



1.0 Purpose

This policy sets out the requirements for residents to create and manage an approved nature strip garden adjacent to their property in the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area (LGA).

2.0 Scope

The policy applies to Canterbury Bankstown Council (Council) owned and/or controlled nature strips between private and property boundaries and Council controlled roads in the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area (LGA), with the exclusion of:

- Areas mapped as endangered ecological communities;
- Areas formally mapped and registered as contaminated lands;
- State Roads and reserves adjacent to State Roads;
- Town centres;
- Regional/arterial roads with two lanes in each direction; and
- Median strips and roundabouts.

This policy does not apply to the activities of Council or contracted land management activities and does not apply to businesses.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the *Guidelines for establishing a Nature Strip Garden* (guidelines) that outline the checklist and requirement to create, install and manage a nature strip garden.

The policy will not be applied retrospectively. All existing approved nature strip gardens must continue to adhere to their current formal approvals.

3.0 Terms and Definitions

| Term | Meaning |
|---------------------|--|
| Nature Strip | An area of public land between the property boundary and the back of kerb or table drain, excluding any public pavement. In most cases a nature strip is grassed and forms part of the road reserve. |
| Nature Strip Garden | Nature Strip planting created and managed by residents in the nature strip area adjacent to their property. |

4.0 Policy Statement

Council supports residents to plant and maintain nature strip gardens adjacent to their property in accordance with the requirements of this policy and accompanying guidelines.

This policy and guidelines set out the requirements for and expectations of residents to establish and manage a nature strip garden adjacent to their property. The guidelines provide a checklist that requires applicants to answer yes to all relevant points before commencing a nature strip garden.



5.0 Policy Principles

Nature strip gardens provide social, environmental and economic benefits to residents and provide a strong sense of community. They support the vision identified in the City of Canterbury Bankstown's Community Strategic Plan 2028 under the *Clean and Green destination*: 'A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas.'

The following criteria and conditions capture Council's approach to the creation, installation and management of nature strip gardens:

5.1 Application Process

Applicants can access the nature strip gardens checklist that is available in the guidelines. Once the checklist is completed and the applicant has answered yes to all the relevant points, then the completed and signed checklist must be submitted to Council. Only then is an applicant permitted to establish and install a nature strip garden adjacent to their property.

Council will maintain a register of all Nature Strip Garden checklists submitted.

5.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Council can provide the following to interested residents, as outlined in the guidelines:

- A checklist to complete and submit to Council;
- Assessment of the completed Nature Strip Garden checklist;
- Advice on the design and plant selection of a nature strip garden.

Residents are responsible for the continued maintenance of the nature strip garden including safety, cleanliness and attractiveness, as outlined in the guidelines. Residents must also ensure ongoing compliance with this policy and the guidelines.

5.3 Insurance

Residents are reminded that the creation and installation of a nature strip garden is done at their own expense and own risk. While the policy has been developed to manage public liability risks, it does not prevent a third party from making a claim against the resident for any injury, loss or damage caused by the nature strip garden.

5.4 Removal

If any Council, Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) or public utilities works are to be carried out within the footway, the nature strip garden will be removed and the area turfing.

In the event that a nature strip garden is deemed non-compliant, Council has the right to seek a resident/land owner to remove the garden and re-turf the nature strip. Council also retains the right to remove non-compliant nature strip gardens without written notice.



6.0 Monitoring and Review

6.1 Monitoring

Manager of Sustainable Future

6.2 Review

August 2023

7.0 Approval

7.1 Policy Owner

Manager Sustainable Future

7.2 Authorisation

Adopted by Canterbury-Bankstown Council on [INSERT DATE].

7.3 Modifications

8.0 Related Documents

8.1 Laws and Standards

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Companion Animals Act 1998*
- *Companion Animals Regulation 1999*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Food Act 1999*
- *Generic Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Land (Draft)*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *City of Canterbury Bankstown Local Orders Policies*
- *Pesticide Act 1999*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Roads Act 1993*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*

8.2 Policies, Procedures

- City of Canterbury Bankstown Community Land and Crown Land Generic Plan of Management
- Guidelines for establishing a Nature Strip Garden
- Nature Strip Mowing Policy