



greenbelt

your home, your world, your future



young woodland

a long term solution

Woodland belts or buffer zones are often an integral design feature of the overall landscape scheme around housing developments.

They provide a tranquil backdrop for a community and add to the ecology of an area, supporting a wide range of wildlife. They also help to clean the air and reduce noise pollution, all of which enhances the quality of your local environment.

Establishing new woodland is a process that can take between five to ten years, depending on the ground conditions and the choice of species.

A woodland is considered established when: the canopy has closed – the branches between adjoining trees touch; the presence of other vegetation within the area does not affect survivability; the trees are growing healthily.

The speed at which young woodlands establish depends on the ground conditions and the amount of competition from nearby vegetation for light, nutrients and water and the type of plants used. In managing our woodlands, Greenbelt adopts what is called a 'ring spray' technique to successfully establish the trees. The ring spray method treats only the competing vegetation at the base of each young tree, allowing ground cover vegetation to grow between the trees.

While establishment may be slower initially, than other intensive techniques such as the bare earth approach, fewer chemicals are used and the biodiversity of plants, insects and animals is enhanced. It is more cost-effective and produces the same sized tree over a 10-year growing period.

A small number of young trees will inevitably not survive and, while we will replant some of the trees to ensure the long-term quality of the woodland, we purposefully do not replant all trees. This is because gaps are welcome as they encourage different types of woodland flora and sturdier growth of the remaining trees.

This also means thinning operations may be required at approximately year 15 and at regular intervals thereafter to assist in transformation from established woodland to semi-mature and, ultimately, mature woodland

We can appreciate the initial stages of woodland establishment may not be as attractive as other highly landscaped areas within your development.

However, the positive attributes of woodland areas to create a sense of place and individuality for a community are just some of the long-term benefits – as well as the environmental and biodiversity aspects including the encouragement of wildlife.

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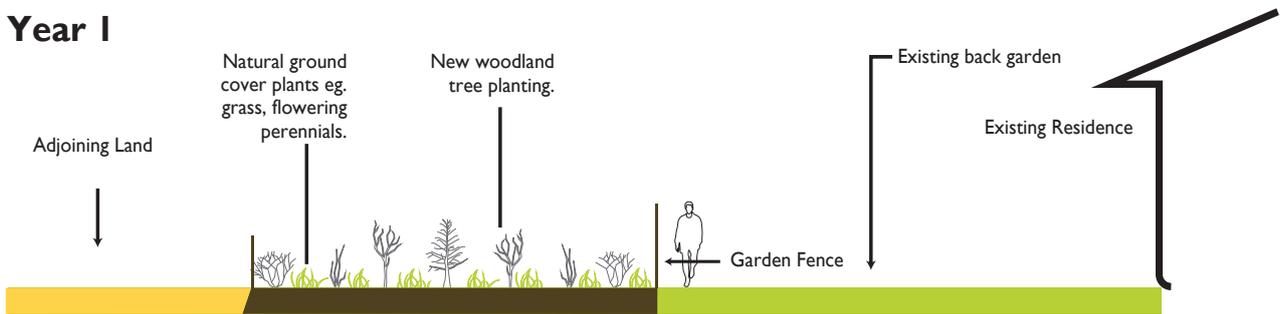
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your woodland in action

TYPICAL SECTION THROUGH A NEW WOODLAND PLANTING BELT

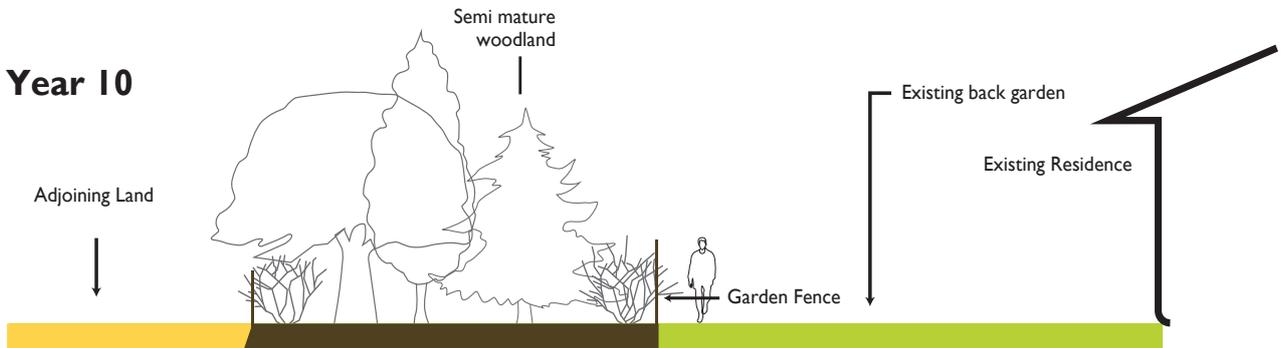
Year 1



Year 5



Year 10



your home



your world



your future

