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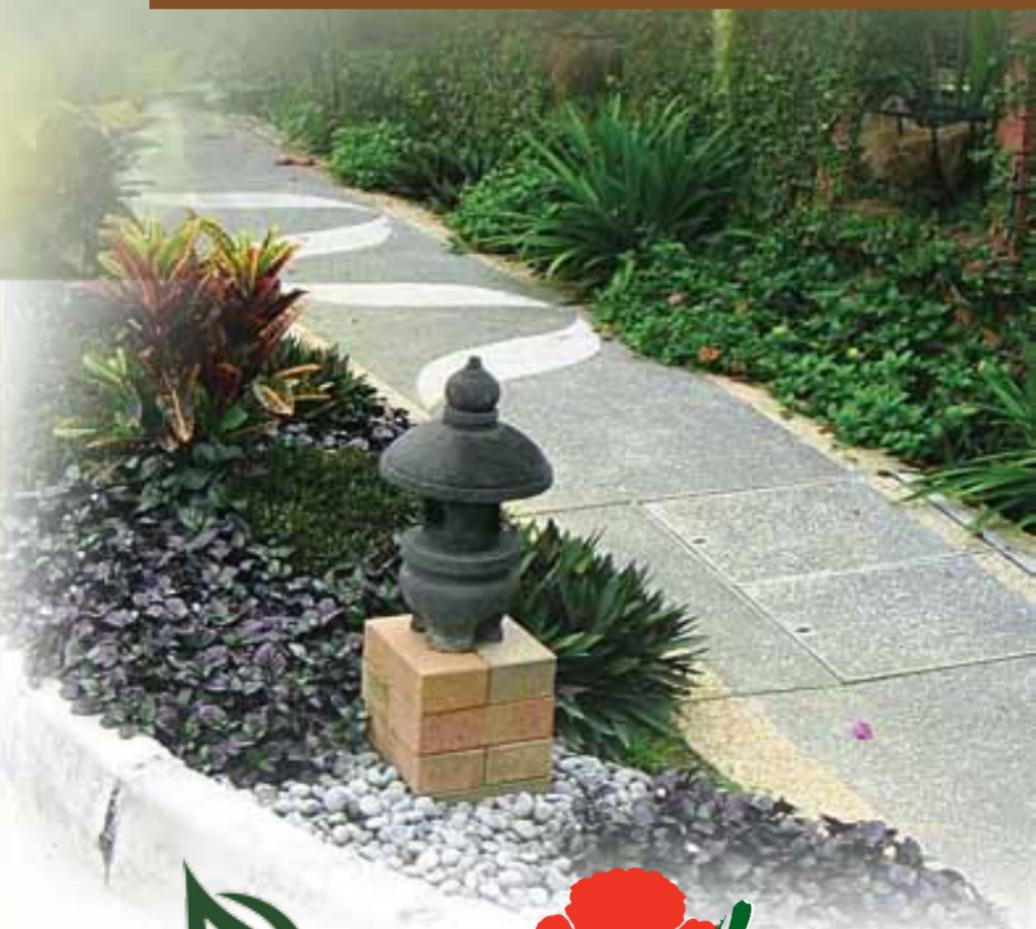
**Email:CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg**

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# GUIDELINES FOR A **BEAUTIFUL ROADSIDE GARDEN**



LET'S MAKE  
SINGAPORE  
OUR GARDEN!





Have you been wondering how you can create a beautiful roadside garden right in front of your house? Through the Community in Bloom programme for private estates, you can now learn to transform the grass covered roadside kerbs in your estates into delightful miniature gardens. So don't hesitate - round up a few neighbours and embark on this rewarding journey today !



## Getting Started



Like many other worthwhile projects, beautiful roadside gardens do not just happen overnight.

Besides having great design elements, selecting the right plants for the location is an important factors in ensuring that the garden remain aesthetically pleasing long after it matures.

**The roadside garden being a common space needs regular maintenance to prevent inconvenience to your neighbours and road users.**



Inspirational designs from the  
Community





...beautiful roadside gardens do not just happen overnight. Besides having great design elements, selecting the right plants for the location and regular maintenance are also important factors in ensuring that the garden remains aesthetically pleasing long after it matures.





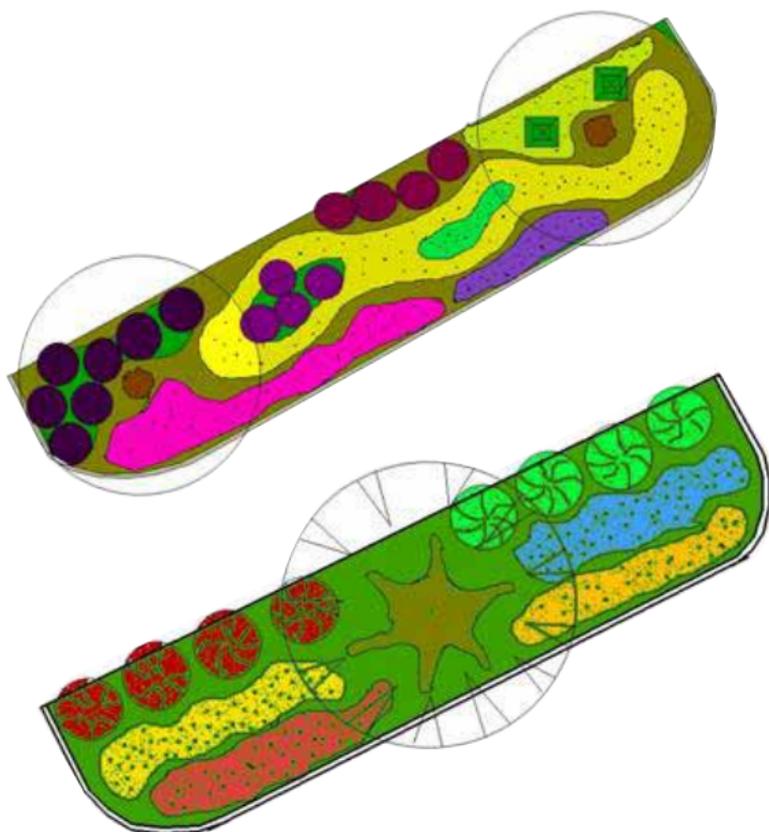
Welcome  
to my garden.

## Tips for building your ideal roadside garden:

-  **Safety** - Beware of electrical cables and gas pipelines that may be buried under the soil surface. Lamp posts, electrical boxes or other markers present in the plot are indicators of their presence.
-  **Know your plot** - Make a note of the light conditions that your plot receives as this will determine the choice of plants that you can grow. For instance, plots that receive 4 to 6 hours of bright sunlight will be ideal for most flowering plants.
-  **Know your plants** - Do some background reading on the watering, light and drainage requirements of the plants that you desire to have in your plot, and group those with similar growth requirements together in the same plot for ease of maintenance.
-  **Tender Loving Care (TLC)** - Any garden will benefit from lots of TLC. Do :
  -  Feed and water plants regularly - healthy plants are likely to flower more often and are less susceptible to pests or diseases. Add fertilizer to the soil once every 2 to 3 months to keep plants happy.
  -  Spread mulch to your garden once your planting has been completed. Regular mulching will help to prevent the growth of weeds and retain moisture in the soil and thus lessens the need for weeding and watering.

# Designing your roadside garden

A good roadside garden can feel welcoming through proper planning and design. These are two examples to get you started.



Consider some of the key elements that will help you in your planning.

## Softscape

- ☛ Quality and size of plants
- ☛ Types of plants – shrubs, ground covers, hedge etc
- ☛ Arrangement of plants – foreground, background, distance between plants
- ☛ Accessories – rocks, pebbles etc
- ☛ Available space

## Existing Roadside Tree

- ☛ Avoid removing the trees or cutting tree roots

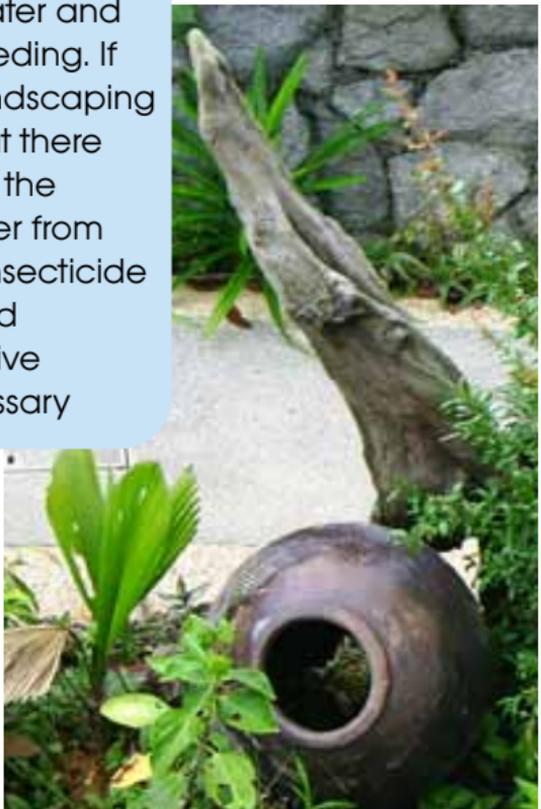
# Guidelines for your roadside garden

Here are some simple recommendations that will make your roadside garden enjoyable for all:



Growing creepers or low growing plants is good practice - the plants form a natural ground cover to shield exposed soil areas from the elements and thus prevent soil erosion

Make regular checks to eliminate stagnant water and prevent mosquito breeding. If pots are used as a landscaping feature, do ensure that there are drainage holes at the bottom to prevent water from collecting. Granular insecticide should also be applied regularly as a preventive measure where necessary



Prune and trim your plants regularly so that they do not obstruct the movement and visibility of pedestrians & motorists.





Avoid spiny and thorny plants such as *Cacti*, *Agave* and large *Pandanus* species as these may cause injury to unwary pedestrians or children

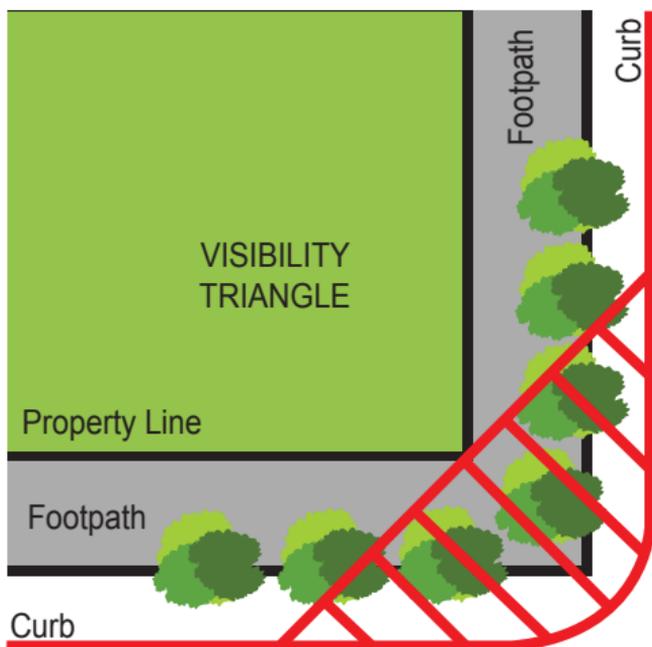


Avoid growing plants that are too tall or have an untidy growth habit such as sugarcane, papaya, bananas and bamboos as these will obstruct the pedestrian walkway





Avoid placing planted containers on the footpath or on the road as this will obstruct pedestrians, and also affect the overall image of the estate



Avoid planting on road junctions to prevent obstruction to traffic views



# Plants Listing

Local nurseries carry a wide variety of beautiful plants with compact growth habits that are suitable for planting at roadside gardens. Featured below are some of the plants that you can use for your roadside garden. The growth habits as well as interesting aspects of these plants are illustrated using symbols for easy reference. Visit <http://florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg> for more information.

## Plants Growth Habit



Shrub



Creeper or Trailing Plant

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## Plants Care Requirements



Prefers Full Sun



Prefers Lots Of Water



Prefers Semi-Shade



Prefers Moderate Water



Prefers Full Shade



Prefers Little Water

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## Plants Uses Or Characteristics



Ornamental Foliage



Ornamental Flowers



Drought Tolerant



Herb & Spice



Fragrant or aromatic plant



Suitable for Hanging Baskets



Suitable as Indoor Plant

# Sun Lovers



*Arundina species*  
Family: Orchidaceae  
Dwarf Bamboo Orchid

Miniature orchid with grass like leaves and stems, hence the common name "Bamboo Orchid". This compact species is no more than 50cm tall.



*Iris domestica*  
Family: Iridaceae  
Black Berry Lily / Leopard Lily

Small to medium sized plant (60-90cm tall) with fan shaped foliage. Orange flowers give way to fruit capsules with many shiny black seeds.



*Brunfelsia calycina*  
Family: Solanaceae  
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

As suggested by the common name of this plant, the heavily scented flower change color from purple on the first day, and fading to mauve and white.



*Ixora cultivars (dwarf)*  
Family: Rubiaceae  
Ixora

The dwarf Ixoras are compact shrubs that are usually no taller than 60cm in height.





*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*  
 Family: Malvaceae  
 Hibiscus/ Rose mallow

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Green  
 Flower Colour(s): Orange, Pink, Red, White, Yellow / Golden



*Lantana camara*  
 Family: Verbenaceae  
 Lantana (Assorted colours)

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Green  
 Flower Colour(s): Yellow / Golden  
 Mature Fruit Colour(s)  
 (Angiosperms & Gymnosperms): Black



*Arachis hypogaea*  
 Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)  
 Peanut Plant

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Native Distribution: South America  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Green  
 Flower Colour(s): Orange



*Cuphea hyssopifolia*  
 Family: Lythraceae  
 False heather

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Native Distribution: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Green  
 Flower Colour(s): Purple



*Plectranthus scutellarioides*  
 Family: Lamiales (Labiatae)  
 Painted Nettle

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Cream / Off-White, Green, Pink, Purple, Red, White, Yellow / Golden  
 Flower Colour(s): Blue, White



# Plants for semi-shade or shaded areas



*Acalypha chamaedrifolia*  
Family: Euphorbiaceae  
Cat's Tail

Small plant to about 25cm tall. Flower heads red. Makes a good ground cover.



*Episcia cultivars and hybrids*  
Family: Gesneriaceae  
Flame Violet, Episcia

Small trailing plants that make excellent subjects for raised pots or displays.



*Ruta Graveolens*  
Family: Rutaceae  
Common Rue

Small shrub (to about 60cm tall) with grayish green foliage. Makes an attractive landscape subject.





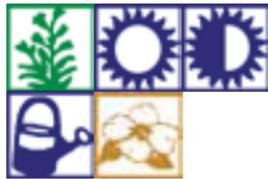
*Ruella simplex* 'Katie'  
*Ruella simplex* 'Bonita'  
 Family: Acanthaceae  
 Mexican Petunia

A compact species that is ideal for use as a border plant for flowerbeds as well as roadside gardens.



*Turnera subulata*  
 Family: Turneraceae  
 Sulphur Alder

Small shrub 30-80cm tall. Flower are white with a yellow and black eye, opening early in the morning and closing by noon. Blooms profusely under optimal conditions.



*Sedum mexicanum*  
 Family: Crassulaceae  
 Common Sedum

Tolerates dry conditions and makes on ideal ground cover subject. Forms a lush green carpet under optimal conditions.



*Tradescantia pallida* 'Purpurea'  
 Family: Commelinaceae  
 Purple Heart

Semi-succulent creeper with stunning purple foliage and small pink flower. Tolerates dry conditions.





***Centratherum punctatum***  
**Family: Compositae**  
 Brazilian Button Flower

Small plant to about 50cm tall with many fragrant purple flowers.



***Plumbago auriculata***  
**Family: Plumbaginaceae**  
 Cape Leadwort

A native of South Africa, this shrub is grown for its blue flowers.



***Portulaca grandiflora cultivar***  
**Family: Portulacaceae**  
 Rose Moss

A popular potted plant, this succulent is available in many flower color forms. Tolerates dry conditions and makes a good ground cover.



***Portulaca species***  
**Family: Portulacaceae**  
 Pink Purslane / Japanese Rose

Another Portulaca species that is ideal for planting as a ground cover. Also tolerates dry conditions.





***Spathiphyllum cannifolium***  
**Family: Araceae**  
 White Sails

Beautiful landscape subject with Canna like green leaves and white flower. Plant grows to about 60cm tall.



***Alocasia cucullata***  
**Family: Araceae**  
 Shade

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Native Distribution: Tropical South America & the Caribbean  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Green, Red, White, Yellow / Golden



***Calathea bella***  
**Family: Marantaceae**  
 Shade

Plant Growth Form: Shrub  
 Native Distribution: Brazil  
 Mature Foliage Colour(s): Green, Silver / Grey





*Adiantum tenerum*  
Family: Adiantaceae  
Maidenhair Fern

Delicate, arching fronds that make a beautiful green mass for shady and semi-shade areas. Moist frequently.



*Piper sarmentosum*  
Family: Piperaceae  
Wild Pepper

Small herbaceous plant with heart shaped leaves and white flower heads. Young shoots are edible and it is also used as a medicinal plant.



*Tradescantia zebrina*  
Family: Commelinaceae  
Silver Inch Plant

Creeping plant with variegated leaves that are silvery green and iridescent purple in color. Flowers small, dark pink.

