



# Greening Council Verge / Create Nature Strip Guidelines and Specifications

As of December 2024

**These guidelines and specification are to provide information and assist authorised persons to meet council requirements in respect to Greening Council Verge / Create a Nature Strip.**

The Local Government Act 1999 provides that a road extends from the property boundary and includes the carriageway, footpaths, and verge area.

The Unley Council encourage the greening of its verge areas out front of residential properties where it's deemed appropriate and meets the Council's criteria.

Where an application to create a nature strip has been lodged and approved by Council the following guidelines are required to be followed.

If Council were engaged to do the work council will only excavate and fill the verge with loam this would be at the request and cost of the applicant. An application to Alter Public Road from the Councils website is required to be lodged.

It is the applicant's responsibility to supply and install plants and lawn to the verge to meet the approval requirements from Council. An irrigation system may be installed by the applicant (at the applicant's cost) if they wish to install one. This is not a requirement by Council.

The Applicant takes responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the verge.

## **Important information:**

**Artificial Turf** is not an approved material to be used on the City of Unley verges due to the associated heat absorbing properties that can have a detrimental effect on surrounding soil temperatures and water penetration. Any unauthorised treatments to Council verges will be required to be removed at the applicants or relevant persons cost pursuant to Section 213 of the Local Government Act 1999.

## **Excavation:**

The verge should not be excavated more than 100mm below the top of kerb and footpath level.

Excavation within the tree canopy area (tree protection zone) should be done in a manner not to damage or cut any tree roots. All care must be taken to maintain the vital root system of council street trees within the verge.

The City of Unley places a high value on its tree population and expects that any excavation work within the Tree Protection Zone of any of its trees will be conducted following the guidelines to Tree Protection Zones as detailed within the Australian Standard AS4970.

Council requires a minimum of **7 days** notice prior to the commencement of work.

## **Back Fill Material:**

The back fill material should be an organic soil / loam.

Covering the verge area with mulch and creating water retention areas is also an option to help maintain a green verge. - verge to be filled to top of kerb and footpath level to avoid debris falling into gutter and water ways.

## Planting:

Appropriate verge planting includes vegetation that does not reach more than 600mm at maturity (the occasional flower stalk above this height is fine) and may include small plants, shrubs, turf, grass and/or ground covers.

Select waterwise plants, Council encourages the use of natives.

Avoid plants that will create a hazard, including plants that are spikey, poisonous, block vehicle or pedestrian vision or create a trip hazard.

Do not plant declared weeds.

Plants cannot form a hedge and must allow locations for egress from legally parked vehicles.

Trees are not permitted to be planted as part of a verge development. If you would like a street tree planted, please contact Council on 8372 5111 or [pobox1@unley.sa.gov.au](mailto:pobox1@unley.sa.gov.au)

## Irrigation:

The applicant may decide to supply irrigation to the verge from their property. This is permitted and should be noted in the application form submitted to council.

When installing irrigation line from private property the irrigation pipe should be sleeved and lay below the footpath area, reinstating the pavers or bitumen to meet council specification. Refer to reinstatement specification on The Unley Council web site. All irrigation pipes should be securely clamped to avoid any excess water leaks within the verge. PVC irrigation pipe are not permitted within the footpath and verge area.

## Protection of Works:

During the progress of the work, the site must be always protected by suitable safety barriers in accordance with AS1742.3. If the works are left open overnight, at least 1 flashing amber safety light must be installed and working during the overnight period.

Every attempt must be made to complete the work as quickly as possible.

The site and adjoining roadway and footpath must be cleared of any excess material, spillage, form work and tools as they accumulate.

No material may be stockpiled on the road or footpath.

The Applicant is responsible for locating any underground services prior to commencement of works. It is recommended to contact Dial Before You Dig before commencing. Any costs incurred in repairing damage to services are charged to the person responsible for the damage. Please contact the relevant service authority if damage occurs.

Contact Dial Before You Dig refer to <https://www.byda.com.au/contact/>

## Satisfactory Completion

Any cost incurred by the Council for repairing damage or reinstating non-compliant or non - completed works in accordance with an approved application Council will be charge the owner to make good in pursuant to Section 213 of the Local Government Act 1999.



