

2.4 Manage natural systems

Related Credit: NS-R3: Natural Systems Design & Management Strategy



A Natural Systems Design and Management Strategy is required to ensure the long-term survival and prosperity of ecological assets. The strategy must cover all landscaped areas and include the management of any on or off-site protected, mitigated or compensated natural asset areas. The strategy should promote soil protection and enhancement, low maintenance requirements and low demand for resources.

The team should consider using only native species, and landscapes that do not require wasteful use of irrigation when developing the landscaping strategy and Natural Systems Design and Management Strategy. This will be rewarded with additional points under options PBRS credits. The Management Strategy should identify the seasons during which each activity will be carried out.

Soil protection

Plant selection should suit existing soils onsite. Where soil enhancement is required this should be tailored to the existing soil type. Where soils is brought on site, this should be protected from erosion, pollution and increases in salinity. Paths should be provided to avoid pedestrian compaction of soil. Irrigation should consider the topography of the site and soil erosion.

Low maintenance requirements

Landscaping should be a combination of hard and soft landscaping, and should minimise the application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Landscaping should promote low maintenance requirements.

Low demand for resources

Plant selection should reflect the microclimate conditions of the area. Water efficient irrigation systems such as drip irrigation should be adopted to minimise water consumption.

Example 2.4: Landscaping images

