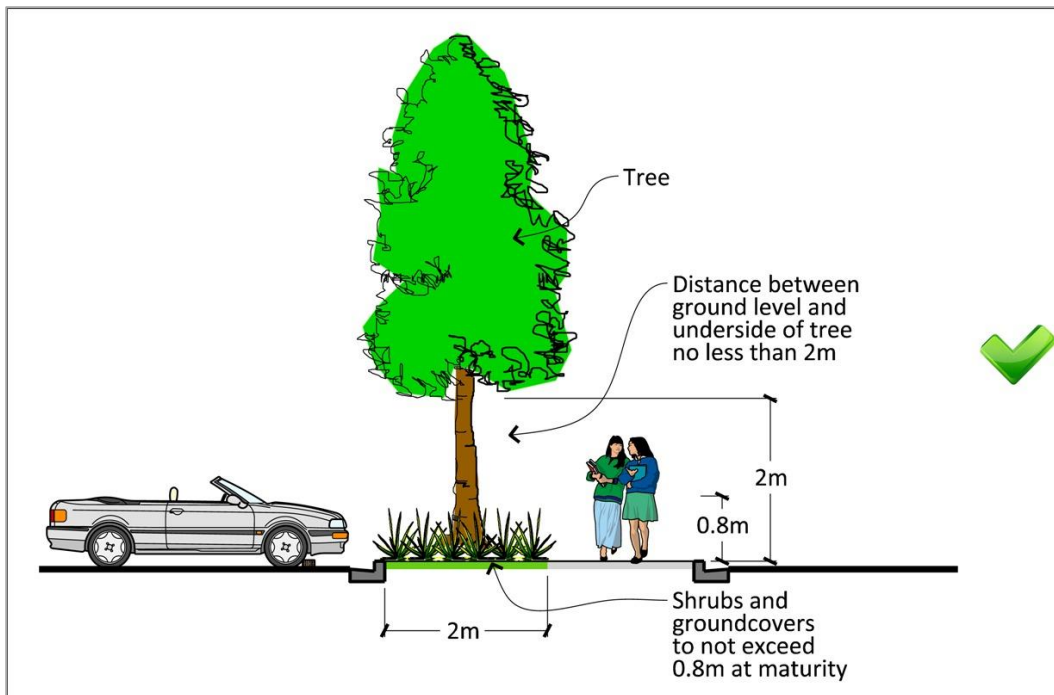


Figure 25.5.4e: Example of achieving ground coverage

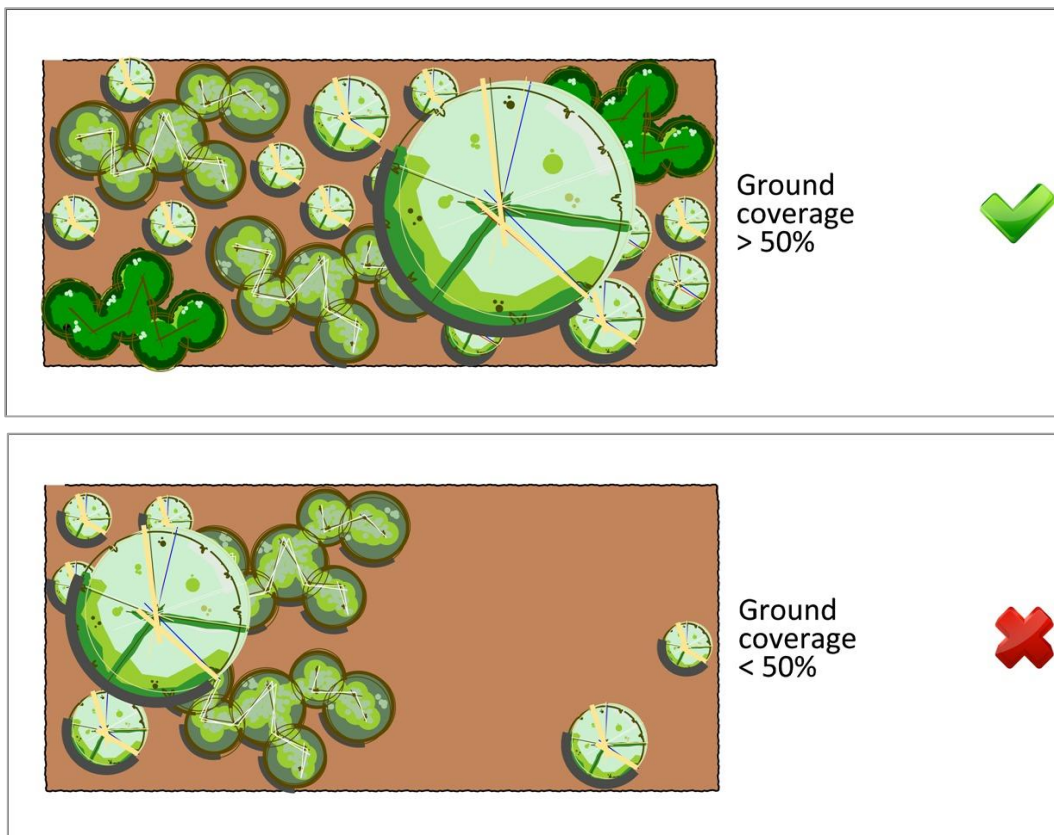
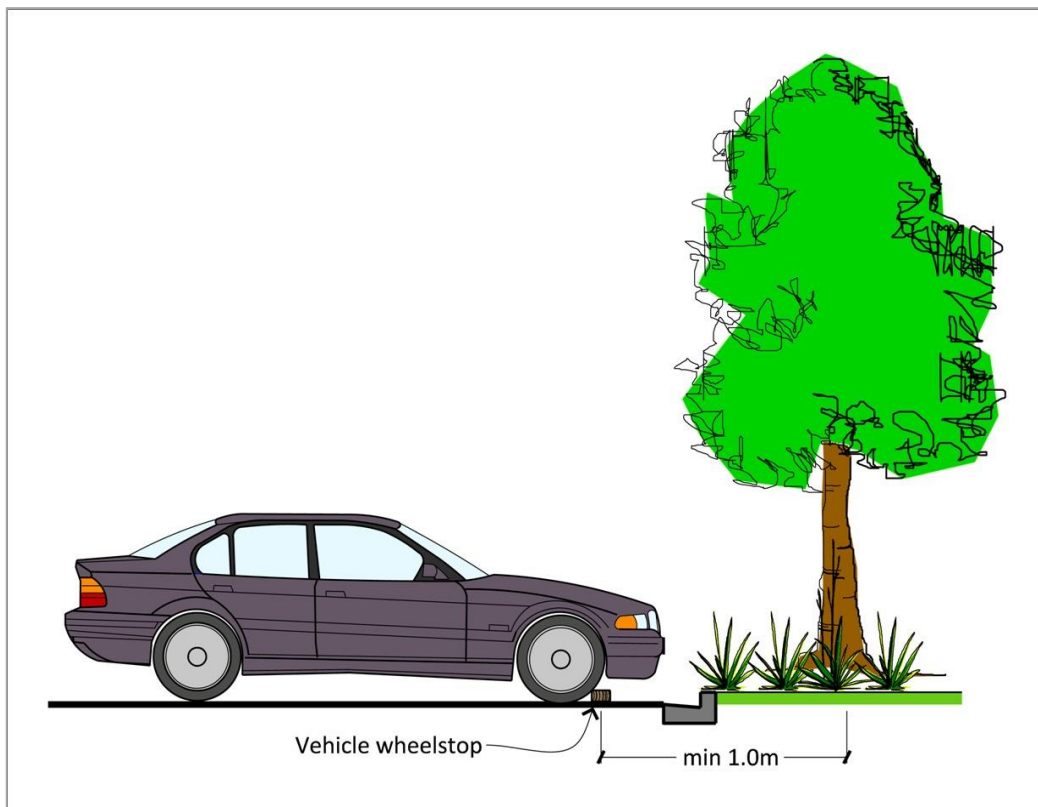


Figure 25.5.4f: Example of methods to protect trees from pedestrian or vehicle damage



25.5.5 Other Resource Consent Information

Refer to Chapter 1: Plan Overview for guidance on the following.

- How to Use this District Plan
- Explanation of Activity Status
- Activity Status Defaults
- Notification / Non-notification Rules
- Rules Having Early or Delayed Effect

Refer to Volume 2, Appendix 1: District Plan Administration for the following.

- Definitions and Terms Used in the District Plan
- Information Requirements
- Controlled Activities – Matters of Control
- Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary and Non-Complying Activities Assessment Criteria
- Design Guides
- Other Methods of Implementation