John Black Dune Park Draft Concept Plan

Council is considering the future of John Black Dune Park in Napier Street west of the Cottesloe Tennis Club and has prepared a draft concept plan for community consultation.

The draft concept plan has been prepared by environmental and landscape consultants, with input from Cottesloe Coastcare Association and Cottesloe Tennis Club.  The plan is an indicative draft only at this stage, illustrating a combination of natural area management and passive open space for community use and enjoyment.

**Community Consultation**

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**Comments**

Thank you for the opportunity of community feedback to the John Black Dune park draft concept plan. It is pleasing that this area is to be re-established with local native vegetation that will enhance a previously neglected area of Cottesloe. John Black Dune Park is one of the few areas of remnant native vegetation in Cottesloe and its central local provides an opportunity to improve the ecological, aesthetic and recreational values of the area.

While the concept plan from Emerge Associates is professional and sophisticated it is very ‘adult’ in its planning and design. It recognises the ecological value of the site but is missing a perfect opportunity to incorporate a nature-based play space for children. Natural playgrounds provide children with more opportunities than typical pre-formed playgrounds. There are a number of pre-formed playgrounds in Cottesloe (Grant Marine Parki, Jasper Green Reserve). A nature-based play space for children includes natural elements and has mud, sand, water, leaves, sticks, pinecones, nuts plus animal and bird species. These elements are already in abundance at John Black Dune Park. A nature-based play space would offer a unique alternative to other recreational activities close by – tennis club, beach foreshore, Civic Centre grounds. Children could spend unstructured time exploring an environment that was once synonymous with the beach.

Why not target families with children and ask kids to have input to the concept? Parents and students at North Cottesloe Primary School could be included in targeted community consultation. Other resources could be:

* UWA Centre for the Built Environment and Health
* NaturePlay WA (CEO Griffin Longley) [www.natureplay.wa.org.au](http://www.natureplay.wa.org.au)
* Dept Sport & Recreation
* Kidsafe
* Lotteries for funding

This is a wonderful new project for the Town of Cottesloe. The scale does not have to be as sophisticated as the concept drawings but inclusion of an eco-toilet facility might need to be considered. Early completition of this project will highlight the historical and ecological significance of the area and a nature-based play space for children would become special feature in a special place that is COTTESLOE.