



TOWN OF
Bassendean

Verge Maintenance

Frequently Asked Questions



Introduction

The Town of Bassendean maintains parks, reserves, easements, medians, main roads verges and entry statements.

Each year the Town budgets approximately \$550,000 to maintain a significant amount of residential, commercial and industrial verges. These funds form a large portion of the Town's available Parks operating annual budget.

When benchmarked against other Local Governments within the Perth Metropolitan Area, the Town of Bassendean was shown to offer the highest level of verge maintenance service, with no other Local Government performing this service to the same extent as the Town of Bassendean.

While this service has been in place for many years, the use of rate payer funds to maintain verges fronting privately owned properties is no longer considered a reasonable use of these funds, particularly when the majority of residents currently maintain their own verge and pay the same level of rates.

Savings from the reduced verge maintenance schedule will be re-directed to asset renewal and maintenance in areas that require additional funding, such as paths, drains and roads.

Under the Town's new Verge Maintenance Policy, any roads not covered under **Managed Roads in Clause 1 of the Policy** are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner / resident.

Many residents already maintain their own verges, and we encourage all Bassendean residents to get involved and make the verge adjacent to your property your space, whether it is maintained grass, growing vegetation, or soft foliage plants that comply with the Town's [Verge Treatment Guidelines](#) and [Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2010](#). Street trees located within the verge remain the Town's responsibility.

Central to the Town's commitment to improve services through our Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028, the Town understands that not all community members are able to undertake verge maintenance. Under our Verge Maintenance Assistance Program, the Town may provide support to property owners or occupiers to maintain their grassed verge, provided they meet the eligibility criteria by demonstrating they are unable to undertake mowing due to age, disability or other medical condition.

By maintaining the verge, you are contributing to making our community a better place to live.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a verge?

A verge is the portion of land (road reserve) between the edge of the road and the adjacent property boundary. Generally, the verge is grassed and may contain street trees, crossovers and/or footpaths. Verges are provided on the edge of each road as a corridor to house underground services such as street lighting, power, gas, stormwater, water, sewerage and telecommunications and is owned by the State Government (Crown land).

Who has responsibility to maintain the verge?

While the verge is owned by the State Government, property owners are required to keep their verges safe and accessible to maintain clear sightlines for traffic and ensuring the space does not become a hazard.

Can I park on the verge?

Property owners / residents can park standard motor vehicles on their own verge; however they need to be mindful of not damaging infrastructure, trees and gardens and must ensure that clear sight lines are maintained. Parking commercial vehicles, buses or a trailer or caravan unattached to a motor vehicle is not permitted. It is illegal to obstruct or partially obstruct a footpath.

It is illegal to park on a verge if you are not the owner or resident of that property.

I have not maintained the grass on the verge, what do I need to do?

The grassed verge area/s are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. They should be mowed regularly and kept neat and tidy to ensure a presentable verge and street is maintained. Any street trees located within the verge remain the responsibility of the Town.

What happens if I don't maintain the verge out the front of my house?

It is important to maintain the verge adjoining your property to ensure it is in a safe, tidy condition, sightlines are maintained for pedestrians and there is no risk of fire. This helps to make our community a better and safer place to live and may increase your property value. If your verge remains unmaintained, the Town may contact you to request that you maintain the verge.

What is being done with the money that used to pay for this service?

The Town will continue to invest in the local community by redirecting these funds to improve other services, including the presentation and amenity of local parks, public spaces, increasing tree canopy and asset renewals such as drainage, roads and Town-owned buildings.

I am unable to maintain my verge. Am I eligible for assistance?

The Town, under the Verge Maintenance Assistance Program, may provide support to community members to assist in maintaining grassed verges in some circumstances, provided property owners or occupiers can meet the eligibility criteria by demonstrating an inability to undertake mowing due to age, a medical condition or other disability.

Are there any community organisations that could assist me with the maintenance of the verge?

Yes, there are a number of organisations that provide home and garden maintenance support services.

[Silverchain](#) or [People Who Care](#) assist individuals and families that may need some extra help with everyday tasks. Property owners or occupiers will need to contact these organisations directly to check requirements and if they meet the eligibility criteria.

I don't have much of a backyard. Can I use the verge to grow vegetation instead of grass?

Yes, the Town supports the modification of verges from traditional grass to low growing, soft foliage plants. Resident wishing to make changes must comply with the Town's [Verge Treatment Guidelines](#) and [Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2010](#).

The Town offers a limited number of rebates annually for residents who transform their verges from grass/hardstand to waterwise verges. Expressions of interest for the 2025 rebate program will open on 17 April 2025. Rebates of up to \$500 will be available to eligible residents. For details please [click here](#) (see Verge Rebate Program drop down).

What happens when works are undertaken on the verge?

It is important to note that public utility service providers (such as water, gas, electricity, fire services and telecommunications), other government authorities including the Town, and their authorised contractors have specific responsibilities and rights to access and undertake infrastructure maintenance or upgrade works within the verge as defined in legislation and codes of practice.

If works are undertaken within the verge, it may damage or disturb the verge and/or garden and while all care is taken, maintaining the infrastructure is a priority. Any impact on the verge from works such as this will typically be repaired or re-instated by those undertaking the works following completion. Works within the verge may also include street tree pruning by the Town or its authorised contractors.