



# **St Austell Town Council**

## **Grass Cutting Policy**



Poltair Park



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### **Background**

The Town Council is committed to maintaining and providing access to as much safe, well managed open space as possible. It has declared support for the “climate emergency” initiative and is actively working to off-set carbon emissions by planting shrubs and trees and choosing plants which will encourage pollinators.

The Council has reviewed all of the parks, open spaces in residential areas and roadside verges in its management to determine how they should be managed in the future. The individual sites and their treatments are as shown in schedule 1.

### **General Practices**

- All operatives will have Highways accreditation and be qualified to operate ride on mowers, push mowers and brush cutters in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Grass cutting commences in March/April and continues until early November (weather permitting).
- The Council has insufficient resource to maintain any open spaces to the standard of a domestic lawn.
- It is not possible for the Council to collect and remove all grass cuttings as it would require a very large storage space.
- Where practical, wildflowers will not be cut back until they have seeded and died back.
- Bulbs will not be cut back until they have died sufficiently to allow the nutrients to be absorbed back into the bulbs.
- Signage where appropriate to publicise the wildflower areas.

## **Standards**

The following standards will be adopted:

### **Parks and Open Spaces – standard 1**

- Grass to be cut every 2-3 weeks (subject to suitable weather and ground conditions).
- Grass cuttings not collected to allow nutrients to be absorbed back into the ground.

### **Parks and Open Spaces – standard 2**

- Grass to be cut every 3-4 weeks (subject to suitable weather and ground conditions).
- Grass cuttings not collected to allow nutrients to be absorbed back into the ground.

### **Parks and Open Spaces – standard 3**

- No regular mowing to encourage wildflowers.
- Grass to be cut back once a year and grass to be removed.

## **Residential Estates**

- Grass to be cut regularly and opportunities for trees and pollinator friendly shrubs to be explored. Where it is practicable, orchards should be considered.
- Grass cut approximately every 3 weeks between April and September.
- Grass cuttings not collected to allow nutrients to be absorbed back into the ground.

### **Roadside verge – standard 1**

- Grass cut approximately every 3 weeks between April and September.
- Grass cuttings not collected to allow nutrients to be absorbed back into the ground.

### **Roadside verge – standard 2**

- A strip of grass approximately 1 metre wide to be mowed next to the highway and remainder to be allowed to grow wild until September/October.
- Wild areas to be cut once a year in September/October after seeding.
- Grass cuttings/arising to be collected where possible.

### **Roundabout – standard 1**

- Grass cut every 2-3 weeks where formal planting adopted.

### **Roundabout – standard 2**

- Wildflower areas cut once a year in September/October after seeding.
- Grass cuttings/arising to be collected where possible.
- Visibility splays maintained.





Truro Road Park

### **Schedule 1**

<b>St Austell - Central &amp; Gover Ward</b>		
<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Maintenance Standard</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Clinton Drive	Residential Estate	
Truro Road Park	Parks and Open Spaces Standard 1	
St Mewan to Truro Road A390 (north side)	Roadside Verges standard 1	
St Mewan to Truro Road A390 (south side)	Roadside Verges standard 2	
Edgcumbe Triangle	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1  Parks and Open Spaces standard 3 (areas defined for bulbs and wildflowers)	Section of poppies added for 2024 D-Day commemoration.

A390 McDonalds/Asda side	Roadside verge standard 2	
A390 residential side	Roadside verge standard 1	
Westbourne Drive	Residential Estates	
Chy Pons	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	
Higher/Lower Woodside	Residential Estates	
Eastbourne Road and Tolcarne Close junction	Roadside verge standard 1	Plant fruit trees  Operations Manager (OM) does not think this site is suitable for tree planting.
Queens Estate	Residential Estates	
Cemetery Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1  Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	Cut strips of grass in front of gravestones for easy access  Plant pockets of wildflowers. Differential mowing throughout the park.  MS4N has completed this work and management has been taken on by the Town Council.

Margaret Avenue grassed area	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	Consult residents on the possibility of planting fruit trees  4 Cherry trees have been planted by the Town Council.
Chipponds adjacent to Quarry	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	Plant blackthorn or fruit trees on grassed area in front of the fence



Penmere Road Park

<b>St Austell - Bethel &amp; Holmbush Ward</b>		
<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Maintenance Standard</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Field of Hope	<p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 2</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 3</p>	<p>Differential mowing i.e. in circles around the bases of trees</p> <p>This has been implemented in order to preserve any wildflower in the spring and early summer.</p>
Bird sanctuary estate	Residential Estates	
Mitchell Road	Residential Estates	<p>Plant fruit trees</p> <p>Operations Manager does not think this area is suitable for planting fruit trees.</p>
Penmere Open Space	Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	<p>2 large sections will be left to naturalise in 2024 with mown paths through for access.</p>
Longpark Way	Residential Estate	<p>Consult residents to find out what they would like to see in the area. Possible planting of fruit trees in the squares</p>



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Sandy Hill Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	3 maple trees planted in 2023.
Sandy Hill (inside fence)	Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	

<b>St Austell - Bethel &amp; Holmbush Ward</b>		
<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Maintenance Standard</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Killyvarder Way	Residential Estate	Potential to plant cherry trees. Perhaps a theme of cherry trees
Boldventure	Residential Estate	Potential to plant trees on grass area where the stones are. Consult residents to find out what they would like for the area.
Chapel Field Estate	Residential Estate	
Chapel Field Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	
Bethel Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	Park upgrade completed in 2023. Grass cutting regime remains the same but 5 more trees have been planted.



Chapel Field Park

St Austell - Bethel & Holmbush Ward		
<u>Description</u>	<u>Maintenance Standard</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Bucklers Lane	Residential Estate	Plant more trees/fruit trees. Wildflower planting. Wildflower planting on land next to the church.  Operations Manager to look at implementing this in 2025.
Lyons Road	Residential Estate	Plant wildflowers  Operations Manager has assessed the site as not suitable for wildflowers.

Daniels Lane	Roadside verge standard 1	Keep wildflower area (by the telephone box). Area to be re-seeded with annual wildflowers in 2024
Jubilee Meadow	Parks and Open Spaces Standard 3	<p>Potential to plant more trees (possibly sweet chestnut). Southern end of Jubilee Meadows plant more trees.</p> <p>Forest for Cornwall planted 15 trees in December 2022.</p> <p>Open space will be left to re-wild and have paths mown through the longer grass from 2024 onwards.</p>
Manfield Way	Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	Keep path clear
The Meadows	<p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 1</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 2</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 3</p>	<p>Keep existing wild area. Potential to plant more trees on the Retallick Meadows boundary.</p> <p>9 trees have been planted in the park since 2022.</p>

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Parkway/Manor Close/Meadway	Residential Estate	Manor Close/Parkway junction – potential to plant more trees
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Thornpark Road Park



<b>St Austell - Poltair &amp; Mount Charles Ward</b>		
<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Maintenance Standard</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Prince Charles Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	Wildflowers under the trees. Plant more trees.  Sporadic ASB issues in the park. Not suitable for wildflowers for the time being
Prince Charles Estate	Residential Estate	Estate entrance – plant daffodils
Lostwood Garden	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	Sporadic ASB issues in the garden. Site returned to grassed open space.
Poltair Avenue/Lostwood junction	Residential Estate	
Area adjacent to community garden	Residential Estate	Residents' survey/speak to Poltair residents association
Poltair Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	Wildflower areas (rye grass check type). Plant trees and wildflowers along the north edge  Wildflower areas not suitable due to grassed area being very well used for football etc.

Library Garden	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	SALSA
Library Front Garden	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	Plant trees/wildflowers  Japanese Umbrella Pine planted in 2022.
Sycamore Avenue	Residential Estate	
Sycamore Avenue Large grass area	Residential Estate	Leave as it is for the present time. Consult residents to find out what they would like for the area. (Possible strips of wildflowers)
Thornpark Road	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	Pocket park funding project
Ropehaven Road	Residential Estate	
Polmarth Close	Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	Plant wildflower meadow on sloping area  Grass left to grow wild with paths mown through
Landrew Road verges	Roadside verge standard 1	
Landrew Road Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	
Phernyssick Road	Roadside verge standard 1	Plant daffodils
Asda roundabout	Roundabout standard 1	

Cromwell Road	Roadside verge standard 1	
Polmear Road junction	Roadside verge standard 1	Plant magnolia trees  Add 2 more magnolia trees in 2025.
Mount Charles roundabout verges	Roadside verge standard 1	
Woodland Road Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	In the bottom corner by the children's centre add more trees  Completed.
Eliot Road verges	Roadside verge standard 1	
Eliot Road and Bramley Close junction	Roadside verge standard 1	
Woodland Close Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2 (standard 3 for wild areas)	Play area – cut short  Section of grass left to grow long to increase biodiversity.

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Woodland Road Park