



# **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 September or October.
- 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 standard 1      Verges	
St Mewan to Truro Road A390 (south side)	Roadside standard 2      Verges	
Edgcumbe Triangle	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1  Parks and Open Spaces standard 3 (areas defined for bulbs and wildflowers)	Consider adding some fruit trees and wildflowers around base of trees

		Small section of wildflower added for Queens Jubilee
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	Consider adding some fruit trees  Edible St Austell are looking into this for 2023
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
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 TC
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 spring and early summer</p>
Bird sanctuary estate	Residential Estates	
Mitchell Road	Residential Estates	Plant fruit trees
Penmere Open Space	<p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 2</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces standard 3</p>	<p>Plant more trees e.g. Birch, Sycamore, Maple.</p> <p>Keep the banks long.</p> <p>Completed</p>
Longpark Way	Residential Estate	Consult residents to find out what they would like to see in the area. Possible planting of fruit trees in the squares
Sandy Hill Park	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	Plant wildflowers and cherry trees
Sandy Hill (inside fence)	Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	2 Maple trees to be planted in winter 2022



<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	In need of an upgrade – bland area. Potential for trees on the corner of Trenowah Road (Highways approval). Grass – cut into a maze?  Funding application submitted



Chapel Field 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>
Bucklers Lane	Residential Estate	Plant more trees/fruit trees. Wildflower planting. Wildflower planting on land next to the church.  OM to look at implementing this in 2023
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)

Jubilee Meadow	Residential Estate	<p>Potential to plant more trees (possibly sweet chestnut). Southern end of Jubilee Meadows plant more trees.</p> <p>Forest for Cornwall donating 12 trees to be planted in Dec 2022</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>2 Silver birch planted in 2022</p>
Parkway/Manor Close/Meadway	Residential Estate	Manor Close/Parkway junction – potential to plant more trees



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.  Area not suitable due to ASB
Prince Charles Estate	Residential Estate	Estate entrance – plant daffodils
Lostwood Garden	Parks and Open Spaces standard 2	Kept as a community garden
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 Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	Wildflower areas (rye grass check type). Plant trees and wildflowers along the north edge
Library Garden	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	SALSA
Library Front Garden	Parks and Open Spaces standard 1	Plant trees/wildflowers  Japanese Umbrella Pine to be planted in winter 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 2 Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	Plant wildflower meadow on sloping area  OM to implement in 2023
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
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  Parks and Open Spaces standard 3	Play area – cut short  Park boundary – Fruit trees/wildflowers



Woodland Road Park