



# Council Policy

## Verge and Urban Garden



# Verge and Urban Garden Policy

## Policy scope

The City of Fremantle encourages and supports residents to develop and maintain verge gardens to achieve social, environmental and economic values for the community through the Verge and Urban Garden Policy.

The Verge and Urban Garden Policy is to be read in conjunction with the Verge and Urban Garden Guidelines.

## Policy statement

### Approvals

An owner of land may on the part of the verge directly bordering the land install a verge garden in accordance with this Policy. Where the land is owned or managed by a third party, the written permission of the land owner or manager is required prior to creating a verge garden.

### Design and Planning

Residents are encouraged to undertake planning and design for their verge garden to:

- create a beautiful verge garden with a strong sense of place
- create diverse places for people, flora and fauna
- make provision for a safe and functional verge
- ensure a low water use and low maintenance verge garden.

The Verge Garden Guidelines provide design considerations and advice to help achieve the social, environmental and economic benefits as detailed below.

### Social Values

Verges can provide a place for community connection and improved health and wellbeing by providing social spaces and improved amenity. When planning a verge garden, consider play, pedestrian and cyclist comfort, social spaces with seats or benches, community libraries and toy libraries. When linked up with neighbouring verge gardens, a strong sense of place and improved amenity for pedestrian and cyclists is created. Verges can also be a productive space for residents with edible gardens, herb and vegetable planters.

### Environmental Values

Verges provide important environmental functions including biodiversity, fauna habitat, storm water management, low water use and green corridor connections. Verges can be fauna friendly. Consider habitat items such as insect hotels, logs and boulders, and



plants that also provide food sources. When linked up with neighbouring verge gardens, important green corridor connections are created for fauna. The City recommends the use of water wise, endemic and Australian plant species.

### **Economic Values**

A well planned and maintained verge garden provides a range of economic values to the resident and community. A verge garden can reduce maintenance costs while increasing property value. A reduction in the urban heat island can also lead to a reduction in utility costs and improved hard infrastructure asset life.

### **Acceptable Materials**

The Verge Garden Guidelines provide a list of acceptable materials not requiring approval, materials requiring approval and unacceptable materials. The installation of an acceptable material over no more than one third of the area of the verge is permitted.

### **Verge Garden Assistance**

The City will provide assistance with verge garden planning through the Verge and Urban Garden Guidelines and other annual events associated with the facilitation of verge gardens. The City will assist with implementation and maintenance of verge gardens through annual programs such as workshops, subsidised plants, free mulch and preparation assistance schemes. These will vary annually to respond to community requirements and will be developed through the annual budget process.

### **Community Verge Gardens**

The City encourages community or 'Friends of Groups' to develop, implement and maintain verge gardens on a large or multiple verge scale, or with approval from the City or land manager, other urban open space. Multiple, connected verge gardens have improved benefits for biodiversity, habitat creation, sense of place and urban heat island mitigation. The City will assist community or 'Friends of Groups' with implementation and maintenance of verge gardens through programs developed through the annual budget process.

### **Street Trees**

The City is responsible for planting and maintenance City trees in accordance with the City Tree Policy. To compliment verge gardens, residents can request the verge abutting their property be assessed for tree planting.

Care is to be taken during the installation of a verge garden to preserve the root zone and protect the trunk and canopy of trees as outlined in the Verge and Urban Garden Guidelines.

### **Non-compliance**

Non-compliance with this Policy may result in the City requesting the resident adjoining the verge to undertake works or remove items to meet the requirements of the Policy.



## Definitions and abbreviations

**Acceptable Materials** – The Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law defines an "acceptable material" as any material which will create a hard surface, and which appears on a list of acceptable materials maintained by the local government and is defined in the Verge and Urban Garden Guidelines.

Responsibility and review information	
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Parks and Landscape
<b>Document adoption/approval details</b>	13 March 2024 – Item C2403-13 Ordinary Meeting of Council – Doc ID 5968119
<b>Document amendment details</b>	
<b>Next review date</b>	13 March 2028