

# Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza

Management Plan

February 2014

## 1. Introduction

### *Executive Summary*

This document has been prepared as a management plan for the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza.

The need for an effective management plan is a means of increasing the safety, comfort and well being of users as well as developing a successful and valued community asset.

### *Management*

Management of the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza is the responsibility of the City of Fremantle. Management relates to the current and ongoing requirements of programming and social recreational use by members of the public.

Several key management issues have been identified including:

- Hours of operation
- Safety and security
- Injuries
- Amenity
- Noise
- Signage
- Accessibility
- Promotion
- Parking
- Events and programming
- Noise
- Litigation, risk and insurance
- Evaluation and measuring success

### *Maintenance*

A maintenance plan for the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza has been prepared and will be carried out in accordance with the City's asset management procedures.

The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza is a contemporary multi use recreational space.

While the spirit of challenge, unstructured and informal recreation is important, the active elements have been planned, designed and constructed to a high standard. It integrates well into its context and will be kept clean and safe for users of all ages and abilities to enjoy their chosen sport. It is inclusive of skateboarding, BMX and scooter riding, parkour, table tennis and a future basketball space. It includes both active and passive spaces.

This management plan has been produced by the City of Fremantle for the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza to in order to address user and community concerns and provide the best facility possible as outlined above.

This document will be updated as issues arise.

### *Terminology*

For the purposes of this report:

#### "Youth Plaza"

Refers to the entire facility including the skate course and the adjacent paths and landscaped areas.

#### "Active user"

An active user refers to a person participating in the range of recreation activities available at the facility.

#### "Passive User"

A passive user is someone within the facility that is not participating as an active user.

#### "Active Areas"

Is inclusive of the skate, parkour and table tennis facilities and all adjacent surfaces intended for use by active users.

#### "Passive Areas"

Passive areas adjacent to the skate course which are not intended for use by active users. This includes the landscaped areas, seating and surfaces not intended for riding.

#### "Surveillance"

Active or passive observation of the facility and user activities.

## **2. Design summary**

### *Introduction*

This section outlines the features of the different areas of the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza and the range of uses.

The active areas of Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza are specifically designed for use by people riding skate boards, BMX, in line skating or scooters as the equipment is intended to be used. The area also includes parkour features and tables for table tennis.

### *Active Area Components*

#### *Skate Area*

The skate area has a combined street and transition area.

The transition area is a closed bowl with different depths and an adjacent open mini ramp. It has been designed to cater for intermediate to high skill level users. The layout enables active users to travel continuously around the sections of the bowl and transfer from here to the street course.

The street area caters for all active users. It provides elements for both intermediate and advanced users. Importantly, there is a progression from lower level features to more advanced areas.

The skate area is also suitable for competition and demonstration workshop use, meeting desirable competition design objectives.

#### *Parkour Area*

This area has been designed to allow users to traverse through obstacles in a circuit motion. The area contains a various height walls, climbing frame and four larger structures for climbing. A central feature is a rock climbing sea container to suit beginners.

### *Materials and Finishes*

All main riding surfaces have been constructed with concrete to maximise durability and provide a smooth, consistent finish to the riding surface.

Galvanised steel coping is installed at the tops of ramps and along grindable edges.

### *Amenity*

Additional amenity has been included in the design of this facility to provide for the comfort and security of facility users and spectators.

### *Lighting*

The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza is to be used during daylight hours and have time limited use at night.

Flood lights for the active areas will be turned off at 10pm. There is also low level lighting for the foot paths which will remain on for safety and security.

Lighting has been designed and located to minimise impact on local residents.

### *Toilet Facilities*

Toilet facilities in the park will service users of the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza.

Drink fountains are available within the facility.

### *Car Parking*

There is a fee payable car park adjacent to the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza as well as metered street parking. The park is within walking distance from bus and train stations.

### *Accessibility*

Signage will provide designated entrance to the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza.

### **3. Management**

#### *Introduction*

The City is responsible for the programming and social aspects of the facility.

The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza is available can be used for performances, exhibitions, competitions and events.

Regular reviews will be undertaken to respond to the changing needs and use by the community.

#### *Hours of Operation*

The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza facility will be managed in a way that minimises impact upon residents.

The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza is to be used during daylight hours and have time restricted lighting at night (up to 10.00pm).

#### *Safety and Security*

The City places high importance on community safety and aims to maintain the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza as a safe place for recreation and social interaction.

The City will support community safety buy providing appropriate signage, lighting and regular surveillance in the form of CCTV ( webcam is also being investigated), CBD patrols and random inspections (day and night) of the facility, as well as clear and appropriate reporting mechanisms and response programs for user and community complaints.

As with any undesirable behavior in any public space, police reports will be made as necessary.

Passive surveillance will be provided by City of Fremantle staff and business operators trading on the reserve as well as park visitors.

Dismantle community bike project is situated in the plaza and will also provide passive surveillance throughout the day, and will have a role in providing table tennis bats and balls and reporting any issues to the City for action.

### *Injuries*

It is important to keep in mind that the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza has been designed and constructed by appropriately qualified professionals. Good design is a key to safety.

Whilst active users are not necessarily more prone to injury than sports such as basketball or football, regardless of the care taken, injuries may occur at the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza.

The most common injuries for active users are sprains, fractures, and abrasions. Head injuries may also occur.

Those with minimal experience are most likely to be injured. The City will be encouraging and providing educational sessions and lessons to assist with the safe use of the facility.

The City will have signage promoting the use of protective gear, parental supervision and who to contact in case of an emergency.

### *Amenity*

The provision of an adequate amenity to the service users and community needs and its ongoing maintenance, is crucial to ensuring safety and comfort.

This includes:

- Drinking fountains.
- Rubbish bins.
- Toilets.
- Seating in the passive areas.
- Bicycle racks.
- Shade inclusive of 35 new trees.



Based on the anticipated usage of the facility and an analysis of existing amenity, there has been additional amenity included in the design of the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza.

The ability of this amenity to service future demands will need to be monitored. A daily maintenance schedule ensures the usability and cleanliness of drinking fountains and toilets in particular.

### *Signage*

Appropriate signage can help to manage risk by educating, informing and regulating activities of users. The City will incorporate signage into the facility to advise users of the conditions of use.

Language on the signs has been kept simple, not exclusive to any user group and have a positive and educative tone.

Signs are placed in an appropriate position and designed to withstand harsh conditions and possible damage.

Should any conditions or information displayed on a sign change, the sign will be amended.

### *Litigation, Risk and Insurance*

The City has a duty of care to protect users from reasonably foreseeable dangers.

The City has adequate insurances to provide protection should there be any adverse incidents.

While many important considerations have been provided for within this guide, the City has a risk management plan that identifies risks, evaluation of these risks, methods for dealing with and reducing risks as well as risk monitoring. All risks will be monitored and documented on a regular basis with checklists will be tailored to the design of the facility.

### *Risk identification*

A complete audit of the facility will be undertaken to identify and record all possible risks, incorporating items such as, but not limited to:

- Damage to any equipment or elements.
- Integrity of surfaces and structures.
- Cracking or movement of the concrete base or equipment.
- Any gaps or trip hazards.
- Water pooling.
- Slippery surfaces.
- Weathering.
- Graffiti
- Debris.

The audit will be undertaken prior to opening and then periodically when the facility is in use in order to identify and document other potential risks which may not be otherwise readily identifiable.

### *Accessibility for All*

Everyone should be able to get to and from public space in safety. Public space is for everyone to enjoy, including young people who may not have access to private vehicles and members of the community that are physically challenged.

The facility is situated close to public transport. The design allows for people with disabilities to access the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza.

### *Events and Programming*

The City of Fremantle reserves the right to program activities and events in this space in the same way it does in any other public space under City control.

The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza will not be available for private exclusive use outside of events and activities supported and sponsored by the City.

### *Promotion*

Promotion of the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza as a family friendly and all ages' facility will be undertaken in an ongoing manner throughout the year.

Promotion will include any of the following:

- Promotion of regular Skate, BMX, scooter and parkour demonstrations by professional or sponsored riders to provide inspiration and be positive role models for youth.
- Skate and BMX competitions.
- Flyers distributed to schools and cafes and made available through local skate and BMX shops.
- Promotion of websites, facebook pages, blogs as well as print media.
- Signage.
- Promotion of youth events and beginner workshops at local schools and community group meetings.
- Regular community 'open house' days at the facility including a BBQ and music.
- Include promotion within youth holiday and festivals programming.

### *Noise*

The amount of noise emanating from the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza can be either social noise (stereos and loud voices) or noise created by the sound of boards or bikes on the plaza surface.

Generally, noise is dependent on many factors such as:

- Material finish of the facility - in-situ concrete facilities are likely to generate less noise than steel ramps.
- Anticipated usage - a regional facility which endeavours to attract a larger number of people, may have increased noise levels with more users than a local facility.
- Surrounding environments - often skate and BMX parks are situated in a reserve next to roads for surveillance purposes, as is the case with the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza. The usage of this road by different vehicles may be much louder the noise from the facility.
- Site and orientation of the facility. The facility is oriented away from nearby residents.

Noise complaints will be monitored by the City environmental health officers similar to any other noise complaints.

### *Anticipated Usage*

The anticipated use of the site will depend on several factors:

- Weather.
- Time of the day.
- Time of the year.
- School/public holidays and weekends.
- Trends in skate and BMX riding and location of surrounding parks.
- Events and festivals.

### *Events and Crowd Management*

It is expected that peak usage patterns will be during the summer months when the weather is fine, daylight hours are longer and children are on school holidays. Visitors will probably spend 1 to 3 hours at the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza. Many visitors will likely be spectators.

Entry, exit, and disbursement of patrons attending the facility need to be able to be controlled for events. In the case of an event, this will include emergency planning and strategies for ticketed events, length of event and temporary viewing/seating requirements.

For organised events, there will be an event management process, officers and risk management plan to ensure the event is run effectively.

### *Parking*

It is anticipated that most users will visit via public transport rather than by vehicle, however it is possible that parents and guardians may drop off their children or come to supervise by vehicle and therefore require drop off areas and parking within the vicinity. The adjacent paid car park will cater for this.

### *Evaluation*

The success of a facility will be measured informally across many different groups through regular resident and user feedback for example formally through surveys, data collection and meetings. Surveys are to be undertaken annually and include items such as:

- Satisfaction of users with the quality of the facility and methods of operations.
- If the facility is being maintained to an acceptable rate for users and the community.
- Any outstanding issues or concerns which have or have not been adequately addressed.
- The overall satisfaction of the community with the operation of the facility.

## 4. Maintenance

### *Introduction*

Ongoing inspections and maintenance assists towards increasing longevity, safety and success of the facility. A well maintained park increases the sense of pride held by the community for their facility and is less likely to encourage acts of vandalism and graffiti.

Budgeting for maintenance will be reviewed annually.

Some shrinkage, cracking and chipping of concrete surfaces is to be expected and does not imply failure of the structure, materials or workmanship.

A comprehensive maintenance plan has been provided by the suppliers for the City to implement as part of its asset management process.

### *Regular Maintenance*

Routine maintenance will be performed and documented in line with the maintenance plan.

### *Repairs*

#### *Minor repairs*

The materials used in the construction of skate parks have been chosen for their function, strength and durability, however with constant use over time, they will begin to wear or may become damaged.

It is critical that all repairs achieve the same high quality finish and tolerance of the original park surface.

#### *Major Repairs and Future Upgrades*

Major repairs and future upgrades will be undertaken by experienced contractors only with adequate insurance coverage.

### *Damage*

Vandalism and graffiti that is reported to the City or found as part of regular inspections, will be treated in line with the City's graffiti removal policy and procedures.

Prevention of any physical damage to the facility is generally accepted as the best practice.

The facility will be checked for vandalism and graffiti routinely by daily inspection and through community reporting. Regular inspections may be coordinated with other daily maintenance routines or supervision of site and as reported by users and members of the community. Local traders will be provided with an information pack with detailed relevant contacts so that any concerns or issues can be raised in a timely and appropriate manner.

### *Landscaping Maintenance*

Plantings will be durable and well suited to the specific climatic and user conditions of the site.

Trees have been selected and maintained to provide shade and shelter for facility users.

## 5. Management Plan Summary Table

Issue	Action
Hours of Operation	<p>Hours of operation will be on signage.</p> <p>The Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza is to be used during daylight hours and lighting is time restricted up to 10:00pm.</p>
Safety and Security	<p>This management will include appropriate signage, lighting and regular surveillance in the form of CCTV (webcam is being investigated), CBD patrols and random inspections (day and night) of the facility, as well as clear and appropriate reporting mechanisms and response programs for user and community complaints.</p> <p>As with any undesirable behaviour in any public space, police reports will be made as necessary.</p> <p>Visitors and users provide passive surveillance. Other forms of surveillance include City of Fremantle staff, security officer patrols and CCTV security cameras.</p> <p>Dismantle bike workshop will operate from the park and provide support through surveillance and reporting to the City of any issues.</p>
Injuries	<p>The City will have signage promoting the use of protective gear, parental supervision and who to call in case of an emergency.</p>
Amenity	<p>The following is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drinking fountains.</li><li>Rubbish bins.</li></ul>



	<p>Toilets.</p> <p>Seating in the passive areas.</p> <p>Bicycle racks.</p> <p>Shade.</p>
Signage	<p>Language on the signs has been kept simple to be easily understood by all users. It is not exclusive to any user group and attempts to have a positive and educative tone.</p> <p>Signs are placed in an easily visible position.</p> <p>Should any conditions or information displayed on a sign change, the sign will be amended.</p>
Usage	<p>The anticipated use of the site will depend on several factors:</p> <p>Weather.</p> <p>Time of the day.</p> <p>Time of the year.</p> <p>School / public holidays and weekends.</p> <p>Trends in skate and BMX riding and location of surrounding parks.</p> <p>Events and festivals.</p> <p>For organised events, there will be an event management process, officers and a risk management plan to ensure the event is run effectively.</p>
Promotion	<p>Promotion will include any of the following:</p>

	<p>Promotion of regular skate and BMX demonstrations by professional or sponsored riders to provide inspiration and positive role models for youth.</p> <p>Skate and BMX competitions are seen as an important developmental tool and a way to become recognised in the industry. Competitions will be aimed at regular users as well as female riders and older riders.</p> <p>Flyers distributed to schools and cafes and made available through local Skate and BMX shops.</p> <p>Promotion of websites, facebook pages, blogs as well as print media.</p> <p>Signage.</p> <p>Promotion and safety presentations at local schools and community group meetings.</p> <p>Regular community 'open house' days at the facility including a BBQ and music.</p> <p>Include promotion within youth holiday and festivals programming.</p>
<p>Events and programming</p>	<p>Events and programming will be through the City.</p>
<p>Noise</p>	<p>The amount of noise emanating from the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza can be either social noise (stereos and loud voices) or noise created by the boards and bikes on the surface of the plaza.</p> <p>Generally, noise is dependent on many factors such as:</p> <p>Material finish of the facility - in-situ concrete facilities are likely to generate less noise than steel ramps.</p> <p>Anticipated usage - a regional facility which endeavours to attract a larger number of people may have increased noise levels with more users than a local facility.</p> <p>Surrounding environments - often skate and BMX parks are sited in a reserve next to roads for surveillance</p>

	<p>purposes, as is the case with the Esplanade Reserve Youth Plaza. The usage of this road by different vehicles may be much louder than noise from the facility.</p> <p>Sitting and orientation of the facility – the facility is oriented away from nearby residents.</p> <p>Noise complaints will be monitored by the City Environmental Health officers similar to any other noise complaints.</p>
<p>Parking</p>	<p>It is anticipated that most users will come via public transport rather than vehicle, however it is possible that parents and guardians may drop off their children or come to supervise by vehicle and therefore, require drop off areas and parking in the vicinity. The adjacent paid car park will cater for this.</p>
<p>Risk and insurance</p>	<p>A complete audit of the facility will be undertaken to identify and record all possible risks, incorporating items such as, but not limited to:</p> <p>Damage to any equipment or elements.</p> <p>Integrity of surfaces and structures.</p> <p>Cracking or movement of the concrete base or equipment.</p> <p>Any gaps or trip hazards.</p> <p>Water pooling.</p> <p>Slippery surfaces.</p> <p>Weathering.</p> <p>Graffiti.</p> <p>Debris.</p>

	<p>The audit will be undertaken prior to opening and then periodically when the facility is in use in order to identify and document other potential risks which may not be otherwise readily identifiable.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The success of the facility will be measured informally across many different groups through regular resident and user feedback as well as formally through surveys, data collection and meetings. Surveys are to be undertaken annually and include items such as:</p> <p>Satisfaction of users with the quality of the facility and methods of operations.</p> <p>If the facility is being maintained to an acceptable rate for users and the community.</p> <p>Any outstanding issues or concerns which have or have not been adequately addressed.</p> <p>The overall satisfaction of the community with the operation of the facility.</p>
<p>Maintenance</p>	<p>Budgeting for maintenance will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>A comprehensive maintenance plan has been provided by the suppliers for the City to implement as part of its asset management process.</p>