The City of Bayswater encourages residents to convert their verges into waterwise verges. Waterwise verges have many advantages, with the main benefits being:

* Reduction in water consumption
* Creation of wildlife corridors
* Enhancement of local biodiversity
* Building resilience to climate change

A recent study of resident lead verge gardens planted within the City of Bayswater found that the majority of residents had been able to complete their makeover for $250 or under. Therefore, the City is offering property owners a rebate of up to $250 to assist with improving their verge this winter season. Funds will be granted to eligible applications on a 'first come, first serve' basis until the pool of funding is exhausted.

To be an eligible application the verge garden makeover must:

* Comply with the City’s [**Street Verges Policy**](https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/online-services/forms-and-publications/policies/2019/street-verges-policy) and [**Verge Greening Guidelines**](https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/online-services/forms-and-publications/guides-and-checklists/2019/verge-greening-guidelines)
* Be from a City of Bayswater property owner. Currently no applications will be accepted from tenants or property owners part of a strata complex, grouped dwelling or battle-axe development where the verge area is shared. A review of the trial will consider these property types for the proposed 2021-22 program.
* Not be a corner block
* Be over 20m2
* Not be an existing native garden
* Have removed grass or hard surfaces prior to planting and complete all works before 1 September 2020
* Include 5-10cm of coarse mulch (woodchip or tree prunings) and waterwise plants (local native plants preferred). The Water Corporation's Waterwise Plant Directory and the City’s [**local native plant booklet**](https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/CityOfBayswater/media/Documents/Local-native-plants-guide.pdf) provide information on suitable plants.

## What do you need to do?

1. Download the application form and submit the application with a 'before' photo of the verge by email (preferred), post or in person. The City will advise if the application is successful within three weeks of submitting the application.
2. Undertake the verge conversion works before 1 September 2020; including the removal of irrigated grass or hard surface and replacement with mulch and waterwise plants. The verge may be inspected before and after the conversion to verify the application and claim.
3. Submit the claim form, receipts of expenditure and an 'after' photo by 1 September 2020. The City will provide the rebate via an electronic bank transfer within four weeks of receiving a claim.

This initiative is proudly co-funded by Water Corporation’s ‘Waterwise Greening Scheme’ and forms part of our ambition for the City of Bayswater to be a leading waterwise and climate change resilient community. For more information on waterwise verges please have a look at our [Waterwise Verge Best Practices](https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/CityOfBayswater/media/AlykaTest/Waterwise-Verge-best-practices-May-2019-FINAL_7.docx) or visit <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/save-water/in-the-garden/creating-a-waterwise-verge>

The City also has a program available to residents who would like a free street tree for their verge.  
For more information on this program please visit: <https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/environment-and-sustainability/streetscapes,-parks-and-gardens/trees/request-a-free-street-tree>