

April 2024

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# Youth Precinct Redevelopment

## SURVEY REPORT



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## Background

Since the Youth Precinct opened in 2016, the sun, salt, sand and wind have taken their toll on the equipment and nearly half has been removed with more equipment soon to reach its end of life.

Instead of replacing the equipment in the space, the City is redeveloping it into a modern hub that features exciting opportunities and activities for young people. To gain a better understanding of how well the remaining equipment in the precinct is used and gather ideas on what could be included in the redevelopment the City surveyed the community.

## Engagement

The City conducted the Youth Precinct Redevelopment Survey from 15 March to 11 April 2024.

The survey was promoted in a media release and a social media campaign. A dedicated website page with links to the online survey and information on the location of paper surveys was also published. Paper copies were available at the City Civic Centre and Geraldton Regional Library.

The survey was also promoted at Geraldton's five high schools. The Community Engagement Officer met with student leaders to discuss the project and the opportunity to be involved by taking the survey.

The City received 450 responses of which 449 were submitted online and 1 was submitted as a paper copy.

## Summary

More than 70% of survey respondents were young people aged under 25 years who visited the precinct either last week or last month.

The precinct currently doesn't offer enough shade from the sun or shelter from the wind.

The majority of visitors to the precinct feel safe during the day but not safe at night.

Use of the six remaining pieces of equipment was evenly split with the majority of respondents using the Rage Cage, skywalk and nest swings. Less than half of the respondents play table tennis, use the climbing cubes or play electronic tag.

Nest swings, playing table tennis and the climbing cubes are used by more females than males whereas the skywalk, Rage Cage and electronic tag were more popular with males.

The most mentioned physical activities to include in a redeveloped precinct include a zip line or flying fox, a skatepark, trampolines, climbing equipment such as walls or frames and big swings.

The most mentioned social activities to include in a redeveloped precinct include shaded tables and benches, hang out areas and movie nights or live entertainment such as music.

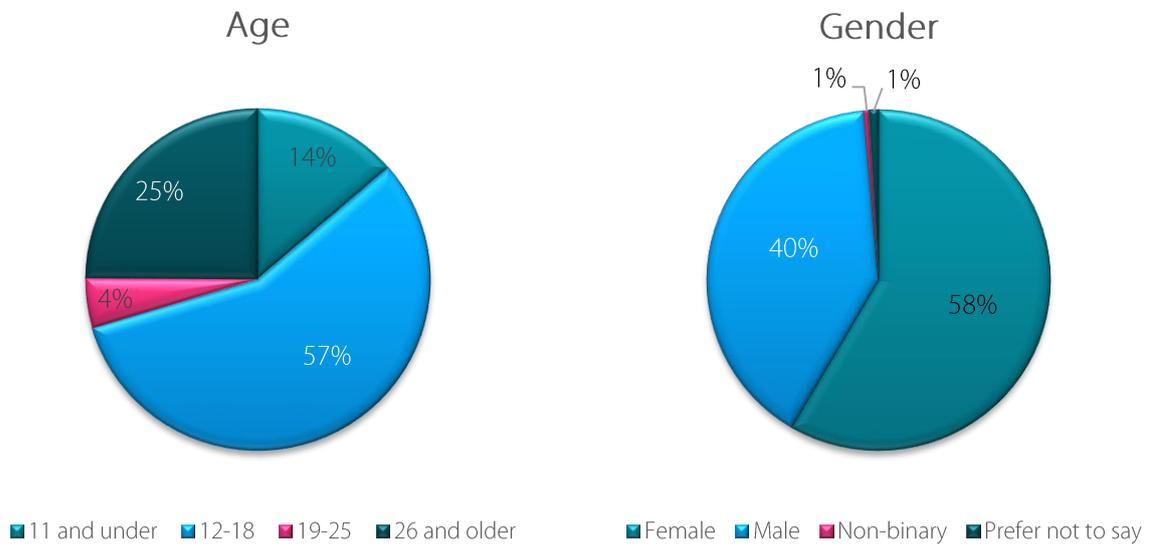
Organised activities including workshops, competitions, games similar School Holiday Program the City compiles four times a year were also mentioned.

A number of other youth precincts were referenced by respondents as examples of what the redevelopment should look like and the kinds of amenities and activities that should be included. The precincts mentioned include Scarborough and Cottesloe Beaches, Fremantle, Mandurah, Busselton, Jurien Bay and Margaret River.

## Survey Results

### Who Responded

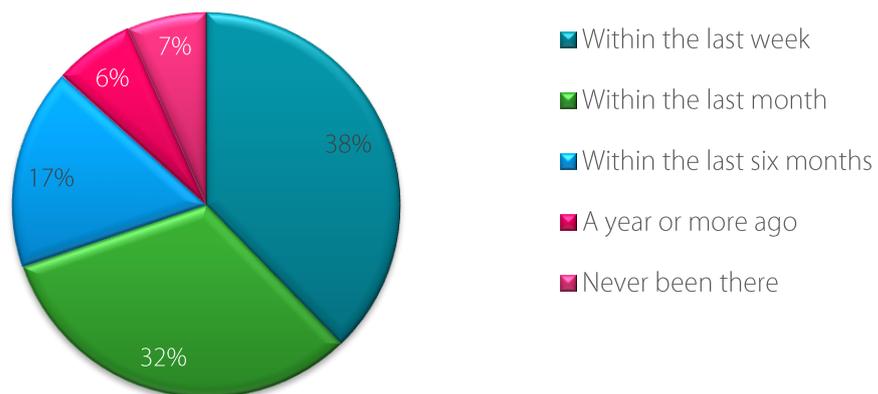
The majority of respondents were female (58%) and young people under 25 years of age (75%).



### Visiting the Precinct

The majority of respondents (70%) visited the precinct within the last week or month.

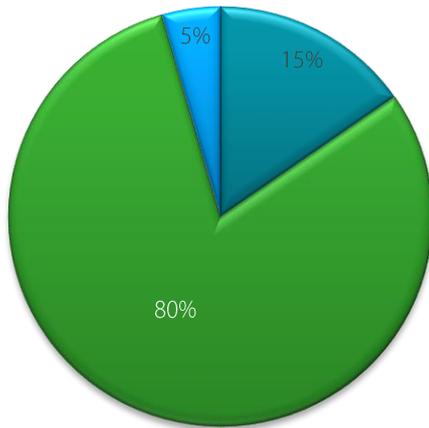
#### Last Visit to the Precinct



### Protection from the Elements

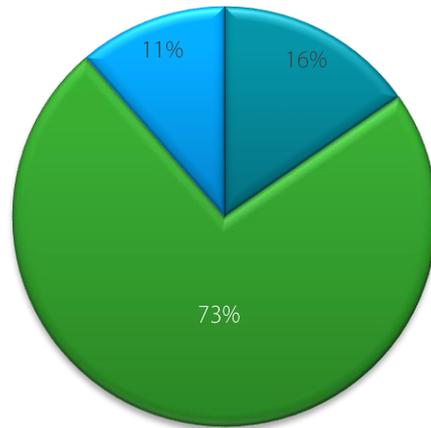
The majority of respondents said there wasn't enough shade from the sun (80%) or shelter from the wind (73%).

#### Shade from the sun



■ Yes ■ No ■ Can't say

#### Shelter from the wind

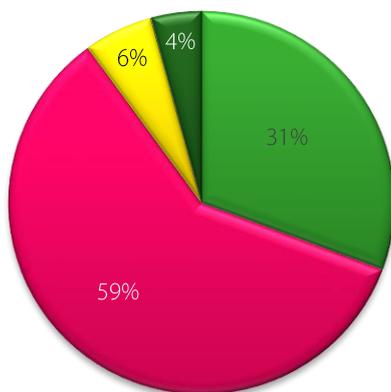


■ Yes ■ No ■ Can't say

### Personal Safety

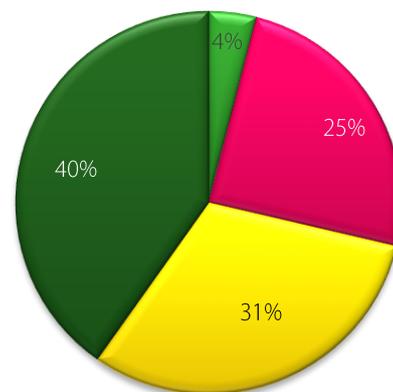
Although the majority of respondents (90%) said they felt safe in the precinct during the day, 65% said they either didn't feel safe or only felt somewhat safe in the precinct at night.

#### During the day



■ Very safe ■ Somewhat safe  
■ I don't know ■ Not at all safe

#### At night



■ Very safe ■ Somewhat safe  
■ I don't know ■ Not at all safe

## Equipment Usage

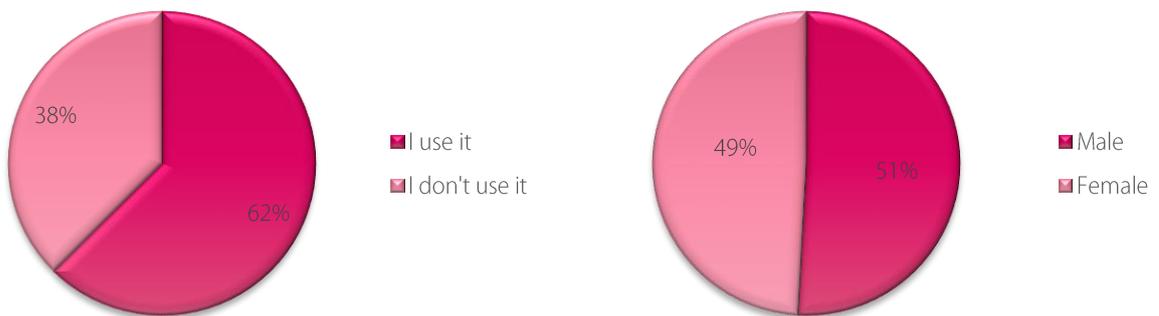
### Nest Swings

Nest swings are the most used pieces of equipment over all at 84% and are most used by females.



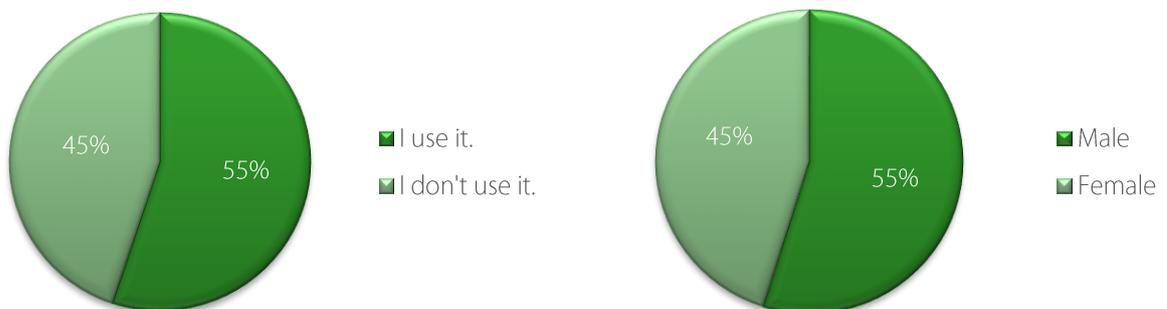
### Skywalk

The skywalk was the second most used piece of equipment at 62% that both males and females use equally.



### Rage Cage

The Rage Cage is the last piece of equipment still used by the majority of respondents at 55% with slightly more males than females using it.



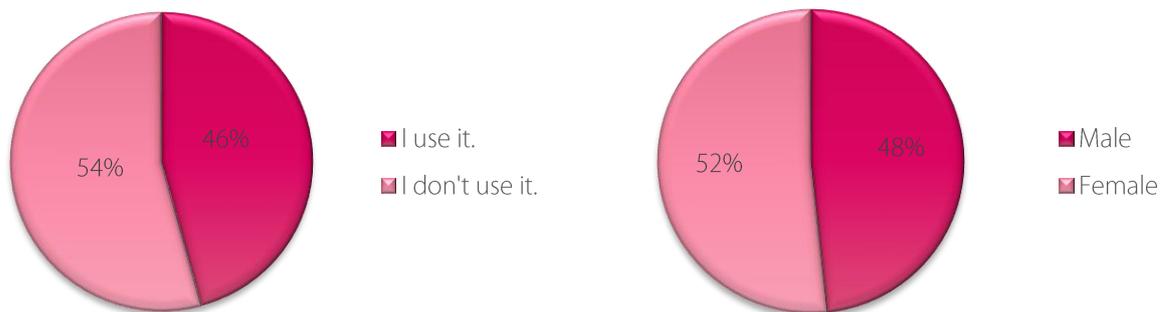
### Table Tennis

Table tennis is the least used piece of equipment at 88%. The lack of paddles and balls for use onsite was one of the keys reasons it wasn't used. This activity is more popular with females at 58% than males.



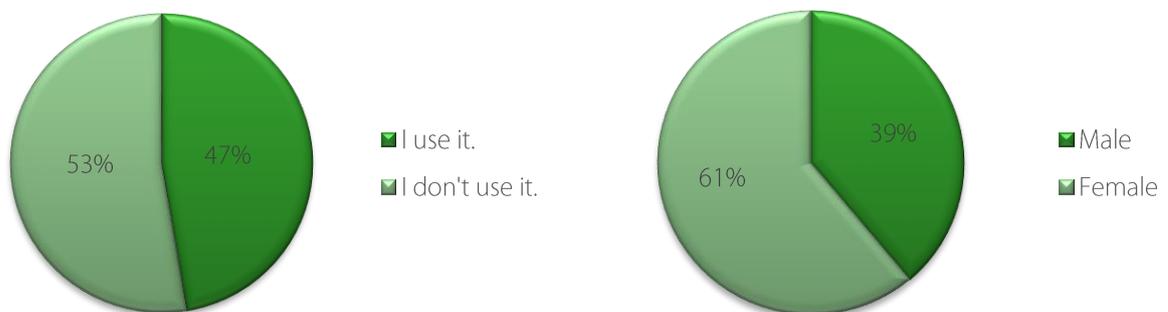
### Climbing Cubes

Just over half of respondents (54%) said they didn't use the climbing cubes. This activity is slightly more popular with females than males



### Neo Electronic Tag

Just over half of respondents (53%) said they didn't use Electronic tag game. The activity is more popular with females.

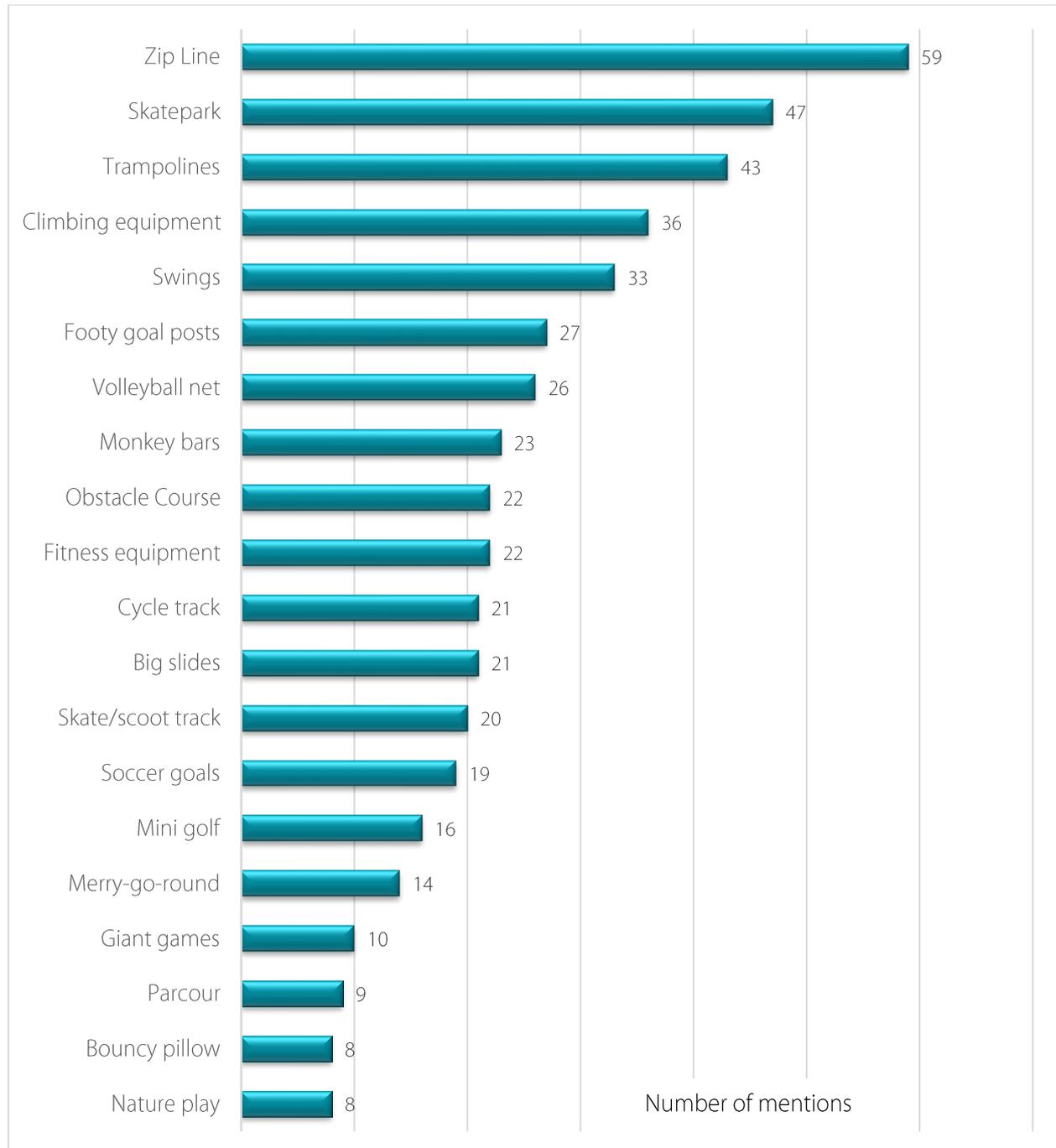


## Redevelopment Inclusions

### Physical Activities

398 respondents provided ideas on the types of physical activities that should be included in the redeveloped precinct.

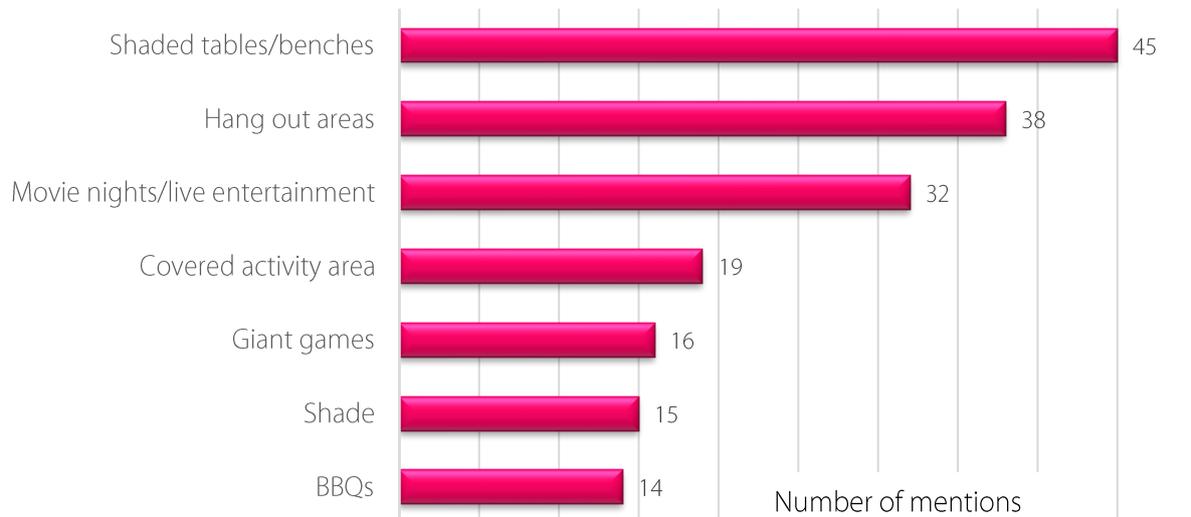
The most common responses included a zip line or flying fox (14%), a skatepark (12%), trampolines, (9%) climbing equipment such as walls or frames (9%) and swings (8%). See Appendix 1 on page 9 for general comments regarding physical activities in the precinct.



## Social Activities

339 respondents provided ideas on the types of social activities that should be included in the redeveloped precinct.

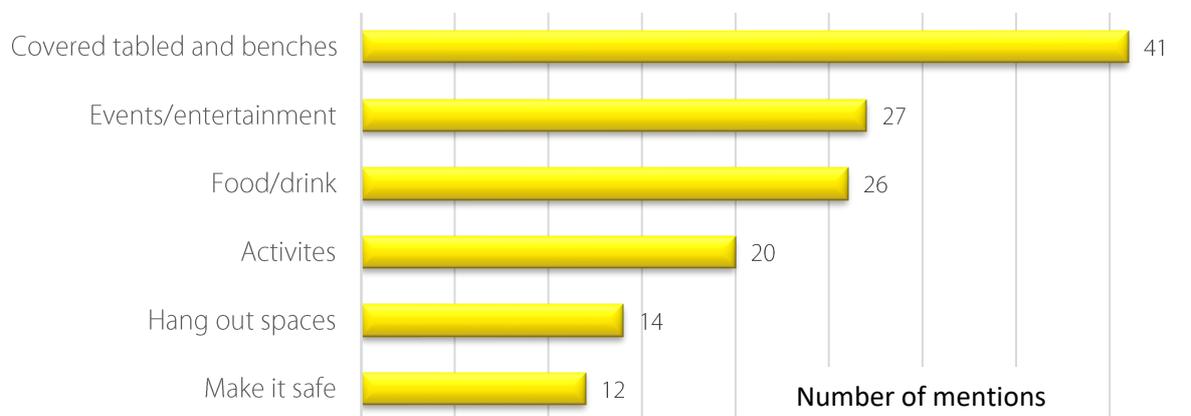
The most common responses were shaded tables and benches (13%), hang out areas (11%) and movie nights and live entertainment (9%). See Appendix 2 on page 9 for general comments regarding social activities in the precinct.



## Other Ideas

316 respondents provided other ideas on what should be included in the redeveloped precinct.

The most common responses were covered tables and benches (13%), events and entertainment (9%), a place to buy food and drink (8%) followed by activities (6%) which included arts and crafts workshops, sports competitions and games, similar School Holiday Program the City puts together four times a year. See Appendix 3 on page 10 for general comments regarding the precinct.



## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: General Comments Regarding Physical Activities in the Precinct

Equipment that all ages can use, without fear of being harassed. Especially the disabled, as the only piece that was there was removed after one not disabled child was injured
Equipment for the younger age group. The older kids love the big slide but it's not always functional for younger ones without parents climbing on the equipment. Something like a volleyball net or even a four square wall/court could elevate the space for the older kids as well
A flying fox to suit older youth/young adults would be awesome! Also possibly some sound-related games/activities and I would LOVE to see the inclusion of sensory tactile/input style things. Jump pads are used very well by children and adults in local caravan parks such as Belair Gardens.
A foreshore development like Jurien Bay - invite families here with a second skatepark, even a pump track and have it all flowing and connected. Will then have more engagement with great local coffee shops and the whole area
This is an unsafe area for teenagers. Scary people around the toilets, kids throwing rocks, yelling families. I'd like to feel safe here. Locked gate basketball courts so we don't get threatened whilst playing?
Skate park/pump track/playground like Jurien bay, they have nailed it. I have a 6 and 8 yrs. old and we always stop in Jurien at their request.
Take a leaf out of the books of Exmouth, Jurien, Scarborough, Cottesloe, Fremantle, Mandurah, Busselton, Margaret River, Albany, Esperance etc. . . and have a skate facility in the centre of town and ideally by the sea. The number of teens that surf and skate is huge. Skating is the go to thing for many active youths when it's too windy.
Equipment also suited to the younger kids under 10. Wellington Street in East Perth has an amazing park. Or something similar to Bibra Lake Park or even Shipwreck Park in Perth are great examples of having fun for all ages.
Activities for older youth 16 to 25 years.
Playground for older children. Climbing wall and mats like Scarborough beachfront?
Follow Kalbarri and Jurien bays idea rip it all up and put a nature playground in its place with picnic tables and grass areas to sit on with your family
Skate park, similar to Jurien bay. Table tennis is only good if you have your own table tennis gear. Mini golf? The Bunbury youth precinct is really good.
A skatepark designed for younger kids (rather than the older teens, lower end) would be a great addition - similar to Jurien Bay foreshore. More focus on nature areas.
A flying fox would be great, similar to playground what's near Matagarup Bridge in Perth and maybe a mini golf putt.
More nature based play, no need for electronic equipment, similar to the park opened at Jurien Bay. Flying Fox. Below ground trampolines. Open areas for classes. Pump track or skateboard track. Scooter tracks/paths for young ones.
Skate park. Youth precinct. Look at Scarborough- right on the beach. Sun, wind salt. Bunbury. Albany. Fremantle. People travel to access these facilities. Concrete is a great material in that coastal location.
Skatepark/rock climbing area like Scarborough has.
Like Dunsborough and Busselton's foreshore! Maybe we could hire giant Jenga and games for on the lawn.
Skate park. Climbing frames. Scarborough has wall climbing.

### Appendix 2: General Comments Regarding Social Activities in the Precinct

Sensory/introvert space. Quiet reading area.
Outdoor shaded booth areas for people to get together and chat out of wind.
Shaded chill out areas. Youth outreach services police engagement and presence.
Gathering area (A place with shade, tables and relatively accessible. Cameras for safety.)
Regular youth band showcase events (e.g. facilitated by Regional Sounds), children's and youth art workshops, skateboarding workshops, graffiti/ mural workshops.
Keep up the movies and live music. More socially positive activities like the PCYC Friday night basketball with youth workers and police joining the fun- engage the kids positively outdoors with a level of safety.
Strong free WiFi connects. Lockers with power points in them for free secure device chargers.
More places for mum and dad to sit and chat while looking over at the kids playing.

Have a look at Mandurah and Busselton foreshores for ideas.
I think there should be a place where young people can go and study with other people and maybe make friends.
I think having more social activities involving police would make it a safer environment for all while giving kids the opportunity to speak to police if they have any concerns etc...
More socially positive activities like the PCYC Friday night basketball with youth workers and police joining the fun-engage the kids positively outdoors with a level of safety.
Family shaded areas - Fremantle skatepark provides spots for family, great example. Trees, climbing frames, space to play, sit and watch. Skate, scooter etc... accessibility for all levels.

### Appendix 3: Other Ideas about Transforming the Space

Have safe environment-the current stuff is fine, just not safe. Often groups of people sit there drinking and abusing kids or even abusing their own groups and use profound offensive gutter language!
A safe space for youth and young adults can come and have fun.
Have Security Officer present.
I would love to see more art intertwined within the precinct. Maybe positive affirmations, Native Australian art and poetry, relevant and eye opening facts etc... I could see these things displayed randomly on equipment, structures etc... Conversation starters!
I don't feel safe hanging out with my friends when there's groups of older guys lurking around like a bunch of creeps. A safe space for young girls to hang out would be good. Not everyone aged 12-17 wants to get drunk and vape on weekends.
Community youth services. Keeping drunks out.
Lockers.
Maybe some better lighting at night, better seating, more food options.
Being able to lock up scooters/skateboards/bags.
I think what's there is great but once there's more than 20 or 30 kids then it's too full - so a bigger playground and more of the same. It's more about creating an atmosphere I think... when there's an event on at Stow Gardens then that's always great.
Fairly good how it is now, think it is better to provide areas that contain facilities that cater for all age groups.
With larger, more modern pieces of equipment that is common for people in this age range.
A graffiti wall.
Whatever you decide needs to have equipment for the disabled in the community as there is absolutely nothing for them.
The toilets often have people doing drugs in there and dodgy people hanging around that area.
Tables and chairs and a grass area with kids' playground along with a cafe/ restaurant so that parents can sit and enjoy a meal and drink while the kids play in the playground.
It's sad to say but some form of security. The main problem and reason why my friends and I don't hang out in that area is the drunk undesirables that hang out there. If they have a better place to go it would make the whole foreshore a lot better. It is horrible to be down there and hear them yelling, swearing, and carrying on. If something could be done about the protection of our teens and young people from them it would be amazing.
Wonthella gets crowded because it was well designed and this is great because it is being used. Build a different kind of flow skate bowl, not trick skatepark in town for junior surfers and the not so technical skaters to practice their carves.
Stop people drinking and smoking there.
More security or police presence- it's such a beautiful town, but the letdown is the very unaccountable anti-social behaviour and the way those people are allowed to treat the area; rubbish, vandalism, sometimes having to leave the area because of rough playing and horrible language.
Needs security. It's not safe most of the time. Maybe a youth services kiosk?
Needs to be accessible for all youth and those with disabilities and wheelchair bound or limited walking abilities.
Use a bigger space or have multiple areas around town that youth can go to instead of just one.