

Nature Strip (Footpath)/Road Verge Mowing Policy

DETAILS

Council Admin

Effective from:	31 August 2021	
Contact officer:	Coordinator Parks and Open Space Services	
Next review date:	August 2024	
File reference:	CS433/408/13(P1)	
eDRMS	This policy	A25101586
	Value Proposition	A41309759

OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure nature strips and verges across the City are well maintained Clarify the criteria for determining eligibility for Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) mowing services
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All approved applications for service meet the policy criteria
Risk assessment	Low

POLICY STATEMENT

Gold Coast residents and property owners are required to mow the nature strip of the property in which they reside or own. This applies to private, commercial and industrial property. Property owners and residents undertake this activity as a contribution to the amenity of the city.

Subject to approval, Council may provide assistance with mowing or slashing a nature strip to a property owner and residents who can demonstrate genuine hardship.

What Council will mow

Council will only mow the nature strip on a regular basis under the conditions listed in Attachment A: Nature Strip Mowing Standards.

Private property

Council will not mow a grassed area within a private property, including gated communities.

Council assistance

Subject to approval, Council may provide assistance with mowing services to the nature strip adjacent to a residential property where a resident or owners can demonstrate hardship and meet both of the following criteria:

1. Permanent disability (DSP Pension status) or medical evidence
2. Financial constraints

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Permanent disability: photocopy of DSP Pensioner card or Medical evidence: provision of a medical certificate, issued by a registered physician, which states the applicant is unable to mow the nature strip/road verge area due to medical reasons **AND**
2. Financial constraints evidence: either a Statutory Declaration stating that the applicant does not have the financial capacity to employ a contractor to perform the mowing **OR** documentary support of their pensioner status (photocopy of Pensioner Card) and in both circumstances there is no other person who officially registered at the property that could undertake mowing of the nature strip.

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All applications for the provision of nature strip/ mowing services should be completed on-line via City of Gold Coast internet webpage, or by contacting Customer Contact on 1300465326.

Applications will be determined by Parks and Recreational Services Officers in consultation with the relevant Divisional Councillor.

Applicants' eligibility for assistance with mowing is to be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain eligible for the service and to maintain Council mowing service records.

Applications including evidence of medical and financial constraint must be resubmitted at review.

If the original approval was based on DSP status, evidence is required that the owner/occupier (DSP Pensioner) continues to live at the same address.

Previously approved applicants will be allowed a two-month period to resubmit applications prior to any termination of services. Council will issue timely written reminders to previously approved applicants.

Main roads

This policy does not apply to Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) controlled verges, or properties fronting DTMR roads as these areas are maintained under a Verge Maintenance Agreement between Council and DTMR.

Please contact DTMR South Coast for further information.

SCOPE

The provisions of this policy apply to all Council controlled grassed areas between property boundaries and Council controlled roads

DEFINITIONS

Council – Council of the City of Gold Coast.

DTMR – Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Gated community (or walled community) – is a form of residential community or housing estate containing strictly controlled entrances for pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles, and often characterized by a closed perimeter of walls and fences.

Nature Strip (road verge) – The area of land between a property boundary and the edge of a roadway. The primary purpose of this land is to facilitate pedestrian movement alongside the roadway and provide an area for infrastructure provision.

Rural and Semi-Rural Nature Strip/Road Verge – Defined by road system not supported with kerb and channelling. (Refer Attachment A)

Urban Nature Strip/Road Verge – Defined by road system supported with kerb and channelling (refer Attachment A).

RELATED POLICIES AND DELEGATIONS

Information Management Policy
Information Privacy Policy

LEGISLATION

N/A

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Attachment A – Standards

Road Verge Mowing Register A32791284
 Residential Footpath Mowing Application Process Flow Chart A24822986
 Approved Granted Mowing - Template A33346502
 Not Approved Mowing - Template A24823982
 Request for Further Information Letter (both medical and financial) - Template A24822923
 Request for further Information Letter (either medical or financial) – Template A35466227
 Residential here's how it works Letter (apply and provide info') – Template A38454062
 Notice to Resident Nature Strip Maintenance Assistance – Template A36236931
 Reminder Notice - Template A24824473
 Nature Strip Road Verge Maintenance Delineation Plan A25202076

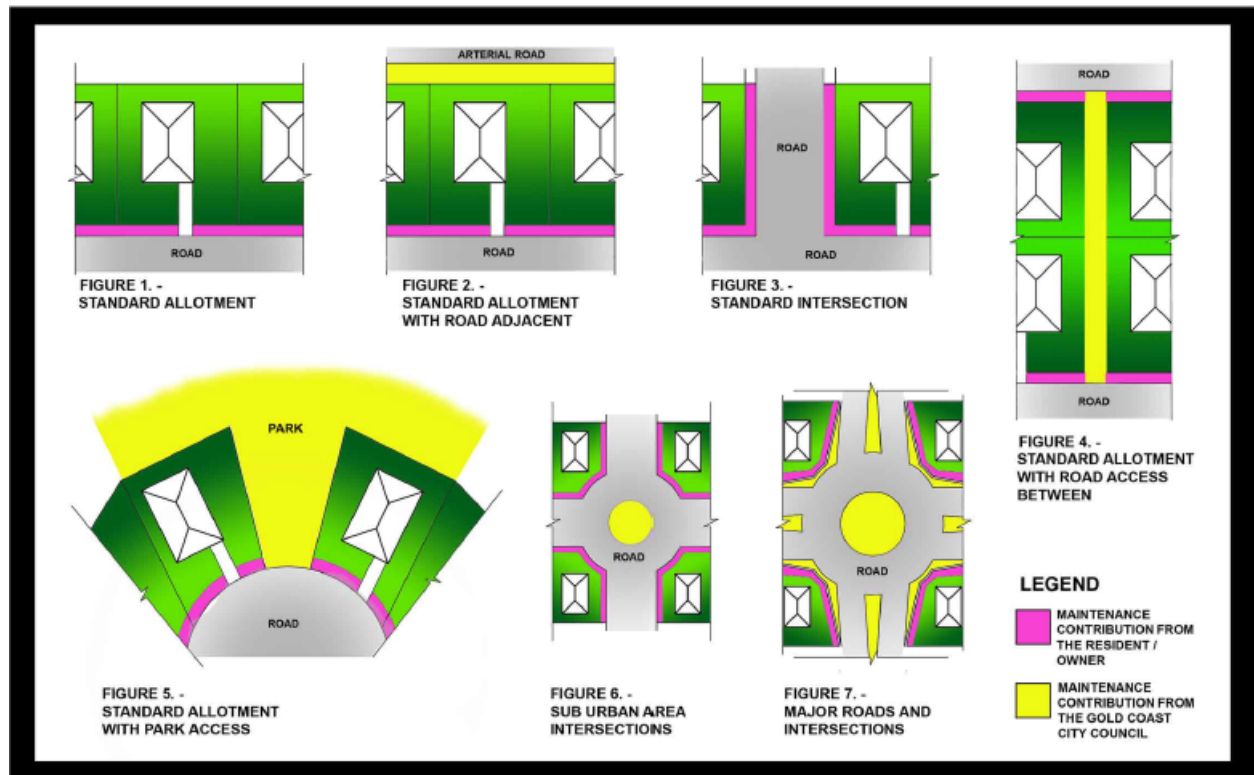
RESPONSIBILITIES

Sponsor	Director, Lifestyle and Community Services
Owner	Manager, Parks & Recreational Services

VERSION CONTROL

Document	Date	Approved	Amendment
A25101586v7	31.08.21	GAF21.0825.003/G21.0831.047 A67142371	Major changes
29198412 v5	29.05.2019	COO iSpot #73573517	Minor amendments
29198412 v4	09.06.2016	COO iSpot #55235821	Minor amendments
29198412 v3	08.08.2011	GA11.0803.004/G11.0808.013	Major amendments
29198412 v2	10.12.2010	GA10.1208.003/G10.1210.012	New Council adopted policy

Nature Strip (Footpath)/Road Verge Mowing Policy Attachment A - Standards



1.0 Urban Mowing of Nature Strips

Council will only mow urban footpath verges (defined by a road system with kerb and channel) on a regular basis under the following conditions:

- the location is an integral part of an adjacent park or reserve
- approved request for service to the nature strip
- the location is adjacent to Council owned land for which Council provides mowing (e.g. Council's Administrative Centre)
- on an 'as' needs basis if road and pedestrian safety and/or negotiation is an issue, or where a sight restriction has been created at an urban intersection by vegetation growth
- nature strips are proportionally larger than is reasonably expected (i.e. the location is larger than the private property it abuts), deeming it impractical for owners/occupiers to mow.

1.1 Rural and Semi-Rural Roadside Slashing

Council will slash rural and semi-rural road verges (defined by a road system with no kerb and channel) on a regular basis as follows:

- the road shoulder of bitumen sealed roads is to be serviced by a tractor/slasher combination where the terrain permits
- slashing is to be restricted to the immediate shoulder adjacent to the bitumen edge. The typical width of slashing will be 1.0 – 2.0 metres in width. Council does not require slashing of the road reserve to the fenced boundary at level areas or over the top of cuttings.
- approved request for service to the nature strip
- the following exception will apply (increased interventions):
 - intersections - mow area to ensure adequate sight distance for motorists and pedestrians for safety
 - where a section of road reserve functions as a park
 - where facilities are provided within road reserves that require a higher standard of maintenance e.g. horse trails, car parks.

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Road Shoulder

Council will slash the road shoulder of bitumen-sealed roads in rural and semi-rural areas where the terrain permits. Slashing is to be restricted to the immediate shoulder adjacent to the bitumen edge. The typical width of slashing is 1.0 – 2.0 metres in width.

Council does not require slashing of the road reserve to the fenced boundary at level areas or over the top of cuttings.

The following exceptions to the above condition apply (increased interventions):

- where a section of road reserve functions as a park
- where facilities are provided within road reserves that require a higher standard of maintenance e.g. horse trails, car parks.