



Community Nature Strip (Verge) Development Policy

Reference Number:	4.39
Type:	Council Policy
Category:	Environment and Open Space
Relevant Community Vision Outcomes:	<u>Local Neighbourhoods</u> • Our places appreciate and reflect their local history and culture. <u>Vibrant Places</u> • Our spaces are unique, creative, interesting and engaging. <u>Connecting and Belonging</u> • Our communities have a voice and feel respected and valued. • We create opportunities for communities to collaborate, engage and connect. <u>Our Transforming City</u> • We respect our heritage as we transform. <u>First Nations</u> • We will acknowledge and embrace our Kurna and First Nations history and communities working towards Reconciliation. <u>Responsible Governance</u> • We will manage our city in a sustainable and affordable way with responsible governance. <u>Excellence in Customer Experience and Service Provision</u> • We will foster an organisational culture focused on continuous improvement and delivering excellence in customer experience and service provision. <u>Story Telling and Connection</u> • We will connect with our community, telling our stories, sharing knowledge, increasing awareness, creating opportunity, strengthening partnerships and promoting achievements.
Responsible Officer(s):	Manager Open Space, Recreation and Property
First Issued/Approved:	24 February 2020
Minutes Reference:	CoS 5/08/2024, Item 4.27
Last Reviewed:	August 2024
Next Review Due:	May 2026
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 Electricity Act 1996 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

	Environment Protection Act 1993 South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994 Road Traffic Act 1961 Native Vegetation Act 1991 Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Landscape South Australia Act 2019
Related Policies:	Tree and Vegetation Policy Environmental Sustainability Policy Memorials Policy Path Policy Public Consultation Policy
Related Procedures:	Australian Standard for Risk Management (AS/NS 4360-2004). City of Charles Sturt Community Plan 2013 – 2027. City of Charles Sturt Living Green to 2020. City of Charles Sturt Open Space Strategy 2025. City of Charles Sturt Vegetation Management Plan. City of Charles Sturt Risk Management Framework. Western Adelaide Urban Heat Mapping Study Community Verge/Nature Strip Planting Guidelines

1. Purpose

The City of Charles Sturt Community Nature Strip (Verge) Development Policy has been written in line with the strategies, actions and objectives of:

- Our Community Vision
- Open Space Strategy 2025
- Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2030

It is the intention of this Policy to both formalise and clearly state Council's commitment to:

- Improving and maintaining nature strips and streetscapes across the City
- Enabling and empowering our community to green our Cities nature strips and streetscapes
Enhancing biodiversity and providing enhancing opportunities to value nature

2. Scope

This Policy relates to the development and maintenance of nature strips and streetscapes on land owned by or under the management and control of Council.

3. Policy Statement

The streetscapes and public open space within the City of Charles Sturt provide for the aesthetic, amenity, habitat and biodiversity needs of the City while maintaining a sustainable and sensitive approach in context with the built environment. They also contribute to urban cooling and mitigating climate change risks.

Residents are encouraged to establish and maintain the nature strip adjacent their property. Where a resident is unable to maintain their nature strip, Council provides a limited, risk management and vegetation management service and a conversion programme in line with Councils Tree and Vegetation Management Plan. Council also provides a verge/nature strip management program for our residents. This ensures that the

verge/nature strip areas do not pose an unacceptable risk to the community through long grass. Local roads receive five cuts per year and main roads receive 8 cuts per year.

The primary objective of this Policy is to ensure effective programmes, guidelines and permit processes are in place, to facilitate improvements across the City's streetscapes through community participation in the development and maintenance of the city's nature strips and streetscapes.

The benefits include:

- Increased amenity
- Increased biodiversity
- Increased habitat opportunities
- Mitigation of the urban heat island effect
- Opportunities to build and sustain a vibrant, connected and resilient community.

In keeping with these outcomes and the Community Nature Strip (Verge) Development Guidelines and Checklist, the use of artificial turf in the nature strip is **not permitted**. Council officers may take action requiring the removal of any artificial turf.

This is not retrospective, however, artificial turf that was installed prior to the development of this Policy (February 2020) may be damaged as the Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy is implemented and trees will be planted in locations where they do not currently exist.

We encourage the development of nature strips to consider and maximise future tree planting opportunities.

All nature strip developments must comply with Councils Community Nature Strip (Verge) Development Guidelines in order to achieve issue of an automatic Permit under Section 221 of the Local Government Act 1999. Any nature strip development that does not comply with the Community Nature Strip (Verge) Development Guidelines, must be formally assessed by an authorised officer.

4. Definitions

Key Term – Acronym	Definition
Nature Strip	The Nature Strip is the strip of land between the kerb and the property boundary which provides access for many purposes, including: • Pedestrians; • Vehicle access; • Trees and Streetscaping; • Services such as water, sewer, gas, electricity and telecommunication services • Waste Collection services