

# GREENING GUIDELINES



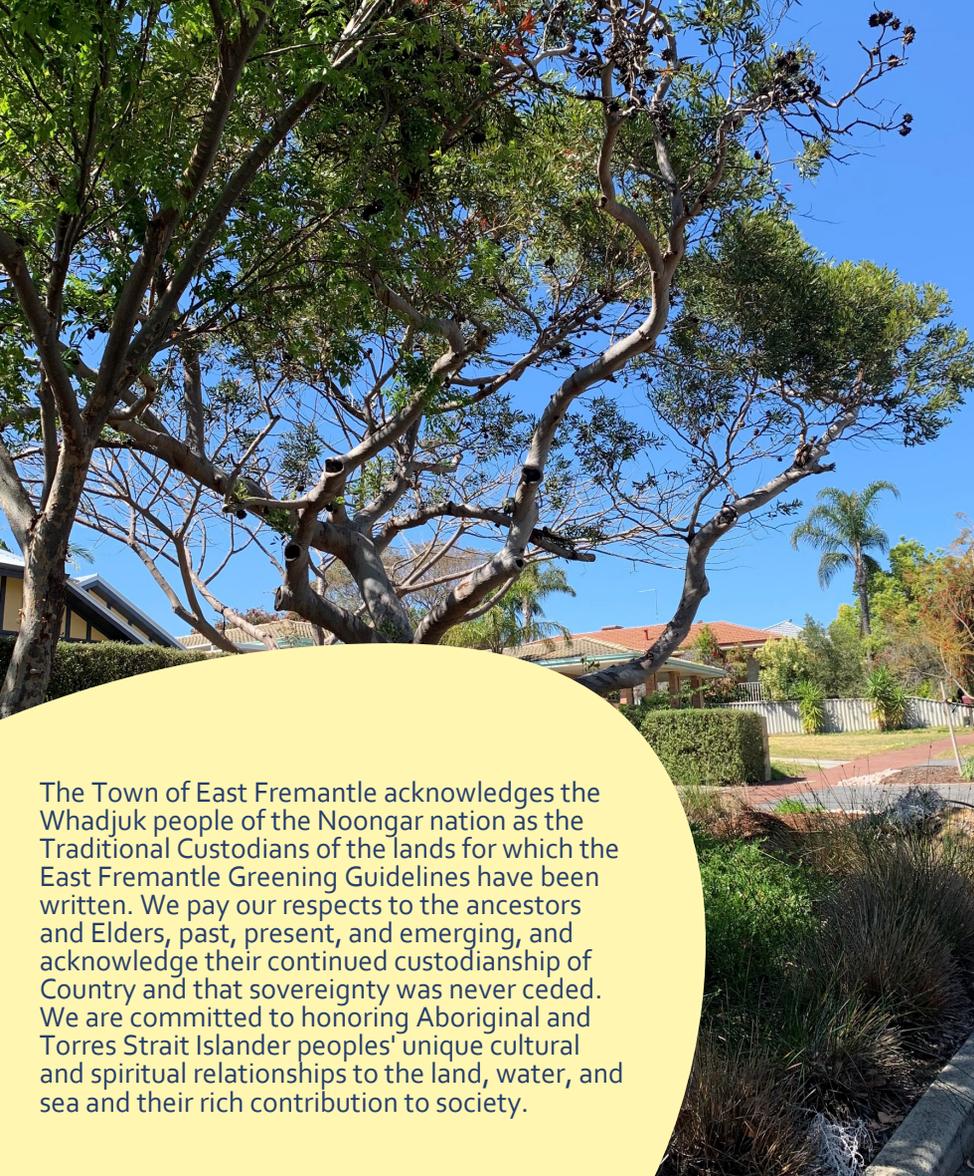
For more information on creating a waterwise verge garden visit:

[watercorporation.com.au/waterwise](http://watercorporation.com.au/waterwise)



[eastfremantle.wa.gov.au](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au)





The Town of East Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands for which the East Fremantle Greening Guidelines have been written. We pay our respects to the ancestors and Elders, past, present, and emerging, and acknowledge their continued custodianship of Country and that sovereignty was never ceded. We are committed to honoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, water, and sea and their rich contribution to society.



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# WHAT IS A STREET VERGE?

The verge is a key part of the streetscape and is the area of land located between a street kerb and the boundary of an adjacent property. Verges are Crown Land, however; it is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to maintain and improve the verge.

Verges act as a shared asset for:

- hosting service utilities
- providing access to residential and commercial properties
- providing connectivity throughout the Town
- linking properties to the natural environment
- reducing the ambient temperature of the street (where trees and vegetation are present).

The increasing and ongoing impacts of climate change make it crucial to preserve water resources wherever possible. For this reason, the Town encourages the formation of waterwise verges that do not need regular watering in an effort to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. A well designed and well maintained waterwise verge garden can:

- reduce the impacts of urban heat by cooling the streetscape with the provision of verge trees and waterwise vegetation
- reduce water consumption, maintenance, and associated water bills
- provide crucial habitat and nature links for wildlife, improving biodiversity across the Town
- improve rainwater infiltration and reduce stormwater runoff into the Swan River



## WHY CREATE A WATERWISE VERGE?

The Town aims to protect, link, and enhance public and private green spaces wherever possible. Green spaces provide fauna with homes as well as creating corridors between bush sites and establishing ecological links across the Town.

The formation of a waterwise verge can add a variety of environmental, economic and social benefits for residents, commercial business owners, and the community as a whole, including:

- improved water efficiency and increased stormwater infiltration
- urban cooling and a reduction of the urban heat island effect in summer
- habitat for local wildlife and increased biodiversity
- improved streetscape amenity and potentially increasing property values
- improved health and resilience of the Town's urban forest.

The Town installs a variety of native and introduced street trees to ensure a diverse streetscape protected from disease, ensuring an urban forest for future generations. Due to the Town's proximity to the Swan River, excess nutrients from residential runoff and stormwater drainage can contribute to unhealthy water quality and algal blooms. Installing street trees, waterwise lawns, and waterwise verge gardens are simple methods residents can use to limit such runoff into the Swan River.



## DO I NEED PERMISSION TO LANDSCAPE THE VERGE?

To ensure the safety of residents, cyclists, and motorists the Town requires plans for any significant changes prior to any changes to the verge these include:

- the construction of a verge garden including edible plants (less than 0.6m)
- installation of manmade objects on the verge.
- irrigation

All treatments placed on the verge must be permeable for water absorption, preventing runoff and flooding during the winter months. When installing organic lawn or mulch, the Town does not require plans, however drought-tolerant grass and plant varieties are preferred. For more information visit:

[www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise)



## ACCEPTED VERGE TREATMENTS

### MULCH

Mulch is crucial for an effective waterwise verge. A 5-10mm layer of mulch is crucial to trap water and reduce evaporation ensuring your plants thrive in the hot summer months. Mulch assists in preventing weeds, further reducing the need for ongoing maintenance.



### SMALL SHRUBS

The Town encourages local native plants which are hardy, drought-tolerant, and suited to local conditions. Use groundcovers and shrubs but avoid plants that grow over 0.6m high (keeping sightlines clear) and plants that are prickly, spiky, poisonous, or cause allergic reactions.



### DROUGHT TOLERANT GRASS VARIETIES

The Town encourages waterwise verge gardens over lawned verges however, installing and maintaining a low maintenance lawn can significantly reduce water needs, saving time and money. When choosing a lawn, look for a warm season grass that is drought tolerant and suitable for WA's warm summer months.



### COUNCIL VERGE TREES

Verge trees assist in cooling the Town's streets by providing shade; creating habitat for biodiversity and can assist in increasing property values. Trees also improve physical and mental health.



## The following are NOT permitted as a verge treatments

- toxic, spikey, or poisonous plant or plantings exceeding 0.6 m (excludes Council verge trees)
- synthetic/artificial grass in any form (increases effects of urban heat, runoff, and creates microplastics)
- inorganic mulches such as crushed brick, crushed limestone, rubber, gravel, and bitumen
- any materials that could be dangerous, loose, slippery, sharp, or block sightlines, are not permitted on the verge.

# SERVICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

An important function of the verge is to serve as a corridor for above and below ground services and utilities (power, water, sewerage, gas etc).

It is the responsibility of the Town to install, maintain and remove street trees as required.

Maintaining verge landscaping - including irrigation, planting, and organic mulching - is the responsibility of residents/landowners. Periodically, works will be undertaken on the verge, such as tree pruning or service maintenance/upgrades, which may damage or disturb verge gardens. The resident/landowner is responsible for the reinstatement of the verge garden following any works by utility providers or other authorised parties.



## IRRIGATING MY VERGE GARDEN

When designing a waterwise verge garden permanent irrigation should not be required, as once established, native plants can survive hot dry summers with little to no additional watering.

In the case, your verge garden requires irrigation, contact a waterwise service provider to help in designing and installing irrigation to best suit your vegetation and verge conditions. Ensure to include any irrigation in the diagrammatic sketch indicating the location of proposed reticulation when applying for a verge garden. For more information on the Town's irrigation conditions scan the below QR code or visit [eastfremantle.wa.gov.au](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au)

To check your scheduled watering times visit [watercorporation.com.au/waterwise](http://watercorporation.com.au/waterwise)



East Fremantle Irrigation conditions



Water Corporation  
Waterwise

## UTILITY LOCATIONS

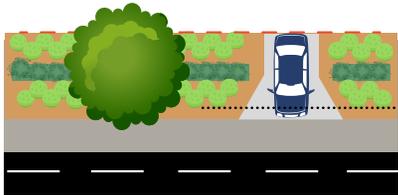
Under the verge, there can often be service utilities, telephone lines, and electricity cables. Before beginning any work on your verge, it's important to find the location of any of these services. Verge treatments must not cover or obstruct these services.

Before any verge development work, call 'Dial Before You Dig' on 1100 or go to [1100.com.au](http://1100.com.au) to find out the location of any below ground services within your verge. It is the owner or occupier's responsibility to identify all services located within the verge.



# EXAMPLE OF VERGE DESIGNS

Use the following examples to design your own proposed verge garden. Refer to the Urban Streetscape and Public Realm Style Guide for Hardcover and built design guidelines [eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/services/building-planning/urban-streetscape-and-public-realm-style-guide.aspx](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/services/building-planning/urban-streetscape-and-public-realm-style-guide.aspx)



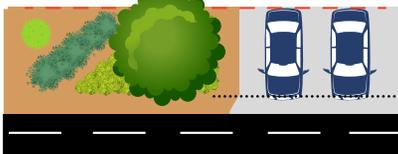
## **STANDARD VERGE** (with footpath adjacent to road)

- layered planting, shrubs, strappy leaf plants, groundcovers.
- 1m mulch only strip at back of kerb to allow for growth and area for bins



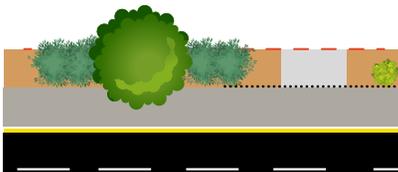
## **LARGE VERGE** (with footpath adjacent to property)

- property boundary
- footpath
- layered planting, street tree, shrubs, strappy leaf plants, groundcovers.
- 1m mulch only strip for pedestrian access and bins



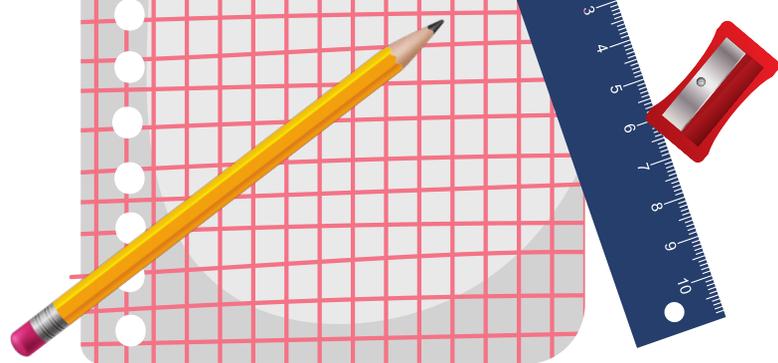
## **LARGE VERGE** (no footpath)

- property boundary
- layered planting, street tree, shrubs, strappy leaf plants, groundcovers.
- 2m mulch only strip for pedestrian access and bins



## **NARROW VERGE** (footpath adjacent to the road)

- groundcover
- 1m mulch only strip at the back of curb to allow for growth and area for bins
- footpath



## APPLY FOR A WATERWISE VERGE

Proposed verge designs must be submitted to the Town in writing with a diagrammatic sketch showing proposed locations of plants, proposed plant species, and any irrigation. To apply for a verge garden simply scan the attached QR code or visit:

[eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/forms/verge-treatment-application/23](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/forms/verge-treatment-application/23)

- design your verge taking into account public utilities
- get inspiration from current verges in the Town
- choose plants suited to the Town's soil conditions
- consider the need for irrigation and where it would be placed
- draw up a plan.



Measure and draw up a plan of your verge identifying the dimensions and any existing features. This will help to determine how to arrange your verge and what can fit. Ensure plants are set back at least 1.5m from crossovers, kerbs, and footpaths to ensure plants do not obstruct pedestrians and vehicles as they grow. If you do not have a footpath, all plants must be set back at least 2m from the kerb to allow pedestrian movement. This area of the verge may also be used for kerbside waste collection or bulk/green waste at the assigned times.

# WATERWISE VERGE PLANTINGS

Understanding your soil type is crucial before choosing any plants for your verge. The soil in East Fremantle is typically full of limestone and known as the Cottesloe Soil Complex. For a comprehensive list of native vegetation appropriate for East Fremantle, visit [apacewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Cottesloe-yellow-12-pages.pdf](http://apacewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Cottesloe-yellow-12-pages.pdf) or scan the QR code below.

Below are a variety of waterwise plants that will grow well in East Fremantle and will generally grow less than 0.6m tall. Plantings in some cases will require pruning to ensure they remain under 0.6m.



**Key**

- Native Species
- Coastal Vegetation
- Available at APACE



Common Name	Scientific Name	Size	Notes
Coastal Pigface	<i>Carpobrotus virescens</i>	0.3 x 1m	● ● ●
Many Flowered Fringed Lily	<i>Thysanotus multiflorus</i>	0.5 x 0.3m	● ● ●
Sea Heath	<i>Frankenia pauciflora</i>	0.5 x 2m	● ● ●
Running Postman	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	0.6 x 2.5m	● ● ●
Couch Honeypot	<i>Banksia dallaneyi</i>	0.6 x 3m	● ● ●
Ellabella Grevillea	<i>Thysanotus multiflorus</i>	0.5 x 0.3m	● ● ●
Common Beaked Triggerplant	<i>Stylidium adnatum</i>	0.3 x 1m	● ● ●
Catspaw	<i>Anigozanthos humilis</i>	1 x 0.3m	● ● ●
Western Patersonia	<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	0.9 x 0.8m	● ● ●
Thick Leaved Fan Flower	<i>Scaevola crassifolia</i>	1.5 x 1.5m	● ● ●
Blue Lace Flower	<i>Trachymene coerulea</i>	1 x 0.8m	● ● ●
Globe Pea	<i>Sphaerolobium medium</i>	0.5 x 0.3m	● ● ●
Pepper and Salt	<i>Philothea spicata</i>	0.2 x 1.2 m	● ● ●

Many Flowered Fringed Lily



Coastal Pigface



Sea Heath



Running Postman

Ellabella Grevillea



Couch Honeypot



Common Beaked Triggerplant



Catspaw



Thick Leaved Fan Flower



Western Patersonia



Blue Lace Flower



Running Postman

Pepper and Salt



Globe Pea



Water Corporation  
Waterwise Plant Finder



# PROTECTING THE URBAN FOREST

## What is an Urban Forest?

An urban forest is the green spaces, trees, and other vegetation that grow within an urban area, on both public and private land. Combined, these green areas provide a range of benefits that enrich the quality of life for those in the area and promote well-being. Trees provide more than just clean air and shade; they assist in the mental health of the community, stormwater management, environmental impact, and noise reduction.



### **Environmental Benefits**

Urban forests help to create ecosystems that provide habitat and food for birds and other animals, allowing native species to move between areas without risk of harm. Trees provide a variety of environmental services such as cleaning and producing the air that we breathe, cooling our streets, and assist in the sequestration of carbon.



### **Economic Benefits**

Urban Forests assist in lowering heating and cooling costs, increasing property values, increasing the lifespan of community and council infrastructure, encouraging shoppers to stay longer in commercial areas and therefore potentially spend more.

### **Social Benefits**

Exposure to urban green space has been found to improve human mental health, cognitive function, creating a sense of community, and reduce social issues such as crime and vandalism.

### **Health benefits**

Trees with a dense canopy provide excellent protection from UV radiation, reducing the risk of heat exhaustion and the associated risk of skin cancer. When carefully selected, trees can assist by cooling air temperature by over 30%, thereby activating reserves and parks making them more accessible.



## STREET TREES

The Town has a broad street tree program that includes regular maintenance and annual winter planting. The Town takes responsibility for the installation and maintenance of all street trees, relevant regulations; ensuring access to underground service locations and appropriate tree species.

Residents are encouraged to request a verge tree from the Town. By planting more verge trees we can reduce the urban heat island effect and increasing the Town's urban canopy.

For more information on requesting a free Verge Tree scan the QR code below or visit [eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/services/sustainability-and-environment/verge-treatments-and-street-trees.aspx](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au/services/sustainability-and-environment/verge-treatments-and-street-trees.aspx)



**REQUEST A VERGE TREE**



# RESIDENT INCENTIVES

## ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Each year during the month of May, The Town partners with APACE Nursery in North Fremantle to provide native plants at a subsidised cost to East Fremantle residents. These waterwise native plantings are ideal for any verge garden, providing habitat and food for a variety of native wildlife. The plants sell quickly so be sure to get in before it's too late!

## FREE MULCH

Mulching is an easy way to develop a waterwise garden. East Fremantle residents can collect mulch from the Fremantle Recycle Centre in Montreal Street, Fremantle at no cost, for opening hours visit [fremantle.wa.gov.au](http://fremantle.wa.gov.au) (please take a form of Identification).



# USEFUL LINKS



Below are a variety of links that will assist you on your Waterwise journey, ensuring you are in the best place to create a self-sustaining waterwise verge garden.

APACE Nursery



Water Corporation  
Waterwise



Low Maintenance Lawn



East Fremantle  
Irrigation Conditions



Water Corporation  
Waterwise Plant Finder



Cottesloe Soil Complex  
Planting Guide



# HAPPY PLANTING!

