



Verge Greening Guidelines



TOWN of

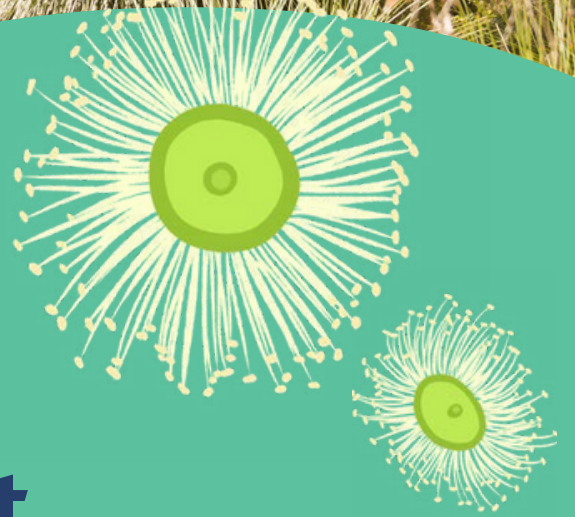
EAST FREMANTLE

Growth Lifestyle Sustainability



Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	3
Climate Emergency - Strategic Objective 2 - Green Spaces	5
What is the Street Verge?	6
Why Create a Waterwise Native Verge?	7
Approved Verge Treatments	8
Verge Treatments Requiring Approval	9
Unapproved Verge Treatments	9
Services and Responsibilities	10
Utility Locations	10
Residential Incentives	12
Tiny Beetle Causing Big Problems	13
Selecting the right plants for your verge	14
Designing a Verge Garden	15



Acknowledgement of Country

The Town of East Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which East Fremantle exists.

We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and acknowledge their continued custodianship of Country. We are committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, water and sea, and their rich contribution to society. We acknowledge the thousands of years of caring for Country.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are often more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to the social and economic inequality they experience as a result of colonialism. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as the oldest continuous living culture in the world. Responding to the climate emergency offers the opportunity to embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, science, knowledge and work together to ensure sustainable land use practices and climate change mitigation and adaptation.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: GREEN SPACES



The Town's Climate Emergency Strategy (CES) and Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) are based on seven Strategic Objectives. Strategic Objective 2, Green Spaces, focuses on urban green spaces including nature reserves, parks, private gardens, and street trees, all of which are essential for healthy and sustainable communities.

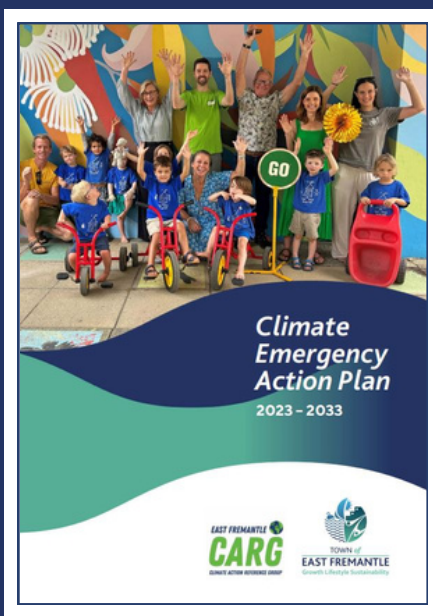
Green spaces act as the lungs for urban environments, aiding in the filtration of pollutants, reducing the levels of urban heat, providing habitat for wildlife, improving aesthetics and improving the physical and mental health of the community.

Interconnected green spaces across public and private land are crucial to creating resilient communities in light of the current and future effects of climate change.

With over 60 percent of the Town's area comprising of hard surfaces and only 16 percent green canopy cover, East Fremantle has been identified as a place of significant urban greening opportunity. By greening your veggie, you can do your bit to support our community.

STRATEGIC VISION (CES)

- 2.1 Council commits to increasing the Town's total vegetation canopy cover to 30 percent by 2030.
- 2.2 Council will support greening initiatives on both public and private land.
- 2.3 Council will collaborate with multi-disciplinary organisations to increase and protect green spaces.



Scan to learn more about
Climate Action in East Fremantle.



What is the Street Verge?

The verge, situated between the street curb and the adjacent property boundary, plays a crucial role in shaping the aesthetics of your street. Despite being classified as Crown Land, it falls upon the adjacent landowner to maintain and improve this area.

The verge, often referred to as the roadside verge or nature strip, is the strip of land between the edge of the road and the adjacent property boundary and acts as a buffer zone between the public thoroughfare and private land. The verge typically lies parallel to the road and serves as a transitional space between the pavement and private property.

Verges serve as a collective asset by:

- Hosting service utilities.
- Providing access to residential and commercial properties.
- Offering connectivity throughout the Town.
- Connecting properties to the natural environment.
- Reducing street temperatures when trees and vegetation are present.

Width: The width of the verge varies depending on the characteristics of your street and can range from a narrow strip to a more expansive area.

Ownership: The verge is Crown Land, however, property owners are often responsible for its maintenance, subject to local regulations and guidelines.

While the primary purpose of the verge is to provide a separation between the road and private property for underground services, the verge also serves various other functions, including:

Stormwater management: Planting out the verge helps absorb rainwater, reducing runoff and preventing soil erosion and sediment movement.

Aesthetic enhancement: Well-maintained verges contribute to the visual appeal of neighborhoods and streetscapes.

Habitat creation: Native and waterwise verges can provide habitat for wildlife, including birds, insects, and small mammals. Verges act as links to nature reserves, providing corridors for native wildlife.



Why Create a Waterwise Native 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.

Given the impacts of climate change and a drying climate, preserving water is critical. The Town supports the implementation of water-efficient and native verges.

These verges demand less water and require less maintenance, all while ensuring resilience during the scorching summer months.

A well-planned and adequately maintained waterwise verge garden can assist in:

- Reducing urban heat by cooling the streetscape through the presence of verge trees which provide shaded leafy canopies.
- Reduce water runoff, water consumption, and maintenance of the verge area.
- Serve as crucial habitat and nature links for wildlife, thereby enriching biodiversity across the Town.
- Enhance rainwater infiltration and decrease stormwater runoff into the Swan River.

Approved Verge Treatments

The Town encourages resilient and waterwise native verge gardens, which not only enhance the aesthetics of the streetscape but also require less maintenance and provide habitat for local birds and animals. The below are approved verge treatments which do not require any approval.



MULCH

Mulching is an effective method to create a waterwise verge. Applying a 5-10mm layer of mulch is crucial for retaining water and reducing evaporation, which helps plants thrive, especially during hot summer months. Additionally, mulch aids in weed prevention, thereby reducing the necessity for ongoing maintenance.

Free mulch is available for collection at the **Fremantle Recycling Centre** at no cost. For information regarding opening hours, please visit **fremantle.wa.gov.au**. Please ensure to bring a form of identification when collecting the mulch.



NATIVE WATERWISE PLANTS

When planting on your verge, utilise native and waterwise groundcovers and shrubs. Avoid any plants that are prickly, spiky, or poisonous. Once established it is the responsibility of the resident to ensure that all plantings are managed and do not exceed 750mm in height to ensure clear sightlines are maintained at all times.

For Waterwise native plants specific to East Fremantle's soil conditions visit: **Waterwise Plants Suitable to East Fremantle**. If you would like feedback on your proposed plantings, feel free to discuss with our parks team on 9339 9339.



VERGE TREES

Verge trees offer a range of advantages, such as lowering ambient temperatures, enhancing the visual appeal of street landscapes, creating habitat for wildlife and potentially raising property values. Trees have also been linked to enhancing both physical and mental well-being.

The Town installs and manages all verge trees in the Town. If you'd like to request a verge tree for your property, please fill out the **Verge Tree Request Form** or scan the QR code on page 12.



GRASS

The Town promotes waterwise native verge gardens over lawned verges. Installing and upkeep of a low-maintenance lawn can notably decrease water requirements, saving both time and money. When selecting a lawn, opt for a warm-season grass that is drought-tolerant and well-suited for WA's warm summer climate.

Visit **Waterwise Lawn Varieties** for more information.

Verge Treatments Requiring Approval

Some materials require formal approval prior to being installed, these include:

IRRIGATION



Once established, native plants and verges can survive hot dry summers with little to no additional watering. If 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.

Residents must submit a diagrammatic sketch indicating the location of the proposed reticulation. Information on the **Town's irrigation conditions**.

To check your scheduled watering days visit watercorporation.com.au/waterwise



FRUITING AND EDIBLE PLANTS

If you would like to have fruiting plants in your verge area, the Town will require a formal application detailing the locations of the proposed plantings as well as the species proposed. Plantings must be no higher than 750mm and must be managed to ensure the fruit does not attract pests and the plantings do not block sight lines for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

If these materials are installed without formal approval, the Town may require their removal.

To apply for a verge treatment scan the QR code or complete the **Verge Treatment Form**.



Unapproved Verge Treatments

The following verge treatments are unapproved in the verge area and will not be approved under any circumstances:

- Toxic, spikey or poisonous plants or plantings.
- Paving, Concrete, or other similar hardstand materials.
- Limestone rubble, gravel, or any similar loose aggregates.
- Artificial/synthetic lawn.
- Verge trees other than those planted by the Town of East Fremantle.
- Materials or structures which are unsafe, block sightlines, are loose or slippery, present hazard or are impermeable



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).

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.



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 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.



Residential Incentives



FREE VERGE 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.

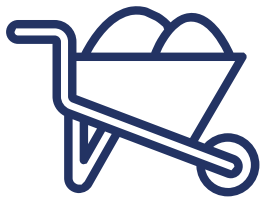
Request a
Verge Tree



NATIVE PLANT SALE

Every May, the Town collaborates with **APACE Nursery** in North Fremantle to offer native plants at a discounted price to East Fremantle residents. Residents can access up to 40 plants with the Town contributing covering half the cost.

Native plants are perfect for verge gardens, offering habitat and food for various forms of native wildlife. Due to high demand, the plants sell out fast, so make sure to secure yours before they're gone!



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** (please take a form of Identification).





Tiny Beetle Causing Big Problems

*About the size of a sesame seed, The Polyphagous shot-hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*) bore tunnels in trees, where they cultivate a *Fusarium* fungus as a food source. The growth of the fungus disrupts the flow of water and nutrients around the tree and can lead to branches and even whole trees dying.*

What Happened?

The Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) was first reported in Western Australia in 2021. The PSBH is known to infect over 400 plant species and has been detected in both exotic and Australian native tree species.

The Town has been working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to closely manage the spread of PSHB.

Residents are advised to inspect any green waste or tree clippings for signs of borer. In the case you believe there are signs of borer, please get in touch with DPIRD or report through the MyPestGuide.

What to look for?

The symptoms of infestation vary from species to species, the main things to look for are:

- Beetle entry/exit holes - approximately the size of a ballpoint pen tip
- Galleries - when pruning branches or inspecting fallen branches, check for evidence of galleries caused by the tunnelling of PSHB beetles.
- Discoloration/staining - this is caused by the *Fusarium* fungus.
- Gumming - thick resin or sap.
- Frass - produced by the beetles tunnelling, frass or "noodles" may be seen on the tree exterior. This can indicate a high level of infestation.
- Sugar volcanoes - a common sign of infestation on Avocado trees, crystalline foam is exuded from entry/exit holes.
- Dieback and tree death - the fungus disrupts the tree's vascular systems causing dieback and death.

Report any suspected borer to DPIRD



MyPestGuide®
MyPestGuide® Reporter app
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au
Pest and Disease Information Service
08 9368 3080



Selecting the right plants for your verge

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.

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.

Native Waterwise plants
suitable to East Fremantle

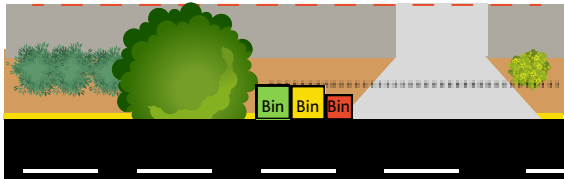


Designing a Verge Garden

*Use the following examples to help design your own verge garden.
Remember to consider if you will need space for waste collection (bulk waste and weekly collection) as well as use for bus stops and pathways.*

NARROW VERGE

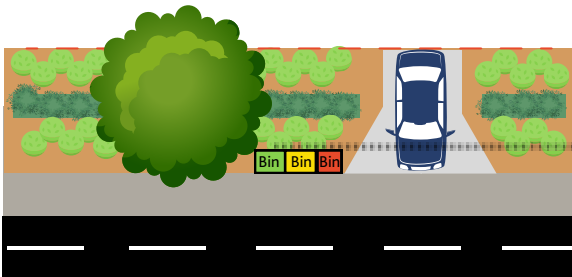
(footpath adjacent to the property boundary)



- Footpath
- Layered planting, shrubs, strappy leaf plants and groundcovers.
- 1m mulch only strip for pedestrian access and waste collection.

STANDARD VERGE

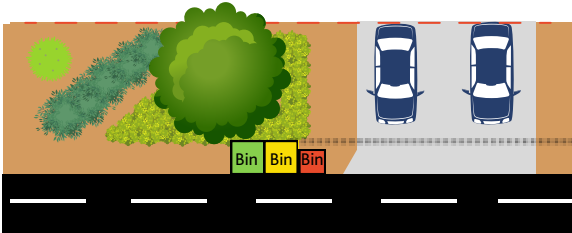
(with footpath adjacent to road)



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

LARGE VERGE

(no footpath)



- Layered planting, shrubs, strappy leaf plants, and groundcovers.
- 1m mulch only strip for pedestrian access and waste collection.

LARGE VERGE

(with footpath adjacent to property)



- Footpath
- Layered planting, shrubs, strappy leaf plants and groundcovers.
- 2m mulch only strip for pedestrian access and waste collection.

