



A vision by and for the community
of Greater Geraldton City Region

Small Steps Towards 2029

One of the outcomes of the *Designing our City* Forum held August 13, 14 and 15, 2011 was the development of small things or steps that could be done by the community as a whole to make a difference. These small steps were derived from forum participant comments noted during the first two days of the forum.

The steps are divided into five categories including arts, Indigenous, build, maintain and education/engagement.

ARTS

- Create a 'Resident Artists' Scheme; allow free access of disused shops as art studio
- Create a busking / street performance program for Marine Terrace Mall
- Local Food event; long table dinner in Marine Terrace Mall featuring food sourced from the Geraldton region and local chefs
- Open a night Market in Marine Terrace Mall; could include Christmas Market, Book Market, Local Artists Market
- Create a street art program; identify spaces for graffiti, stencil and other types of street art
- Use empty shop fronts as Art Galleries ; display local art, including student art
- Use empty shop fronts as public notice boards / community engagement to activate disused areas
- Regenerate Post Office Lane as a public art corridor, especially for street art, replace lighting with white light
- Free Community Events Startup; Community run events, such as running groups, walking groups, book clubs, tai chi, City to facilitate contact between individuals and provide guidelines (eg appropriate use of public parks)
- Open Garden Scheme for Sustainable Landscapes
- Create a speakers corner
- Create a moveable market that is open air
- Activate kids through "mini events" to create street art

INDIGENOUS

- Generate a register of Aboriginal sites of significance; this should include information about the sensitivity of sites (e.g. if they are can be promoted as part of tourism or not)

BUILD

- Marine Dive Maps; create maps of dive locations for tourists
- Interpretative Signage Strategy for tourism and recreation
- Create an 'Adopt a Tree' Program; residents to water and maintain a tree on public land
- Create entry statements at major entry points to Geraldton
- Change lighting in the CBD on major pedestrian streets to white colour instead of yellow; allows people to see colour and improves safety

- Create alfresco dining space along Marine Terrace Mall by removing parking
- Geraldton Central Markets; permanent, undercover / weatherproof – utilise a disused building or purpose built (great for tourism)
- Create a Register and Map of Public Art, including Indigenous Art; benefits include tourism and education
- Build a demonstration biofilter along the Foreshore; promote sustainable water management
- Create a program to convert street lighting to solar in public spaces
- Create a parking point for the Chapman River for access to walking and mountain biking trails; include signage about protection of flora (promote existing wildflower corridor)
- Create a bike share scheme with bike stations along the foreshore and to Marine Terrace Mall (concentrate on use around the CBD to minimise theft / vandalism)
- Install bike stands at major entry points to public places; prioritise Marine Terrace Mall, Foreshore and shopping centres (include some bike lockers with provision for a padlock)
- Install a Liberty Swing on the foreshore
- Replace planting in one planter on Marine Terrace with local native species only; demonstrate the use of local native plants
- Install tourist information points with parking to accommodate a caravan; include directional signage, information on tourist activities and facilities
- Provide a ball loan scheme for the foreshore volley ball courts; utilise the REST Centre as a location
- Reinstate WALK IT signage and promote participation
- Build board walks over the dunes to protect them
- Sink a ship for wreck diving
- Make bike paths and walking a priority
- Reconnect lanes ways between Marine Terrace and the Foreshore
- Create a public square
- Build a gazebo
- Create water features
- Schools as hubs for early childhood facilities
- Co-location of sporting facilities with schools, shared facilities
- Provide more seating in the shade
- Provide more shade
- Convert the old railway line into a cycle/walk path with benches and shade
- Build pedestrian over/under passes across busy roads
- Make roof tops into community gardens
- More boat ramps
- Divide the highway coming into Geraldton from the north similar to how it is going south out of Geraldton

MAINTAIN

- Investigate processes (through legislation and policy) to protect the Greenough Leaning Trees
- Heritage Care Teams; volunteer groups who provide basic maintenance services for disused heritage buildings / sites, such as weed removal, cleaning, washing windows
- Build up the reefs artificially to stop beach erosion
- Help the *Men's Shed* to become a Community Shed
- Public transport to coincide with work/shopping times
- Provide incentives for property owners in the CBD to fill vacant shops.
- Provide penalties to property owners who don't develop their vacant shops

- Plant trees compatible with the climate
- Provide connections to passive green open spaces
- Green buffer zones should become recreational zones

EDUCATION/ENGAGEMENT

- Education Sustainability Scheme; city gives prizes for sustainability initiatives in schools
- Advertise availability of verge planting; encourage uptake based on streets so that supply can be maintained
- Utilise social media and mobile phones to promote youth events and programs; existing programs are not always known about and need more diverse and youth-appropriate communication processes
- Promote the Men's Sheds events through a 'word of mouth' program; nominate champions and train them in engagement
- Communicate the purpose and content of the Geraldton Tree Inventory to the public; this includes the protection of the Norfolk Island Pines in Fitzgerald St
- Add WiFi points to tourist maps and tourist information documents
- Reinstate the Youth Councillor role; consider expansion of this role to a Youth Council
- Nominate a Bicycle Awareness Day; promote road sharing and safety for cyclists (targeting drivers) through a 'blitz' of discussion and reporting in local media
- Create a timetable and route for a walk to school bus; implement through School P & C Committees
- Create a register for car pooling; start with a CBD commute
- Offer canoes and surf ski hire on the beaches
- Install binoculars or telescopes for people to enjoy the ocean view
- Create mobile digital guides for tourists touring around town
- Initiate a low emission zone one day a week
- Do community breakfasts
- Support youth-elder mentoring to engage kids in schooling
- Promote clever recycling
- Community bus to assist people to move to community facilities
- Provide kid zones and youth spaces
- Provide dog/horse friendly spaces