

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – A plot of ground or other open space where flowers, shrubs, grasses, vegetables, fruits or herbs are cultivated. Gardens have a higher level of maintenance and planting than natural areas.

Feature Type: Polygon

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Garden Type

- a. **Annuals** – Plants that grow, seed and die within one year.
- b. **Grasses** – Bed consisting solely of native or exotic sedges, rushes and grasses.
- c. **Groundcover** – 80% or more of the area consists of evergreen or deciduous plants that do not grow over 500mm high.
- d. **Herbaceous/Perennial** – 60% or more of the area consists of long or short lived non-woody plants that grow and flower over summer but are dormant over winter.
- e. **Low Growing Shrubs** – 60% or more of the area consists of shrubs that do not grow higher than 1m.
- f. **Rose** – Area consists of only standard, climbing and bush roses.
- g. **Rose Groundcover** – 60% or greater of the area consists of carpet roses.
- h. **Shrubs** – 60% or greater of the area consists of woody plants having several stems arising from the base and lacking a single trunk; a bush. Can be evergreen or deciduous, native or exotic.
- i. **Woodland** – Stands of native, exotic or mixed native and exotic trees. A woodland may or may not have an understory planting, formed edge or mulch.
- j. **Riparian** – Area of water loving plantings on river or pond banks.
- k. **No Planting** – Empty area where a garden exists but has not been planted.

2. Garden Style

- a. **Bed** – Planted area with a formed edge or border separating it from the surrounding surface. Surface level with surroundings.
- b. **Floral Planter** – Large moveable container of soil and plants.
- c. **Hanging Basket** – Suspended container.
- d. **Rain Garden** - Planted depression or a hole that allows rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas, like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawn areas, the opportunity to be absorbed.
- e. **Raised Bed** – As per bed but surface level at the edges elevated above surroundings. Raised beds have a constructed surround on at least one side.
- f. **Single Plant** – A large single plant that is not a tree.
- g. **Vertical** - a garden that grows upward (vertically) using a trellis or other support system, rather than on the ground

PHOTOS



Grasses type garden. This garden has been constructed in the raised bed style with a rock surround.



Herbaceous/Perennial type garden. This garden has been constructed in the raised bed style with a brick surround.



Annuals type garden. This garden has been constructed in the bed style with no surround.

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

3. Irrigation Type

- a. **Auto-Drippers** – Automatically controlled drip line irrigation.
- b. **Auto Pop-Up Sprinklers** – Automatically controlled pop-up sprinklers.
- c. **Manual** – Manual irrigation.
- d. **Not Irrigated** – No irrigation.
- e. **Travelling Irrigator** – Mechanised sprinkler that moves under its own power.
- f. **Water Cannon** – Irrigated by water cannons.

4. Mulch

- a. **Bark Grade 1** – High quality chipped tree bark. Mulch contains a range of different sized particles.
- b. **Bark Nuggets** – High quality chipped tree bark. Nugget-like chips of a single size only.
- c. **Compost** – Decomposed vegetable material from a range of different plants.
- d. **Leaf Mould** – Compost made from leaves only.
- e. **Not Mulched** – No mulch applied.
- f. **Soil Conditioner** – A chemical, man made substance added to improve soil health.
- g. **Stones** – Hard solid non-metallic mineral matter made smooth by the action of water or sand.
- g. **Tree Mulch** – Chipped and shaved waste tree material.

5. Surround Construction Material

What is the surround around the garden circumference constructed of?

- a. **None**
- b. **Concrete**
- c. **Wood**
- d. **Rock**
- e. **Steel**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Where a bed is small enough to count individual plants in less than one minute the individual plants should be counted. Plus or minus five is an acceptable margin of error.

For larger beds split the bed into sections, count the number of plants in a section and extrapolate to get the number of plants in the bed. Plus or minus ten is an acceptable margin of error.

If there is a single tree amongst other plants in a garden ignore the tree.

If the bed contains landscaped rocks do not record them separately. Note in the long description for the garden that it contains rocks.

Single shrubs should also be captured as gardens.

Woodland gardens, natural areas and stands of trees are similar but there are differences. Woodland gardens will be mixed tree species and will have a mixture of trees and shrubs. Ground under a woodland garden is maintained similarly to other garden types and may be mulched. Stands of trees will only have trees and minimal maintenance on the ground beneath them (either mowing or spraying). Natural areas have a minimum of maintenance and are more common in Regional Parks.

The garden style is considered to be a bed if the surface level around the perimeter of the garden is flush with the neighbouring surface. Raised beds have a surround constructed around the garden to enable the perimeter of the garden to be elevated over the neighbouring surfaces.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – A row of bushes or small trees planted close together. Formally maintained, especially when used to delineate a boundary or create shelter.

Feature Type: Line

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Hedge Use

- a. **Amenity** – A hedge consisting of plants of the same species kept well maintained.
- b. **Mixed** – Various species all in the same hedge.
- c. **Rural** – Hedges outside the urban area used as fences along boundaries or as shelter.

2. Hedge Height

- a. < 1m
- b. 1 – 2.5m
- c. > 2.5m

3. Length

Distance end to end of the hedge. Lengths shall all be measured in metres.

4. Width

Distance through the hedge from one face to another. All widths shall be in metres.

5. Species

What is the hedge's predominant species?

- a) Buxus Sp
- b) Conifers
- c) Cypress
- d) Escallonia
- e) Holly
- f) Hypericum
- g) Ivy
- h) Mixed
- i) Oleria Sp
- j) Photinia
- k) Poplar
- l) Rose
- m) Salix

PHOTOS



Amenity hedge around a garden.



If the dominant species field can be accurately completed please do so.

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



Rows of untrimmed or limbed trees as shown in the two photos above are not hedges. These assets should be captured as stands of trees.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – An area (either naturally occurring or constructed) which is representative of what would naturally occur in this environment. Generally natural areas have a lower level of maintenance than a garden, sometimes being not maintained at all.

Feature Type: Polygon

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Natural Area Type

- a. **Coastal** – Area of sand dunes planted in salt tolerant species.
- b. **Constructed Wetland** – Man-made area incorporating swamps and watercourses.
- c. **Exotic Bush** – A group of various species of trees and bushes not native to NZ.
- d. **Grassland** – Areas of grasses, including paddocks but not including tussocks.
- e. **Native Bush** – A group of various species of native trees and shrubs.
- f. **Natural Wetland** – Naturally occurring area incorporating swamps and watercourses.
- g. **Tussock** – Area of tussocks and low growing herbaceous plants.
- h. **Native Revegetation** – Regenerating native bush. Small, low growing and not yet fully established. Revegetation occurs through man-made replanting efforts.
- i. **Native Regeneration** - Regenerating native bush. Small, low growing and not yet fully established. Regeneration occurs naturally.
- j. **Scrub** – An area of fast growing, introduced and often invasive shrubs such as gorse, broom, etc. Scrub typically occurs on land that has been previously cleared.
- k. **Rock Outcrop** – An area where the bedrock or other stratum protrudes through the soil layer.

2. Grazed

Is the area grazed by livestock?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If an area is grown or pruned one or more times a year then it is either turf or a garden. Natural areas are those that are usually maintained no more than once a year unless there is pest plant abundance.

Paddocks, even if fenced and grazed, should be recorded as natural areas, type = grassland, provided they are mown no more than once a year.

PHOTOS



Native revegetation natural area.



Areas of native bush (dark green trees), scrub (gorse) and grassland.



Coastal natural area.



Natural wetland area.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – A surface layer of earth covered by a dense growth of grass. The earthen surface is held together by a matted layer of grass roots.

Feature Type: Polygon

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Turf Purpose

Turf purposes are listed here from the highest standard at top to lowest standard at bottom.

a. **Ornamental** – Area planted with a single species of grass and maintained to an extremely high standard. Usually only found in garden and heritage parks.

b. **Amenity** – Area planted with a mixture of two or three species of grass. Well maintained but not to as high a standard as ornamental turf.

c. **Sports** – Grassed area used as a playing surface for sports. Sports turf is the grassed surface available for sports to be played on. Sports turf is very similar to amenity turf, the difference is in the mowing. Amenity turf is mowed with small ride-on mowers while sports turf is mowed by large, tractor pulled gang mowers.

d. **Informal** – Grass area with a variety of different grass species. Weeds will be present and mowing sporadic.

1. Mowing Height Standard

Does this turf have a requirement to be within a certain height i.e. for Fire Mitigation?

20 - 40mm - Category A

25 - 75mm - Category B

0 - 150mm - Category C

0 - 250mm - Category D

25 - 30mm 1 MAR to 30 SEP

25 - 40mm 1 MAR to 30 SEP

25 - 40mm 1 OCT to 31 MAR

25 - 40mm All year

25 - 50mm 1 MAR to 30 SEP

25 - 50mm Outside SportsSeason

25 - 60mm All year

30 - 100mm All year

40 - 150mm All year

40 - 150mm As required

50 - 200mm All year

5 - 20mm 1 OCT to 31 MAR

75 - 300mm All year

30 - 60mm - Category R

0 - 400mm Fire Mitigation

PHOTOS



Ornamental turf.



Amenity turf. The presence of daisies and weeds differentiates this from ornamental turf.

PHOTOS



Sports turf will be present at all parks with sports fields.



Informal turf is more common in rural or semi-rural areas. This turf receives a minimum of maintenance.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Turf is a grass area mowed once or more every year. If a grassed area is mowed less than once a year it should be classified as grassland under natural areas.

Sports turf includes all turf available for sports to be played on and not just the area marked out as sport fields. The type of sport played on an area of sports turf is captured under the Sports grouping.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – A Tree is a single woody plant with the potential to reach –

- at least 6 metres in height and have a single stem diameter of, or exceeding, 250mm measured at 1.4 metres above ground (DBH); or
- at least 6 metres in height with no more than 6 stems and a combined aggregate stem diameter of, or exceeding, 600mm measured at 1.4 metres above ground (DBH).

There are certain species, which could include fruit, nut and endemic species, which may not always fit within the definition of a Tree. In these situations the decision as to whether or not to include the species, or individual tree, as a Tree will be determined by the City Arborist. Assets that are currently recorded as Trees but do not fit the definition of a Tree will continue to be managed as a Tree throughout their life cycle until they are replaced.

Feature Type: Point

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Tree data is captured by the Christchurch City Council Management and Maintenance of Park Trees Contractor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – A Stand of Trees means a cluster, grove, or line of trees (including the root systems) that may be the same or variable species, either planted or naturally occurring that:

- are located in close geographic proximity to each other and meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - canopies are touching; or
 - canopies are overlapping; or
 - there is the potential to form a closed canopy; or
 - are environmentally dependant upon each other where the loss of one or more of the trees would have a detrimental effect on all or part of the remaining trees; or
 - have an obvious level of visual connectivity through having a similar or complimentary sense of scale or form or age or colour or texture.

A stand of trees is managed and maintained as a group of trees and recorded as a single asset. Condition assessment criteria and other data / information is assigned to the stand and not to each individual tree. A Stand of Trees may contain trees that, due to their stature, are managed as individual trees as per the definition of a “Tree”. Stands of Trees provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic services to the community.

There are two types of Stand of Trees –

- Those in urban environments which are generally crown lifted for CPTED, can be seen and walked through, and will have various under surface management treatments (e.g. mown grass, mulch, planted garden)
- Those in rural areas (e.g. Banks Peninsula road sides) where both the tree and the under surface may or may not be actively managed.

Feature Type: Polygon

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Tree data is captured by the Christchurch City Council Management and Maintenance of Park Trees Contractor.