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 study of resident led 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/CityOfBayswater/media/Documents/Environment/COB0439-Verge-Greening-Guidelines-V3.pdf)
* Be from a City of Bayswater property owner. Where the verge area is shared (properties part of a strata complex, grouped dwelling or battle-axe development) the application will need to be supported by a letter from strata management.
* Be over 20m2
* If a corner block, only installation of low ground cover plants is permitted (native grasses and similar) to ensure sightlines to oncoming traffic are maintained
* Not be an existing (native) garden
* Maintain or increase the area in m² that includes plants to capture rainwater on site and improve ground water infiltration
* Have removed grass or hard surfaces prior to planting and complete all works before 1 September 2021
* Ensure to only install waterwise irrigation, if irrigation is required at all
* Include a street tree (unless determined by the City upon application that planting of a street tree is not possible or there is a street tree on the verge already). Free street trees can be requested [**here**](https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/CityOfBayswater/media/Documents/Street-Tree-Request-Form.pdf)
* Include 5-10cm of coarse mulch (woodchip or tree prunings and solely include waterwise plants (local native plants preferred). The Water Corporation's [**Waterwise Plant Directory**](https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise/Waterwise-plants?gclid=Cj0KCQjw38-DBhDpARIsADJ3kjkWaaKNeYwjuWCrCyTa722AetsNy9EVaMEPxwZUW8-jKzbPorIXGfUaAiChEALw_wcB) 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 2021; 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 6 September 2021. 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 [**Verge Greening Guidelines**](https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/CityOfBayswater/media/Documents/Environment/COB0439-Verge-Greening-Guidelines-V3.pdf) or visit <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/save-water/in-the-garden/creating-a-waterwise-verge>