

STREET VERGES POLICY



Responsible Division	Works and Infrastructure
Responsible Business Unit/s	Parks and Gardens, Engineering Works
Responsible Officer	Manager Parks and Gardens, Manager Engineering Works
Affected Business Unit/s	Parks and Gardens, Engineering Works
ECM Doc No.	3372085

PURPOSE:

To provide direction with respect to maintenance of unkempt verges, including mowing and rubbish removal and to prescribe permissible verge treatments and the development and financial support through appropriate grant funding programs for waterwise verge gardens.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Verge Mowing

Generally, verge maintenance is undertaken by adjoining residents, however, the City provides programmed maintenance for the following high profile street verges:

High profile street verges		
Bassendean Road	Beechboro Road North	Beechboro Road South
Benara Road	Broun Avenue	Camboon Road
Catherine Street	Central Avenue	Collier Road
Coode Street	Crimea Road	Drake Street
Emberson Road	Garratt Road	Grand Promenade
Guildford Road	King William Street	McGilvray Avenue
Morley Drive	Paperbark Drive	Peninsula Road
Railway Parade	Russell Street	Walter Road
Walter Road East	Wellington Street	Whatley Crescent

The City of Bayswater will also periodically mow verges other than the above as directed by the Chief Executive Officer subject to the owner being a resident of the property and demonstrating an inability to mow the verge or the verge is a fire hazard or creates visibility issues for traffic. All other requests will be progressed in accordance with clauses 2.9 to 2.11 of the *Local Laws for Activities on Thoroughfares*.

Verge Construction

Where City of Bayswater works require alteration to the level of verges, the City of Bayswater's liability to reinstate established lawns is restricted to requesting owners whether they wish to retain the turf so removed.

Permissible Verge Treatments

1. An owner or occupier of land which abuts on a verge may on that part of the verge directly in front of her or his land install a permissible verge treatment.
2. The permissible verge treatments are:
 - a. the planting and maintenance of a lawn;
 - b. the planting and maintenance of a garden (acceptable gardens include native gardens, waterwise gardens, edible/vegetable gardens, raised garden beds) provided that –

- i. clear sight visibility is maintained at all times for a person using the abutting thoroughfare in the vicinity of an intersection or bend in the thoroughfare;
 - ii. where there is no footpath, a pedestrian has a safe and clear access of a minimum width of 2m along that part of the verge immediately adjacent to the kerb; and
 - iii. raised garden beds meet the following requirements:
 - The maximum raised garden bed (built structure) height is 0.35m (not including vegetation);
 - Provide a 0.5m setback from footpaths, common driveways and street trees;
 - Provide a 0.5m setback and clear access to any other infrastructure such as power poles and underground services; and
 - A dial before you dig check being undertaken prior to works.
- c. the installation of an acceptable material; or
3. The list of acceptable materials shall be as follows:
- lawn;
 - low plant ground cover;
 - shrubs that do not restrict sight lines;
 - brick paving (to a maximum of 30% of the verge area excluding driveways and footpaths) which allows for infiltration;
 - materials to construct a raised garden bed;
 - woodchips;
 - vegetables and other edible plants; and
 - Rocks, logs and gravel materials contained with natural verge landscaping that does not present a hazard or impact adversely on the verge drainage capacity.
4. Undue hazards and sharp objects such as certain rocks, stakes and star pickets cannot be placed on the verge.
5. A walkable neighbourhood is a sustainability priority for the City of Bayswater. As such, footpath installation will have priority over verge treatments.
6. If a verge is considered to pose a safety hazard or does not meet the design guidelines, the City of Bayswater will ask the adjacent resident to undertake the works to meet the requirements or remove the verge garden.
7. Council will consider financial support for the development of waterwise verge gardens in partnership with the resident, grant funding bodies and the City consistent with grant funding body guidelines and budget consideration.

DEFINITIONS:

Nil

RELATED LEGISLATION:

Nil

RELATED DOCUMENTATION:

Nil

Council Adoption	Date	23 April 1996
Reviewed / Modified	Date	27 June 2006
Reviewed / Modified	Date	26 February 2008
Reviewed / Modified	Date	17 March 2016
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