

## Adopt a Verge Garden

### Verge Gardens

Verge gardens create habitat, strengthen a community's ability and resilience and contribute to important green spaces for our region.

### What is a Verge?

A verge refers to the small area of land between the road and property boundary

Aside from providing important access to services such as utilities, crossovers, street trees and footpaths, verges have a cooling effect and create wild-friendly corridors throughout the region.

Council encourages verge treatments that are waterwise, created with local native plants and reduce the need for irrigation and fertilisers.

Verge landscapes that also consider aesthetics and functionality lend themselves to enhance streetscapes and bring ecological benefits. In fact, research shows that attractive and well-maintained verge gardens with lower or no front boundary all help people feel safer and can even increase walking and cycling.

### Waterwise Verges

The cost savings are just one of the many benefits of waterwise verges. Other benefits include:

- Improved water efficiency and increased stormwater infiltration.
- Creating a cooling effect and mitigation of "regional heat" in summer
- Providing habitat for local wildlife and increased biodiversity
- Improving streetscape amenity and potentially increasing property prices

*lifestyle location of choice*

## Plants

Local plant species are most appropriate for verge gardens as they can survive our hot dry summers with little to no watering.

The best time to plant is late autumn/early winter, as rainfall through the cooler winter months will help to establish your new garden. Avoid planting over the summer months as new plants struggle to survive in the heat without regular watering.

To get the best out of your verge garden:

- Complete an “Application to Undertake Works on Council Land”
- Contact “Dial Before You Dig” to confirm the location of any and all underground services prior to any works being carried out.
- Avoid plants that are prickly, poisonous or may cause allergic reactions and check the root invasiveness of plants as roots are able to damage drainage pipes and other underground services.
- Low growing shrubs and groundcovers are the best option for verge gardens. Plants are to be no more than 0.6m at mature height to ensure visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
- Before planting, set out your plants along the verge to ensure the design is correct and the spacing between plants is even.
- Once you have installed your plants, apply a 5-10cm layer of coarse mulch, making sure the mulch is kept clear from the base of all new plants. Maintain the mulch every few months and top up as necessary.