

Verge Maintenance Policy

Policy Owner:	Open Spaces Team Leader
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Required by legislation:	N/A

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A verge is the area between the boundary of your home, property or business and the street. It includes both the outside verge (between the kerb and footpath) and the inside verge (between the property's boundary and the footpath). A verge is usually grass and is sometimes referred to as a berm.
- 1.2 A verge provides a safe space for pedestrians and accommodates public services such as bus stops and public utilities including power, water, gas and communications. Well-maintained verges contribute to the safety, access and visual appearance of communities in the Waikato District (District).
- 1.3 Waikato District Council (Council) requests that urban property owners continue to maintain verges adjacent to their property as part of their general land maintenance. This will avoid the rates increases which would be required to cover the cost of this service.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 To ensure that residential and commercial property verges in the District are well-maintained within urban areas (such as the General Residential (GRZ), Large Lot Residential (LLZ) and Medium Density Residential (MDRZ) Zones of the District Plan).

3 Application

- 3.1 This policy applies to all verges in the District in urban areas (e.g., within the GRZ, LLZ and MDRZ zones of the District Plan).

Explanatory Note: In areas outside urban areas, Council will carry out roadside spraying, mowing and/or pruning on berms/verges only as required. For more information on this, please see [Council's website](#) under the "Roadside Boundaries" section.

4 Policy statements

- 4.1 Council will continue to maintain verges adjacent to Council property.
- 4.2 Council will continue to rely on property owners to maintain verges adjacent to their property, except where otherwise provided for in this Policy.
- 4.3 Council may maintain a verge in any circumstances where Council considers it necessary or reasonable to do so.
- 4.4 Council may, at any time, review any verges it maintains and will notify the relevant property owner if Council decides to stop maintaining a verge.

Note: Residents who are physically incapable of maintaining a verge adjacent to their property may be eligible for government support from the Ministry of Social Development (Work and Income) to assist with the cost of engaging a contractor.

Alternative planting

- 4.5 Council may consider requests for alternative planting by property owners.
- 4.6 Alternative planting must be approved by Council's Open Spaces Team.
- 4.7 When assessing a request for alternative planting Council will consider:
 - a) the location, and
 - b) the type of planting, and
 - c) compliance with relevant legislation, and
 - d) Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS), and
 - e) Council policies, bylaws, and other relevant Council documentation.
- 4.8 The adjacent property owner will be responsible for the cost of installing, maintaining and removing any alternative planting.
- 4.9 If alternative planting is removed for safety reasons, maintenance or other public works, the planting will not be replaced or compensated.

5 Related Documents / Legislation

- [Government Roadway Powers Act 1989](#)
- Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS)
- [Waikato District Council Public Places Bylaw](#)
- [Waikato District Council Tree Policy](#)

6 Policy review

This policy shall be reviewed at five yearly intervals, or as otherwise required by the Chief Executive or Open Spaces Services Manager.