



Wednesday 23 March 2016

Council approves All Abilities Play Space

On Tuesday 22 March, Nedlands Council approved its commitment to maintain the All Abilities Play Space over the next 50 years. It will be built on Beaton Park on the Nedlands foreshore, with construction scheduled to begin in late 2016.

A number of community members spoke in support of the project at a committee meeting on 8 March, expressing their appreciation for Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining a place that will bring the community together in play.

Rotary have already raised \$780,000 from WA businesses and Lotterywest have provided a grant of \$750,000. Rotary have agreed to raise the balance of the funds needed to build the multi-million dollar facility, while Nedlands Council will maintain and operate it once it is constructed.

After each stage of the project is completed, additional stages will be constructed depending on funds raised by Rotary. On completion of all stages, the facility is expected to cost \$4 million.

City of Nedlands Chief Executive Officer Greg Trevaskis said the project was a big part of the City's identity.

"The opportunity to embrace the already-existing diverse community in Nedlands and Western Australia as a whole, is a smart move," Mr Trevaskis said.

The All Abilities Play Space has been steadily gaining momentum over the past five years. The project showcases an inclusive and progressive Western Australia, providing play opportunities for all, regardless of age or ability.

West Perth Rotary Club Assistant Governor, Angus Buchanan, has been honoured to be part of the project and with a background in disability services, his passion shines brightly.

"I think the project represents that inclusion in our community is absolutely essential," he said.

"It's an exciting concept and a very genuine attempt to do something quite different, where everybody in the community feels welcome."

A key focus of the play space is to cater for everyone. It will include intergenerational equipment and equipment strong enough for children of all ages and abilities as well as adults.

Mr Buchanan said a great advantage of the project is the conversations that have come out of the planning process.

"When we talk about inclusion, the conversation is easy, but it's hard to practice" he said.

"It will definitely challenge a few people – having elderly people playing on the playground and children of all abilities playing together."

“But we have been exploring what is an important part of our community. This is a project for everybody of all ages, disability, ability and so on.”

The City of Nedlands has many small, local playgrounds but this project is modelled on inclusive play facilities at their best, and will be the first of its kind on this scale in WA, covering 10,000 square metres.

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For more information, visit <http://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/all-abilities-play-space> or contact Angus Buchanan on a.buchanan@curtin.edu.au.



Caption: Angus Buchanan proudly stands by the All Abilities Play Space project

About the All Abilities Play Space

The All Abilities Play Space will be an inclusive, inter-generational play space for use by all in the Perth metropolitan area. It will be a large scale, innovative, state-of-the-art play facility that is purpose designed to meet the play needs of all, regardless of their age or ability.

It will be built at Beaton Park on the Nedlands foreshore of the Swan River in Dalkeith.

Research shows the importance of play for everyone, throughout life’s stages. It’s important for physical, psychological and social health – play makes us healthy!

Initiated by Rotary, this project has brought together a unique community partnership including Rotary, Lotterywest, Inclusion WA, Australia’s Bridge, Wood & Grieve Engineers, and the City of Nedlands.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500

