

Roadside vegetation and berms

Who is responsible?

A berm or verge is usually the grass area between the road and your property or business. In most parts of Kāpiti, the property owner or resident is responsible for its upkeep. Council helps maintain some berm areas in the District such as road reserves and playgrounds.

Who is supposed to mow the berm?

While berms are legally Council-owned land, any accessible grassed berm areas fronting or adjacent to residential sections within the district, need to be maintained by the property owner or resident of that section.

Residents, who are physically incapable of mowing their berm, may be eligible for a government (Work and Income) allowance to assist with the cost of

engaging a contractor. They can offer advice and information on any allowances that may be available.

If the grass on a property's berm area has become extremely overgrown and poses some safety issues, Council can look into the situation if there is a possible fire hazard or a health and environment risk. It doesn't intervene otherwise.

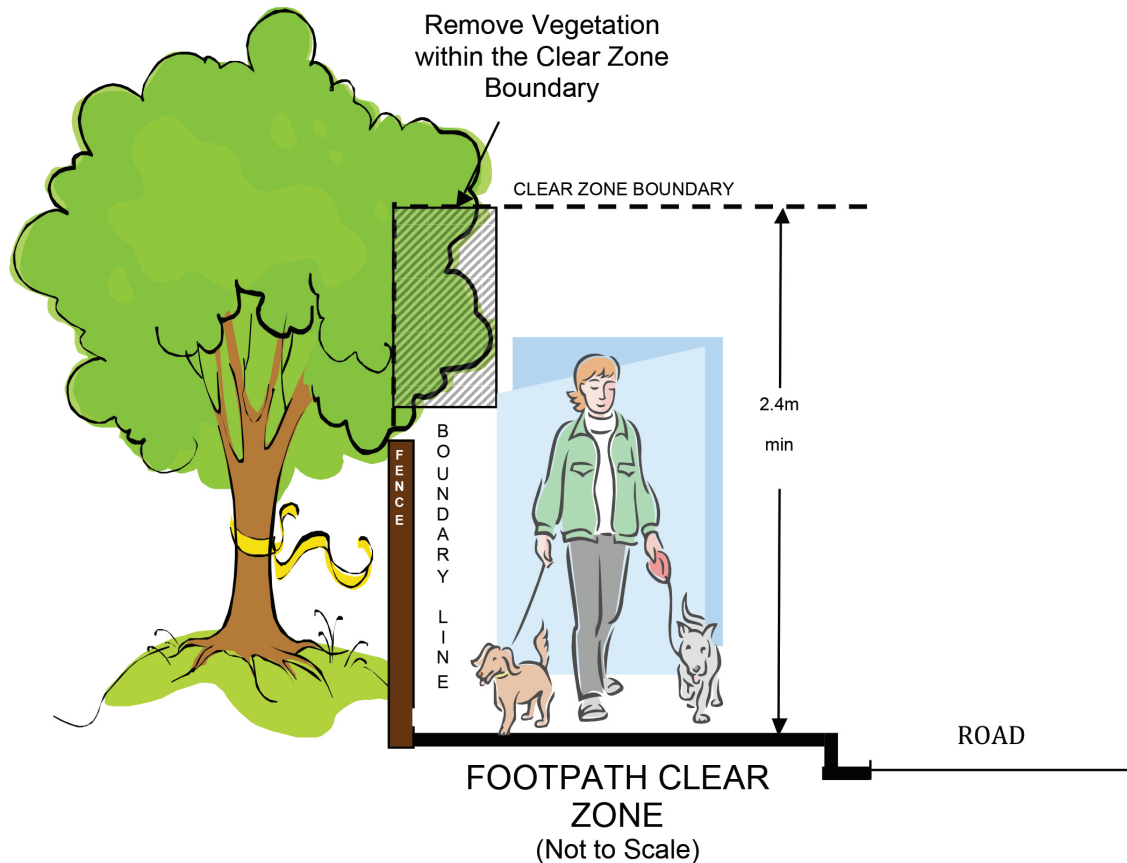
So where does Council mow?

Rural berms are mowed four times each year to maintain safety for road users. Mowing is done two metres from the edge of the road seal towards the property frontage.

Council also maintains some specific areas like road reserves where there is no property frontage.



Well maintained berms



Am I allowed to plant the berm outside my property?

In general, the berm outside your property should be free of plants or shrubs to ensure safe use of the road for all road users. If any planting from a property impinges on the berm, Council can request it be trimmed or removed. This is for public safety reasons, such as footpath clearance, drainage clearance and vegetation clearance around street lights.

The graphic above gives an indication of where things need to be clear on the footpath and the road.

Council does however give permission to plant some plants in some situations but you should check with us first.

For more information, visit Council's website www.kapiticoast.govt.nz, or call 04 296 4700 or toll free 0800 486 486.

You can also visit us at one of our service centres.



Overgrown planting on a berm growing over the clear zone boundary.