

GRAG PARK UPGRADE PROJECT

The ongoing transformation of Chapman Road into a place for people is about to enter the next stage with upgrades to the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery (GRAG) Park scheduled to begin in early January 2022 and will take an estimated five months to complete.

Why is the City upgrading GRAG Park?

The long overdue upgrades will turn the underutilised park and its aged toilet that has reached its end of useful life, into a beautiful community meeting space that compliments the historical building. GRAG was the Town Hall for many years and GRAG Park was where the Council Chambers were once located. It later became a place where community functions were held.

Having a park in the heart of the CBD is really something special and once completed, it will make a lasting first impression on tourists visiting the Visitor Centre located in the GRAG building.

These long overdue changes will also enable the Art Gallery to overflow into the park on exhibition opening nights and during the day, people can relax in the space before venturing into the City centre and onto the Foreshore via the Rocks Laneway.

By making the area more vibrant the space will attract more locals and draw in tourists which in turn, may attract new businesses and investment.

What does the project involve?

The upgrades will completely transform the empty space by demolishing the aged toilet block and opening up the space to Carpark Station 4. A new accessible toilet will then be built within the park. The project also includes the construction of a covered walkway along the Gallery building, seating and areas to temporarily display public art. The landscaping will also be upgraded with the planting of twelve trees and the establishment of gardens to showcase the region's world class wildflowers.

During the works, noise and dust in the area can be expected, especially when the toilet block is demolished. However, the City will endeavour to keep this to a minimum.

Will the Post Office carpark be closed during the construction works?

Parking Station 4 (Post Office carpark) will remain open during the works however, a number of parking spaces in the vicinity of the Park and GRAG building will not be available. These will be fenced off and used for the safe demolition of the toilet block and works related to the upgrade.

Will the construction works impact traffic on Chapman Road?

No, they won't.

What will the project cost?

Every year the City allocates funding in the Budget to undertake works to revitalise the City Centre and this financial year, construction of the \$1.2 million upgrade to GRAG Park will be completed. Local contractors GBSC will undertake the construction works with Parscape upgrading the landscaping.

