



BOOYEEMBARA PARK MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Community Engagement Report

January 2021

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Contents

- Introduction 3
- Community Engagement 3
 - Previous engagement..... 3
 - Current engagement..... 4
- Findings 4
 - My Say Freo and written contributions 5
 - Parking..... 6
 - Drop-in information session 8
- Next Steps 8
- Appendix: Submissions..... 10

Introduction

The implementation of the Booyeembara Park master plan has been an ongoing process influenced by the site history, contamination issues, community use and budget availability.

Recently, there have been many changes in the surrounding area including new residential developments in White Gum Valley/Knutsford and a proposed new golf course clubroom and community facility as a result of Main Roads High Street upgrade. The City of Fremantle also received a cash-in-lieu contribution specifically for improvements to Booyeembara Park as a condition of subdivision from nearby land (bounded by Blinco, Montreal, Knutsford and Wood Streets).

This engagement was conducted to align this spending with the review and implementation of the existing master plan. Subject to approval from the WAPC, the funding will cover stage one works, with the balance of works to be completed in future years.

The plan proposes:

- A half basketball court
- Grassed area and olive grove
- Seating walls and seating nodes
- Seasonal wetland
- Stairs, ramps and lookout
- Storytelling circle
- Pump track and landscaping around this area
- Landscaping throughout the proposed mountain bike trails area; and
- Amphitheatre.

Community Engagement

Previous engagement

Significant community engagement on each of the current projects in this area had been undertaken before seeking comment on this draft plan, as well as workshopping with the Booyeembara Park Reference Group. A brief timeline includes:

Golf Course Clubhouse and Community Centre (October 2019 - July 2020): As a result of the MRWA High Street Upgrade, the City needed to design a replacement golf clubhouse and community facility. Full details on the three stage community engagement process which has resulted in the proposed Fremantle Golf Course Clubhouse and Community Centre can be found [here](#).

Proposed Mountain Bike Trails (July 2020): Booyeembara Park Mountain Bike Trails Working Group was formed and community engagement was conducted on a proposal to

formalise mountain bike trails at the eastern end of Boo Park, and the needs of the surrounding area which have been incorporated into the draft master plan. Find full information [here](#).

Current engagement

The Booyeembara Park Reference Group, made up of representatives from Friends of Boo Park, WGV Community Orchard, Elected Members Su Groome and Jenny Archibald and local community members, were heavily involved in shaping the revised master plan prior to opening for public comment..

Engagement was open between 12 November to 13 December 2020 and participation methods were:

- Interactive map and online survey on My Say Freo.
- Drop-in session at Booyeembara Park, Thursday 26 November 3.30pm to 6.00pm (near the playground).

Awareness and promotion of the engagement was undertaken via:

- Attendance at the White Gum Valley precinct group meeting 3 November 2020.
- Direct email to previous submitters on various Booyeembara Park projects.
- Letters sent to 116 owners and occupiers on Stevens Street likely to be interested in or affected by proposed parking.
- Adverts in local newspaper in City's 'newsbites' column 14 and 28 November 2020.
- Included in My Say Freo newsletter November 2020.

Findings

From 12 November to 13 December 2020 the My Say Freo page was visited by 385 people. There was a total of 26 submissions, 24 online, one via post and one via email. There were around 35 attendees at the drop-in information session.

Key findings across all methods were:

- The majority of respondents expressed positive sentiment toward the plan and thought it would be of great benefit to the community. Those who did not were primarily concerned with impacts on the natural environment and existing attributes of the reserve.
- Option A was the preferred parking method due to improved safety and reduced impact on local residents.
- Most attendees at the drop-in live nearby and had existing concerns about parking and traffic on Stevens Street.

My Say Freo and written contributions

Of respondents who provided their location, 10 were from White Gum Valley with two each from Fremantle, Beaconsfield and Bicton.

Two thirds of respondents expressed positive sentiment toward the proposed upgrades, frequently stating that the plan was ‘great’ and a good use of the park, and that the improvements would be an asset to the area. In particular, a number of respondents mentioned the pump track or mountain bike trails. Two respondents were supportive of the proposal but noted that impact on the existing ecosystem should be minimised.

One respondent did not support the proposal or mountain bike trails in the area at all, believing it would impact the environment and peaceful enjoyment of the reserve.

One did not support development of the land for housing, which is not proposed. This relates to a misunderstanding about the cash-in-lieu proposal.

Comments on specific elements include:

- **Amphitheatre:** Three respondents were supportive of upgrades to the amphitheatre or saw it as a potential unique event space.

“The whole project is a fantastic use of the park”

- **Half basketball court:** Responses were mixed. Two respondents believed this would be a waste of funds. Two respondents supported it and two suggested moving it, either closer to the community facility or to the lawn west of the storytelling circle.

“It would be great to see some of the earlier works in the park (such as the amphitheater) completed. Council is doing some great work with the proposed mountain bike track.”

- **Shade and BBQ areas:** Five respondents spoke about the need for additional shade, including near the storytelling circle, basketball court and the amphitheatre and two wanted to see more BBQ areas.

“Sounds good but the 1/2 basketball court will be money wasted. More needs to be spent on slowing traffic on Stevens St”

- **Stairs/lookout:** Two respondents liked the addition/upgrades to the stairs and lookout and believed it would provide a useful addition for community exercise.
- **Wetland:** Two respondents liked the wetland proposal.

There were concerns raised about natural habitat and impact on wildlife in the area, particularly birds. A number of respondents expressed the need to maintain the general peacefulness and reflective nature of the reserve, keep improvements such as paths and seating low-impact and appropriate to the natural landscape, and to plant native trees and plants (rather than fruit trees which attract pest species).

Other suggestions included:

- Expand the skate park and make the pump track accessible for skateboards and other equipment.
- A day-wall for people to practice graffiti legally.
- Move the composting toilet to the storytelling circle/amphitheatre.
- Consider the use of the storytelling circle and how proposed changes might impact existing uses (eg dance and drumming circles).
- A need to address the existing weed problem.
- Signage including interpretive signs with Nyoongar plant names and instructional signage for learning to mountain bike.
- Include a path and signage for the Six Seasons garden.
- Would like to continue running on the trails and not restrict the use to bikes only.
- The stream is a highlight and would like to add an other (perhaps feeding the ephemeral wetland).
- Keep the fig tree in the pear circle rather than putting in a playground.
- The large grass area south of the olive grove is wasted space and it would have been more fair to reconfigure the park to accommodate some of the golf course.

The overall plan is excellent and a credit to the people who have been involved in it's design and development. It will provide an excellent community resource allowing people, of all ages, to not only enjoy a beautiful parkland but also have the ability to challenge themselves with recreational and adventure sports.

"We are broadly very supportive of the proposed changes to Booyeembara Park, however, we do have concerns that perhaps too many facilities are proposed for the park and the impact that greatly increased visitation will have on surrounding facilities/infrastructure (waste, roads, parking, toilets, surrounding businesses) as well as the wildlife and natural habitats of the park."

Parking

Respondents were asked whether they had any comments on the proposed Option A (combined on-street and off-street parking and drop-off area) and Option B (on-street parking) at the arrival area of the proposed mountain bike trails.

Option A: off-street parking within the park, with additional on-street parking. Ten people preferred this because of improved safety, reduced congestion and reduced impact on local residents.



Option B: all on-street parking. Five people preferred this, primarily to minimise impact on vegetation and fauna but also to improve safety.



Other:

- Two respondents wanted only off-street parking, primarily for traffic safety reasons.
- Two respondents proposed including the drop-off area but not further off-street parking
- One respondent did not support mountain bike trails in the park.
- A number of respondents also mentioned pedestrian safety and traffic calming on Stevens Street, which the City is aware of as an issue and is being investigated.

Drop-in information session

Around 35 people attended a drop-in information session at Booyeembara Park between 3.30-6.00pm, Thursday 26 November 2020. Most indicated that they live nearby.

The proposed improvements were generally met positively, with particular comments made about the bush tucker area, wetland, a desire for more Aboriginal interpretation in park and potential use of the community facility opening to outdoors for community music.

One person raised concerns about subdivision or development in the park, which relates to a misunderstanding about the cash-in-lieu proposal.

Parking and traffic concerns were raised by most attendees. Some particular comments were:

Option A preferred as long as it cuts into verge, not use carriageway area. It could be hard backing out but can use drop off option.

Option B – Boo Park is too small to be given over to internal parking. Better still would be for the mountain bikes to enter from Montreal St entrance.

- Limestone style like the current parking on Montreal St, with a mountable kerb.
- Make using South Street more attractive. Stevens St needs traffic calming (speed combined with hills). Don't pull traffic from Montreal St any further down Stevens.
- Issue with 'rat run' through White Gum Valley, will there be even more.

Responses to Input and Next Steps

Some queries and topics were raised in this engagement, which either link to previous engagement in the area, or require further background and explanation from the City:

The compatibility of running trails and mountain bike trails

From a safety perspective, these two sports are not compatible. Additionally, the construction requirements for both are not the same. Rather than focussing on the proposed mountain bike trail area as another running trail, when the rest of the park is already available for running, the City has developed further running trail opportunities within the park. For example, once the stairs/ramps are installed up to the top of the hill that will form another running loop.

The relationship between nature and built form

All work within the park will be undertaken with the view to have minimal impact on the existing vegetation in the park. The City's Natural Areas team are methodically clearing introduced weed species within the park and this will continue as part of future works.

Parking

In 2018 community engagement was undertaken regarding development of the former men's shed site, next to Sullivan Hall. There is a big demand from the community for additional parking to be made available for users of Sullivan Hall. Parking along Stevens Street was raised as a possible solution to this problem.

In mid-2020, when community engagement was undertaken on the mountain bike trail, feedback from the community was for parking to be included as part of the trail works. These two requirements result in a strong demand for parking in the vicinity of the mountain bike trail and Sullivan Hall, which Option A provides.

Traffic calming on Montreal Street and Stevens Street adjacent to Booyeembara Park is an issue that has been raised by the community in numerous forums. The City is currently developing proposals for traffic calming that also improve pedestrian accessibility.

Next Steps

The next step is to meet with the Booyeembara Park Reference Group to welcome new members and discuss the engagement findings.

Based on the community engagement findings, the following changes will be made to the plans:

- Incorporate internal parking (Option A) for the mountain bike trail area.
- Continue the development of traffic calming options for Stevens Street and Montreal Street.

Additionally, the City will also work to integrate the new golf clubhouse and community facility into the park, as approved by Council at the meeting of 9 December 2020.

The proposed upgrades will then be considered by the Finance, Policy, Operations and Legislation (FPOL) Committee. If approved, the projects will then progress to detailed design and (where applicable) additional funding sought.

Appendix: Submissions

The following comments were received in response to these questions:

- Do you have any comments on the proposed improvements above?
- Do you have any comments on Option A or B to address parking at the arrival area of the proposed mountain bike trails?
- Is there anything else you would like to share about the Booyeembara Park Master Plan implementation?

Do you have any comments on the proposed improvements?
supported
Option A for parking is the safest as people may be loading and unloading bikes with kids running around. All other improvements are a great idea and a big asset to all locals and visitors.
the plans look fantastic, it would be good if the pump track was implemented
The pump track and MTB bike trails are a fantastic inclusion which is widely wanted and needed by the community, I can't wait to use it
I think that the pump track would be a great idea as it would bring large quantity's of people to our wonderful suburb
The basketball court is a great idea. Some sitting in the shade next to it will be required. Stairs to the lookout will provide a valuable community exercise facility. Some gas BBQ facilities should be included near the playground/new building as these would get lots of use. It would be fabulous to see another wetland built in the designated area
n/a
Some expansion to the existing skate park would be excellent.
The whole project is a fantastic use of the park
We are broadly very supportive of the proposed changes to Booyeembara Park, however, we do have concerns that perhaps too many facilities are proposed for the park and the impact that greatly increased visitation will have on surrounding facilities/infrastructure (waste, roads, parking, toilets, surrounding businesses) as well as the wildlife and natural habitats of the park. In particular, we like to ensure that the council plans to address the impacts of visitation in terms of increased waste, foot traffic and other impacts on wildlife and bushland, and safety/antisocial behaviours.
All improvements appropriate. The event and lighting space is initiative and a point of difference from all other parks in the region although would be interested to see how these operate. Feel most parks are underutilised after dark. Would like to see a multi-use pump track aka available for use on a bike, skateboard and scooter. There are currently a number of crushed agg pump tracks in the area (Cockburn) but little to none available for use on skateboards .
Half basketball court is waste of funds. Would prefer this area being kept natural and less developed as reserve for flora and fauna. Strongly against bicycle pump track. Will create lots of noise and not conducive to promoting peaceful appreciation of natural wonders of the reserve. Prefer more facilitation created on existing roads outside the

park and nature reserve for cyclist *myself being one!)...NO to MONTAIN BIKE TRAILS!!!!!!!

A day wall for local street art/graffiti writers to practise there skills in a legal, safe, environment, with plenty of bins.

Sounds good but the 1/2 basketball court will be money wasted. More needs to be spent on slowing traffic on Stevens St

Please improve and expand on the skate/scooter park.

The path surface should still be suitable for skate boards, scooters and roller skates.

More BBQ and shaded picnic areas.

No they seem fine but don't address the biggest issues facing the park.

I'd really like to see the amphitheater become a useable space for concerts. It's the perfect location to create a unique and very marketable concert-setting.

All good, but the basketball court and the stairs/ramp/lookout should be prioritised. I also think that some additional tall tuart trees need to be planted within the park to provide addition habitat and shade.

I am for all the upgrades to Boo Park specifically the completion of the Amphitheatre as this is a great space and making the area safe and accessible will be a benefit to the whole community. The Mountain Bike Park and pump track are also great investments for the young and old as this is a growing sport around the world.

The improvements are excelent

All sounds good as long as wildlife in trees on ground and in water are not impacted too much. It is a precious space and maintaining this local ecosystem should continue to be a priority.

Submission from Booyeembara Friends Group:

Basketball court will impact on already small oval, well used by picnickers ie, using/taking up more than just the area of the court. Not so well-matched to oval where younger kids play. Better to move close to community facility (though noise might be an issue) or to more central grasslands which needs more activation e.g. between reconciliation circle and fig-pear circle. Daytime uses of the court shouldn't interfere with twilight/night-time uses of the circle (drumming circle each full moon)

Move composting toilet to serve storytelling circle and/or to amphitheatre, using slope. This central area could do with a toilet where there will never be a sewer line.

The storytelling circle needs some fine-tuning - the sitting logs will impact on uses like dancing.. Have dancing troupes been consulted?. Eg those from the previous events and Wardanji Shade and shelter from perimeter trees certainly needed and firm pathways for improved access. This space is unlikely to work well as a classroom space - too distant from perimeter for little legs and too far from toilets. The fig-pear tree circle would make a more suitable secluded space with ample daytime shade.

Love the tables, benches, fruit trees and shelter within the olive grove to activate this space and attract group gatherings as well as resting places for 1-2 walkers. Great to see paths kept back from the new wetland and a good buffer zone of vegetation similar to the current small wetland. The current fig tree in the pear circle is already a space place. It would be good to keep this as a special place for adventure and learning in small groups and not a playground. Revegetation to the west of the amphitheatre is needed to slow wind blowing through. Bringing trees to shade the

audience space would be most welcome. Love the trees around the storytelling circle (shade much needed) and fire pit circles. Significant reveg also needed to the east of the circle.

The improvements look suitable.

Our future generations will be proud of us (their ancestors) for the open space – LAND – not built on land that has been left for them. Example Kings Park, Monument Hill High St, Esplanade Fremantle.

Do not sell off their legacy – for more housing – have a look around – White Gum Valley is being swallowed up by housing.

Tell the investors keep your money. Keep your hands off our open space.

I care passionately about Boo - I have been involved since the first community planting (watering, now weeding) since the 1990s. I live in Freo and have used the park in a multitude of ways/purposes. I am also a member of Birdlife Australia and my main concern that has not already been addressed in all of read so far, including the reference group, is re the birds. When I went to the open day a few weeks ago, the person representing council, mentioned planting of fruit trees in the section to the east of the olive grove. Fruit will attract the rainbow lorikeets which have not been a problem yet at Boo since there's no fruit there. However, if exotic fruit trees are planted, they will soon find them and will then drive away our local birds. I have been involved in the annual rainbow lorikeet count up at Monument Hill for the last few years, and their numbers are increasing at a frightening rate because they nest in the date palms. They are also becoming a nuisance to all the houses around that have fruit etc. The rainbow lorikeets replace local nesting hollows for birds, like the Aussie ringneck parrots (28s)

Please consider the future of our local birds and the balance of nature. With global warming, we should be planting only local plants and trees.

Do you have any comments on Option A or B to address parking at the arrival area of the proposed mountain bike trails?

option A

Option a is the safest

None

I prefer Option A to reduce on street parking pressure on local residents and reduce parking noise in local streets

I think that it would be essential to have parking along Stevens Street preferably method B as it would minimise the damage to the environment

From a safety perspective the off-street parking is the most sensible option to avoid people being rear ended as they reverse park over the crest of the hill. It also removes the potential for accidents as people are stood on the edge of the road to take their bikes on/off their cars.

I support Option A. If there isn't sufficient and well thought out car parking, then riders will park on Swanbourne and ride through the park!

Option A offers the advantage of a drop off area that is off the street. It is likely that at times some parents will drop children off at the site and return to pick them up later. The ability to do this off the street would be far safer and cause less congestion issues than cars stopping on the street.

Ensure the angled on street parking has sufficient depth so that cars do not need to reverse out onto the road when leaving. This would be further improved by having an "exit" off Stevens street into the parking area (similar to the street parking that is present along the more southern section of Leighton Beach) and would solve most of the congestion and safety concerns that have been raised.

From a safety perspective traffic slowing devices (some already exist further east on Stevens St) should be considered. For example roundabouts at Stevens/Wiluna St and/or Nannine St and additional speed humps.

Option B is safest especially for the mtbers, who can park adjacent to the trails and therefore be separate from pedestrians to avoid collisions etc.

We think that option A with a mix of on-street and off-street parking will provide a safer option for those accessing the park (but not the mountain bike trail) from Stevens Street, however, this remains a concern as visibility over the hill is not great and cars often take this part of the road too fast. If this could be coupled with a slow point at the top of the hill, this might assist in improving safety.

Option A seems more appropriate. Leave to traffic and civil engineer to determine.

DO NOT WANT MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS IN PARK....keep it natural for the flora and fauna. Establish more cycle paths on existing roads for cyclist to use....WAY more GREEN. KEEEP PARK AS A NATURE RESERVE FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS!!!!

All off street parking. There is a speeding issue on Stevens St. Any street parking will be dangerous. Accidents will be inevitable. If you are bringing more people to the area. You need to control this hazard.

Option A is definitely preferable.

No

Depends on the level of visitation expected. If it can be realistically accommodated within the street parking, then no need for off road parking. I think the spot will be popular so perhaps option a is more realistic.

Option A - The parking needs to be off street, even without the mountain bike trail dog walkers and other people using park on the verge next to the park entrance on Stevens street. Due to the location of this entrance, opposite the junction to Nannine and just over the brow of the hill parking on the street is not possible and there are always vehicles parked on the verge. Further to this myself and friends use the lake on Sunday afternoons to sail boats and the parking on Montreal is regularly full, even with current visitors, therefore if the MTB park, pump track and Basket ball court attracts more visitors adequate parking will be required. Also if the Amphitheatre is completed and the community puts on events then offstreet parking will be required on that end of the park. To limit thinking to just whether additional parking is needed for the MTB park is very narrow minded, Boo park currently needs more off road parking at weekends and further developments to the park would certainly require offstreet parking.

Option B - all on-street parking

I strongly object to allowing cars and car parking within the park. It is a quiet sanctuary for pedestrians animals and birds. We don't need cars. Park them on the street please.

Entry to Six Seasons and Mountain Bike Pump Track & Trail needs reworking along with carpark. We propose a one-way loop for bike drop-off but not further internal parking, only verge. We propose the pedestrian access into this zone lines up with the heavily used footpath along the eastern side of Nannine Ave- the "Community Avenue" (not the less used short track east of Sullivan Hall) and via a raised platform on Stevens or similar, enters the Park from here diverging left to the six seasons or right to the pump track and the drop-off loop. This would invite walkers into this part of the park with lines of sight and pathways directly towards the two distinct zones.

I support the combined parking concept put forward by the Booyeembara Friends Group. Onsite parking with an internal drop-off loop. A connection to the community narrative activities (six seasons & pump track) should be through parkland not a car park and line up with Nannine Ave. A slow point in Stevens St is also needed at this point and further west to making the crossing safer. I like how existing long-lived verge trees have been identified and parking designed around them.

Option B would be better so that no vegetation is disturbed.

Is there anything else you would like to share about the Booyeembara Park Master Plan implementation?

n/a

Recently went to Geraldton bike park and they had lots of "how to " signs for people learning how to mountain bike- this was a great way to ensure people learn safe bike skills

Looks great!

Great to see this project being put forward

It would be great to see some of the earlier works in the park (such as the amphitheater) completed. Council is doing some great work with the proposed mountain bike track.

n/a

The overall plan is excellent and a credit to the people who have been involved in it's design and development. It will provide an excellent community resource allowing people, of all ages, to not only enjoy a beautiful parkland but also have the ability to challenge themselves with recreational and adventure sports.

Just looking forward to it's completion

The work done and the consideration to date is fantastic and we look forward to seeing the final result, however, we do not want to see this happen at the detriment of the existing attributes of the park: birdlife, bushland, peacefulness, and safe space for kids to play and explore.

Currently the Booyeembara trails are great for trail/hill running it would be disappointing to see this removed completely if the bike track is intending to be a single use path.

KEEP it natural...BIRDS need safe places to breed as do smaller residents of the park....too much development will turn this reserve into nothing other than a little entertainment park!. Put the Bike park down on South Beach....heaps of parking and won't destroy one of the few natural nature reserves we have left!!!!!!!!!!!!

Control surrounding road speed.

Please address the weed problem. I have even seen Paterson's Curse in the park. All the improvements you have in mind will mean nothing if Council doesn't get weeds under control. Large sections of the park are heavily infested with weeds. I realise that some sections of the park have been sprayed this spring but overall the park is in a poor state in my opinion.

I'm very keen to see the amphitheater area become a space that concerts etc can be held. If designed thoughtfully, food trucks etc could enter Boo Park to support any events. The Boo Park amphitheater could become a very unique (rentable) space - it could be a smaller, Freo version of Belvoir Amphitheatre.

Some new interpretive signage with nyoongar names for plants (and their uses) places and things within the park would be good to step as part of the WRAP.

it's a great plan with additions that will benefit the community no matter what age or interests you have.

A safe pedestrian/bike crossing is needed on Stevens St at the Nannine St entrance

Can the basic path & fence for Six seasons be allocated from the Landcorp cash-in-lieu or council budget allocation? This is needed to maintain this area and at low cost with significant long-term benefits for the community and the health of this new reveg area. In general improvements to quality of limestone paths and bench seating are supported but with the intent in bushland areas to keep impact low-key and the natural revegetated landscape dominant

The lawns west of the storytelling circle need more trees and activation. Very prickly and exposed. Like option of moving basketball half court here. The stream is such a highlight for young and old. Any places to extend and add another would be most welcome. Perhaps feeding the ephemeral wetland in summer.

The large grass area south and south-east of the olive grove is wasted space, I never see anyone using it. The Fremantle golf course was reduced in area to accommodate the High Street upgrade so it would have been more fair to reconfigure the park to reduce the grass area to accommodate some of the golf course.