



Verge Treatment Guide

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

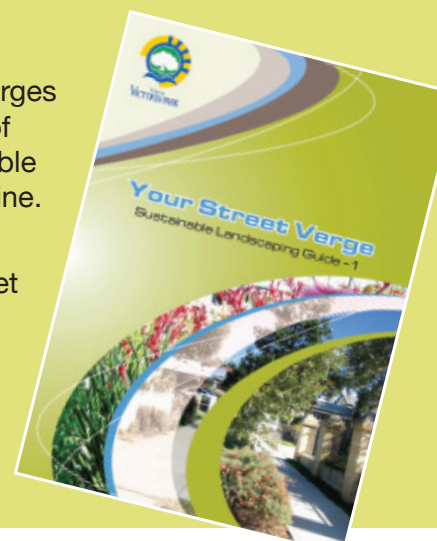


Dear Resident,

The Town will soon be updating its guidelines on verge treatments to ensure that verges within the Town are sustainable, environmentally friendly and add to the character of the area. The guidelines are available in a booklet called *Your Street Verge Sustainable Landscaping Guide* which is available from the Town Administration Centre and online.

In the development of the new guidelines the Town is seeking community feedback on the use of artificial turf on street verges. Currently the use of artificial turf on street verges is not allowed.

The Town is only seeking community feedback on the use of artificial turf on street verges not on private property. To provide your feedback fill in the information card below and post it via reply paid post or drop it to the Town of Victoria Park Administration Centre 99 Shepperton Road Victoria Park before 15 July 2011.



Natural Turf

Benefits

- Lawn clippings can be reused by adding to compost
- Is natural and biodegradable
- Can reuse grey water for irrigation
- Is softer underfoot and more cooling (Temp - max 40°)
- Aids urban heat dissipation and temperature reduction
- Animal (bird, dogs, cat) droppings, urine, chewing gum, organic wastes can decompose
- Oxygen/Carbon dioxide exchange
- Soil erosion and dust control
- Easy access for utility services
- Can contribute to the streetscape aesthetic

Disadvantages

- Requires mowing and on-going maintenance
- Need water for establishment and maintenance
- Weeds grow in the grassed area

Artificial Turf

Benefits

- No mowing / Doesn't need watering for establishment
 - Looks "green" and clean when maintained well
 - Soil erosion and dust control
 - Can contribute to the streetscape aesthetic
- ### Disadvantages
- Needs cleaning and on-going maintenance
 - Made of synthetic material, not biodegradable
 - Can need watering when surface gets hot in summer and/or dirty
 - Can get to extreme temperatures in summer (Temp - max 80°)
 - Weeds can grow within the turf

- Animal droppings, urine, chewing gum, organic wastes need to be cleaned off - water use
- No benefits to the environment and/or fauna (birds, bugs, bees)
- Large carbon footprint and embodied energy
- Must be cut or pulled up for access by utilities/services and costly to reinstate
- On-going ownership and management issues

