



NATIVE VERGE GARDEN Getting Started

Thinking about a verge garden?

Street verge gardens are one of the simplest, most powerful ways we can make our neighbourhoods cooler, greener, and more alive. They transform an often-overlooked strip of grass into something that supports birds and insects, reduces heat, and makes the whole street feel better to be in.

Here in Lake Macquarie and Newcastle, rising temperatures, urban growth, and the loss of native vegetation are changing how our streets feel — often for the worse. Verge gardens are a small but meaningful way for everyday people to be part of the solution.

Why is The Groundswell is doing this

At The Groundswell Collective, we believe real change happens when people feel supported, connected, and confident enough to take action. Environmental challenges can feel overwhelming — but transforming a verge is something tangible, local, and achievable.

We're passionate about bringing people together, sharing practical skills, and creating opportunities for hands-on action that makes a visible difference.

Doing it well (and doing it properly)

Street verges are shared spaces, so good design matters. We work within local council guidelines to ensure verge gardens:

- Keep footpaths clear and safe
- Maintain visibility for road users
- Don't block access to services or utilities
- Use low-growing, locally appropriate native plants

Doing it properly helps verge gardens thrive — and helps build trust and momentum in the wider community.

How we make it easy

We know time, confidence, and know-how can be barriers. Our role is to make this as straightforward as possible by:

- Helping you understand what's suitable for your verge
- Using simple, low-maintenance designs
- Taking a soil-friendly, no-dig approach
- Providing clear aftercare guidance
- Supporting conversations with neighbours or council where needed

You don't need to be an expert — just open to the idea.

Verge gardens are about more than plants. They're about reclaiming small spaces for nature, reducing heat in our streets, and reminding ourselves that positive change can start right outside our front door.

When people are supported with the right knowledge, practical help, and community connection, these overlooked spaces can become places of life, beauty, and resilience — one verge, one street at a time.

