

**PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION**  
**SWANBOURNE PARKLAND  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION  
SUMMARY REPORT**  
**JANUARY 2026**



**SHAPE URBAN**





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Shape Urban acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we have worked for this project. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to the land and waters, which continue to be important to the Whadjuk Noongar people today.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to the land which they have cared for.

This document has been prepared with the support of many people from the community. We wish to acknowledge the community for your contribution.

## PROJECT PARTNERS



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## SHAPE URBAN

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) and the State Government of Western Australia have partnered to transform a parcel of Crown land adjacent to the Sandcastles Children's Hospice site in Swanbourne to be revitalised as a parkland for all members of the community.

Public consultation for the parkland design offers an opportunity to elevate voices that will benefit from the project and to engage community members with the development of this space.

The purpose of the engagement was to provide an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to share their ideas for the parkland design.

This included identifying the amenities and facilities they feel would be suitable for the space, as well as gaining an understanding of what is important to them about this site.

Feedback was sought between 3 and 30 November 2025 through the following channels:

- + Direct invitation to a variety of known stakeholders
- + Online community survey
- + Focus groups session
- + Community drop-in session.

Across these engagement activities, participants were asked to communicate their preferences for potential design elements of three key spaces of the parkland:

- + A **nature play** space designed for young people to play and interact with the environment

- + **Gathering and connection** spaces that allow people to move through the park and stay and enjoy the space
- + **Natural spaces** that respond to the coastal and bush environment of the reserve, enhancing the space for local fauna and flora to thrive.

Participants also considered connections with surrounding areas, identifying those they feel are important.

The feedback received reflects a strong overall desire for a design that prioritises:

- + nature and natural elements
- + trees and endemic species
- + local fauna habitats and nesting preservation
- + unrestricted public access through the site; maintaining the existing walking trail.

Other aspects that were suggested include accessible paths and elements to provide respite for walkers and visitors to the site, including shade, water fountains and seating. Ensuring dog access is maintained through the site was also a concern for several community members.

There is a strong preference away from built structures and man-made elements, with any introduced design features to be natural and not an urban style (such as seating).

Mixed sentiments were expressed for the option of integrated art elements. This was preferred in the focus groups session but unpopular in the broader community online survey and drop-in session, which comprises the majority of feedback.





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Wanderer

### Swanbourne Parkland.

#### A Phase of Healing: Transforming Neglected Land into Living Nature

For over twenty years, the story of the land has been told. One that is a story of neglect, of a place that has been forgotten, of a place that has been left to decay. But now, a new chapter is being written. A story of healing, of a place that is being brought back to life. A story of a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.

But this is not a story of a place that is being brought back to life. It is a story of a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve. A story of a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.

#### A Vision for the Future

The vision of the future is a vision of a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve. A vision of a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.

#### A Call to Action

The call to action is a call to action for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve. A call to action for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.

#### A Gift to the Community

The gift to the community is a gift to the community for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve. A gift to the community for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.

#### What We're Creating Together

What we're creating together is what we're creating together for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve. What we're creating together for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.

#### The End Result

The end result is the end result for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve. The end result for a place that is being transformed into a living nature reserve.





1

# INTRODUCTION

SWANBOURNE PARKLAND



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

The Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) and the State Government of Western Australia have partnered to transform a parcel of Crown land adjacent to the Sandcastles Children's Hospice site in Swanbourne.

The area will be revitalised as a parkland for all members of the community. Earlier concept plans were developed by the project landscape architects, with the final design being refined through consultation with the community, which is the subject of this report.

The parkland project provides an opportunity to respond to community expectation about the parkland site's retention as a community asset that will benefit the whole community.

## 1.2 Engagement Purpose

The purpose of engagement is to:

- + Seek community and stakeholder input to finalise the parkland design
- + Ensure community values and aspirations are reflected in the final design
- + Build community involvement in the project.

## 1.3 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to document the engagement undertaken throughout the project.

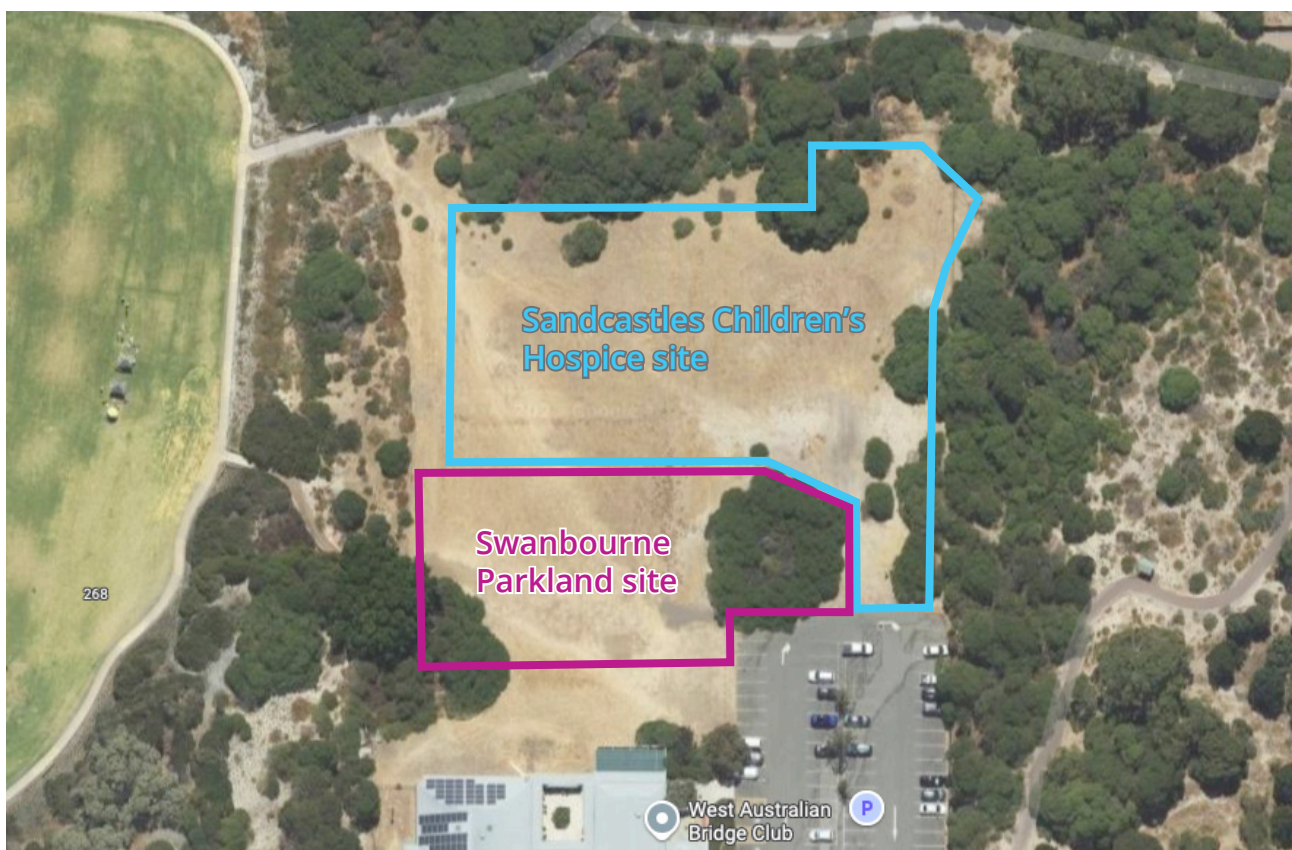


Figure 1 Sandcastles Children's Hospice and Swanbourne Parkland sites



# 2 ENGAGEMENT METHODS





## 2 ENGAGEMENT METHODS

### 2.1 Engagement Approach

The engagement approach for this project provided an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to share their ideas for the parkland space.

Feedback focused on identifying the amenities and facilities preferred for the parkland space, as well as gaining an understanding of what is important to the community about the site.

Engagement was open between 3 and 30 November 2025. Feedback was sought both online and in-person through the following channels:

- + Direct invitation to a variety of known stakeholders
- + Online community survey
- + Focus groups sessions
- + Community drop-in session.

A detailed description of each engagement and summary of the feedback gathered is outlined in Section 3.





# 3 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES



# 3 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The purpose of the engagement was to provide an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to share their ideas for the parkland design.

This included identifying the amenities and facilities they feel would be suitable for the space, as well as gaining an understanding of what is important to them about this site.

Feedback was sought between 3 and 30 November 2025 through the following channels:

- + Direct invitation to a variety of known stakeholders
- + Online community survey
- + Focus groups session
- + Community drop-in session.

Community interest in the project is reflected in the engagement statistics; 46 responses were received for the online community survey and approximately 110 people participated in the community drop-in session.

## 3.1 Online Community Survey

The online community survey was hosted on the PCHF website and was open from 3 to 30 November 2025. 46 responses were received and are summarised in the following sections.

Respondents were asked to consider three key spaces of the parkland:

- + **Gathering and connection** spaces that allow people to move through the park and stay and enjoy the space
- + **Natural spaces** that respond to the coastal and bush environment of the reserve, enhancing the space for local fauna and flora to thrive
- + A **nature play** space designed for young people to play and interact with the environment.

For each space, respondents were asked to rank suggested design features in order of preference, and were given the opportunity to provide additional comments for 'gathering and connection' and 'natural spaces'.

Respondents were also asked to consider connections with surrounding areas and were given the opportunity to suggest any connections to and from the site that had not been mentioned and they feel are important.



### 3.1.1 Gathering and Connection

The ranking of suggested design features for 'gathering and connection' is illustrated in Figure 2. The highest ranked feature was *shaded lookout spaces with seating*, followed by *paths with shady tunnels made from natural vegetation*. The lowest ranked feature was *seating and tables*, followed by *shade structures*. There is some contradiction in this, discussed further in the reporting.

When asked if there was anything else they would suggest in a gathering and connection space, respondents' comments reflect a strong sentiment towards a design that prioritises nature. The most commented topic was to keep the site natural and preserve the bushland setting. Creating habitat for local fauna, planting endemic vegetation and ensuring Rainbow Bee-eaters can continue to nest in the sand were also popular suggestions.

Maintaining the existing Norn Bidi Bush to Beach trail through the site, ensuring access to the beach, was also highly noted.

Consistent with the preference for maintaining the natural setting of the site, several comments outlined a desire for no or minimal man-made elements. Seating, play equipment, art and structures in general were less preferred.

The comments for 'gathering and connection' are broadly consistent with the highest and lowest ranked design features. Whilst the two options that include seating were ranked the highest and the lowest, a preference for shade in the two highest ranked options and the inclusion of built elements in the two lowest ranked options aligns with an overall expressed desire for natural elements with notable divergence on provision of structures.

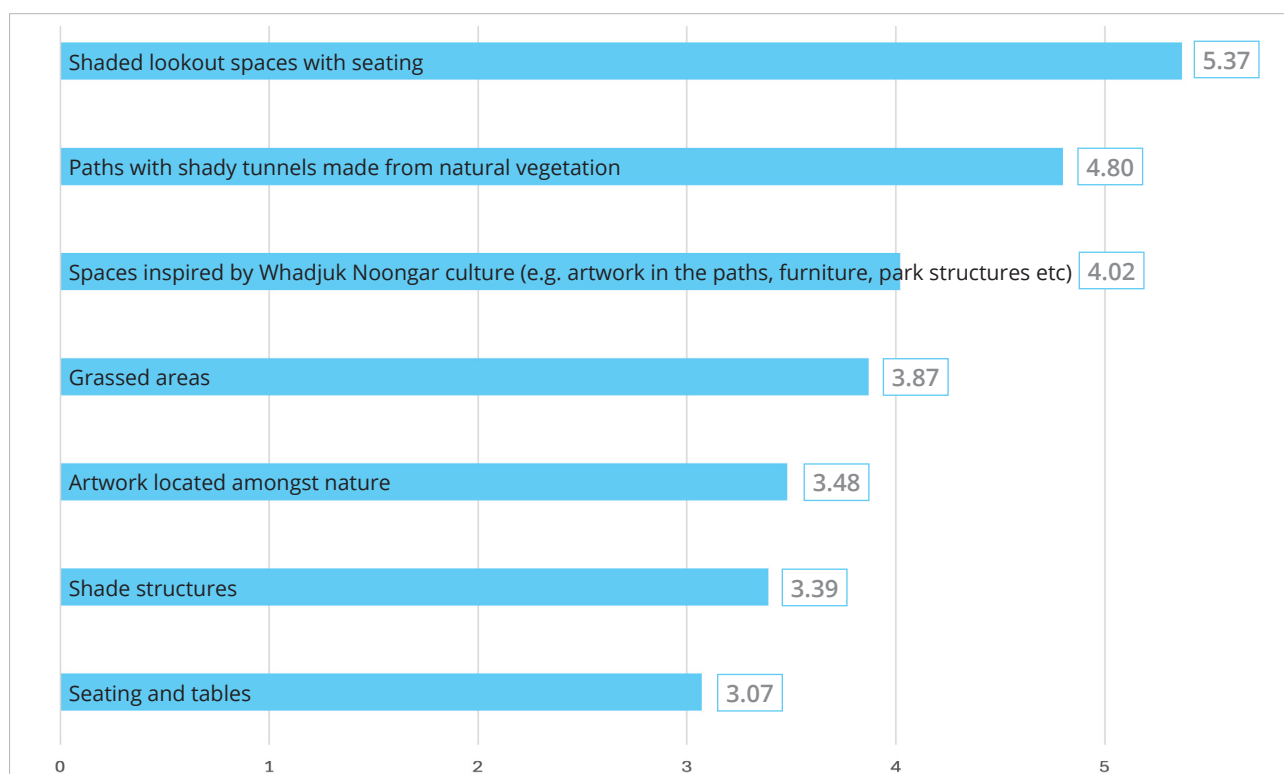


Figure 2 Ranked responses: What types of features would you like to see in gathering and connection spaces?





### 3.1.2 Natural Spaces

The ranking of suggested design features for 'natural spaces' is illustrated in Figure 3. Several of the features were closely ranked highly. In order they were *retained trees and new tree plantings*, *endemic plant species*, *using existing landscape elements* and *habitat elements*. The lowest ranked feature was *art that allows people to connect with nature*, followed by *sandy and informal paths*.

When asked if there was anything else they would suggest in the natural spaces, the most prevalently expressed sentiment was to keep the parkland natural and maintain the bushland walking trail through the site, reflecting a desire for a 'less is more' approach.

Several comments suggested creating habitat for local fauna and preserving nesting areas for Rainbow Bee-eaters. Retaining and planting trees and endemic vegetation were also popular topics.

The preferencing of natural over man-made elements in the ranking of the design elements is consistent with the sentiments expressed in the comments for 'gathering and connection'.

Keeping the parkland site natural, planting trees and endemic vegetation, and providing local fauna habitats emerge as clear priorities. Whilst many respondents noted their desire for the walking trail through the site to be maintained, unnatural elements in general were not favoured.

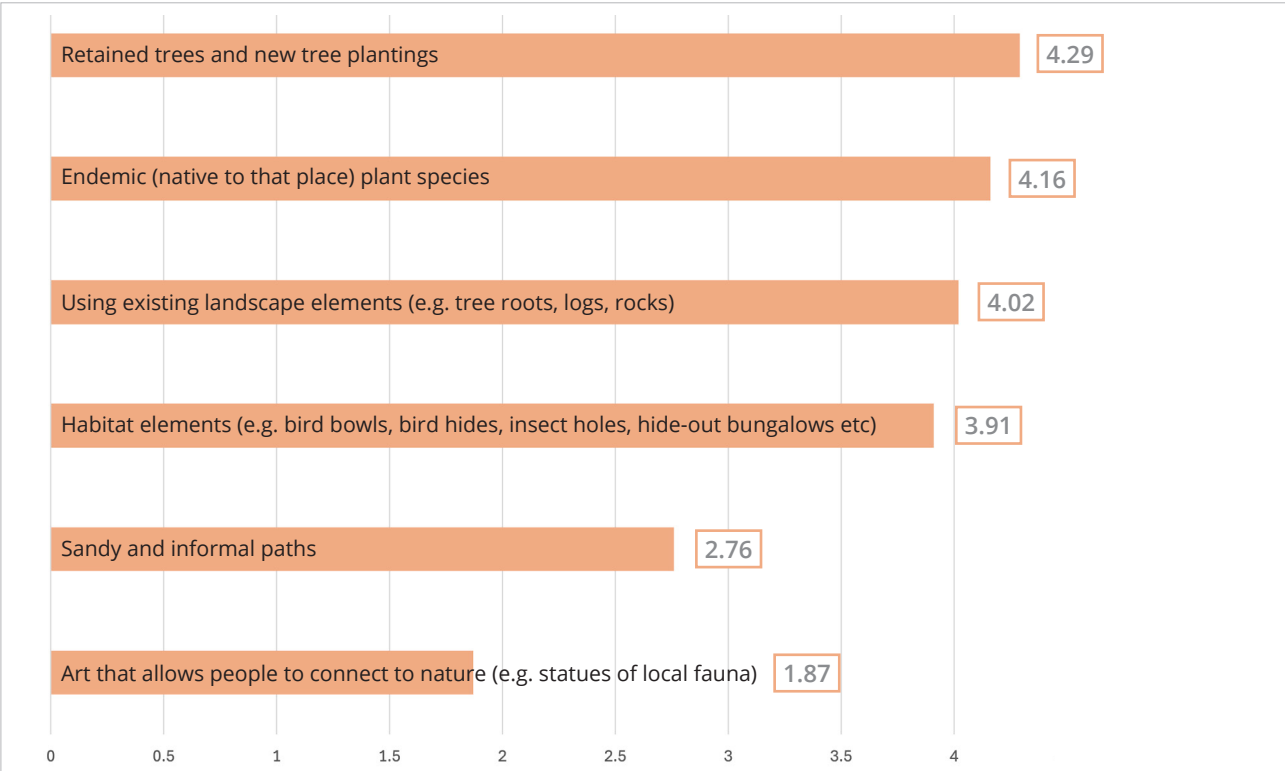


Figure 3 Ranked responses: What types of features would you like to see in the natural spaces?







### 3.1.3 Nature Play

The ranking of suggested design features for 'nature play' is illustrated in Figure 4. Two features were highly ranked: *area with natural play elements*, followed by *retained trees and new tree plantings*. Two features were ranked low: *seating and tables*, followed by *art that allows people to connect with nature*.

The high-ranking design features are the two options that feature natural elements, consistent with sentiments expressed in the questions for 'gathering and connection' and 'natural spaces'.

Similarly, man made elements were ranked lower for the 'nature play' design features, consistent with results for the other parkland spaces.

Ranked last for 'nature play', *seating and tables* was also the lowest ranked element for 'gathering and connection', and *art that allows people to connect with nature* was the lowest ranked element for 'natural spaces'. However, *shade structures* ranked higher in 'nature play' than it did for 'gathering and connection'.

No additional comments were sought for the 'nature play' space.



Figure 4 Ranked responses: What types of features would you like to see in the nature play spaces?





### 3.1.4 Connections

For the question on connections to and from the site, respondents were asked to suggest connections that are important to them.

Although already identified as under consideration in the design, maintaining the Norn Bidi Bush to Beach walking trail through the site was the most noted connection. The connection to Allen Park was also noted by several respondents.

Allowing dog access through the parkland site to the exercise area at Swanbourne Reserve was a priority for several respondents.

Leaving the site natural without too many paths and minimal or no structures was also an emergent desire, consistent with sentiments expressed for the three parkland design spaces of 'gathering and connection', 'natural spaces' and 'nature play'.





## 3.2 Focus Groups

### 3.2.1 Friends of Allen Park and Melon Hill Bushland Group

#### MEETING ONE

The project team met with representatives from Friends of Allen Park (FOAP), Melon Hill Bushland Group (MHBG) and the Allen family on 3 November 2025. The purpose of the session was to update the groups on the project, gain insights and get feedback on potential design features for the parkland.

Two FOAP and four MHBG representatives, which included one member of the Allen Family, were present.

Through discussion, the session participants were asked questions about what they would or would not like to see in the parkland and considered connections through the site.

Design priorities that emerged from the discussion were:

- + Unrestricted public access through the site; maintain Norn Bidi trail
- + Pathway through the site should be accessible; suggestion of a boardwalk
- + Provide seating/rest station for walkers; suggestion of a drinking fountain with dog bowl
- + No or minimal built structures
- + Discrete lighting for safety
- + Opportunity for education about local flora and fauna
- + Endemic planting only; no introduced species
- + Keep the area natural; no grass
- + Enable nesting for Rainbow Bee-eater bird.

As an activity, the groups were presented with a series of posters displaying captioned images of potential design features for 'gathering and connection', 'natural spaces' and 'nature play' spaces.

Each design feature included an indicative traffic light assessment of the cost and benefit - from benefiting the wider community to benefiting just one or two user groups.

Participants were invited to select any of the pictured elements they would like to see in the design and could also comment on the images to provide further feedback.

The most preferred features for each category are outlined below.

#### + **Natural spaces:**

- Insect holes
- Connecting to nature through art
- Endemic plant species
- Endemic dune and bushland planting
- Tree hides
- Water-wise planting (with a comment that this should be endemic plants)

#### + **Gathering and connection:**

- Spaces inspired by Whadjuk Noongar culture
- Artwork and nature

#### + **Nature play:**

- Spaces to explore
- Sand play (although this was not supported by one group).

Comments focussed on the importance of endemic planting and considering risks of bushfire and snakes.





## MEETING TWO

The project team met for a second time with representatives from Friends of Allen Park (FOAP) and the Melon Hill Bushland Group (MHBG) on 15 December 2025. The purpose of the session was to update the groups on the engagement feedback gathered through the engagement period, to present preliminary design options for potential design features for the parkland and to seek feedback.

Four FOAP and three MHBG representatives were present, including four attendees who also attended the 3 November meeting (Meeting One).



Figure 5 Path adjacent to the parkland site





Figure 6 Selecting images and providing feedback at the community drop-in session



### 3.3 Community Drop-in Session

The community drop-in session was held on-site on Sunday 16 November 2025, from 9am to 12 noon. Approximately 110 people participated in the session.

Community members were provided the opportunity to learn about the project, make suggestions and give feedback on potential design elements.

Large format versions of the posters used in the focus groups session (captioned images of potential design features for 'gathering and connection', 'natural spaces' and 'nature play' spaces) were displayed and participants were invited to use sticky dots to identify the features they felt would be appropriate in the parkland (Figure 6). Additional comments on any aspect of the parkland design could be made on post-it notes.

The most selected features are outlined in the following pages. Notably, design elements on the 'natural spaces' posters were highly favoured over those on the 'nature play' and 'gathering and connection' posters, which generally featured more man-made elements.

The most selected images are listed in order below, all of which were on the 'natural spaces' posters (Figure 7):

- + Endemic plant species
- + Endemic dune and bushland planting
- + Understorey canopy
- + Water-wise planting
- + Tree hides
- + Hide-out bungalows
- + Utilise existing landscaping elements
- + Retain significant canopy and plant more trees
- + Sandy and informal paths
- + Retain and enhance vegetation
- + Insect holes.

The next-highest preferenced images were:

- + Retain significant canopy and plant more trees ('nature play')
- + Shady tunnels ('gathering and connection').

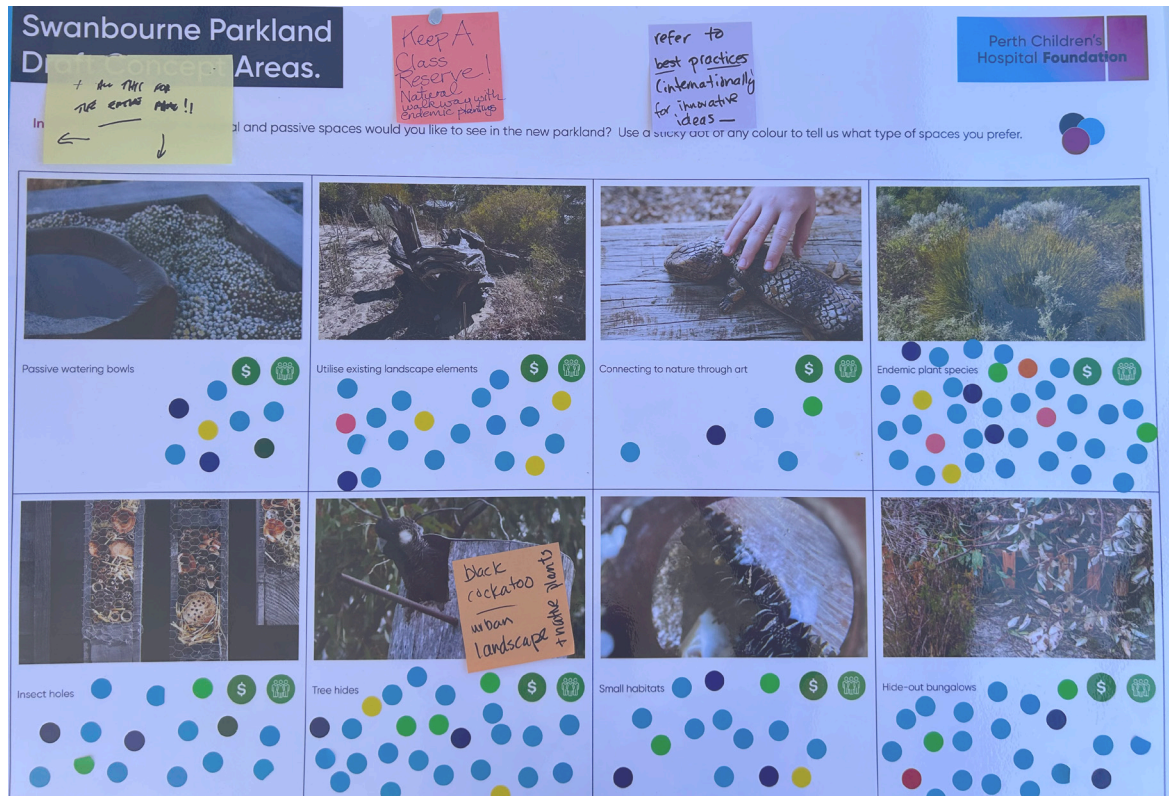
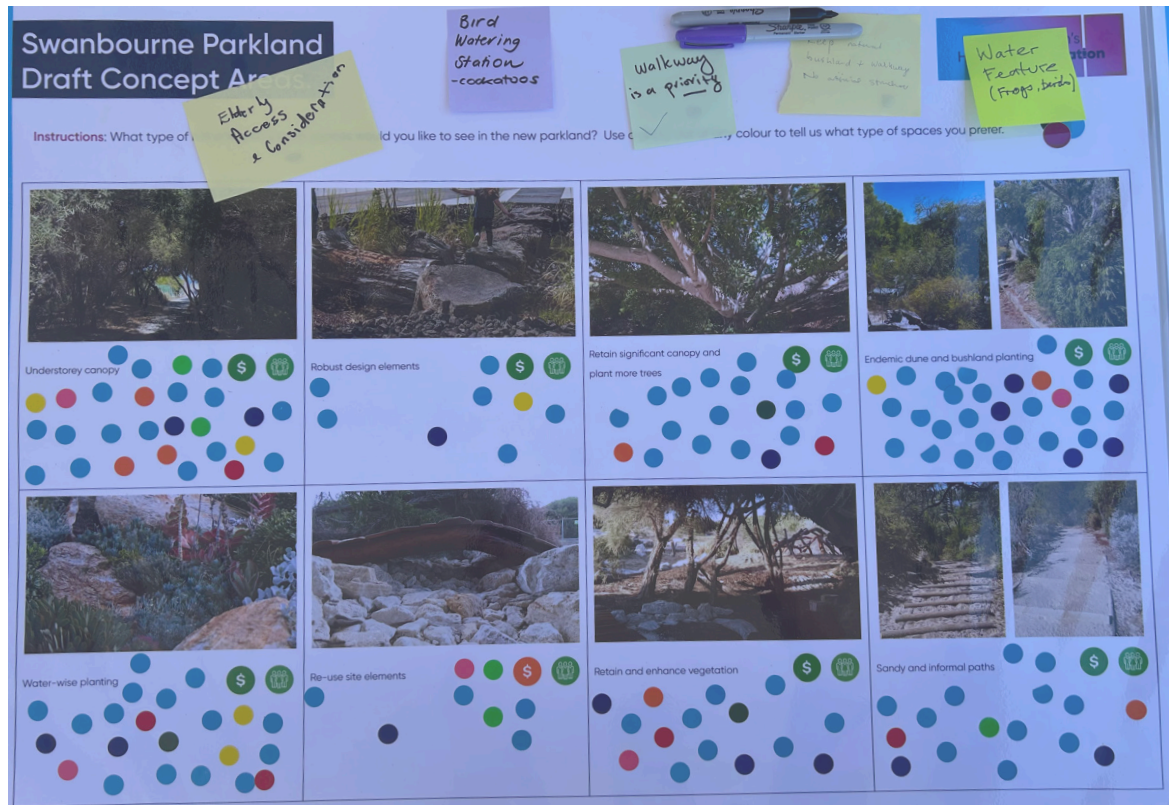


Figure 7 Images selection on the 'natural spaces' posters



Comments focussed on themes of:

- + No or minimal structures or man-made elements
- + Preference away from urban style of features (for example, type of seating)
- + Accessible pathways; suggestion of a boardwalk
- + Inclusion of a place to rest (for example, for trail walkers or elderly visitors to the site).

Several images received “no” comments, which coincided with limited selection. The “no” comments featured on the ‘gathering and connection’ and ‘nature play’ posters only and were generally associated with images that feature built structures or ground treatments such as lawn or concrete.

Participants were also invited to provide feedback on connections through, to and from the site by selecting connections that are most important to them and providing any further comments.

Participants used sticky dots to select the following connections:

- + Bush to Beach (Norn Bidi) Trail - preferred 23 times
- + Path to Melon Hill - preferred 18 times
- + Connection to Sandcastles Children’s Hospice - preferred six times
- + Connection to WA Bridge Club - preferred once.

Comments related to integrating and rehabilitating the construction and lay down areas, keeping the area as natural as possible and providing accessible pathways and dog walking pathways.

A number of participants noted the Rainbow Bee-eater nesting areas within the site, with the species known to nest in underground burrows.

It was noted whilst on site that the space performs an important neighbourhood walking-through function, with community members traversing the space from the local neighbourhood on their way to the beach. The Sunday morning of the drop-in session was particularly busy with surf life saving club activities, illustrating the importance of the through movement.

The full record of feedback provided (written comments and posters images selection), combined for the drop-in and focus groups sessions, is provided in Appendix A.



### 3.4 Engagement Summary

Feedback received via the online survey, focus groups and community drop-in session reflects a strong overall desire for a design that prioritises:

- + nature and natural elements
- + trees and endemic species
- + local fauna habitats and nesting preservation
- + unrestricted public access through the site; maintaining the existing walking trail.

Other aspects that were suggested include accessible paths and elements to provide respite for walkers and visitors to the site, including shade, water fountains and seating. Ensuring dog access is maintained through the site was also a concern for several community members.

There is a preference away from built structures and man-made elements, with any introduced design features to be natural and not an urban, overly developed style.

Mixed sentiments were expressed for the option of integrated art elements. This was preferred in the focus groups session but unpopular in the broader community online survey and drop-in session, which comprises the majority of feedback.

#### 3.4.1 Recommendations

The feedback provided across engagement channels was very consistent and provides a clear direction for the parkland landscape design team.

It is recommended that the design focus on natural elements, replanting and provision of habitat. An accessible, disability-friendly pathway through the site is encouraged, and some shade/shelter and seating could be considered in a more natural style.

Signage for the Norn Bidi trail, which traverses the site from south-east to north, is also encouraged as part of the broader Whadjuk Trail Network. Several community members identified the trail as an important aspect of the existing space, with some improvement to the trail encouraged from its current sparse grassland. Passers by were plentiful, indicating a local demand for the east-west pathway through that should be maintained.

Some art and signage would be desirable at a low scale.

Some local groups indicated they would be supportive of becoming involved in planting activities, which is also recommended.





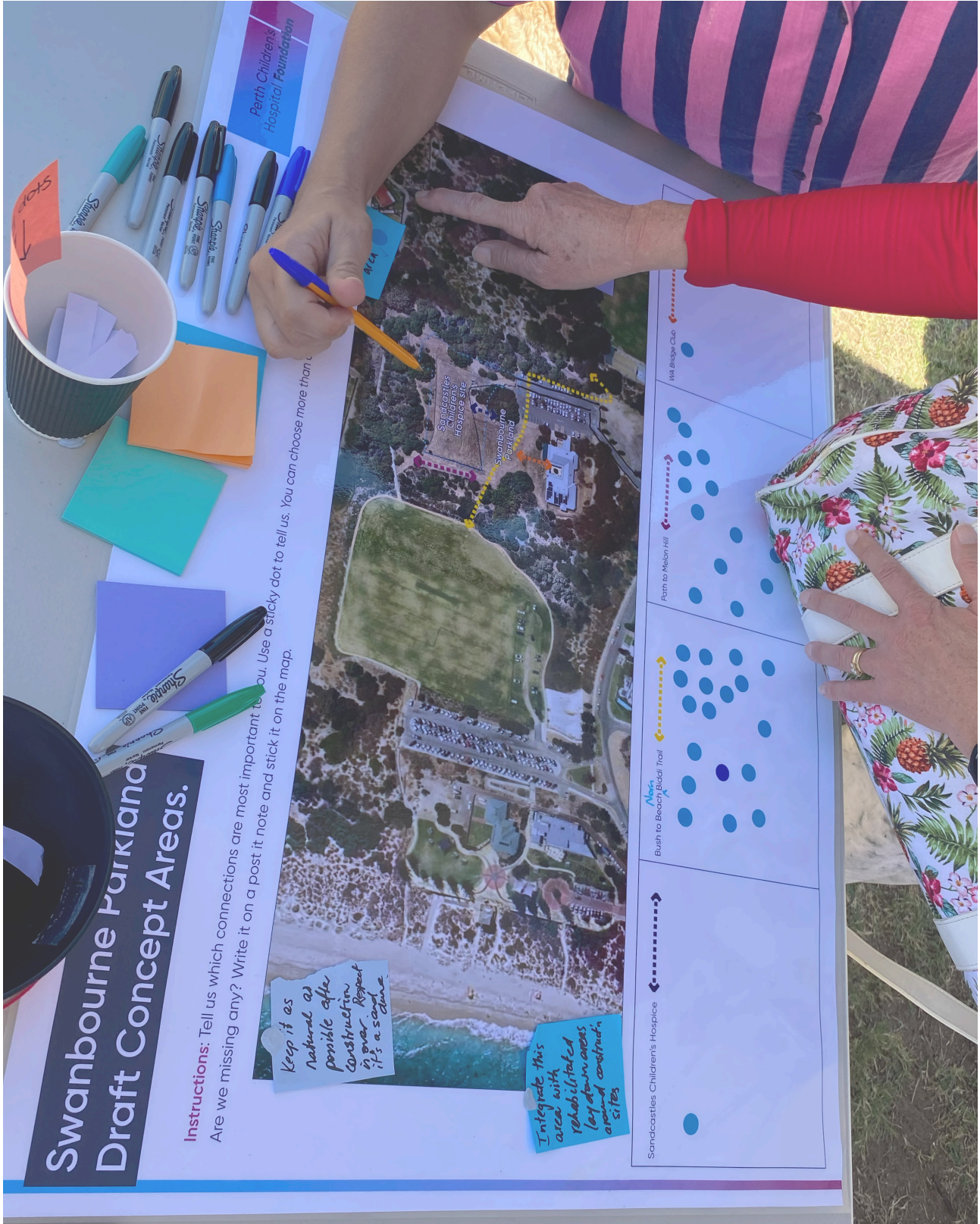


Figure 8 Selecting images and providing feedback at the community drop-in session





# APPENDICES







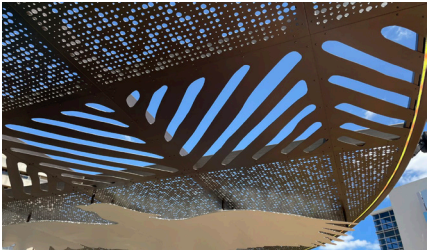





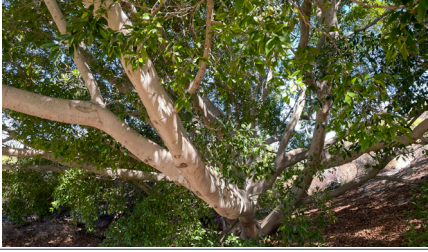





# APPENDIX A

## Appendix A: Community Drop-in and Focus Groups Sessions Feedback

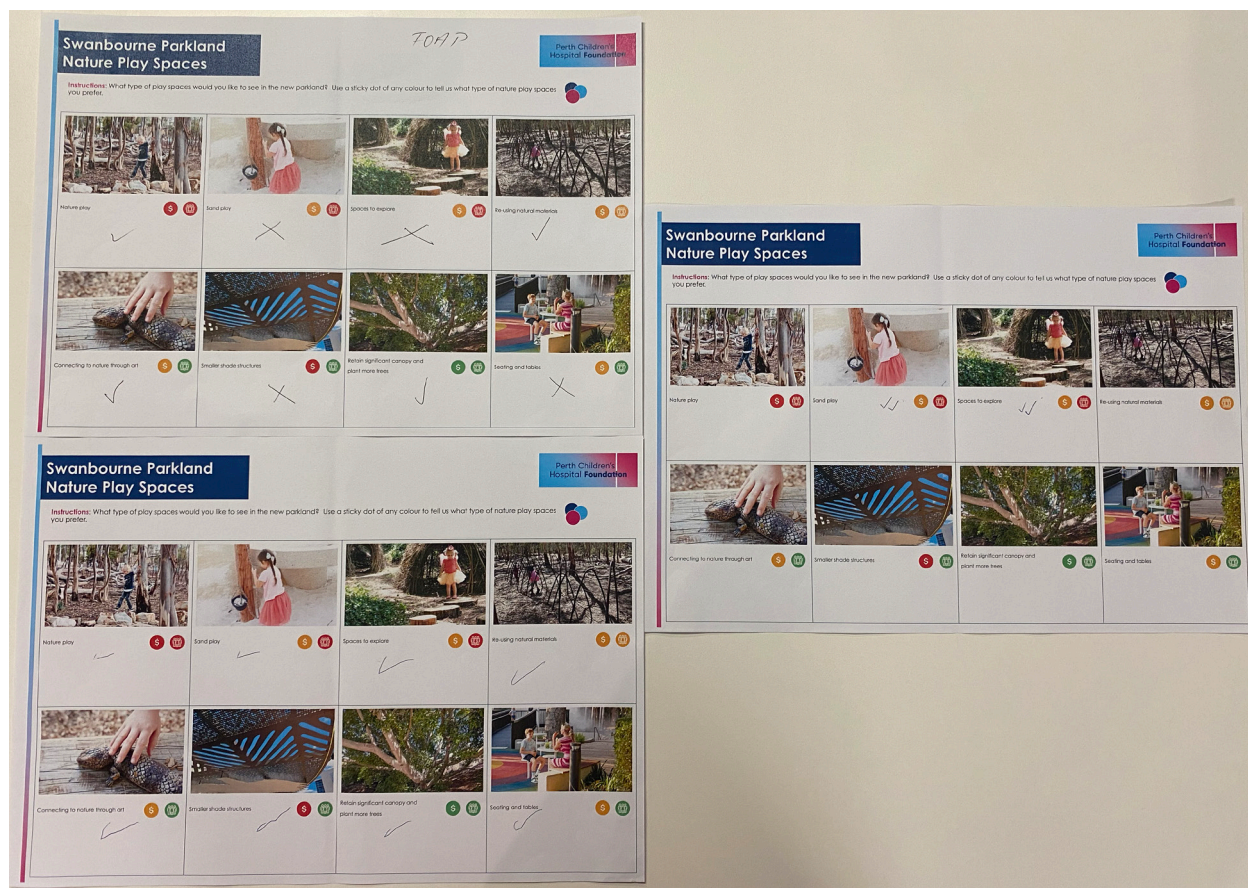
## WHAT TYPE OF PLAY SPACES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEW PARKLAND

### Swanbourne Parkland Nature Play Spaces

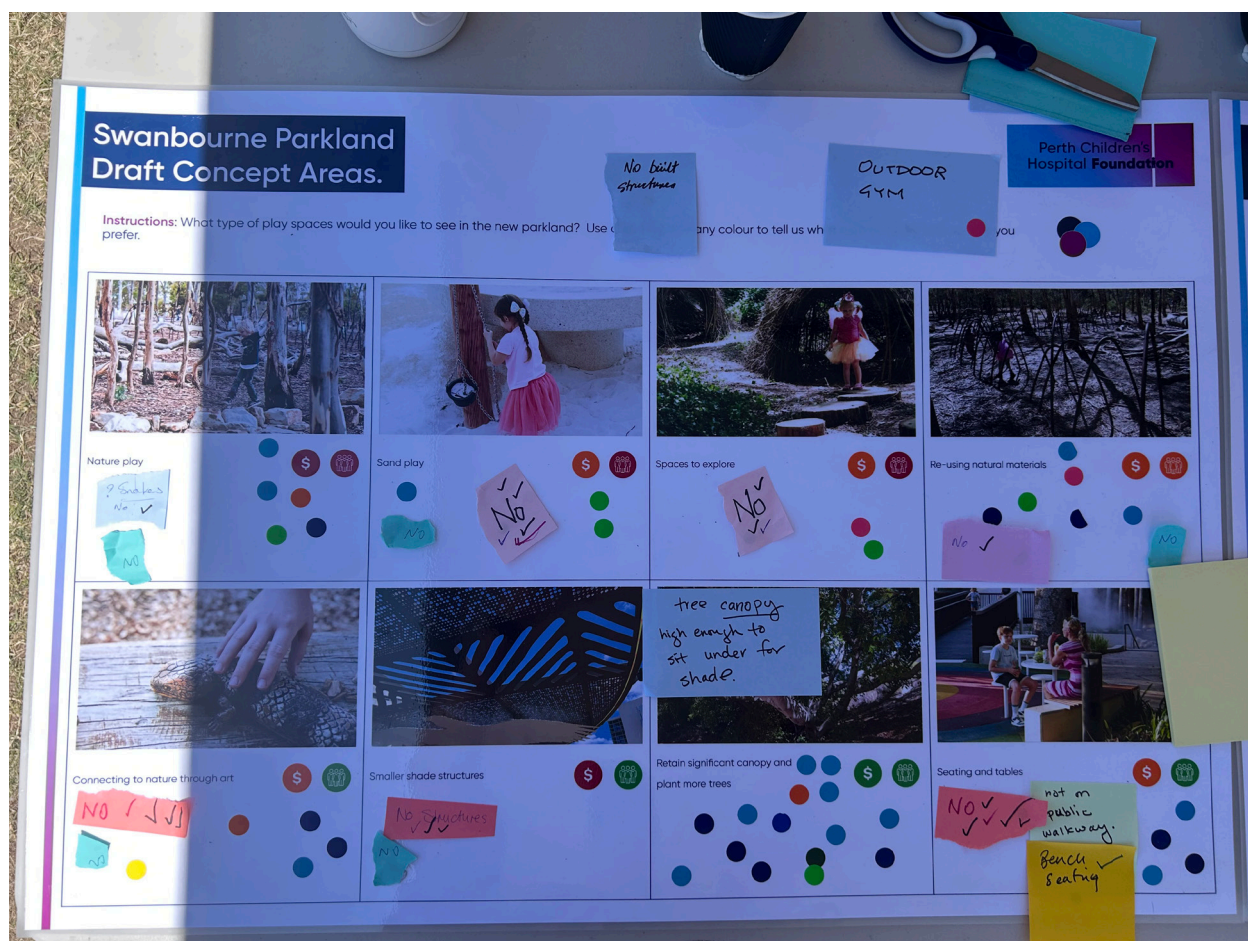
	<p>Nature play</p> <p>\$ </p>		<p>Sand play</p> <p>\$ </p>
<p>Snakes no ✓</p> <p>No</p>	7	<p>X</p> <p>No ✓✓✓✓✓</p> <p>No</p>	6
	<p>Connecting to nature through art</p> <p>\$ </p>		<p>Smaller shade structures</p> <p>\$ </p>
<p>No ✓✓✓✓✓</p> <p>No</p>	7	<p>X</p> <p>No structures ✓✓✓</p> <p>No</p>	1
	<p>Spaces to explore</p> <p>\$ </p>		<p>Re-using natural materials</p> <p>\$ </p>
<p>X</p> <p>No ✓✓✓</p>	6	<p>No ✓</p> <p>No</p>	8
	<p>Retain significant canopy and plant more trees</p> <p>\$ </p>		<p>Seating and tables</p> <p>\$ </p>
<p>Tree <u>canopy</u> high enough to sit under for shade</p>	17	<p>X</p> <p>not on public walkway</p> <p>Bench seating ✓</p> <p>No ✓✓✓✓✓</p>	5
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>No built structures</p> <p>Outdoor gym ✓</p>			



## 3 NOVEMBER 2025 - FOCUS GROUPS SESSION

















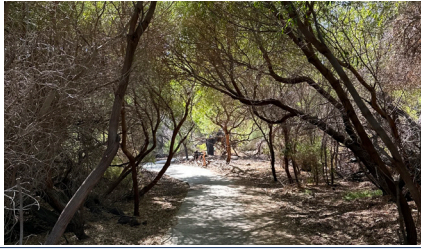

## 16 NOVEMBER 2025 - COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION





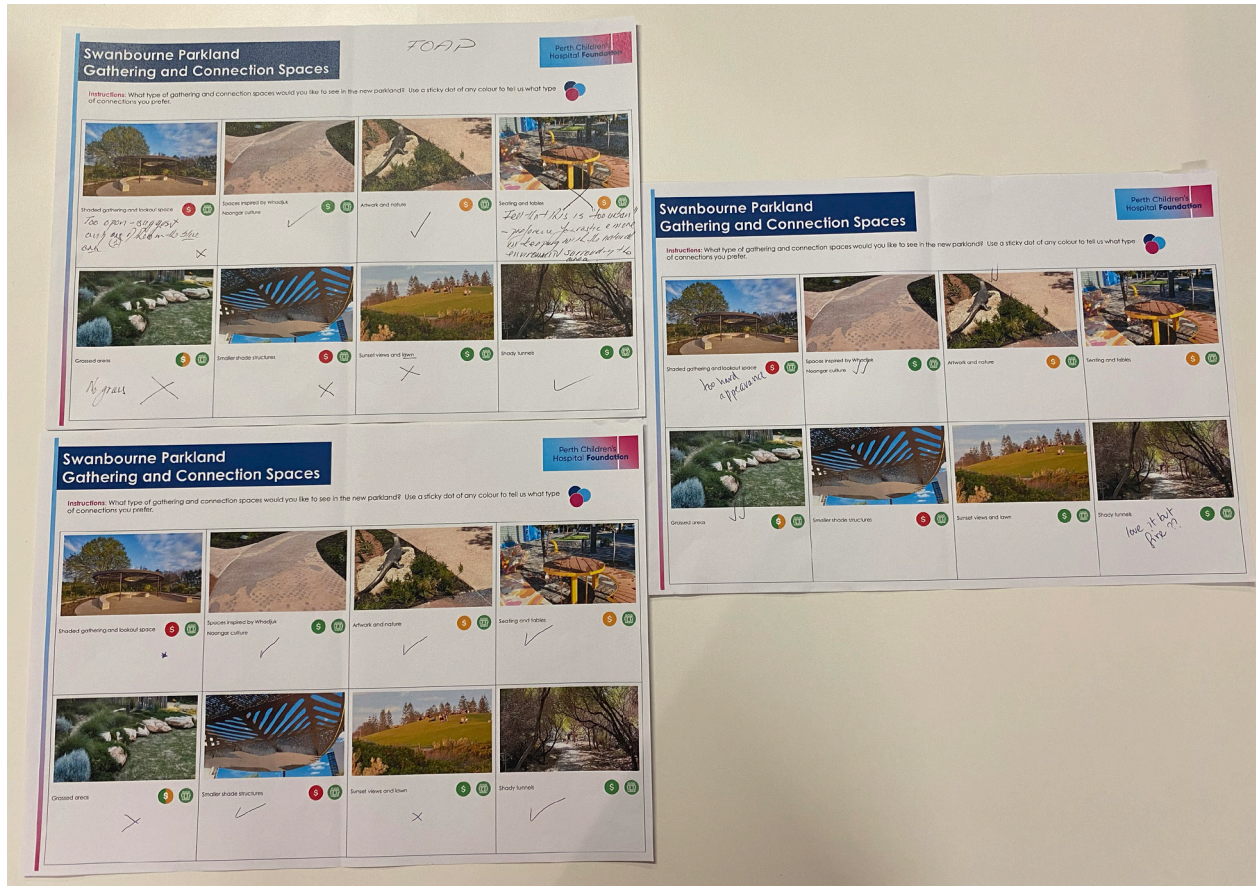
## WHAT TYPE OF GATHERING AND CONNECTION SPACES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEW PARKLAND

### Swanbourne Parkland Gathering and Connection Spaces

	Shaded gathering and lookout space \$ 		Spaces inspired by Whadjuk Noongar culture \$ 
too hard appearance Too open - suggest any one (1) of [indecipherable] in the <a href="#">blue area</a> X (x2) No hardscaping ✓✓ No built areas ✓✓✓✓ No ✓✓✓ No (x2)	3	No creating "Heat Island Effect" with concrete & pavement hot on feet?? elevated boardwalk from top carpark to lower area ✓✓	7
	Artwork and nature \$ 		Seating and tables \$ 
No ✓✓ No	8	X Feel that this is "too urban" - preference for rustic & more in keeping with the natural environment surrounding the area ASPACE.com.au = outdoor fitness equipment great for all to exercise together (Albany Emu Point) No ✓✓✓✓✓ No (x2)	4
	Grassed areas \$ 		Smaller shade structures \$ 
X (x2) No grass Please no grass - invades natural areas! No	3	X No ✓✓ No	3
	Sunset views and lawn \$ 		Shady tunnels \$ 
X (x2) ("lawn" underlined) No ✓ (x2) No (x3)	4	love it but fire??	14
Additional comments: Return of the dog agility course Firm walkway for prams & wheelchairs ✓			



### 3 NOVEMBER 2025 - FOCUS GROUPS SESSION



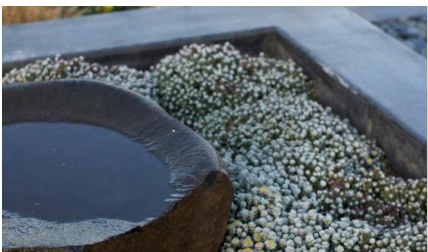





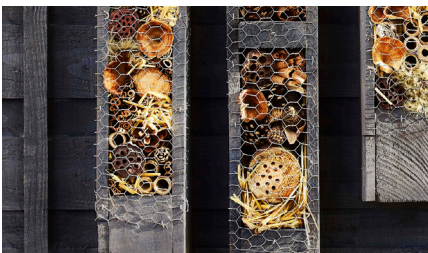

















### 16 NOVEMBER 2025 - COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION





## WHAT TYPE OF NATURAL AND PASSIVE SPACES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEW PARKLAND

### Swanbourne Parkland Natural Spaces

	Passive watering bowls  		Utilise existing landscape elements  
x	10	site - they're absent	21
	Insect holes  		Tree hides  
educational	19	perching viewpoint black cockatoo urban landscape + native plants	28
	Connecting to nature through art  		Small habitats  
	9		16
	Endemic plant species  		Hide-out bungalows  
	41	X (x2) good idea snakes?	20
Additional comments: Keep A Class Reserve! Natural walkway with endemic plantings refer to <a href="#">best practices</a> (internationally for innovative ideas - + all this for the entire park!! (arrows indicating this poster towards "Endemic dune and bushland planting" and adjacent Natural Spaces poster towards "Passive watering bowls")			



+





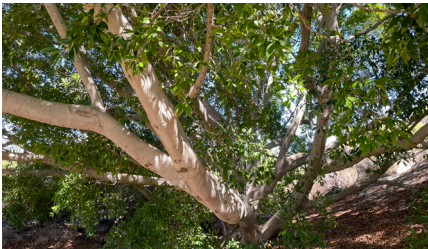



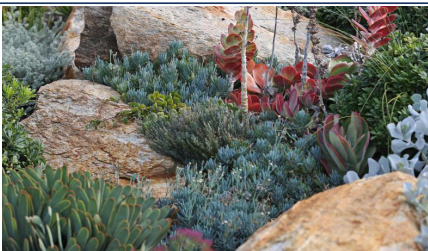







## 16 NOVEMBER 2025 - COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION

31



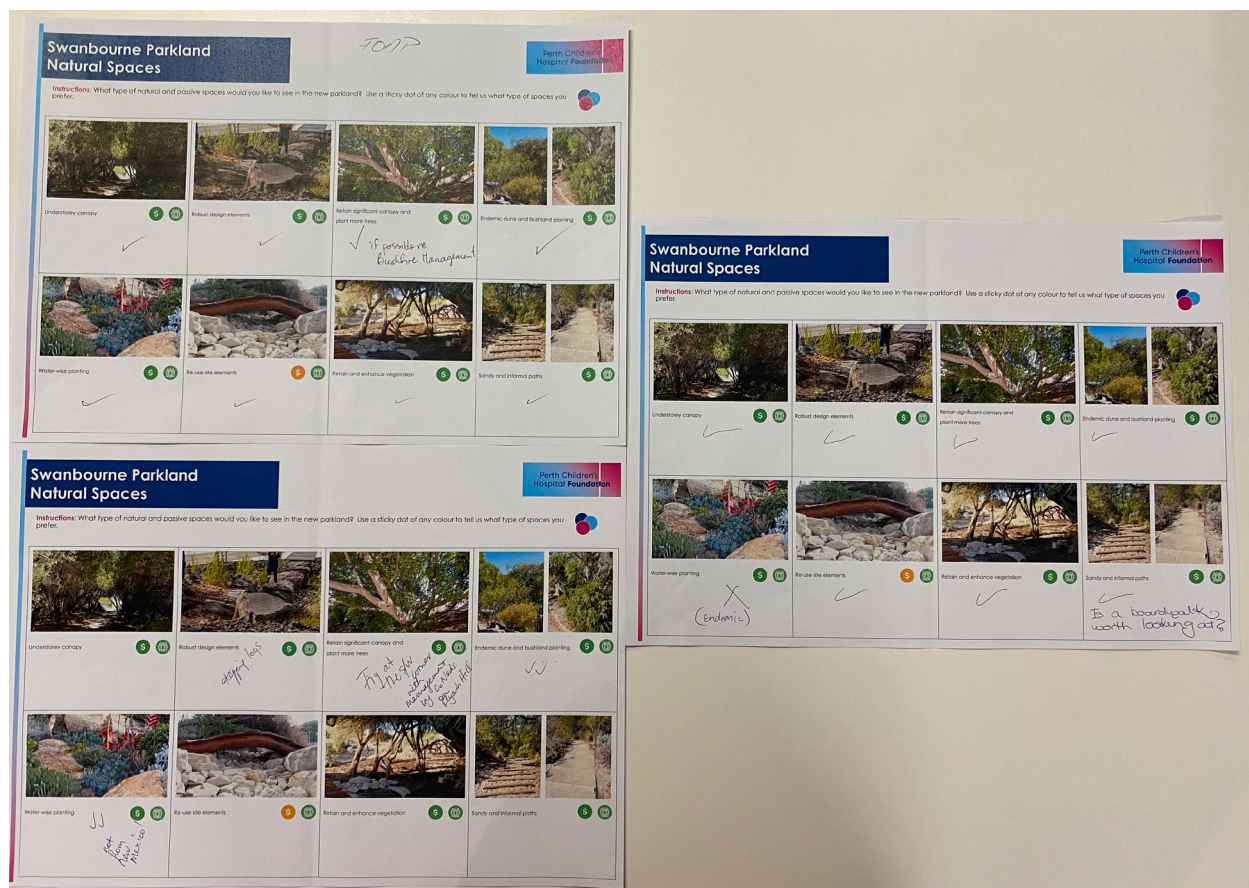
## WHAT TYPE OF NATURAL AND PASSIVE SPACES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEW PARKLAND

### Swanbourne Parkland Natural Spaces

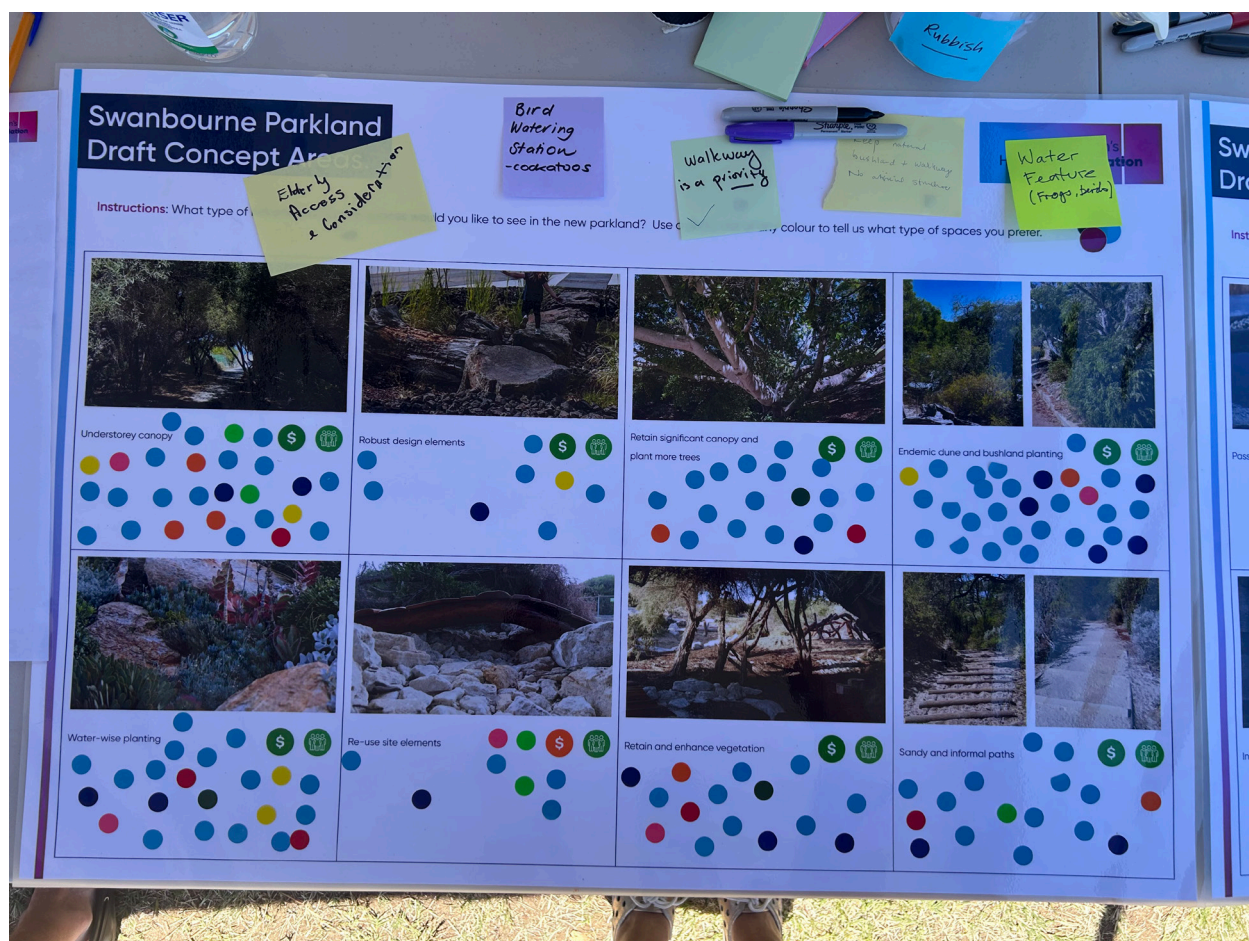
	Understorey canopy \$ 		Robust design elements \$ 
	29	stepping logs	11
	Retain significant canopy and plant more trees \$ 		Endemic dune and bushland planting \$ 
Fig at the S/W corner with management by CoNeds on Flyash Hill if possible re Bushfire Management	21		34
	Water-wise planting \$ 		Re-use site elements \$ 
X (Endemic) not from New Mexico!	25		10
	Retain and enhance vegetation \$ 		Sandy and informal paths \$ 
	17	Is a boardwalk worth looking at?	18
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Elderly access and consideration</p> <p>Bird watering station - cockatoos</p> <p>Walking is a <u>priority</u> ✓</p> <p>Keep natural bushland &amp; walkway No artificial structures</p> <p>Water feature (frogs, birds)</p>			



## 3 NOVEMBER 2025 - FOCUS GROUPS SESSION



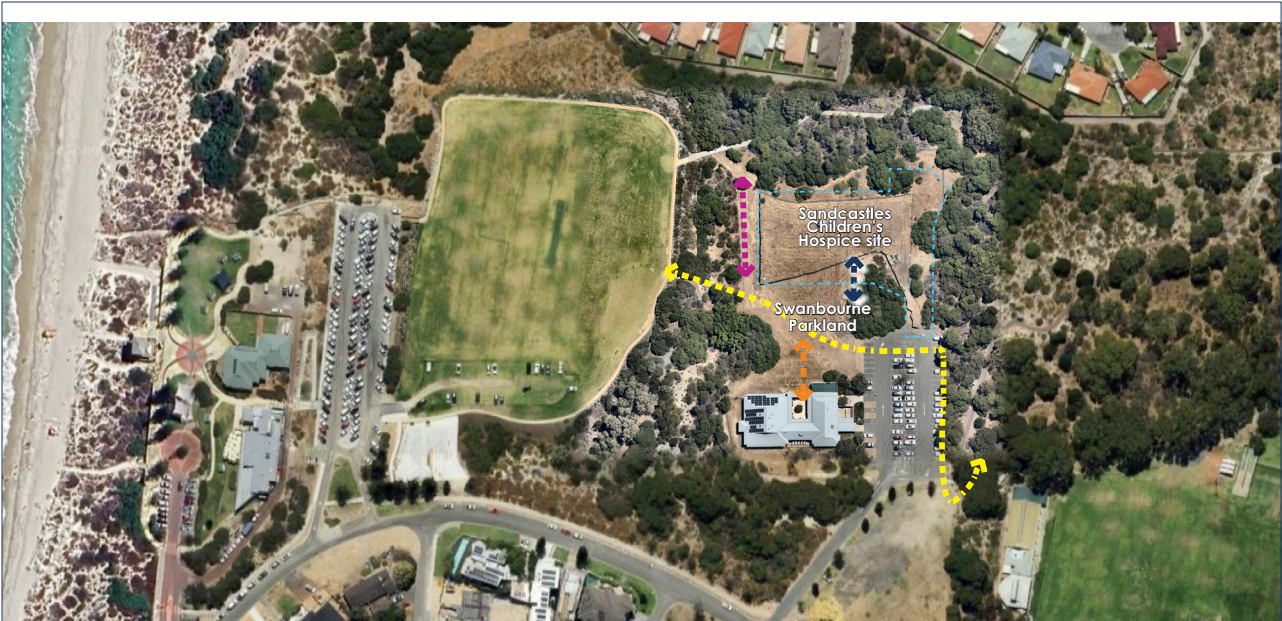
## 16 NOVEMBER 2025 - COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION









WHICH CONNECTIONS ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU / IDENTIFY ANY THAT ARE MISSING

Swanbourne Parkland Connections



Sandcastles Children's Hospice 	Bush to Beach Biddi Trail 
6	23
Path to Melon Hill 	WA Bridge Club 
18	1
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Keep it as natural as possible after construction is over. Respect it's a sand dune</p> <p>Integrate this area with rehabilitated lay down areas around construct'n sites</p> <p>Rehab the construction lay down area (temp fence area) ✓✓</p> <p>Dog walking pathways Off lead but separate to "play area"</p> <p>need wheel-chair accessible pathway between odern cres and hospice + parkland</p>	



# 16 NOVEMBER 2025 - COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION

## Swanbourne Parkland Draft Concept Areas.

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

Instructions: Tell us which connections are most important to you. Use a sticky dot to tell us. You can choose more than one. Are we missing any? Write it on a post it note and stick it on the map.

Keep it as natural as possible after construction is over. Replant it's a sand dune.

Rehab the construction lay down area.

Integrate this area with rehabilitated lay down areas around construction sites.

Dog walking pathways Off lead but separate to "play area".

NEED WHEEL-CHAIR ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY BETWEEN HOSPICE & PARKLAND.

Sandcastles Children's Hospice	Bush to Beach Biddi Trail	Path to Melon Hill	WA Bridge Club



# SHAPE URBAN

