



aurora

Your Landscape

STAGES 1 TO 4

YOUR LANDSCAPE AT AURORA

Welcome to the Aurora community.

We know you'll be busy with house design and furnishing, but what you're now planning to build isn't simply a house, it's a home surrounded by an immediate environment – a garden, with its terrain, its separate areas, its colours, its character.

So now is the right time to plan your outdoor surroundings as carefully as you will those indoors.

Your allotment and those of your neighbours are all different.

Think of the individuality of your land as the starting point of what irrevocably will become the highly personal centre of your life. Doesn't this make it worthwhile, and even critical, to plan your home and its public and private landscapes as a whole?

If this sounds daunting, breathe easy. The following brochure contains all the information you need to plan the outdoor part of your home, and a wealth of advice and guidance to help you choose from all the options and opportunities available.

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1. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Sustainability

Materials should be selected carefully to minimise environmental impacts. In some instances, the collection of rock for use in gardens may destroy the ecosystems from which they are removed. Use of old growth timber or rainforest timbers and river pebbles pose a similar dilemma. If we damage the ecology of wild landscapes in the process of creating gardens, our gardens are not sustainable.

The following questions should be asked when choosing materials:

- Where does the material come from?
- How well does the material incorporate the principles of “reduce, reuse, recycle”?
- What is the product’s impact on the environment once installed?
- What are the material’s maintenance requirements?

Refer to Eco-selector : A Guide to Materials Selection For Aurora for further information.

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD)

Water sensitive urban design and planting will help to minimise overall water use. We recommend the following:

- Plant drought-tolerant plants.
- Use recycled mulch to retain soil moisture.
- Use irrigation systems that provide water efficiently with minimum water loss through evaporation or run-off.
- Re-use grey water through approved diversion systems.
- Locate plants with similar water requirements in groups.
- Limit the use of high water use plants to small feature areas or focal points.

Rain–Gardens

Rain-gardens are a requirement for all rear-draining lots. However, they can be incorporated into any garden. They are a form of bio-retention system that integrates household gardens into the stormwater management system of the estate. They treat stormwater by percolation through a vegetated soil media. The rain-garden can be developed as an essential and aesthetically pleasing feature of the garden with the use of stonework, paving, timber decking, and other landscape materials.

Refer to the Rain-garden Installation Guide and Technical Notes for further information and requirements.

Fencing & retaining walls

To ensure a consistent streetscape is maintained, retaining walls that are visible to the public should be constructed in:

- Rendered masonry, or
- Local stone to match existing dry-stone and estate retaining walls.

Retaining walls more than 1m high should be stepped to allow planting areas to break the mass of wall. Railway sleepers or timber walling systems are discouraged where they are within the front setback area including corner lots.

Consider whether any retaining walls can be built to a height of 450mm in order to double as informal seating in the garden.

Refer to the Fencing Guidelines and Technical Notes for further information and requirements.

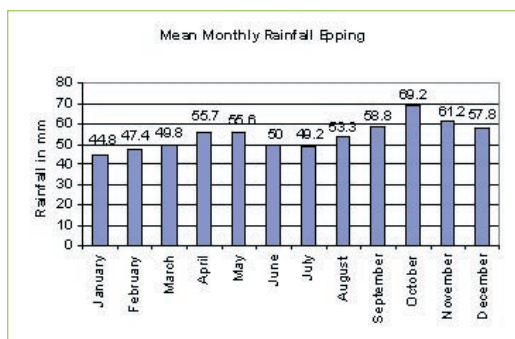
2. YOUR SITE & NEEDS

Before you begin any design, it is important to understand the physical environment at Aurora, within your street and on your property.

Climate

Annual rainfall in the area averages 655.5 millimetres. September, October and November are the wettest months of the year in the area and frosts are common in winter.

You will need protection from strong northerly winds in summer (hot) and winter (cold). Breezes from the south will offer relief from summer heat, but can be cold and rain-laden at other times of the year.



Soils

The soils of the area are mostly basalt derived, black cracking clays that, while relatively fertile, have poor drainage characteristics. Heavier clay subsoils may be close to the surface in some areas. Water does not penetrate the clay layer easily. In late winter and spring some soils can become saturated, due to build up of water in the soil during winter.

Drainage

Investigate drainage conditions on your property by digging with a spade at high and low points at wet and dry times of the year. If necessary, install sub-surface drains to remove water from important or low-lying outdoor areas. Which way will water run across your property? Plan to control the direction of surface water run-off in outdoor areas away from the house.

Services

Where are the services (gas, water, electricity, sewerage, stormwater and telephone) located on the property? You should avoid planting large trees close to service installations. Check your Certificate of Title for the existence and location of any easements. You may not be permitted to build or plant large trees on easements on your property.

Orientation and Views

What will you see from your future front and back yard, and from inside your home? Try to maintain views to important and attractive elements of the street and neighbourhood. Distant features such as mountains can add interest

to the view from house or garden. Plan to retain your privacy. Plant to screen and soften unattractive views.

Lifestyle

Consider your lifestyle and needs now and in the future. Will your needs change over time? Do you have children? Try to anticipate how their needs will change over time. Do you have time to spend maintaining garden areas with flower beds, or does your lifestyle suit a low maintenance garden?

List Your Needs

Make a list of the things you want from the outdoor areas of your property. Write down everything that comes to mind. Try to organise the list as you go into the types of uses. A simple division is into service elements and leisure elements. You will almost certainly require some (if not all) of the following list. You may have special needs of your own which are not on this list.

Service Elements

- driveway
- garage or carport
- entry area
- garden storage & compost area
- rubbish
- water tank
- rain garden
- recycling storage
- clothes line
- paved pathways

Leisure Elements

- outdoor living and dining area(s)
- barbeque
- lawn area
- ornamental garden areas
- screen plants
- shade trees
- vegetable garden
- fruit trees
- herb garden
- greenhouse
- swimming pool
- sand pit
- cubby house
- play equipment
- pet enclosure
- sunny courtyard
- pergola / arbour
- shady place
- studio
- water feature / pond

The list may be long, but a few simple rules of design can help you to organise the different elements into a sensible and attractive outcome. You have already commenced this process by organising your list into functional and leisure uses.

3. DESIGNING YOUR GARDEN

Now that you understand your site and your family's needs, use your building plan as the basis to start your design. (Your builder will probably have a scale plan of your house on the lot.) The following principles should guide your design.

Solar Access

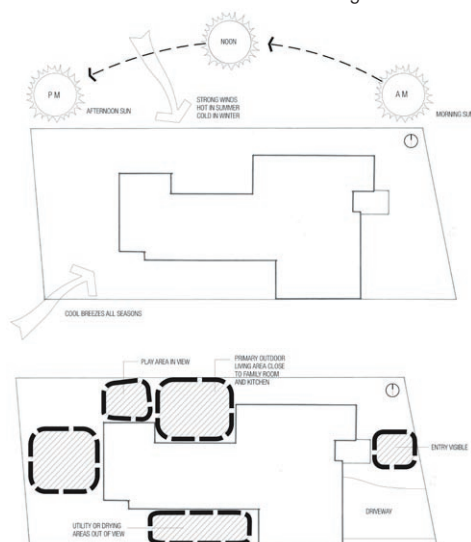
- Locate outdoor living areas where they'll get sun during the time of day that they will be used the most.
- Locate the clothes drying area where it will get sun for some of the day and as close to the laundry as possible.
- Be careful in tree location to maintain winter sunshine into the house, and possibly provide shade to windows in summer.

Shelter

- Shelter outdoor living areas from hot and cold winds, and utilise cooling breezes in summer.

Function

- The front door should be clearly visible. Use planting, an arch or create an entry courtyard to emphasise the entrance.
- Locate the main outdoor living area, perhaps with paving, close to the family room or kitchen.
- Provide doorways connecting the kitchen and/or family rooms with outdoor areas. Keep the level difference between these indoor and outdoor areas to no more than one or two steps.
- Put children's play structures or sand pits where they can be seen directly from the main indoor living area (or even the kitchen sink).
- Locate utility areas out of sight of indoor and outdoor living areas, or else screen them from view with fencing or planting.
- Use plants, screens and fences to enclose and separate different outdoor use areas. A series of different spaces in the garden can make it more flexible to use and can actually make it feel larger.
- Provide all weather paved access between the main use areas and from the front to the back garden.

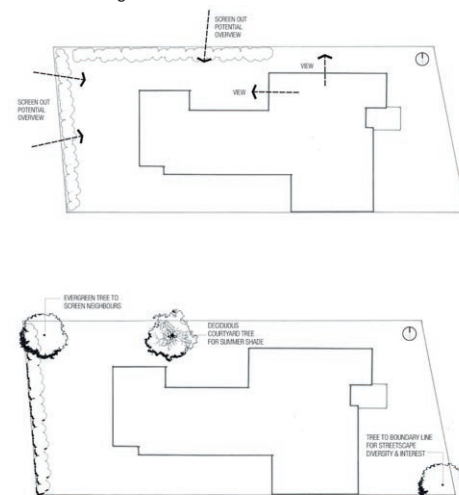


Privacy & Views

- Use simple screening, such as lattice on fencetops, tall shrubs or strategically placed small trees to prevent overlooking by neighbours.
- Ensure highly visible large, exposed walls are softened through tall narrow evergreen trees or feature panels and climbers.
- Frame and accentuate attractive views into the garden or street from different rooms of the house.

Planting Design

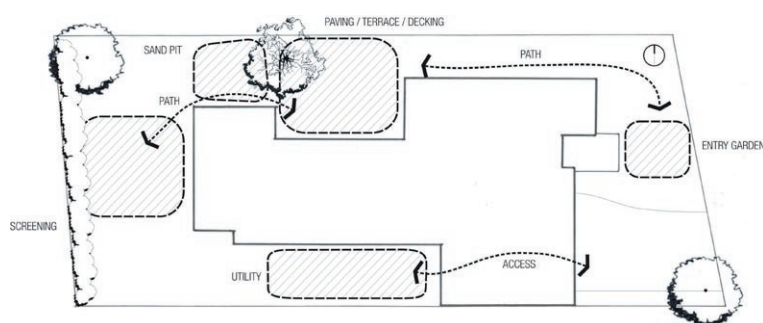
- Keep the choice of plant materials simple. The best gardens rely on simple species repeated throughout.
- Keep lawn areas to a minimum to reduce watering costs. (Alternatives include ground covers, wood mulches and gravel mulches).
- Use deciduous trees to shade outdoor entertainment areas in summer and to allow winter sun to warm these areas.
- Use evergreen trees where winter shade won't matter and where screening is vital.
- Select shrubs to frame views or to create screens that separate spaces.
- The amount of light and moisture are the key growth factors of plants. Choose carefully for very shady, very wet or very dry places.
- Select plants for specific purposes. Avoid buying them first and then trying to find a place for them to fit in.
- Use plants of contrasting colour or foliage texture in areas you want to highlight or define.
- Consider using plants that will provide highlights due to seasonal change, while also ensuring a good selection of all year performers.
- Create hierarchy in your garden by the layering of plants (moving from larger shrubs towards the rear of the garden bed, to medium shrubs, through to ground covers at the front).
- Use planted garden beds along house and porch edges as grass directly against walls and fences can look very stark.
- Avoid paving running directly against walls, solid fences or the edge of your house. Instead a narrow garden bed will soften edges.



4. FINAL DESIGN

Putting it Together

If possible, get your builder to give you a copy of the floor plan of your house at a scale of 1:100. If not already there, add the lot boundaries. Use some tracing paper over this plan to sketch out different combinations. Try to keep to the sort of bubble diagrams shown here to allocate different uses to different outdoor spaces. This makes it quicker and easier to try out different combinations. Once you come to a combination or arrangement of these main elements that you are happy with, you can then work out the finer details of paving types and plant species.



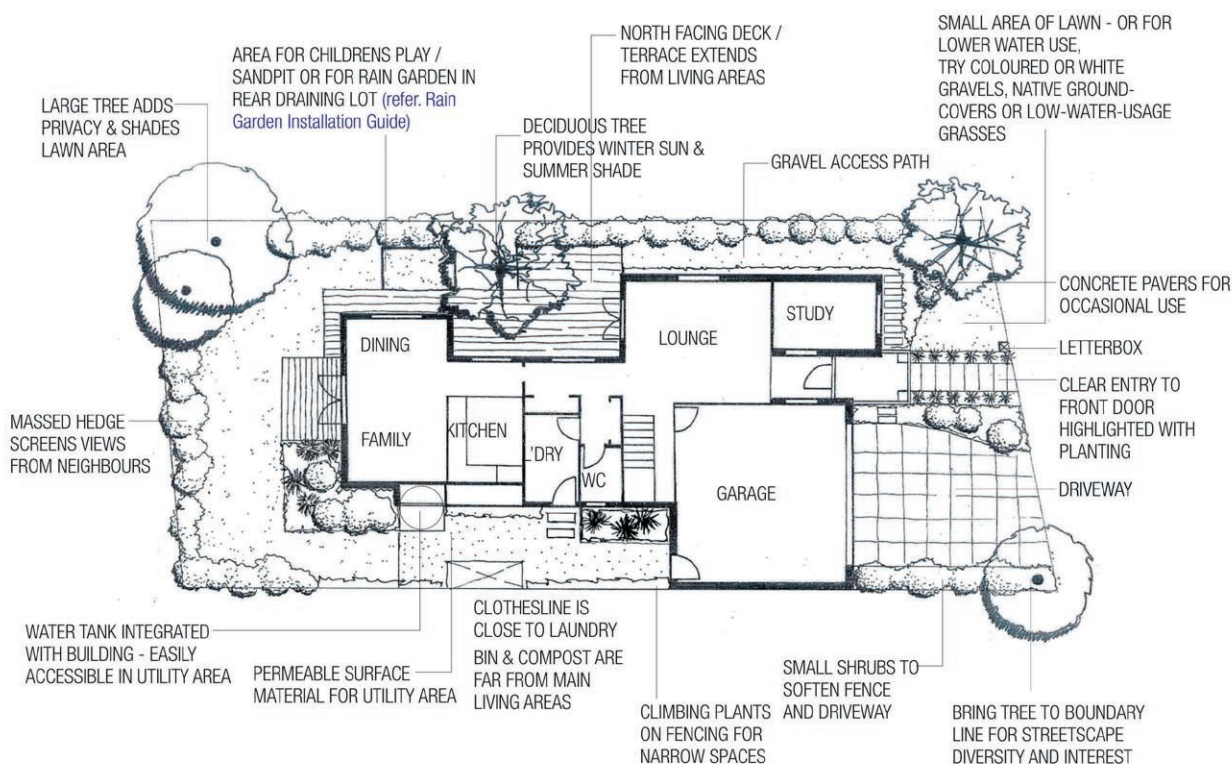
The Final Design

Having settled on the layout (or bubble diagram) that best suits your property and your needs, develop a simple plan to guide your garden's development.

5. LANDSCAPE DESIGN THEMES

The following landscape design themes have been developed to give an example of the many ways in which you can create the aesthetic of your garden. A compatible plant and material palette has been included to suit the style of each themed garden.

There are many different styles or approaches to consider when designing your exterior spaces. Further resources include garden design books, or consider engaging the help of a horticulturalist, landscape architect or landscape designer to assist in creating your garden.



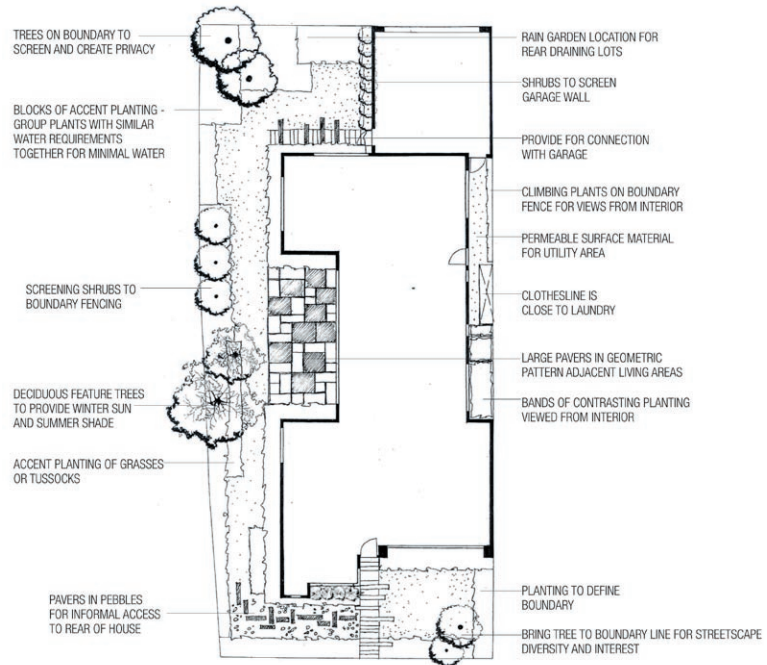
CONTEMPORARY

CLEAN LINES • MINIMALISM • ARCHITECTURAL PLANTING • CONTRAST BETWEEN TEXTURES

Material palette

Bold and simple use of materials
Contrast in texture and form
Feature or highlight colours
Eclectic pattern

- Large pre-cast pavers
- Decorative gravels
- Recycled timbers
- Mulch
- Garden bed areas



Plant palette

Botanical Name	Common Name		
Trees			
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i> **	Golden Wattle	<i>Correa reflexa</i> **	Common Correa
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> **	Coast Banksia	<i>Correa glabra</i> **	Rock Correa
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> *	Red Flowering Gum	<i>Goodenia ovata</i> **	Hop Goodenia
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> *	Gungurru	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	Bird of Paradise
<i>Pyrus Calleryana</i> 'Red Spire'	Callery Pear	Grasses & Tussocks	
<i>Waterhousia floribunda</i> *	Weeping Lilly Pilly	<i>Dianella species</i> **	Pale Flax Lily
Large Shrubs		<i>Festuca glauca</i>	Blue Fescue
<i>Choisya ternata</i>	Mexican Orange Blossom	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> **	Spiny-headed Mat Rush
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i> **	Burgan	<i>Phormium species</i>	N.Z. Flax
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Mock Orange	<i>Poa labillardieri</i> **	Tussock Grass
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> *	Coast Rosemary	Groundcovers & Climbers	
Small Shrubs		<i>Brachyscome multifida</i> **	Cut leaf Daisy
<i>Agave attenuata</i>	Century Plant	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> **	Purple Coral Pea
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	Silver Bush	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Lily Turf
		<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> *	Creeping Boobialla

Correa glabra - Front garden plant species according to street type
Correa glabra ** - Indigenous species
Correa glabra * - Native species

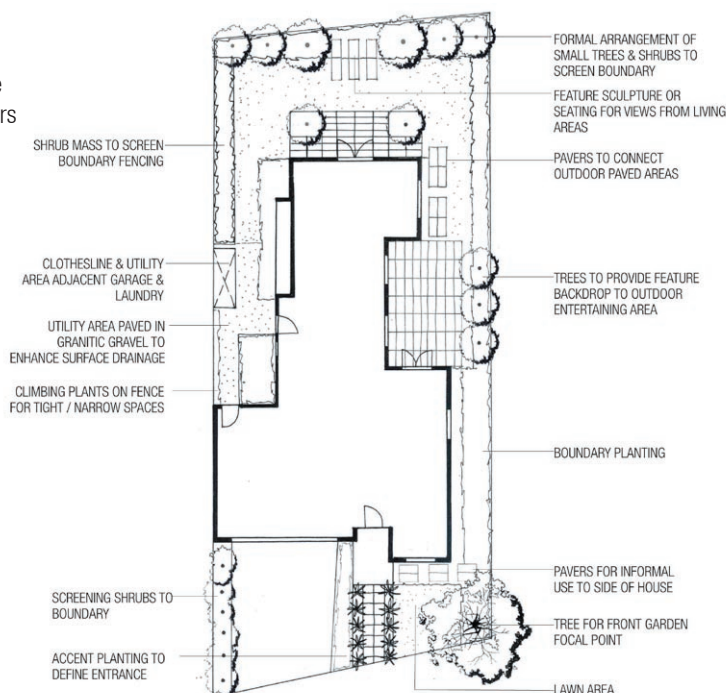
CLASSIC

SYMMETRY • FORMAL • TRADITIONAL • TIMELESS • ELEGANT

Material palette

Materials size and form to reflect a classic style
Muted hues and tones in complementary colours
Balanced palette

- Pre-cast pavers or tiles
- Decorative gravels
- Steppers in grass areas
- Timber decking
- Mulch
- Garden bed areas



Plant palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Trees

Acmena smithii *
Acer palmatum
Laurus nobilis
Lagerstroemia indica
Magnolia x soulangeana
Prunus 'Mt Fuji'
Pyrus Calleryana 'Red Spire'

Lilly Pilly
Japanese Maple
Bay Laurel
Crepe Myrtle
Magnolia
Mt Fuji Cherry
Callery Pear

Large Shrubs

Camellia sasanqua
Choisya ternata
Syzygium cultivars *
Viburnum tinus
Westringia fruticosa *

Camellia
Mexican Orange Blossom
Dwarf Lilly Pilly
Lauristinus
Coast Rosemary

Small Shrubs

Correa glabra **

Rock Correa

Convolvulus cheorum
Hebe 'Inspiration'
Lavandula species
Rosmarinus officinalis

Silver Bush
Veronica
Lavender
Rosemary

Grasses & Tussocks

Dianella species **
Dietes species
Liriope muscari
Phormium species

Pale Flax Lily
Wild Iris
Lily Turf
N.Z. Flax

Groundcovers & Climbers

Cerastium tomentosum
Ficus pumila
Stachys lanata
Trachelospermum jasminoides
Viola hederacea **

Snow in Summer
Climbing Fig
Lambs Ears
Star Jasmine
Ivy-leaf Violet

Correa glabra - Front garden plant species according to street type
Correa glabra ** - Indigenous species
Correa glabra * - Native species

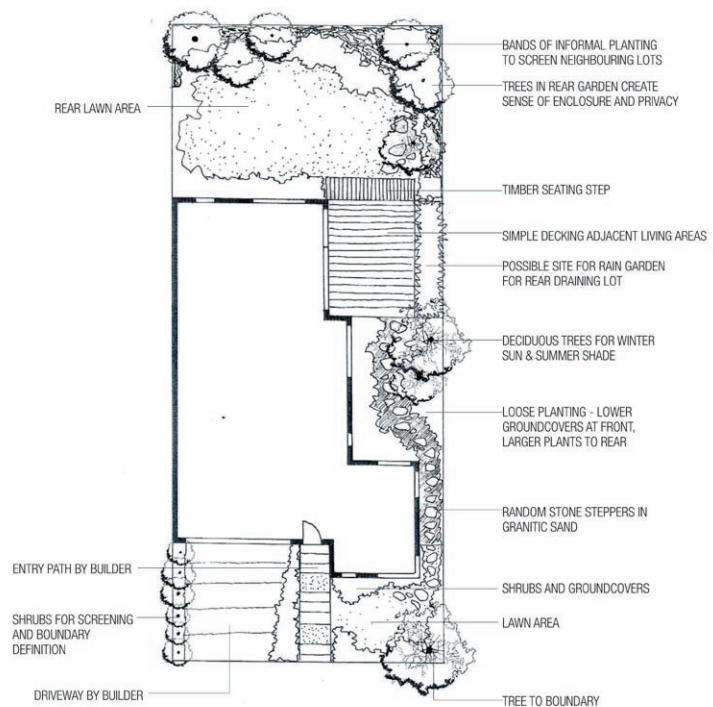
INFORMAL

NATURAL • ORGANIC • FREE-FLOWING • UNSTRUCTURED • LAYERED

Material palette

Reflect local colours and textures
Informal, natural materials
Textural diversity

- Recycled timbers
- Stone steppers (permeable paving)
- Decorative gravels
- Crushed rock
- Pre-cast pavers / stone flagging
- Mulch
- Garden bed areas



Plant palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Trees

<i>Acmena smithii</i> *	Lilly Pilly
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> *	Coast Banksia
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> *	Red Flowering Gum
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> *	Gungurru
<i>Eucalyptus 'Eukie Dwarf'</i> *	Eukie Dwarf
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i> *	Native Frangipani
<i>Michelia doltsopa</i>	Wong-lan
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive

Large Shrubs

<i>Acacia acinacea</i> **	Gold-dust Wattle
<i>Banksia marginata</i> **	Silver Banksia
<i>Callistemon 'Harkness'</i> *	Bottlebrush
<i>Callistemon 'Eureka'</i> *	Bottlebrush
<i>Eriostemon myoporoides</i>	Long-leaf Wax Flower
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> *	Coast Rosemary

Small Shrubs

<i>Epacris impressa</i> **	Common Heath
<i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>	Dusty Miller
<i>Wahlenbergia species</i> **	Bluebell

Grasses & Tussocks

<i>Anigozanthus species</i> *	Kangaroo Paw
<i>Dianella species</i> **	Pale Flax Lilly
<i>Festuca glauca</i>	Blue Fescue
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> **	Spiny-headed Mat Rush
<i>Poa labillardieri</i> **	Tussock Grass

Groundcovers & Climbers

<i>Brachyscome multifida</i> **	Cut leaf Daisy
<i>Clematis aristata</i> *	Clematis
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> **	Purple Coral Pea
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i> **	Running Postman
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> *	Creeping Boobialla

<i>Correa glabra</i>	- Front garden plant species according to street type
<i>Correa glabra</i> **	- Indigenous species
<i>Correa glabra</i> *	- Native species

6. RECOMMENDED PLANT LIST

Botanical Name	Common Name	Indig.	Native	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Mature Size (H x S)
Trees					
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	✓	✓	E	4 x 6
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple			D	7 x 5
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple			D	6 x 6
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly		✓	E	6-8 x 4-6
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Willow Myrtle		✓	E	5 x 5
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak	✓	✓	E	6 x 4
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia		✓	E	8 x 8
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	✓	✓	E	2-8 x 2-6
<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	Willow Bottlebrush		✓	E	6 x 4
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottlebrush		✓	E	4-6 x 5
<i>Corymbia litoralis</i> (Grafted stock)	Red Flowering Gum		✓	E	5-8 x 4-5
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> 'Silver Princess'	Gunguru		✓	E	7 x 5
<i>Eucalyptus 'Eukie Dwarf'</i>	Eukie Dwarf		✓	E	7 x 5
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum		✓	E	8 x 6
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani		✓	E	7 x 4
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crepe Myrtle			D	6 x 4
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Laurel			E	5 x 3
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	Magnolia			D	4-7 x 4-7
<i>Malus ioensis</i> 'Plena'	Bechtel Crab Apple			D	4 x 6
<i>Michelia doltsopa</i>	Wong-lan (Magnolia)			E	8 x 8
<i>Olea europaea</i> (sterile variety only)	Olive			E	5 x 5
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio			D	5 x 5
<i>Prunus 'Mt Fuji'</i>	Mt Fuji Cherry			D	4 x 5
<i>Prunus subhirtella</i> 'Pendula'	Weeping Cherry			D	3 x 8
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Red Spire'	Flowering Pear			D	8 x 5
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear			D	5 x 3
<i>Tristanopsis laurina</i>	Water Gum		✓	E	6 x 4
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Todd'	Chinese Elm			D	8 x 8
<i>Waterhousea floribunda</i>	Weeping Lilly Pilly		✓	E	10 x 7
Large Shrubs					
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle	✓	✓		2.5 x 2.5
<i>Acacia boormanii</i>	Snowy River Wattle		✓		5 x 4
<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	Varnish Wattle		✓		4 x 4
<i>Azalea species</i>	Azalea				1.5 x 1.5
<i>Callistemon 'Harkness'</i>	Bottlebrush		✓		6 x 2-3
<i>Callistemon 'Eureka'</i>	Bottlebrush		✓		6 x 2-3
<i>Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'</i>	Bottlebrush		✓		5 x 4
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush	✓	✓		2-6 x 2-3
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> 'Captain Cook'	Weeping Bottlebrush		✓		2 x 2
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	Camellia				4 x 3
<i>Cassinia species</i>	Cassinia		✓		2 x 2
<i>Choisya ternata</i>	Mexican Orange Blossum				2 x 2
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> 'Purpurea'	Purple-leaf Hop Bush		✓		3 x 1.5
<i>Eriostemon myoporoides</i>	Long-leaf Wax Flower		✓		2 x 2
<i>Grevillea species</i>	Grevillea		✓		varies
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan	✓	✓		3-5 x 2-4.5
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coastal Tea-tree		✓		3-5 x 3-5
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Tea-tree	✓	✓		3-5 x 1.5-3
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark	✓	✓		3-8 x 1-3
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Mock Orange				3 x 3
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Sacred Bamboo				2 x 1.2
<i>Olearia phillopappa</i>	Dusty Daisy Bush	✓	✓		1-2 x 1.5
<i>Plumbago capensis</i>	Plumbago				3 x 3
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Lauristinus				3-4 x 3
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Coast Rosemary		✓		1.5 x 1.5
<i>Westringia longifolia</i>	Native Rosemary		✓		2 x 2
Small Shrubs					
<i>Acacia lanigera</i>	Woolly Wattle	✓	✓		1 x 1.5
<i>Agave attenuata</i>	Century Plant				1 x 0.2
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	Silver Bush				0.6 x 0.7
<i>Correa glabra</i>	Rock Correa	✓	✓		1 x 1
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa	✓	✓		1 x 1
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	✓	✓		0.8 x 0.5
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia	✓	✓		1 x 1.5
<i>Hebe species</i>	Veronica				0.6 x 1
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Austral Indigo	✓	✓		1-2 x 2
<i>Lavandula species</i>	Lavender				1 x 1
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary				1.2 x 1.2
<i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>	Dusty Miller		✓		1 x 1.5
<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	Bird of Paradise				1 x 1
Grasses & Tussocks					
<i>Anigozanthus 'Bush Gem' series</i>	Kangaroo Paws		✓		1 x 1
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge	✓	✓		0.6 x 0.6
<i>Dianella species</i>	Flax Lily		✓		0.6 x 0.7
<i>Dietes species</i>	Wild Iris		✓		1 x 0.6
<i>Festuca glauca</i>	Blue Fescue				0.2 x 0.3
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Lily Turf				0.3 x 0.5
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat Rush		✓		0.5 x 0.5
<i>Phormium species</i>	New Zealand Flax				0.6 x 1
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	Common Tussock Grass	✓	✓		0.8 x 0.6
<i>Wahlenbergia species</i>	Bluebell	✓	✓		0.5 x 0.3
Groundcovers					
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i>	Cut leaf Daisy				0.3 x 1
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in Summer				0.1 x indefinite
<i>Chrysanthemum apiculatum</i>	Clustered Everlasting	✓	✓		0.3 x 0.6
<i>Erigeron mucronatus</i>	Seaside Daisy				0.3 x 0.3
<i>Felicia amelloides</i>	Blue Marguerite				0.6 x 0.6
<i>Grevillea pinnatifida</i> 'Royal Mantle'	Prostrate Grevillea		✓		0.3 x 3
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman	✓	✓		0.2 x 1
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Creeping Boobialla		✓		0.1 x 0.5
<i>Rosa noaschnee</i>	Carpet Rose				0.3 x 0.6
<i>Stachys lanata</i>	Lamb's Ear				0.4 x 0.6
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaf Violet	✓	✓		5 - 10cm
Climbers					
<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Clematis	✓	✓		
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral Pea	✓	✓		
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga-wonga Vine	✓	✓		
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Star Jasmine				

Adjacent is a list of preferred species for use in Aurora. Care should be taken when selecting plants for your garden. The skills of a professional horticulturalist, landscape designer or landscape architect can prove invaluable when creating your garden.

NOTE:

Correa glabra - denotes front garden plant species

Weeds

Plants that grow naturally in the Epping area are unlikely to become weeds, but any plants that are introduced from other parts of Australia, or from other countries, have the potential to become weeds. It is wise to select plants that are not considered to be invasive, and to ensure that plants do not escape from gardens and spread into natural areas. Contact Whittlesea City Council for a list of indigenous plants that you can use in your garden, and a list of plants or environmental weeds you should avoid. Some indigenous plants are included within our plant list.

7. ESTABLISHING YOUR GARDEN

Trial the Layout

- Mark out key outdoor areas and pathways on the ground. Use string and stakes for straight lines, the garden hose for curves, and whatever else is at hand to check that the design still works on the ground.
- Experiment with different arrangements, and placements of highlights such as feature trees by using sticks or brooms.

Ground Works

- Begin by carrying out any earthworks such as levelling, cut and fill, drainage works and installation of services such as power and water.
- Always strip and save topsoil for re-use. Make sure the builder saves topsoil when the house is being built.

Construction

- Paving can be laid, and structures built, when ground works are complete.
- Slope paved areas to drain water away from the house. A fall of 2 cm in 100 cm will ensure that paved surfaces shed water.
- Drain large paved areas to a grated pit or strip drain.

Plant Choice

- Seek assistance in choosing plants.
- Study the Suggested Plants list in this brochure for a range of plants suitable for planting at Aurora. Visit local nurseries to see many of these plants.
- Local nurseries can recommend additional plants which suit the local soils and climate.
- Save money by buying most plants in 10, 15 and 20 cm pots. After two years, many plants from these pot sizes will be as large as more expensive plants purchased in larger pots.
- Create a dramatic effect early in the life of the garden, if the budget allows, by purchasing feature trees in larger sizes.

Garden Bed Preparation

- Ensure that the depth of topsoil in garden beds is at least 20 centimetres.
- Cultivate thoroughly before planting by hand or with a rotary hoe. Use gypsum to break up clay soils and add compost or other rotted organic matter to any soil before cultivation.
- Separate garden beds from lawns and gravel surfaces using brick or timber edging to help with weed control.

Planting

- Water the plants in their pots thoroughly before you plant.
- In warm weather, plant during the cooler parts of the day.
- Place the plants in their pots in the proposed locations, for each bed or area of the garden. Adjust the locations of the plants to ensure an attractive spacing.
- Make a hole twice the diameter of the pot, but not deeper. Mix a slow release fertiliser in the soil which will be placed around the plant.
- Remove the plant from the pot and place in the hole without damaging the roots. Adjust the height if required, place and firm down topsoil around the plant.
- Water in all plants immediately after planting.
- Support larger shrubs and trees with stakes and soft webbing or cloth ties. Remove the stakes after approximately twelve months, to encourage growth of a strong root system and trunk.
- Mulch around plants to conserve water and maintain even soil temperature. Keep the mulch away from the base of plants.

Lawns

- Establish lawns when all other planting works are complete.
- Seed mixes with a high proportion of Fescue species will give a hard wearing lawn that does not require large quantities of water once established.
- A good depth of topsoil for lawns is 10 cm minimum. Prepare the seed bed by cultivating and levelling out high and low spots. Rake a lawn starter fertiliser into the soil.
- Sow seed by broadcasting in two different directions. Rake the seed lightly into the soil after sowing.
- Water the seed thoroughly at the time of sowing. Keep moist, until germination is complete (about 2 weeks).
- To conserve water and reduce maintenance and weed growth, keep your lawn at least 4 cm high.

Getting Design Ideas

- Look around for ideas which will suit your property and needs.
- Visit established and demonstration gardens to see how successful layouts organise spaces and use landscape materials.
- Gardening programs on television and radio can all be of assistance, as can books and magazines. Some sources for further reading are listed at the end of this brochure.

8. MAINTAINING YOUR GARDEN

It often is easier to evaluate the initial cost of construction materials than their long-term costs. However, the long-term maintenance costs of some building materials can be significant. Before choosing a product, research its initial and long-term costs as well as its recommended uses.

Design, plant selection and choice of materials will largely determine the level of maintenance required. A sustainable garden can be designed to minimize the use of electric tools or fuel-powered tools such as lawn mowers and chain saws.

Important maintenance duties for a sustainable garden include:

- Checking irrigation systems regularly for leaks and blockages;
- Topping-up of mulch;
- Watering lawns in the early morning rather than during the day;
- Keeping lawns longer in summer to maintain soil moisture.

9. FURTHER RESOURCES

- Whittlesea City Council (<http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au>)
- indigenous plant list
- Eco-selector : A Guide to Materials Selection For Aurora
- Flora of Melbourne - A guide to the indigenous plants of the Greater Melbourne Area
- Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia, L.F Costermans
- Plants of the Merri Merri - A Home Gardener's Guide to Using Indigenous Plants in the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne, Merri Creek Management Committee
- Living in the Garden: Australian Style, Rick Eckersley

10. TECHNICAL NOTES

The front garden installation guide, fencing guidelines, and the rain-garden installation guide, can be obtained from VicUrban.

The information contained in this document is supplied as a guide and should not be taken as representative in any respect on the part of the vendors or their agents. This document has been prepared by MDG Landscape Architects P/L for VicUrban. Otherwise known as Front Garden Installation Guide for Stages 1 to 4 (22.09.05).