

Landscaping on the Council Verge (Including lawn, garden beds, mulch and irrigation)

This fact sheet provides specific information for landscaping on the Council verge. Property owners are required to seek authorisation from Council to make any alterations to public land through the submission of a Works on a Public Road application.

Please note letterboxes, retaining walls, garden edging or raised garden beds, logs, pebbles and landscaping rocks are generally not approved for placement on Council verges.

LAWNS

A design needs to be submitted with your application, including species and location of the lawn. If installing an irrigation system this is to be fitted in accordance with Council's irrigation system installation fact sheet. When selecting the species of lawn, consideration should be given to low water use or native species, the lawn should not be a weed species or potential environmental weed. Lawn areas shall be constructed to conform to the existing gradients and existing infrastructure levels and no changes in level should occur that could cause a trip point on the verge area. The property owner is responsible for cutting and irrigating the lawn. Inadequate maintenance of the lawn could result in Council applying herbicide to the area.

ARTIFICIAL TURF

As of October 2021, The City of Mitcham has banned new installations of "artificial turf" on land under the care and control of Council (including verges within the road reserve). Artificial turf products increase heat island effects, are made from non-renewable resources, plastic and oil, which have a higher embodied energy footprint compared to natural landscaping and also creates a non-recyclable waste stream.

GARDEN BEDS AND MULCH

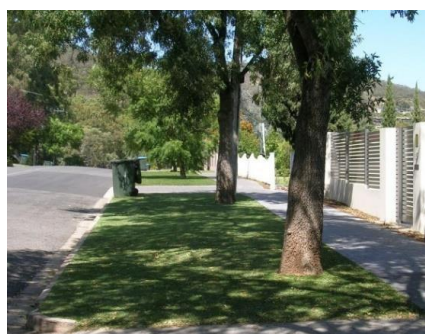
A design needs to be submitted with your application, including a species list and positioning of plants. The planting of new vegetation is restricted to plants less than 500mm in height and should not be environmentally invasive, prickly, climbers or a weed species.

The design should allow for passengers to alight from vehicles parked at the kerbside. Space also needs to be allocated for the placement of garbage bins for the collection service. In the absence of a paved footpath in front of the property an area of 1.5m minimum width is to be left adjacent the kerb for pedestrian traffic (this area may be mulched).

The property owner will be responsible for maintenance of landscaping, keeping it clear of footpaths, drains and driveway crossovers. Vegetation shall remain below 500mm in height and not block vision for road users when approaching intersections and reversing from driveways in the street to ensure a safe pedestrian and vehicle access.

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS

Colonel Light Gardens is a State Heritage Area and subject to the Heritage Places Act, which protects the heritage value of the whole of the suburb. Due to this, different standards apply within the suburb that may limit options for landscaping on the Council verge. Please contact Council prior to submitting a Works on a Public Road application if you live in Colonel Light Gardens.



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