



Verge Greening Guidelines

The City has developed verge greening guidelines and Waterwise Verge Best Practices to empower its residents to green their verges in a safe and sustainable way.

Verge greening projects may include native gardens, waterwise gardens or edible gardens. The guidelines enable residents to maximise the use of verges adjacent to their property, whilst ensuring there is enough space for pedestrians, service utilities and trees. Upgrading of a verge that is designed and installed in line with these guidelines does not require the City's approval. All verge gardens must meet the higher level requirements of the City of Bayswater's Street Verge Policy.

Verge Greening Design Guidelines

- To ensure sight lines to pedestrians and traffic are maintained, any planting within 1.5m either side of a crossover is less than 0.75m in height;
- Provide clear lines of sight for road and crossover users and ensure that visibility is maintained by the property owner;
- Do not include plants that may reasonably be considered to pose a hazard to people; such as plants that are poisonous or with thorns greater than 25mm;
- Use plants that will not interfere with or cause damage to the footpath, trees or property;
- Where there is no existing footpath, a clear thoroughfare must be kept with a minimum width of 2m immediately adjacent to the kerb;
- Rocks, logs and gravel materials are allowed as part of the landscape design if they do not present a hazard and allow the verge to absorb rainfall; and
- Undue hazards and sharp objects such as stakes and star pickets cannot be placed on the verge.

Raised Garden Beds

- Raised Garden Beds are allowed as long as the built structure is no higher than 0.35m (not including vegetation);
- Raised garden beds will need to provide a 0.5m setback from footpaths, common driveways and street trees and a 0.5m setback and clear access to any other infrastructure such as power poles and underground services.

Responsibility of Residents

Residents must:

- Ensure that their verge is well maintained;
- Contact utility providers or 'dial before you dig' to ensure that their verge gardens will not impact on existing infrastructure.



What the City encourages

In considering the installation of a green verge you should:

- Take into consideration how your verge makeover will improve biodiversity, water usage, aesthetics, food production and minimise the need for fertiliser use and other chemicals; and
- Discuss your plans with your neighbours before you undertake your verge makeover to ensure that it will not adversely impact on them.

Please note: If a green verge is considered to pose a safety hazard, does not meet the design guidelines or resident responsibility criteria, the City may ask you to undertake works to meet these requirements or remove the verge garden. Green verges may have to be disturbed to allow access for utility service providers, the installation of footpaths or the maintenance of verge trees.

In these cases the design of the garden should take into consideration potential access requirements and any disturbed area may be returned to level ground if no other access alternatives are available.



Tips for a waterwise verge

Transforming your verge – Waterwise verge best practices

The City encourages residents to transform their verges into waterwise verges. These 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

The following tips will help to successfully transform your verge into a waterwise verge.



Remove Lawn and Weeds

Removal of lawn grasses is crucial to the success of a waterwise verge garden as it prevents competition with new plantings. To remove the lawn dig out the existing verge soil and any grass roots. It is important that the verge ground level is at least 7.5cm below surrounding kerbs and paths. This way mulch can be placed on top whilst ensuring the finished level remains lower than the adjoining paths or kerbs.



Soil Quality

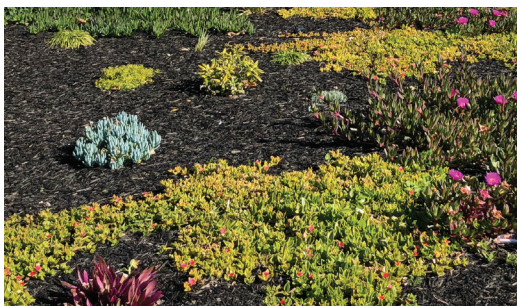
Good soil is the foundation of a healthy waterwise garden, the healthier your soil the more drought resistant your plants will be. If using a range of exotic and native plants or if your verge will need to be irrigated, we encourage residents to incorporate soil conditioners like composted organic matter and clay, such as Bentonite, within the top 30cm of soil to improve moisture and nutrient holding capacity. Applying a good quality soil wetting agent will increase 'wettability', allowing water to penetrate deep into the root zone. This is particularly important during planting, to help your plants establish and grow deep roots.

When buying soil conditioner or wetting agents, select products with the Waterwise and Smart Approved WaterMark symbols and refer to the manufacturer's instructions for application rates.



Choose Waterwise Plants

Creating unirrigated dryland and choosing native plants is recommended for verge gardens as they can survive our hot dry summers with little to no supplementary watering once established. Especially typically local native plant species are drought tolerant. When choosing your plants take local conditions into consideration, such as the quality of your soil and how many hours of direct sunlight it receives.



Apply Mulch

When applying mulch, spread a 5–10cm thick even layer of coarse mulch, keeping clear from the stem of plants. Mulching your garden will help to improve your soil, reduce plant stress and evaporation, suppress weed growth and greatly improve the appearance of your garden. The finished mulch must be level with adjoining kerbs and footpath. This will ensure the mulch stays in place and does not spread or flow onto footpaths or into stormwater systems.



Irrigation

When designing your waterwise verge garden in line with these best practices your verge won't need a permanent irrigation system. Once established, unirrigated dryland, native plants can survive our hot dry summers with little to no supplementary watering.

If you do require irrigation, Water Corporation recommends sub-surface drip irrigation. A local Waterwise irrigation Service Provider can help with maximising water efficiency. Please remember to check your watering days and be sure to apply for a watering exemption if your new verge garden needs additional watering.

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