

Verge Greening Guidelines

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These guidelines are here to help you green your verge in a safe and sustainable way. Verge greening projects can include native gardens, water wise gardens or edible gardens.

These guidelines will help you maximise the use of your verge while ensuring that you leave enough space for pedestrians, service utilities and trees. If you upgrade your verge in line with these guidelines, you do not need to seek City approval. Please note, all verge gardens must meet the higher level requirements of the City's Street Verge Policy.

Design

- 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,
- Undue hazards and sharp objects such as stakes and star pickets cannot be placed on the verge.

Raised Garden Beds

These 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

- Ensure the 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

- 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,
- Discuss your plans with your neighbours before you undertake your verge makeover to ensure that it will not adversely impact on them.

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.