

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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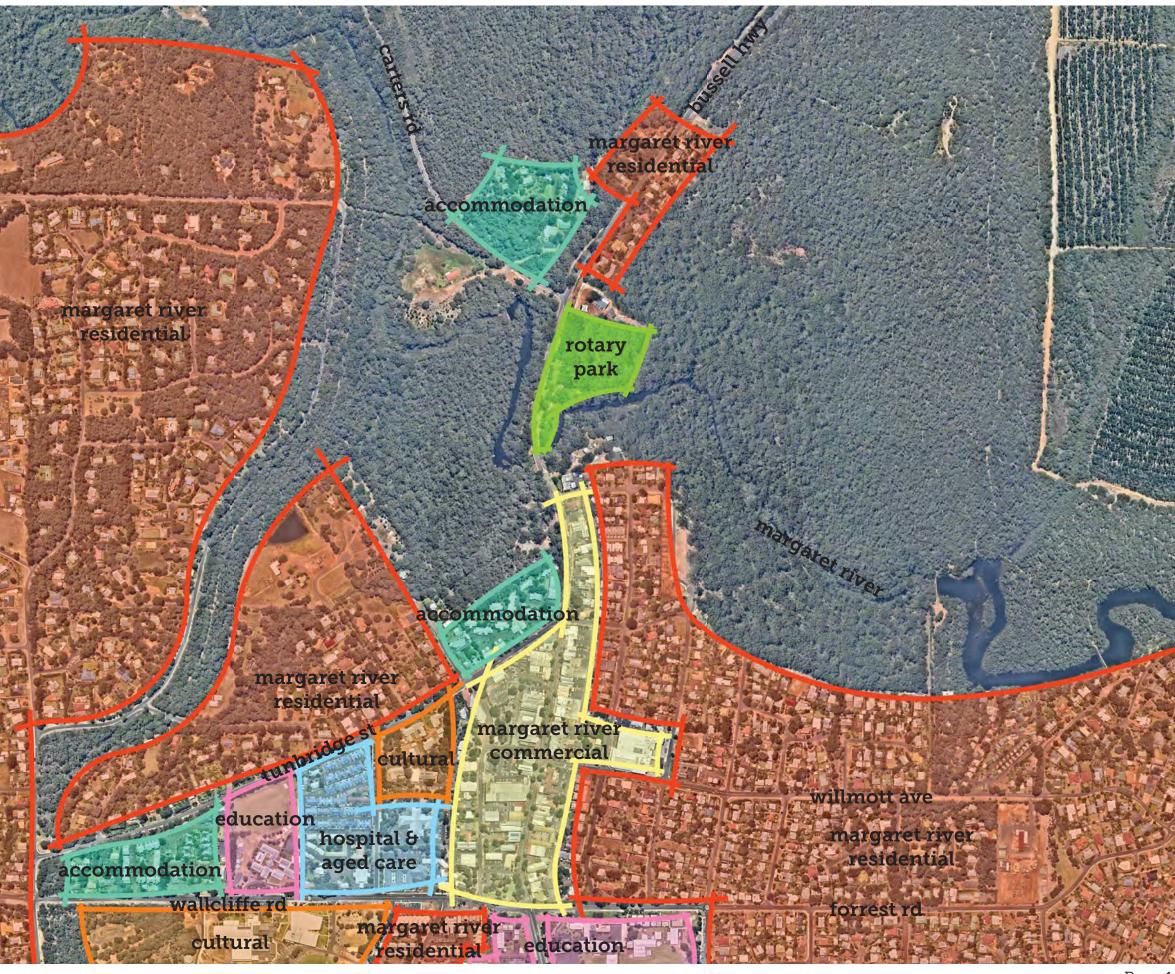
Reserve 18451 is commonly known as Rotary Park and whilst developed with a range of facilities including car parking, rest rooms, historic information, play equipment, exercise equipment, BBQ's, picnic settings and shelters, most are unaware of its overall size which extends 125m further north of the existing play and BBQ area. Because of the popularity of the park with local families and visitors to the region a proposal has developed to extend the play experience and offerings of this park for more users. The northern existing bushland area contained within the lot has been identified as the location to extend the area of play and is where the new Rotary Forest Playground is proposed to be developed.

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (AMRSC) issued a Request for Quote in April 2016 on behalf of the Margaret River Rotary Club to landscape architectural consultants to undertake the broad scale site planning of the proposed Rotary Forest Playground within Reserve 18451. Emerge Associates were appointed to commence the project brief on the 30th June 2016 with view to completion and presentation of a Final Concept Plan in October 2016. The intent of this Concept Plan is to provide master planning of the site and layout for key play zones, access paths and to nominate suitable locations for types of play spaces, play equipment, signage, artwork, pump tracks and entry statements. The scope of works does not extend to detailed design of any items or selection of specific play equipment pieces however this concept provides examples and photo imagery of various play spaces and that can guide a selection of appropriate play types for the designated key play zones.

The purpose of this Concept Plan is to provide guidance toward the implementation and construction of Rotary Forest Playground. It will be utilised by the AMRSC and Rotary Club to undertake further consultation on funding opportunities and budget enquiries as well as guide future stages of detailed designs and construction packages to ensure consistency of design themes and character across the project site.











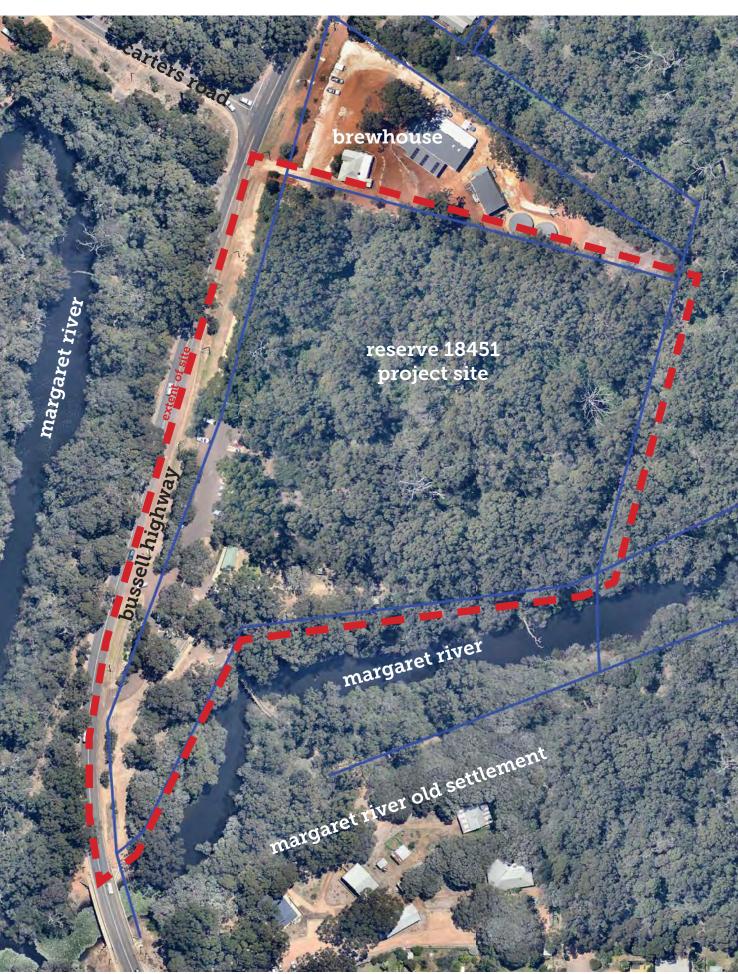
# 2.0 EXISTING SITE FEATURES

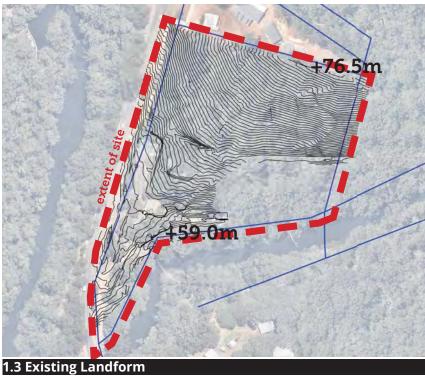
### 1.1 Site Context

The project site is Reserve 18451. It is located immediately north of the Margaret River town-site on the foreshore of the Margaret River, and east of Bussell Highway. Its northern boundary is shared with the recently developed Brewhouse and eastern boundary located approximately 160m inland from Bussell Highway adjoins national park forest.

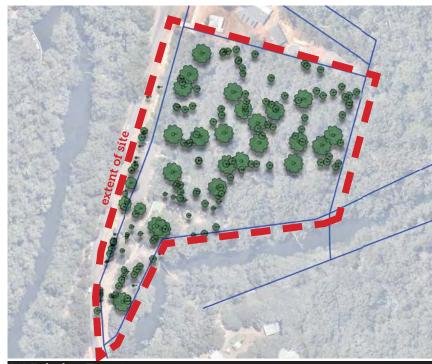
Reserve 18451 currently is bounded to the south by the Margaret River Foreshore and connects to the Margaret River Old Settlement via a footbridge which also services as an access point to extensive walking trails along the foreshore to the greater Margaret River Areas.







The site consists of a relatively even fall from the highest point of 76.5m along the northern boundary down to the lower level of the existing playground of 59m, a fall of 17.5 vertical meters to ward the Margaret River. The slope varies to a maximum grade of 1:5 with a flat area adjacent the carpark that contains the leach drains for the toilet block. Above this is a formed creek line that would only have water run through it in heavy rain events.



# 1.4 Existing Tree Survey

The site is heavily vegetated with closed canopy forest. Large native trees up approx. 40m in height are a prominent feature to be retained and protected for both aesthetic, play and environmental value. The understorey is a dense mixture of native & exotic species that will require site specific assessment to allow access, supervision and also screening across the site.



# 3.0 NATURE PLAY THEME & DESIGN PRINCIPLES

### 3.1 Nature Play Theme

The purpose of nature play is to provide play opportunities for children that are informal, less structured and in some part less supervised, helping children re-connect with their natural environment on their own terms. The exsiting bush area directly adjacent to the exsiting Rotary Park facilities is a perfect environment for embracing this type of play which is now readily recognised as a missing experience in a child's growth and learning. The existing Bushland is dense closed forest within the foreshore of the Margaret River and has guided the name 'Rotary Forest Playground'.

On this basis it is clear that the theme for the playground should centre around the forest, nature and local river foreshore environment. This ensures that the playground builds a Sense of Place endemic to the Margaret River locality, building on natural attractions and varied south west experiences that already exist. To compliment and reinforce this sense of place construction materials, artwork, softscape, education and information opportunities will be inspired and selected by local materials.

The Primary theming of the project revolves around 'nature' and 'forest'. Nature is defined as "the phenomena of the physical world collectively, including plants, animals, the landscape, and other features and products of the earth, as opposed to humans or human creations." Forest is defined as a "large tract of land covered with tress and underbrush; woodland". The site naturally lends itself to this theming so the proposed designs will to strengthen the connections to the space through numerous opportunities for play elements, education and artwork.

Whilst the Primary theme will help to inform the material selection and spatial layout, it is the secondary themes which will help inform the types of play experiences and educational opportunities proposed for the site. For the purposes of this project Emerge propose to adopt two secondary guiding themes of the '5 natural elements' and the '7 Senses' as they relate to the natural setting. By way of explanation;

The five natural elements can be incorporated into the playground designs as follows:

- Earth soil, rock, boulders
- Air sky, wind
- Water river, creek lines, drainage, rain
- Fire bushfire education
- Ether / Spirit aboriginal culture and education

The 7 Senses is a movement established by the 7 Senses Foundation (www.7senses.org.au) and aims to promote the importance of sensory engagement in daily life and the benefits of using sensory focussed design. It includes the five traditional senses of sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch but proposes that lesser known senses exist which refer to movement and balance (Vestibular) and awareness of body position (Proprioception).



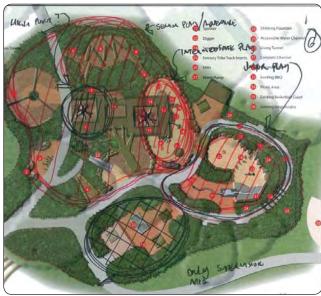




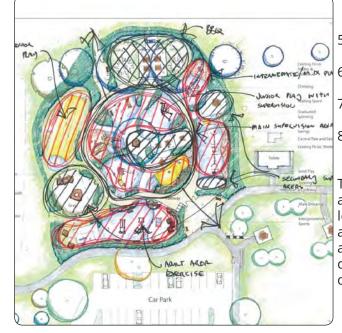












# 3.1 Nature Play Theme

The 7 senses can be incorporated into the playground and site design by the following means:

- Sight bright colours, optical illusions, mirrors, planting colour & texture
- Smell smell tubes, smell boxes, sensory gardens, flowering plants
- Taste bush tucker, edible plants
- Hearing sound tubes, quiet rooms, sound equipment, natural bird & fauna noises, water flow, wind flow
- Touch textured pathways, walls, and brushes, sand & water play
- Vestibular swinging, spinning, jumping games, rolling
- Proprioception clapping games, writing and drawing, navigating Narrow spaces, judging distances.

All of the above items and elements should be considered when designing all features within the playground and as part of this concept plan.

# 3.2 Playground Design Principles

As part of the desktop review of relevant material, Emerge have ground-truthed successful nature playgrounds to establish common design principles used throughout. These principles shall be used in guiding the final concept plan to create not only nature play experience but also comfortable, safer and more accessible play spaces. These nature play principles include:

- 1.A primary Observation/Supervision/Surveillance (OSS) node where such activities can be undertaken from a distance, so not to interrupt the childs play experience
- 2. The primary OSS node is positioned directly adjacent the junior child play area for ease of passive surveillance more often near the major entrance to the park.
- 3. The primary OSS node has a greater distance from the older child play area to permit the child's heightened sense of adventure, independence and freedom on their experience.
- 4. Designated BBQ/picnic nodes are located to allow passive surveillance to most play spaces but not directly to any major play areas. Often a minor all ages play element is located adjacent the BBO node.
- 5. Secondary OSS nodes need to vary in formation, positioned to provide informal passive surveillance.
- Senior child play nodes and junior child play nodes require a defining boundary or buffer deterring younger, wandering children.
- 7. If able, avoid having junior child play areas directly adjacent primary paths
- 8.Use secondary informal, looping connections through planting & garden beds creating circuits linking play elements.

The above guiding principles can inform a variety of spaces that are both accessible and easily supervised but with an appropriate level of separation for encouraging independent play for the child and passive surveillance opportunities to reassure the parent. Risk assessment and management has been considered as part of this concept design with an independent report to provided with the final documents.

# 4.0 PRIMARY ZONING PLAN

### 4.1 Primary Zones

Based on reviewing the existing zones and functions associated with Rotary Park and its surrounds and positioning zones for proposed activities Emerge have created the Primary Zoning Plan that allows the structure of the park to be formed.

The key primary zones include:

- Nature Play and Pump track
- Tourist Precinct
- Cultural Precinct
- Brewhouse
- Entry Statement
- Carparking

# 4.2 Notes

Proposed extension of the existing car park allowing for anticipated increased need with development of the park

The nature play playground has been positioned in locations best identified on site to provide the best opportunities for the playground layout







The existing cultural precinct will continue to provide entry into the Margaret River Old Settlement, the Hairy Marron Bike Shop and Cafe and facilities





Future car park extension opportunity

The Brewhouse is a recently opened commercial venture which is a focussed commercial brewery & eatery,





Positioned on the corner of Rotary Park the entry statement will mark the arrival point to the Rotary Forest Playground. This is positioned for maximum exposure to the arriving motorist.









The existing tourist precinct is central to the existing Rotary Park so is important for this to link to remain strong with the proposed concept. This precinct already contains a toilet block, entry signage, playground equipment for young children, exercise equipment, bbq areas, picnic settings and historical information which can be built upon.









# 5.0 SECONDARY ZONING PLAN

point nodes

Viewing nodes

Looping path access

### 5.1 Secondary Zones

Further to the identified Primary Zones, the site is further broken down into more refined zones based on site analysis and design principles listed in section 3.0. The differing zone locations compliment each other for the flow of play.

The access network has also been developed to consist of primary, secondary and tertiary (looping) path systems. Each indicate varying degrees of usage and importance for thoroughfare, with the Primary being the most important.

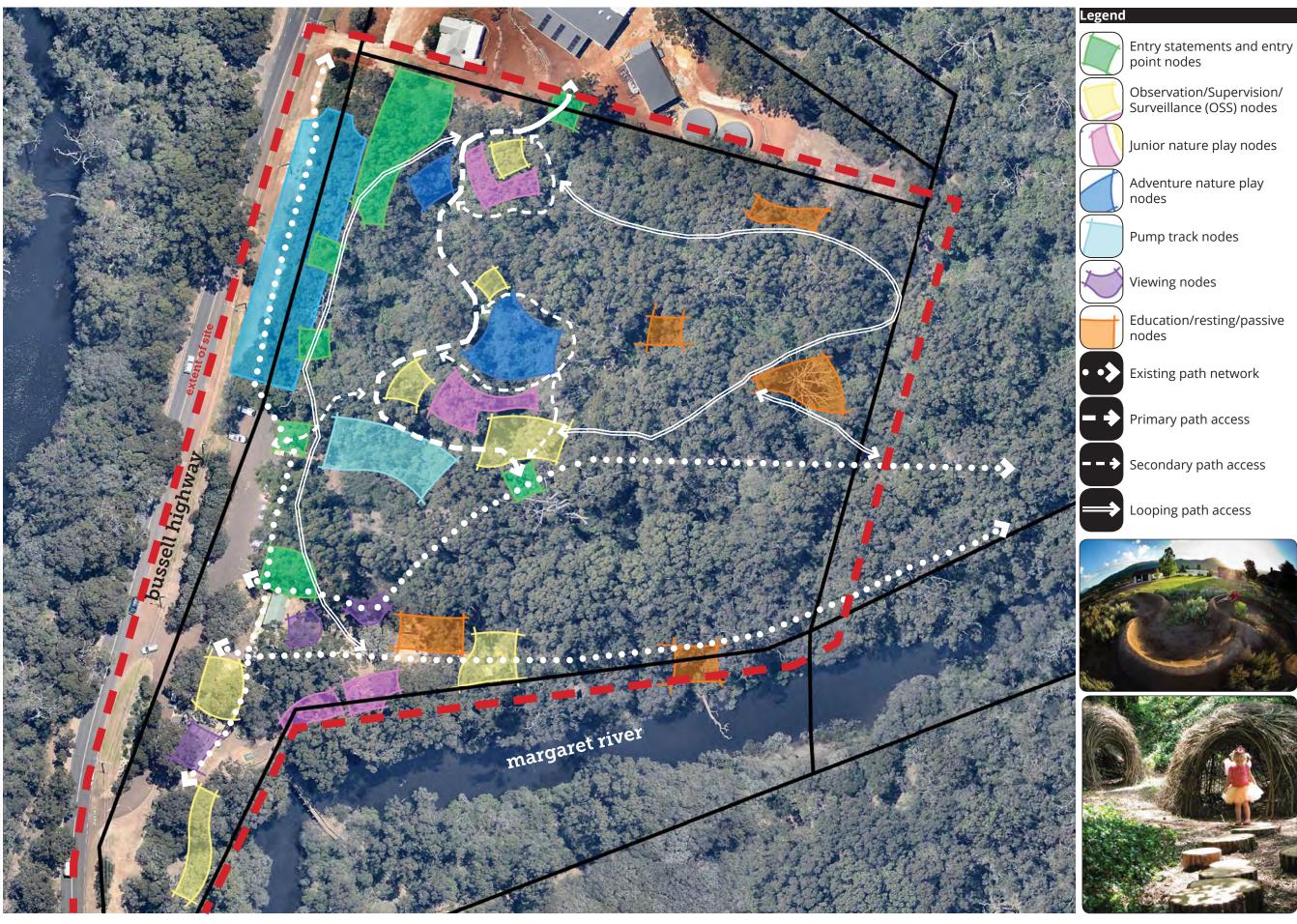
The access network and varying zones highlighted have been aligned to compliment the existing structure of Rotary Park.

The key secondary zones include:Entry statements and nodes

- Observation / Supervision / Surveillance nodes
- Junior Play Areas Adventure Play Areas
- Pump Track Area
- Viewing nodes
- Exercise and resting nodes











# **6.0 CONCEPT PLAN**





Brewhouse

and parking

Rotary Park entrances

all to be retained

Settlement

420sqm

1250sqm

garden

to Rotary Park

pump track

weeds removed

nature play area

adventure play area

where possible

creek play

overlooking play areas

Junior nature play area

Margaret River Old



# 7.0 DESIGN INTENT

### 7.1 Key Play Zones

The proposed nature playground has been divided into 3 x feature areas to reflect both the types of play and uses to be provided as well as to provide options for staging of works as funding becomes available - Refer Section 10.0 Key Play Zones

The individual zones are located on site to take advantage of site features that will allow spaces to provide a variety of uses and experiences in keeping the nature and forest themes. They will also cater for multiple user groups and ages so that any initial stages of works provide a full spectrum of facilities for nature play space and then development of additional zones further enhance the playground and user experiences.

### 7.2 Connectivity

The path network is designed to link into the existing path system and ensure all proposed elements of the site are readily accessible from the carpark and existing infrastructure. Pathways have been located to traverse the existing landform at comfortable grades and moving around unique site features to create points of interest and increase the user experience.

Low fencing is proposed in strategic locations to direct access between the play zones, carparking and pump tracks for safety and surveillance purposes. Fencing will also prevent access and minimise damage to conservation and rehabilitation areas.

### 7.3 Access for All

It is important that universal access through-out the site is thoroughly considered and provided wherever possible. It must however be acknowledged that the inherent structure of 'nature' play will result in areas and features that are not accessible to all physical abilities. Each key play zone must therefore ensure it contains a number of elements that cater for a range of ages and abilities separately as well as areas where all users can gather, interact and play.

Where access cannot be provided to elements, consideration should be given co-locate passive areas that allow users to watch and still interact with the play elements as much as possible. Consideration should also be given to how users of limited abilities can be assisted by other children or carers. Where possible all access routes should cater for universal access with the Primary access routes being the priority.

### 7.4 Carparking

The existing Rotary Park carpark caters for approximately 30 vehicles with additional lay-over areas for bus and caravans. It is a central tourism and activity node, providing access for nearby cycle trails and recreation activities. At peak times in summer and weekends the carparking is at capacity with additional carparking required. The newly established Brewhouse is also compounding parking issues with patrons informally parking along Bussell Highway verge. This arrangement will be formalised providing a further 45 new car bays.



### 7.4 Carparking cont'd

The new parking will require clearing of re-growth vegetation however major large existing trees should be retained to continue the tree lined, leafy arrival to Margaret River and the local aesthetic. Drainage should be examined within the verge to accommodate current flows with the proposed generated from the new car parking. Drainage can become a feature through incorporating rain gardens, artistic wall and fencing, all supported by additional tree planting.

Further overflow carpark could be considered off Carters Road.

### 7.5 Public Art

Including public art within the project is important to help reinforce the themes and enhance the Sense of Place of the project. Proposed is three tiers of public art. The first tier would be high profile pieces located at the entry points, incorporated into the entry statements creating the first impression of the themes and character of the play space.

The second tier artwork could be sculptural elements incorporated into playground pieces or smaller artworks pieces located within the play zones or along walking trails. These would be sculptured timber animals, enchanted fictional characters or abstract artwork that reinforce the nature and forest themes.

The third tier artwork could act as wayfinding, be smaller in scale and incorporated into interpretive signage and/ or educational pieces relevant to the site. This could range from directional signage to informative plaques, being a product of either community consultation or community art projects, perhaps involving school groups to enhance a sense of ownership for park.

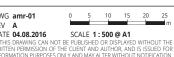
# 7.6 Aboriginal Heritage

The local Noongar have been recognised as the traditional owners of the site. As a minimum signage at the three main entry points to the new play space should contain an 'Acknowledgement of Country' after further consultation with local indigenous community to confirm if they wish to provide a 'Welcome to Country'.

'Welcome to Country' is an important ceremony by Aboriginal people and inviting them to perform it helps non-Indigenous people recognise Aboriginal culture and history. An 'Acknowledgement of Country' can be done by everyone, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, to pay respect to the fact that one is on Aboriginal land.

Aboriginal heritage can then also be incorporated throughout the site through artwork and sculpture, interpretive signage and as part of the educational function of the site at the proposed outdoor classrooms and gathering spaces.







# 8.0 KEY PLAY ZONES

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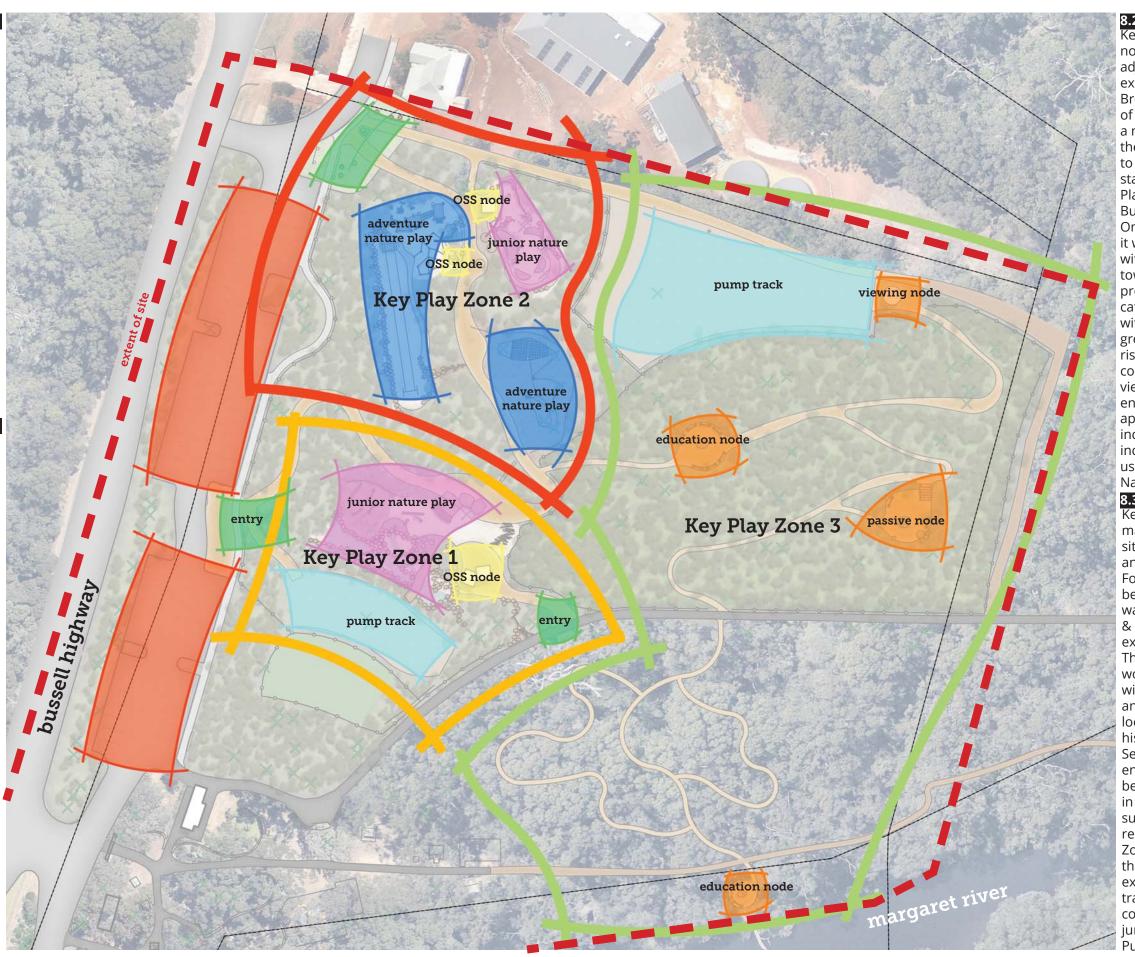
The proposal divides the site into three key play zones to allow a variety of uses, experiences and play elements for users of Rotary Park. The expansive nature of the site and dense vegetation provide visual and noise separation to each zone. The distance between zones allows users to experience the nature and forest themes amongst the bushland whilst travelling from one zone to another.

As number of uses are proposed for the site, including nature play and cycle pump tracks, so the separation of zones assists with safety aspects required of each area. It will also allow staging of works in accordance with any budgetary requirements into the future.

# 8.1 Key Play Zone 1

Key play zone 1 is located at the southern portion of the project site and nearest to the existing carpark and Rotary Park facilities. It is however separated from these facilities by a large tract of existing bushland and a cleared area containing existing sewerage leach drains that should be avoided. This is the first logical stage of works and would include 2 of the new entry points, 1 x off the existing carpark and fronting Bussell Highway and the other off the existing pathway on the eastern

This feature area is located around several large existing trees and includes an existing drainage swale that can formalised as a nature play feature. The existing swale is proposed to separate the nature play area from a proposed smaller scale pump track aimed at more novice level riders. The pump track and nature play area should however still inter-relate and potentially overlap through the detailed design phase. Nature Play Area - 950sqm Pump track Area - 420sqm



**8.2 Key Play Zone 2**Key Play Zone 2 is located at the north-west corner of the site and adjacent to the proposed carpark extension & new road access of the Brewhouse driveway. Extension of the carpark will open views to a number of the largest trees on the site which should be utilised to create the main visual entry statement for the Rotary Forest Playground to draw views from Bussell Highway.

Once this area is cleared of weeds it will become a larger open area with views down the slope grading toward the Margaret River. It is proposed that play in this area cater for all ages and abilities but with focus on older age groups and greater abilities for climbing and risks. Taller structures and towers could be located to also reinforce views from Bussell Highway and enhance the entry statement appeal. Select play elements should include a higher level of risk and increased sense for adventure for

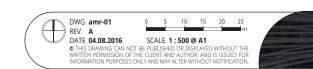
Nature Play Area - 1,200sqm

# 8.3 Key Play Zone 3

Key Play Zone 3 incorporates the majority of the eastern half of the site where steeper grades exist and front onto the Margaret River Foreshore zone. It is proposed to be a more passive area containing walk trails & education, gathering & resting nodes allowing users to experience nature and the forest. The majority of vegetation areas would be retained & enhanced with walk trails containing signage and sculptural art educating on the local flora, fauna, environment and history.

Sensory gardens, sculpture walks, enchanted gardens etc can all be considered for detail design in this area with higher levels of supervision and participation required by parents.

Zone 3 is also proposed to contain the larger pump track for more experienced users. It would traverse across the grades and contain an element of downhill or jump track due to the grades. Pump Track Area - 1,250sqm



# 8.1 KEY PLAY ZONE 1





Existing and extended car park

Compacted crushed gravel path

Creek bed play area

Fencing

Shelter and observing area

Junior pump track area

[13] Entry Statement / Primary Artwork

12 Existing leach drains



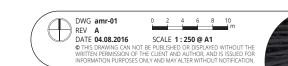


# 8.2 KEY PLAY ZONE 2











# 8.3 KEY PLAY ZONE 3





Lookout tower

8 Outdoor classroom

Fencing

Artwork and Sculpture



# 9.0 ACCESS & FENCING

# **9.1 Primary Access Route** Primary access should be constructed of consolidated material such as concrete, asphalt or compacted fine gravel suitable for higher traffic, bikes at low speeds, universal access and prams. Path widths can vary between 1.8m and 2.5m wide, with a maximum 1 in 20 gradient.

# 9.2 Secondary Access Route

Secondary access routes form the linking pathways between smaller playground equipment nodes. They should be constructed of consolidated material such as compacted gravel or rubber softfall suitable for universal access and prams. Path width can vary from a minimum 1.2m wide to 1.5m, with a maximum 1 in 20 gradient.

**9.3 Tertiary Looping Access** Tertiary looping access paths are less formalised bush trails that respond to the landform and materials where possible to give a sense of being off the formalised pathways. They should be constructed of gravel or consolidated natural earth that would be suitable for assisted universal access. Path width should be a minimum of 0.9m, with a maximum 1 in 14 grade.

### 9.4 Access Restriction Fence

The access restriction fence is proposed for the protection of existing and enhanced vegetation areas. It should be of more standardised construction materials such as pine post and cyclone mesh or PVC coated strand wire so it is easily visible and serves the purpose of restricting access to

# 9.5 Feature / Art Fencing

The feature art and art fencing is proposed to be highly visible in areas fronting Bussell Hwy and adjacent to entry statements. The fence should be customised and sculptural in form while still serving to contain and control access across the site.





# 10.0 DRAINAGE

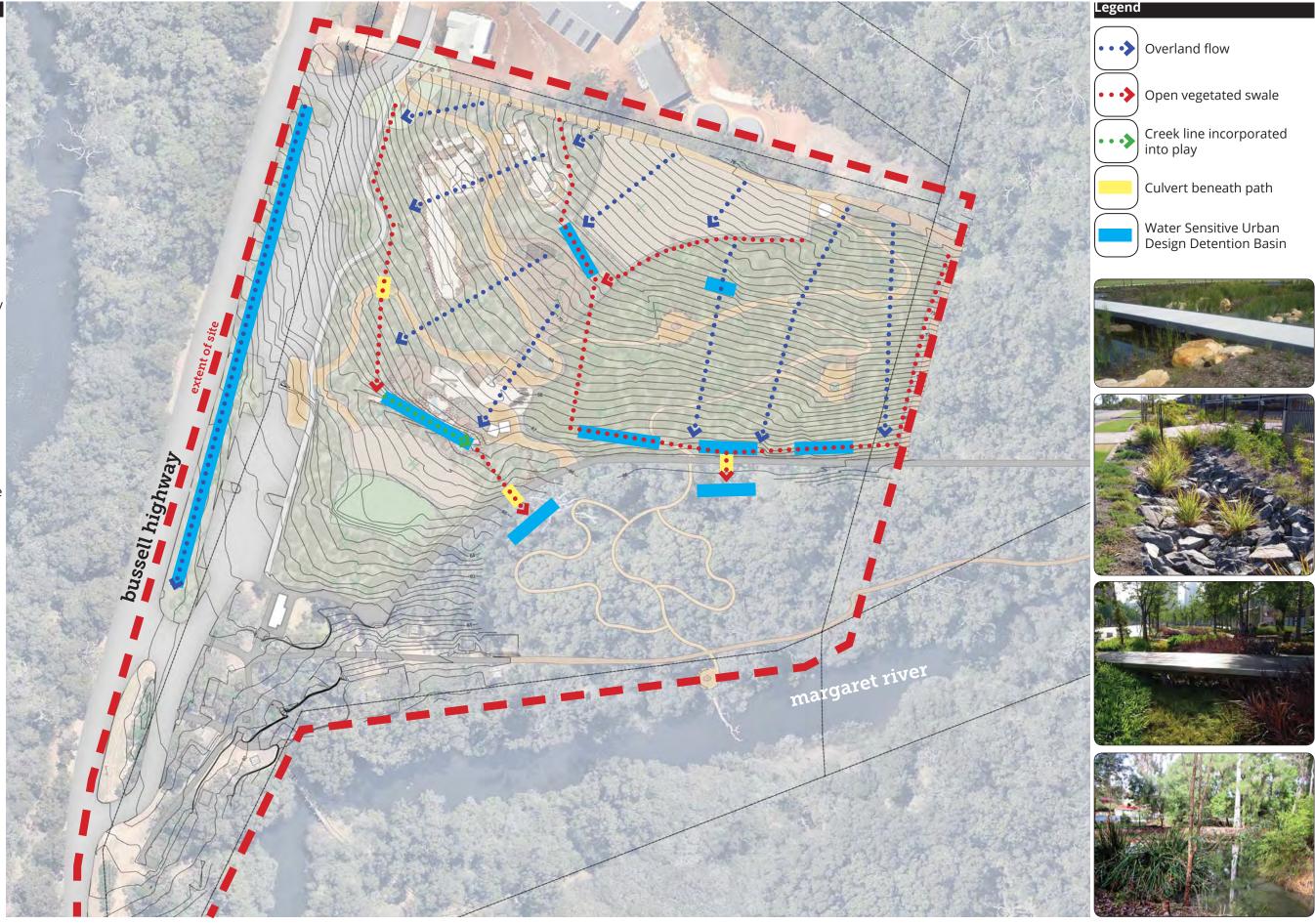
# 10.1 Drainage

Drainage for the site has been considered and consequently helped determine the locations of some of the play elements proposed. The Margaret River and its foreshore has been identified as an area of high conservation value and needs to be adequately protected from both erosion and water quality impacts of storm water.

All elements have been located in areas of shallower grades to minimise the potential for erosion in high rainfall events. This design principle has contributed to most infrastructure being located along the northern and western boundary of the site providing a greater buffer to the sensitive foreshore areas. Each play zone and feature area has been surrounded and separated from other zones by areas of vegetation that is to be retained and protected, allowing natural infiltration of rainfall and overland flows.

Hard stand areas will require assessment at detailed design stage to ensure storm water is mitigated appropriately either through soakwells or bio-retention areas. The introduction of natural rock boulders and riffles adjacent to the pump track and existing pathways will assist in slowing the flow of water.

Within Feature Area 1, nearest to the existing carpark, an existing excavated swale is proposed to be formalised with rock boulders and natural landscaping to create a feature play area. Water is an important element within the playground associated with the Margaret River and formalisation of the detention basin as a play feature will encourage and allow users to acknowledge impacts of rainfall, stormwater and natural water ways. Water level management will be important to ensure it does not exceed a depth of 300mm for safety purposes.



# 11.0 MATERIAL PALETTE

# 11.1 Hardscape

The hardscape materials will cover all hard surfaces, structures and play elements. Preference is for natural and raw materials to suit the nature and forest themes with any materials available from site works such as boulders and timbers logs to be re-used and upcycled where possible.

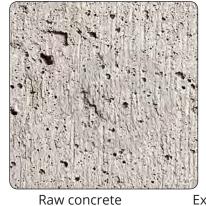
Main pathways should be made of concrete, gravel and limestone to ensure smooth even finishes can be achieved at required grades. Use of timber or metal edge restraints may be required to gravel paths however less formal edging is preferred for secondary and tertiary pathways to bleed into the natural surrounds.

Structures and play equipment should also be constructed of natural materials where possible. Custom elements are also preferred over 'off the shelf' items to ensure themes and Sense of Place are truly considered although some more standardised items may be included to ensure variety of play, compliance with relevant standards and also construction and maintenance cost minimisation.

Mulch is proposed to be utilised for the main softfall surfacing to match the natural surrounds however sand play areas shall be incorporated as important play elements . Rubber softfall can be used to assist with access to play elements and add colour and vibrancy to highlight areas.

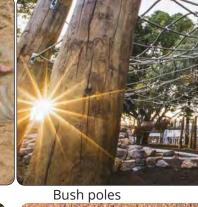
# Weathered timber













Compacted crushed gravel





Ropes







# 11.2 Softscape

The softscape is proposed to focus around local endemic plant species and retaining and enhancing existing vegetation areas on site. This is important to reinforce the Sense of Place being the local Margaret River forest environment and enhance opportunities for education and experience of the natural surrounds.

Weed eradication and removal of exotic species through the site will form an important first step of any management and construction works. This will allow any revegetation and rehabilitation planting works to establish and minimising on-going maintenance through prevention of further weed growth into the future. Any tree removal that may be required should be mulched and spread on site or logs and branches retained for use as play elements or local fauna habitat.

Plant selection and placement is important to ensure supervision and passive surveillance is easily achieved around the main play zones and feature areas, however select areas of screen planting also allow separation of play areas adding to the sense of adventure and intrigue about what is around the corner.

Local native flowering species should be utilised where possible to introduce natural colour and vibrancy into the play spaces that will vary through the seasons. They also add to the sensory engagement of spaces embracing sight, taste, smell and touch.





















Orthrosanthus spp









Lobelia alata







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Thusanotus spp Vertocordia plumosa



Hibbertia cuneiformis Hibbertia grossulariifolia Hypocalymma angustifolium Juncus pallidus