



Riflebutts Playspace Engagement Report



Introduction

The play equipment at Riflebutts Reserve is scheduled for replacement. As Riflebutts is a well-loved (and well used) park with toilets, BBQ's, picnic tables etc. that allow visitation for more than an hour or so, rather than replace the play equipment like for like, the Shire of Augusta Margaret River (the Shire) decided to give Riflebutts a bit of an upgrade.

The Shire engaged Emerge Associates to create a concept plan with the design objectives being:

- Cost effective and long lasting
- Style, colour, and materials suited to the location
- Inclusive playspace (meaning it can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities) and
- Increased shade and seating.

The concept that Emerge Associated created includes a unique play structure (based on Riflebutts historic beach shacks), additional shade, seating, and pathway upgrades.

Before progressing the design any further we want to gain an understanding of how community members currently use Riflebutts and if the upgrade proposed will allow users to continue to enjoy this facility. The feedback survey participants provide will be used to determine what design changes the Shire will make before progressing the project through to construction.

Engagement Outcomes

Participation

Eighty people responded to the Riflebutts Inclusive Playspace survey that was open for comment between the 31 January and the 25 February 2022. Of these, eighteen (22.5%) participants identified as living in Gnarabup / Prevelly, fifty (62.5%) Margaret River and twelve (15%) identified as living in other locations.

Activity type

As shown in Table 1 the majority of participants (55%) partake in a range of activities when visiting Riflebutts, including playground use with only 12.5% of participants using the play facilities only when visiting.

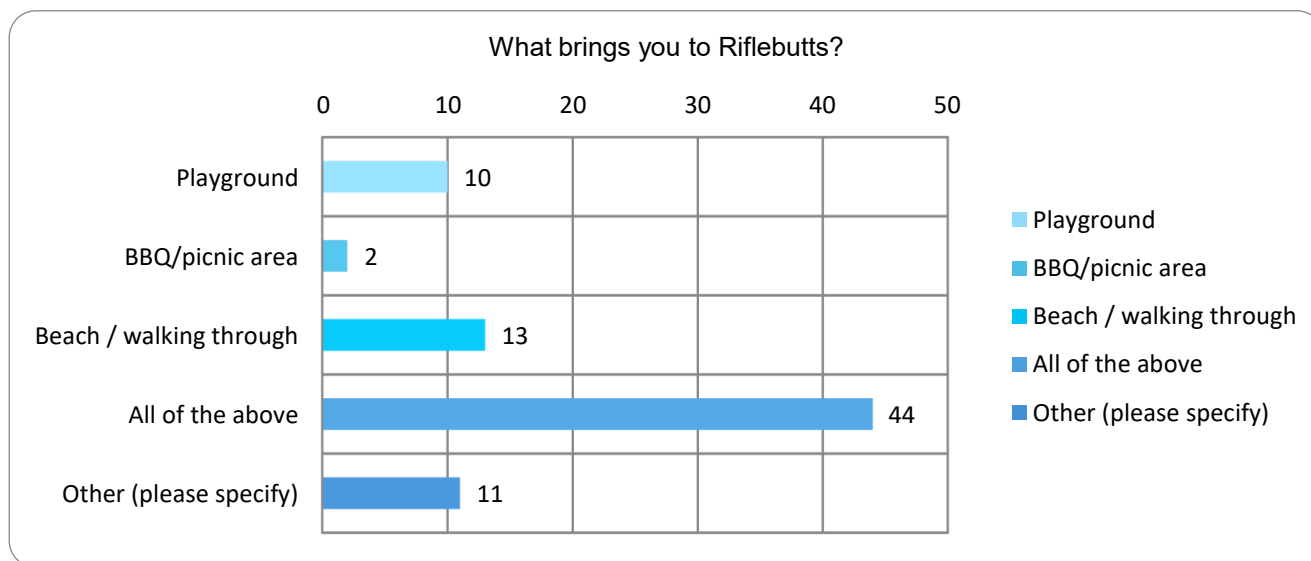


Table 1: Riflebutts activity type

Other activity uses described includes:

- Off lead dog exercise area
- Yoga
- Exercise
- Swim

Play experience

Survey participants who identified as using the playground shared the type of play experience / equipment that their children enjoy using. As shown below the key experience / equipment type identified includes climbing, swings and slides with other popular items being pump tracks and nature play.



Design acceptance

As shown in Table 2 the majority of participants (76%) indicated that the proposed changes would enhance their enjoyment of visiting Riflebutts.

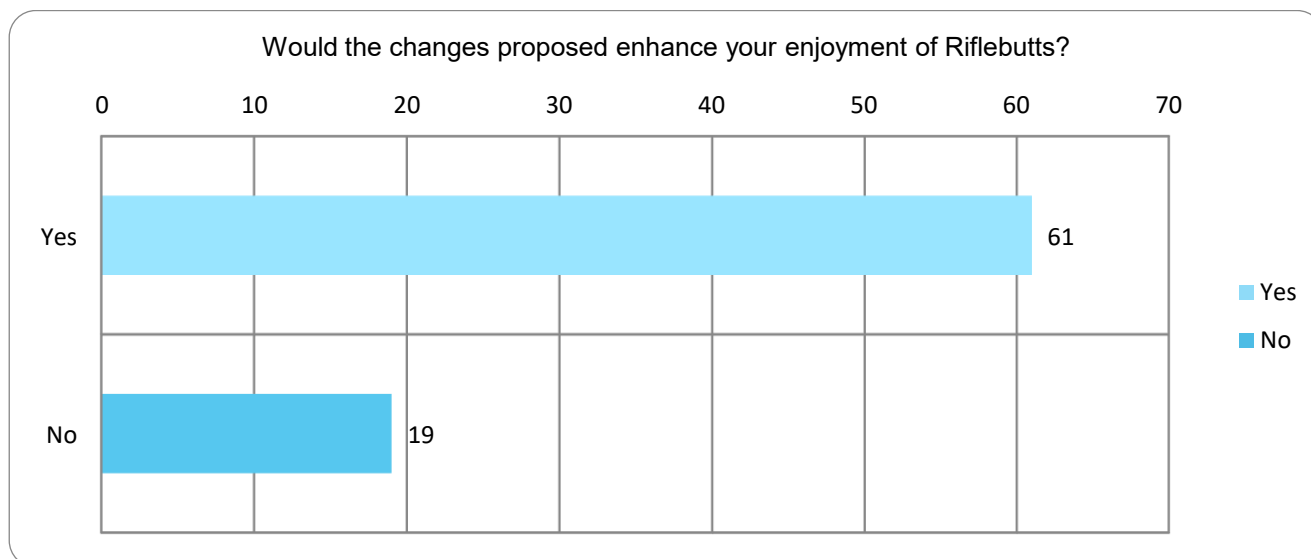


Table 2: Design acceptance

A synopsis of what you told us

Details in full are included in Appendix A

What you love about Riflebutts

The man and his dog and the ability for these statues to be involved in hide and seek games, climbed on, or enjoyed from afar is a standout for users of Riflebutts. Many of you love the wobbly ramp for its point of difference and ability to be used in many ways, the multiuse nature of the reserve and its proximity to the beach.

You also shared with us your appreciation for the natural feel of the space, the unique totem poles, the choice of landscaping, low key nature and ability for everything to be climbed on and enjoyed as part of the play experience. Many of you also love the dog friendliness of the Reserve and the ability to enjoy this location with the kids and your pooch.

What's currently not working

As expressed in the following survey participant quote your main concern with Riflebutts in its current iteration is the relationship between the dog exercise area and the play area with many loving the dual nature of dog exercise and play but wanting the issues associated with this addressed.

I have stopped walking through and/or taking my children there to play due to the large amount of dog poo left about the park, it seems to be everywhere and so much of it. It's disgusting and I can't even let the kids run on the grass or path to the playground due to all this poo everywhere that I don't want to have to clean off my kids can't even sit down and have a picnic on the grass near the playground.

You are also seeking additional shade, sand softfall (instead of bark) and play equipment that caters for a wider variety of age groups.

Whats important to you

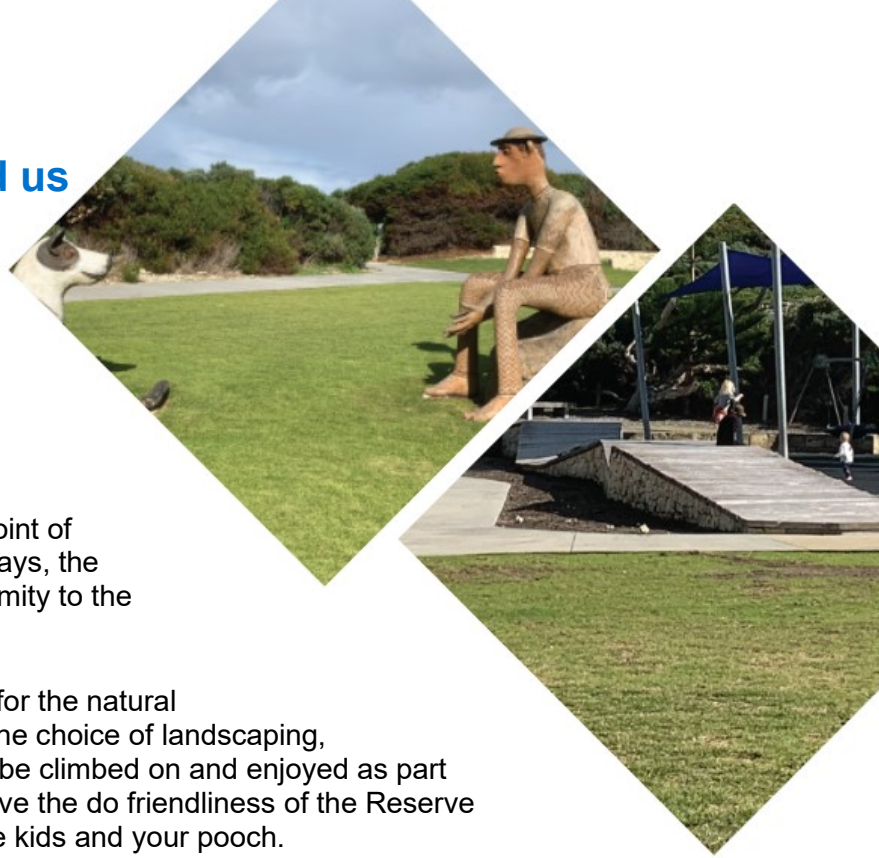
On a highly practical level you shared that shade over the playground and seating areas is of high importance to you. You also shared how you would like the low-key nature of Riflebutts to remain in the new iteration of the playspace and (if possible) for fixed shelter to be provided to extend the ability to play over the winter months.

Connectivity and ease of access between the car park, playspace and beach is also super important as is the ability to wheel, scoot or roll throughout the reserve and playspace.

You guys love the dog exercise area and want this to remain, although in a way that allows for some separation between kids and dogs. You are also looking for some or all of the playspace to be fenced to assist with keeping your eyes on multiple children going in different directions!

To support the low-key nature of Riflebutts you would like integration between landscaping and play that allows the play elements to blend into the environment and reflects the existing landscape style.

You would also like to see play elements for older children increased and the ability of this space to cater for community events and sundowners through the inclusion of a small stage area.



What you think of the proposed design

Many of you shared your excitement and support in giving this playspace a bit of a refresh with one survey participant stating.

The proposed plans are very exciting! We as a family love the subtle nature design, increase in shade and various play equipment/areas. This will bring a great deal of joy to the local community, along with those visiting. The plan is amazing, other ideas such water play, and a pump track would also be popular inclusions - can't do it all within budget though we understand! Overall, it's a fantastic proposal!

You also shared a number of design alterations, based on your experience as current users and ideas you picked up from other playspaces you love such as Yallingup beach playground and Busselton Foreshore playground (to name a few). The main design ideas you shared include:

Add

- Water fountain
- Beach shower
- Dog water station (away from play)
- Water play
- Fencing (dog exercise area, playspace or both)
- Small stage area
- Pooch parking along dog exercise area
- Fitness equipment – pull up bars and incline benches
- Additional play items in sand play area

Ensure

- Playspace caters to toddlers through to older children.
- Food truck visitation during the summer months

Remove

- Sand digger
- Pavement activities

Increase

- Number and type of swings
- Nature play
- Shade
- Bike paths (pump track)
- Landscaping
- Seating (close to dog exercise area and near playspace)

What happens next

The Shire project team will work with the landscape architect (carrying out the detailed design stage of this work) to determine where the provided feedback can be practically incorporated. From here the design will be updated and shared with the community and then we will seek to start physical work on constructing this from next financial year (July 2022).

Big thanks!

We wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks for taking the time to review this design and provide feedback. Your positive and practical approach and willingness to share all you know and love about this location and playspaces in general has been very much appreciated by the project team. So, thanks once again!

Appendix A - Verbatim feedback

Suggest an extra swing (circular or one with a back for small children) separate to the proposed two swings. A water play area would also be a great feature.
The addition of a Bicycle Pump Track would be fantastic for this area. Many shires are building these facilities and they are very popular amongst children and adults alike. They are great for skills progression on Mountain Bikes and BMX.
Please consider adding a filtered water fountain, it would help to reduce plastic waste and would make the area much more user friendly for event organisers.
A pump track around the oval would be fabulous for the bigger kiddies that have our grown the little kids playground. Love that this playground is getting an upgrade!! Thanks :)
I would love to see some fitness equipment included in the upgrade, even something simple like pull up bars and incline benches etc. and a water drinking station.
Shade is crucial for summer, play equipment made from environmentally friendly materials and nontoxic paints would be great
Equipment catering for toddlers as there isn't much in the shire that suits 1- 3yrs. eg. small tunnels, musical equipment, small slides, small balance poles and stepping blocks, baby swing. As dogs are commonly brought to the park it would be great to have the playground bbq and picnic tables or some of it fenced and dogs restricted from entering so that our children feel safe and its clean, of dog urination and poo.
The key issue for me is that the dog exercise area not be limited in any way by the enhancements. From time to time dog owners already get comments from some groups using the bbq area that our dogs should be kept away. PLEASE do not prejudice one of the very few "off the leash" open spaces where dogs can chase balls and run freely
I'd like to see a few drinking stations with dog bowls for those of us who have dogs. Also a few seats or picnic tables scattered around the dog exercise area with shade.
Please keep it dog friendly and include a dog watering station. The one at Rivermouth is useless, it doesn't fill up the attached bowl - take a look at City of Vincent in Perth, their designs for dog watering station and drinking water fountain are good and seem to last. Spend less on play equipment and include amenities like showers and feet rinsing taps, dog poo bags, another bin.
It would be nice to have a fence between the dog exercise area and the playground to stop dogs wondering around toddlers
A fenced in dog area near kids playground area (like whats at the service stations travelling to Perth). Nearly every family that comes brings a dog, would be nice to be able to have the dogs safely secured in a play area so they can play while kids play in there area. Definitely don't take away dogs being allowed otherwise nearly all the regular families cant come! Plenty More shade & tables! Shade over the play equipment (the black ground and slide etc get so so hot in summer!) Look at the new Scarborough playground- its such an awesome beach vibes/ whalebone/ Flintstones vibes. Also would be amazing to have some of the area with proper shelter so it can be enjoyed during winter? As you know Margs has a long wet season now, and there is such limited places to take little ones when its raining! Would be soooo good if a new playground is being put in to have a weatherproof section. Super exciting this is being done! A trillion thanks!!
Provide a dog watering station away from the playground / toilets area, so that our dogs can get a drink after the beach without being tempted to run through / into the playground space.
It looks amazing! My only suggestions would be: - All parents hate the digger... kids can never reach the handles by themselves without falling off, they're always cumbersome and clunky - I vote ditch the digger. - The pavement activities look like a traffic jam waiting to happen for the young kids that just want to ride their bikes round and round the circle track - it may be better placed off to the side of the actual circle track... - The more shade the better! - The more water play the better! - Pooch parking on the dog exercise area side of the playground would be awesome - so people can tie up their dogs while their kids play if they wish. - It would also be cool to have a little stage as another option for outdoor community events - especially in Covid times. Thanks!
Shower for tap for wash down after beach swim would be great, additional tables on grass area.
Fence the playground off. Having a dog exercise area adjoining the area is a disaster waiting to happen. Dogs and other people kids do not mix. Dogs owners will never show any regard for other people and their kids - why should kids be needlessly harassed by dogs in a playground area. Also having a BBQ area (food) can attract dogs while families are trying to have picnics on the grass. Thank you for the opportunity to have input.
Just a separate section for very young ones, without big drops offs on the play equipment.
This park is aimed more at small kids Put extra bigger kid equipment in to keep the whole family Entertained Also a fenced dog exercise area which would be awesome to keep dogs out of the park but also let them enjoy being outside

More nature play playground with lots of shade. The one you propose seems ok but nothing out of the ordinary. Kids love water. Perhaps have a look at the nature play playground in Dunsborough and at Discovery Center in Bunbury. Incorporate water features.
It looks great! One thing that kids always love maybe could include it in the underneath of the beach shack is a mud kitchen for the kids! Well done Margaret River shire and thank you!
I love the natural feel of the space. The blue tongues, the choice of plants in the landscaping, the totem poles and the limestone are all elements that I am often drawn to. I currently love the lush grass and the wooden 'bridge' that the kids end up riding their bikes on, as a good point of difference to other parks that we might visit. One of the mian things that my kids enjoy doing is climbing on the large tables, climbing on the dead tree and climbing on the wonderful statues of the person and their dog. These are great assets that aren't intended for that use, but seem to always draw a crowd for those reasons. We will often go down to Riflebutts for barbecues, though note that these don't seem to work a lot of the time, but we have taken to bringing our own camp stove - though this is probably a little dangerous in summer but guarantees that we can have our BBQ when we do head out there from town to do so. I like the ideas of what are proposed, but many are items that you can see in other areas of the town. I like the idea of what is suggested in terms of making the play equipment fit its environment. I look forward to seeing what is undertaken in the area.
I think the plans look great but also think you could do a small pump track for kids that might ease some of the toddler traffic around the skate park. Happy to research some pictures if you are interested in the idea.
It makes more sense to put sand instead of bark being at the beach! Also, bark gets in their little toes and it's not soft to fall onto. In summer, it hurts walking bare feet and if using sandals gets in between their toes and their soles...it's by far the worst ground cover for a playground! Also, proper cover from sun and rain will be amazing. Winter in Margs is very long and drizzly all the time. We really have nowhere to take our kids for a play out of the rain. Thanks!
I feel it's a great opportunity for our Shire to produce a world class playground to enhance tourism and enjoyment by locals I feel the plans submitted don't go far enough. A sample would be the playgrounds around our country as examples to work towards like donnybrook or crooked carrot which attract many people and is talked about as a place to visit
Extra bins and more shade
I'm of a mind the reserve is fine like it is. It's a dog exercise area, car park during surf events, has facilities, is used by people as open space. As a rate payer I oppose un-necessary spending because someone had an idea.
Need lots more shade please, especially over the seating areas
Skatepark/ pump track smaller version Basketball hoop Drink fountain Shaded space Make it so that sundowners can be held there possibly a undercover stage- imagine having sundowners over the school holidays in summer
If you were to upgrade the playground, I would love to see a more nature based play equipment. There are some fantastic examples of this around the country, and a lot great research coming out relating to the benefits of nature based play over traditional play equipment. We have an opportunity here to show what is really possible in this space, as well as improving the aesthetic of the park for children and adults alike. However, although I admit that an upgraded playground would be great, I question why it was not done properly in the first place. The Riflebutts play area was created only very recently as far as playground longevity goes. This council has serious budget issues, and yet seems to be constantly 'redoing' projects that were not done properly in the first place. I find this extremely concerning.
Please put a beach shower into toilet block! Currently kids and adults have to rinse off under the dogs bowl tap and it's not hygienic! Lots of people swim here with their kids so it's not much to ask! The current playground is fine why waste money on reinventing the wheel! It's a great playground just add some more play things for the kids and some adult exercise equipment thanks
It would be great to think about all ages including young teen children in the playground and perhaps consider basketball/netball courts. I have often thought about this area as not being utilised for it's full potential as it has the ocean to cool off around the corner. It would be great as there are no public courts besides the recreation centre and you have to pay to use them.
A fence around the play equipment so parents can relax a little without worrying young children will run away
I am a mum of 3 children. Twins, 2 in March and their big sister who is 18 months older than them. I would love to take my children out more often through the week, but I find it extremely overwhelming and anxiety inducing due to the lack of enclosed play areas in the area. During the school holidays I made use of the play equipment attached to the kindy and pre-primary area at Cowaramup Primary School. Obviously I still keep an eye on my children, but the sense of relief knowing that they were safe and secure was welcome. Accessible to all abilities, perhaps a roundabout that wheelchairs can be tied on to? A water play area, like Whiteman Park would be fabulous Although Riflebutts is extremely close to the ocean, an area of water that is safer than the ocean would be appreciated. Shade is a huge priority over an play equipment installed.

More nature play, paths or tracks for kids to ride or scooter on ... In Denmark they have a great area just like a huge nature garden with mounds, lots of quirky things for kids pipes to talk in etc., also Manjimup have water pump station which is huge hit for kids. All these things are great ideas, and we need more in Margaret River / Prevelly opposed to the usual playgrounds ...logs to walk across, wooden tepee huts ... All better than swings they fight over etc! Thanks for reading!
I'd like to see included a small area set aside & tastefully landscaped with native flora, coastal rocks & driftwood for a Reflection Space which could be used for small memorial services, as well as perhaps meditation or yoga. Thank you in advance for consideration of my idea.
The proposed plans are very exciting! We as a family love the subtle nature design, increase in shade and various play equipment/areas. This will bring a great deal of joy to the local community, along with those visiting. The plan is amazing, other ideas such water play and a pump track would also be popular inclusions - can't do it all within budget though we understand! Overall, it's a fantastic proposal!
I have stopped walking through and/or taking my children there to play due to the large amount of dog poo left about the park, it seems to be everywhere and so much of it. It's disgusting and I can't even let the kids run on the grass or path to the playground due to all this poo everywhere that I don't want to have to clean off my kids can't even sit down and have a picnic on the grass near the playground.
While an upgrade of some equipment and more shade areas are welcomed I feel the beach path upgrade (preferably recycled walkway set one dune back than present and elevated approx 1m and NOT BLACK) should be considered as many people use this track to access Riflebutts and in its current condition is not suitable for prams ,pushbikes etc.
If there could be parts of the play space appropriate for toddlers to be supervised on that would be great, there is always a lot of mums with young children who utilise the space! There is a swing called a you and me swing/Joey swing which is a shared swing between a child and an adult. They have these in Perth and they are fantastic. Could be worth looking into something like this as it might also be good for some children with disabilities.
Nothing per se against your improvement except, and please excuse the cynicism, but I can sadly envisage the removal of the dog off lead exercise facility - and we do NOT have many of them remaining - once this project proceeds.
Connectivity and accessibility from the parking area to the playground and then to the beach is important. The best thing about Riflebutts is that it is multi use it is the only playground really close to the beach. We and other families will often go there, take the dog, play the kids, all go for a swim and have lunch all in the one visit. Extending the concrete path, preferably to universal access standard if achievable to the beach will assist with prams, beach carts, not to mention anyone with accessibility issues to get to the beach. You could have a widening at the end for people to leave prams if they need to at the edge of the beach. This might also work for bike racks for anyone bike riding from town / Prevelly / Gnarabup. Other ideas for consideration; one more BBQ, additional shade over the southern lawn areas for picnicking. (We often won't spend too much time there as there isn't enough shade).
Please pick option 1 we don't need more plastic/modular playgrounds in Margaret River. Please consider updating other parks in Margaret River as well we need more custom-made timber parks with nature play and less of the modular plastic playgrounds. Thanks
Make it less like a man-made playground and blend more into nature with additional vegetation.
We also walk our well-behaved dog at the same time as our grandkids use the playground facilities. I believe a low fence around the play equipment is required. As the free dog exercise area is immediately adjacent, I have seen some adverse interactions both dogs in play area and toddlers getting in the way of running dogs. BBQs, picnics, yoga and free running dogs have caused issues as well. Having both options for dogs and kids is a great asset to families to entertain both but physical separation is required. I have seen this to good effect in Eastern states and New Zealand. some even offer dog obstacle courses and further separation zones that can be used for puppies and small breeds. I understand a fence could affect the look of the area but would certainly enhance the safety and functionality of a great space. The existing art works are also well received. Thank you also for the opportunity to contribute.
Please include a bar suitable for adults to perform chin-ups and the like. In claiming it to be an all ages play space it should not be restricted to children. I would love to see an area suitable for skateboarding with some ramp features. Thanks.
That cubby playhouse in the proposal look uninviting and don't promote adventure or freedom, They are mostly used without challenge or imagination when they are built like that. I have built a lot of playgrounds and I'm an early Childhood teacher so if you would like some expert knowledge about how child play on equipment and what the capabilities are of smaller children I'd like to help for free. I also think you could ask Nina Webb for her input. She is the Queen of our Boodja and as a woman her insight into what is best for families and children on this land could be incorporated into the plan. It would show true respect for her wisdom.

Yeah leave the place as is and spend the money on getting some more hospital beds for Covid patients nurses and Doctors
Leave Riflebutts alone, it is a beautiful space now for a wide range of people to use. Spend the money in town where it is better suited to a large fancy playground. Riflebutts is a beach playground/BBQ area, part of the playground is the Beach!
I think you need to consult with the Wadandi Elder Nina Webb and ensure that the playground is culturally appropriate. There needs to be disabled access also. The Fabric should NOT be constructed of the black material that the steps are made out of because they get extremely hot, also it should be of recycled material.
Looks like a good and worthy upgrade!
I'm not afraid of change but would really appreciate keeping the low-key development of Riflebutts as it is. Development and increase of facility's will mean increased traffic which will first require more parking and increased use by family's who don't want to have their leisure interrupted by dogs. Currently the space is appreciated by all. It is a brilliant area for dog s and owners to exercise and socialise. The large open area is well utilised and before COVID a unique area for groups to play cricket. As is could be used as an emergency area. The grass areas make it attractive for sitting and socialising. The current facilities suit and fit current usage. A regular user I have never seen pressure on seating or other facility's, but increased facility's will increase and CHANGE current usage. Dog owners have no areas that offer this unique combination of facility's. Take family's with small children and no dogs to another more suitable area. If you want to be inclusive of all ages make it an attraction elsewhere. We are not Busselton. I don't think residents or visitors want foreshore development like Busselton. I love what Busselton has done to its foreshore with recreational facility's but Margaret Rivers beauty is its low key facility's. Where are increased traffic going to park? It's a nightmare most of summer anyway. But if your wanting to attract more people then attract them away from this area which has enough anyway. Provide facility's away from pressured areas. People coming to the beach do not need playthings or more shade. Encourage you to complete this development but not in this area. Keep riflebutts low key ..gawd knows the other end of the beach is about to be well over developed .
Riflebutts DESPERATELY needs a make-over. Compared to the most incredible nature-based playground at Yallingup Beach Riflebutts is dismal! I prefer to drive to Yallingup which is 40min away than go to Riflebutts. With all that the AMR shire embodies, I don't understand why we don't have something of that standard here? It's not only incredibly designed, there always shaded areas, it's clean, it's nature based, it embodies the local surf culture, it's got AWESOME chill vibes, it's got lots of trees and open space and beach vibes... I can't stand the modern playgrounds like Riflebutts. It leaves no magic and imagination for the children and has no spirit or soul. It's horrible on a hot day and I always feel leaving lethargic rather than uplifted and energised (like I do when I leave Yallingup). I know about 30 other mums who feel the same... Please please please PLEASE do something to make this place amazing. We don't have ANY nice playgrounds in the entire shire compared to the Busselton Shire which has the most incredible playgrounds I've ever seen!!!
Would love the addition of some more advanced play equipment that caters for older kids. Big climbing structures, things they can hang off like monkey bars, flying fox.
Well overdue! A playground in a similar style to Yallingup beach or the Busselton pirate ship would be amazing there. There is plenty of space and it would cater for all ages. Water play, climbing and attractive to look at! Please take your inspiration from those playgrounds! A windbreak for the BBQ area and tables would be really good. We have had birthday parties there and the SW wind makes it a bit unpleasant, impossible for candles. Shade would be good over the tables too. Spend less on art and more on the play space! Margaret River/Prevelly really needs a big decent draw card playground. The rotary park is old and average, cold and muddy in winter, dusty in summer and out dated. Make use of the oval space down there and make it into an amphitheatre.
Please a descent playground. Like the one in Busselton or Bibra Lake. There is not one descent playground in the area. Thank you. Hope you will consider it.
Would be great to have a group space, or performance area. An amphitheatre perhaps.
I think some work out bars , different exercise equipment to be used . A lot of people jog this area and a few extra workout items would benefit big time!!
Fencing around playground especially to keep dogs off lead out of area. In ground trampoline. Water play area (double as area to wash off sand if been on beach) which could be seasonal. Flying fox also a big draw for kids as is a decent slide.
Provision for a food truck/coffee van (including appropriate access to power). I know access to the site might be tricky, but having seasonal permits to allow parents and families to purchase coffee during the morning, and/or a bite to eat some evenings would add to the great vibe.
More play equipment would be amazing, Margaret River is severely lacking in decent playgrounds for kids, I'm hoping that it also remains pet friendly
Personally, my wife & I feel that there is sufficient amenities there for the volume of users who use the area. it's an overflow parking area, great for holding festivals as has been the case recently & why spend monies on an area

surrounded by Mother nature aka the beach 'n walks. Plus, it's a great play area for both humans & pets - why put in more "stuff" which then has to be maintained???!?
We take our 4 grandchildren to the park often - twins aged 2 and a 3 and 4 year old. The new plan looks wonderful. Can never have too many swings, especially the ones for the little ones with the strap across. Our grandchildren adore the sculpture of the man and dog. More sculptures to interact with would be wonderful. DOG POO Many people with dogs use the area. We have a dog ourselves. Unfortunately, many do not pick up after their dogs so that there is often dog poo all over the grassed areas. Please provide some bins and more bags for dog poo and also litter if you are going to encourage more people to use this park. I know there are bins near the car park, but it seems for some people they are too far away. Also, please large signs instructing people with dogs to clean up. It is such a difficult situation when you have young children crawling or rolling on grass with dog poo everywhere. I have been led to understand that there are not bins in the park or along the walkway near the beach because it is difficult for the shire to access to empty the bins. I believe this needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. The amount of dog poo left behind is unsightly, smelly and unhygienic. Surely a small quad or such could do a regular run to empty bins. I consider this to be a priority. Thanks for your time.
I would love to see the addition of an item to the sand play area. I have a photo of my granddaughter at the South Perth playground near the ferry (Mends Street Jetty). She was kept busy for a long-time adding sand to a funnel with a plug and when it was released it fell into cups on a wheel which made them rotate like a windmill. I would love to see one of those included and perhaps a water playground as well similar to the playground at Riverton Bridge near the Loquay Café. The playground next to the Lo Quay River Cafe in Wilson has been revamped into a cool nature-based playground and it opened to the public today. Riverton Jetty Park has just received a makeover and it is looking fantastic! Great spot to meet with a mums group or just to have a coffee.
They are going to be better than what's there. The diggers are so crap, get rid of it! put a spring toy/rocker instead so much more fun for kids. where's the see-saw kids love the see-saw. check out Mandurah foreshore that is a good example of my suggestions.
Love the shacks. Monkey bars are always a hit and should be included. I don't think my kids would play on the floor line art. Please keep the round swing. Any inclusion of traditional owner knowledge?
It is GREAT to see the Shire prioritising outdoor play spaces, the benefits to the local community are endless! Providing children with opportunities to play and explore in a safe environment where parents can play with them and/or sit comfortably to supervise, awesome! ... I'd really love to see some of the double swings, "Expression Swings" with two seats facing each other, where a parent can actually sit on the swing and swing with their child in a safe child seat. This is a great aid for children who may not be able to swing themselves or who may not feel safe to sit on there alone. It is also a HUGE help for parents and caregivers who may be unable to stand up and push a swing for however long their child requests! And we all know that can be a lot longer than we hope for. It encourages the parents to actually join in with their child's play. It could also foster relationships between other children who could swing on it together. A section of ninja type climbing and play equipment would also be fabulous to encourage older children and teens to play, too! Play and physical activity is still important at that age but often playgrounds forget about them. As well as an exercise/strength play section for seniors. The Jo Wheatley All abilities Play Space in Perth has done this really well. Would also love to see a fencing structure to have a barrier between the dog exercise area and the children as well as the pathway and the children, so they can't run away.
It is not clear from the picture if more shade will be provided. As pine trees currently offer very little shade, more shade would be good. I also feel that the shacks have a rough age limit of about ten. It would be great if something could be included for older kids, as this age group is always forgotten about or not catered for. Otherwise, it looks great. Thank You
Riflebutts is no longer a play or picnic space for us, too many dogs wandering and straying all over the place whenever we go there. We don't have a dog and really struggle to find any open picnic space in the entire shire where we cannot be worried about dogs. Please tell us of any and we'll use it. Perhaps save some of the money being spent on the playground and fence the dog area so children can play without being stressed by off leash out of control dogs.
The play equipment and the grassed area could integrate better. The undulating sleeper walkway feature thingy in between acts as a hard barrier unnecessarily separating the two spaces. It's awkward for parents and awkward for kids. I've seen many a child hurt themselves on it including my own. I'd like to see it removed and those timbers used to build more play equipment. Some more shade and shelter, especially from the southwesterers, would be nice too.
The changes proposed to this area refer only to changes to the kids play area with no plans to help dogs & their owners. This is extremely disappointing as this is the chance for the shire to turn this into the ideal dog park for Margaret River, as there is not one safe fenced off area for dogs in the whole of this Shire! This is pretty poor considering how many dogs there are. Not only would this give the dogs a safe place to be off lead, but it would also give them the opportunity to learn to socialize & exercise in safety. I'm sure the current dog trainers in Margaret River would make excellent use of this too. Stimulation & social interactions for the dogs and their owners is

extremely important to them & us, it also brings people together & in this age of uncertainty I believe this purpose-built dog area would help with many dog owners mental health by fighting anxiety, depression & loneliness, as we all love our dogs & they are part of our family & for some their only family. Safety for all! 1. Fencing should be a top priority for this off lead dog area to keep the dogs safe & separate this from the kids swing park, a few shrubs will not do this! This large, grassed area can easily be divided into two sections 1 for small dogs the other for large breeds this is a safety aspect which all dog parks should have. 2. Water, at present there is a tap adjoining the kids area, definitely not ideal. 3. Seating, a few benches & tables for social interaction with other dog owners would be a wonderful addition. Thank you for listening to our needs.
It would be nice to see more swings added to the design, especially if we are losing the big saucer swing. It would also be lovely to have freshwater showers for post ocean swimming, but that may be out of the budget!
I like that the Shire is using a lot of the great infrastructure that is already there. I love that the pathway is going to be concreted. I was hoping the whole oval would be fenced so that dogs have a safe place to run away from kids.
I walk my dog around Ned Higgins reserve. The track needs redoing & on many many occasions I see people in wheelchairs being pushed around the track. Top right-hand corner the track basically disappears & there is just gravel!!
Please leave the awesome statues of Man Dog and stick and keep the area pet friendly. I do think more shade and seating would be a good addition to this wonderful park.
No sand diggers, kids can't use them. The playground could be half what you are proposing, more nature play a bit like Yallingup
How about a small skatepark and pump track? That would be amazing!!
We visit this play space approximately once a month. This facility is in reasonable repair in my view, albeit with some maintenance required, and surely the existing assets could be repaired and retained. Of course, coastal facilities will exhibit faster weathering and rusting so should be maintained to a safe level. This play area is not in walking distance of many shire residents, even those who live on the coast, and so from a sustainability point of view the Shire should focus on playground spaces which families can reach on foot/bike. The people who access the playground will be limited by parking availability and locals will avoid the space during peak tourist season or special events. Extensive redevelopment is costly and unnecessary. I recall former councillor Pauline McLeod's comments that there are greater needs in the community to service young families - for example, the absence of childcare in the south of the Shire is an essential need, not a want - and is well within the scope of a regional local shire to provide a facility for. Surely a playground redevelopment could have funding sourced from Lotterywest and not a core ratepayer-funded Shire project. The best ones in Perth are Lotterywest-funded - Scarborough foreshore, Kings Park, etc. The painted concrete elements will fade with time and traffic in a sandy location, and the excavator toy always just ends up as a hole in the sand which requires constant refilling by maintenance staff. To have only one regular swing, if seemingly the donut/trampoline style swing is removed, is insufficient as this is an in-demand feature at the playground. Also, the discrepancy between spelling Rifflebutts/Riflebutts should be clarified in the documentation. The best features of this area is the green space, facilities and the wooden boardwalk which doubles as informal seating - the size and fancy playground is secondary. I hope you consider this feedback, thank you.



amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au
www.amrshire.wa.gov.au

Margaret River

41 Wallcliffe Rd (PO Box 61)
Margaret River 6285

T (08) 9780 5255 | **F** (08) 9757 2512

Office Hours

Mon to Fri, 9am – 4pm

Phone enquiries

8.30am – 4.30pm

Augusta

66 Allnut Tce
Augusta 6290

T (08) 9780 5255 | **F** (08) 9757 2512

Office Hours

Tue to Thu 9am – 12pm, 1pm – 4pm

Phone enquiries

8.30am – 4.30pm

If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS www.relayservice.com.au then ask for 08 9780 5255