

Waterwise 'Adopt a Verge' Program



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Waterwise ‘ Adopt a Verge’ Program

What is a Verge?

A verge (nature strip) is the portion of land within the road reserve located between the property boundary and the kerb, or where no kerb exists, the edge of the road carriageway. Verges may also include footpaths, street trees, service infrastructure, and landscaped areas.

Verges are public land owned and managed by the local government, not the adjoining property owner. They play an important role in providing space for pedestrian access, street trees, drainage, utilities (such as water, gas, power and telecommunications), and streetscape amenity.

Who is responsible for verge maintenance?

The resident is responsible for maintaining the verge at the front of side of your property, including any improvement works to enhance your property’s aesthetics.

This may include:

- Pruning plants and mowing lawns
- Weed control
- Topping up mulch
- Maintaining approved installed verge treatments

The City of Kwinana is responsible for the overall management of verges to ensure they are safe, accessible, and functional for the community

Why ‘Adopt a Verge’?

Adopting a verge allows residents to contribute positively to their local streetscape by creating an attractive, well-maintained frontage that reflects local character and environmental values.

Appropriately landscaped verges can improve neighbourhood amenity, support waterwise planting, enhance urban cooling and increase biodiversity when suitable species are used. Resident-managed verges also encourage community pride and shared responsibility for public spaces, while ensuring the verge remains safe, accessible and functional in accordance with the City standards.

How do I ‘Adopt a Verge’?

Residents wishing to adopt a verge must submit an application to the City for assessment and approval before undertaking any works. During the application process the City will send through a map of the verge that is to be maintained.

Read through the Verge guidelines below and once approved and agreed upon, the resident enters into a Verge Maintenance Agreement and becomes responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance of the verge in accordance with City policies and conditions. No landscaping works may commence until written approval has been received from the City. Removal or pruning of any street trees is strictly prohibited. **The City of Kwinana has the right to reject a verge application pending assessment.**

Re – Landscaping an existing verge

The resident must submit the following as part of their application **if** the resident chooses to re-landscape the verge

- A sketch or plan of the proposed verge treatment, showing:
- Location of planting and types of planting
- Irrigation infrastructure (existing and proposed)
- Setbacks from kerb, footpath, driveways, and services
- Sightline clearances at intersections and driveways
- Resident to cover all costs of re-landscaping

Plant Species List

The city reserves the right to approve or reject proposed species

The city encourages waterwise, sustainable, low-growing native verge gardens

Use Water Corporation's online directory to help design your garden.

<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Waterwise/Waterwise-plants>

Setbacks and Design Requirements

Applicant agrees that:

- Minimum setbacks from kerb, footpath and driveway must be observed as specified by the City.
- Verge landscaping must not impede pedestrian movement or obstruct vehicle and pedestrian sightlines.
- No treatment will obstruct access to utilities

The City may require amendments to the design to meet safety or operational standards. The City has a preference for the resident to maintain existing streetscape planting.

Maintenance Responsibilities

The resident agrees to:

- Maintain the verge landscaping in a safe, tidy and healthy condition at all times
- Undertake regular weeding, pruning, watering, and replacement of failed plants
- Ensure no hazards are created for pedestrians, cyclists, or vehicles
- Prevent overgrowth onto footpaths, roadways, or neighbouring properties

The City is not responsible for any maintenance once this agreement is in effect.

Irrigation System Management

Where a City-installed irrigation system exists within the verge:

- Ownership of the irrigation infrastructure remains with the City
- The resident must not alter, remove or damage the irrigation system without written approval from the City
- The City may:
 - Isolate or remove irrigation if required for operational reasons
 - Access the system at any time for inspection, repair or modification without notification

The Resident acknowledges that irrigation schedules may change or be discontinued as part of City-wide water practices

Any additional irrigation installed by the resident must be approved and maintained entirely at the resident's cost.

Inspections and Compliance

The city may conduct inspections:

- At initial installation
- Periodically
- In response to complaints or safety concerns

If the verge is not maintained in accordance with this agreement the City may:

- Issue a written notice requiring rectification
- Undertake remedial works and recover costs from the resident
- Remove the verge treatment and reinstate the verge as required at the expense of the resident.

Works in the Verge

The City of Kwinana, and any other authority, such as utility service providers including gas, water, electricity and fire services, may need to periodically excavate in a verge. The city of Kwinana or other authority is not liable to compensate any person for that disturbance nor replace any verge treatment because of such works.

It is important to note that where there is no footpath, the city may build one in the future, and this may affect verge landscaping. Where no footpath exists, a two-meter zone adjacent to the kerb is to be maintained so ensure vehicles have a clear line of sight.

Landowners or residents will not be compensated for any loss of vegetation or other verge treatments caused by footpath works.

Structure and Hardscapes

No hard structures (including edging, walls, rocks, sleepers, or paving) are permitted without separate written approval

Any unapproved structure may be removed by the City or other utility providers without notice

Indemnity

The resident agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Kwinana, its employees and contractors, from any claims, loss, damage, injury or liability arising from:

- The verge treatment
- The resident's maintenance activities
- Failure to comply with this agreement

Termination

The city may terminate this agreement at any time if:

- The verge is not maintained as agreed
- Safety concerns arise
- City operational requirements change

Upon termination, the City may reinstate the verge at the resident's cost if required

Verge Maintenance and Landscaping Responsibility Agreement

This agreement sets out the conditions under which a resident may assume responsibility for the landscaping and ongoing maintenance of a verge that is currently landscaped and maintained by the City of Kwinana.

All verge treatments must comply with the City's **Street Trees and Verge Treatments Policy** and associated local laws.

- ☐ The Resident understands and agrees that the verge remains City managed land at all times.
- ☐ The Resident has read and understands the Street Trees and Verge Treatments Policy? Policy located here: [Street Trees and Verge Treatments](#)
- ☐ Does the Resident intend to re-landscape the existing verge?
If so:
 - ☐ Has a dial before you dig been completed and submitted to the city and included any major services on my verge plan
 - ☐ Has a landscape plan been submitted to the City meeting the requirements above?
- ☐ By checking this box, the Resident agrees to the above terms and conditions of the Adopt a Verge Policy

Owners Applicant details

Owners Resident Name(s): _____

Owners Property Address: _____

Owners Contact Details: _____

Affected Verge Location: _____

Residents Signature: _____

Date: _____