

Fire Hazard Management

Given the Shire's constraints, landowners are encouraged to include their verges in their own fire hazard management plans.

A written permit from the Shire is required for works on the verge, this includes burning or clearing.

It is an offence to clear, damage or burn native vegetation (trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and groundcovers) on the verge without Shire or Department of Water and Environmental Regulation approval. The Shire may issue a warning or infringement, or initiate legal proceedings.

Public Land Management

Fire Protection Officers manage a Comprehensive fire mitigation program across Shire reserves, which includes annual inspections, hazard reduction burning, slashing and mechanical mulching.

For information and assistance regarding fire hazards, public land management and state-managed public lands, please contact the Fire Safety Team on 9290 6696.

Bush Verge Protection

Bush verges are vital for preserving biodiversity and supporting native flora and fauna.

The Shire follows a Roadside Conservation Policy and prioritises the protection of rare plants and habitat trees in these areas.

Residents are encouraged to maintain bush verges adjacent to their properties, with tips provided for effective management.

A clearing permit may be required from the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for clearing within bush verges, or for black-cockatoo habitat trees.

Weed Control

Due to limited resources the Shire prioritises areas in which to control weeds along kerb lines and footpaths, avoiding maintained verges.

Residents can seek assistance for weed identification and weed control advice for their properties by contacting our Environmental Team on 9290 6651.

Verges

A shared responsibility



Verges – a shared responsibility

Verges are classified as Crown Land and are a shared streetscape asset for crossovers/ resident access, pedestrians, service utilities and connections to nature reserves.

As the Shire of Mundaring has approximately 1300km of verges across the shire it does not have the capacity or resources to manage the upkeep of all of them. The Shire therefore encourages the collaborative effort of all landowners and residents in maintaining and improving the verge area adjacent to their property, fostering community pride and responsibility.

Residents are also invited to explore the benefits of incorporating their verges into their own fire hazard management plans, ensuring a safer environment for everyone to enjoy.

The Shire can provide guidance and support for residents looking to enhance their verge areas, to assist with contributing to a vibrant and welcoming streetscape and fostering a harmonious balance between nature and urban infrastructure.

Scan QR code for more information or visit:

<https://linktr.ee/vergeinfolinks>



Verge Improvements

It is recommended that native vegetation is maintained in those areas where it occurs naturally, anticipating the need for regular weed control.

Prior to commencing the formal approval process, residents are encouraged to share their ideas by submitting a sketch of their verge plans to the Shire's Infrastructure Services team.

The Shire requires prior written notice for any construction activities involving property access, object placement, or works within the verge, promoting compliance with the Thoroughfares Local Law and facilitating a hassle-free permit process.

Verges accommodate essential services and digging within them can lead to costly damage and potential hazards. As such excavations within the road reserve are discouraged, especially near electricity and gas lines, to prevent accidents.

For information about underground assets in your area contact Dial Before You Dig on 1100 or visit their website: www.byda.com.au.

Verge Tree Management

The Shire is committed to the safe preservation of trees, and maintaining a balance between environment and infrastructure. We understand the importance of maintaining a practical level of hazard minimisation in regards to trees, whilst understanding that trees are a living organism and can be unpredictable at times. It should be noted that the Shire simply manages the trees when and where necessary, but does not take ownership of a particular tree or trees when they are growing on Crown Land.

Street trees offer numerous benefits, including shade, habitat and enhanced aesthetics including more attractive streetscapes.

The Shire manages planted verge trees for public safety and infrastructure preservation. Residents are discouraged from conducting their own tree works on verge trees without proper authorisation.

Requests for removal or pruning of verge trees must meet specific criteria related to hazards.

If a fallen verge tree damages a residents' infrastructure during a storm or high winds, the Shire cannot be held responsible for any damages as this is a naturally occurring event. For more information about verge improvements or verge tree management, contact our Infrastructure team on 9290 6716.