

Nature Strips

Policy Type:	COUNCIL POLICY
Reference Number:	COU76
Responsible Department:	City Services
Responsible Officer:	General Manager City Services
Legislation	Local Government Act 1999
Relevant Delegations:	N/a
Related Policies and Procedures	COU77 Vegetation Policy
Community Goal	3.1 Ensure the ongoing maintenance and development of the physical infrastructure of the City by meeting the agreed service requirements of the construction and maintenance program for footways, roads and drainage.
Previous Policy No:	COU69
Date Adopted:	CSP 18 Oct (367/10) C 25 Oct (758/10)
Review Date:	October 2012

1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides clear direction for the management and maintenance of nature strips within the City of Unley.

2. PRINCIPLES

This policy aims to inform contractors, builders, developers and residents to minimise the impact to the local environment and potential future damage to private or public property associated with the construction, maintenance and or repair (including major or minor works) to crossing places and stormwater drainage.

2.1 General Conditions and Approval

The Administration is authorised to approve the installation of nature strips based upon the following:

- (a) that the owner of the property adjacent to the nature strip agrees to meet the total cost of the development to be undertaken either by Council or others;

- (b) that the adjacent 'owner' undertakes to indemnify the Council against any claim for compensation or damages arising out of the development of the nature strip, except when the work is undertaken by Council, and for any negligence of the owner or his/her agents during the maintenance of the nature strip;
- (c) that the proposed plantings will not, in the opinion of the Administration, cause interference to or loss of view to pedestrians using the footway or motorists entering the street from private property or entering the street from an adjoining street intersection or junction;
- (d) that the adjacent owner undertakes to advise any purchaser of the property of the conditions associated with the maintenance of the nature strip.

2.2 Unkempt Nature Strips and Removal

- (a) In the event that an adjacent owner fails to maintain the nature strip in front of his/her property to the satisfaction of the Administration, then the Administration is authorised to require the nature strip to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.
- (b) The adjacent owner is to be given fourteen days' notice detailing the requirements to satisfactorily maintain the nature strip.
- (c) If after the expiration of the notice the nature strip is not maintained to the satisfaction of the relevant officer, the Administration can authorise to require the removal of a nature strip by advising the owner of the adjacent property that he/she is required to remove the nature strip vegetation within fourteen days.
- (d) In the event that the adjacent owner does not comply with the notice to remove the nature strip within fourteen days the Administration may remove the nature strip and charge the adjacent owner the actual cost of the work involved with the removal.
- (e) If for any other reason the nature strip is required to be removed the Administration is authorised to remove the nature strip provided the fourteen days notice has been given to the adjacent owner stating Council's intention to remove the nature strip. The cost of such removal shall be met by Council.

2.3 Road or Footway Construction

- (a) Where a road or footway is to be reconstructed the Administration shall ascertain from owners of all properties adjacent to the reconstruction work whether they wish to have a dolomite or a loam nature strip. Residents are to be encouraged to consider Council's Environmental Policy and implementation plans, when making their choices.

- (b) The Administration is authorised to install the nature strips requested at no cost to the adjacent owners, provided that the owners agree to undertake the maintenance of the nature strip, as set out in this policy.

3. **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

To provide clear and consistent direction for the management and maintenance of nature strips within the City of Unley.

4. **DEFINITIONS**

'Nature Strip' describes the unpaved area of the footpath which lies between the back of the kerb and the paved footpath area which is not part of the crossing place to a property and is not being used for any other public service facility.

5. **REFERENCES**

N/a

6. **PROCEDURES**

This policy will be reviewed in keeping with Council's Policy Review process and will be managed by the Operations Manager.