



TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK

# your street verge

Street Verge Guide



Edition December 2020



## Verge landscaping

Street verges account for a surprising amount of land within our Town and play an important role allowing room for public services such as water and power, increasing public space, providing a food source and habitat for wildlife, and connecting the streetscape.

The Town's mission is to be creative, attractive, friendly and environmentally sustainable and aware of the changing environment in which we work, live and recreate. To help achieve this, the Town encourages verge landscaping which is 'waterwise, aesthetically pleasing and reflective of the natural heritage environment of the Town.

The majority of the Town's verges are irrigated lawn and, while water-efficient turf will be the minimum standard (there are several new varieties available), attractive, user-friendly verges can be created with planted designs.

The Town's preferences for plant varieties are for those which are waterwise, reduce the need for fertilisers, provide a habitat for birds and insects, and include indigenous (local) plants. Planted verges can help develop the Town's individual character and form a sense of place.

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**1 Note:** waterwise is used to indicate that once a plant is established in improved soil it will only need watering once a week during summer and less frequently, if at all, during cooler months. For further information visit [watercorporation.com.au](http://watercorporation.com.au)

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## Use of this guide

This guide is intended for Town of Victoria Park residents and developers wanting to install or upgrade verges. The information enclosed is provided in good faith by the Town as a general guide. For advice on your individual situation please contact the Town on **9311 8111**.

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## Whose responsibility is the verge?

The Town is responsible for street trees, approving verge landscaping proposals and enforcing verge requirements in the case of hazardous or unsuitable installations in accordance with the relevant local laws.

The Town encourages a level of

ownership in relation to verges by property owners. Maintenance of the verge is generally the property owner's responsibility. The choice of what to do with your verge is yours, provided it meets the Town's requirements and all verge landscaping treatments have approval.

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## What are the Town requirements?

The Town's requirements for verge landscaping treatments include:

- no plant is to be more than 750mm when mature, or of hazardous nature (eg. thorny or poisonous);
  - paving material (pavers only) is limited to 25% of the verge area, excluding the crossover, and, if used, is to be integrated into the soft landscaping so as not to provide an area for vehicle parking;
  - artificial turf or synthetic grass is not permitted as a verge treatment;
  - loose pea gravel, crushed brick or other stone aggregates are generally not permitted as verge treatments;
  - the verge treatment is not to impede pedestrian access;
  - the general level and grade of the verge is not to be altered;
  - all irrigation pipework and associated fittings are to be laid at a depth of not more than 300mm, nor less than 150mm, below ground level;
  - mulch is to be woodchips or large-particle vegetative mulch material;
  - existing street trees are to be protected and not to be pruned or interfered with in any way without approval from the Town; and
  - for verges without a footpath, all verge treatments are to be set back 1.5m from the road frontage.
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## What are the Town requirements? (continued)

Installing verge plantings or treatments of any type (except for natural lawns) requires permission from the Town so that we can ensure that designs are not hazardous and do not interfere with pedestrian safety or motorists' line-of-sight.

Officers are available for assistance and there is no application fee.

**Remember:** Decorative items such as children's play equipment, garden ornaments, rockeries, etc. will generally not be permitted.



## Quick Guide to Verge Landscaping Treatments

Acceptable Material	Unacceptable Material
Brick, tactile or decorative paving to 25% of the area excluding crossover	Any treatments which encroach on to the road
Plant containers	See pages 8-11
Compacted, fixed permeable materials as above, e.g. aggregate, gravel, limestone	Artificial or synthetic turf
Edging, finishing flush with ground level and kerb	Bollards, kerbing, garden stakes or physical barriers above ground level
Groundcovers and shrubs to a maximum mature height of 0.75m	Children's play equipment
Irrigation systems installed at or below ground level	Garden ornaments
Large particle bark chip or vegetative mulch, finishing flush with kerb	Hazardous, poisonous or thorny plants, or parts of plants
Local native plant species to a maximum mature height of 0.75m	Irrigation parts installed above ground level
Street furniture e.g. seating, litter bins	Loose materials, e.g. pea gravel, crushed brick or stone aggregate
Turf	Mounding or trenching of soil or other materials
Vegetable garden	Rockeries
Waterwise plant species	Walls or built structures

## Landscaping considerations:

- Verge designs can be imaginative and add value to your property.
- Choosing waterwise plants reduces the need for irrigation and saves money. Visit [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) or the plant tables in this booklet for information on waterwise plants.
- Don't limit your choice of plants – local native plants can look unique and stunning planted in a properly designed format.
- Local native plants require much less fertiliser than non-native or exotic plants as they are adapted to our low-nutrient conditions. Fertilising once a year with a native fertiliser is sufficient.
- Native plants can be pruned similarly to common landscaping plants to maintain a desired shape and promote new growth.
- Artificial or synthetic turf is not permitted.
- Allocate room on your verge for your waste and recycling bins.

**Handy hint:** Before planting, place your potted plants in the positions you would like them – you can then see how the arrangement will look before placing them in the ground.

## Where can I see a demonstration verge?

The Town has installed a demonstration verge at 199 Star Street Welshpool, outside the Town's Operations Depot for your viewing and consideration.

## Residential verge design examples

© Copyright Town of Victoria Park 2006. These scaled designs are available for resident use – please call 9311 8111.

- 1. Shrub and groundcover surrounding an existing street tree
- 2. Hopscotch shrubbery with groundcovers
- 3. A native knot garden
- 4. Hedge with groundcover and waterwise lawn

### Plants recommended for verge use Note: annuals are not recommended

The following lists of plants recommended by the Town are all selected to grow to less than 0.75m in height. However, growth habits of plants will vary with soil condition and irrigation, therefore some may require pruning to remain below the 0.75m height required for motorists' line of sight on verges.

The Town strongly encourages the use of local Western Australian plants over plants from other states and exotic species.

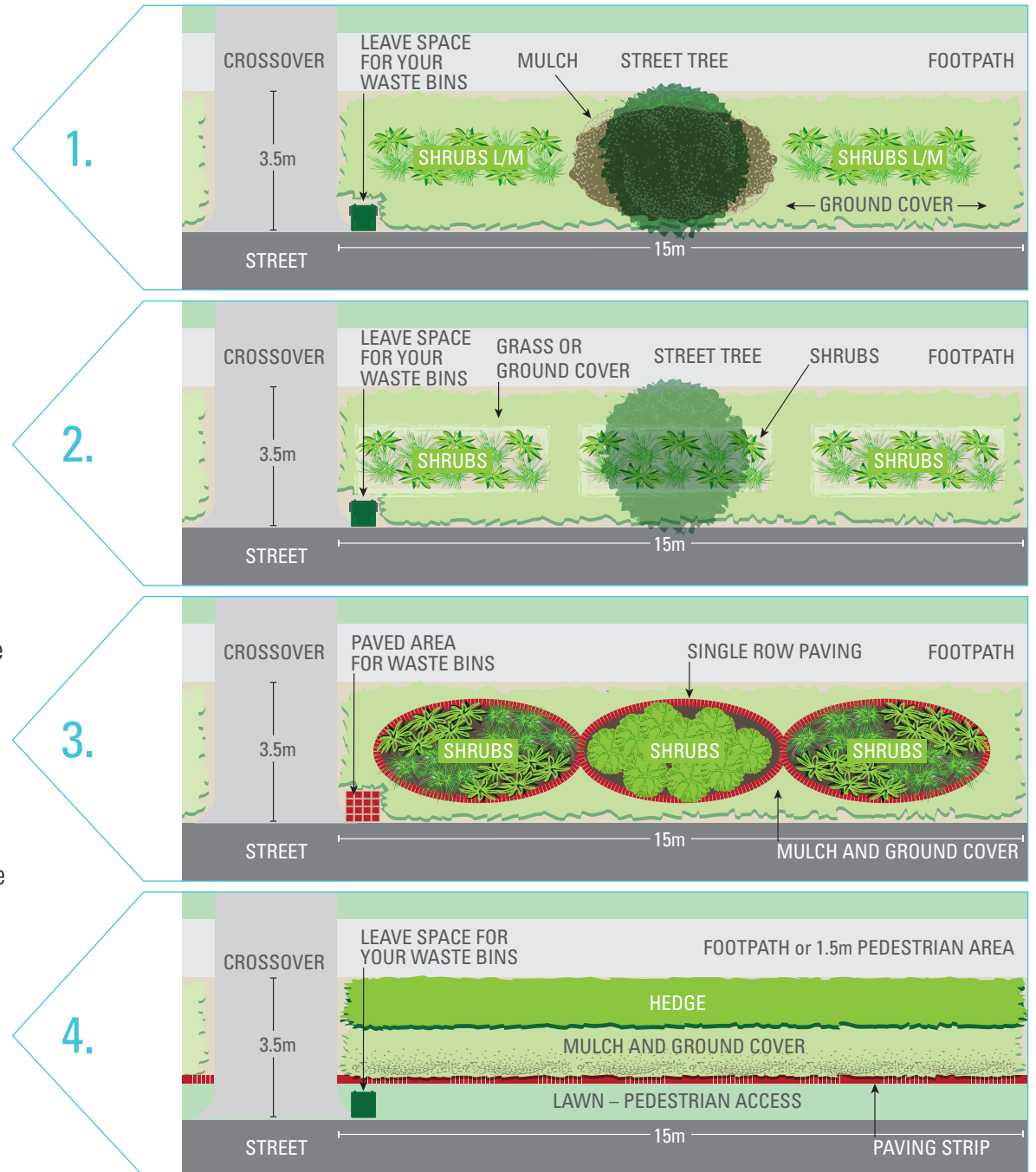
### Using the following plant tables

Choose the plants which have the most stars for a waterwise, local native planting scheme.

Information is from various wholesale, retail and revegetation nursery price lists, stock lists, catalogues, websites and vegetation surveys from Kensington Bushland.

Further information can be found at the Department of Environment and Conservation's Florabase website [www.florabase.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.florabase.dec.wa.gov.au) and the Water Corporation's website [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)

The following plants are examples of suitable plants for Town of Victoria Park gardens, and this is not intended to be a restrictive or exclusive list.



## Guidelines for plant containers on commercial verges

### Design

The design of the plant containers, including materials, colour and finish should be appropriate to its location and to the satisfaction of the Town.

### Plant and container size

- Containers should fall within the below size parameters to ensure they are of an appropriate scale in relation to other elements of the street, ensure visibility to pedestrians and vehicles, and maintain sight lines.

Height – 0.5m to 0.75m

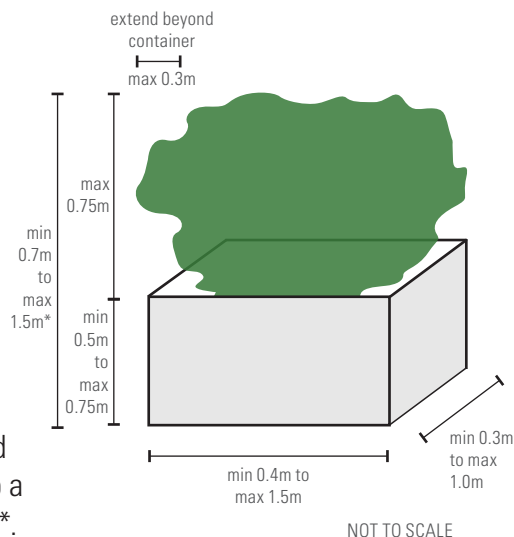
Width – 0.3m to 1.0m

Length – 0.4m to 1.5m

- Plant and container combined height should:

Have a minimum height of 0.7m above the ground to ensure visibility,

Have a maximum height of 1.5m above the ground, unless located on a street corner, or adjacent to a crossover or pedestrian crossing\*.



- \*If the property is located on a corner or adjacent to a crossover or pedestrian crossing point, the applicant should liaise with the Town's Technical Services team to determine appropriate maximum height.
- The plant itself should not have a height greater than 0.75m.
- If proposing to install a tree within a container, please liaise with the Town.
- The plant material should not extend more than 0.3m beyond the container laterally, on each side.
- These requirements also apply to artificial plants or other decorative materials in the plant containers.

### Location

to be read with Policy 204

- Plant containers must be placed so as not to:
  - impede pedestrian movement;
  - obstruct public utilities or access to public facilities, such as ticket machines, street signs, existing street furniture, access points to water connections, manholes, inspection chambers etc;
  - adversely affect traffic safety, sightlines or movement;
  - obstruct access to parking bays; or
  - obstruct access to neighbouring properties.
- The plants and containers, in combination with any other street furniture, signs, bollards or other obstructions, shall not restrict access along the footpath to less than the appropriate pedestrian gap\*\* at any point.
- Where appropriate, the container shall be located a minimum of 1.0m from the face of the roadside kerb to comply with the Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Public Places Local Law. Should this not be achievable due to the specific location restrictions, please liaise with the Town's Technical Services team.
- Where a container is located on a street corner, or adjacent to a crossover or pedestrian crossing point, liaise with the Town's Technical Services team.
- Plant container placement should not negatively impede or divert the natural stormwater or overland flow of the site. Design will allow for stormwater to access drains without causing harm or hazard to the property or adjoining properties.
- If a plant container is proposed to sit outside a neighbouring property, approval from the neighbour should be sought and provided to the Town.

### Plant Material

- Plant material may be at the applicant's discretion but should be in a healthy, tidy condition at all times, including watering, weeding and trimming.
- No poisonous, prickly or other harmful plant material is to be used. Refer to the plant tables in this document.

## Container Material

to be read with Policy 204

- High quality, weather resistant and durable materials should be used.
- Containers should be of a size and durability that cannot be easily manipulated or damaged by passers-by or severe weather conditions.
- The container should be freestanding and able to be moved in the case of maintenance or emergency.
- The container should not be constructed of materials that adversely impact sight e.g mirrored or reflective materials.
- Plant containers will not be permitted in public areas where, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, they may be a hazard to pedestrians. This may include, but not be limited to, abrasive surfaces or sharp angles.

## Quantity

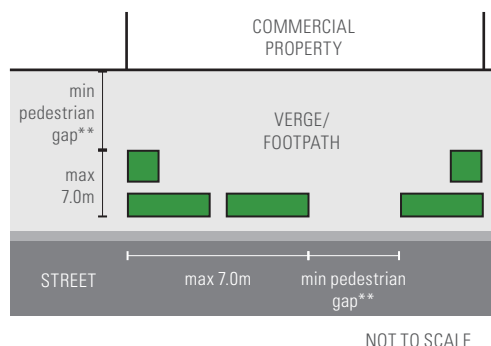
- The number of plant containers will be determined by the following spacing requirements:

parallel to kerbline – with a pedestrian gap\*\* every 7.0m; and/or

right angles to kerbline – with a pedestrian gap\*\* every 7.0m ; and/or

in another location, at the permission of the Town, that maintains the required pedestrian gap\*\* the footpath.

- The quantity of containers should be cognisant of neighbouring properties and street furniture.



## Pedestrian Gap

\*\*Pedestrian gaps should be 2.0m minimum in locations of uncontrolled crossing points, such as where pedestrians may access the thoroughfare for parking needs. This dimension can be reduced to 1.5m in certain locations, such as where the frontage of the shopfront is constrained or where pedestrian movements are low. The pedestrian gap is only a guide as spacing may need to be increased in areas of highly concentrated pedestrian movements.

## Maintenance and Cleaning

to be read with Policy 204

- All maintenance and cleaning is the responsibility of the applicant, unless otherwise agreed with the Town.
- Cleaning and maintenance, including the container itself as well as the area adjacent to and under the container, shall include the regular removal and appropriate disposal of any litter or rubbish deposited in the container.
- Maintenance or cleaning procedures should not interfere with pedestrians.
- No drainage or other discharges from the containers are to flow across the footpath or stain the pavement in any way.

## Damage

- Any damage to the footpath, verge or other street furniture caused by the plant container or its movement shall be the responsibility of the applicant, unless otherwise agreed with the Town.
- Replacing stolen plant containers or repairing damaged or vandalised plant containers is the responsibility of the applicant, unless otherwise agreed with the Town.

## Approvals

- All plant containers that do not adhere to these guidelines will need to be submitted as a proposal, which includes all relevant details, to the Town prior to implementation.

## Costs

- All costs associated with the construction, purchase, installation, greening, maintenance and removal remains with the applicant, unless otherwise agreed with the Town.

## Indemnification

- The Town reserves the right to remove the containers at any time.
- If a liability arises out of the actions of the applicant, then the applicant will indemnify the Town against all claims resulting from that action. If a liability arises out of the Town's negligence then it is the Town that will manage the claim.

## Plant tables

### Table legend

H x W	Average height and width or spread of particular plant, in metres
Supplier	A = Apace B = Benara D = Domus E = Environmental Management Systems L = Lullfitz M = Muchea Tree Farm Me = Men of the Trees, Fremantle Z = Zanthorrea
Flowers	colour; season
Origin	VP = Victoria Park WA = Western Australia Aus = Australia E = Exotic/other countries
Dry	Indication of drought tolerance based on plant's origin *** = excellent ** = very good * = good
Type	A = annual Cl = climber HP = herbaceous perennial Sh = shrub

**Local Supplier – Carlisle Soil Yard**  
14 Downing Street, Carlisle WA 6101  
Ph: 9361 2177  
Soils, mulches, blocks, compost, excavator & bobcat work.

### Town of Victoria Park Local Native Plants

0.75 m height and less

Botanic name	Common name	HxW (m)	Supplier	Flowers	Origin	Dry	Type	Notes
<i>Acacia stenoptera</i>	Narrow-winged wattle	to 0.7m	E Me	Crn-yllw, au-sp	VP	***	Sh	Scrambling shrub with creamy yellow ball flowers
<i>Acacia willdenowiana</i>	Grass wattle	to 0.6m	E	Wht-crm, au-sp	VP	***	Sh	Slender shrub with deep yellow ball-like flowers
<i>Austrostipa semibarbata</i>	Bearded spear grass	0.5 x 0.5m	A	Grn-prpl, sp	VP	***	HP	Tufted grass with green-purple flower heads
<i>Bossiaea eriocarpa</i>	Common brown pea	0.6 x 0.6m	A L	Brwn-yllw, w-sp	VP	***	Sh	Spreading, yellow-brown-red pea shaped flowers
<i>Calytrix angulata</i>	Yellow starflower	0.4 x 0.4m	A L	Yllw, sp	VP	***	Sh	Fine foliage, yellow-cream flowers. Some shade
<i>Conostylis aculeata</i>	Prickly conostylis	to 0.5m	A B E L M Me Z	Yllw, sp	VP	***	HP	Strap-leaved, clusters of bell-shaped yellow flowers
<i>Conostylis aurea</i>	Golden conostylis	to 0.4m	L	Yllw, sp	VP	***	HP	Tufted, green strappy foliage, yellow flowers
<i>Dampiera linearis</i>	Common dampiera	to 0.6m	B L Z	Blu, w-sp	VP	***	HP	Suckering, spreading, loose heads of blue flowers
<i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i>	Native wisteria	climber	A E D L M Me Z	Blu-prpl, w-sp	VP	***	Sh/Cl	Twinner, divided green foliage, purple-blue flowers
<i>Hibbertia racemosa</i>	Stalked guinea flower	to 0.7m	L	Yllw, w-sp	VP	***	Sh	Spreading shrub, greyish foliage and yellow flowers
<i>Hovea trisperma</i>	Common hovea	to 0.7m	M E Me Z	Prpl-blu, w-sp	VP	***	Sh	Sparse trailer, brilliant purple-blue pea shape flowers
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Scarlet runner	Prostrate	A B E L M Me Z	Red, au-sp	VP	***	Sh	Slender pale green twinner with scarlet blooms
<i>Laxmannia squarrosa</i>		to 0.1m	A	Wht, sp	VP	***	HP	Tufted grass with sprays of small white flowers
<i>Neurachne alopecuroidea</i>	Foxtail mulga grass	to 0.5m	A L	Grn-wht, sp	VP	***	HP	Tufted grass with fluffy green-grey flower heads
<i>Opercularia vaginata</i>	Dog weed	to 0.4m	A	Grn-yllw, w-sp	VP	***	Sh	Spreading-upright, round green-yellow flower heads
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Purple flag	to 0.4m	A B L Z	Prpl, sp-su	VP	***	HP	Strap-leaved, tufted plant with purple iris like flowers
<i>Philotheca spicata</i>	Pepper and salt	to 0.6m	A L Z	Pnk-blu, w-sp	VP	***	Sh	Dainty shrub, fine foliage, star-shaped waxy flowers
<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	Ringed wallaby grass	0.5 x 0.5m	A	Sp-su	VP	***	HP	Tufted perennial grass, purple-green-grey flowers

## Shrubs and Groundcover Plants

0.75m height and less

Botanic name	Common name	H x W (m)	Supplier	Flowers	Origin	Dry	Type	Notes
<i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i>	Sand heath wattle	0.5 x 1m	A B L Z	Yllw, w-sp	WA	***	Sh	Mat forming, lime green foliage, fluffy gold flowers
<i>Acmena smithii</i> 'Allyn Magic'	Allyn Magic lilly pilly	0.5 x 0.5m	B Z	Wht, su au	A	*	Sh	Resistant to psyllids, green, pink-bronze new growth
<i>Adenanthos meisneri</i>	Prostrate woolly bush	0.5 x 2m	B D L Z	Red, sp-su	WA	**	Sh	Grey-green foliage, red-mauve flowers attract birds
<i>Banksia blechnifolia</i>	Southern blechnum banksia	0.5 x 3-4m	D L Z	Red-pnk, crm, sp	WA	**	Sh	Phosphorous sensitive, large flowers at ground level
<i>Banksia nivea</i>	Couch honeypot	0.3 x 1m	A L	Yllw-orng, sp-su	WA	**	Sh	Phosphorous sensitive, suckering, red-brown flowers
<i>Callistemon</i> 'Matthew Flinders'	Matthew Flinders bottlebrush	0.75 x 0.5m	B Z	Red, w-sp	A	*	Sh	Coastal, suit hedging, green foliage with red flowers
<i>Dampiera teres</i>	Terete-leaved dampiera	to 0.6m	L M Z	Blu/prpl, sp	WA	**	Sh	Beautiful suckering shrub, purple flowers, very hardy
<i>Darwinia oldfieldii</i>		0.5 x 1m	L Z	Red, w-sp	WA	**	Sh	Grey-blue foliage with dense deep red flower heads
<i>Gastrolobium praemorsum</i>	Purpurea	0.6 x 1m	D L	Red-grn, sp	WA	**	Sh	Prostrate shrub, burgundy foliage, red pea flowers
<i>Grevillea bipinnatifida prostrate</i>	Fuchsia grevillea	0.2 x 1m	L Z	Red, w-sp	WA	**	Sh	Bird attracting orange-red flowers and fine green foliage
<i>Grevillea obtusifolia</i> 'Gingin Gem'	Grevillea Gingin Gem	0.25 x 3m	B L Z	Red, w-sp	WA	**	Sh	Weed suppressing growth, arching stems, red flowers
<i>Grevillea preissii</i> 'Sea Spray'	Grevillea Sea Spray	0.5 x 3m	B L Z	Red, w-sp	WA	**	Sh	Arching stems of grey-green foliage and red flowers
<i>Grevillea thelemanniana</i>	Spider net grevillea	0.3 x 1m	B L Z	Red, w-sp	WA	**	Sh	Dark green foliage, cascading branches, red flowers
<i>Hemiandra pungens</i>	Snakebush	0.3 x 1m	A B L Z	Mve, su	WA	**	Sh	Spreading and suckering, stiff leaves, mauve flowers
<i>Jacksonia sericea</i>	Waldjumi	0.6 x 1m	A Me	Orng, sp/su	WA	**	Sh	Low densely spreading shrub, orange pea flowers
<i>Lechenaultia formosa</i>	Red leschenaultia	0.3 x 0.4m	L Z	Orng, sp-w	WA	**	Sh	Short lived 3-6yrs, grey green leaf, orange-red flowers
<i>Olearia lanuginosa</i> 'Ghost Town'	Olearia Ghost Town	0.7 x 1m	B D	Wht, su-au	WA	**	Sh	Striking silver-grey foliage, inconspicuous flowers
<i>Pimelea ferruginea</i> 'Bonne Petite'	Pink rice flower	0.7 x 0.7m	B L	Pnk, sp	WA	**	Sh	Shiny green foliage, pink flower heads, hardy
<i>Scaevola albida</i> 'Mauve Clusters'	Scaevola Mauve Clusters	0.2 x 1.2m	B Z	Mve, sp-su	A	*	Sh	Heavy flowering in autumn, spreading groundcover
<i>Scaevola</i> 'Blue Print'	Scaevola Blue Print	0.25 x 0.6m	B D	Lav-blu, rpt	WA	**	Sh	Short lived 2-4yrs, trailing mound forming plant
<i>Thryptomene saxicola</i> 'Supernova'	Thryptomene Supernova	0.7 x 1.5m	B L	Wht, au-w	WA	**	Sh	Cascading form, tiny leaves, dainty pink flowers



## Grass-Leaved or Strap-Leaved Plants

0.75m height and less

Botanic name	Common name	H x W (m)	Supplier	Flowers	Origin	Dry	Type	Notes
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Bush Ballad'	Bush Ballad kangaroo paw	0.6 x 0.5m	B D	Red, sp-w	A	*	HP	Pot or garden, tufted, green strappy foliage, red flowers
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Bush Blitz'	Bush Blitz kangaroo paw	0.7 x 0.5m	B	Orng-burg, sp-au	A	*	HP	Disease tolerant, green foliage, burgundy-orange flowers
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Bush Pearl'	Bush Pearl kangaroo paw	0.5 x 0.4m	B D	Pink, sp-w	A	*	HP	Pot or garden, tufted, strappy foliage, candy pink flowers
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Bush Pizzazz'	Bush Pizzazz kangaroo paw	0.7 x 0.8m	B D	Mgnta, sp-w	A	*	HP	Pot or garden, tufted, strap foliage, deep magenta flowers
<i>Arthropodium cirratum</i>	Renga lily	0.5 x 0.5m	B	Wht, sp-su	E	*	HP	Shade, watch for snails, green-grey foliage
<i>Burchardia multiflora</i>	Dwarf burchardia	0.3 x 0.3m	A	Pnk-wht, w-sp	WA	**	HP	Bulb, narrow foliage, white summer flowers
<i>Carex petriei</i>	Rusty carex	0.3 x 0.2m	B	Brwn, su	E	*	HP	Fine, arching coppery red-brown foliage
<i>Carex testacea</i>	Orange sedge	0.4 x 0.6m	B	Brwn, su	E	*	HP	Fine arching, olive green-orange yellow foliage
<i>Conostylis candicans</i>	Grey cottonheads	0.4 x 0.4m	A E L M Me Z	Yllw, w-sp	WA	**	HP	Grey strappy foliage, yellow flowers attract butterflies
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> 'Breeze'	Dianella Breeze	0.6 x 0.6m	B	Blu, sp	A	*	HP	Some shade, dark green foliage, purple berries
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> 'Little Jess'	Dianella Little Jess	0.3 x 0.3m	B	Blu-prpl, sp	A	*	HP	Some shade, glossy green foliage, purple berries
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i> 'Blaze'	Dianella Blaze	0.4 x 0.4m	B	Blu, sp	A	*	HP	Some shade, bronze-purple foliage, dark purple berries
<i>Lepidosperma squamatum</i>	Sticky sword sedge	0.15 x 1m	B	Brwn, au-sp	WA	**	HP	Sharp-edged glossy green leaves, brown flower heads
<i>Liriope muscari</i> 'Just Right'	Liriope Just Right	0.5 x 0.5m	B	Wht-prpl, su	E	*	HP	Sterile compact variety, some shade, hardy
<i>Lomandra confertifolia</i> 'Seascape'	Seascape lomandra	0.5 x 0.7m	B	Yllw, su	A	**	HP	Mound forming blue-grey foliage, non-invasive
<i>Lomandra cylindrica</i> 'Lime Wave'	Lime Wave lomandra	0.6 x 0.6m	B	Yllw, sp-su	A	**	HP	Cascading lime green foliage, mass plant
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	Mondo grass	0.2 x 0.4m	B	Wht mve, su w	E	*	HP	Some shade, glossy green foliage, tiny flowers, purple berry
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus nanus</i>	Dwarf mondo grass	0.1 x 0.2m	B	Wht mve, su w	E	*	HP	Some shade, glossy green foliage, tiny flowers, purple berry
<i>Orthrosanthus laxus</i>	Morning iris	0.5 x 0.5m	A L	Blu, sp	WA	**	HP	Grassy-leaved clump, stems of pale sky blue flowers
<i>Orthrosanthus multiflorus</i>	Morning iris	0.6 x 0.5m	B L Z	Blu, sp	WA	**	HP	Grassy-leaved clump, stems of sky blue flowers
<i>Thysanotus multiflorus</i>	Many-flowered fringe lily	0.5 x 0.5m	A L M Z	Prpl, sp/su	WA	**	HP	Green strappy foliage, three-petalled purple flowers
<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i> 'Silver Lace'	Variiegated society garlic	0.3 x 0.4m	B	Lilac-pnk, sp-su	E	**	HP	Silver-grey and cream foliage, aromatic, lilac flowers

### A note on mulch

Mulch is any material that is spread over a garden to help reduce weed growth, retain moisture, provide a cool root run for plants and add humus or topsoil for plant nutrients.

There are many types of mulch to purchase or you can make your own. Large-particle vegetative mulch is preferred, especially if made from native species as it allows water to penetrate and doesn't break down as quickly as fine mulch. Mulches containing peat or fine particles are not suitable as they retain moisture on the surface of the soil, which can promote surface rooting and subsequent reliance on irrigation. Some commercial mulches have extra nutrients added, so check that these are suited to your plants.

If you prefer not to use mulch, there are other ways of reducing the need for irrigation, e.g. ground covers. Ground covers can be thickly planted to provide a barrier against weeds and to offer a cool root run for all the plants. Ground covers have the benefit of producing flowers and attracting fauna to your garden.

### A note on irrigation

When striving to be waterwise, it is preferable to avoid reticulation altogether. However to establish plants and to maintain them in the best of health some irrigation may be needed. Make sure you design your reticulation to match your plants' needs and avoid waste. A nursery or reticulation specialist can give you advice.

### Want more information?

Phone the Town on **9311 8111**, visit the Administration Centre at 99 Shepperton Road Victoria Park, or see our website at **[victoriapark.wa.gov.au](http://victoriapark.wa.gov.au)**

The following websites provide great information on waterwise gardening:

**[watercorporation.com.au](http://watercorporation.com.au)**

**[greatgardens.info](http://greatgardens.info)**

**[beyondgardens.com.au](http://beyondgardens.com.au)**

**[plantsman.com.au](http://plantsman.com.au)**

Specialist native plant nurseries grow plants local to the Victoria Park area. Local soils of the area are known as Central Coastal Plain soils or Bassendean Sand Plain soils. Further information soil types and their associated plant life is available from **[fertilisewise.com.au](http://fertilisewise.com.au)**





TOWN OF  
**VICTORIA PARK**

Town of Victoria Park  
Administration Centre  
99 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park

**9311 8111**

[admin@vicpark.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@vicpark.wa.gov.au)

[victoriapark.wa.gov.au](http://victoriapark.wa.gov.au)

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to people with a disability on request 9311 8132**