



1 May 2012

### **Waterwise garden competition**

May 2012 is the opening of the City's second annual Waterwise Garden Competition. The competition aims to showcase the City's landscaped verges and front gardens incorporating Waterwise design principles.

"This year we have added a new category, Waterwise Food Gardens. To our knowledge this is the first competition of this sort in Australia to include a Waterwise Food Gardening category. Food gardening is a great way to live more sustainably and eat fresh produce. By incorporating this with Waterwise principles, residents can feel good about the difference they are making," said Mayor Hipkins.

The competition will have other categories: residential, business and school - to make the competition as inclusive as possible. Gardens will be judged on eight key criteria:

1. Waterwise strategies;
2. Design and general layout;
3. Mulching and compost;
4. Waste minimisation;
5. Encouraging native wildlife;
6. Biodiversity and conservation features;
7. Complementary planting and shading for moisture retention and wind protection; and
8. Innovative Waterwise food gardening practices (for Waterwise Food Garden category).

Residents intending to redevelop their verge are reminded that the City requires an application (no fee attached) in line with its Verge Development Policy. Guidelines and application forms are available online or by calling the City on 9273 3500.

Nominations open on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 – in conjunction with the WESROC Native Plant Subsidy Scheme. This is a great time to buy native plants to create an award-winning Waterwise garden, as residents can purchase up to 80 plants for only \$1.50 each all through May.

Entry forms are available from the City's Administration Centre, libraries and community centres, or online at [nedlands.wa.gov.au](http://nedlands.wa.gov.au). Entry is free and nominations close on 28 September. Individuals can self nominate or anyone can nominate a garden they believe to be a great example of a Waterwise garden.

Judging will take place during the first week of October 2012, with winners announced at a presentation ceremony in late October. Waterwise gardening design tips are available on the Water Corporations website at [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)

For more information contact the City's Sustainability Officer Phoebe Huigens on 9273 3500.

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For further information please contact [communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au) or 9273 3500.