



HUME CITY COUNCIL

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

Landscape design considerations

Prior to commencing design, the following must be considered:

Existing conditions

An existing conditions plan should be informed by all relevant background documents (eg arboricultural, flora and fauna conservation, drainage/stormwater, cultural heritage, geotechnical reports etc) and developed to show the following:

- A location plan with surrounding area context (where it sits in the broader landscape)
- All existing or adjacent structures, furniture, paths and path connections, trees, garden beds, native vegetation, and areas of cultural significance
- Remnant trees, including their TPZ
- Easements, services, pits, drainage and overhead powerlines
- Topography and grades
- Water bodies and creeks, including 1:10 and 1:100 flood levels
- Rocky outcrops, knolls, and any other features of the site

Design

A Concept Plan is to be informed by the existing conditions plan and background reports, and is to be accompanied by an Opinion of Probable Cost. It is to show the general proposed arrangement of the following:

- Primary, secondary and shared path networks
- Playgrounds
- Seats and picnic tables
- Shelters and other structures
- Kickabouts

- Existing trees to be retained
- Proposed tree and garden bed plantings
- Retained rocky outcrops and knolls
- Drinking fountains, bins and cycle racks
- Retaining and feature walls
- Any proposed artwork or landscape sculptural elements

Detailed Design plans are to follow in-principle approval of Concept Plans, should address all review comments provided, and be developed to show the following:

Paths

- Consider circuits around the perimeter of the site
- Create accessible connections to all seating areas, shelters, playspaces, and existing paths both within and beyond the site
- Seating located every 250 metres, installed in an apron extension to the path
- Location of bins along the path network, close to the activity areas, accessible to the road and at key entry points
- Provide wayfinding and directional signage as appropriate
- Provide vehicle exclusion barriers (such as bollards, fencing)
- Provide bicycle racks near activity nodes along the path network, and locate to not obstruct access
- Shared paths are to include line marking in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6A: Paths for Walking and Cycling

Trees

- Tree planting is desirable in all available locations, in accordance with Council's Urban Forest Principles
- All existing trees, and trees on properties neighbouring the site to be developed, are to be retained, unless formal approval for removal has been provided by a responsible Council officer
- In residential streetscapes, trees are required at a minimum of 1 per lot frontage, and 2 per side of lot
- In industrial streetscapes, trees are required at a minimum of 2 per lot frontage, and 4 per side of lot
- Carparks are to have a minimum of 1 shade tree for every 6 car parks, distributed evenly across the site to ensure maximum shade potential. Optimally, the space allowed for tree planting will be the same size as a single car park.

Garden Beds

Garden beds are to be used to enhance activity nodes, highlight entrances or gateways, create focal points, provide a screen or create a barrier.

- Garden bed design considerations:
- Preserve desirable views and vistas through the landscape
- Avoid desire lines and shortcuts
- Enhance surveillance of open space
- Utilise passive irrigation of garden beds
- Screening undesirable views
- Garden beds are to be a maximum of 3m wide and a minimum of 500mm is preferred
- Minimise gardenbeds, and consider safety of maintenance staff

Plant Species Selection

Plant species are to meet the following criteria:

- Long-lived
- Drought tolerant
- Selected for their natural habit and size to fill the required space without relying on frequent pruning
- Vigorous and maintain vigour without annual division or frequent pruning
- Groundcover and shrub species are to be evergreen
- Retain basal foliage at maturity
- Adapted to the site soil conditions
- Able to regenerate well if pruned
- Perform well without the addition of regular fertiliser
- Self-supporting, densely growing with many growing points
- Have a uniform growth habit
- Non-weedy and non-fruiting varieties

Plant stock procurement

Plants must be procured from a registered nursery and meet the following criteria:

- The plant species, cultivar, and pot size as specified on the design planting schedule. Where a selected species cannot be sourced, a suitable alternative is to be submitted to the responsible Council officer for approval
- Indigenous species are to be sourced from a nursery specialising in plants indigenous to the North West of Melbourne (proof of stock's local provenance is to be provided). It is recommended that indigenous plants are contract grown, well in advance, in order to secure the required stock
- All plant stock is to be correctly labelled when delivered
- All tree stock for landscape use must comply with AS 2303:2018

Soil

- Preference is given for reuse of site topsoil rather than imported topsoil, with amelioration to improve nutrient levels, structure and organic matter content, as per the recommendations of the required soil report.
- Where site topsoil does not meet Council's guidelines, imported topsoil must comply with AS 4419:2018.

Mulch

- The mulching material used must be able to suppress weeds and reduce maintenance inputs and aid plant establishment.
- Course organic mulches are preferred. Inorganic mulch is to be used in Integrated Water Management systems, and may be used in activity centres.
- Refer to Play Space Design section for softfall mulch requirements.

References

Hume City Council Urban Forest Principles

Hume Open Space Strategy

Play space design checklist

Recommend species list

Standard Drawing:

- **Turf detail**
- **Garden beds**
- **Tree Planting - Water Well Option SLD-1.1a**
- **Tree Planting SLD-1.1b**
- **Surface details**
- **Mulch detail**