

FACT SHEET

Residential Verge Landscaping

This guide is intended for residents of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder wanting to install or upgrade verges. For advice on your individual situation please contact the City's Engineering team.

Who is Responsible for the verge?

The City is responsible for street trees and enforcing verge requirements in the case of hazardous or unsuitable installations, but maintenance of the verge is the householders' responsibility. You therefore have the choice of what to do with your verge provided it meets the City's requirements. Repairs to any damage to landscaping on the verge resulting from works being undertaken by service providers, including Council, shall be the responsibility of property owner.

Verge Landscaping

The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder, with the vision of becoming a sustainable regional City of the future, and a clean and green city, encourages verge landscaping which is safe, waterwise, aesthetically pleasing and reflects the rich biodiversity of the Eastern Goldfields region.

Street verges account for a surprising amount of land within our City, and perform the important tasks of allowing room for public services such as water and power, increased public space and visually linking a streetscape. Most verges around the city are fairly basic, consisting mostly of dirt with a tree or two; however the City encourages any and all people interested to landscape their verges.

The City has a long history of supporting dust abatement programs. To continue this work the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder encourages property owners to consider verge coverings that assist with dust suppression, such as native ground covers and mulch.

Local native plants create an attractive water-wise garden that requires little maintenance once established. Local plants are adapted to our soils and are drought tolerant. Verge coverings that include a high density of native flora encourage biodiversity by attracting local birds and wildlife, enhancing every garden.

The City's Verge Requirements

- The installation must be waterwise.
- Shrubs & ground cover must not be more than 75cm at mature height, nor be of a hazardous nature (e.g. thorny or poisonous).
- Pea gravel, crushed brick or other stone aggregates are not permitted.
- Decorative items cannot be installed on a verge for safety reasons, including children's' play equipment, garden ornaments or rockeries.

- The treatment must not impede pedestrian access.
- The general level of the verge must not be altered.
- All reticulation piping is to be laid at a depth of not more than 30cm nor less than 15cm. Control valves must be located within your property.
- Mulch is to be woodchip or large particle vegetative material.
- Existing verge trees are not to be interfered with in any way and, if any pruning is required, please contact the City.
- Council provided street trees are preferred and will be supplied on request free of charge.
- A setback of one metre must be provided on the road frontage and, if no footpath is present, a two metre wide clear strip must be available on the house frontage for pedestrians.

Installing verge plantings of any type requires permission from the City so that we can ensure that designs are not hazardous and do not interfere with pedestrian safety or motorists' line-of-sight.

Please submit an Activities on Thoroughfares (Engineering) form (there is no submission fee) along with a drawing showing the dimensions of the area to be landscaped, the approximate position of the proposed plants, the type and layout of reticulation and paving noting any existing features (services, crossover, street tree, footpath, bin space etc).

Verge Landscaping Considerations

- Verge designs can be imaginative and add value to your home.
- Choosing waterwise plants reduces the need for irrigation and saves money.
- Massed plantings of one or several plants provides a mass of colour or greenery.
- Don't be limited in your choice of plants, local native plantings can look unique and stunning planted in a designed format.
- Native plants can be pruned similarly to common landscaping plants to maintain a desired shape and promote new growth.
- Local native plants require much less fertiliser than introduced plants as they are adapted to our soil and climatic conditions. Fertilising once a year with a native Fertiliser is more than enough.

Advice on mulch

A good waterwise mulch has large, irregularly shaped particles that hold little, if any water. Properly used, mulch benefits plant growth and minimizes garden labour by; saving water, reducing erosion, reducing weeds, reducing heat stress, feeding the soil and improving the general look of a garden. The golden rules of mulching include; spreading mulch 50-75 mm thick, keeping it clear of stems and trunks, leaving it undisturbed and topping up as necessary.

Street Trees

As part of the City's greening program, and in conjunction with our commitment to address local salinity and dust issues, the City is asking residents to plant and adopt a tree in their street by planting a tree outside their property and looking after it.

The City will provide an average of two trees to ratepayers for planting on street verges; this may vary depending on road frontage.

Assistance will be provided with the selection of suitable tree species that are appropriate to the particular streetscape, with due consideration being given to factors such as safety, interference to services, litter potential, aesthetics etc. Planting and watering of new trees will be the responsibility of the resident.

Trees will be delivered to the resident's property along with a fact sheet containing general information on planting and maintenance.

Ratepayers may nominate a tree of their own choice for the consideration of Council officers. Approval cannot be considered until such time as the site requirements have been assessed and a permit to proceed has been issued. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to supply and maintain these plants in such circumstances.

Street trees should be planted on existing street tree alignment & consideration should be given to overhead power lines.

More Information

Contact the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder on 9021 9600 or email mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au.