



HUME CITY COUNCIL

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

Waterways

There are many waterways and drainage lines that contribute to a network of local and regional open spaces across Hume. The major landowners and managers of public waterway reserves are Council, the Crown and Melbourne Water, occasionally Parks Victoria. As such a collaborative approach is taken to the planning, design and maintenance of these key features in the landscape. As land is developed waterway reserves are progressively vested to public land managers.

In addition to the preservation of the riparian environment and containment of flood waters, land maybe encumbered with drainage assets, or set aside for conservation of fauna or vegetation communities. All waterways including ephemeral ones, are considered to be important components of the regional open space network that traverses Hume.

Council's Biodiversity Planning Policy specifies that all waterway conservation reserves must be protected from infrastructure at the minimum thresholds whichever is the greatest:

- 10 metres past the 1 in 100 average recurrence interval flood line, or
- 35 metres past the top of the bank, and
- encompassing any adjacent native vegetation and scattered trees.

A minimum 35 metre infrastructure setback is required from all significant escarpments. Passive parkland infrastructure (paths and activity nodes may be accepted within the 35 metre setback zone).

Council requires all waterway reserves to be vested to a public authority. A masterplan is required for most

waterways, and this should identify all environmental and cultural values, include all drainage assets and provide recreational paths, seating and a range of activity nodes.

Weed management and revegetation

- Each waterway conservation reserve must be accompanied by a fully costed two-year conservation management plan to be undertaken by the developer, or with funds transferred to Council for management, prior to the issue of Statement of Compliance.
- Where works occur on existing public land, a 2-year weed control and landscape/revegetation plan is required to be prepared as part of any civil, path building or upgrade project.
- Melbourne Water is to be consulted on all projects within the 1:100yr flood level, and written support for proposals is required.
- Council's aim is to restore all waterways and drainage lines to their pre-settlement natural state. Restoration is a long-term process, utilising indigenous species of local provenance to the north/west of Melbourne, as appropriate to the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) of the project.
- All Environmental Weeds and Declared Noxious Weeds are to be treated and removed in accordance with the Conservation and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP)
- As weeds are removed, revegetation is to be undertaken to stabilise soil and restore habitat.
- Weed management and revegetation is to commence early in the project, prior to future construction of path networks and other recreational facilities.
- Machinery used on site is to be cleaned so as not to spread weed seed and pathogens

Shared paths

- Shared paths are required on both sides of all waterways and drainage lines
- Shared paths are to meet Melbourne Water requirements, and must be located above the 1:10 flood levels
- Shared paths are to be setback a minimum of 15m from sediment drying areas
- An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required prior to finalising the alignment of paths (and any other structures or soil disturbance)
- Shared paths are to be constructed of plain or coloured concrete. Tuscan or Lilycan topping paths may be considered where appropriate. Asphalt paths are not acceptable.
- Shared path alignments are to avoid sharp corners, and be mindful of surveillance and safety issues for users.
- Where shared paths double as maintenance access points for stormwater assets eg wetlands, sediment ponds and retarding basins, the path surfaces must be industrial strength, and suitable for maintenance vehicles.
- Shared paths are to be signed, and have line marking, to demarcate spaces and direction of travel for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Bollards are not to be placed in the travelling lanes on shared paths. Where unauthorised vehicle restriction is required, either narrow the path and install removable bollards on edges, or install a filter gate or other means of control.
- A mown berm (preferably 3m wide, minimum 1m wide) is required along both sides of all shared paths.
- A Site/Construction Environmental Management Plan (SEMP/CEMP) is to be prepared for all projects in environmentally sensitive areas.

Seating and structures

- Seating is to be located above the 1:10 flood level, and recreational structures such as shelters and playgrounds, are not to be located within the 1:100 year flood level.
- Shelters and playgrounds are to be setback a minimum of 25m from wetlands, retarding basins, sediment drying areas.
- Informal seating nodes are to be provided as rest points every 250m along shared paths.
- Bridges, boardwalks and decks are to be constructed of concrete and/or steel, with composite (CRP) decking, and located above the 1:100 flood level. Melbourne Water approval is also to be obtained.

Fencing

- Vehicles are to be prevented from accessing waterway reserves through the use of vegetation, bollards, rock, conservation fencing and gates as appropriate. See Bollards and Fencing Section.
- Fencing is to be used in locations abutting hazards, such as busy roads, waterbodies and steep areas. Safety audits may be required.
- A 4-strand farm fence may be required as a temporary measure, until appropriate barrier planting has established.
- Fencing, barriers and vegetation must not create hidden areas which encourage anti-social behaviour or create poor surveillance.
- Where the reserve forms part of the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Biodiversity (BCS) Conservation Strategy fencing must be in accordance with the asset owners and DELWP's specifications.

Signage

- Safety, interpretive and wayfinding signage may be required
- For signage requirements, refer to Hume City Council Signage guidelines

References

Aboriginal Victoria, Cultural Heritage Management Plans | Aboriginal Victoria

DELWP, Melbourne Strategic Assessment and Growling Grass Frog Design Standards

Hume City Council, Biodiversity Planning Policy

Hume City Council, Bollards and fencing guidelines

Hume City Council, Fencing guidelines

Hume City Council, Playspace guidelines

Hume City Council, Shelters guidelines

Hume City Council, Integrated Water Management guidelines

Hume Natural Heritage Interpretation Guidelines

Melbourne Water Design and Construction guidelines and approval requirements

Melbourne Water, Waterway corridors for Greenfield development

Standard Drawing:

- **Bollard SLD-2.1**
- **Concrete Footpath Cross Sections and Joints EDCM-401**