



Reimagining Naturestrips



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Get Inspired!



Benefits

Establishing a native verge garden has so many benefits for for you, our environment and community!

Planting natives on your verge:

- creates a beautiful place to live.
- creates **habitat** and **linkages** for our endemic species enabling them to live and move about the region.
- helps to maintain a **healthy environment** and promotes **biodiversity**.
- mitigates the "urban heat island effect" - **cooling temperatures, improving air quality and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, so you're taking action on climate change.**
- Natives are well adapted to the environmental conditions of the Perth Peel region – **waterwise**, use little fertilizer – **saving you money** and **preventing pollution of our waterways.**
- brings about a sense of **community connectedness** amongst people and to the environment, **improving our physical and mental health.**

To the left there are links to sites that explore the benefits of implementing a native verge on your property!



[Valley of verges](#)

[On the verge](#)

[UWA - native street garden](#)

[The social and ecological values of native gardens](#)

[Community Drivers/Local Policy Setting for Greening](#)

How to make it happen



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Verge Guides

Where to start?

There are a number of verge guides out there, often providing step-by-step instructions – plant nurseries, Water Corporation and local councils are good places to look. We have provided some of the best below – enjoy!

[Native Verge Guide by APACE Nursery](#)

[Waterwise Verge Guide by Water Corporation](#)

[Verge Guide by Local Council \(Fremantle\)](#)



Council Regulations and Guidelines

Most councils within the Perth and Peel region support the creation of native verges by residents but they do have some rules and regulations that it's best to know before you start.

To the right we have provided a general guide to what most councils in the Perth and Peel region require for your native verge. However, you need to know the rules for your council before you start so click where you live in the list found [here](#) and the link will take you to your council's guidelines and regulations.

[Link to council list](#)

- No poisonous or prickly plants.
- No plant over approx. 650 – 750mm tall (must not encroach vehicle line of sight).
- No artificial turf.
- Must have access to utilities.
- Pavers (if permitted) only one quarter/third of verge space.
- No water features.
- No loose granular surfaces.
- Materials/plants cannot encroach road or footpath.
- 1.5 metre clear strip (mulch) for pedestrians if a footpath is not present.
- Small area clear for bin access.



Council Regulations and Guidelines

Armadale	Bassendean	Bayswater	Belmont	Boddington	Cambridge	Canning	Claremont
Cockburn	Cottesloe	East Fremantle	Fremantle	Gosnells	Joondalup	Kalamunda	Kwinana
Mandurah	Melville	Mosman Park	Mundaring	Murray	Nedlands	Peppermint Grove	Perth
Rockingham	Serpentine-Jarrahdale	South Perth	Stirling	Subiaco	Swan	Victoria Park	Vincent
Wanneroo	Waroona*						

*No specific information on verges, contact council authorities or Landcare officers.

Financial Assistance

There are several subsidies and rebates that exist to assist residents in the Perth and Peel region to create a native waterwise verge. Most councils will supply a free street tree upon application by residents. Plant subsidy schemes or plants for residents' programs are carried out in Autumn or early winter each year with many councils offering discounted or free native tube stocks to residents. Waterwise verge rebates are also common among councils and can be applied yearly with up to \$500 to be given towards the development of your verge.

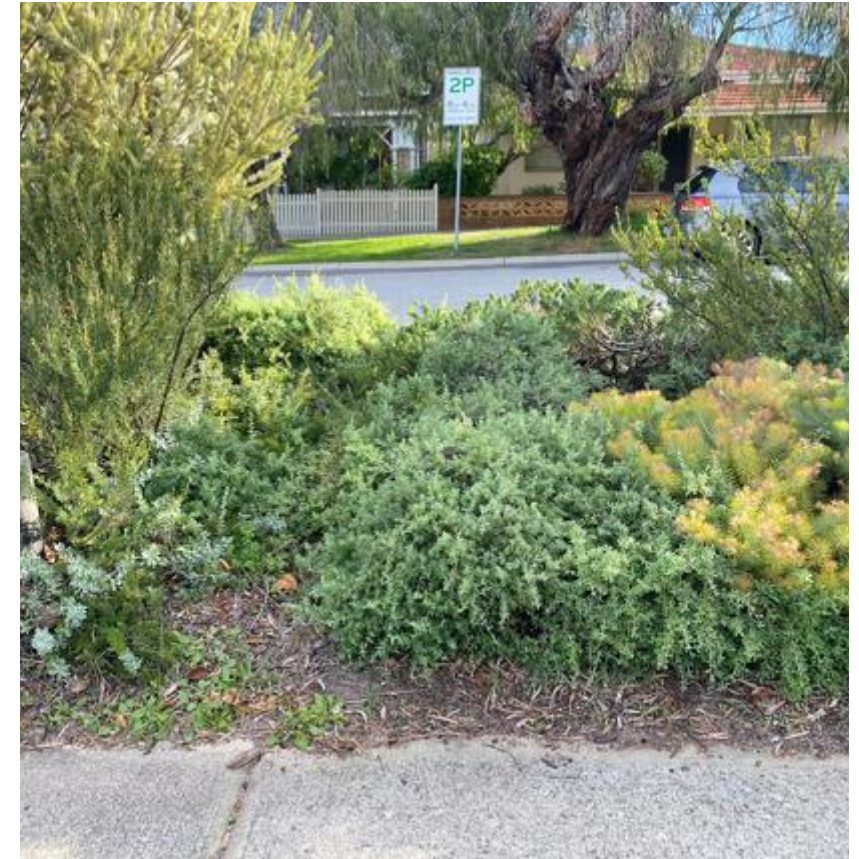
The following councils have rebates or subsidies available for residents;

[Armadale](#), [Bassendean](#), [Bayswater](#), [Cambridge](#), [Claremont](#), [Cockburn](#), [Cottesloe](#), [East Fremantle](#), [Fremantle](#), [Kalamunda](#), [Kwinana](#), [Mandurah](#), [Melville](#), [Mosman Park](#), [Murray](#), [Nedlands](#), [Peppermint Grove](#), [Perth](#)^{*}, [Serpentine-Jarrahdale](#), [South Perth](#)^{**}, [Stirling](#), [Subiaco](#), [Victoria Park](#), [Vincent](#)

* Information in guidelines PDF

** Free mulch only

Despite the information provided in the links above, it is a great idea to contact your council directly to find out if you are eligible for such schemes and for further information.



Design

There is a variety of designs guidance to enable you to create a garden to your taste and the aesthetic that suits your property: formal, informal, contemporary, coastal, cottage gardens - natives can be adapted to just about any style. Check out our inspiration section for ideas!

Below we have a number of resources to help you choose and create the style that is right for you.

[Garden designs for Perth and the South West](#)

[Native verge Guide by APACE Nursery](#)

[How to create a waterwise verge](#)

[Examples of verge design](#)

[Creating your verge garden](#)



Site Preparation

The site preparation is where most of the heavy lifting will be taking place. Its important that you have a rough design planned before going and modifying your verge. First, its important to remove the lawn and weeds from the verge and to bring the soil level to about 50—100mm below the curb level.

Soil preparation is key to your gardens success. Find out what soil type you are from [Fertilise Wise](#) but remember it may have fill on top when your house was built – so check what is there.

If your soil is compacted (hard to dig with a shovel) you can aerate the soil ([Compacted soil solutions](#)). If your soils are not native (builder's soil) or extremely sandy then your plants will grow better and stronger if you improve the soil first ([Improving your soils](#)) NOTE – avoid manures as they are high in phosphorus which can be toxic to native plants. There are native fertilisers that can be sourced from most hardware's or nurseries.

Mulching is a must and can be done before or after planting. If you are preparing your site well before you plan to plant, it is probably best to mulch soon after to protect and stop erosion of your soils. The mulch level must not rise above the level of the curbside. Contacting your council or local contractors is a good place to start to find free, or cheap mulch suppliers.

To the right there are further links with tips on lawn removal, tips on native gardens and a recommended checklist to keep you on track. Make sure you contact 'Dial Before you Dig' before commencing your work.

[How to kill or remove grass](#)

[Life without lawn](#)

[General tips for growing a native garden](#)

[Gardening tips](#)

[Dial before you dig](#)

[Verge preparation checklist](#)



Contractor and design help

There are many fantastic contractors and landscapers that can help you with your native verge if you don't wish to do it yourself , or just need some help with the bigger jobs such as turf removal and applying mulch.

You may have a local landscaper or contractor with a focus on native gardens, they often have great ideas to share. If you are struggling to find any that suit your needs below is a list of contractors that is recommended by APACE nursery.

Before starting any work on the verge you will need to contact 'Dial Before you Dig' to ensure that no damage will be done to any underground utilities.

[Landscaping Contractor List](#)

[Dial Before You Dig](#)

[The Forever Project](#)



What to Plant

Planting local natives is great for local biodiversity as it provides habitat for local wildlife and pollinators and is adapted to the area - meaning better survival of the plants but the final choice is of course yours.

Often design guidelines will specify the type of plant you need to obtain the look – but you can substitute other species with similar habits. First, get to know the soil that you are working with, then you can work out which plants are best suited to your area ([Fertilise Wise](#)).

Below are some plant guides for your native verge that you can browse at your leisure. Plants are usually separated into four groups: groundcovers, strappy plants, climbers and shrubs. Unless you don't have a street tree, these are the primary types of plants that you will be working with. In fire prone areas it's a great idea to look at [Low Flammability Plants](#) in your plant selection process.

Having a mix of plant types is great for creating a diverse and aesthetic garden and creating versatile habitat. Exotic plants are usually unsuitable for a native verge as they have different needs and may not look right. You also will want to avoid plants that are poisonous, prickly or considered weeds (remember some Australian natives are weeds!). All the directories listed have a great selection of native plants to choose from.

Please note that ReWild Perth, although an excellent resource, is designed for creating a garden, not a verge. This means that many of the tasks that it suggests to not apply to creating a verge as they are not allowed (such as creating a water feature, planting trees and large shrubs).



[Waterwise Plants](#)

[APACE Nursery](#)

[Native Plants list](#)

[ReWild Perth](#)

Planting

We are at the exciting part of your verge garden! Putting in the amazing plants you have selected!

First step put out your plants where you wish to plant them before digging. Follow your design closely and account for the growing space needed for each species (often on the nursery tag or you can look it up in the species lists we have linked to).

When you are planting, make sure you remove the mulch from around the stems of the plants to prevent stem rot and some distance away from your street tree. Water in your plants well once they have been planted and ensure they are getting enough water as they grow. It may be necessary to get a [watering exemption](#) for this time to ensure that your plants thrive.

Below are links to tips on planting establishing native plants.

[Growing Australian native plants](#)

[Verge planting](#)

[Planting guide](#)



Maintenance

Maintaining your verge is super important to keep it within council regulations and keep your verge looking beautiful.

Trim back shrubs and groundcovers to keep them within verge boundary and within height restrictions (mostly 750mm).

Remove and replace dead plants. A second planting should be done the year after to fill out any spaces left by dead plants your verge.

Spot weed whenever you are enjoying your verge to ensure that grass and other noxious weeds don't return to your verge.

Water while plants establish so they can grow healthy and strong. Once grown they may need water during hot weather to avoid heat stress.

[Growing Australian Native Plants](#)

[Verge Preperation/Planting/Maintenance Schedule](#)

